

# Newspaper Clips

November 30, 2011

Hindu, ND 30/11/2011 P-4 Opportunities

## Education sector needs urgent reforms

India is credited with having the world's second largest population and with more than 50% below 35 years of age, the country has the potential to become a hub of trained manpower provided this young population is given the right education and training.

The role of the private education has increased with more than 14 million students studying in around 30,000 institutions across the country.

It is predicted that the participation of the private sector in higher education will increase in the future. Yet, according to Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Chairman, FICCI Higher Education Committee, the preference of institutions by top ranking students is not the private institutions. This turns the focus on the kind of initiatives that will help in the sustainable growth of the private education sector.

The private education sector suffers from drawbacks on issues like quality, fee structure, governance models; affordability etc. there is also a need for the private sector to take the right steps to reduce these drawbacks.

As a whole, Indian higher education is riddled with challenges like the need for better institutes, faculty, more research intensive institutes and employability.

To discuss these issues the 'FICCI Higher Education Summit' was held from November 11-12 in New Delhi, on the theme, 'Strategies for expansion in Higher Education in India.'

In concurrence with the summit, FICCI in

conjunction with Ernst and Young released the 'EY-FICCI report on Higher Education in India' Here are some key points from the report:

The Indian higher education system has shown remarkable growth over the last decade to become one of the world's largest systems of higher education.

The number of institutions in India has grown at a CAGR of 11% and student enrolment has grown at a CAGR of 6%.

The highest number of institutions is in the central region while the highest increase in student enrolment has been from the southern region.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is currently about 13.8%, with West India having the highest GER of 25.7%.

While these trends bode well for the Indian education sector the GER in comparison to other countries trails significantly compared to the world average.

The government has set a target of 30% GER by 2020, but this too seems impossible to achieve with the current pace of growth.

The Indian education sector is plagued by issues of access, equity and quality.

However the private sector has played an important role in the growth of the higher education sector especially in areas like engineering and management.

In the future too the private sector is expected to play a key role.

The report focuses on the opportunities available to private education providers and the key aspects, trends and regulations in relation

to these options.

The report also reveals that if the education sector has to further grow, there is a need to develop a collaborative network with industry players and foreign education providers.

For the present players the challenges are getting faculty of quality and handling a complex regulatory framework. These challenges can be mitigated by simplifying the regulatory framework on the part of the government, allowing more autonomy and promoting institutions that want to operate on a not-for profit basis.

Steps need to be taken to immediately solve challenges like lack of quality faculty and adequate infrastructure.

Other issues faced by the Indian education sector are- access, quality, equity. With a GER of 13.8% and enrollment of 14.6 million, the access to higher education in India is currently available only to a limited section of the population.

With regard to equity, there is a wide disparity in higher education across states, urban and rural areas, gender and communities.

Regarding quality 45% of the positions for professors, 51% positions for readers, and 53% positions for lecturers were vacant in Indian universities in 2007-08.

There are infrastructure deficiencies in more than 48% universities and 69% of colleges.

Libraries are ill-equipped and many universities teach outdated curricula.

Regarding unaccredited institutions, as of March

2011, only 161 universities and 4,371 colleges had been accredited by NAAC.

Other key points of the report are:

- So far the private sector has played an important role in increasing the number and enrolment in professional courses
- Number of colleges have increased thanks to less operational barriers and investment in establishing them
- Study centre and online education is still at a nascent stage
- Vocation based professional courses have increased
- Due to shortage of good quality higher education in the country many established players have expanded by opening multiple campuses
- General courses in arts and science impart generalised skills with less focus on employability
- General courses account for more than four-fifths of total student enrolment
- Domestic institutions are collaborating with foreign institutions, especially in professional fields such as engineering and management, to enhance their value

The report concludes that Indian universities and the education sector need urgent reforms and a roadmap for change.

The government, industry and academia realise this need and are determined to bring about this change.

HEMA.G

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Times of India ND 30-Nov-11 P-13

# Akaash fuels global interest

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** With the government all set to initiate the process for acquiring 10 lakh more Akaash tablets priced at Rs 2,276 each, there has been an international interest in the low-cost machine.

