IIITians trade jobs for laughs, strike it rich

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MUMBAI: ‘Manmohan Singh to write an autobiography titled 3 Mistakes of my Life: 2G, CWG and Sonia G’
‘All Facebook users have a dark past that they are not proud of: Orkut’

These quips are products of the minds of engineers from IIT, Bombay, who dumped juicy placement offers to start a stand-up comedy company in October 2009. Two years and plenty of laughs later, these engineers are literally laughing their way to the bank with successful shows across India.

The brainchild of Nitin Gupta (26), a former II-Tian, Entertainment Engineers is now a 10-member-strong firm. Many of them are engineers from IIT-B. The company has done 48 shows in campuses and corporate houses across the country and has 16 more lined up this year.

“The aim is to make stand-up comedy a respectable profession in India and, of course, profitable,” said Gupta, who started the firm with two of his IIT friends.

Has scepticism stopped them from striving for their objective? “I actually took up a day-job in the IT sector for three months but left it because I realised that stand-up comedy deserved my 100%,” said Tushar Upadhyay, 28, a BTech in material science and now a stand-up comedian for Entertainment Engineers.

Their story has now become an inspiration for several students at IIT-B who want to join their company. “I was always interested in drama and comedy, but only after I joined the company did I realise that this is what I want to be,” said Prashant Chandra, 19, a first-year mechanical engineering student, who looks after the company’s business development. He hopes to become a performer like his seniors some day.
Stress factor
IN ORDER TO HELP STUDENTS DE-STRESS AND COPE WITH THE DAILY
COMPETITION, IIT-DELHI OFFERS A HELPING HAND THROUGH COUNSELLING
SESSIONS. VISHAKHA SHARMA REPORTS

THE IIT-JEE may be over, but the real stress begins now. While stu-
dents wait for their results, anxiety gets the better of them and some-
times they become victims of high stress-level even after managing to
get through one of the IITs. Unfortunately, this hampers their
overall performance.

In order to help them de-stress and cope with the daily competition, IIT
Delhi offers counselling to students. Says Rupa Murghai, counsellor, IIT-
D, “We come across many such cases where even after clearing the IIT
entrance examination, students keep suffering from stress.”

Narrating one such incident, she informs, “Last year, a very bright stu-
dent went through tremendous stress to clear the IIT entrance exam. When
he joined the institute, he sank into
depression. He would lock himself
up in his room and not even eat. He
even stopped attending classes. I
realised that regular counselling ses-
sions won’t help. So I tried and
engaged him in a new activity daily.
It took some time, but he picked up
his normal routine and became
happier.”

However, while counselling ses-
sions often help one to snap out of
the emotional pit, in 2007, Murghai
recalls, a student couldn’t cope with
the stress level anymore and eventu-
ally left the institute.

She recalls, “He had joined the
institute under parental pressure.
Though academically bright, his
stress level was so high that we
apprehended a breakdown. After
interacting with him on a regular
basis, I advised him to leave the insti-
tute. Later, he joined Delhi Uni-
versity and did well for himself.”

Shashi Mathur, dean of students,
IIT-D, feels, “Due to the stress factor,
students often find it difficult to man-
age their time judiciously. This is
where counselling sessions can be
of help.” Also, the institute has a
mentorship programme where sen-
iors mentor fresher students. “The idea is
to encourage a comfort level between
seniors and juniors,” says Rachit
Gupta, a third year student at IIT-D.

I always avoided hostel food
TECHNOLOGY NOT ONLY CONNECTS PEOPLE, BUT ALSO FOOD AFICIONADOS. ADDITI ISAAC SPEAKS TO DEEPIINDER GOYAL,
A FORMER STUDENT OF IIT-DELHI, WHO USES TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD APPETITES

If technology is used in the right way it can not
only connect people but also make life easier,
says Deepinder Goyal, CEO, Zomato.com, an
online food guide.

Goyal’s brain child Zomato.com is a website that
seeks to provide you everything that you might want
to know about food before you actually take the first
bite. From the nimki nela chinta to the swankiest
restaurants in your town, all eating joints are made
available just by the click of mouse.

Goyal who has always been a food lover, says, “My
love for food dates back to the time when I was study-
ing at IIT. I remember I would always avoid hostel
food and pounce on every chance to grab a bite outside.”

