Automation takes away IT jobs, but lights up placements

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Mumbai: Automation has threatened IT employment, but it is also creating jobs in the sector, going by the placement trend at the top institutes in the country.

Many job offers are now focused on machine learning, artifi-

cial intelligence (AI), product designing and research. Earlier, coding and data analytics were the major profiles, according to an official at an institute.

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, which recently concluded its first round of campus placement, reported the same number of job offers by the software majors like Microsoft, Yahoo and NEC Corporation as the previous year, says a student associated with the placement cell.

"The high skilled students, updated with the latest technologies and government policies, were the preferred choice of software majors this time," says Sandeep Meshram, head of campus placement cell at College of Engineering Pune (COEP) in Maharashtra.

High-skilled jobs require analytical and critical thinking. The emerging fields of AI, robotics, cloud computing, high-end product designs, advanced web platforms need these set of skills.

Almost 90% computer science students of COEP and Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI) in Mumbai, top-rated state-run colleges in Maharashtra, have been placed this time with the pay packages that are at par with the IITs.

"With automation rising, other sectors, too, will require high-end product designers, research and development engineers and solution architects focused on the convergence of technologies. But there's dearth in supply," said Ramachandran Ganapathy, founder and managing director of Trigyn Technologies.

"Cloud computing and cyber-security are the other two focus areas where skills are in high demand, though business process management and big data analytics will remain core for the evolution of business process automation," he said.