Consulting Firms Vie for Talent in IITs

Prachi Verma Dodiwal and Sreejith D Basu

New Delhi/Mumbai: Top consulting firms such as Bain, BCG and Ernst & Young are hiring fresh engineers like never before, and most of these have already doubled the number of offers they made in this campus placement season in the country's top institutes. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has reported more than 100% rise in the number of offers from consulting firms compared to last year, while at IIT Bombay, the numbers are up 50% for tier-1 consulting companies. At IIT Delhi, Roorkee and Guwahati, the rise in offers from this space is 30-40%.

"Lately, many of the consulting firms are getting a lot of work in the engineering space and this is pushing the demand for the engineers at colleges," said Shashi Mathur, professor-in-charge of placement and training cell at IIT Delhi.

Among top consultancies, BCG and EY have doubled the number of offers given to fresh engineers compared to last year while Bain & Co has increased it by 40%. Bain, which went to IIT Delhi and Bombay this year, is also looking at adding to the list in the future. Gopali Sarma, a Bain & Co partner who heads the recruiting process at the firm and also heads its Infrastructure practice, said the sharp increase in top talent coming to Bain from IITs is also based on the encouraging prospects from the economic environment. "We see excellent opportunities in the Indian top tier consulting market," he said.

EY, which earlier recruited from IIT Bombay and Delhi, has started visiting IIT Madras and Kharagpur from this year.

"This year's intake from the IITs has increased by over 100% and is primarily driven by business growth, constant need to hire the best project ready talent and to cater to the heightened technical requirements in the digital transformation, data analytics, cyber security and other advanced technology spaces," said Sandeep Kohli, national director for human resources at Ernst & Young.

BCG hired 85 engineers from IITs this year. "We hired more than double from last year as associates for consulting roles involving complex analysis, hypothesis generation and problem solving," said Amit Kumar, partner and director at BCG.

Uday Chawla, managing partner at executive search firm Transverse India, said, "This is clearly a war for 'early' talent. With government engaging in a talent war, many consulting firms in its projects like e-governance, smart cities, digitalisation, etc., there is a clear pressure on consulting firms to acquire talent at all levels. The fight is not limited to early talent. Transverse India is seeing over 90% rise in the search mandates for senior level in the consulting space, Chawla said."

Many consulting firms visited Kharagpur for the first time. The first timers included EY that made six offers and Kepler Capital with four of its. This apart, recruiters included BB Associates (30 offers) and The Chatterjee Group (nine offers).

"The rise in overall offers is driven partly by the new recruiters as also more offers, including PPOs, from earlier firms," said Anil Ashutosh Agarwal, vice president, technology student body, IIT Kharagpur. The offers by the consulting firms to the fresh engineering graduates is anywhere between ₹18 lakh and ₹30 lakh.
By 2100, billions of people may rise by 8°C

Britons at risk of flooding, drought, food shortages: UK study

London: The global land surface temperatures are expected to rise by about 8°C by 2100, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Westminster in London. The study found that if greenhouse gases continue to grow at current rates, with no significant action taken by society, the world’s global land temperatures will increase by 7.9°C Celsius compared with 1750. This finding lies at the very upper range of the temperature rise calculated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The study also highlights the need for urgent action to prevent catastrophic climate change and to transition to a sustainable pathway before this point is reached.

By 2100, it is estimated that 4 billion people could be affected by drought, with 700 million people facing water scarcity. The study also projects that by 2050, 2.4 billion people could be living in areas with extreme heat, with 2.1 billion people living in areas with extreme heat and rainfall. The study also highlights the need for urgent action to prevent catastrophic climate change and to transition to a sustainable pathway before this point is reached.

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कोंदिंग संचालक होले- बच्चों पर न डालें दबाव, उन्हें ही चुनने दें कारियर

कोंदिंग संचालक होले- बच्चों पर न डालें दबाव, उन्हें ही चुनने दें कारियर

निदान-99 के सहायक रोगी ने कहा, कोंदिंग संचालक होने के लिए बच्चों पर दबाव डालने की तरफ से नहीं होता है। कोंदिंग संचालक होने के लिए बच्चों पर दबाव डालने की तरफ से नहीं होता है। कोंदिंग संचालक होने के लिए बच्चों पर दबाव डालने की तरफ से नहीं होता है।

बीड में कैसे पढ़ते हैं?

