

EDUCATION

NEWS BRIEFS

■ HUAWEI HOSTS ICT COMPETITION

AS PART of its mission to boost the local ICT ecosystem as well as to identify young talent, leading global provider of information and communications technology Huawei organised the third ICT competition in India. About 1,100 students from nine engineering institutes from across India participated in this competition. The top three students who were shortlisted will next get a chance to represent India in the global finals that will happen in China along with an opportunity to learn from global experts. Derek Hao, president,



Huawei India Enterprise Business said, "With rapidly evolving technology, it is imperative we treat skilling as one of the key priorities in India."



■ CONVOCATION CEREMONY FOR TKWSIBF

TKWs Institute of Banking and Finance held its convocation ceremony for students of the one-year PG diploma and three-year advanced diploma at India International Centre. The program was inaugurated by the chief guest RK Dubey, former chairman of Canara Bank, Rajendra Goel, chairman of

TKWs, Harpreet Kalsi, Asia Head of Sunlife Financial, Ujala Bedi, director of Navjyoti India Foundation, and Yusuf Hashmi, president of ISACA. Founding director Prof. Amit Goyal mentioned that in the next 10 years, TKWsIBF plans to work to help their alumni grow into leadership roles.

■ ONLINE CLASSES AMID COVID-19 SCARE

ONLINE Classes have commenced at the Amity University to ensure that no academic loss is faced by students. These measures are being undertaken as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus.

The faculty at Amity are now teaching online as per the existing timetable using the university's Learning Management System and Virtual Classroom System.



Regular fumigation and medical screening of those entering campus is being carried out too.



■ BUSINESS SKILL FOR ENGINEERS

THE IIT-Delhi has now introduced a minor in entrepreneurship in its B-Tech curriculum so as to instill the entrepreneurial spirit in students. This course is designed to equip students with business acumen and a vision to become venture experts. The minor program will

be available to B-Tech students from the first year of their programme.

Spread over two years and with 24 credits (16 core credits, 4 credits for BTP, and 4 credits for apprenticeship), this programme will teach students proper business ethics, basics of financial and legal planning, raising fund, and sustainability for both the business and the environment.

