

Newspaper Clips

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Accenture, Amex Among First-Timers

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IIT Kharagpur has so far received 170 PPOs, close to what it received in the entire last year. The institute is confident of crossing at least 200 this year, officials said. IIT Madras is also with in touching distance of last year's final tally of 69, having received 63 PPOs already.

Across IITs, there are several companies offering PPOs for the first time. Additionally, many companies are making more offers than in the past.

Accenture Services, American Express India, Vodafone, Visa and Capital One Financial Services are among the nine companies that have visited the IIT Roorkee campus for the first time while Maxlinear, Barclays, IFMR and Wipro Consumer Care are the first-timers for PPOs at IIT Madras, according to training and placement advisor Manu Santhanam.

At IIT Guwahati, which has already crossed last year's overall tally with more than 70 PPOs so far, Arcesium and Innoplexus are the two companies that have made offers for the first time. "Last year, there were no new companies for PPOs," said the IIT Guwahati placement spokesperson.

Edgeverve and Nvidia, on the other hand, have made offers to IIT-BHU students for the first time.

MORE OFFERS

Institutes are also seeing more offers from some companies.

Adobe, for instance, has made the highest number of offers at IIT Kanpur this year, nearly a three-fold jump to 20 so far this year from seven last time round. At IIT Roor-

kee, too, it leads the list of companies, with 13 offers so far.

IIT Kharagpur has seen 38 companies offering 170 PPOs so far compared to 175 PPOs offered by 59 companies in the entire placement season last year.

"We are seeing more offers being made this year through PPOs," said an IIT Delhi placement officer, without disclosing the numbers.

A member of IIT Bombay's placement cell didn't share the figures either, but said, "The major sectors giving PPOs are the software, FMCG, finance and core firms."

Parag Pande, Accenture's human resource lead for India said that this year the company is extending PPOs to hire specialised skills for its digital business. "Internships are an opportunity for hiring organisations as well as potential employees to test waters, and make an informed decision while making a long-term commitment," he said.

PPOs form an integral part of Accenture's recruitment strategy, he said.

As did Vishpala Reddy, head of human resources at American Express.

"Campus is an important channel of our talent strategy which helps us engage and experience this group of bright talent and effectively build our talent pipeline," Reddy said.

"We have experienced great success with our internship programs at the IITs, where we hire for key skills across many of our lines of business, with our 'Nurture' internship programme focusing exclusively on the top IIT JEE (joint entrance examination) rankers," she said.

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Pre-placement Offers Score High on IIT Talent Hunt

Offers at all-time high this year; number of offers at some institutes already up about a third from last year

Hire and Hire

PPOs see 32% jump at IIT BHU, up 27% at IIT Roorkee

MORE FIRST-TIMERS offering PPOs at IIT campuses

More offers per companies this year, as in the case of **IIT KHARAGPUR**

Adobe made 20 offers at **IIT KANPUR**, up from 7 last year

At **IIT ROORKEE**, Adobe has made 13 offers

Companies such as Accenture and American Express say **INTERNSHIP ROUTE IMPORTANT** for recruiting talent



Prachi Verma Dadhwal & Sreeradha D Basu

New Delhi | Mumbai: Pre-placement offers to students at the Indian Institutes of Technology have scaled a record high this year, indicating a bumper recruitment season ahead amid growing inclination among leading employers to hire through the tried-and-tested internship route.

The number of offers at some IITs has already shot up about a third than that a year ago, officials said, even as companies have more than two weeks left to snap up talent through PPOs from the premier engineering institutes.

"We were a little apprehensive

earlier about the job market, but seeing the trend in PPOs this year we certainly see positivity in the overall job market," said NP Padhy, professor in-charge of placement at IIT Roorkee. "Companies offer PPOs

to deserving candidates to ensure that they do not miss out on talent during final placements," he said.

It's a win-win situation, he said, since students get into their dream companies without competing in the hectic placement season.

The upswing in PPOs is in line with the recent trend in job surveys. As per a 'Salary and Employment Outlook' by Michael Page, for in-

stance, India's employment market has remained largely unaffected by the global economic slowdown and 60% of employers plan to increase headcount in 2017.

IIT-BHU in Varanasi has already registered more than 32% jump in the number of PPOs to 94 from 71 in the whole of last year. At IIT Roorkee, the number of PPOs has seen a 27% increase to 108 so far, from 85 a year ago.

Placement officers and students at other IITs including those in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kharagpur and Guwahati said the institutes are seeing an increase in PPOs, with most of them recording the highest number of offers ever this year.

Hindustan ND 01.11.2016 P-2

आईआईआईटी 'सक्षम' प्रोजेक्ट में मदद करेगी

नई दिल्ली | सुशील राघव

इंद्रप्रस्थ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इन्फॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईआईटी) दिल्ली केंद्र के 'सक्षम' प्रोजेक्ट के लिए आईटी ढांचा तैयार करने में सहायता करेगा।

2,256 करोड़ रुपये का प्रोजेक्ट 'सक्षम' अप्रत्यक्ष कर नेटवर्क है, जो जीएसटी और सिंगल विंडो इंटरफेस फॉर फैसिलिटेटिंग ट्रेड (स्विफ्ट) को लागू करने में मदद करेगा। 'सक्षम' के लिए काम करने वाली टीम में आईआईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रो. विनायक नायक, प्रो. पुष्पेंद्र सिंह और प्रो. विश्वनाथ गुंटूरी के साथ संस्थान के एक पूर्व प्रो. नवप्रीत सिंह

