Newspaper Clips
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6 new IITs in the offing

AGE CORRESPONDENT
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Six new IITs will come up at Tirupati, Palakkad, Dharwar, Bhilai, Goa and Jammu while ISM Dhanbad will also be upgraded to an IIT. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave post-facto approval to the decision. There are currently 16 IITs.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, also approved the introduction of the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Amendment Bill, 2016, for inclusion of NIT Andhra Pradesh in its first schedule, sources said.

The government gave ex post facto approval to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, for incorporation of the new IITs in AP, Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Goa and J&K and conversion of the Indian School of Mines to an IIT. “The approval will bring six new Indian Institutes of Technology and declare them as institutions of national importance,” an official statement said.
HRD ministry sets new rules for award of MPhil, PhD degrees

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NEW DELHI

The human resource development ministry has set new rules for award of research degrees such as MPhil and PhD at Indian universities.

The HRD ministry has also relaxed several rules for women candidates, including allowing a 240-day maternity break from their studies.

The new rules are aimed at putting in place a “proper system” for doctoral studies and streamlining their administration, duration and quality, said higher education secretary V.S. Oberoi. The rules are also intended to allow women greater flexibility in pursuing research.

In 2013-14, some 107,890 students were pursuing PhD in India. That was less than 0.4% of the total student enrolment in the country. Of the students pursuing a PhD, only around 3,335 were women.

Following are some of the key changes:

(1) MPhil duration: Minimum two consecutive semesters or one year, and a maximum of four consecutive semesters or two years.

(2) PhD duration: Minimum of three years, including coursework, and a maximum of six years. Extension beyond the limit to be governed by statute or ordinance of the individual institution.

(3) Number of PhD scholars per supervisor now has been fixed at 3/2/1 for professor/associate professor/assistant professor, respectively. It was eight per supervisor earlier.

(4) Number of MPhil scholars per supervisor now at 3/2/1 for professor/associate professor/assistant professor, respectively. It was five per supervisor earlier.

(5) Only a full-time regular teacher of the concerned university/college can act as a supervisor. It means an external, visiting, adjunct or part-time teacher in a university cannot be the core supervisor of a research scholar. However, a co-supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas.

(6) Special provisions have been provided for women scholars. For a female research candidate, the course duration has been relaxed by two years for PhD and one year for MPhil courses. It also applies to physically handicapped candidates with 40% disability.

(7) The new rules allow the women candidates maternity leave, or child-care leave, once during the entire duration of their MPhil/PhD programmes for up to 240 days.

(8) Women candidates can now also transfer research data due to relocations to new institutions. It means that if a woman candidate shifts her place of work or residence because of any personal or professional reasons, she can shift her research work from one university to another close to her where she is moving.

The rules will encourage more women to enrol in doctoral programs by allowing them to get married and build a family while pursuing their studies, said S. Pararasuraman, director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

He said the HRD ministry’s new rules are also “progressive and will help address procedural issues related to administering the programmes.”
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Trai looks to IISc, IITs to make STBs interoperable

New Delhi, May 25: Broadcasting sector regulator Trai is counting on the acumen of experts from institutions like IITs and IISc to overcome technological challenges that block the possibility of interoperability of Set Top Boxes (STBs). Trai chairman R S Sharma on Wednesday said with the interest of the consumers in mind, interoperability of STBs has been high on the regulator’s agenda for long, but technological factors have impeded progress in this regard.

Inter-operability refers to a situation where STBs of different cable or DTH operators become inter-useable and a consumer is not forced to spend on buying a new one set-top box every time he or she decides to change the service provider.

Sharma says many people feel that it is not possible to have a common STB because of security reasons and the need of broadcasters to keep their content encrypted and safe from piracy.

PTI

IIMs, passouts on sticky wicket as Flipkart defers recruitment

Vinay Shanker & Ashok Prasad

Flipkart’s decision to defer joining dates of new campus recruits has put students and authorities on a sticky wicket.

Sources said the joining dates have been deferred from June 6 to as late as December. So far, IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), the only one to have expressed concern. The e-commerce giant has claimed that it has taken this step because of ongoing restructuring in its business.

The authorities at IIM-A have sent a strongly worded letter to Flipkart, marking other premier B-schools such as IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Lucknow and the Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi.

Both IIM-B and IIM-A, confirmed they have received a communication from Flipkart, and were mulling further action.

“We have not talked to Flipkart. We are in consultation with our students on what actions can be taken. The students will have to decide whether they would want to wait or look for alternative opportunities,” said Supra Agarwal, head, career development services, IIM-Bangalore.

IIM-A has suspended a joint call with stakeholders and other B-schools. Asha Kaul, principal, placements, was unavailable for comments as an e-mail sent to the institute went unanswered.

Flipkart, in a public statement, said the delay in the joining dates of new campus recruits was because of ongoing organisational restructuring that involves creating new business units and merging them. The e-commerce giant said that as a part of this ongoing restructuring, the campus programme will also go through a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that it is in line with its new business strategy and that our campus recruits start working towards larger company-wide goals from Day One,” the company said.

