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IIT-Delhi to look for faculty in Ivy League universities

Dearth of faculty members in their academic coterie forces the institute to hire foreign scholars

Kritika Sharma

kritika.sharma@dnaindia.net

New Delhi: Hoping to improve the student-teacher ratio and to bring world-class quality to its teaching methods, authorities of Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) will soon be visiting Ivy League universities such as Harvard and Yale in a bid to recruit foreign scholars as faculty.

In what is a first for the premier IITs, IIT-Delhi will be conducting roadshows in various Ivy League universities across the United States from February 2017. "A delegation of deans and heads of different departments will go to Ivy League institutes in the east coast, and to institutes in other US cities, to hire graduating students as faculty members in IIT-D," IIT-D director Dr V Ramgopal Rao said while confirming the development.

Before the roadshow, the delegation plans to interview a few PhD candidates over Skype and then travel to meet them personally. They have been coordinating with various institutions, and getting information about scholars who



The delegation plans to interview a few PhD candidates over Skype

are finishing their academic work.

"So far, foreign scholars had been coming to us but now we will be going to them through a roadshow, telling them about our institute and the way we function. We want to attract the best of talent from abroad," Rao added.

The government has relaxed norms for hiring foreign faculty in

IITs. "There are foreign faculty members in IITs right now as well, but they are just a handful because of stringent government norms. However, the norms are getting relaxed now to let us hire more foreign nationals."

Foreign faculty in IITs can work as contractual employees for five years. The contract is renewable

ROAD SHOW

IIT-Delhi will be conducting roadshows in various Ivy League universities across the United States from February 2017. "A delegation of deans and heads of different departments will go to Ivy League institutes in the east coast," said IIT-D director Dr V Ramgopal Rao

and though they are not offered permanent positions, they get paid at par with faculty members in India.

IITs have not been getting enough faculty members from within their own circles as the number of B Tech students pursuing PhD has declined. "Earlier, many B Tech students would go to foreign universities, complete their PhD and come back and teach in IITs here. But that number has now reduced considerably. We are not getting good scholars to teach in our institutions here. This is also one of the reasons that we are attracting faculty from abroad," Rao said.

IIT-Kanpur placement drive: Companies opt online means for interviews

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/IIT-K-placement-drive-Companies-opt-online-means-for-interviews/articleshow/55861827.cms>

KANPUR: Bad weather conditions have forced some of the companies to opt for interviews via video conferencing during the ongoing placement drive at IIT-Kanpur.

The recruitment firms are reaching the campus late due to delay in train and flight timings. However, the placement cell of the institute is making all efforts to accommodate the hiring companies reaching the campus late. As a result, the interviews continue till late in the night keeping the staff of the placement cell engaged.

Owing to the time crisis some of the companies are going for video conferencing and other social networking applications for recruitment interviews.

The placement cell did not reveal the name of companies which conducted interviews through online means.

Talking to TOI, placement cell incharge of IIT-K Sandeep Nair said the harsh weather conditions have affected the arrival of companies on the campus to take part in the placement drive. As a result the firms continue with interviews till late in the night and some are using video-conferencing to hold interviews. But each one of them want to be physically present on the campus," he said further.

Meanwhile, on fifth day five of the placement drive on Tuesday, more than 400 students bagged job offers. The interviews continued till late in the night.

Business Standard ND 08.12.2016 P-03

Recruiters up, offers down at IIT placements



VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 7 December

A rise in the number of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), coupled with revised recruitment plans by recruiters, has led to the number of placement offers coming down by 10 per cent this year at campuses, even as the number of companies is slightly up.

At IIT-Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp), a little over 300 companies have registered this year, against 280 last year. IIT-Guwahati (IIT-G) has seen the number rise from 150 last year to 200 this year.

Yet, the number of offers per recruiter has come down by 10-20 per cent at different IITs, barring a few. The institutes attribute the trend to multiple reasons, including a rise in the number of the premier institutes to 23 now.

"The average fall here is around 20 per cent. Mostly, this is because the manpower requirement at companies has undergone a change and they seem to have revised their recruitment plans," said K Mohanty, placement chairperson at IIT-G. For instance, WorksApp has made six offers this year; it made 12 last year.

Till Tuesday, IIT-Kgp saw recruiters making 450 offers for the first five days, against about 500 offers last year for the said period.

"The number of IITs has gone and most of the major recruiters are now also going to the newer ones. And, the general economic condition in the market is not so rosy," said Debasish Deb, chairman, Career Development Centre, IIT-Kgp; it has seen a fall of 10 per cent in offers. The institute has also not seen much rise in its pre-placement offers — 180, as against 185 last year.