Panama has approached the Indian Embassy there to buy one lakh units of Akaash. Even Philadelphia — the sixth largest US state in terms of Gross Domestic Product — has shown interest in the product. "We are waiting for a formal request from Philadelphia. Panama's demand has reached us. One more Latin American country has also approached us," a source said. Malaysia had approached the HRD ministry even before Akaash was formally unveiled, but it wanted to produce tablets locally. "We had to decline the request," source said. Thailand has di-



**WORLD'S CHEAPEST TABLET**

rectly approached Datawind, the company that is manufacturing the first one lakh tablets. Ministry sources do not rule out helping countries, but made it clear that domestic needs are paramount. Sources said production of one lakh tablets is going on as per schedule, but after receiving the initial feedback the manufacturer has been asked to make minor changes like improve the processor. "Many users said the tablet is slow when it is started," a

source said, adding that the next lot might have better features like improved screen.

The ministry has written to vice-chancellors of state, private and central universities and state chief secretaries explaining the scheme, especially the fact that with 50% subsidy provided by the Central government, a student has to pay only Rs 1,138 for a tablet. It has also asked all states to spell out their requirements. States have been told to give their suggestions on technical specifications, subsidy and distribution of tablets.

The Unique Identification Development Authority of India has also approached the ministry to collaborate with Akaash. "We are still working out the details. Aadhar numbers and tablet can be put to creative use for establishing identity of students and their attendance," an official said.

# A perfect blend

A virtual mash-up of Delhi University's culture and IIT's brains, NSIT offers you the best of both worlds

**Garima Upadhyay**

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**N**etaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT) is every engineering enthusiast's dream college. With the emphasis on extra-curricular activities, and hands-on learning, the academic culture alleviates the pressure to perform. Here, you can explore many of your talents and nurture them. Similar to the IITs, NSIT attracts the best of minds, but goes beyond that and also offers a more relaxed study-environment with tremendous scope for creative expression.

**USP:** The sheer size of the campus and multifarious extra-curricular options available are the star attractions. Lucrative placements also add value to NSIT

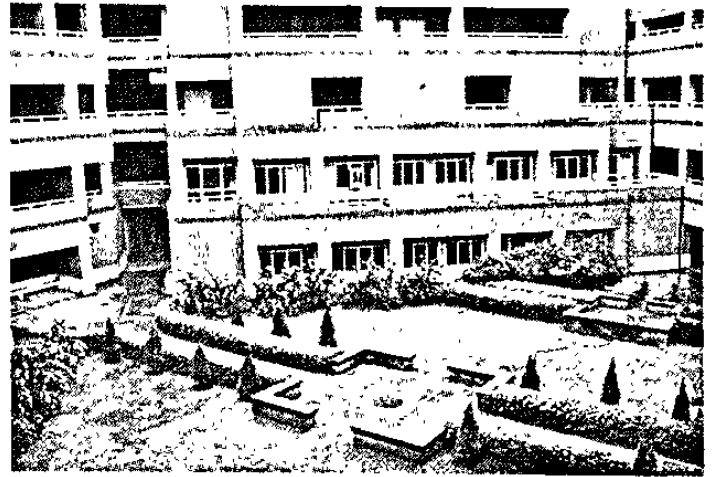
**Faculty strength:** The institute has approximately 90 faculty members

**Programmes:** NSIT has various departments that offer programmes at the

undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Some of the departments are electronics and communication engineering, information technology, bio-technology, computer engineering, instrumentation and control and more

**IT Quotient:** The entire college campus is Wi-Fi enabled. The institute's website ([www.nsionline.in](http://www.nsionline.in)), mostly student-run and maintained, gives details about life at the institute, the admission process, programme details etc. The institute's Facebook page is very vibrant and acts as a forum for students to access datesheets, results, information about various colleges' events, placement schedule etc. Another forum, NSIT Lounge, provides students the space to gossip about campus life, look at the placement schedules, pick up tips from alumni and socialise with college friends.

