आईआईटी का दीक्षांत समारोह 31 को

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी शनिवार (31 अक्टूबर) को अपना 46वां दीक्षांत समारोह आयोजित करने जा रहा है। इस समारोह में देश के भारी इंजीनियरों को डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी। समारोह की खास बात यह है कि आईआईटी के ही एक एल्युमिनी छात्रों को डिग्री प्रदान करेंगे। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के गवर्नर डॉ रघुराम. जी. राजन आईआईटी दिल्ली के एल्युमिनी है। वह मुख्य अतिथि होंगे। समारोह में एप्लाइड मेकेनिक, बायो टेकनोलॉजी इंजीनियरिंग, बायो टेकनोलॉजी केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग, केमिस्ट्री, सिविल इंजीनियरिंग, एमबीए, भौतिकी, एटमोसफेरिक साइंस, एप्लाइड रिसर्च, इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग समेत इंजीनियरिंग की अन्य शाखाओं में डिग्री मिलेगी। दो चरणों में होने वाले इस दीक्षांत समारोह के पहले चरण में मुख्य अतिथि छात्रों को दीक्षांत भाषण देंगे और पीएचडी छात्रों को डिग्री दी जाएगी। दूसरे चरण में यूजी व पीजी स्तर की डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी।
IISc has made available over 110 technologies exclusively for MSMEs

http://www.knnindia.co.in/msmes/iisc-has-made-available-over-110-technologies-exclusively-for-msmes/34-11976.go

Bengaluru, Oct 23 (KNN) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) has identified more than 110 technologies and made them available exclusively to micro, small and medium enterprises.

The institution is also in the process of identifying about 35 import substitute products and their technologies for MSMEs, according to the MSME Ministry’s social media site.

So far, 100 design projects and 22 student projects have been approved, it said.

Under the Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP), the Ministry has set up a Design Clinic at IISc. The Design Clinic is a Centre of Excellence, and a joint initiative of the Ministry of MSME and IISc.

Technological Development projects start culminating out of similar MoU signed with CSIR.

Design Clinic is a tested strategic model of design intervention, where a solution to an existing design problem is diagnosed and remedial steps suggested by a multi-disciplinary team of design experts. In this scheme, the value additions to an idea or a concept are imparted through interaction at a lesser cost to a specific industry/sector. It applies to a sector that requires intervention, like manufacturing etc, as the existing conventional models of design consultancy and training are not viable. These models bring design exposure to the door-step of industry clusters for design improvement, evaluation, analysis and adopting even long-term consultancy/design related intervention.

The main objective of the Design Clinic is to bring the MSME sector and design expertise into a common platform, to provide expert advice and solutions on real time design problems, resulting in continuous improvement and value addition for existing products. It also aims at value added cost effective solutions. These Design Clinics in clusters of the country are to usher in a continuous competitive advantage to the MSMEs.

The broad activities planned under the scheme include creation of Design Clinics Centre along with four regional centres for intervention on the design needs of the MSME Sector. Further these centres will have linkages with engineering, management, design institutes of the country.
What has gone wrong with IIT-Madras?

IIT-Madras has lost two students in the past month. Yet, a disturbing silence prevails on campus.

http://www.thehindu.com/webexclusives/what-has-gone-wrong-with-iitmadras/article7797219.ece

I don’t intend to investigate the particular reasons that led these students to take such an extreme step. At this moment, investigating their relationship status or academic records are not relevant, but merely superficial to find a reason to close the case. In the past five years, at least five students I know have chosen to end their lives (we do not how many failed in their attempts). What has gone wrong in an institution that claims to provide professional counselling services as well as peer-to-peer counselling services, where the Guidance and Counselling Unit (GCU) was renamed ‘Mitr’(friend)?

IIT-Madras, probably like other IIT campuses in the country, is a highly competitive one. One of the terms we familiarise ourselves with in our sophomore year is “RG”. RG is a short form for relative grading, and in IIT-M parlance, it refers to anyone who tries to hinder another person from studying so that he gets a better grade. One’s victory only depends on the bad performance of another. Such an academic training only alienates one classmate from another, each living in their own cocoons. The ones who clear the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and enter the much-coveted IITs are the ones who started their JEE coaching as young adolescents. Who worries about the intensive coaching and pressure young minds go through when the result is a degree from the most prestigious institute in the country? Thanks to reservation, IIT Madras now has student representation from backward castes. But, the academic structure in the campus is not revised to suit the needs of everyone equally. The ‘privilege’ acquired through reservation ends with admission; the students are forced to compete in an environment where their worth is measured only by their academic achievements, often subjecting themselves to insults for not performing well. The class/ caste backgrounds and its influence on the performance of students are never a serious concern when it comes to academic evaluation. In a way, the entire academic system on campus is exclusive to the set of students hailing from upper caste-upper class backgrounds, who had access to top-notch schooling, good coaching and excellence in English language.

Nevertheless, the hyper-competitive atmosphere in the campus affects everyone in different ways.