WHERE DID THE JOBS GO?

- At IIT-Kharagpur, a little over 300 companies have registered this year, against 280 last year
- IIT-Guwahati has seen the number rise from 150 last year to 200 this year
- The number of offers per recruiter has come down by 10-20 per cent at different IITs
- Till Tuesday, IIT-Kgp saw recruiters making 450 offers for the first five days, against 500 offers last year for the said period

IIT-Kanpur (IIT-K) has 315 offers in the first three days. Syam Nair, chairman, students placement office, says this is "more or less the same as last year". He said some of the companies might have reduced the number of offers due to changes in their requirements.

IIT-Roorkee (IIT-R) has so far beaten the trend. N P Padhy, professor in charge, said: "We cannot say the placements this season has so far beaten our expectations but we are not disappointed, either. Unlike some of the other IITs, we have not seen a decline; it has been slightly better." Around 100 companies have so far made close to 450 offers.

Padhy feels this could be due to IIT-R seeking a decent mix among different sectors, especially in the core sector. "We didn't focus too heavily on the IT (information technology) sectors and, therefore, our non-computer science disciplines have also seen decent placements," he said.

Business Standard ND 08.12.2016 P-08

Tata mulls investment in truck-hailing start-up

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, 7 December

Tata Motors, India's biggest commercial vehicle manufacturer, is keen to enter the arena of truck-hailing apps, one year after its rival Mahindra and Mahindra, the country's second-biggest CV maker, entered this space.

More than half a dozen companies floated by graduates of IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) backed by venture capitalists and private equity companies already operate in this app-based truck-hailing space, their business model similar to Uber and Ola, except for the fact they deal in the cargo segment, not the passenger one.

A company official said given Tata Motors' large and loyal consumer base, it makes sense to tie up with its clients for this add-on service. Tata Motors is considering an equity investment in a start-up and is talking to a few prospective companies.

"We have been looking at this space for



a long time. The aggregators are also our clients. So, the aggregator may be the third party but they are dealing with our clients. We are actually talking to a few aggregators rather than getting into the

business as such, which seems to be what Mahindra has done; they themselves have become an aggregator, that is not what we will do. There are some aggregators with whom we are having discussions," said Ravi Pisharody, executive director, CV, Tata Motors.

Pisharody added, "Too early to say if we would be investing in them, we are examining. The trouble is there are too many of them (but) we have to back the right people. The partnership could be in different forms, we don't have to buy into the company. We also have a lot to bring to the table. We can also offer to all buyers the opportunity to link up to aggregators. So these are things we are exploring, investment into an aggregator may not be necessary but this is much of a strategic call, which we will decide shortly."

Anand Mahindra-led Mahindra and Mahindra, which has got a sizeable presence in the small CV category, entered the web-based truck-hailing space in November last year, with the launch of SmartShift.

Business Standard (Hindi) ND 08.12.2016 P-04

आईआईटी से भर्ती करने वाले बढ़े, वेतन घटा

विनय उमरजी
अहमदाबाद, 7 दिसंबर

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) की संख्या बढ़ने और नियोक्ताओं की भर्ती योजनाओं में बदलाव के कारण इस साल परिसर से भर्तियों पर पेशकश में 10 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। हालांकि परिसर में भर्तियों के लिए आने वाली कंपनियों की संख्या में मामूली बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर में इस साल 300 से ज्यादा कंपनियों पंजीकृत हुईं, जबकि पिछले साल 280 कंपनियां आई थीं। आईआईटी गुवाहाटी में पिछले साल

150 कंपनियां आई थीं जबकि इस साल 200 कंपनियों ने उपस्थिति दर्ज कराई।

कुछ मामलों को छोड़कर विभिन्न आईआईटी में वेतन की पेशकश में 10-20 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। संस्थानों ने इसकी कई वजहें बताई हैं, जिसमें संस्थानों की संख्या बढ़कर 23 होना भी शामिल है।



मिलेगा कम धन

आईआईटी जी के प्लेसमेंट चेयरपर्सन के मोहंती ने कहा, 'औसत गिरावट करीब 20 प्रतिशत है। इसकी मुख्य वजह यह है कि कंपनियों के मानव

संसाधन में बदलाव हुआ है और उन्होंने अपनी भर्ती योजनाओं में उसके मुताबिक परिवर्तन किया है।' उदाहरण के लिए वर्कऐप ने इस साल 6 पेशकश दिए, जबकि पिछले साल 12 पेशकश दिए थे।