**Clubs and societies:** NSIT is incomplete without the mention of its wide-ranging plethora of clubs and soci-



eties. Students here proactively take part in college life and continue to set up various student initiatives. Some of the popular student-run initiatives include: Alliance, an e-newspaper that lets you know everything you wanted to know about NSIT; Automotive Projects, for automotive engineering enthusiasts; Crosslinks, the media management society; Reminisce, the official alumni magazine etc. Some of the prominent clubs include: Computer Society of India, SPIC-MACAY and IEEE, a non-profit organisation and the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. Through its global members, the IEEE is the leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems,

computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics among others. Moksha, the cultural festival of NSIT is another much-awaited event of the academic calendar.

**Infrastructure:** The NSIT campus has many cafes and small shops in the midst of a lot of greenery. Also, there are sports facilities that include basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, a cricket field and a football field. There is a music room with instruments such as electric guitars and a synthesiser. The computer labs have high-speed internet and up-to-date PCs. The institute also houses pool and table tennis facilities, along with various canteens. The library has a wide selection of books,

Times of India ND 30-Nov-11

P-23

# Facebook eyes IPO next year at \$100bn valuation

Facebook is considering raising about \$10 billion in an initial public offering that would value the world's largest social-networking site at more than \$100 billion, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

The company may file for the IPO before the end of the year, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the deliberations are private. Exact timing for the filing hasn't been determined, the person said.

Facebook's \$100 billion valuation would be twice as high as it was in January, when the company announced a \$1.5 billion investment from Goldman Sachs Group and other backers. Facebook aims to capitalize on strong demand for social-networking IPOs, said Josef Schuster, founder of Chicago-based IPOX Schuster LLC.

"It's obviously a very steep valuation," said Schuster, whose firm invests in IPOs and oversees about \$2.5 billion in assets. "They are realizing their window of opportunity, and they want to do it sooner rather than later."

At \$10 billion, the offering would raise more money than any other technology IPO, a sign Facebook expects investors to clamor for a piece of the social-networking company. The amount would dwarf that of the previous record holder, Infineon Technologies AG, which generated \$5.23 billion in its 1999 debut. Agere Systems Inc. raised \$4.14 billion in 2000, putting it second.

Facebook's IPO is far enough away that the details may change, said Lise Buyer,

## FACEBOOK VS OTHERS

At \$100bn valuation, Mark Zuckerberg-led company is worth...

- ▶ Two times RIL
- ▶ More than TCS+Wipro+Infosys+L&T
- ▶ Less than a third of Apple
- ▶ Half of Microsoft
- ▶ Five times Yahoo

### Tech Take

Co	M-cap (\$bn)
Apple	349
IBM	214
Microsoft	210
Google	190
Amazon.com	88
Baidu.com	44
Nokia	21
Yahoo	19
Motorola Mobility	12
LinkedIn	6



### Indian League

Co	M-cap (\$bn)
RIL	48
ONGC	42
TCS	41
Coal India	39
ITC	30
Infosys	29
Bharti Airtel	27
NTPC	25
SBI	21
HDFC Bank	20

principal of the Class V Group, an IPO advisory firm. "It's far too early to accurately predict where the valuation will be on deal day," she said.

Facebook expects to be required by US regulators to disclose financial results by April 30, 2012, if it doesn't go public by then, the company said in January. Facebook decided to wait until 2012 for its IPO to give CEO Mark Zuckerberg more time to gain users and boost sales, people familiar with the matter said last year.

Facebook, which boasts more than 800 million users, also is increasing its focus on mobile technology, aiming to take advantage of the shift to smartphones and tablets. The company expects its next 1 billion users to come mainly from mobile devices, rather than desktop computers.

Jonathan Thaw, a spokesman for Palo Alto, California-based Facebook, declined to comment on the IPO plans.

Google, one of Facebook's chief rivals in the Internet advertising market, raised \$1.67 billion in its IPO in 2004. It is now valued at \$190.4 billion.

Facebook's valuation is currently pegged at \$66.6 billion by SharesPost, which handles trading of privately held companies. The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that Facebook was considering the \$10 billion IPO with a valuation of more than \$100 billion. The company aims to go public between April and June, the Journal said.