My love for food dates back to
the time when I was studying at
IIT-Delhi and it actually turned
into a business idea

His love for food actually turned into a business
idea while he was working at Bain and Company.

People at Bain used to look up at menus in the pantry
to order food from the pantry. This is when he struck
me, ‘what if this was available online?’ Soon I
decided to pursue this as a career and convinced my
friend Punit Chaddah who is a marketing expert and
was working with me at Bain and Company to help
this business draw maximum attention.”

So how does he and his team members work? Their
team is divided into three main sections — the editor-
ial team, a marketing team and a feedback team. “A
dent who wants to get a review done for his place
sends a request online. In a month’s time, we discrete-
ly pay a visit to the place and then write about the
place, its ambiance, the average cost for customers
and the facilities available,” said Goyal.

According to Goyal, keeping up with the technology
is important and allowing the application on mobile
phones will give users the freedom of accessing infor-
mation without the Internet. As of now, the website is
available through search application on the Android
and BlackBerry phones.

Goyal & Chaddah
2011 to be landmark yr for IT hiring after 2007

Mini Joseph, TNN

Bangalore: The calendar 2011 is expected to be a landmark year for tech hiring and job movements after 2007 as market visibility improves, global customers step up spending and pipelines remain packed. External head hunters are optimistic of a very bullish trend with hiring requirements going up substantially this year by 60% to 70%, compared to last year’s 20% jump over the previous year.

The industry will see around 2 lakh fresh engineering graduates entering the job market this year while another 1 lakh people will move and change jobs within the industry. Also, there will be another over 1 lakh graduates (BSc computer science, electronics, and bachelor of computer applications) coming to the market from colleges across the country.

Also, some 50,000 mid-to-senior people are expected to join the IT industry from traditional verticals like manufacturing, auto, oil, telecom and logistics as the sector is suffering from an acute shortage of senior talent, say industry observers.

The IT/ITeS industry employs around 15 lakh people and at least 25% of it that population will be part of a job churn/change this year.

"Many people stayed put in organizations for the last three years due to sheer want of options outside. All in this category are exploring opportunities outside and moving," said B S Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, an IT hiring firm.

So calendar 2011 will witness a net hiring of around 4 lakh people (campus and lateral), against 2 lakh in 2010. Calendar 2009 was the worst year, with less than 1 lakh people getting jobs, with companies going back on their campus commitments and widespread lay-offs.

Year 2008 saw a hiring of 2.5 lakh while calendar 2007 was a bumper year that grew up 5 lakh jobs in the market.

"The mood today is very optimistic. Therefore, clearly there is an upsurge in hiring. The intake of IT and retail sector is surely going to more than double this year," says K Jayshankar, MD, Emxpower Learning Systems.

Fresh hiring will be led by domestic players like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Wipro.

Freshers will account for 70% to 80% of their hiring this year while MNCs like IBM, Accenture, HP and Capm will drive the lateral hiring sector each with an annual mandate of 15,000 to 20,000 people.

According to Nilupama V G, MD, AdAstra Consultants: "The quantum of people requirement from companies has rapidly increased in the last quarter or so. To meet this requirement, some external airers were forced to increase the number of their support staff, after maintaining a thin staff for last three years."
Net tech test aims at 1 lakh, gets 4,904

New Delhi: The pilot run of the online All India Engineering/Architecture Entrance Examination (AIEEE) has received a lukewarm response with only 4,904 students registering themselves for the Net version while over 11 lakh aspirants will still be going for the traditional mode.

The Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE), which conducts the exam, was planning to register 1 lakh students for the online version this year. Interestingly, the board is also planning to scale it up to a complete online examination in a year or two.

But CBSE officials are upbeat and said the plans were in place to make it a complete online exam in the near future. “I don’t see it as lukewarm. We have created a capacity of 1 lakh, but we are happy with the 5,000-odd registration, primarily because there are registrations from across 20 cities and none of our centres is going vacant. We will see increase in numbers in subsequent years,” said CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi.

CBSE officials are of the view that as this is the first time that the exam is going online and most students are comfortable with pen-and-paper-based exams, aspirants are apprehensive of making a shift.