मंगलवार तक आईआईटी खड़गपुर में पहले 5 दिन में 450 पेशकश मिली हैं, जबकि पिछले साल इतने समय में ही करीब 500 पेशकश मिली थी।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के करियर डेवलपमेंट सेंटर के चेयरमैन देवाशीष देव ने कहा, 'आईआईटीज की संख्या बढ़ी है और ज्यादातर भर्ती करने वाले नए केंद्रों का रुख कर रहे हैं। बाजार की स्थिति भी अच्छी नहीं है।' संस्थान में प्लेसमेंट

के पहले की पेशकश भी 180 रही है, जो पिछले साल 185 थी।

आईआईटी कानपुर में पहले 3 दिन में 315 पेशकश मिली है। स्टूडेंट प्लेसमेंट सेल के चेयरमैन श्याम नायर ने कहा कि यह कमोबेश पिछले साल जैसा ही है। उन्होंने कहा कि संभव है कि कुछ कंपनियों ने अपनी भर्ती रणनीति के तहत पेशकश की संख्या घटाई हो।

हालांकि आईआईटी रुड़की की स्थिति अलग है। प्रभारी प्रोफेसर एनपी पाधे ने कहा, 'अन्य कुछ आईआईटी की तरह हमारे यहां कोई गिरावट नहीं आई है, बल्कि स्थिति थोड़ी बेहतर ही है।' करीब 100 कंपनियों ने 450 के आसपास पेशकश की हैं।

Economic Times (Hindi) ND 08.12.2016 P-01

टैलेंट की तलाश बड़ी संख्या में हायरिंग कर रही स्टार्टअप्स, ग्लोबल ऑफर्स में कमी की हो रही भरपाई फॉरेन हायरिंग घटी, पर IIT में स्टार्टअप्स से रौनक

श्रीराधा डी बसु & प्राची वर्मा डडवाल |

इस बार के IIT कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट में स्टार्टअप्स बड़े सरप्राइज दे रही हैं। वहां बड़ी संख्या में स्टार्टअप्स की कतारें लगी हैं। यह अलग बात है कि IIT ऐसी 30 फर्मों को ब्लैकलिस्ट कर चुके हैं। इंटरनेशनल ऑफर्स और कुछ बड़ी कंपनियों की ओर से हायरिंग में गिरावट की भरपाई में ये स्टार्टअप्स हालांकि मददगार साबित हो रही हैं।

आईआईटी ने फ्लिपकार्ट और स्नेपडील जैसी ईकॉमर्स दिग्गजों को ब्लैकलिस्ट किया हुआ है। एमेजॉन और पेटिएम जैसी कॉम्पिटिटर्स कई आईआईटी में बड़े पैमाने पर हायरिंग कर रही हैं। प्लेसमेंट में प्रीमियम स्लॉट पाने वाली इन कंपनियों के साथ लॉजिस्टिक्स स्टार्टअप रिविगो सर्विसेज और एंटरप्राइज सॉफ्टवेयर डिवेलपर कोडनेशन का नाम शामिल है। एमेजॉन इस साल प्लेसमेंट के लिए 17 आईआईटी का दौरा कर रही है। इस



कंपनी का पिछले साल से ज्यादा इंजीनियर्स हायर करने का प्लान है। कैम्पस के पॉपुलर रिज्यूट्स में शूमार सिस्टल की यह ईकॉमर्स दिग्गज पहली बार आईआईटी जोधपुर, इंदौर और भुवनेश्वर जा रही है। एमेजॉन के

एपीएससी एचआर डायरेक्टर राज राघवन ने कहा, 'हमारा मानना है कि हम यहां विस्तार और तरक्की कर सकते हैं। इंडिया में एमेजॉन की ग्रोथ को बढ़ावा देने में इन इंस्टीट्यूट्स के टैलेंट इंजीनियरों का अहम रोल होगा।

हम इंडिया में कारोबार बढ़ा रहे हैं, इसलिए हम ज्यादा हायरिंग कर रहे हैं।' सरकार के नोटबंदी अभियान का सबसे ज्यादा फायदा पाने वाली कंपनियों में शूमार पेटिएम ने इस साल आईआईटी से पिछले साल से दोगुने यानी 50 इंजीनियर भर्ती करने का प्लान बनाया है। पेटिएम के सीनियर वीपी अमित सिन्हा ने कहा, 'पेटिएम विस्तार कर रही है और मोमेंटम बनाए रखने में मदद के लिए हम लगातार टैलेंट की तलाश में रहते हैं।' कंपनी ने इस साल आईआईटी गुवाहाटी, रुड़की, मद्रास, बॉम्बे और वाराणसी में हायरिंग की है। इन दिग्गजों के बीच कई स्टार्टअप भी हायरिंग की होइ में हैं। आईआईटी रुड़की में ट्रेनिंग-प्लेसमेंट इंचार्ज प्रोफेसर एन पी पाधी ने कहा, 'स्टार्टअप्स कैम्पस में जमी हुई हैं। उन्होंने इस साल बड़े पैमाने पर हायरिंग की है।' आईआईटी रुड़की में प्लेसमेंट के लिए पिछले साल के 50 के मुकाबले 55 स्टार्टअप्स रजिस्टर्ड हुई हैं।

