

Newspaper Clips December 25, 2014

HT.Com ND 25.12.2014 P-6

IIT, IIM students a big hit with e-commerce

Gauri Kohli

His love for online shopping helped Sachin Chandra get a job with a leading e-retailer. A computer science student of IIT Bombay, he is among the few engineering and management students who have got placed in e-commerce firms. He will be joining Flipkart as a software development engineer.

E-commerce firms are definitely on a hiring spree this year. With Flipkart announcing the filing of an application with Singapore-based companies' regulator ACRA to become a public company after raising \$700 million for long-term strategic investments in India, e-commerce is set to grow further with internet penetration and consumerism.

"This may be because most of the e-commerce sites were started four to five years back and they need people who are smart and innovative. People who have experience in databases and all the topics related to e-commerce have a better idea about the problems that could arise and also have ideas to improvise the overall site experience. This is why they are hiring IIT students too. The average package would be somewhere around ₹12 lakh to ₹18 lakh per annum for software engineers, which includes employee stock option schemes," says Chandra.

From e-commerce majors like Flipkart and Amazon to start-ups like Housing.com and Urbanladder, a good number of IIT and IIM students are going for e-commerce jobs over other

sectors. Reshmi S, a final-year BTech student in aerospace engineering at IIT Madras, got placed in Housing.com as assistant manager operations recently. "I chose Housing mostly because it was a start-up and the role seemed interesting. When I did some research about Housing, I got good reviews about the work culture and the company in general. Housing has seen tremendous growth. Even companies such as Flipkart and Ola have grown very fast," she says.

Dhanesh Kumar, a student of IIT Bombay, did an internship with a major e-commerce company and feels he gained a lot from it. "I had an internship at Amazon this summer and received a full-time job offer from them in recognition of my performance during the internship. I will be joining my team as a software developer. The work culture was very productive, the team helpful, the work engrossing," says Kumar, who has got a package of more than ₹25 lakh.

IITans were hired in good numbers by all e-commerce companies, says Kumar, adding that a technical background engineer can squeeze the last bit of performance out of an e-commerce portal, leading to better user experience. Also, there is lot of technical knowledge that goes in developing this kind of platform with many issues pertaining to server loads, millions of users and security.

IIM students too, are getting plum offers. Tanuj Madan, studying at IIM C, says "I did my summer internship with

the operations department of Amazon and was awarded a pre-placement offer."

Amazon and Flipkart made 19 and 10 offers, respectively, during the recent placement process at IIM Bangalore

E-commerce major Amazon emerged as the top recruiter by making 22 offers in the summer placements for the 2014-16 batch of students at IIM Calcutta

Ola Cabs and Flipkart offered placements to 32 and 18 students respectively at IIT Madras

Ola Cabs hired about 40 students at IIT Bombay

HT.Com ND 25.12.2014 P-6

THE BIG DEAL ABOUT E-JOBS

BULLISH ON HIRING Expanding at a compound annual growth rate of 34%, the e-commerce sector is hiring aggressively from the IITs and IIMs

Rozelle Laha

Facebook's ₹2.1 crore offer to Astha Agarwal of IIT Bombay this year made heads turn, the e-commerce giants too thrilled graduates with big packages.

"We firmly believe that as we expand and grow in the country, talented engineers and MBAs from these institutes will play an instrumental role in driving Amazon's growth in India," says Raj Raghavan, director-human resources, Amazon India.

Amazon has been hiring from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian School of Business and other prominent engineering colleges and B-schools for quite some time. As per sources, the online retail giant offered ₹25 lakh per annum each to three graduates at the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Allahabad, and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Calicut.

