IIT-Delhi to look for faculty in Ivy League universities

Dearth of faculty members in their academic coterie forces the institute to hire foreign scholars

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New Delhi: Hoping to improve the student-teacher ratio and to bring world-class quality to its teaching methods, authorities of Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) will soon be visiting Ivy League universities such as Harvard and Yale in a bid to recruit foreign scholars as faculty.

In what is a first for the premier IITs, IIT-Delhi will be conducting roadshows in various Ivy League universities across the United States from February 2017. “A delegation of deans and heads of different departments will go to Ivy League institutes in the east coast, and to institutes in other US cities, to hire graduating students as faculty members in IIT-D,” IIT-D director Dr V Ramgopal Rao said while confirming the development.

Before the roadshow, the delegation plans to interview a few PhD candidates over Skype and then travel to meet them personally. They have been coordinating with various institutions, and getting information about scholars who are finishing their academic work. “So far, foreign scholars had been coming to us but now we will be going to them through a roadshow, telling them about our institute and the way we function. We want to attract the best of talent from abroad,” Rao added.

The government has relaxed norms for hiring foreign faculty in IITs. “There are foreign faculty members in IITs right now as well, but they are just a handful because of stringent government norms. However, the norms are getting relaxed now to let us hire more foreign nationals.”

Foreign faculty in IITs can work as contractual employees for five years. The contract is renewable and though they are not offered permanent positions, they get paid at par with faculty members in India. IITs have not been getting enough faculty members from within their own circles as the number of B Tech students pursuing PhD has declined. “Earlier, many B Tech students would go to foreign universities, complete their PhD and come back and teach in IITs here. But that number has now reduced considerably. We are not getting good scholars to teach in our institutions here. This is also one of the reasons that we are attracting faculty from abroad,” Rao said.

IIT-Kanpur placement drive: Companies opt online means for interviews

KANPUR: Bad weather conditions have forced some of the companies to opt for interviews via video conferencing during the ongoing placement drive at IIT-Kanpur.

The recruitment firms are reaching the campus late due to delay in train and flight timings. However, the placement cell of the institute is making all efforts to accommodate the hiring companies reaching the campus late. As a result, the interviews continue till late in the night keeping the staff of the placement cell engaged.

Owing to the time crisis some of the companies are going for video conferencing and other social networking applications for recruitment interviews.
The placement cell did not reveal the name of companies which conducted interviews through online means.

Talking to TOI, placement cell incharge of IIT-K Sandeep Nair said the harsh weather conditions have affected the arrival of companies on the campus to take part in the placement drive. As a result the firms continue with interviews till late in the night and some are using video-conferencing to hold interviews. But each one of them want to be physically present on the campus," he said further. Meanwhile, on fifth day five of the placement drive on Tuesday, more than 400 students bagged job offers. The interviews continued till late in the night.

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Recruiters up, offers down at IIT placements

A rise in the number of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), coupled with revised recruitment plans by recruiters, has led to the number of placement offers coming down by 30 per cent this year as compared to last year. The number of companies is slightly up.

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WHERE DID THE JOBS GO?
• At IIT-Kharagpur, a little over 300 companies have registered this year, against 280 last year
• IIT-Guwahati has seen the number rise from 150 last year to 200 this year
• The number of offers per recruiter has come down by 10-20 per cent at different IITs, barring a few. The institutes attribute the trend to multiple reasons, including a rise in the number of the premier institutes to 23 now.

Meanwhile, on fifth day five of the placement drive on Tuesday, more than 400 students bagged job offers. The interviews continued till late in the night.
Tata Motors, India's biggest commercial vehicle manufacturer, is keen to enter the arena of truck-hailing apps, one year after its rival Mahindra and Mahindra, the country's second-biggest CV maker, entered this space.

More than half a dozen companies floated by graduates of IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) backed by venture capitalists and private equity companies already operate in this app-based truck-hailing space, their business model similar to Uber and Ola, except for the fact they deal in the cargo segment, not the passenger one.

A company official said given Tata Motors' large and loyal consumer base, it makes sense to tie up with its clients for this add-on service. Tata Motors is considering an equity investment in a start-up and is talking to a few prospective companies.

"We have been looking at this space for a long time. The aggregators are also our clients. So, the aggregator may be the third party but they are dealing with our clients. We are actually talking to a few aggregators rather than getting into the business as such, which seems to be what Mahindra has done; they themselves have become an aggregator, that is not what we will do. There are some aggregators with whom we are having discussions," said Ravi Pisharody, executive director, CV, Tata Motors.

Pisharody added, "Too early to say if we would be investing in them, we are examining. The trouble is there are too many of them (but) we have to back the right people. The partnership could be in different forms, we don't have to buy into the company. We also have a lot to bring to the table. We can also offer to all buyers the opportunity to link up to aggregators. So these are things we are exploring, investment into an aggregator may not be necessary but this is much of a strategic call, which we will decide shortly."

