

eNewspaper Clippings
Aug 19-20, 2010

TOI, Aug 19

China muscles into global varsity list, Harvard still no. 1

Canberra: Harvard retains the crown as top [university](#) for the eighth year in an annual ranking of the world's [universities](#) which is dominated by the United States but shows China's performance improving.

The 2010 Academic Ranking of World [Universities](#) (ARWU), published since 2003 by the Center for World-Class [Universities](#) of Shanghai Jiao Tong [University](#), said the United States dominates the list with eight in the top 10 and 54 in the top 100.

Joining Harvard in the top 10 were the [University](#) of California, Berkeley; Stanford; Massachusetts [Institute](#) of Technology; California [Institute](#) of Technology; Princeton; Columbia and Chicago. Yale came 11th.

The best ranked British [universities](#) were Cambridge, slipping to fifth place from fourth last year, and Oxford retaining the 10th position.

But the ranking showed that Asian [universities](#) were advancing up the list with 106 from the Asia Pacific region making it to the top 500 and Chinese [universities](#) performing better.

"The number of top 500 Chinese [universities](#) reaches 34 in 2010, which is more than double that in 2004 (16)," Shanghai Jiao Tong [University](#) said in a statement. REUTERS

ET, Aug 20

IIM pre-placement: It's raining offers, again

Mahima Puri NEW DELHI

PRE-PLACEMENT offers(PPOs) for students of the country's top notch business management [institutes](#), IIMs, have started pouring in much ahead of schedule.

PPOs are made by companies to candidates who intern with them for around two months during the summers. Early offers indicate employers want to retain talent ahead of the final placements in January next year. Better corporate earnings over the last one year has boosted job prospects in the country as companies are looking to expand operations after going slow on recruitment with bare minimum increments till last year.

Companies across sectors are looking to hire and they would surely use PPO as a medium to lap up good talent from across IIMs as there is a sense of familiarity on both sides, said a senior human resource executive who recently moved from a pharma company to one of the country's biggest conglomerates. "The war for talent is definitely going to be more intensive this year," he said requesting anonymity.

Picture this: [IIM](#) Calcutta has reported 37 PPOs, more than twice compared to 15 such job offers received by its students in the same period last year. This means that nearly 10% of the batch already have a job offer, a mark they could achieve only around October last year.

"Last year nobody was sure how placements were going to shape up since companies came out with fewer PPOs. This year, early offers have given us much more confidence and placement prospects for our batch are already looking brighter," said Paromita Chakravarty, a student from IIM-C, who recently received an offer from an FMCG giant.

This year, PPOs at IIM-C include those from consulting firms McKinsey & Co, Boston Consulting Group, Bain & Co and AT Kearney besides international banks such as UBS, Nomura and Morgan Stanley. Majority of the offers from these banks are for international positions like Singapore, London and New York. Apart from MNCs, Tata Administrative Services and Hindustan Unilever have also offered jobs to students at IIM-C. About 18 students are also going through pre-placement interviews at the campus, most of which are likely to get converted into PPOs in the coming days.

IIM Lucknow has reported 22 PPOs so far, from recruiters such as McKinsey & Co, BCG, Hindustan Unilever, Aditya Birla Group, Essar Group and L&T. Although, a number of companies have give PPOs already, the real rush of PPOs would be felt only by October, said IIM-L recruitment coordinator Rahul Tom Joseph.

Both IIM-A and IIM-B did not disclose the numbers but said that PPOs have primarily come from consulting firms and a few investment banks.

At IIM-B, PPOs started coming from July and the [institute](#) says the numbers are at par with last year. “The trend looks healthy,” says IIM-B placement head Sapna Agarwal. “If we go by the sentiments during final placements for students passing out early this year and the PPOs being offered now, the scenario looks quite bright. But we need to be cautious and invite more companies, since our batch size is larger this year,” she added.

IIM Kozhikode has received one PPO while 15 of its students are in the process of pre placement interviews by companies including Tata Motors, HSBC, Deloitte, Escorts, Citibank and J P Morgan.

IIM-C placement chairman Prof Amit Dhiman is hopeful that the [institute](#) would attract more PPOs than last year. “PPOs are usually seen as a reflection of how the coming placement season is going to be. So far, placements 2011 look more promising than 2010,” he said.

Those involved with placement coordination cells of the IIMs say while PPOs this year has been much better, they are yet to see the good old days of 2006 and 2007. The economic slowdown in 2008, however, made companies cautious, a trend that changed only marginally last year.

