

Pre-placement Offers Off to a Good Start at Top IIMs

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AHMEDABAD | BANGALORE | KOLKATA

Pre-placement offers (PPOs) are off to a good start across the premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) though it's early days yet to call it a downpour. At top IIMs, including Bangalore, Lucknow, Kozhikode and Indore, the numbers are as good or even better than last year, hinting at robust final placements, even though the overall economy is still in the grip of a slowdown.

IIM Bangalore is leading the pack, having already notched up 50 PPOs, more than half of last year's total tally of 93. Numbers at IIM Indore are looking good as well with some 20 PPOs in, while IIM Kozhikode has 12 PPOs and 15 pre-placement interviews (PPIs) already, with a top offer of ₹22 lakh from Deutsche Bank.

PPOs are offered by companies based on students' performance during summer internships. They continue to flow in till December or even beyond, till final placements begin at the campuses. PPIs are interviews that a company takes for students who have interned with them, which may convert into a PPO. Therefore, students who get PPIs are interviewed for a post before the company comes over for placements. PPOs come in from June-July onwards and continue till December-January.

"There is no impact of the slowdown and students are happy," says Sapna Agarwal, head, Career Development Services (CDS) at IIM-B. The institute



POURING JOBS

has received international offers as well, with an almost 100% conversion in the consulting sector. IIM Lucknow too is off to a healthy start with 40 PPOs already, compared to a total of 75 last year. The institute has seen 100% PPO conversion at firms like McKinsey and BCG this year.

"Hindustan Unilever has made five PPOs while the Aditya Birla Group has given two PPOs. Fidelity and a Singapore-based hedge fund too made offers to the interns," said Aman Bhatnagar, recruitment coordinator at IIM Lucknow.

"These are tough times and PPOs do offer a big relief to the students," he added. Packages have been more or less the same as last year, but a few

recruiters have raised the compensation by 15-25% by sweetening the deal through offers like joining bonuses," Bhatnagar added.

IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Calcutta both declined to share numbers, but said that final placements are expected to be on a par with last year. IIM Calcutta is taking a wait-and-watch approach. "Offers have come in but it's early days. Most companies are still in the process of firming up numbers," says IIM-C placement committee chairperson Krishanu Rakshit.

IIM Kozhikode, which received 51 PPOs last year, is expecting more in the coming months since the usual names are yet to make offers. Tata Administrative Services (TAS) is a first-timer on the IIM-K campus while regulars include Goldman Sachs, GSK, Dell, Wipro and Deutsche Bank. Average offers are in the ₹12-13 lakh bracket.

"PPOs currently have been spread out across marketing, finance and general management sectors," says Surbhi Bhatia, member of placements committee at IIM-Kozhikode.

IIM-Rohtak, a new IIM, last year received five PPOs for a batch of 48 students and this year, it has received five PPOs so far for a batch of 123 students. "We expect 15 PPOs this year from sectors like marketing, consulting and corporate finance," said Pranit Upadhyay, member of placement committee of IIM-Rohtak.

"So far we have got only one PPI. But this is just the start, things should pick up a lot by October," said MJ Xavier, director of IIM Ranchi, which received 3-4 PPOs last year.

9,000 more CAT registrations this year

Test will be held from Oct.11 to Nov.6

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: In what could be seen as a positive pointer to the demand for postgraduate management education in the country, the number of registrations for the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2012 has gone up by 9,000 from last year.

According to the preliminary registration data made available by the Indian Institutes of Management

(IIMs) and Prometric (IIMs' partner in developing and delivering CAT 2012), as many as 2.14 lakh vouchers were sold by the time the registration closed at midnight on September 19. This is 4 per cent above the 2011 figure of 2.05 lakh.

CAT 2012 for admissions to the IIMs will be held from October 11 to November 6. It will be coordinated by IIM-Kozhikode.

The release quoted CAT

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2012 convener S.S.S. Kumar as saying, "Registration numbers have increased slightly over last year, which is a positive indication that postgraduate management programmes at the IIMs and other prestigious B-schools that accept CAT scores still offer an attractive future to many

aspirants."

Female candidates

The registration of female candidates has also gone up this year – 28 per cent of registrations are of female candidates, 1 per cent up from last year. However, not moving away from previous trends, the cities in which

the highest numbers of candidates are scheduled to take the test are New Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune. The full report on registration data is expected to be available from October 5.

"View test day video"

Soumitra Roy, managing director of Prometric India, said in the release: "We have a team of Candidate Care representatives providing additional support for unique needs like special testing accommodation. It is

important that all candidates bring the right documents and turn up punctually at the right place. I encourage all candidates to view the test day video that is available on the CAT website to familiarise themselves with the test day procedures."