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उपलब्ध नहीं होने दीवार

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Times of India ND 15/12/2015 P-19

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Over 8L engineering seats remained vacant in 2014-15: Irani

NEW DELHI: Over 8 lakh engineering seats remained vacant in 2014-15, the government on Monday said as it noted the surplus capacity in the sector while pointing to “competition among students due to limited seats” in government and reputed private institutions.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Human Resource Development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani said that “overall, there is surplus capacity in the engineering sector with 8,44,328 seats remaining vacant in 2015”. She noted, however, that “there is competition among students due to limited seats in government and reputed private institutions as compared to the number of applications”.

Meanwhile, in a written response to another question, Irani said that her ministry is considering a proposal for the setting up of a National Academic Depository, which envisages online storage, verification and authentication of academic awards.

In her reply to another question, Irani said that all institutions of higher education have been requested to install solar rooftop systems.
IISc scientists develop solar cooking device

Bengaluru, Dec 14, 2015, DHNS:

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a device whereby “solar energy can be directly brought to the kitchen” paving the way for the use of clean energy for cooking.

The hybrid device transfers solar energy to the kitchen using a solar thermal collector to store the solar energy. Explaining the functioning of the device, a release from IISc said: “The device transfers solar energy to a curved concentrating collector that absorbs the energy and increases the temperature of heat transfer fluid. The fluid is of a special kind whose temperature can go up to 300°C and is stored in a thermally insulated tank. A heat exchanger is positioned in the kitchen which transfers the heat from the fluid to the food that is meant to be cooked. A pump is used to regulate the heat transfer from the collector to the heat storage tank.”

While there are already solar cookers, a number of problems crops up - they can only be used during periods of clear skies, the rate of cooking cannot be controlled, etc, the release said.

Dr Prasanna U R, along with Dr L Umanand, from the Centre for Electronic Design and Technology, IISc, has developed the device. “This cooker can also be used indoors within the kitchen, reducing use of conventional energy. It can be used at any time of the day or night,” said Prasanna.

This device allows heat to transfer from the solar collector to the food meant to be cooked at an optimal rate. Despite the apparent advantages of the hybrid solar cooker, scientists say that certain challenges in the technology persist.

“People still need to design this device better so that everything can be installed at home cost effectively and quickly,” he said.
WTO के खिलाफ
स्टूडेंट्स का हल्ला बोल
हायर एजुकेशन पॉलिसी को लेकर होंगे एकजुट

प्रमुख संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली
दब्बुड़ीटियों की कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत के उड़ाए जाने वाले कदम के खिलाफ स्टूडेंट्स पॉलिक प्रोटेस्ट की तैयारी में हैं। 15, 17 और 18 दिसंबर तक दिल्ली में स्टूडेंट्स हायर एजुकेशन के फड कट और इस एग्रीमेंट के खिलाफ आवाज बुलंद करेगे। जंगल बरु, सेंट्रल पार्क और उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा। ये प्रदर्शन उन्होंने वोट किए जा रहे हैं, जब नैरोबी, केन्या में डब्बुड़ीटियों कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत एग्रीमेंट साइन करते जा रहे हैं।

भारत की हायर एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में बदलाव करने जा रही डब्बुड़ीटियों कॉन्फ्रेंस के खिलाफ भारत के कई हिस्सों में प्रदर्शन चल रहे हैं। 15 से 18 दिसंबर तक नैरोबी में डब्बुड़ीटियों की 10वीं मिनिस्ट्रील कॉन्फ्रेंस होगी, जिसमें भारत भी शामिल हो रहा है। एक्स्पर्ट का कहना है कि भारत के डब्बुड़ीटियों एग्रीमेंट साइन करने से ग्रेटर कॉर्पोरेट को डेश में इंस्टूट्स, यूनिवर्सिटी और टेक्निकल इंस्ट्यूशन खोलने का खुला अवसर मिलेगा।

एग्रीमेंट के तहत भारत सरकार को इंटरनेशनल लोग का पालन करना होगा, जिसके तहत सबसे पहले हायर एजुकेशन से पूल क्लाइया जाएगा। इसी वजह से स्टूडेंट्स की मांग है कि सरकार इस एग्रीमेंट से पीछे हटे वरना भारत में हायर एजुकेशन महंगी हो जाएगी, साथ ही एक बिजनेस बनकर आम स्टूडेंट्स की पहुंच से दूर हो जाएगी।

प्रोटेस्ट में जवाहरलाल नेहरू यूनिवर्सिटी, जामिया मिलिया इलाम, दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी, आदिक यूनिवर्सिटी, इंडियन यूनिवर्सिटी समेत दूसरे राज्यों की यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टूडेंट्स भी शामिल होंगे। यह प्रोटेस्ट आल इंडिया स्टूडेंट्स असोसिएशन (आईएसएस) की आमिरत में हो रहा है। जेएनयू स्टूडेंट आयोग कुमार कहते हैं कि जंगल मंत्र, सेंट्रल पार्क और उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन कर लोगों का बचाव जाएगा कि आखिर किस तरह से यह साजिश की जा रही है और इसका असर हर आम इस्लाम पर पड़ने वाला है।