TIDE'S TURNING

What are PPOs?

PPOs are made by companies to candidates who intern with them for around two months during the summers

Renewed interest...

Better corporate earnings over the last one year has boosted job prospects in the country as companies are looking to expand operations after going slow on recruitment with bare minimum increments till last year

While IIM-C has reported 37 PPOs so far, IIM-L has received 22 offers. IIM Kozhikode has received 1 PPO while 15 students are in the process of pre-placement interviews

Far cry from the golden years...

Pre-placement offers are yet to see the good old days of 2006 and 2007. The economic slowdown in 2008 made companies cautious, a trend that changed marginally last year

Reaching out

Financial inclusion: IIM Indore brings banking to poor

Dibyajyoti Chatterjee MUMBAI

WITH nearly 60% of the country's population unbanked and the government pledging to bring banking to the lowest stratum of society, the Indian [Institute](#) of Management, Indore (IIMI) has decided to do its bit on financial inclusion. For its annual management summit Ahvan, the [institute](#) has decided to unveil a programme called Samanvay, where IIMI students will help underprivileged people in and around the campus open bank accounts and get insurance cover.

“There's a clear need for financial services as about 90% of the population here is unbanked,” said Ravi Chandran, director, IIMI. “The project will commence from September with the unveiling of the annual summit.” The [institute](#) has involved its faculty to oversee the project. It believes that such initiatives will make students socially sensitive.

IIMI is in talks with Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Canara Bank for opening accounts. “The accounts will have zero or a minimum balance requirement for those who don't have access to banking,” said Amitava Bandyopadhyay, the programme's convener and a second-year student at IIMI.

Given the work profile and lifestyle of the people, the [institute](#) has also decided to help them get insured, like personal accident policy for construction workers and health insurance for housewives. “National Insurance Company has shown

interest, and it has insurance products that suit our target group,” says Amitava.

Seven hundred students from both the batches will contribute at least 100 towards the insurance premium and logistical expenditure of about 10,000. “We will pay the premium for the first year only. The idea is to create awareness and let people experience the benefits of risk management,” said Biswadip Paul, a second year student. The students will organise a series of workshops on risk management with the beneficiaries to make the programme sustainable.

It was found that lack of information and documentation (like address proof), and not poverty, was the main reason for not having a bank account. So, the IIMI students are trying to organise employment certificates or domicile documents from the sarpanch to be used in lieu of address proof.

Each student contributor will be mapped one-to-one with the beneficiary. “It will give a sense of ownership in the initiative and encourage participants to take up more such causes in future,” said Amitava.

Through Samanvay, the [institute](#) hopes to reach out to about 150-200 people who work inside the campus as daily-wage labourers or security guards. But the main aim is to take the project outside the IIMI campus to nearby villages.

“We are going to nearby villages like Janpavkuti, Bharpuwa, Bhagpura and Ambara with an approximate total population of 2,500,” adds Biswadip.

B-SCHOOL POSER: SIZE VS. QUALITY CHALLENGE

IIMs feel OBC quota weight

The OBC quota has forced some IIMs to increase class size and start afternoon classes. The challenge for the top B-schools is not compromising on the pedagogy in spite of bigger classes and more faculty load. Opinions are divided...

Parag Dave & Avinash Nair AHMEDABAD

HAVING finished implementing the 27% OBC quota over the last three years, the resources of the country’s premier B-schools — the Indian [Institute](#) of Management (IIMs) — stand stretched.

While some of the IIMs have gone about increasing class size and introducing more sections, others like IIM-Ahmedabad and IIM-Indore have introduced afternoon classes for first year students. Critics, however, argue that larger class sizes and concepts like afternoon classes may take a toll on the pedagogy and rob the programme of its “surprise element”.

“It was not possible for us to run five parallel sections. So from this year, we have introduced afternoon shifts for first year students of the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM) and Agri-Business Management programme,” says IIMA dean BH Jajoo. Each of these sections (or classes) has about 90 students.

Till last year, the first year classes at IIMA started at 8:45 am and finished at 1:10 pm. “We have a very expensive infrastructure and were using it only for about four-and-a-half hours daily. With the introduction of afternoon shifts (that comprise two sections between 2:30 pm and 6:55 pm), we will be using the infrastructure for almost the entire day,” he explains. The increase in number of sections is to accommodate the rising number of students. “We have added 151 in three years or so.”

