

Newspaper Clips

December 2, 2011

Rashtriya Sahara ND 02/12/2011 P7

आईआईटी शोध कैंपस बनने का रास्ता साफ

राकेश नाथ/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में शोध की बढ़ती जरूरत को देखते हुए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), दिल्ली का एक अलग शोध कैंपस हरियाणा में बनेगा। इस योजना को आईआईटी काउंसिल ने हरी झंडी दिखा दी है। आईआईटी काउंसिल की स्वीकृति के

- ▶ आईआईटी काउंसिल ने आईआईटी दिल्ली के नए शोध कैंपस को दी स्वीकृति
- ▶ 100 एकड़ में हरियाणा में बनेगा कैंपस
- ▶ सेंटर फॉर एक्सीलेंस के नाम से बनाया जाएगा कैंपस
- ▶ पूरी तरह से शोध से जुड़े कार्य होंगे

बाद अब हरियाणा सरकार 100 एकड़ जमीन आईआईटी, दिल्ली को मुहैया कराएगी। यह कैंपस सेंटर फॉर एक्सीलेंस के नाम से बनाया जाएगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के रजिस्ट्रार राकेश कुमार ने बताया कि नये शोध कैंपस के लिए आईआईटी काउंसिल का स्वीकृति पत्र आ चुका है। अब हरियाणा सरकार को यह तय

करना है कि वह शोध कैंपस के लिए कहां जमीन उपलब्ध कराएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि जमीन के लिए पहले ही हरियाणा सरकार अपनी स्वीकृति दे चुकी है। गौरतलब है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली 300 एकड़ में फैला हुआ कैंपस है। लेकिन काफी समय से यहां शोध कार्य के लिए और अधिक जगह और संसाधनों की जरूरत महसूस की जा रही है। हरियाणा में बनने वाले कैंपस में पूरी तरह से शोध से जुड़े कार्य होंगे। यहां एमटेक, पीएचडी और उद्योग से जुड़े कार्यक्रम चलाए जा सकते हैं। इससे आईआईटी दिल्ली का महत्व और अधिक बढ़ सकेगा।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 2/12/2011 P-2

आईआईटी रिसर्च कैंपस को मिली हरी झंडी, जमीन मिलने का इंतजार

100 एकड़ का यह कैंपस पूरी तरह से रिसर्च केंद्रित होगा, कैंपस तैयार करने के लिए जमीन हरियाणा सरकार देगी।

शैलेन्द्र सिंह | नई दिल्ली

तकनीकी क्षेत्र में रिसर्च की बढ़ती मांग को देखते हुए आईआईटी दिल्ली की ओर से रिसर्च कैंपस की शुरुआत करने की योजना अब मूर्त रूप लेने जा रही है।

छात्रों के हुनर को बेहतर ढंग से तराशने और रिसर्च के लिए आदर्श माहौल मुहैया कराने के उद्देश्य से 100 एकड़ में तैयार होने वाले आईआईटी दिल्ली के इस रिसर्च कैंपस को आईआईटी काउंसिल ने हरी झंडी दिखा दी है। काउंसिल की मंजूरी के बाद अब गेद हरियाणा सरकार के पाले में है। दरअसल, कैंपस तैयार करने के लिए जमीन हरियाणा ही देगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के रजिस्टार राकेश कुमार ने बताया कि नए कैंपस की शुरुआत को लेकर आईआईटी काउंसिल का मंजूरी पत्र मिल गया है।

अब हरियाणा सरकार से जमीन मिलने का इंतजार है। जमीन देने के लिए सरकार सहमति जाहिर कर चुकी है लेकिन अभी स्थान निर्धारित नहीं हुआ है। आईआईटी दिल्ली पर नजर डालें तो यह 300 एकड़ में फैली एक मिनी टाउनशिप की तरह नजर आती है।

यहां लगभग 18 हजार के आसपास की रिहायश है और अध्ययन के साथ-साथ रिसर्च कार्य भी होता है। ऐसे में लगातार कैंपस में बेहतर रिसर्च के अवसर उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से अलग कैंपस की जरूरत लम्बे समय से महसूस की जा रही है। आला अधिकारियों की मानें तो 100 एकड़ का यह कैंपस पूरी तरह से रिसर्च केन्द्रित होगा और यहां एमटेक, पीएचडी व इंडस्ट्री प्रोग्राम चलाने की कोशिश की जाएगी ताकि रिसर्च के क्षेत्र में और दो कदम आगे बढ़कर आईआईटी दिल्ली अपनी पहचान बना सके।

Naya India ND 02-Dec-11

P-3

Times of India ND 02-Dec-11

P10

New scoring pattern in IITs to draw PSUs

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: The IITs, national centres of excellence mentored by foreign governments, have for years graded their graduates based on the Western system of cumulative grade point index (CPI). But now, all IITs have drawn up an equivalence chart, converting CPIs to the conventional percentage system after PSUs wishing to recruit from there, among other top institutes like the IIMs, asked them to do so.