17 दिसंबर को सेंट्रल पार्क पर स्टूडेंट्स हामन चें बनाकर दोपहर 2 बजे से अपना प्रोटेस्ट शुरू करेगी। वहीं, 18 दिसंबर को 2 बजे से हायर एजुकेशन में कामयाब एंड इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्ट्री की पॉलिसी का विरोध करते हुए उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन करेगी। आईएसएस की नैरोबी प्रेजिडेंट सूचेता के कहना है कि काफी फहरे से टीम, स्टूडेंट्स और एक्टिविस्ट इसे लेकर आवाज उठा रहें हैं, मगर सरकार रिस्क नहीं दे रहे हैं। आम लोगों को इस एग्रीमेंट के बारे में पता नहीं है।
‘Education is Fundamental Need for More Just, Prosperous & Competitive Society’

Professor John Kim, senior lecturer of business administration at Harvard Business School, teaches second-year course. Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovations in Education, which tries to tackle the root causes of performance problem in urban education, and the entrepreneurial behaviour of leaders and managers trying to affect systemic change in both traditional and new types of public schools. Kim, who was in India recently, spoke to ET’s Varuni Khosla about the scope of educational entrepreneurs in India.

Edited excerpts:

**What’s the scope of entrepreneurs to get into the education space?**

For most of the world, education is a service, or a public good, that the government provides. The idea that entrepreneurs should even be part of that conversation reflects the desire for society to improve performance around education. Education is a fundamental need for a more just, prosperous and competitive society.

In the US, even after 30-40 years of investment in education, the gap hasn’t narrowed. But in the last 20 years, there has been more interest in the area and the question – should we allow entrepreneurs or innovators to come in this field – has cropped up. We now have ‘charter’ schools or public schools that are privately run, free for students, but they have less regulations, no unions, etc.

**Are charter schools popular?**

Yes, 5% of the entire schooling is now charter schools, and in some states, nearly 20% of the students go to such schools. Other ventures like in Teach for America by Wendy Kopp – which is more of a social entrepreneurial venture – measure performance of education of students of colour. While they’ve made some changes, they’re not large, scalable changes.

**Do you think technology can be used to create a better future in education?**

There are three kinds of technology: the first is ‘personalisation’, or personalised apps, that can be used to teach children the ways that are best for them. There are companies such as Newton Education Services that are doing ‘personalisation’ for students. The second is ‘distance’. A good example of this is the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organisation created in 2006 by educator Salman Khan, which uses videos to provide information to all sorts of people, anywhere, anytime. The third is which gets very little attention – ‘productivity’. Teaching is very labour-intensive and there aren’t many tools to help teachers make their work more productive. Tools such as staffing, scheduling, helping teacher can be more effective in a cost effective way.

**Are there any interesting scalable models in the world which are doing well?**

There are companies in the assessment space that are doing well. There are more international standards such as the Common Core (an educational initiative in the US that details what K-12 students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the end of each grade). There is a notion that you need to teach students in a more personalised way and I think that idea can be applied in India too.

**What is your advice to entrepreneurs getting into this space?**

Solve real problems. Everyone went to school, so they think they know a bit about the issues. But they must go and talk to people and understand the real issues. And also be patient. Unlike other businesses that have 100% quarter on quarter growth, this may take a little time. But once you get in, it’s a very defensible business. Another would be, if people ask me, where they should start – I would say it’s a people intensive business, so they must look for ways to make people more efficient.
Twenty five cases of sexual harassment reported in JNU: Smriti Irani in LS

"As per University Grants Commission (UGC), 295 cases of sexual harassment have been reported during 2014-15 in various institutes of higher learning against women," Irani said.

Twenty five cases of sexual harassment were reported from the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 2013-2014, the highest among 104 higher education institutions from where such matters were reported according to University Grants Commission (UGC) data.

During the period from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, there were 15 cases of sexual harassment reported in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and 10 cases in Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Allahabad.

Nine cases were reported from King George’s Medical University, Lucknow. There were 8 such cases reported in University of Mumbai and Viswa Bharati, Santi Niketan, Birbhum during this period.