It comes as a shock to the ones outside this campus, but inside the campus it is a widely accepted fact that a majority of students are depressed. But, how many of us avail the services provided by the campus? In the latest news report by The Indian Express, the Director has refuted allegations on inefficiencies of Mitr, even after these many suicides on campus. Mitr is a centrally-funded organisation to prevent student suicides. One of the main allegations by the student community against Mitr is the highly moralistic attitude of its coordinators who often spy on students to know if they smoke, drink or are in a relationship. The aura of suspicion around Mitr is also because of the cemented belief that the things shared with Mitr will be held against the students, because the heads of the organisation are professors. Many ask, “if I’m depressed because of this particular professor, and the professor in Mitr is his friend, how can I talk to him about this?” Mitr claims to have provided its student counsellors with professional training on counselling, but we often hear complaints that the student counsellors fail to keep in confidence the things shared with them by students who availed of their services. The administration has also started paying these student coordinators for their service. However, if these services fail to earn the trust of student community, shouldn’t there be a change in thinking about the way in which Mitr functions? I am not talking about taking away counselling, but an urgent re-visioning is required to help students in need.

One of the stringent rules in IIT Madras is of maintaining 100 per cent attendance with an exemption of 15 per cent for medical reasons. Most of the professors are not strict about enforcing it, but if a student goes below the minimum required, he/she is dependent on the professor’s mercy. Additionally, if a student gets two or more “W” grades (a grade allotted for not maintaining 85 per cent attendance), he/she will be expelled from hostel.
For the creators of this rule, what diseases did you have in mind when you decided that it will be cured within this 15 per cent you offer? In my own personal experience, after a grievous illness, when I had about 84-85 per cent attendance, my professor advised me, “If it’s a disease like Jaundice, you can go beyond 85. But this...”

The poor quality of mess food (which is again compulsory, leaves students with no option but to avail mess food and nothing else) often result in students ending up in hospital due to diarrhoea, or they suffer from weight loss, fever, and low immunity, because they skip meals. The insensitivity of professors towards students is manifested when they trivialise the issues students face or attribute a bad performance in class to laziness. By throwing out the students from hostel for lack of attendance, the administration hopes the students will be corrected under parental care (Yes, they do expect parents to come over and stay with students outside campus). For many students who are sent here, burdened with the hopes of getting placed in a high paying company, bursting their parents’ hopes is unthinkable. Their dissatisfaction with themselves, amplified by such an apathetic situation, cannot be cured unless a serious rethinking happens.

In 2014, there was a discussion on mental health organised by an institute body called the Colloquium. Until the last minute, organisers were unsure if the debate would happen because the higher authorities did not want Colloquium to discuss an issue that is “clearly under the purview of Mitr”. One question was about the sexual frustration that students of age group 18-25 go through while on campus. The psychiatrist present said students do approach him on the said issue. Even though some IIT-M men’s hostels are open to women (only for academic purposes and not for “undesirable, anti-social, anti-national activities”), sex is a taboo on campus. Several times, entry to hostels has been kept under restriction citing that the authorities are answerable to parents. Relationships are seen as unhealthy and an obstruction to academic performance. Hushed moral policing in the campus is active, manifested through different ways by different people.

After the latest suicide on campus, close friends of the victim were interrogated by the police in the absence of anyone from the institution. The very next day, classes happened as usual and IIT-M worked as if nothing had gone wrong. An acknowledgment of the death came two days later. How long should we go along with this apathetic attitude? There needs to be a radical change in how this premier institution views students and their issues. This can be done only by letting go of moral prejudices and reaching out to students in a way that it will be reciprocated. Only a radical rethinking of the existing structure can prevent the campus from more unfortunate incidents.

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Salary on Par with IIM Recruits: Srinag

>> From Page 1

A top recruiter at India’s premier business institutions, IITs, is looking to generate business worth over 800,000 crores through mobile banking this year. The industry is moving away from commoditization of mobile banking services, said TR Srinag, head of human resources at ICICI Bank, which is investing heavily in digital technology.

While we have core skills sets of "banking and sales, going forward a lot of our services will be delivered through smart devices," he said. "Data analytics is gaining focus too and our ability to mine customer-centric information will be of key strategic advantage."

The 21 graduates that Srinag hired in the year ended March were mostly from engineering campuses under its Citi Analyst programme, up 40% YoY.

The role of technology in banking is changing, said Vikram Subrahmanyan, head of operations and technology at Citi South Asia. Technology specialists, once seen as delivering a support function, are now a part of teams working on products and services.

"There is a larger involvement of tech teams in business solutions from an early stage. Some of the tech operations may be outsourced, but banks are looking at building greater expertise in the domain and are reaching out to engineering schools to hire directly," Subrahmanyan said. "Technology lifecycles are shorten-
NON-NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY TEST FELLOWSHIP DISCONTINUED

‘Occupy UGC’ movement intensifies after crackdown

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE STUDENTS’ protest against the University Grants Commission’s (UGC) decision to discontinue the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) Fellowship for research scholars escalated Friday, with police and paramilitary personnel cracking down on “Occupy UGC” movement.

