Hiring in IT sector set to increase

GEEKS ONBOARD
Companies will look at just-in-time hiring and focus more on emerging areas such as digital, analytics and cloud computing

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The year 2013 began on a shaky note for the IT sector in India. The crisis in Europe, together with the debt-ceiling crisis in the USA and large-scale political unrest across countries led to a slump in the global economy. Since the Indian IT sector is intrinsically linked to the European and US markets, it was naturally hit. The falling Indian rupee did not help much either.

“Things are, however, looking up now. The Indian IT sector is on the upswing, projected to grow by 10% to 15% in 2014. Nasscom (National association of software and services companies) puts the figure at 12% to 14% for exports, and 13% to 15% as far as the domestic market is concerned. This translates to more hiring with the focus on skilled labor rather than numbers. In any case, direct employment is estimated to increase by 6%, even as the industry added close to 1,80,000 jobs for the sector last year, as per Nasscom data.

PARADIGM SHIFT
IT and ITeS companies are trying to tweak their hiring strategies to get the best talent. Ravi Shankar, chief people officer, Mindtree, says that just-in-time hiring will drive the recruitment process this year. The standard procedure to hire en masse in anticipation of growth and demand has not worked. "So, we plan to increase the proportion of our just-in-time hiring, as it is difficult to predict demand and hire in advance. Normally, 50% of our recruitment is through campus hiring and we have close to 600 fresh graduates joining us this year. The other 50% is done on the basis of vacancies, through employee referrals etc.," Sangeeta Gupta, senior vice president, Nasscom, agrees. "Earlier, there was this concept of a bench in most IT companies, for new recruits who were not assigned a project. But, due to cost and delivery pressures, companies will focus on demand and more on off-campus hiring."

Companies in the last three years have also reduced the number of campus recruits. CTS, Infosys, Wipro, etc have clamped down on the number of campus hires. Companies will also be looking to hire as and when a need arises, Gupta adds.

EMERGING AREAS
The information technology sector in India has come a long way since the early 90s and 80s. Now with breakthroughs in the digital space, there is a need for qualified professionals with highly specialised skills. According to Som Mittal, president, Nasscom, "Some of the key growth drivers that are expected to open new opportunities for the industry are smart computing, niche services, technology enablement in emerging verticals and the SMB (small and mid-sized business) market. Technology can also play a critical role in enabling transformation in India and add to India’s GDP. The domestic market in India is maturing, it was the fastest growing market in the 2013 and Nasscom will look to partner with the government in enhancing technology adoption in the country."

"More growth is foretold. "Technologies world over are driven by the digital space and new areas like mobility, data analytics and cloud computing require a lot of training and time to develop in India," says Gupta. However, such new technologies only constitute about 2% to 3% of a company’s revenue, says Shankar. "Traditional areas like infrastructure, network support, engineering devices, application development, business process outsourcing, etc are more in demand. There isn’t much hiring happening as of now as far as the newer areas are concerned," he adds.

NEED-BASED HIRING
- Companies are focusing more on digital technology with areas such as cloud computing, mobility, analytics and social media gaining prominence
- Most companies have ramped down their campus recruitment programmes gradually over the last few years, and are now looking at need-based hiring rather than volume or mass hiring
- Salaries for IT employees will have a larger variable component with a greater emphasis on performance, and hikes ranging from 5% to 12%
- Since Indian IT companies are dependent on the US and Europe markets, the elections may not have a great impact on IT hiring and business models as such. However, a stable government is obviously needed to facilitate more job creation and a better climate for offshore and outsourcing operations
- Companies are revamping their social media spaces and are increasingly checking a candidate’s social media circle while hiring for key roles.
Social media – a key resource for IT/ITES hiring

Shalija Shah Purohit

“Day before yesterday I was 18. The next year I will be 21. This is true only one day in a year. When is my birthday?”

“What is the missing shape? A. Octagon B. Square C. Line D. Hexagon”

These were some of the tweets of a top IT company as it ran a global recruitment campaign exclusively on Twitter called #CoolestInterviewEver in February this year. The campaign received over 60,000 applications globally! Candidates were quizzed in a series of interviews over Twitter, and the winning candidates got the opportunity to work with the company - HCL Technologies, top management.

Social recruitment in the IT/ITES industry sure seems to have come of age. “If you have had enough of your nine to five corporate job and are looking for something refreshing and challenging, we will gladly welcome you,” tweets Nayi Disha, an ITES company in its nascent stages, but representative of many other such new-generation start-ups, for whom social media has become a key source to get good hires.