The sector is expanding at a compound annual growth rate of 34%, as per data from a joint report by the Internet Mobile Association of India and the Indian Market Research Bureau, and companies are hiring aggressively. "The e-commerce space will grow up to 55% to 60% in the coming years," says Ashvin Vellody, partner – management consulting, KPMG. Snapdeal, which first caught the attention of graduates by offering nearly ₹50,000 per month as stipend to summer interns, hired 120 graduates from IITs as against 25 last year. It plans to hire 500 engineers and 150 B-school graduates across functional areas like marketing, product development, strategy, operations, finance and category management. It will also hire from the National Institute of Fashion Technology and the National Institute of Design.

"We look for good behavioural skills, willingness to go an extra mile to succeed, innovation and an ability to thrive in a challenging environment," says Saurabh Nigam, vice president-HR, Snapdeal.com.

SALARY PACKAGES FROM E-PLAYERS

HOUSING.COM

₹12 lakh to ₹20 lakh p a

ALLDAYCOUPON.COM

₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh p a

SNAPDEAL

₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh p a

AMAZON

₹25 lakh p a

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO LAND AN E-COMMERCE JOB

- Ability to thrive in a challenging environment
- Ability to understand and prepare business cases
- Adaptability to change
- Clear and uncluttered thinking
- Customer obsession
- Execution oriented
- Ability to innovate
- Knowledge of search engine optimisation
- Logistics management
- Ownership

All figures are approximate

Flipkart has hired 200 IIT graduates and will be recruiting more as it is planning to increase the overall headcount to 25,000 by 2015 with technology as a priority. "We do not expect ready talent, as the major learning happens during the job. Our approach is to focus on individual competencies and there isn't a defined skill-set that we look for," says Surinder Bhagat, senior director-HR, Flipkart. The start-ups too have gone bullish. Companies like Vizury Interactive

Solutions, Zivame, BrowserStack and CodeNation actively participated in placement sessions across major IITs.

Real estate portal Housing.com has hired 120 graduates and offered annual salaries ranging from ₹12 lakh and ₹20 lakh based on profiles. "We have participated in hiring activities across all major IITs, including Delhi, Kanpur, Bombay, Madras and Kharagpur," says Advitiya Sharma, co-founder, Housing.com. The online tick-

eting company BookMyShow plans to add 200 more employees to the company by the end of 2015 and 60% of them will be freshers. AllDayCoupon.com is willing to hire fresh graduates at packages ranging from ₹4 lakh to ₹12 lakh per annum from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges. As Rituparna Chakraborty, president, Indian Staffing Federation, says, "Time for consolidation hasn't yet kicked in e-commerce and hence, we shall see consistent increase in hiring," she added.

THINKSTOCK

Define academic standards for schools: IIT experts

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/define-academic-standards-for-schools-iit-experts-114122300849_1.html

There is an urgent need to define the academic standards which a student needs to achieve as he is promoted to next class in schools, believe experts at IIT-Delhi.

"If a class X student cannot write proper English or doesn't know Laws of Newton, it's not his failure in that class but in earlier standards from where he has been promoted so far. We need to define what level of knowledge a student need to achieve in what standard," said Harish Chaudhary, Faculty, Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi.

"Define standards for each class during schooling" and "Integration of scholastic and non-scholastic activities", are the agenda of the 6th International conference on 'Excellence in school education-Creating High Achieving Schools'.

Organised by experts at IIT Delhi's Management Institute, the annual conference is attended by over 500 principals of private and government schools across the country.

The recommendations are then compiled in a book form which is [shared](#) with stakeholders involved in contribution towards better schooling education.

"Although there is a set curriculum for each class but the academic standards set by each school are different and there is no uniform policy. What a student has to learn in Class II should necessarily be taught then only, why should it be rectified at later stages," said Chaudhary, who is the conference co-ordinator.

The experts, however, believe that the current 'no retention policy' followed in Indian schools should not be changed but the teaching standards need to be improved, according to Chaudhary.

"In India, a student completes schooling, then graduation followed by post graduation and is then told that you lack so and so things that make you unemployable. Why didn't the teachers rectify him all these years?" he asked.