Rajasthan Patrika ND 08.12.2016 P-02

आईआईटी में कंपनियां खूब आई पर ऑफर कम लाई

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. आईआईटी संस्थान दुनियाभर में मोटे पैकेज वाली नौकरी दिलाने के लिए जाने जाते हैं। मगर इस बार स्थिति बदली है। इस साल कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट में कंपनियों की संख्या तो ज्यादा रही मगर इन्होंने बीते साल के मुकाबले नौकरी के कम ऑफर दिए। यानी कम छात्रों को नौकरी मिली।

आईआईटी बॉम्बे में पहले चरण के प्लेसमेंट में फाइनैस और कंसल्टेंसी फर्म ने पिछली दफा की तुलना में कम छात्रों को नौकरी दी।



कुल 13 छात्रों का चयन हुआ। साल 2015 में यह आंकड़ा 16 था। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों को मिलने वाले ऑफर में 10 फीसदी की कमी आई है।

IIT Bombay had No US jobs offers in Placement Season

<https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/iit-bombay-had-no-us-jobs-offers-in-placement-season>

On one side IIT Kanpur hits the headlines with 1.5 crore offer from Microsoft while on the other IIT Bombay has no job offers from US in this year's placement season.

This year no US firm offered any job positions to the any student of IIT (B), however the number of US firms participating in the placement drive remained the same.

Tom Mathew, the placement in charge of IIT B said that "as many as six students have been offered jobs in Japan from the companies like Minolta & NTT communications".

Oracle also made one offer at IIT B apart from already offered jobs at IIT K & IIT-Guwahati.

Among the Indian companies which recruited the students include ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) & ONGC (Oil & Natural Gas Corporation). ISRO recruited 4 while ONGC recruited 8 students.

"Some of the US firms withdrew from the placement drive including Facebook because of difficulties in obtaining work VISAs", said one of the students from the Placement team.

Some also believe that the same is due to the present US economic scenario after the election of the new US President.

IITs will allow high-scoring undergrads direct admission to its PhD programmes

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/IIT-Roorkee-gets-new-director/articleshow/55859868.cms>

MUMBAI: Undergraduate students of the Indian Institutes of Technology who score a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 8.5 and more will now get direct admission to the institutes' PhD programme.

Such candidates will be entitled to a monthly scholarship of Rs 60,000 for five years. Moreover, they will also get "a suitable research grant" to cover expenses like attending international conferences that are required to complete their research projects. The proposal was cleared by the IIT council after it realized that doctoral programmes needed to be encouraged as the institutes were facing a shortage of faculty and the unavailability was likely to only get pronounced.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar responded that the IITs, particularly the seven older ones, were set to increase their PhD intake by at least 20% in the next three years, starting from the ensuing academic season of 2017-18. The council of the premier technical institutes agreed to increase the seat intake to 1 lakh by 2020, particularly at the post-graduate level, accepting a proposal of the HRD ministry. This had come up at a meeting of the council chaired Javadekar in August.

"We want to admit more students to our PhD programmes from next year. There is a dearth of faculty and the expansion in technical education calls for major push for doctoral programmes," said an IIT director. The institutes are considering increasing the number of MTech seats. Increasing PhD seats would also see the IITs contributing to the country's research output and providing innovative and affordable technological solutions needed to meet the requirement of our country, he said.

The HRD minister has assured the IITs of making a proposal to the government for rolling out a new fellowship scheme to support research scholars. "The proposed Prime Minister Research Fellows programme would seek to support at least 1,000 PhD students every year," said a ministry official.

IIT Roorkee gets new director

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/IIT-Roorkee-gets-new-director/articleshow/55859868.cms>

ROORKEE: IIT Roorkee, which has been functioning without a director for over a month now, now has a new director, Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi.

"Prof Chaturvedi, who is the deputy director of IIT Kanpur at present and a senior faculty at the department of electrical engineering in the institute has now been appointed director of IIT Roorkee," said PK Ghosh, officiating director of IIT-R.