Demand for technology IPOs reignited in November after a summer lull, setting the stage for Groupon and Angie's List to go public. BLOOMBERG

Sunday Standard ND 27.11.2011 P-13

# US Graduates Head for India

*A reverse brain drain sees young Americans leaving home to dive into emerging economies*

By **MIKE CASSIDY**

I can't say I was surprised when I heard that Indian startup entrepreneur Kunal Bahl was touring US colleges on a hunt for MBA talent for his New Delhi-based digital commerce company. After all, the US economy is in the tank. The job market is

States. And, said Bahl, 28, a survey of the applicants' names indicates that 30 per cent of them are not Indian or of Indian descent.

Turns out if you're a smart, ambitious, strategic, energetic, risk-embracing MBA student, like the sort who become, well, MBA students, there is nothing

much room is there in the United States for yet another social network, or another mobile shopping model or music-selling and storage site? But in India, and China, Brazil and other emerging markets for that matter, the sky is the limit. Whole new middle-classes are rising in countries

time and they don't want to miss it," said Pulin Sanghvi, assistant dean and director of the career management centre at Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

Not to mention that a stint overseas is practically mandatory for those who want to rise to the highest ranks of corporate leadership in the

have typically gone abroad in previous years. And those figures don't account for graduates who choose to get their early experience in the US and then go international.

Valerie R. Wagoner, who grew up in Modesto, California, and graduated in 2005 with a Stanford master's degree in economic sociology, was out in front of the trend's acceleration. She is on her second Indian startup, ZipDial, a Bangalore-based mobile enterprise that helps companies market to consumers. She understands the appeal of leaving home. "I have a passion for emerging markets and a passion for tech startups," she said. "It was very natural, putting those things together."

Some might fret over a US brain drain and see the trend of graduates leaving their home country as another black mark against globalization. But the fact is the US economy could benefit from the global seasoning that future business leaders are gaining by working abroad.

"These guys may come back and probably will come back," says Bahl, who visited Stanford, Wharton, Columbia University and Northwestern University. "They'll add value to companies here." But for now, he's more interested in the MBAs' trip from the US to India. He'll worry about the return trip some other time. **MCT**



**Stanford has seen a spike in the number of graduates leaving the US to start careers. Some 20 per cent have gone overseas in the past two years, up from 15 per cent earlier.**

tight, maybe even for MBAs. Plenty of bright students have come here from India to study. Home is a draw. Why not India?

No, the surprise came when I caught up with him at a coffee shop in the Stanford University campus and asked him how his recruitment drive was going since he started his push with social media in October. "In the subsequent three weeks," he said, "we received 2,000 resumes."

Yes, from the United

like diving into an emerging economy that is growing at a blistering rate with no end in sight.

"With this acute flattening of the world, people just feel it's the next big frontier," said Bahl, a Wharton School graduate who planned to stay in the US but lost out in the H-1B visa lottery. Instead, he returned to India to launch Snapdeal.com, a rapidly growing cross between Groupon and Amazon.

Think about it: How

around the world, adding millions and millions of consumers to markets.

Internet use and e-commerce are in their infancy in many emerging markets. Mobile initiatives in India and other parts of Asia have huge potential upside because of rapidly rising smartphone adoption.

"I think that many of our students are looking at the growth story in Asia, in particular, and they see something happening that happens only once in a life-

US, says Maria Jenson, executive director of Stanford's Centre for Global Business and the Economy. Customers are global; suppliers are global; workforces are global; and managing them all requires a global mindset.

So it's no wonder that Stanford's business school has seen a spike in the number of graduates leaving the United States to start their careers. About 20 per cent have gone overseas in the past two years, compared with the 15 per cent who

# Slowdown hits construction, IT, pharma courses

**REPORT CARD** Institutes apply to AICTE for closure of these streams, demand for conventional subjects rises

**Chetan Chauhan**

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**NEW DELHI:** Not just economy, higher technical education is facing an unprecedented slowdown in once most sought-after courses in information technology (IT), construction and pharmacy.

Technical education regulator, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has received applications for closure of IT, construction and pharma courses whereas there is demand for opening new courses in conventional education streams such as mechanical and civil engineering.

Around one-fourth of 4,000 institutes in India running IT courses and one-third of 1,200 colleges running construction courses want these courses to be closed. Of about 1,430 pharmacy colleges, about 200 institutes have asked AICTE to shut down some unpopular courses.