The current pattern, according to the PSUs, creates confusion and hence the request for a more conventional system. The professor in charge of placements at IIT-Bombay, Ravi Sinha, said:

“All the IITs have come up with a conversion formula and we will have certificates with percentages for students who are applying for PSU jobs.”

आईआईएम की प्रवेश प्रक्रिया बदलेगी

भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान यानी आईआईएम के विभिन्न संस्थानों में दाखिले की प्रक्रिया बदलेगी। फिलहाल हरेक आईआईएम अपने-अपने हिसाब से दाखिल करता है। कहीं आधार बारहवीं के अंक हैं तो कहीं स्नातकोत्तर परीक्षा का स्कोर। कैंट की परसेंटाइल संबंधी मानक नियम भी नहीं है। ऐसे में अनेक विद्यार्थी निजी कॉलेजों में दाखिला पा लेते हैं। नतीजन आईआईएम के पल्ले कम अंक वाले विद्यार्थी दाखिल करने पड़ते हैं। इस सिलसिले में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की अध्यक्षता में आईआईएम के निदेशकों की बैठक भी हुई है। इसका मकसद उनके प्रवेश नियमों में समानता स्थापित करने पर चर्चा करना था।

आईआईटी-जेईई की भांति कैंट की भी रैंकिंग पर विचार किया जा रहा है, ताकि रैंक के हिसाब से सभी आईआईएम में विद्यार्थी का चयन हो सके। अभी कैंट में कटऑफ को क्वालिफाई करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को सभी आईआईएम ग्रुप डिस्कशन के लिए बुलाते हैं। पुराने आईआईएम खासकर अहमदाबाद, बेंगलुरु, कोलकाता (एबीसी) सभी योग्य उम्मीदवारों को छांट लेते हैं और नए खुले आईआईएम को तलछट से गुजर करनी पड़ती है।

Dainik Dabang Duniya
Indore 01.12.2011 p-16

दुनिया के टॉप 200 में भी नहीं हमारे आईआईटी-आईआईएम

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान (आईआईएम) को दुनिया की दो रैंकिंग प्रणालियों ने 200 विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची में भी शामिल करने लायक नहीं समझा लेकिन भारत सरकार का कहना है कि दुनिया में विश्वविद्यालयों की रैंकिंग की कोई ऐसी प्रणाली नहीं है, जो पूरी तरह सटीक हो। मानव संसाधन विकास राज्य मंत्री डी पुरंदेश्वरी ने लोकसभा को बताया कि टाइम्सहायरएजुकेशन डाट को डाट यूके द्वारा प्रकाशित 'वर्ल्ड यूनीवर्सिटी रैंकिंग्स 2011-12' और 'क्यूएस यूनीवर्सिटी रैंकिंग' में दुनिया के शुरूआती 200 विश्वविद्यालयों या संस्थानों की सूची में न तो भारत का कोई आईआईटी और न ही आईआईएम शुमार है। उन्होंने एम के राघवन और ध्रुव नारायण के सवालों के लिखित जवाब में बताया कि इन रैंकिंग संस्थानों का किसी विश्वविद्यालय की रैंकिंग करने की प्रक्रिया अलग है।

Times of India Ahmedabad 01.12.11
P-10

IIT-M campus placements get bigger, better

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: IIT-Madras starts its placement season on Thursday with 40 pre-placement offers compared with 25 last year. What's more, the salaries offered have more than doubled despite global economic uncertainties.

"There is a significant increase in the number of companies visiting us this placement season. More than 260 companies have agreed to come till the end of January. There may be more. Last year, by the end of May, 240 companies had come to the campus," said B Nagarajan, deputy registrar, training, placement and PR, IIT-M.

The placement cell had contacted more companies this time by sending out invitations to 1,000 companies this year compared with 800 in 2010. As many as 15 companies will share space on the first day, and from the third day an average of 12 companies will visit the campus till the end of January.