While new start-ups are quick to take this route, as it is the most economical and effective way to reach relevant candidates, top companies in this sector are leveraging social on an even larger scale. HCL’s global Twitter campaign is one such case. Says Prithvi Shergill, chief human resource officer, HCL Technologies Ltd, “LinkedIn is our preferred social media channel for sourcing middle and senior level candidates while Facebook and Twitter drive our social recruiting efforts for positions at other levels of responsibility.”

HCL also uses a Facebook app to generate customized responses to jobs based out of different geographies. EXL Services is another company that finds itself banking on social media. Says Rajesh Nandanwar, vice president, recruitment, EXL, “Social helps in building the brand as it enables interactive dialogue and that is critical to building brands. Further, social recruiting offers the advantage of targeting the right kind of talent. The wealth of information that can be gathered from social media sites also helps us to have a clearer picture of prospective applicants.”

“Social media engagement can help employers gauge the DNA fitment of a potential candidate for their organisation,” says Dr Rajesh Save, global head, HR of Syntel Inc. “Big data and analytics can further aid technology-proactive head hunting, even before the CV is uploaded, on basis of the user’s responses in various forums and message boards,” adds Save.

Each of the social platforms have their own USP for hirers. Prashant Bhatnagar, director- hiring and staffing, SapientNitro, India, explains, “Sapient Facebook page informs and engages existing and prospective talent on workplace practices, Twitter is meant for expressing opinions and making connections at individual levels. LinkedIn is the most effective and measurable channel for identifying passive and competitive talent both for research and recruiting. As per a recent report, over 50% of our hires were impacted by LinkedIn.”
India Hits a Sweet Spot for US Students

PARK H GURAN

The US graduates would be keen to opt for an exchange program to continue their postgraduate programs in India," says James Stavridis, dean. The Fletcher School, Tufts University, seemingly impressed by modern infrastructure at Mohali campus (another in Hyderabad) of Indian School of Business.

The former NATO commander and US Navy Admiral said the career opportunities, modern infrastructure, fat salaries are incentives enough for the foreign students to join ISB at Mohali. "There is much that the graduates from two largest democracies could share in terms of joint programs, student and faculty exchange programs, research work, distance education and international learning," Stavridis told ET on the sidelines of the graduation day celebrations at the Indian School of Business (ISB) at Mohali on Saturday. "At Fletcher, half of the 70 students come from 70 different countries and the remaining are Americans."

"The Mohali campus has best of facilities, proximity to airport, world class facilities to offer to graduates... Moreover, the graduates have much to share in terms of transparency, human rights, values, education in India," he said.

The National Institute of Public Policy (NIPP) has a tie-up with the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA, as its partner school. "The aim is to inculcate best of public policy and business principles," said Rajesh Chakrabarti, executive director, National Institute of Public Policy and clinical associate professor.

By the next year, six courses would be started in post graduation program in Public Policy with support from the Fletcher School, he revealed. The school already has a curriculum on Public Policy. "The program will allow six face-to-face visits of senior faculty and a week's visit to The Fletcher School."

The NIPP is developing training modules on various themes of governance and capacity building of the faculty of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR). This project will be done in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of India. "The induction phase module will be ready this year," he said. "We expect that half of the takers for PGP on Public Policy will be from public sector," he said.
NO MORE A FAIR PLAY It's a different story for China though where the scale tilts in favour of women, who even outnumber men. A high enrolment ratio and financial security come as a big boon for them.

Why More Women in India Give GMAT a Skip

ANUMEHA CHATURVEDI
NEW DELHI

Too few women are applying for the GMAT examination in India for pursuing courses like masters in finance, accountancy or an MBA, according to data shared exclusively with ET by Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), administrator of the GMAT test. The number of GMAT women test takers in India has risen by mere 2% since 2008. In 2009, 76% male Indian citizens applied for the test compared with 24% women. In 2013, the figures stood at 74% males versus 26% women test takers.

In contrast, more women apply for the GMAT exam in China than men. Around 64% Chinese women citizens applied for the GMAT exam in 2013, compared to 36% males, according to GMAC.

Rohin Kapoor, senior manager, education practice at Deloitte, feels the skewed figures could be attributed to low female literacy rates, and low gross enrolment ratio for women in higher education. “As opposed to males, gross enrolment ratios for women in higher education are very low in India, and women pursuing higher education usually prefer streams like humanities and social sciences. China’s single child policy, which can enable higher literacy and gross enrolment ratios for women, also tilts the scales in its favour,” he says.

Around 71% Chinese women sent their scores to US schools in 2013 compared with 51% in India. India was the second most popular destination for schools for Indian women at 18% compared to Hong Kong at 10% for Chinese women.

