**Google Interview Experience:**

I interviewed with Google India for a position of Software Engineering Intern last year. Google visited our I.I.T.R. campus at around October for hiring interns. After an initial resume based short-listing, I was scheduled for two back to back 45 minute interviews. That was to be the first telephonic interview of my life!

Both the interview calls were from outside India and were technical. A Google Doc was shared with me which was used to write code during the interview. The questions were algorithmic and based on data structures and some fundamental CS concepts (deadlocks, race condition, mutex locks). The second interviewer also asked me to describe the projects that I had listed down on my resume. One thing that I noticed was that they were very particular about the time constraints. With 10 minutes to go (before each interview), I was reminded by both my interviewers to try and wrap things up and the question-answer session ended after 45 minutes sharp. Both the calls had a similar structure: the interviewer asks you a question, you tell him/her your approach. They'll either point out your mistakes or say "Your solution seems fine, but can you do better?". After you have come with the most efficient solution, they'll ask you to code it up on the doc (They may ask questions from your code as you are typing). The general rule is that if you are able to solve 2 questions (within 45 minutes), then your chances are pretty high. But, if you do 1, your fate depends on how other candidates have performed. So, speed is of the essence! And yeah, candidates are also given a chance to ask questions to their interviewers at the end of their interviews.

Based on my performance in the 2 rounds, I was shortlisted for a third and final round. This round was taken by an engineer from Google's Hyderabad office. Out of all the interviews that I have appeared till date, this one was the most interesting, enjoyable and challenging one - all at once! I was asked to introduce myself first and then he proceeded to tell me a little bit about himself  
and what team he works for. He then explained some real issues that Google faces in its daily operations and gave me a little insight into how Google engineers tend to tackle those issues. I was then asked to design a system using whatever knowledge of data structures and algorithms that I have to deal with the same issues. It was roughly a 90-minute discussion where we weighed pros and cons of a lot of approaches and looked into several aspects of the problem!

Overall, the guys interviewing you will be super-friendly. They'll make sure that you understand the questions and don't have any confusions. Feel free to ask them for hints and they'll be more than happy to guide you towards the solution. From what I learnt, the one thing that differentiates a Google interview is that Google is more interested in your thought process and your approach to problem solving rather than the correct answer.