

IIT Alumni Newsletter January 2016

PANIIT ALUMNI NEWS



Ambition, Innovation, Perseverance – InMobi’s 2015 in a nutshell

IIT Alumnus - Naveen Tewari, (IIT-Kanpur 2000, Mech. Engg.) Adapted from yourstory.com article by TARUSH BHALLA on 29 DECEMBER 2015

A ‘Made in India’ journey of a ‘Proud to be Indian’ brand, the InMobi story is one of ambition, innovation, and perseverance. It was ambition that took the advertising technology giant to San Francisco for the launch of its flagship product, discovery platform Miip in early August this year, taking on bigger players like Google and Facebook. Ironically, there were rumours doing the rounds in early 2015 that Google was looking to buy InMobi. But perseverance and the ability to dream bigger have been at the core of this unicorn’s story. As of 2015, InMobi is serving 8 billion advertisement requests per day. It’s no wonder then that it is being called a disruptor in every aspect of its functioning.

InMobi’s three buckets

On a dreary afternoon, we caught up with InMobi Founder and CEO Naveen Tewari, and he told us what fuels this disruption. The organisation breaks its thinking into three buckets. The first bucket deals with revenue generation. This takes up 60 per cent of their effort and 30 per cent mind share from an organisational point of view. The second is what InMobi calls strategic bets. From a revenue perspective, this might be

contributing 30 per cent, but from a mind share perspective, it takes up as much as 60 per cent. According to Naveen, a lot of executive time is invested in this bucket. Miip falls into this second bucket. The last 10 per cent goes into InMobi's moon shots. Tewari explains that every idea that starts off as a strategic bet is born with a small team of thinkers exploring the feasibility of each idea. Naveen measures success in moving these ideas to the next level of mind share investment while focussing on aligning them to a larger strategy, goal, and vision.

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Go with your passion completely believing you control your destiny

IIT Alumnus - Vellayan Subbiah, MD of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Ltd., Mr. Vellayan Subbiah, (IIT-Madras 1990, Civil Engg.) Adapted from – Chennai 36, IIT-Madras

He came out of the Dean's office wearing a white kurta, khaki pants and slippers and holding his son's hands. A simple man with all smiles on his face wishing a pleasant good morning to everyone around. A first look and little would you think that he is the MD of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Ltd., Mr. Vellayan Subbiah.

As he walked from the Admin block to CFI (the purpose of his visit), the old Civil B.Tech. Vellayan of the 1990 batch got invoked. It was a pleasure hearing him comment on the filing sessions in the workshops. In spite of his tight schedule, he took time in listening to the various projects and startups that pitched to him. Its awe inspiring that he still possesses the same passion and curiosity that once made him what he is today. Lucky we were, to



be able to draw out 20 minutes of his time just as he was about to leave for the IIT Madras Research Park. Here are the excerpts from the interview. Read on...

How vividly do you remember your undergraduate days here? Are there any fond memories of the institute you have and cherish?

Well obviously, I think everybody remembers their days here a lot. Whatever and wherever life takes you, those days will always be the ones most cherished. Despite being a localite, I used to stay in hostels. I hated doing laundry to my guts and so I used to take them home during the weekends. At that time campus was not as developed as it is today. We used to have our regular chai wala (tea seller) near Taramani where our standard food used to be these double-espee coffees and Bun omelettes. We used to do all this crazy stuff in college, some that can't be recorded and some that can! But I think, campus was four great years of our life, lots of good friends and people to stay in touch with, and loads of memories to last a life-time.

You are into Cycling and Running. How did you develop interest in Cycling?

When I was in my final year in Saras, we won Schroeter (the inter-hostel sports competitions). Cycling was one of the competitions. I was also into Athletics and used to participate in Inter IITs as well. I remember one particular cycle race in which a few of us were approaching Gajendra Circle and a bunch of our cycles got tangled up sending all of us flying. It ripped off half of my right shoulder and I still live with a scar from it! But then I had to get back on my cycle because those days the top four timings from each hostel used to count for the Schroeter and I was one of those four guys from Saras. The cycle had no brakes after that. And at the end, everyone was behind the finish line

not knowing that I had no brakes, and I conveniently went and crashed into them (laughs).

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PANIIT CHAPTER NEWS

The 2016 Leadership Conference, Boston

The 21st century is witness to accelerating change across economies and beyond political boundaries. With growing populations, global climatic changes, and resource limitations the challenges seem daunting. In the past human ingenuity has delivered a constant stream of innovations to address such issues. What will tomorrow bring?

New England is host to world class thought leaders and game-changing innovations that address these challenges and can dramatically transform the future. Their ideas and innovations have ranged from technologies that augment life at home to enhancements that address health and lifestyle of changing demographics; from large scale disruptions in established industries to major policy impacts at city, state and national levels.

This summer we will bring together a dazzling array of thought leaders across industries and technologies at the **2016 Leadership Conference**, a gathering to paint a vision of the future. You are sure to find a topic that piques your interest and challenges your thinking. The wide-ranging series of keynotes, panels, plenaries and discussions will include:

- With one of the largest **Life Sciences and Healthcare** clusters in the world, New England hosts research arms of several international pharmaceutical and biotech companies. From cutting edge applications of robotics in medicine to advances in personalized medical devices and care delivery, from Integrative medical approaches incorporating centuries' old knowledge to state of the art genetically driven treatments, the sessions will explore the future of medicine and how it will impact your finances and your wellbeing.
- Greater Boston has a growing impact and has driven innovation in a range of **energy and environmental** technologies. From next generation energy storage to demand side management, from innovative new renewable energy resources to leadership in water technology and climate policy, these sessions will help you understand the driving forces that will build a resilient energy future and reduce our environmental footprint.
- With the largest **Technology** sector in the world, next to Silicon Valley, New England is home to over 100 robotics companies, several leaders in the fast evolving Internet of Things (IoT) market, and established players in a range of other sectors at the **Frontiers of Technology**. From security to data storage, from civic media to the cloud, from information to advanced analytics, the conference will provide both a broad perspective on the technologies driving the future as well as their impacts on you and your company.

