



Alumni gift for IIT-Kgp students

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MINISTER ON CAMPUS: Smriti Irani at IIT-Kharagpur on Wednesday

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Kolkata: Courtesy their seniors, IIT-Kharagpur students will soon get foreign internships. From 2016, at least 200 students will be able to take up internships in foreign companies, the entire cost of which will be borne by the alumni.

“A student will either bag a training programme at a company founded by the alumni or he/she will be given an opportunity to work in the firm where the alumnus is working. The third option is that the alumni will sponsor the entire internship programme,” said IIT-Kharagpur director Partha Pratim Chakraborty.

The concept was hatched when Vinod Gupta, the alumnus who set up Vinod Gupta School of Management, proposed to sponsor summer internships for his company as well as for the Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law. “He said he will donate few international internships to IIT students. IIT authorities then felt they should ask other former students to participate in the programme,” said a faculty member.

A portal will be designed to for candidates looking for the foreign internships. The students will have to write about the purpose of their in-

ternship, firms they are looking for and which field they are keen to work in. The alumni will go through the applications on the portal and interact with students. Based on their requirements, a selection process will be initiated.

It is compulsory for the students to take up an internship before the final placement. Some students opt to do them during their second-year BTech course while others do it in their third year. In dual-degree programmes, the students go for intern-

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ships even during the fourth year.

“We want students to get international exposure. There are a lot of opportunities for domestic internships. Moreover, students work on various projects, which help them build experiences about companies in the country,” Chakraborty said. The sponsored internships will be for eight weeks, he added.

The portal will be operational from July. Selected students will be offered the 2016-2017 academic session for the internships. However, if a student opts for a summer internship under an exchange programme, then the cost will be borne by the organization conducting it.