TECH-SAVVY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

By Rupashree Mitra

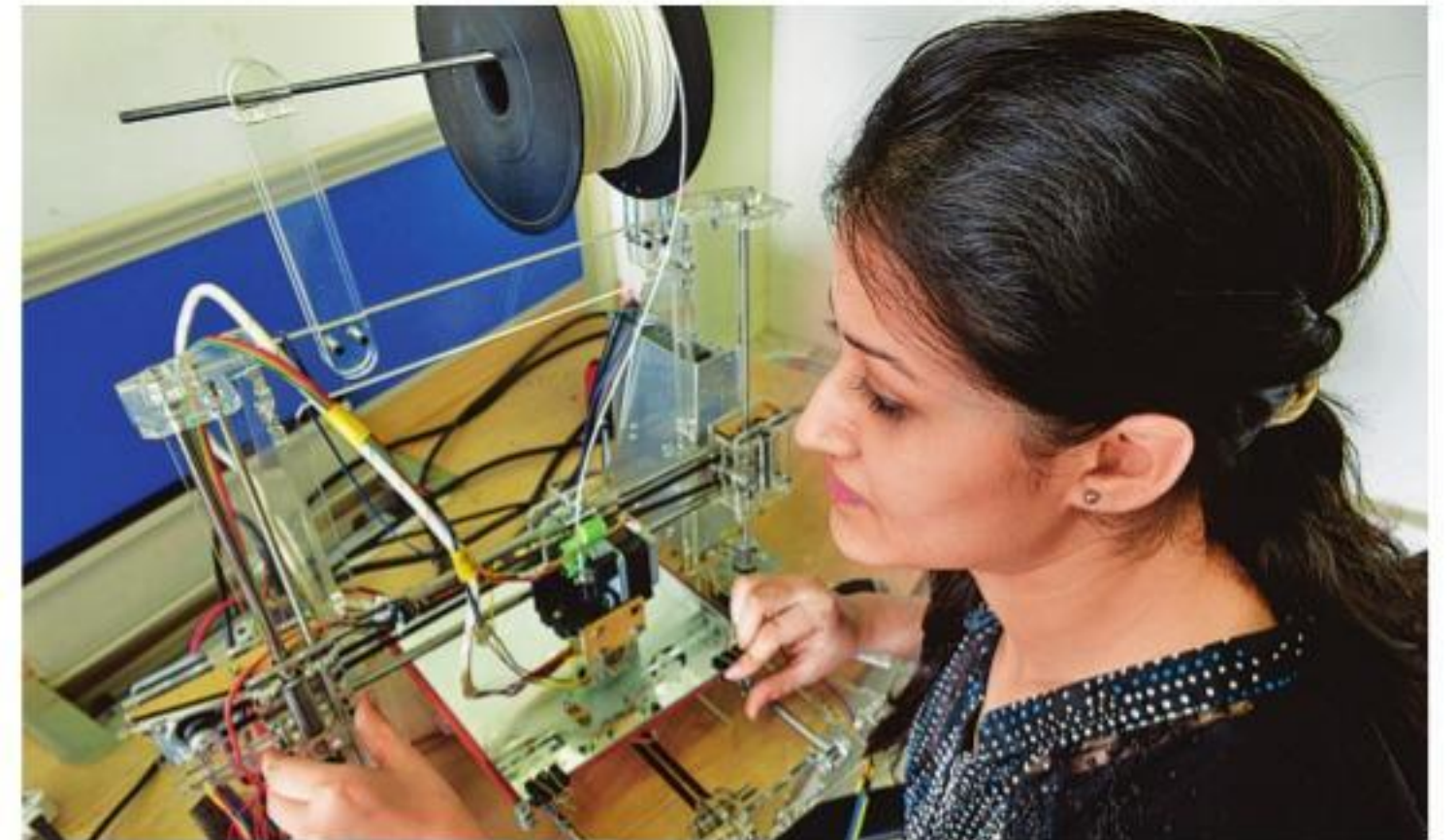
EVERY day, when we look up routes on Google maps, order a product on Amazon, or receive news feeds, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is at play. Little did John McCarthy (father of AI) realise that the codes he developed at Stanford University, some 70 years ago, would revolutionise the use of technology.

According to Professor Mausam, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Delhi, AI is slowly touching every part of our life. "When we talk to Siri, Alexa or Cortana, an AI system interprets our speech, and another AI system understands intent and provides us with the information. Many businesses have chatbots for customer interaction. Amazon and Flipkart make AI-based recommendations of products. Many cities use AI-based traffic control and police use it to solve crimes," he explains.

The last few decades have witnessed exponential growth of AI and its benefits across industries. This is primarily due to its low error probability and overcoming limitation where human intervention is restricted. Rajeesh Shorey, principal scientist, TCS Research and Innovation and adjunct professor, IIT Delhi, reiterates, "The overall goal of AI is to create technologies, services and solutions that allow computers to function in a highly intelligent manner, mimicking the human brain."

However, on the flip side, the myths are less about the specifics

AI is the new-gen discipline with the potential of generating jobs for India's youth



Institutes are rolling out programmes and courses in AI.

of the technology, and more about the consequences of its applications, according to Professor Mausam. "For example, AI will take all jobs, leading the world into a hellish dystopia. However, even after significant progress, AI systems will not replace humans, rather, will work hand in glove with humans for best performance. Machines can analyse large datasets but humans bring the power of abstraction and creative insight, which is hard to automate," he

elaborates.

Needless to say, AI is the next generation profession that young minds are keenly exploring. However, the discipline is at its nascent stage in India. It is taught as a sub-part of computer science at a few premier institutes such as IITs, IISc Bangalore, IIIT Delhi, IIIT Hyderabad, ISI and other private colleges as well. In addition, there are online programmes that club AI, robotics and machine learning together too.

Keep up with what's

■ Talent spotters now regard potential as a key employee attribute. How do you spot potential and passion during an interview?

Apart from capability, enthusiasm and initiative are key indicators when assessing suitable candidates. Strong potential is a mix of understanding what the candidate has done or is capable of doing and also how well they can scale and learn on the job. During an interview, the candidate is asked to complete a task/case study pertaining to the role he/she is applying to, to gauge competence. Personality is a key indicator of whether the candidate is passionate and has the potential to become an asset to the company. We use a personality assessment questionnaire to get an insight into his/her personality traits. Another important marker of high potential is drive, and this can be assessed through tests.