The test comprises two sections – each of 70-minute duration. There will be 30 questions in each section which are to test quantitative ability and data interpretation, verbal ability and logical reasoning.

Modi, Sibal junk plan to share dais

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**AHMEDABAD,
SEPTEMBER 21**

THE much-awaited event where Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal were to share dais has been called off.

They had consented to remain present at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar on Saturday.

The ceremony was jointly organised by the Centre and Board of Governors IIT-GN, where Sibal was to deliver speech as the chief guest and Modi the presidential address.

“The foundation stone laying ceremony, scheduled to be held Saturday morning, has been called off,” Deputy Registrar of IIT-GN Rajesh Sahay said, without assigning any reason.

However, sources at the institute said both leaders, in separate letters to IIT-GN, have informed that they would not attend the event due to other urgent commitments.

NASA to send cargo to space station

WASHINGTON: A private capsule is scheduled to fly to the International Space Station on its first contracted cargo mission on 7 October, NASA said.

SpaceX's robotic Dragon spacecraft is set to blast off atop the company's Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 7 October.

The mission will kick off Dragon's first-ever bona fide supply run to the station. California-based SpaceX holds a USD 1.6 billion NASA contract to make 12 such unmanned flights, 'SPACE.com' reported.

When it leaves the pad on 7 October, Dragon will be carrying about 454 kilograms of supplies, officials said. Much of the gear will support the 166 different scientific investigations-including experiments in plant cell biology, human biotechnology and materials demonstrations-planned during the station's current Expedition 33.

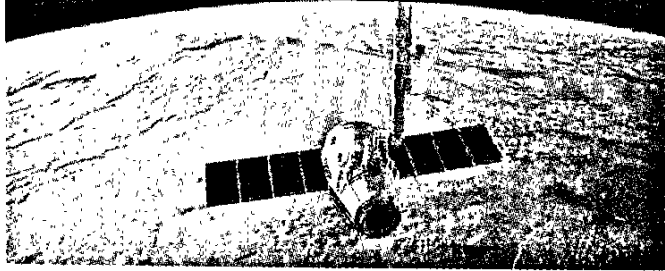
If all goes according to plan, Dragon will rendezvous with the station on 10 October, at which point Expedition 33 commander Sunita Williams of NASA and Japanese astronaut Aki Hoshida will

DRAGON'S PATH

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It will splash down in the Pacific Ocean, carrying 333 kg of scientific materials and 229 kg of space station hardware



grapple it with the orbiting lab's robotic arm.

Dragon will stay attached to the Earth-facing port of the station's Harmony module for several weeks while the Expedition 33 crew unloads the capsule and then loads it back up again with cargo to return to Earth.

Dragon is scheduled to depart the station in late October. It will splash down in the Pacific Ocean,

carrying 333 kg of scientific materials and 229 kg of space station hardware, officials said. The 7 October flight won't mark Dragon's maiden mission to the USD 100 billion orbiting complex.

In May, Dragon became the first private vehicle ever to visit the station during a historic demonstration mission that sought to gauge SpaceX's readiness to begin its contracted flights.

AGENCIES

Astronauts may soon 'own' space mementos

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives has adopted a bill to grant astronauts from the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions ownership to space memorabilia they collected during their careers. The bill passed by a voice vote on Wednesday would settle ownership questions that NASA began to raise after several aging astronauts, including Apollo 13 commander James Lovell - a Cleveland native - tried to auction some of their space souvenirs, 'Cleveland Plain Dealer' reported. If passed by the Senate, the bill would let the roughly 70 astronauts of that era keep personal logs, checklists, flight manuals and disposable flight hardware they salvaged from jettisoned lunar modules - and sell them if they wish. It wouldn't apply to moon rocks and other lunar material. Advocates of the bill, including Lovell, say it's needed to protect the astronauts from legal claims over artifacts still in their possession as well as items they've donated to colleges and museums, transferred to family members, or privately sold.

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DU to get teachers after 3 years

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: After a gap of nearly three years teachers' recruitment are set to start at Delhi University and its affiliated colleges. There are around 4,000 vacancies of permanent positions in the university and recruitment has been on hold since 2010.

The university will start the process of centralized advertisements and setting up of the selection committees by October-end.

Moreover, the UGC's review committee on teachers' promotion has also decided in favour of doing away with the point-based promotion scheme, under the performance-based appraisal system mooted by the commission.

In the final meeting of the review committee on the teachers' promotion, where apart from UGC members, heads and vice chancellors of various universities were also present, its final recom-



LONG WAIT: About 4,000 permanent posts are lying vacant

mendations were submitted.

According to sources in the UGC, the commission is likely to approve the recommendations by mid-October.