Anand Mahindra-led Mahindra and Mahindra, which has got a sizeable presence in the small CV category, entered the web-based truck-hailing space in November last year, with the launch of SmartShift.
फॉरेन हायरिंग घटी, पर IIT में स्टार्टअप्स से रौनक

(वर्तमान दिन का खबर गतिविधि)

आईआईटी में कंपनियां खूब आई पर ऑफर कम लाई

राजस्थान प्रदेश के राजस्थान पत्रिका ND 08.12.2016 P-02
IIT Bombay had No US jobs offers in Placement Season

On one side IIT Kanpur hits the headlines with 1.5 crore offer from Microsoft while on the other IIT Bombay has no job offers from US in this year’s placement season.

This year no US firm offered any job positions to the any student of IIT (B), however the number of US firms participating in the placement drive remained the same.

Tom Mathew, the placement in charge of IIT B said that “as many as six students have been offered jobs in Japan from the companies like Minolta & NTT communications”.

Oracle also made one offer at IIT B apart from already offered jobs at IIT K & IIT-Guwahati.

Among the Indian companies which recruited the students include ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) & ONGC (Oil & Natural Gas Corporation). ISRO recruited 4 while ONGC recruited 8 students.

“Some of the US firms withdrew from the placement drive including Facebook because of difficulties in obtaining work VISAs”, said one of the students from the Placement team.

Some also believe that the same is due to the present US economic scenario after the election of the new US President.

IITs will allow high-scoring undergrads direct admission to its PhD programmes

MUMBAI: Undergraduate students of the Indian Institutes of Technology who score a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 8.5 and more will now get direct admission to the institutes' PhD programme.

Such candidates will be entitled to a monthly scholarship of Rs 60,000 for five years. Moreover, they will also get "a suitable research grant" to cover expenses like attending international conferences that are required to complete their research projects. The proposal was cleared by the IIT council after it realized that doctoral programmes needed to be encouraged as the institutes were facing a shortage of faculty and the unavailability was likely to only get pronounced.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar responded that the IITs, particularly the seven older ones, were set to increase their PhD intake by at least 20% in the next three years, starting from the ensuing academic season of 2017-18. The council of the premier technical institutes agreed to increase the seat intake to 1 lakh by 2020, particularly at the post-graduate level, accepting a proposal of the HRD ministry. This had come up at a meeting of the council chaired Javadekar in August.

"We want to admit more students to our PhD programmes from next year. There is a dearth of faculty and the expansion in technical education calls for major push for doctoral programmes," said an IIT director. The institutes are considering increasing the number of MTech seats. Increasing PhD seats would also see the IITs contributing to the country's research output and providing innovative and affordable technological solutions needed to meet the requirement of our country, he said.
The HRD minister has assured the IITs of making a proposal to the government for rolling out a new fellowship scheme to support research scholars. "The proposed Prime Minister Research Fellows programme would seek to support at least 1,000 PhD students every year," said a ministry official.

**IIT Roorkee gets new director**


ROORKEE: IIT Roorkee, which has been functioning without a director for over a month now, now has a new director, Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi.

"Prof Chaturvedi, who is the deputy director of IIT Kanpur at present and a senior faculty at the department of electrical engineering in the institute has now been appointed director of IIT Roorkee," said PK Ghosh, officiating director of IIT-R.

The tenure of a director at the institute is five years from the date of joining. The previous director, Pradipta Banerji, completed his full term in October this year. Since then IIT-R has been functioning with an officiating director at the helm.

However, the date of joining of the new director is not yet clear. It is assumed that he will report to the institute next month. "I cannot give you the exact date of my joining as director of IIT Roorkee as I have to complete some responsibilities at IIT Kanpur before taking up my new responsibilities. I am likely to report there within two to three weeks," said Chaturvedi, talking to TOI over the phone from Kanpur.

Chaturvedi shares a bond with IIT-R as he had worked at the institute as a faculty member for a brief period before joining IIT Kanpur. "He had taught here at the department of electronics and computer engineering in 1997. The staff and students of the institute consider his appointment as a homecoming," said Ghosh.

Chaturvedi, an expert in wireless communication technology, has been an IITian throughout his academic as well as professional career. He completed his BTech, MTech and PhD in electrical engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1986, 1988 and 1995, respectively. During his career as faculty he served at the department of electronics engineering at IIT (Banaras Hindu University) from 1994 to 1996. Since 1999, he has teaching at the department of electrical engineering of IIT-Kanpur. He was head of the department in 2009-2010 and dean of research development there from 2011 to 2014.
Danish education minister Soren Pind visits IIM-Ahmedabad


AHMEDABAD: The Danish minister of education and research, Soren Pind, on Wednesday visited the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) to know more about the education system at the city’s premier institute.

The official Twitter account of IIM-A later tweeted, "Soren Pind, Minister of Higher Education and Science, Denmark visited IIM-Ahmedabad campus and met Professor Rakesh Basant Dean at IIM-A."

Pind visited the campus and also saw the classrooms. His visit was scheduled to increase educational ties with Danish students and educational institutes. He also spoke about student exchange programmes with IIM-A officials.

Pind is touring India and is currently visiting Gujarat. He was also scheduled to meet Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani and senior level officials of Indian companies and institutes.