“Our biggest growth story in recent years has been young women in China, who are applying for GMAT to pursue courses in masters of accountancy, masters of finance in schools in Europe and the US. This could be attributed to reasons like China’s single child policy and the lure to do a masters course among women there, but it seems that a lot of women here are missing out on an opportunity that is demonstrated to be a good opportunity,” says Dr Lawrence M Rudner, VP research and development, and chief psychometrician, GMAC.

Rudner feels the lure for an MBA is also partly to blame for skewed statistics in favour of Chinese women. “In India, they do not realise that it can be a test for pursuing other masters programmes, besides an MBA,” he adds. Professor Sankarshan Basu, chairperson, career development services, IIM Bangalore, feels that China’s single child policy has been the most significant enabler for gaining financial security of women graduates there. “Thanks to the single child policy, women could end up being the sole inheritors of wealth in China and may find it easier to fund their post gradu programmes. GMAT is an exam undertaken by professionals with some years of work experience, and the societal pressures of marriage, motherhood that come for mid-level women professionals may forbid them from applying in India,” he points out. Professor Basu also feels that lesser women opt to pursue professional courses in India, with the orientation being skewed in favour of courses like humanities and science.

The average age for females was around 25 for Indian citizens against about 22 in China. A critical factor cited for younger GMAT test takers in China was their financial ability to pay for such costs. Major funding in China came from contributions from parents and grandparents. Chinese women younger than 24 expected to finance more than half of their education with help from their parents compared to Indian women who expected their parents to fund 28% of the education. Indian women, on the other hand, expected to finance a major share of their education through loans, grants, fellowships, and scholarships.

Some 61% Chinese women felt applying for GMAT would increase job opportunities compared with 49% in India. However, Indian women rated the exam and masters courses highly for a sense of personal satisfaction and achievement at 56% compared to 43% in China. 59% Indian women also considered it to be a platform for developing their leadership and managerial skills compared to 49% and 45% respectively for women in China.

VK Menon, director for admissions, financial aid and careers at IBS, says the Indian environment for entrance exams is different from China. “India has developed its own environment for exams which has numerous tests for selection across diverse streams. Earlier, MBA was straight jacketed, but with institutions being open to other streams apart from engineering, there is a growing demand from corporates for women MBAs,” he says.
IIT-B students unveil underwater vehicle

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, APRIL 8

A team of 21 engineering students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), on Tuesday unveiled an upgraded version of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) that will be participating in the international Robosub competition at San Diego in July this year.

According to the students, the AUV named "Matsya 2.0" is capable of not only carrying out pre-determined and programmed tasks underwater on its own but can also navigate on its own and be useful for underwater rescue operations without any human intervention. One of the members of team Matsya 2.0 said that it was a cut above its predecessors both in terms of dynamics and capabilities, without compromising on the shape or core abilities.

"The previous version had very basic functions and we wanted to improve on it. Thus, we included and changed its software and hardware programs and conceived the current AUV. But the biggest challenge was debugging the AUV and stacking board upon board of circuits. We managed to pack it all in with the help of the design team and are proud to say that our AUV is the best," said a member of team Matsya 2.0.

Another IITian present there said that the project had almost been scrapped a month ago after some vital parts that the team had been working on went missing.

Rajasthan Patrika 09/04/2014 P-8

जेईई (एडवांस) 25 मई को

अजमेर आईआईटी के स्नातक स्तरीय पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश के लिए 25 मई को संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (एडवांस) का आयोजन होगा। इसका परिणाम जून के दूसरे पखवाड़े में घोषित होगा। देश में आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (एडवांस) होगी। इसमें 1.50 लाख विद्यार्थी शामिल होंगे। यह परीक्षा दिल्ली, मुंबई, गुवाहाटी, कानपुर और अन्य आईआईटी में लिखी जाएगी। मालूम हो कि पिछले वर्ष पहली बार संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (एडवांस) प्रारंभ हुई थी।
Jamia Hamdard: High standards in research

HT Correspondent

What began as an establishment of a small Unani clinic in the year 1906 is now an institution of higher learning with distinct and focused academic programmes. Jamia Hamdard is a government-aided deemed university accredited in category A for two consecutive terms by the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC). It is "perhaps the only university in Delhi accredited by NAAC for two consecutive terms," says Shakir Ali, controller of examinations at the university.

Located in south Delhi, the university offers undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD/MPhil and diploma and certificate programmes in medicine, pharmacy, paramedical and allied health sciences, nursing, computer science, engineering and federal studies.