The tenure of a director at the institute is five years from the date of joining. The previous director, Pradipta Banerji, completed his full term in October this year. Since then IIT-R has been functioning with an officiating director at the helm.

However, the date of joining of the new director is not yet clear. It is assumed that he will report to the institute next month. "I cannot give you the exact date of my joining as director of IIT Roorkee as I have to complete some responsibilities at IIT Kanpur before taking up my new responsibilities. I am likely to report there within two to three weeks," said Chaturvedi, talking to TOI over the phone from Kanpur.

Chaturvedi shares a bond with IIT-R as he had worked at the institute as a faculty member for a brief period before joining IIT Kanpur. "He had taught here at the department of electronics and computer engineering in 1997. The staff and students of the institute consider his appointment as a homecoming," said Ghosh.

Chaturvedi, an expert in wireless communication technology, has been an IITian throughout his academic as well as professional career. He completed his BTech, MTech and PhD in electrical engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1986, 1988 and 1995, respectively. During his career as faculty he served at the department of electronics engineering at IIT (Banaras Hindu University) from 1994 to 1996. Since 1999, he has teaching at the department of electrical engineering of IIT-Kanpur. He was head of the department in 2009-2010 and dean of research development there from 2011 to 2014.

Virat Vaibhav ND 08.12.2016 P -09

प्रभावी ग्रामीण प्रबंधन की आवश्यकता पर बल

वैभव न्यूज़ ■ लखनऊ

भारत मिशन शहरी विकास मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशनए जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय की साझेदारी में दिल्ली की संस्था सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड इनवायरनमेंट द्वारा उप्र, बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल के दस नगर निकायों के पदाधिकारियों के लिए सेटज और फीकल रूलज प्रबंधन पर आयोजित तीन दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला में सीएसई प्रशिक्षकों के

साथ आईआईटी मुंबई के डॉ चन्द्रशेखर ने शहरों में शहरी स्वच्छता योजनाओं के तहत कारगर और व्यावहारिक सेटज और फीकल रूलज प्रबंधन प्रणालियों को लागू करने की प्रक्रिया के बारे में जानकारी दी। सचिव श्रीप्रकाश सिंह ने स्वच्छता की चुनौती से निपटने के लिए राज्य के लगभग 7000 शहरी निकायों के लिए व्यावहारिक, सस्ते और विकेंद्रित उपायों की जरूरत पर ध्यान खींचा।

IIT team achieves higher biofuel yield from water hyacinth

Indo-Asian News Service

KOLKATA: Scientists at Indian Institute of Technology—

Kharagpur have unlocked the secret to ramp up yields of biofuel sourced from commonly found aquatic weeds such as water hyacinths.



In a new study published on December 1 in Nature Scientific Reports, researchers have shown that this weed—which contains up to 50% hemicelluloses—can now be used as an economic and abundant source of biofuel.

“We show that the secret to rapidly producing soluble sugars from amorphous natural polymers such as hemicelluloses lies in their smallest scale—the pores,” said Saikat Chakraborty, faculty member at the Department of Chemical Engineering and lead researcher of the Bioenergy Research Group at IIT-Kharagpur.

Chakraborty and co-author Sajal Kanti Dutta have uncovered the pore-scale phenomena that result in “fourfold increase

in the yields of fermentable sugars and bioethanol” from hemicelluloses.

“It turns out that three quarters of the soluble sugars we obtain for generation of bioethanol are produced from the pore-scale reactions. So increasing the polymer’s porosity and degree of swelling will enhance the deconstruction of hemicelluloses from plant cell walls, thus increasing bioethanol,” the authors said.

Hemicelluloses are the second most abundant natural polymer on earth—after cellulose—and a new technology engendered from this pore-scale phenomena could rapidly produce biofuels from locally available plant sources, added Chakraborty.



Danish education minister Soren Pind visits IIM-Ahmedabad

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Danish-education-minister-visits-IIM-A/articleshow/55861822.cms>



AHMEDABAD: The Danish minister of education and research, Soren Pind, on Wednesday visited the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) to know more about the education system at the city's premier institute.

The official Twitter account of IIM-A later tweeted, "Soren Pind, Minister of Higher Education and Science, Denmark visited IIM-Ahmedabad campus and met Professor Rakesh Basant Dean at IIM-A."

Pind visited the campus and also saw the classrooms. His visit was scheduled to increase educational ties with Danish students and educational institutes. He also spoke about student exchange programmes with IIM-A officials.

Pind is touring India and is currently visiting Gujarat. He was also scheduled to meet Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani and senior level officials of Indian companies and institutes.