Among the main recommendations are to start recruitment of the vacant teaching positions as soon as possible and doing away with the Academic Performance Index (API) system for promotion of teachers. DU

teachers have been demanding a roll back of the system and DU so far didn't notify these criteria for promotion.

As per the API system teachers will get marks for various academic activities like publishing of book, papers, attending seminars and paper presentation and awards. The teachers need to score a minimum number of marks every year

to be eligible for promotion.

Welcoming the decision, former academic council member, Janmejoy Khuntia said: "Academic quantification is very subjective and should be done away with. Self appraisal of teachers is far better way of handling which is currently in process. The selection process though should be stringent and merit should be honoured."

Meanwhile, DU's committee on recruitment recommended immediate start of the process. There are many colleges which are at present running with over 50% ad hoc teachers.

Vice chancellor of DU, Dinesh Singh said: "This is a decision the university has been waiting for and now we will fast track the appointment process. We will start the process within one month and hopefully it will ease the pressures on the colleges and departments to a large extent."

DU's CCTV cams are a sham?



Instead of helping curb molestation and crime, most of DU's CCTV cameras either don't work, or at max, help nab library *chors*

By Ramkrishna



The camera outside DCAC's canteen area

Aanchal Tuli



A CCTV cam located outside Miranda House college's main gate

Delhi University authorities had started the new academic session on a great note by announcing the installation of CCTV cameras in colleges and other popular landmarks on campus. But after the molestation incident reported during the pre-election campaigning rallies, questions on student safety were raised once again.

While the Proctor's office reacted to the concerns with a ban on all such campaigning rallies, they had no answer to the students' demands of finding the culprits by viewing the footage from the CCTV cameras installed in the busy north campus lanes, prompting people to wonder if the cameras on campus are even functional or of any use. We spoke to students and authorities in some of DU's colleges regarding CCTV cameras, and whether or not they serve any purpose on campus.

Dr MS Rawat, principal of Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, where CCTVs have been installed and are fully functional, shared with us, "It is a positive step towards student safety. We have already noticed a decrease in disciplinary problems around our college, and for the first time, we can maintain an accurate check on the entry of outsiders into the college building thanks to the cameras on the gates."

While not too happy about the move to install cameras, the student's here agree that incidents like theft have con-

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— KUNAL SACHDEVA,
MOTI LAL NEHRU COLLEGE

meras are yet to be installed. It has been dug up for months for a CCTV network. But no actual work has been done,” says Kunal Sachdeva, a student at Moti Lal Nehru College.

“The only action that may have worked in the past was the recently introduced CCTVs; it has not had any effect in other places. Shivanshu Singh (Shahed Sukhdev College of Education) says, “In the past, half the time they don’t use the cameras. A waste of resources. And all the time they are in the corridors, so any smart person can avoid the camera stretch.”

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Nalanda varsity gets Yale leg-up

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Yale University, one of the world's most respected varsities, is likely to assist India's ambitious plans to revive Nalanda University, the ancient seat of higher learning in Bihar.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) is in talks with Yale to rope in the Ivy League university, initially as a mentor for the proposed varsity's first department — a school of environmental studies, government sources have confirmed to HT.

"We may then seek to extend this cooperation," a senior official said.

Though no formal MoU has been signed between India and Yale yet, the American university is ready to assist in the project.

"We are happy to extend our support to this project, about which we are in touch with the Indian government," said George Joseph, assistant secretary for international affairs at Yale, the first university in the world that had a school of environmental sciences.

The new university will officially be called the Nalanda International University. Based

FOREIGN MINISTRY IS IN TALKS WITH THE IVY LEAGUE VARSITY TO ASSIST IN INDIA'S PLAN TO REVIVE THE ANCIENT SEAT OF LEARNING

on the ideals of the ancient university, the new varsity is being built by India in collaboration with China, Japan and Singapore, countries that have also contributed funding for the project.

One of the most reputed centres of learning at the time, the ancient Nalanda University was built by the Gupta dynasty and is believed to have run between the 5th and 12th centuries. A Buddhist centre, it was ransacked and burnt to the ground in 1193 by Turkish invaders.

"If we want the new university to reach the heights of the old one, we need to tie up with the best universities of today," the government official said.

For Yale, the tie up represents the latest in a series of steps to increase its footprint in India. The university runs annual leadership programmes for Indian MPs.



NEXT, AN ISSUE-BASED FILM

After *Barfi!*, director Anurag Basu (above) is now said to be set to helm an issue-based film on Bihar's innovative educational coaching institute, Super 30, and its founder Anand Kumar. For the last 10 years, Kumar has been grooming talented students from underprivileged families for the highly competitive Indian Institute of Technology-Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE). According to sources, Ranbir may play the lead in the film. **IAN S**