According to Dr Firdous Ahmad Wani, registrar, "Our university is known for its strong research base in health and basic sciences. It has state-of-the-art facilities and recently received a grant of US$5.5 million for international collaboration. Every year, approximately 2,300 students apply for courses, out of which almost 15% students are foreigners.

Jamia Hamdard is also planning to introduce three new courses in law, inclusive journalism and teacher's education, Dr Wani adds.

Admission to all undergraduate courses offered by the university is done through NEET and JEE (Main), whichever is applicable. For other courses, the university conducts entrance tests or admits students on merit in examination-cum-interview.

JAMIA HAMDARD AT A GLANCE

The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD/MPhil and diploma and certificate programmes

History
- Jamia Hamdard was established as a small Unani clinic in the year 1906 by Hakeem Hafiz Abdul Majeed, a well-known practitioner of the Unani System of Medicine

Facilities
- Library, computer centre, convention centre, Scholars' House, Hah Centenary Hospital, hostel, sports facilities, canteen

Programmes
- MBBS
- Bachelor of physiotherapy
- BSc in optometry
- BA (Hons) Islamic studies
- Bachelor of business administration
- Bachelor of computer application
- MSc - nursing
- PhD in management, health management, computer science
- Certificate course of Unani dispenser
- Diploma in general nursing and midwifery
- MBA (health and hospital management)
- MBA (pharmaceutical management)
- MCA
- M Tech (bio-informatics)
- M Tech (computer science)
- M Sc (computer science)
- MTech (Information science and cyber forensics)
- MA (Islamic studies)
- MA, (human rights)
- PhD (pharmacology and pharmacology with specialisation in pharmacy practice)
- PhD (pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry)
A phone battery that recharges in 30 sec

Washington: An Israeli startup has developed a new smartphone battery that can recharge in just under 30 seconds.

The advance could change the way we interact with portable electronics, and perhaps even help realise the dream of a fast-charging electric car.

The battery by StoreDot claims to bring charge times down to the order of a few seconds.

The company produces so-called nanodots, chemically synthesized bio-organic peptide molecules that, thanks to their small size, can improve the electrode capacitance and electrolyte performance.

The result is the batteries that can be fully charged in a matter of few seconds rather than charging for hours. AGENCIES
At a time when engineering and management students usually get the major chunk of placements, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has set itself a novel task to bridge the gap between pure sciences and the industry.

This year, Samanway, the annual interactive meet at the IISc, aims to pave the way for students from the pure science background to get better opportunities and exposure to interact with prospective employers.

Organised by the Student Council of the IISc, the event will be divided into three parts – with first preference being given to pure science students (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).

The second and third parts of the meet will focus on other disciplines such as engineering, production and manufacturing.

On April 12, in the first part of the Samanway meet, pure science students will be provided with a platform to interact, make connections with and listen to representatives from various companies.

This is to ensure that students of pure sciences are not pushed to the periphery and regular recruiters from the more popular fields such as IT and engineering do not dominate the event.

“The event has been split into three distinct parts so that the focus is on each stream and particular companies do not overlap, thereby benefiting students in all streams.

The tentative dates for the second and third part of the event may be in August and November,” said Prapanch Nair, secretary (academic affairs), Student Council, IISc.

Companies such as Shell (analytical chemistry wing), Jubilant Biosys, a biotech company, Biocon and Sigma-Aldrich, a life science and high-technology company, have confirmed participation.

Ritupan Sarma, a post-doctoral student of Material Science at the IISc, said the initiative was “very good” as it gives people with a pure science background, like him, an opportunity to explore other opportunities besides academics.

“Pure sciences deal with finding out the root cause of a problem that takes longer. There are not many companies that may be interested in investing in such initiatives,” he said.

Sarma has been working on the problem of plastic deformation for the past seven years. “Although I like to
teach, if a company is ready to provide me employment for the work that I am doing, I will not mind exploring the option. A number of people from my department also feel the same way,” he said.

IndiaToday.in  New Delhi, April 7, 2014 | UPDATED 18:20 IST

Indian Institutes that makes it to Top 100 global universities rankings

Global universities have been ranked repeatedly by various websites and education magazines on the basis of their academic curriculum; infrastructure and ability to churn out scholars who has went to become big-wigs in different profession.

However, no matter how much we tally the university rankings, US varsities always tops the chart leaving no much scope for India to claim its merit as a education hot-spot. With just four entries in the top 100 and one entry in the top 25, Education Today introduces your to four institutes who are the only institutes that continue to excel in every list.

Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai

IIT Mumbai was the first IIT to be set up with the assistance of foreign players such as UNESCO and ascertains giving quality education since it was established in 1958.