"Many of these courses were started on basis of perception rather than scientific data linked with future job market," AICTE chairperson SS Mantha said. "There is no linkage between starting a college and demand in the job market. This has resulted in skewed growth in certain sectors of technical education."

The number of technical education institutes doubled since 2005-06 when India's economy showed an impressive growth rate of over 8% with their num-

**There is no link between starting a college and demand in the job market. This has resulted in skewed growth in certain sectors of technical education.**

**SS MANTHA**  
AICTE chairperson

ber being 12,814 in 2011. Institutes opened up in nook and corner of the country and AICTE gave approvals without even checking infrastructure and quality.

The maximum jump was witnessed in IT, management and engineering, which has most of six million students in technical education in India, but now its time for slowdown. In 2011, the number of seats vacant in IT courses was around 40 % and around 30 % in pharmacy.

Such has been the situation that five states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Chhattisgarh — have asked the AICTE not to approve any new courses or institutes in their states. Maharashtra and Punjab wants no more engineering colleges.

"We are not able to recover even the faculty cost," was comment of a director of engineering course in Punjab, who has sought the AICTE approval to close down the institute.

# 'Indian students should consider studying in China'

Language will not be a barrier for technology courses, says Rajpal Hande, director, board of college and university development, University of Mumbai, which signed MoUs with three Chinese varsities last week

**Pooja Birala**

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**W**hat is the significance of the tie-up between University of Mumbai and the three Chinese universities?

The three universities we have tied up with (Tianjin University, Tianjin University of Technology and Nankai University) are among the top five universities in China, well known for engineering and technology-related programmes. We hope to facilitate faculty and student exchange, collaboration in research, and an exchange of language teachers, at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

**Does this mean that Mandarin will be taught as a degree programme in Mumbai University?**

Not as of now. However, the language will be taught as a part of vocational studies programmes, which we plan to introduce in the Centre for Confucian Studies in Mumbai. This centre will promote cultural exchange between the two countries.

**Do you think Indian students should consider China for higher education?**

Definitely. Indian students are only looking at developed countries for higher education. However, this mindset must change. China offers excellent facili-



**China's education system is on par with that of developed countries. This is because many of its technology courses are conducted in English**

ties and its education system is on par with that of developed countries. This is because many of its technology courses are conducted in English. The universities with which we have signed MoUs have faculties of international repute and superior research facilities. Moreover, Chinese universities focus more on practical learning than on theory.

**What are the main differences between the University of Mumbai and Chinese universities?**  
Our universities cater to different socio-economic

groups, while the Chinese system is more exclusive. Chinese universities are far superior in terms of facilities and infrastructure.

**How does the University of Mumbai plan to attract international students?**

Until last year, we did not have many foreign students. However, this year we have about 60 to 65 international students, most of whom are from South Asia.

**How many Chinese students are there in India?**

About 2,000, according to the Consulate General of China.

**Does the University of Mumbai plan to sign MoUs with other countries?**

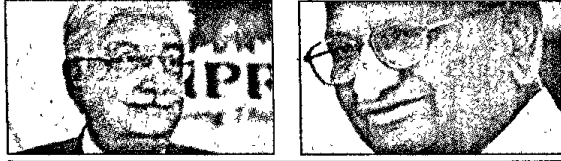
We have signed an MoU with Edith Cowan University from Australia with a view to promote faculty and student exchange and joint projects where internships could be split between India and Australia.

# Premji, Anna in FP list of Top 100 global thinkers

WASHINGTON, NOV 29

SOFTWARE czar 'Azim Premji and anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare are among five Indians who figure in the Foreign Policy magazine's list of Top 100 Global Thinkers, that is dominated by revolutionaries who have been the driving force behind the Arab Spring.

The list features US President Barack Obama, who is ranked 11th among the top 100 global thinkers, and also includes writer-activist Arundhati Roy, poverty researcher Deepa Narayan and economist Arvind Subramanian.



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With the Arab Spring being the single most important influential development of the year, the top nine positions in the list are occupied by leading revolutionaries from the region, bracketed together as the 'The Arab revolutionaries'.