"While the higher education system is responsible for knowledge generation and skill development, its performance is dependent on the schooling system's output," he added.

The three-day conference is scheduled to be held from December 28-30 at IIT, Delhi.

Prior to the conference, three workshops have also been scheduled for Principals on 'Creating Cyberspace Schools', '[Financial](#) mantras for school principals' and 'Greener India starting with green schools'.

While the conference is free for principals from government schools, there is a fee of Rs 5000 for private schools.

Fun and jubilation mark IIT-K alumni meet of 1994 batch

TNN | Dec 24, 2014, 11.10 PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Fun-and-jubilation-mark-IIT-K-alumni-meet-of-1994-batch/articleshow/45634006.cms>

Kanpur: A two-day long reunion meet of 1990 batch started at IIT-Kanpur amid fun and jubilation here on Wednesday. Director of the institute inaugurated the alumni meet. The well placed ex-students of the institute recalled the good old days and took no time in mixing up with the students. The campus of the institute came alive with the presence of alumni who had come from several parts of the country and even abroad. Some of them came with their families while a few arrived on the campus after 20 years of passing out from here. Those who had come after a long time found IIT-K campus more systematic and

beautiful. Some ex-students clicked the pictures of the campus while others [shared](#) their memories of stay with their peers. Geetu Pathak, who had passed out of chemical engineering department from the institute came with her children and husband from Canada. She was amused to see her friends Archana Tripathi, Divya Jain and Asha Kanoi. After meeting they did not separate even for a minute.

Geetu said that it was nice coming to the alma mater and that the institute had undergone a lot of change. The

remaining female ex-students said that they were a group of 10 girls during their IIT days here. They used to enjoy a lot in the girls' hostel in those days. They got themselves clicked and had a fun time. Geetu's husband Prashant Pathak, also an ex-IITian, remained busy in enjoying the alumni meet. Though he was of 1992 batch but he mixed up well with the ex-students of 1994 batch.

Prawal Gupta of the same batch and a passout from electrical engineering department after working in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) started a software company in Pune. Prawal said that he had come to the institute for the first time after passing out in 1994, and it was a great feeling to be back to the alma mater. He also recalled the days spent as a student in hostel number II and I. Another alumnus Navin K Singh, at present deputy IG in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), after passing out from the computer science department, joined the civil services in 1996. Since then he has worked as SP in different districts in Jharkhand. He came with his son to the institute and enjoyed meeting old friends. Sankalp Shrivastava, also of the same batch, had come there with his wife who too was very happy to meet his old friends. Sankalp said that he had come along with his wife to show her the beautiful campus of the institute and made her meet his friends of the college days.

6 Nobel laureates to attend Indian Science Congress

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

THE ORGANISATION IS AN ANNUAL MEETING OF RESEARCH WORKERS FOR PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF SCIENCE AND STIMULATING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

MUMBAI: After a gap of 54 years, the Mumbai university will host the 102nd Indian Science Congress (ISC) in January. The event will see more than 12,000 dignitaries and students in the field of science from across the country participate.

Six Nobel laureates namely Randy Schekman, Muhammad Yunus, Ada Yonath, Paul Nurse, Kurt Wuthrich and Kailash Satyarthi, dignitaries from the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and eminent scientists will be attending the event in January. The organisation, which was started in 1914, is an annual meeting of research workers to stimulate scientific research in India.

The four-day event will be preceded by the inauguration of an exhibition on January 3 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi where exhibits from Isro, DRDO and various other innovations will be on display at the MMRDA grounds, BKC. With 33 sessions, spread across 30 venues at the varsity's Kalina and Fort campus, university officials have deployed almost all its staff for the event's preparations. Online registrations for the event have begun.

With the theme of 'Science and Technology for Human Development', the congress will focus on inclusive scientific development, said S Nimse, general president, ISC.