The pay packages are also getting fatter. The highest offer of Rs 67.5 lakh a year this time by mobile gaming startup Pocket Gems is more than double that of last year's Rs 28 lakh. HUL, offering packages around Rs 17 lakh a year, and American Express are among those who will be recruiting B Tech and MBA students from IIT-M this year.



"In IIT nothing has slowed down. Actually, things are looking up from last year," said Nagarajan. "Companies prefer IIT graduates because of their brand value. Even after they join a company there is a qualitative distinction between an IIT graduate and those from other colleges."

The number of students from B Tech and MBA registered has also gone up from 1,125 in 2010 to 1,175 this year. Last year, all 69 management graduates were placed through campus while 82% of the B Tech candidates were placed. This year 67 MBA graduates are taking part in campus placements.

Nagarajan said the distribution of companies across industries was fairly good, with 50% of the companies from core industries and FMCG, IT and banking. New companies from IT and core industries are expected to visit the campus this year.

Times of India Chennai
01.12.11 P-13

IIT-Bombay grad gets top US energy job

Washington: Naming yet another Indian American to a key administration post, President Barack Obama has appointed Arun Majumdar, an Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, alumnus as the top bureaucrat in the Department of Energy.

Announcing the appointment of Majumdar as Under Secretary of Energy along with four other key administration posts, Obama said: "These men and women have demonstrated knowledge and dedication throughout their careers.

"I am grateful they have chosen to take on these important roles, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come."

At over two dozen, Obama administration has more Indian-Americans in high places than ever before with their numbers rising through Clinton and Bush presidencies

At over two dozen, Obama administration has more Indian-Americans in high places than ever before with their numbers rising through Clinton and Bush presidencies.

By far the highest ranking Indian-American in any presidential administration is USAID administrator Rajiv Shah.

According to the White House, Majumdar has served as the Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) since 2009. AGENCIES

Hindu Chennai 01.12.2011

p-9

Anticipation, anxiety in the air as IIT-Madras placements begin

This year, the highest offer is Rs.62.5 lakh per annum

B. Aravind Kumar

CHENNAI: On Wednesday morning, about 20 students, dressed formally in light-coloured shirts tucked into trousers of dark shades, were waiting for their turn at IIT-Madras to join a group discussion with recruiters from ITC Limited.

Behind the self-confidence and the brave front they put up, however, was a touch of anxiety as recruitments are. In Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, the recruitment is in trickles as only the best get the few jobs offered by each company.

On Thursday, the interviews will begin at the Placement Office and Mahanadi hostel. About 80 halls have been kept ready for the 12 companies to hold personal interviews on day one. Pocket Gems, Facebook, ITC, Google, Boston Consulting Group, Goldman Sachs, Shell, Deutsche Bank, Sony, Info Axe, Transocean and Hindustan Unilever Limited will look for the cream of the talent in the campus.

Top offer

"This year, the highest offer has come from Pocket Gems, a US-based mobile company, with an offer of Rs.62.5 lakh per annum. Facebook is close behind with Rs.60 lakh per annum," says



Final year students of IIT-Madras awaiting their turn to attend group discussion at the placement office on the campus on Wednesday.

— PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR

B. Nagarajan, Deputy Registrar (Training, Placement & Public Relations), IIT-M.

As many as 1,174 students have registered with the placement office, out of whom 270 are B.Tech, 216 B.Tech Dual degree, 332

M.Tech, 60 Ph.D students and the remaining are from the M.A, M.Sc and MBA streams. As usual, the offers are more for Computer Science Engineering and Electrical and Electronics students.

Not everyone at IIT-M wants a job. "About 20 to 25 per cent of students opt for higher studies and are not in the fray for recruitment," says Mr. Nagarajan.

The preparation for the final interview sessions began with presentation by various companies that began in August itself. Companies with technical portfolio have a test to short list and those with a managerial portfolio organise a group discussion, students say. At times, companies prefer short listing by careful examination of the resume of students as well.

Foreign postings

The companies do not disclose the number of recruits they are interested in or the place of work prior to the interviews. Some students get to work abroad. For instance, students recruited by Sony undergo an initial training programme in Tokyo, students say. On Thursday, the interviews will start early as 7 a.m. with a slot for three companies. By 9 a.m. all the 12 companies will start their recruitment process. A total of 260 companies have registered with IIT-M this year for recruitment which will continue up to January end by which the average salary is expected to rise up from the Rs.7.73 lakh per annum last year.