EDUCATION MAIL lines up some of the country's top hiring executives and finds out what they look for while selecting a candidate for a corporate role

■ What are attributes you look for in an applicant?

Creativity is an important attribute we look out for as candidates who have a fresh perspective are an asset to any organisation. We also look for four unique values — tenacity, extreme ownership, innovation and teamwork. We are a team of diverse individuals united by a belief in the power of technology to resolve climate change, and these values set us apart.

■ What are a few common issues, which you confront in graduates while hiring?

Our biggest hiring challenge starts after finding the right candidate. In most cases,

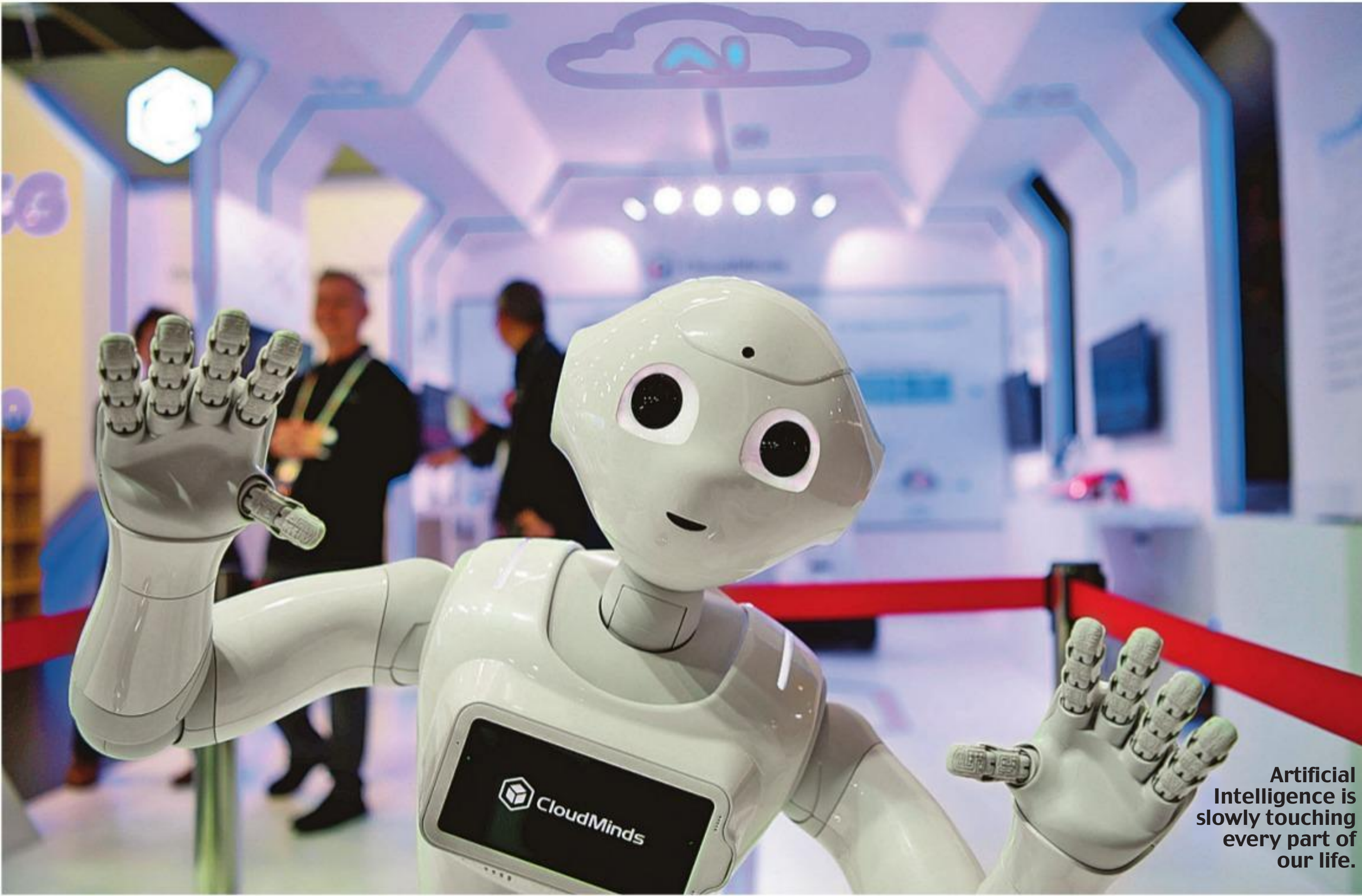
there is a long lead time for joining; mostly two to three months. Keeping candidates engaged for so long, especially in this market, is a challenge. Another issue is setting the right role expectation. Few candidates want to do more than what their roles demand or look at the role as a stepping stone to another team. These can be difficulties while hiring.