One of the biggest attractions of the congress is a plenary session by Isro director K Radhakrishnan on the Mars orbiter mission. A special session on Clean India will be held by Raghunath Mashelkar, former director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). "Through the event, we want to project Mumbai as a city of science and help in promoting scientific temperament among students," said Rajan Welukar, vice-chancellor, Mumbai university.

Times of India ND 25/12/2014 P-13

Fadnavis gifts Nagpur Maharashtra's 1st IIM

Vaibhav.Ganjapure
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: The Devendra Fadnavis government on Wednesday gave Maharashtra and Nagpur an early New Year gift by announcing an IIM in the city that could start as early as the next academic session.

Senior officials said the IIM will begin operations from Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, which will charge Rs 6 lakh a month to rent out two buildings. A campus is

planned at Mihan near the airport. Higher and technical education minister Vinod Tawde made a formal declaration in the legislative council on Wednesday while speaking on a bill to clear two private universities. According to prescribed standards for Indian Institutes of Management, Nagpur emerged as the best location in all aspects, he said.

Addressing the media later, CM Fadnavis confirmed that the institution, proposed in the Union Budget this year, was

likely to begin operations from the next (2015-16) academic session. The final decision on the launch would be taken by the Union human resources ministry after the government sent its proposal. The CM, himself from Nagpur, has been taking a special interest in the IIM project and in November finalized 293 acres of Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation land at Mouza Dahegaon in the non-SEZ area of Mihan for setting up the campus, the officials said.

HT.Com ND 25.12.2014 P-6

Scholarship programme for students facing monetary issue

HT Education Correspondent

Societe Generale Global Solution Centre (SG GSC), a subsidiary of the French banking and financial services company Societe Generale, has announced the fifth edition of their unique scholarship programme — 'SG GSC India Talent Scholarship'.

This CSR programme focuses on helping talented students, who have financial difficulties, pursue higher education. The scholarship covers the total course fee, allowing the students to concentrate

THE CSR PROGRAMME FOCUSES ON HELPING TALENTED STUDENTS WHO HAVE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION

entirely on their studies. As part of the scholarship programme, SG GSC also finances boarding, lodging and other fees.

Since its launch in 2010, the SG GSC India talent scholarship programme has provided scholarships to 63 students from premier institutes such as Indian Institute

of Management, (IIM) Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM Kozhikode, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, and International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore.

In 2011, more than 150 applications were received. During its 150th anniversary celebrations in 2014, SG GSC enhanced its programme to include a larger number of beneficiaries. The fifth year saw the programme covering 18 students, the maximum number till date.

The selected students are also assigned a one-to-one mentor from the company's

senior leadership team who acts as a friend, philosopher and guide for the student.

It does not in any way obligate the students to join SG GSC after completing their course, thereby allowing them to follow a career of their choice.

Amar Srivastava of IIM Bangalore, says: "The scholarship-cum-mentor programme is a great opportunity to learn and grow. It will help me shape up my career."

Parth Savjani, an IIT Bombay student, says, "The scholarship has eased my financial burden which allows me to focus more on my goals."

Times of India ND 25/12/2014 P-21

World's first hybrid flight takes off

Jet Can Recharge Battery, Consumes 30% Less Fuel

Andrew Griffin

The first ever hybrid aircraft to be able to recharge its batteries took off on Wednesday — potentially signalling the beginning of a new form of low-carbon, green flight.

Cambridge University researchers teamed up with Boeing to make the plane. They hope that it will be able to provide new forms of cleaner, low-carbon air travel.

Hybrid engines — which are gaining popularity in cars — com-



CLEANER, LOW-CARBON AIR TRAVEL

bine a battery and a petrol engine. Doing so uses 30% less fuel than a plane with a petrol-only engine.

The petrol engine works with

the battery-powered one at take-off and climb, when the plane needs extra power, but the electric motor can then switch into generator

mode and recharges the batteries, or help the motor in minimizing fuel consumption. The same technology is used in hybrid cars.