- Leading off with a plenary panel of Presidents from leading institutions in **Education**, sessions in this track will draw on world class universities in the region like Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, MIT and Harvard and entrepreneurial powerhouses like Babson College. Find out what are the dramatic changes expected in higher education, how the torrent of information and data is expected to redefine learning outcomes, and what are the biggest opportunities in the educational sector.

Join us as at the Rhode Island Convention Center in beautiful downtown Providence this summer to learn about the opportunities for change and explore how they will impact you personally, at work and within society. Regardless of your industry background or alumni connections, you are sure to find this an exciting and enriching experience. The conference is proudly hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Association of Greater New England but is open to all.

PAN IIT Bay-Area, SFO Chapter

Ski Trip to Soda Spring & Boreal (Sunnyvale & Fremont pickup)

SAT, JAN 30, 2016 AT 5:30 AM

Event Information By: SF Bay Area Chapter of IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation

We are arranging for a bus for Ski trip to Soda Spring & Boreal on 30th January. All IIT alumni, family, friends and neighbors are welcome !! It would be great to hang out and go together; some of the alumni avid skiers will be accompanying you and share tips on skiing. Please register ASAP as the seats are limited. The price / per seat includes transportation to and fro from Sunnyvale Sports authority + Cine Grand Fremont 7 Parking Lot and Soda Spring / Boreal + water and light snacks.

[EVENT INFORMATION](#)

IIT NEWS

New chapter at IITs: HRD Ministry allows foreign aspirants to take entrance exams

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are poised to open their gates wider to foreign students this year. The human resource development ministry has accepted a proposal to allow overseas aspirants to undertake entrance examinations for admission to the premier engineering institutes and even hold these standardised tests abroad. Candidates aspiring for admission to IIT are required to undertake the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) at the bachelor's level and the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) at the master's and PhD levels.

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Kumar Mangalam Birla, other India Inc bosses may head IIT boards

As it aims to "strengthen the partnership between industry and academia", the Human Resource Development Ministry is understood to have contemplating appointment of leading business captains as chairpersons of Board of Governors of prestigious IITs.

According to sources, the ministry has sought the nod of President Pranab Mukherjee to appoint

Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla group, to head the Board of Governors of IIT-Delhi.

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IIT CAMPUS NEWS

New and Old IITs Witnessing a Good Placement Year

BANGALORE: Placements this year at the prestigious IITs got a great start with most of the institutes reports of 10-20 pct of rise in the average salary packages offered to the students, reports ET.

"At the undergraduate level, most companies don't differentiate between older and newer IITs in terms of salary. So the average salary we get is comparable to that of the older IITs and our numbers are improving year-on-year," said B Venkatesham, faculty-in-charge for training and placement cell at IIT Hyderabad.

The rise in the salary packages was reported by student who were hired this year. Placements started at IIT Hyderabad on December 1 and by now the institute is over with placements of 44 pct students of this year's batch whereas IIT Mandi, Ropar and Indore are done with the placements of 65, 70 and 70 pct respectively. According to the sources the rise in the awareness and brand value amongst the employing community had led to this positive rise in the placement figures.

However, the newer IITs are behind older ones when it comes bagging highest-paying job letters. The newer still have small batches and have succeeded in getting most of their students placed. "Since last three years, we have been achieving 100 per cent placements. Also since last two years, the gap is narrowing down every year compared to old IITs," said Nirmala Menon, assistant professor at IIT Indore.

The average salary package being offered to students have witnessed an increase of 11-12 lakhs as per Samar Agnihotri, assistant professor, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi. "The gap in salaries is coming down with the same set of companies that have so far been confined to old IITs also making a visit at our campus. For next year, we are optimistic we'll be sharing even more companies with old IITs. The interest has started building up since last two years," he added.

In this upward trend, online ecommerce and other portals have emerged as the most aggressive employers. Average salary package at IIT Ropar rose by 12 lakh. The highest paying offer here was made by Amazon whereas Practo, Axtria and Saavn were also amongst the first time recruiters.

200 students from Gandhinagar are appearing in the placements where Texas Instruments, Samsung, HSBC, Wipro will be amongst the first time recruiters.

IIT Hyderabad witnessed a sharp rise in the highest salary being offered. The best offer bagged by the institute is around 35 lakh which is 21 pct higher than last year highest paying package. Yahoo Japan, Hikari Tsushin and Murata Electronics were amongst the biggies recruiting here. "We will be hiring around 50 graduate engineers from the new IITs compared to 40 from the old IITs," said Rajeshwar Tripathi, chief people officer, auto & farm sector, at M&M. "We are offering roles predominantly in R&D, product development & other critical areas," he said.

"Apart from the entire computer science and engineering batch, about 40 per cent of our mechanical engineering students have also received core engineering offers." said Ravi Mohan Prasad, faculty-in-charge of training and placement cell, IIT Ropar.

Adapted from SiliconIndia (22 December 2015)

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