“One should not measure the success of the exam by its number but by its conduct. And we are confident of the smooth conduct of the online exam. These are teething problems, but the success of the CAT is an indication that computer-based test (CBT) is the future,” said the media coordinator of CBSE, Rama Sharma.

AIEEE has witnessed a dip in the overall registration this year as well. In all, 11.18 lakh aspirants registered for the test to be conducted on May 1, while in 2010, over 12 lakh students took the exam, making it the world’s largest entrance test.

Both the CBT and paper-based tests will be conducted simultaneously across 20 cities and 81 cities, respectively between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. The paper-based test will also be conducted in Dubai and Riyadh on the same day.
A common entrance exam for engineering colleges is a good plan, but it will need fine tuning

IT SEEMS engineering entrance exams in India are going the same direction as the medical ones, towards a common, country-wide exam, rather than separate tests for different states and colleges. While the common medical entrance test will be put into practice next year, the idea for a common entrance exam for engineering has been mooted by the T Ramasami committee. At present, prospective engineering students have to sit for a large number of tests at national (eg, BITSAT, AIEEE), state (eg, Karnataka CET, CEE Delhi) and institutional (eg, IIT-JEE, Manipal UGET) levels. In total, there are around 150 different engineering entrance exams to choose from. The rationale behind a common entrance test is “to reduce psychological and financial stress on students and give more emphasis to Class 12 results than coaching,” T Ramasami, secretary, Department of Science & Technology, said in the report. This report is the fourth attempt to reform the JEE system since 2008. The first was an internal committee under VG Idichandy of IIT-Madras, who suggested the scrapping of the JEE in favour of using class 12 marks for admission to IIT. In October 2009, the IIT Council proposed increasing the eligibility cut-off from 60% to 80% in the class 12 exams. Then, the Acharya committee was set up, comprising four IIT directors, to suggest JEE reforms. Its recommendations were rejected by the IIT stakeholders, faculty, state board chief, etc.

Of all the recommendations, the Ramasami committee’s report seems to make the most sense. It gives more weight to the class 12 board exams, already taken very seriously by all students, and has a standardised, all-India test of aptitude, proficiency and knowledge along the lines of the JEE. However, there’s much that it can learn from other entrance systems. For example, in most B-schools, the GMAT exam is no longer enough to secure admission, an interview must be cleared as well. The CAT format keeps changing to keep students on their toes, and put paid to a formulaic approach to cracking the test, something many fear is the case with the JEE.
Non-IIM grads too in demand, pay up 20%

SREEUPA MITRA

Bangalore

IT'S NOT just the graduates of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) who are reaping the fruits of their labour at campus hiring this season, students from other business schools, too, have seen good salary hikes. The recruitment season in most management schools in India came to a close over the past few days.

Salaries rose 12-20 per cent at non-IIM B-schools such as Indian School of Business (ISB), XLRI, Loyola Institute of Business Administration (Liba), IMT Ghaziabad, TA Pai Management Institute (Tapi), Xavier Institute of Management Bhuvaneshwar (XIMB) and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

Hyderabad-based ISB witnessed an overall rise in CTC (cost to company) levels across industry segments and functions compared with last year's. The average compensation offered to lateral hires or professionals with several years of work experience was 2.5 times the average compensation they commanded when they joined the school.

This year, the average salary offered was over Rs 18 lakh compared with Rs 16 lakh last year. The number of offers made rose 22 per cent over last year's.

Non-IIM B-schools are on a roll

"Our focused approach to get the right companies for right jobs has resulted in better fits, hence higher satisfaction for both recruiters and students and higher CTC levels. We have also witnessed an increase in demand across continents," said VK Menon, senior director for career advancement services at ISB.

This year 310 companies, both national as well as global, made 661 offers to ISB students, many of which were for senior management-level positions. Industries that saw maximum hiring were consulting (32 per cent), IT/ITES (21 per cent) and banks and financial institutions (12 per cent).

Offers from the consulting sector doubled compared with those made last year.

At Loyola Institute of Business Administration (Liba), Chennai, the average package offered touched Rs 8.33 lakh per annum, a jump of around 12 per cent year on year. Liba director Fr Christie said the institute saw several high-profile placements in the financial sector, mainly in investment banking and treasury banking.