Till 2003, there were about 220 students spread across three sections, with each having a little over 70 students. In the last few years, the number of students and classes sizes have increased steadily. Currently, the size of the 2010-’12 batch stands at 431, with each section comprising 85-90 students. The number of students at IIM-A is far greater than the 70-odd per section in IIM-Lucknow. IIM-Indore which also has a class strength similar to IIM-A (90 per section) has also introduced afternoon classes.

However, other IIMs like IIM-Lucknow (IIM-L) and IIM-Bangalore (IIM-B) are continuing to run parallel sections. While IIM-L runs six parallel sections, IIM-B runs about five sections in the morning.

“IIM-Lucknow had started its sixth section last year and is running them simultaneously in the morning. The faculty is putting in extra effort, and taking up higher teaching load to ensure that parallel sessions continue to run smoothly”, says

Prof. Ashwani Kumar, chairman of PGP at IIM-L.

“After the quota implementation, we have added one more section to the existing four. We are running five parallel sections in the morning,” says Ishwar Murthy, PGP chairperson, IIM-B.

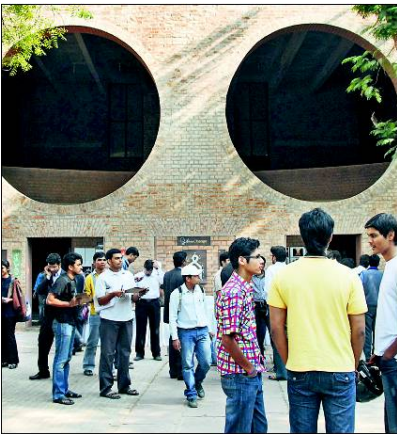
The introduction of afternoon classes has, however, not gone down well with many. “The steady increase in class size could also affect teaching quality. There are specific marks assigned to students for interacting in the class. Increasing student strength in a class could have an adverse impact on classroom discussions,” says a faculty member on condition of anonymity.

“Afternoon shifts are a compromise on the pedagogy. It will not only affect the evaluation system, but will also rob the surprise element from the sudden quizzes and case discussions,” an ex-faculty member of IIM-A points out.

An IIM-Indore faculty member, however, feels that while pedagogy has not been affected by the afternoon classes, load on the faculty has increased. “The faculty is now required to prepare two sets of quizzes, one each for the sections held in the morning and afternoon,” he said.

IIM-A feels afternoon classes will ensure “strategic rest for faculty”, which earlier had to take back-to-back lectures. Mr Jajoo too thinks afternoon classes will not affect the research work of the faculty members, nor will it affect the students.

IIM-A alumni, however, insist that for an [institute](#) of IIM-A’s stature it would not be difficult to adapt to the changes. “There are ways like multiple sets of questions that can be employed to maintain uniformity,” says a student who passed out last year.



Bigger classes are stretching resources

HindustanTimes

Title : BILL TO SET UP NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL IN EACH STATE

Author : Nagendar Sharma nagendar.sharma@hindustantimes.com

Location : NEW DELHI:

Article Date : 08/20/2010

BILL TO SET UP NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL IN EACH STATE

Nagendar Sharma

■ nagendar.sharma@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government plans to set up 16 new national law schools so that each state has an institute of excellence in legal education.

The draft National Law School Bill, 2010, finalised by the law ministry, provides for establishment of national law schools in all the states.

There are only 12 such institutes at present.

"The central government shall assist every state, not having national law schools, to develop, establish and independently run these schools of excellence in the field of legal education and research in their respective states," says the draft legislation.

There are around 900 recognised institutes, including 12 national law schools and 145 departments of law, in various universities providing legal education. According to official figures, 5 lakh students are studying law in these institutes, out of whom 60,000 join the legal profession every year.

A top law ministry official said the idea behind setting up a national law school in every state was to "have world-class legal education in a bid to prepare professionals equipped to meet the new challenges and dimensions of the profession".

The draft bill provides for a "one-time grant by the Centre and a sharing arrangement of money with the states, as it may think fit for the development and establishment of schools".

The ministry has also proposed that the state governments provide grants every year to these schools.

Section 25 of the draft bill gives powers to the state governments to decide whether public-private partnerships would be required.

"The PPP shall draw a partnership agreement defining mutual responsibilities, reciprocity of benefit, accounting and reporting," states the bill.

The funds provided by state governments for acquisition of land will be considered part of its share towards the overall cost of setting up of schools.