Presently, IIT Mumbai has about 14 academic departments that offer undergraduate and post graduate degrees in engineering, science, mathematics and technology. Apart from rendering engineering education research in varied areas of technology that are making significant contributions to the nation it is an acclaimed center for research in varied areas of technology that are making significant contributions to the nation. In the last five decades, more than 39,000 students have graduated from this prominent institute.

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

IIT Delhi, formerly known as College of Engineering and Technology Delhi, like all other Indian Institutes of Technology, conducts various programs including bachelor's degree in Technology, the Dual Degree Bachelor-cum-Master of Technology program and an Integrated Master of Technology Program. At present, this center of excellence has about 13 departments with 11 multi-disciplinary centers of research activity, and offers approximately 700 courses every semester, including post-graduate and undergraduate programs.

The institute offers a PhD program for research in basics sciences such as chemical sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences as well as research facility in interdisciplinary areas like nanoscience biomedical sciences, nanotechnology and bioengineering etc.

The institute conducts two semesters in a year, however, there is an additional summer semester also running a few courses. IIT Delhi has 3 schools of excellence.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

IIT Kanpur was established with an aim to provide quality education, to bring in technological innovation and support the industrial growth of the country. Currently, approximately 3,400 undergraduates and 2000 postgraduates are studying in this educational institute.
IIT Kanpur is the first institute to offer computer science education. IIT Kanpur offers four-year B.Tech programs in Aerospace Engineering, Biological Sciences and Bio-engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The admission to these programs is procured through Joint Entrance Examination. Institute also offers M.Tech. (2 years), M.B.A. (2 years) and M.Sc. (2 years) degrees and PhD courses. Admissions to M. Tech is made once a year through Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering. Admissions to M. Des is made once a year through both Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) and Common Entrance Exam for Design (CEED).

The students of IIT Kanpur made a nano remote sensing satellite called Jugnu. This small satellite was given by President Pratibha Patil to ISRO.

University of Delhi

University of Delhi, an institute that is renowned for its high standards in research and teaching in the country, is the least ranked Indian institution in the list.

Delhi university has a rich academic tradition and has made significant contributions to their society.

The university now has 16 faculties managing 86 academic departments. It is currently spread across 77 colleges and 5 other renowned institutes spread across the city.

IIT works on AUV that detects black box under water

Express News Service | Mumbai | April 9, 2014 2:49 am

Students and faculty of IIT Bombay are working on an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), similar to one that was deployed to search the black box of the missing Malaysian Airlines plane, which can detect underwater sound source of the kind emitted by a black box.

The Rs 22-lakh robotic submarine Matsya, unveiled Tuesday, has multiple applications, which include defence (monitoring, detection and surveillance), marine science research, oceanography studies, rescue operations, and constant monitoring and maintenance of underwater power lines, among others.
“This is the third version of the vehicle and is the most advanced. We are currently focusing on product-level development. The latest version has hydro-phones or underwater microphones to detect sound in the water. The US had deployed similar AUVs in the Indian Ocean for searching the black box of MH370. A black box emits constant beeps for a month or so and an AUV can be used to detect such sounds. Our vehicle will be able to perform such a function in the next 20 days. It is currently in the development and testing stages,” said Mihir Gupta, an IIT Bombay student.

Developed to localise itself in an underwater environment, it is a 1.2-metre-long vessel that weighs 38 kg and can navigate up to a depth of 150 feet, with a maximum speed of one metre per second.

Around 27 students and three faculty advisors are working on the vessel, which was demonstrated inside a swimming pool at the IIT Bombay campus. Designed by a multidisciplinary research group that implemented concepts from mechanical, electrical, computer science, aerospace and material sciences engineering streams, the AUV performs real-time miniature naval tasks based on feedback from visual, inertial, acoustic and depth sensors. The vehicle will represent IIT Bombay at the International RoboSub competition at San Diego, California, in July.

“The AUV can be used in many areas, which include shipwreck and airplane debris reconnaissance, defence and warfare. It can be used in asymmetric warfare conditions, where it can be sent to check the presence of mines in the water and deactivate them. In marine research, it can be deployed for searching minerals and resources underwater. The oil and gas industry can use it for sea-bed survey and pipeline monitoring,” said Gupta.

Work on the first Matsya began in 2011 and the current version is the only student AUV in South Asia that has doppler velocity log (DVL)-based localisation capabilities and velocity headings, which enables this vehicle to know where exactly it is in the water. Further, the endurance levels have gone up from 40 minutes (first version) to 90 minutes (second) to 100 minutes (current AUV).