MBA Courses Lose Glitter

FALL FROM GRACE: Enrolments dip as students prefer "safe" career options in an uncertain economic climate. Institutes are now lowering selection standards

WRITANKAR MUKHERJEE & SREERADHA D BASU
KOLKATA

With fears of another slowdown, enrolments for MBA programmes have started to slow down in India. The number of people who appeared for popular examinations like CAT, MAT and GMAT has fallen this year, while there has been no growth yet for the on-going XAT registrations. Middle and lower-rung institutes are weighing relaxation of selection criteria so as to prevent a revenue deficit.

"While the impact has been relatively low in the top institutes, a majority of the 4,000-odd management institutes in India are facing an acute shortage of students, even a 50% drop in some cases," says IIM Calcutta director Shekhar Chaudhuri.

B-schools and organisations conducting entrance exams say the global recession is forcing engineering students — one of the largest section of MBA aspirants — to go in for jobs immediately after graduation. Working executives are also thinking twice before pursuing an MBA.

This year, the number of people who actually took CAT — the entrance examination for the premier Indian Institutes of Management and more than 100 other top institutes — was 1,85,000, compared with 1,86,229 students last year. CAT registrations, however, went up by less than 1% this year to 2,06,500 compared with 2,05,000 students last year. Fewer students sat for the exam (see chart).

All India Management Association (AIMA), which conducts the MAT entrance, confirmed a drop in the number of enrolments without quoting exact numbers. More than 1.6 lakh stu-

dents enrol for MAT every year. US-based Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), which conducts the popular GMAT entrance examination in over a 100 countries, too said there has been a fall in number of enrolments. GMAC said while 2,58,192 students took the exam globally in 2010-11, the number of applicants was higher, at 2,63,979 in 2009-10.

Even in India, which has been one of the fastest growing markets for GMAT, there has been a fall in enrolments. The number of Indians who took GMAT fell to 25,394 in 2010-11 from 30,633 in 2008-09.

Some management institutes are planning to lower their rigorous selection criteria for the next academic year to fill the seats, and are considering a relaxation in percentage cut-offs and a larger selection list. The director of a Delhi management institute, which ranks amongst the top 40 B-schools in India, said the number of application forms it has sold till date this year is 30% less than last year. Most of our candidates typically apply to multiple institutes. We don't know how many will ultimately come for the group discussion and interviews. We may have to go a little easy in this phase of selection," said the director, who did not wish to be named.

Engineering students, one of the largest section of aspirants, are going in for jobs immediately after graduation

Till the global economy looks up, this trend is likely to continue, says CAT 2011 convener Janakiraman Moorthy, but adds the situation does not affect the IIMs since all the institutes taken together have some 3,000 seats, which is less than 1.5% of the total applications.

"But institutes ranked 20-30 are facing a problem," he says. Students are not just betting on MBA as the ultimate choice. They have become more careful after the 2008-09 recession, when several institutes, including the IIMs, faced a problem in placing their students and average placement salaries dipped. "Engineering graduates, who are already well paid, are now finding that they are not seeing any significant increase in salary by getting an MBA, unless it's from a top school," says Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB) director PT Joseph. Even though XAT registrations are open till December,

so far, there has hardly been any growth in applicants, he adds. XAT is conducted by Xavier Association of Management Institutes, which has more than 16 core member institutes and 85 associate B-schools.

GMAC's director Bob Ludwig says students are investing in a career while going in for a part-time MBA, executive MBA, and specialised masters programmes such as in finance and accounting. In fact, GMAC this year undertook a global survey which shows that the large majority of full-time MBA programmes reported decreases in application compared with last year, but the majority of part-time and executive programmes reported volumes that remained the same or increased.

However, students who are clear about a career in management are not dropping out or delaying admission, says AIMA director general Rekha Sethi. "But those who considered MBA as a fashion statement are tentative, as management education is neither easy nor cheap," she says.

Over the past two years, B-schools have increased course fees by 15-50%, which could be another deterrent. IIM Calcutta in 2010 decided to raise fees for its MBA programme by 50% to Rs 13.5 lakh. IIM Ahmedabad increased its course fees this year by 5.5% to Rs 14.5 lakh, while IIM Bangalore increased fees by Rs 1.5 lakh in 2010.