■ How crucial is a candidate's domain knowledge and what is your experience on this front from campuses?

Extensive domain knowledge is preferable but if a candidate shows potential and can be trained, we make an

ON THE SPOT

MAIL



Artificial Intelligence is slowly touching every part of our life.



Job prospects are good and range from academia to MNCs to Indian start-ups and corporates.

— MANIK VERMA, MICROSOFT RESEARCH INDIA



AI's goal is to create such technologies that allow computers to mimic the human brain.

— RAJEEV SHOREY, TCS RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Manik Varma, senior principal researcher, Microsoft Research India and adjunct professor, IIT Delhi, explains, "Machine learning (ML) is a sub-field of AI that studies how to design software that automatically learns and improves from experience without being explicitly programmed. Think of ML as a field that arises when computer science meets statistics. The Internet-of-Things is gaining a lot of attention, linked to AI."

Hence, a fundamental on maths, statistics and computer science is the prerequisite to pursue this stream of study — more specifically programming, data analytics, probability, supervised and unsupervised learning and linear algebra. Since AI is in its infancy state with many institutes rolling out their programmes, it is prudent to do a thorough research of what is in offing before applying. A strong analytical, fundamental skill, keeping abreast with new research and prepared to spend hours learning will help master new tools quickly and apply technologies impactfully. The primary programming languages comprise Python, PyTorch and Tensorflow. Varma corroborates, "Aspirants should enjoy play-

ing with data, modelling it, testing out hypotheses on it and running experiments, writing efficient code and developing efficient algorithms for handling large volumes of data." To this, adds Professor Mausam, "The difference between experts and wannabes will happen based on who can design a new architecture on a specific problem for best performance. So, learn the math in depth, and implement in-built tools from first principles and try to achieve the same performance. This will be time-consuming and require hard work. But, after completion, one will have confidence to attack new problems with better understanding."

A burgeoning profession with endless opportunities, AI has interesting prospects in store. Beyond computer programming, there is speech recognition, game development, computer vision, language detection and robotics. Varma adds, "The job prospects are good and range from academia to MNCs to Indian start-ups and corporates." Shorey concludes, "Since the demand is huge and the supply is limited, one can expect high salary in this discipline as compared to other disciplines today."

How to easily crack both board exams and competitive tests

By Partha Halder

STUDENTS from a science background (i.e., PCM group) who are writing their Class XII board exams are also essentially engineering aspirants. JEE Main will be in April followed by JEE Advanced in May, and a host of other exams in between. These few tips will allow students to prepare a systematic plan to optimise the outcome in both Board and JEE Main exams:

Focus on syllabus: The JEE Main syllabus is equal to that of CBSE Class XI and XII put together. Board exam students usually cover Class XII syllabus neglecting Class XI portions. Prepare a strategic revision plan from a board and JEE Main perspective.

Clarify doubts: After revising a chapter, be confident of solving any question from that chapter. If not, reach out to your teacher to clarify doubts.

Practice questions: After fixing doubts, practice questions from a chapter you finished revising. Practice board exam questions of 5 or 6 marks. Also solve JEE Main type questions.

Board exam question paper: Solving more question papers makes you more confident.

Computer Based Test (CBT) for JEE Main: JEE Main is



conducted in CBT mode; so get familiar with the testing environment for accuracy and speed.