It includes the likes of Egyptian dentist-turned-author Alaa Al Aswany, former IAEA chief and activist Mohamed Elbaradei, and Google marketing guru Wael Ghonim.

Identified as India's Bill Gates, Azim Premji is ranked 14th, just below Bill and Melinda Gates.

"It's not just because of Azim

Premji's enormous wealth that he is compared to the American technologist turned philanthropist," the Foreign Policy magazine says.

It is Premji's unprecedented philanthropy, that recently has borne out the Gates comparison, it adds.

"Through his contributions, Premji is at the forefront of a rising tide of Indian philanthropy, with billionaire executives such as Shiv Nadar, founder of the technology company HCL, and Sunil Bharti Mittal, of the business conglomerate Bharti Enterprises, often listed in the same cohort," it writes.—PTI

Business Standard ND 30/11/2011 P-3

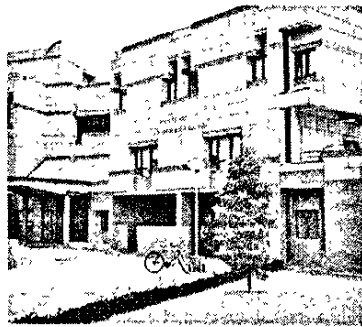
## मंदी को पीछे छोड़ आगे निकल रहा आईआईटी

आईआईटी संस्थानों में प्लेसमेंट की स्थिति अच्छी रही है, छात्रों को कंपनियां कर रही बेहतर पेशकश

कल्पना पाठक और एम सरस्वती  
मुंबई, 29 नवंबर

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के वर्तमान प्लेसमेंट सत्र की सफलता को देखकर कहा जा सकता है कि यहां आर्थिक मंदी का कोई असर नहीं है। आईआईटी संस्थानों में प्लेसमेंट की स्थिति अच्छी रही है और आईआईटी बंबई को माइक्रोसॉफ्ट की ओर से वाशिंगटन में कंपनी मुख्यालय में काम करने के लिए अधिकतम 50,00,000 रुपये की पेशकश मिली है।

इस पेशकश से परिचित आईआईटी बंबई के एक छात्र ने बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को



बताया, 'इस साल प्लेसमेंट को लेकर छात्र उत्साहित हैं। मंदी का कहीं कोई संकेत नहीं है। हमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों की तरफ

से अच्छी शुरुआत के साथ कई सारे मौके मिले हैं। 1,00,000 डॉलर के अधिकतम वेतन की पेशकश के साथ माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने फेसबुक को पीछे छोड़ दिया है। फेसबुक ने पिछले साल 90,000 डॉलर के वेतन की पेशकश की थी।'

आईआईटी संस्थानों में 1 दिसंबर से निर्णायक प्लेसमेंट की शुरुआत होगी जो कि जून 2012 तक जारी रहेगा। आईआईटी बंबई के प्लेसमेंट प्रमुख रवि सिन्हा ने कहा, 'आईआईटी छात्रों के प्रति कंपनियों का आकर्षण अभी भी बहुत अधिक है। कंपनियों की तरफ से मिली प्रतिक्रिया से हम काफी संतुष्ट हैं। हम कहीं भी देख सकते हैं कि छात्रों के वेतन में 10 से 20

फीसदी तक का इजाफा हुआ है।' सिन्हा ने हालांकि विस्तृत जानकारी देने से मना कर दिया। आईआईटी बंबई में इस बार 1,300 से अधिक छात्र प्लेसमेंट परीक्षाओं में शामिल होंगे और इस दौरान 200 कंपनियां प्रक्रिया में भाग लेंगी। आईआईटी रुड़की को अधिकतम 32 लाख रुपये वेतन की पेशकश मिली है। संस्थान को 140 कंपनियों की तरफ से पुष्टि मिली है और कैंपस के दौरान यहां 1200 से अधिक छात्र शामिल होंगे। जबकि आईआईटी दिल्ली में कैंपस प्लेसमेंट के दौरान करीब 300 कंपनियों के शामिल होने की पुष्टि हुई है। यहां पर करीब 1200 छात्र इस परीक्षा में शामिल होंगे।