Students feel MBAs are not offering a good return on money with the hike in tuition fees, says Naveen Saraff, director of MBA entrance training institute, Career Launcher, in Kolkata. CAT 2011 convener Moorthy agrees. "In this situation, people want to reduce risks. If they think the payback period is going to be longer, they are more likely to stay away," he says.

The quality of students is also taking a hit due to the slowdown, says Loyola Institute of Business Administration spokesperson Jayaram Iyer. "Since good students are finding jobs immediately after graduation, the quality of the class is suffering," he says. AIMA's Sethi, however, warns the MBA market will take another hit if the proposal of a single admission test is implemented. The All India Council for Technical Education has decided to conduct a common admission test for management education from 2012-13. "The one-size-fits-all approach is ill-suited to a big and diverse country like India. Administering such a test exclusively online will only add to the digital divide. Moreover, uniformity could only lead to mediocrity, as it would kill competition and innovation," says Sethi.

writankar.mulherjee@timesgroup.com

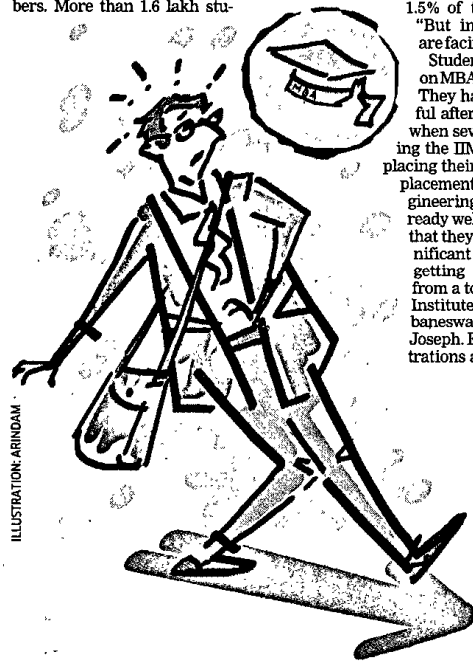
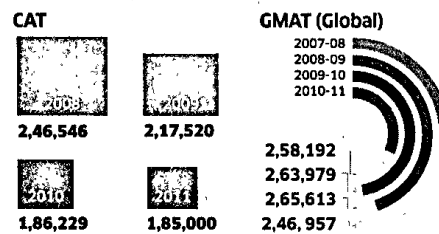


ILLUSTRATION: ARINDAM

Students Appearing For:



GMAT (India)

As per citizenship, not residency



SOURCE: IIMS, GMAC

Tech companies go talent shopping at top B-schools

Diksha Dutta & Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Dec 1: Talent needs of the \$60-billion Indian IT industry is going beyond mere computer science engineers or hard core tech graduates. Big corporates like Google, Yahoo!, IBM and other new age tech companies this year for the first time went to the top business schools to tie up for training and hiring — rather than just partnering with engineering colleges.

Changing profile of internet companies and new trends in tech world like social media, internet marketing and varying consumer behaviour is compelling companies to take this step and hire from top business schools. Sales and marketing, business development and finance management are the jobs being offered to these students.

At IIM Ahmedabad, some first time recruiters in IT, technology and internet were Groupon, Cleartrip, SAP, Yahoo! and Google for summer placements.

Explaining the reason behind Yahoo! hiring more business graduates, MChelliah, head, academic relations, said, "For the last three years, we have been tying up with engineering colleges for training and placements. But this year we also tied up with IIT Hyderabad, IIM Bangalore, ISB



RAINING JOBS

Business school	First-time recruiters
IIM Ahmedabad	Groupon, Cleartrip, SAP, Yahoo! & Google
IIM Lucknow	Google, Yahoo!
IIM Kozhikode	Mentor Graphics, Ittiam Systems & Amazon
IIM Indore	Amazon, Yatra and Infibeam
IIM Bangalore	Dentsu, Supermax, Abbott, Amazon, Narayana Hrudalaya, SAP, The Times Group, Yatra.com, Cleartrip.com and Duferco.

Hyderabad, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata and Delhi for training. We have realised that we just don't need computer science engineers. As new trends like social media are coming up, we also need talent with business management background."

For the last three years Yahoo! has tied up for research and development training along with placements with five IITs which include Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur.

At IIM Lucknow, Yahoo came for the first time and opened product management roles for summer placements. "Google offered multiple profiles ranging from analytics to sales during the

summer placements," said Adarsh Srivastava, member, placement committee at IIM Lucknow.