A group of protesters was picked up early morning by ITBP and CRPF personnel from the UGC office premises and detained, while another group faced lathicharge at ITO later.

A delegation of students met UGC officials in the evening, but were not satisfied with the response. The protesters decided to organise an indefinite gherao of the UGC office from Monday.

The UGC, meanwhile, decided to refer its decision to scrap the fellowship to an expert committee after the HRD ministry stepped in. According to ministry sources, the UGC justified scrapping of the fellowship on the grounds that there was little transparency and accountability in this scholarship programme.

The protesters have been asking for not just the reinstatement of the fellowship of Rs 5,000 and 8,000 per month, respectively for MPhil and PhD students, but also its increase.

“Last year, the UGC disbursed Rs 99.18 crore under the non-NET fellowship. This is a huge amount and it was spent without any transparency. On one hand, we expect students to qualify NET to get fellowship and on the other we have students who don’t need to take any test to get financial aid. The UGC felt this amounted to double standards and decided to discontinue the non-NET fellowship,” said a ministry source.

Nearly 100 students from various universities led by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) had camped on the UGC office premises since Wednesday. The protesters dug in their heels following the crackdown.

The protesters said they were “forcibly picked up” at about 6 am, put in buses and taken to Bhalswa Dairy police station, nearly 20 km away.

“We had just about lied down and gone to sleep at about 4.30 am when there was a sudden crackdown on us. We didn’t even know where we were being taken till we reached. Why did they have to take us 20 km away to the outskirts?” said AISA national president Sucheta De.

The protesters said Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists who had kept away from the protest showed up at about 12.45 am and stayed put outside the UGC office. They were not touched by the paramilitary or police forces, the protesters alleged.

As news spread about protesters being detained, other students, primarily from JNU, decided to “reoccupy UGC” and staged a protest outside the premises and brought down barricades.

“We could not be part of their protest because they are blaming the Centre for the problem, whereas we believe Congressmen are behind it. To protest this, we laid down on roads and pelted stones,” said ABVP state secretary Saket Bahuguna.

Minutes into the protest by JNUSU at ITO, the lathicharge started. “There was absolutely no provocation from students. Several students were severely injured, but the police did not stop. We then decided to block roads at the ITO crossing, following which the UGC decided to meet a delegation of students,” said Pratim Ghosal of DSF.

De said, “After two hours of violence, the police put forth a condition before our fellow protesters, telling them to disperse if they wanted us (picked up from UGC office) to be released. They were forced to agree.”

SFI state secretary Sunand said, “We have called for an all-India ‘Black Day’ on Monday.”

A senior police official who did not want to be named said the students’ allegations of police brutality were not true.
HRD ministry relents, may review decision on non-NET fellowship

RETHINK Protesting students detained outside UGC headquarters

NEW DELHI: Facing criticism, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is considering a possible review of the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) scheme, which will allow students to continue getting financial help, but with greater focus on merit and equity. According to sources, the human resource development (HRD) ministry had sought a clarification from the UGC over the issue.

“The UGC has recommended setting up an expert panel to study the non-NET fellowship scheme in detail and suggest ways to improve it. The way forward is to focus on merit and strengthen the already existing NET/JRF scheme or create another method of all India examination for non-net qualified candidates so that equity is maintained while availing this fellowship,” said a UGC note.

The commission also felt that the scheme, if revived, can be expanded to cover state universities too. “A committee of experts was recommended to be constituted for the same,” the note said.

The commission on October 7 took a decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowship, which was first reported by HT.

However, it had said that students who are already getting the non-NET fellowship will continue to do so. A number of students have been protesting outside the UGC headquarters over its decision.

“The scheme was limited to only central universities with potential for excellence and as such was discriminatory as students of other universities were not entitled to avail the same. Continuing the scheme would have meant huge financial implications for the UGC. The expenditure in 2014-15 was to the tune of ₹99.16 crore,” said a senior official.

The NET fellowship is provided to students undertaking research in central universities across the country. Students undertaking MPhil and PhD are provided ₹5,000 and ₹8,000 per month, respectively.

PhD students get financial assistance for four years and MPhil students for 18 months. Apart from this, they get a contingency amount per year too to help them carry out their research.

Earlier, hundreds of students protested against the move to scrap non-NET fellowship outside the UGC office. Police detained scores of them after they tried to enter the premises.

The students leading the ‘Occupy UGC’ are had been camping outside the UGC office since Wednesday. They said they were lathi-charged and about 100 of them detained when they tried to go inside to meet the officials. Protesters claimed police did not allow them to use toilets.

“When we tried to go inside, police prevented us. When we protested, we were lathi-charged, leading to injuries to a few of the students. The students had to be rushed to hospital,” said Sucheta De, one of the protesters.

A senior police official said that around 100 protesters were detained and taken to Bhalowa dairy police station in northwest Delhi.