“Although hybrid cars have been available for more than a decade, what’s been holding back the development of hybrid or fully-electric aircraft until now is battery technology,” said Dr Paul Robertson of Cambridge, who led the project. “But with the advent of improved lithium-polymer batteries, hybrid aircraft — albeit at a small scale — are starting to become viable.”

The technology is still far from able to be put on commercial airliners, but the move is an important step, researchers said.

Aviation is thought to be responsible for about 2% of man-made carbon emissions. THE INDEPENDENT

Times of India ND 25/12/2014 P-12

Expert panel set up to tackle cyber crime

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Concerned over cyber attacks as well as misuse of social media for terror indoctrination, the home ministry on Wednesday constituted an expert study group to draw up a comprehensive roadmap to tackle cyber crimes in the country. The group, which will comprise senior academicians specializing in computer science and cyber security professionals, will suggest measures to tighten cyber monitoring and recommend possible partnerships with the public and private sector, NGOs (both domestic and foreign) and international bodies towards this end.

The announcement of expert group comes days after home minister Rajnath Singh told Lok Sabha that there was a need to strengthen cyber

Over the past two-three years, India has registered 40% year-on-year increase in cyber crime, the home ministry said

monitoring in the wake of growing use of internet and social media by global terror outfits like ISIS to indoctrinate the youth.

The five members of the expert panel are Dr Rajat Moona, director general of CDAC, Pune; Professor Krishnan, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; Dr Gulshan Rai, director general of Cert-In; Dr Manindra Aggarwal, professor, computer science, IIT-Kanpur; and Dr D Dass, professor, IIT-Bengaluru. Joint secretary (Centre-state) in the home ministry Kumar Alok will

be its convenor.

“Recently, various issues relating to cyber crimes have been flagged at various fora, including Parliament. India, with a fast growing economy, is susceptible to international and domestic cyber attacks and there is a need to ensure cyber crime-free environment,” a home ministry statement said, recalling that there was nearly 40% year-on-year increase in cyber crimes registered in the country over the past two-three years.

“In order to comprehensively address the issues of cyber crimes, home minister Rajnath Singh has approved the setting up of an expert group to prepare a roadmap for effectively tackling the cyber crimes in the country and give suitable recommendations on all facets of cyber crime,” the statement said.

Ancient rock shows signs of water on Mars

Washington: A new analysis of the oldest meteorite from Mars suggests that early Martian landscape had water, but instead of vast oceans the Red Planet probably held smaller seas.

The Martian rock that meteorite hunters plucked from an Antarctic ice field 30 years ago shows a record of the planet's climate billions of years ago, back when water likely washed across its surface and any life that ever formed there might have emerged, researchers said.

"Minerals within the meteorite hold a snapshot of the planet's ancient chemistry, of interactions between water and atmosphere," said Robina Shaheen, a project scientist at University of California, San Diego, and the lead author of the report.

The stone, which fell to Earth 13,000 years ago, looked a lot like a potato and has quite a history.

Designated ALH84001, it is the oldest meteorite from Mars, a chunk of solidified magma from a volcano that erupted four billion years ago. Since then something liquid, probably water, seeped through its pores and deposited globules of carbonates and other minerals, researchers said.

Mars' atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide but contains some ozone, said Shaheen, who investigated the process of oxygen isotope exchange as a graduate student at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. The degree of isotopic weirdness in the carbonates reflects how much water and ozone was present when they formed.

It is a record of climate 3.9 billion years ago, locked in a stable mineral. The more water, the smaller the weird ozone signal, researchers said.

The team measured a pronounced ozone signal in the carbonates within the rock, suggesting although Mars had water back then, vast oceans were unlikely. Instead, the early Martian landscape probably held smaller seas. ALH84001 held tiny tubes of carbonate some scientists saw as potential proof of microbial life, though a biological origin for the structures has been discarded. ¶¶

GRAPHIC: MANOJ KUMAR

BHARAT RATNA AWARDEES