"Google has previously visited our campus for final placements, but this was their first time offering summer internship projects. Many recruiters were visiting campus for the first time," said a student from the placement committee of IIM Ahmedabad. Roles offered were sales and marketing, business development and corporate strategy.

IT giant IBM, too, has its plans to expand its training and hiring portfolio to business schools.

Himanshu Goyal, country manager (academic initiatives), IBM India, in-

formed, "We are realising the importance of hiring MBAs in finance, HR or even for some technology marketing jobs. Thus this year we are eyeing to tie up with top 100 business schools to train professionals for relevant jobs in the IT industry. We have already partnered with Vellore Institute of Management (VIM) in Pune. The IT industry now needs T-shaped skills as the market is maturing, which means technology plus expertise in business management too."

"Yahoo and IBM are regular recruiters, but they didn't finalise their requirement by the time we started and finished our summer internship process. We will see them in the finals," said a member of

placement committee of IIM Indore.

IIM Kozhikode, too, saw similar first timers during summer placements like, Mentor Graphics, Ittiam Systems and Amazon and offered profiles across various business functions like programme management, sales, customer experience and operations. Even for IIM Indore, this season was buoyant in terms of e-commerce and tech sector with many first time recruiters like Amazon, Yatra and Infibeam among others.

Similarly, first time companies on IIM B campus included Dentsu, Supermax, Abbott, Amazon, Narayana Hrudalaya, SAP, The Times Group, Yatra.com, Cleartrip.com and Duferco.

Concluded E Balaji, MD & CEO, HR firm Ma Foi Randstad, "Earlier, IT companies believed that they would hire engineers who can then be trained as managers over a period of time.

But today, the tech sector has realised that Indian business schools deliver employable talent which can be straightaway put to marketing, business development and corporate strategy roles. Moreover, big MNCs in the tech sector always hired from western business schools, but are now accepting the talent from Indian business schools as well."

Times of India ND 02-Dec-11

P10

Tech giants come calling to IITs

Facebook, Microsoft, Google Make Beeline With Fat Pay Packages

Hemali Chhapla and Ramya Manoharan | TNN

Mumbai: Three giants of the internet — Facebook, Microsoft and Google — landed at the Indian Institutes of Technology this year to pick the brightest brains to power their headquarters.

Facebook, which picked one student last year, was seen at all IIT campuses, from Bombay to Guwahati to Madras. It paid the highest salary — \$140,000 (about Rs 72 lakh) per annum — apart from a relocation bonus and a one-time signing amount. It appeared as if the placement process at the IITs was insulated from the world's crippled economy.

Microsoft, for the first time, had come to hire IITians for its Redmond headquarters. Google picked engineers for



RECRUITMENT SEASON

both their India (with salary packages nearing Rs 20 lakh) and global offices. Also, big consulting firms that had gone quiet during the slowdown returned to the IITs to pick a large contingent of students.

Campuses were abuzz with students rushing from one department to another for interviews that were held back-to-

back. At IIT-B, close to 150 rooms were converted to placement chambers for corporations such as Goldman Sachs, Booz and Company, Boston Consulting Group, Schlumberger, ANZ Bank, Credit Suisse and Sony Corporation. "The top brand slot is a lot more crowded this year," said IIT-B placement head Ravi Sinha. "There is an increase of 10-20% in the overall salary as compared to 2010." At IIT-Madras, packages exceeded the highest salary offered last year. Sony Corporation (Japan) offered five students between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 33 lakh a year. The highest salary offered in 2010 was Rs 28 lakh, by offshore drilling contractor Transocean International.

HUL's packages were up to Rs 17 lakh a year. But a bonanza is awaited from mobile gam-

ing startup Pocket Gems, which is looking for the right candidate to get Rs 67.5 lakh a year. For students across campuses, the gruelling tests and interviews started at 8 am and stretched past midnight. In all, 29 firms visited the Powai campus to interview 450 students on Thursday, the first day.

Twelve companies visited IIT-Guwahati (said the institute's placement head Saurabh Basu), 13 visited IIT-Madras to pick about 65 students, 20 visited IIT-Delhi and 18 visited IIT-Kharagpur. "Much like last year, this time, too, some of the biggest names are here. Facebook, BCG and Slumberger are some, to name a few," said Kharagpur's training and placement chairman Sunil Kumar Srivastava.

(With inputs from Neha Puskarna and Somdatta Basu)