Performance analysis: Write at least one mock test each for Board and JEE Mains, every week. It will help you to assess your preparation, among other things. For JEE Main, subscribe to an All India Level Test Series in CBT-format or join an online test series. Solve previous years' questions within fixed time limit for these exams.

Exam Taking Strategy: Read question paper thoroughly. Attempt known questions first.

In Board exam: Mention formula used while answering and highlight final answers.

Don't skip steps as marks are deducted for this. Attempt entire question paper as you lose an opportunity to score on skipping questions.

In JEE Main: Attempt only those you are sure of solving correctly. Move on to next question on getting stuck. Review it later to save time.

Stress less: A few odd questions in exams can add to the stress. Try to stay away from it. If you get stressed, drink water and take deep breaths.

Give time for revision: Don't submit the paper or leave the hall if you're done. Go through your paper again and rectify silly errors, if any.

—The writer is the centre head at FIITJEE — Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi

new in your field

exception. In today's competitive world, we look for candidates who invest in keeping up with the latest advancements in their field. At 75F, employees are encouraged to further their knowledge and keep learning.

■ **What is the transitional change, which a candidate has to be prepared when entering the job market from campus?**

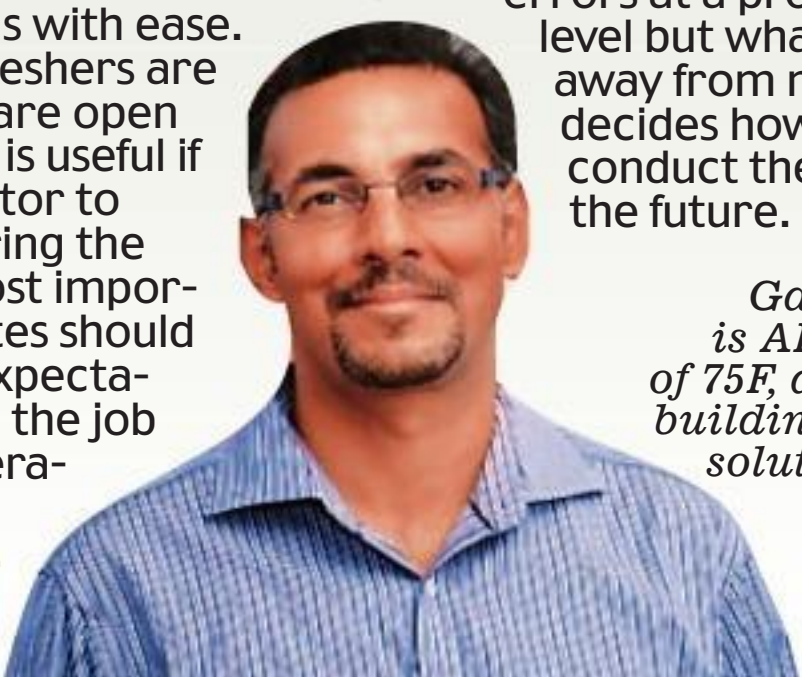
There is a world of difference between theoretical knowledge and its application in the corporate world. But most candidates are able to make quick transitions with ease. It helps when freshers are observant and are open to new ideas. It is useful if they find a mentor to guide them during the initial years. Most importantly, candidates should have realistic expectations regarding the job profile, remuneration and other responsibilities.

■ **How can a**

candidate make himself/herself valuable in his line of work? How severe can the cost of making mistakes on a professional level be, as opposed to academics where it can end with a little red circle?

The willingness to learn and adapt must be continuous as there's always something new to learn from everyone you meet in a workspace. The cost of making mistakes depends on the company culture and the management. Of course, there are bigger implications with errors at a professional level but what one takes away from mistakes decides how they conduct themselves in the future.

Gaurav Burman is APAC President of 75F, a fast-growing building intelligence solutions provider



MARCH 19

LAST date to send in the applications for admissions in the one year full-time diploma and one year full-time both in Optometry, as well as six months certificate programme in Medical Nursing Assistant offered by Delhi Paramedical & Management Institute. Minimum qualification for secur-

DATE ALERT

ing admission to diploma is 12th pass, and for certificate programme is 10th pass from a recognised board. Purchase admission forms from admission the office of DPMI, New Ashok Nagar. Visit www.dpmiindia.com for details.

