

SUMMER PLACEMENTS SHOW SIGNS OF REVIVAL

Recruiters return to IIMs as hiring sentiment improves

Strong recruiter turnout across various sectors

MANU KAUSHIK New Delhi, November 3

AFTER TWO MUTED years, summer placements at the country's premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are showing clear signs of revival.

Early reports from IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta point to a rebound in hiring activity, with more recruiters on campus, stronger participation from consulting and finance firms, and stipends holding firm at record levels.

At IIM Calcutta, the number of recruiters rose to 183 in 2025 from 175 last year. While the average monthly stipend this year stood at ₹1.85 lakh, nearly unchanged from 2024 — it remained significantly higher than ₹1.65 lakh in 2023 and ₹1.59 lakh in 2022, reflecting steady upward movement over time.

The trend was even more pronounced at IIM Bangalore, where consulting firms led the revival. In 2025, summer placements for the BGP and PGP-BA 2025-27 batches saw 283 consulting offers, compared with 230 last year.

STRONGER PARTICIPATION

Table showing recruitment statistics for IIM Bangalore, IIM Calcutta, and IIM Ahmedabad across years 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022. Metrics include Number of offers, Number of recruiters, Consulting jobs offered, and Average monthly stipend.

*Includes PGP and PGP-BA programmes

"Marking a record high, management consulting accounted for 46% of all offers up from 38% last year. Roles in investment banking and e-commerce domains saw a notable increase, while offers from the healthcare sector rose by over 70%.

Recruiters and placement experts attribute this upturn to improving business sentiment and rising corporate hiring budgets.

Karthikeyan Kesavan, director and head of business (permanent recruitment) at Adecco India, said, "The hiring budgets across corporate India have gone up after the second half of 2024 and will likely remain high till 2026.

The hiring sentiments are slowly picking up, with consulting and fintech sectors leading the wave. Not just the legacy IIMs, even the newer ones are witnessing a pickup in offers.

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Many firms had turned cautious, and only a handful of institutes reported growth in placements.

Expert said sentiment began to turn once global and domestic uncertainties started easing. "There was a lot of uncertainty around tariffs at the beginning of the year, and companies across the board were reluctant to hire MBAs from marquee institutes," said Balasubramanian Narayanan, senior vice president at Team-Lease Services. "Compare that to today — the uncertainty around tariffs is relatively lower, and there are green shoots visible in volume growth in our economy as well. This has given confidence to Corporate India to hire more in 2025."

"According to experts, an economic rebound is typically followed by accelerating hiring in consulting — a trend evident this year. Consulting continues to be viewed as a stable and opportunity-rich domain.

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The Rohtak chhori who dared to dream big and make a comeback

NTIN SHARMA Chandigarh, November 3

"CHHORI NE DIKHA diya ki Shafali comeback karna jaanti hai"

The father of Shafali Verma, the player of the Women's World Cup final, sums up her unforgettable night in an early tone.

It's quite a comeback story, indeed. Not selected for the tournament, she played domestic cricket in front of untanned stands, piled on runs, bowled more often than before, and kept training at the nets. And hoped for redemption.

When it came — due to an injury to opener Pratika Rawal — Shafali stamped her presence in a historic final against South Africa with both bat (76-ball 87) and ball (two game-turning wickets). Both these performances were her best returns in One-Day Internationals, helping script a 53-run victory at Navi Mumbai's D Y Patil Stadium as India became world champions for the first time.

One person who isn't surprised by the 23-year-old's fierce resolve is her father, Sanjeev. Last year, Sanjeev was admitted at a hospital after a heart attack when Shafali learnt that she had been

dropped from the Indian team. She didn't tell him for a week, as she feared for his health.

"It was a tough time for our family but she would not share with me that she had been dropped from the team," said Sanjeev. "Cricket has been a passion of mine as well as her, and I don't know how she hid the news from me."

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White-collar hiring dips 9% in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, November 3

THE WHITE-COLLAR hiring activity eased in October as the

Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed recruitment momentum, according to the Naukri JobPeak Index report.

The Naukri JobPeak is a monthly index representing the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume database.

White the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as Accounting and Finance (15%), Education (13%), and BPO/ITES (6%) defied the trend with positive growth in October.

The growth in hiring in the education sector was propelled by fresher and start-up hiring and this momentum was geographically widespread, with major contributions from Hyderabad

(47%), Chennai (34%), and Bengaluru (31%), it added.

The demand for professional skills in AI/ML roles also continued its unabated climb with significant 33% year-on-year increase in hiring, said the report.

However, other sectors, including bellwether IT (15%) and banking (24%), witnessed a contraction in hiring activity during the month, it said.

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Haze blankets Delhi as AQI remains 'very poor'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, November 3

A THICK LAYER of haze enveloped the national capital on Monday, with the air quality remaining in the "very poor" category and very likely to deteriorate further.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 309 at 4 pm, indicating persistent pollution.

Bharat was in the "severe" category with a reading of 400, followed by Wazirpur, which

recorded 390. Additionally, 23 monitoring stations recorded "very poor" air quality with readings above 300, as shown on the

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It added that a ventilation index lower than 6,000 m/s and wind speeds less than 10 km/h are unfavourable for pollutant dispersion.

The air quality is likely to remain in the "severe" category on Tuesday, AQEWS said.

The PM2.5 concentration stood at 155 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m3) or 100 µg/m3. PM2.5 refers to fine inhalable particles with diameters that are 2.5 micrometres or smaller.

CPCB's Sameer app. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) for Delhi, the wind speed

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