Flipkart had extended offers to about 10 candidates each at IIM-A and IIM-B, while it made offers at IIM-Lucknow, too, among other B-schools. “At the moment, we share that this was a difficult decision for us to arrive at and we feel the disappointment of students. At the same time, it is important for us to land our campus hires into Flipkart at the right time and into meaningful roles which gives them opportunity to learn and grow,” said Minit Sethi, chief people officer.

The placements representatives of one of the older B-schools said some of the candidates who were supposed to join on Monday came to know about deferred joining only the previous Friday.

On a right track

Ola on right track

On the other hand, Ola, which is seen as a rival of Flipkart, said it was proceeding as far as joining dates were concerned.

“We are on track in terms of joining dates for on-campus hires. All students hired are joining according to the given dates and we look forward to welcoming them. We are looking to hire and nurturing talent through the off-campus routes as well,” the company said in an official statement.

“Candidates are exploring various alternatives before taking a decision and the institute will work accordingly,” the representative said.
TAKING A TOUGH STAND Institutes plan to hit back after ecomm firm defers joining date for last batch of campus recruits by 6 months

ITs may Ship Flipkart Out of Day One Slot

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Mumbai: Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are likely to strip Flipkart of its Day One status in their campus placement programs. This is a fallout of the ecommerce giant’s recent decision to defer the joining date for its most recent batch of campus recruits from June this year to December.

According to multiple sources across IITs, Flipkart is almost certain to be hanged down from the prestigious Day One slot at the top institutes. The All-IITs Placement Committee (AIPC), comprising placement cell heads across all IITs, will be meeting in the next few days to take a stand on the Flipkart issue.

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“Flipkart’s Day One slot at IITs will be affected for sure,” said an AIPC member. “Our next AIPC meeting was scheduled for October, but we are planning to have a video conference in the next few days to decide on how to sort out the problem.”

The Day One slot across IITs is not normally reserved for the most reputed companies, including technology giants such as Google and Microsoft. Given the intense competition to get top-flight talent, companies vie for this slot to be able to hire the cream of the graduating students first. Flipkart has so far enjoyed a Day One slot across almost all IITs, barring a couple of campuses such as IIT-Bombay.

“It is a delicate situation. Many of our alumni are still at Flipkart and it would be unwise to have a knee-jerk reaction,” said a placement head who declined to be named.

Flipkart though is unlikely to get blacklisted unlike Zomato. Last year, Zomato was insisted that it be included in the Day One slot at IIT-Delhi. It was turned down and its CEO Deepinder Goyal expressed his displeasure in an outburst on Twitter. IITs subsequently blacklisted Zomato and did not allow it to hire on campus.

The pressure on Flipkart is intensifying, with IIT-Bombay – where seven students have been hired by Flipkart – also planning to send an email to the company, asking them to reduce the deferment period or else increase the compensation amount which is currently at Rs.5 lakh.

They have also asked the company to provide a reason that it plans to on-board all students once Flipkart’s restructuring is done with.

When ET spoke to the institute in the evening, it said it was planning to send the letter to the company’s campus team later that night.

ET had on Wednesday reported about a similar email sent out by IIM-Ahmedabad. Flipkart had responded saying while it would be taking on all the students it has hired, it wouldn’t be able to increase the Rs.5 lakh compensation for the six-month delay.

“We had been kept in the dark till just a few days ago. Now it means forced unemployment for six months for students who’ve been hired by Flipkart,” said a signed IIT-Bombay student.

IITs say that some smaller startups have also been deferring or even withdrawing offers of late. But this latest development from a recruiter of Flipkart’s standing has been the biggest shock yet.

“We are looking to rethink our strategy about this entire space as a whole,” said the placement chairperson of an older IIT. “We are seeing more interest in big MNCs and more stable companies.”

Meanwhile, some B-schools – Flipkart has deferred offers made here too – say they will help students find alternative employment should they not want to wait till December to join Flipkart. “Flipkart’s reputation has definitely taken a hit,” said an IIM placement head.

“The decision to defer joining for six months has been taken after due evaluation of all possibilities and keeping in mind the timelines to complete the organisational restructuring at Flipkart. We are committed and absolutely confident of having all our trainees on board in December 2018,” Flipkart said in a clarification it posted on its website on Wednesday.
लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर

बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर ऑनलाइन नजर

राज खुशी, लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर ऑनलाइन नजर रखने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने को वापस लाए। इसके लिए मुख्यमंत्री झुंझुनू के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने को वापस लाए।

स्कूल में बच्चों के लिए एक रणनीति बनाने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने को वापस लाए।

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केंद्रीय मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने किया ‘भारतवाणी’ पोर्टल और मोबाइल एप का लोकप्रिय करने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने का लक्ष्य के प्राप्ति के लिए ऑनलाइन नजर रखने को वापस लाए।