These details were shared in the Lok Sabha by Human Resource Development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani, who in a written reply to a member’s question said that as per UGC, there were 295 cases of sexual harassment that have been reported during 2014-15 in various institutes of higher learning.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also reported two cases of sexual harassment

Indian universities not in global ranking due to criteria followed: Smriti Irani

NEW DELHI: Indian universities and higher education institutions are not getting their due place in global rankings mainly due to the criteria which depend a lot on the perception of a "select group" of persons, the government said today.

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani told the Lok Sabha that the government is coming out with a system for ranking of institutions based on objective criteria under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

During Question Hour, Irani said several premier educational institutions in the country have set global standards in education and research.

Although entry of Indian institutions of higher education in global ranking surveys like the 'QS' and the 'THE' portrays a positive and optimistic trend, the Indian institutions are not getting their due place in the global rankings, the Minister said.

"This is primarily because of the criteria used by these agencies for ranking, which depend a lot on the perception of a select group of persons.
"While working on their strengths, the Indian higher education institutions would need to work on improving their perception index if they have to better their global rankings," Irani said.

In 2015 QS ranking, there are two institutions in the top 200 - IIT Delhi (179) and IISc, Bangalore (147). Others in the list include IIT Bombay (202), IIT Kanpur (271), IIT Kharagpur (286), IIT Madras (254) and IIT Roorkee (391).

In the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking for this year, there are three Indian institutions - IIT Bombay (351-400), IIT Roorkee (351-400) and IISc Bangalore (276-300), as per the written reply given by the Minister.

According to Irani, several initiatives have been taken to improve the teaching and learning processes and research. These include Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) under which academicians from foreign universities come to teach in India, Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) and improving curricula for undergraduate courses.

Responding to TMC member Sugata Bose who disagreed with the Minister’s remarks that global rankings was more of a perception than substance, Irani said such comments would be like doing disservice to the Indian universities.

To a query on appointment of vice chancellors at central and state universities, Irani said those are done after fully following the procedures.

**Studying at IITs likely to get costlier**

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

With the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) seeking to become self-reliant, the fee structure of the institute is likely to be revised soon.

Maintaining that the fee being charged from IIT students was ‘very less’ considering the standard of education being provided at premier educational institute, the IIT council has made a recommendation to the centre to allow it to increase the fees.

As of now, the government gives the IITs 85% grant, which results in major subsidy in fee to the students.

However, the IITs plan to do away with government assistance, confirmed RC Bhargava, chairman, IIT Kanpur.

Bhargava, who heads IIT’s Board of governors, was at the institute with other board members to review many projects on Sunday evening.

“Council has asked all the IITs to create new resources while the decision to increase the fee will be taken after due considerations, it won’t hurt the needy student,” said Bhargava, who is also chairman of Maruti Udyog Limited.

The needy students will be given loans from the bank and they could repay it after getting employment, said Bhargava while insisting that the chairmen of all the IITs will meet and discuss it threadbare.

IIT-K director Prof Indraneel Manna said the faculty and students would work to help the manufacturing sector as a part of Prime Minister’s Make in India initiative.

Also, the scientists of IIT-K and IISc Bangalore would jointly work on micro nano technology project.

Bhargava said the IIT Kanpur’s students will work for Maruti in future as well.
Lucknow School Is Most Polluted Place In The Country: Report


New Delhi: A central school in Uttar Pradesh's capital city, Lucknow, has recorded the highest level of suspended particulate matter, PM 2.5 on Monday, followed by Delhi's Anand Vihar stood third according to the latest report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The peak levels of PM 2.5, harmful microscopic particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, were recorded at 477 in a central school in Lucknow yesterday afternoon.

Anand Vihar recorded a level of 469 yesterday evening at 7pm.

These three locations come under the 'severe' category.

Lucknow had a total of three places with high PM 2.5 levels in the ten most polluted areas of the country, said the report.

But there is hope for Delhi as a System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) study shows a 'steady fall' of pollutants over the last four days.

This despite the sudden fall in the city's temperature has the potential to elevate the quantity of such pollutants.

"This is another indicator that indeed something worked in favour of relatively much better PM figures for this time of the year with such cooler weather conditions. There is one rider though, the wind speed is not high but at the same time, it is not really as calm as it should have been at this time," said Gufran Beig, Chief Project Scientist of SAFAR who prepared the report.

The safe limits of PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 60 and 100 and anything beyond that poses threat to a healthy respiratory system. They have been consistently high, at times multiple times, in the capital, prompting the government to resort to a host of anti-pollution measures.

Mr Beig said the fall was noteworthy as the weather conditions, "drop in temperature, normal wind flow pattern and relatively calm local wind", were congenial for the formation of off-white (light brownish) haze.

SAFAR has also observed a slight increase in the level of gaseous pollutants like Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ozone (O3) "although, still well within the permissible limit."