At Liba, marketing functions topped all hiring with 45 per cent students placed for such roles while finance profiles accounted for 39 per cent and human resources 16 per cent. Banking, financial services and insurance (BFIS) dominated among various industries with 39 per cent placements. Companies that visited the Liba campus included ICICI Bank, Infosys, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Deloitte. YES Bank, KU Learn and Ramco Systems were first time recruiters on Liba campus.

XLRI School of Business and Human Resources, Jamshedpur, also saw enthusiastic interest from companies, with 240 students getting placed in less than four days and 109 firms rolling out 317 offers.

According to college officials, the average domestic package at XLRI School of Business and Human Resources stood at Rs 15.8 lakh, an increase of close to 12 per cent over last year’s figure. The median figure for domestic salary touched Rs 14.7 lakh while the highest domestic package was Rs 23 lakh per annum.

Institute of Management Technology (IMT) Ghaziabad saw students bag an average salary package of Rs 13.5 lakh, an increase of 10 per cent over last year's figure. The improved placement scenario matched pre-recession levels.

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Harvard’s alumni meet: Marking the 375th foundation day of Harvard University, a stream of eminent Indian alumni, including Union telecom minister Kapil Sibal and former foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh, launched the ‘Harvard India Debates’ series in New Delhi on Sunday. Lending a fillip to the ongoing celebrations at Harvard, the series is an innovative initiative by the Harvard Club of India. ANI

YOUNG INNOVATORS
Nine Indian students from different parts of the country will represent India at the 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to be held in Los Angeles, California, from May 8-13. The students are the winners of the India Initiative for Research & Innovation in Science (IRIS). The primary objective of IRIS is to promote and nurture science and scientific research amongst the young Indian innovators in secondary and higher secondary schools. The ISEF will bring together more than 1600 young students from more than 60 countries. ISEF 2011 is an opportunity for the young minds to come together to share ideas, showcase projects and compete for more than US $4 million in awards and scholarships.
DU panel makes way for courses in semester mode

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: In a meeting of its standing committee, the University of Delhi on Sunday passed most courses under the semester system to be presented in the academic council (AC) and executive council (EC) meetings to be held on Monday.

The courses that were passed by the standing committee will be presented before the AC and EC, which are the highest decision making bodies of the university.

However, a few members of the AC, who were present for the standing committee meeting, condemned the fact that all the meetings were convened at short notices.

"I got a call at 10pm about the meeting today. It is impossible for anyone to go through the course content so quickly and give their inputs. The aim of the meeting becomes futile if we are not able to give our inputs," said Sanjay Verma, an AC member who teaches history at Kirorimal College.

Pointing to the hurried nature of the meeting, Sheo Dutt, another AC member and a teacher at Bhagat Singh college, said: "There has to be a minimum days of notice given to the members for meetings, but the university is in such a hurry to pass the courses under the semester mode that they have abandoned all norms."

Sources said that the varsity wanted to pass the courses for the semester system before April 28, when a petition related to semester is due for a hearing in the Delhi high court.

Regarding courses such as English, Germanic romance studies, history, sociology and economics, whose teachers were resistant to the switch from the annual system, university will take a call only after the high court hearing.
गूँल-यू ट्यूब खंगाले, पाठ्य सामग्री पा लें
विवि उपमणी

भा रती प्रोग्रामको संस्थानों (आईआईटी) का उदाहरण
एनबीसीएआर अपने दूसरे चरण में फ़िल्मनिया व फ़िल्मकारों को भी सामग्री प्रदान करेगा। इस साल
के लिए एक चरण और फ़िल्मकारों के बारे में भारतीय प्रोग्रामों की
विभाजन पूरा और यू-ट्यूब से पाठ्य सामग्री प्रदान करने के
माध्यम से हो जाएगा।

आईआईटी और इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीटकॉर्पोरेशन और समाज, बैंकिंग का उदाहरण
वैश्विक प्राथमिक आर्थिक
रूप से श्रेयसी या नामकरण करने के
माध्यम से जुड़ता है।

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तीन छात्रों ने मिलकर बनाई इकिक के लिए वेबसाइट, हर गोद पर कर सकते हैं चर्चा
आईआईटी के छात्रों की नेटवर्किंग की गुणाली