शामिल हैं। संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो. पंकज जलोटे ने बताया यह हमारे लिए बहुत गर्व का विषय है कि हमारे संस्थान के लोग भारत सरकार के इतने बड़े प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़कर काम करेंगे। इस प्रोजेक्ट के लागू होने पर भारत के कर क्षेत्र की सूरत ही बदल जाएगी। सक्षम के फंड का इस्तेमाल सात वर्षों में किया जाना है।

जीएसटी लागू होने के बाद करदाताओं की संख्या में दोगुने से अधिक की बढ़ोतरी होगी। यह फिलहाल 30 लाख के आसपास है, जो जीएसटी के बाद 65 लाख से ज्यादा हो जाएगी। इनमें आयातकर्ता, निर्यातकर्ता और अन्य प्रकार के डीलर इसमें शामिल होंगे।

Business Line ND 01.11.2016 P-14

IIT-Kharagpur team tests tool to avert train crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, October 31

Train journeys could soon be safer as scientists of IIT Kharagpur have successfully tested a new tool for electronic railway interlocking system which prevents trains from colliding into each other.

The tool suite is developed by the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the institute in collaboration with Research, Designs and Standards Organisation and Service Improvement Group of the Indian Railways.

Prof Pallab Dasgupta, lead researcher of the project, said since errors in the application logic of interlocking systems may have catastrophic consequences, this

development has potential to minimise the chance of such errors.

"In the proposed approach, the yard layout is used as a reference for automatically generating a list of safety properties, which are then proven on the application logic using backend model checking tools," he said.

The Indian Institute of Technology researchers said this project has the potential to be further extended to study and create optimum traffic operation plans as well as to develop alternative plans for emergencies.

The next step would be to further develop the products and technologies with an industrial partner for production, the experts said.

Comprehensive training for Vice-Chancellors, registrars soon

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/comprehensive-training-for-vicechancellors-registrars-soon/article9288746.ece>

MHRD and UGC to help develop package; module on climbing NIRF rankings

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is set to put in place comprehensive training modules for administrative officers of Central Universities in India in order to help the institutions excel in the years to come.

Months after faculty members from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) held five sessions with the Vice-Chancellors (V-C) and Registrars of various Central Universities, the ministry is looking to expand the training programmes by adding additional components to the training modules prepared by the IIMs.

“The IIMs are good at providing a vision for the future. But we also notice that many academics do not have working experience of running the nuts and bolts of administrative work once they become Registrars, etc. We need to incorporate such every day administrative training, which officials at the ministry and the UGC (University Grants Commission) can help develop as part of the training package for university administrators,” an official told *The Hindu*. “Futuristic vision and training in nuts and bolts apart, we will also introduce a module aimed at helping institutions understand how they can climb up the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings.” The idea of having structured training for V-Cs and Registrars was first put in place earlier this year, when IIM faculty members held sessions with all Central University V-Cs to “sensitise them towards leadership and developing a vision for excellence in higher education in India”.

Indian Express ND 01.11.2016 P-10

No multiple-choice: HRD panel on board exam paper

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 31

MULTIPLE CHOICE questions should be scrapped; weightage to the theory and practical components in any subject should be 70:30; students should be assessed on a maximum of 100 marks for mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology and all question papers should carry long answer questions, short answer questions and very-short answer questions in the ratio of 2:4:8. These are some of the suggestions of a panel set up by the HRD Ministry to recommend a common question paper pattern for Class XII examination across all school boards.

The committee — headed by E P Kharbhil, chairman of Meghalayastate board — had sub-

mitted its report to the government early this year. C. Arthur W, Chairman of Council of Higher Secondary Education in Manipur, Professor Y Sreekanth of NCERT, CBSE Controller of Examination K K Chaudhary and Ranganathan, joint director, department of pre-university in Karnataka, were among the members of this panel.

The panel was set by the government after it held a meeting of all state education boards on October 29 last year. “The idea was to make the performance of two Class XII students from two different boards more comparable. A common question paper pattern is one way to address this,” said a committee member who did not wish to be identified.

The committee’s report, currently being examined by the HRD ministry, suggests:

■ For every two long answer

type questions, a question paper should have four short answer questions and eight very-short answer questions.

■ Ordinarily, examinees should not be given any choice for very-short answer type questions (eg. attempt four out of six questions)

■ In subjects involving practicals, the break up should be 70 per cent for theory and 30 per cent for practicals.

■ Open book examination should not be considered for Class XII board examination.

■ Students should be given extra 15 minutes to read the question paper.

■ All schools boards should adhere to 100 as maximum marks for mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. Students should be given three hours to attempt these papers.

■ The question paper should be

prepared based on the common core curriculum of different subjects.

■ 35 per cent of questions in any paper should be easy, 40 per cent average and 25 per cent difficult.

Asked why the panel advised against multiple choice questions in board examination, the member mentioned above said, “There is greater scope for cheating in case of such questions.”

Justifying the suggestion to follow 70:30 ratio for theory and practical components of any subject, another member said, “Schools, as we have noticed, tend to be very liberal in their marking during practical examinations to give their students a competitive edge over other schools and state boards. It’s best that their role is limited to a fixed ratio across all boards.”

As first reported by *The Indian*

Express on January 11, the HRD Ministry, in its meeting with 37 school education boards on October 29, had urged the state and central school boards to consider introducing open-book tests at secondary and senior secondary-level examinations. This was also one of the terms of reference assigned to the committee headed by Kharbhil. The suggestion, however, was shot down by the panel.

The ministry had also set up a panel headed by A Ashok, secretary of the board of Intermediate Education of Telangana, to explore the feasibility of a common core curriculum in mathematics and science subjects for Classes XI-XII across all senior secondary boards. This panel suggested that 70 per cent of the curriculum should be common and state boards should have the flexibility to design the rest.