

economy

You're hired: 'New age' jobs defy slowdown

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New Delhi, March 03, 2013

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First Published: 00:02 IST(3/3/2013)
Last Updated: 00:07 IST(3/3/2013)

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Even as the economic slowdown continues to hit home with thousands going out of work, companies - both foreign and domestic - are betting big on India with 'new age' jobs.

Professions that were uncommon in the Indian corporate sector till five years ago, such as mathematicians, engagement specialists, facility managers and e-commerce or online retailing experts, are now being lapped up by companies, with pay packages ranging between ₹ 20 lakh and ₹ 50 lakh.

This comes at a time when the economic survey and the Union budget for 2013-14 have underlined the need to create millions of 'decent' jobs to put India back on the growth track.

Sushil Verma, 28, joined as a mathematician in a Gurgaon-based energy multinational company one year ago.

After starting at a salary of ₹ 18 lakh per annum, he now draws more than ₹ 20 lakh.

"Companies investing in data analysis or data modelling are on the lookout for mathematicians," said Hitesh Oberoi, MD and CEO of InfoEdge India Ltd, naukri.com.

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In an age of high work pressure, companies are also hiring engagement specialists, a job that involves reducing employees' stress levels, enhancing productivity and keeping them motivated.

"Engagement specialists are being offered packages between ₹ 25 and ₹ 40 lakh per annum by organisations with a large headcount," said Ronesh Puri, managing director of headhunting firm Executive Access.

Unskilled people taking care of office infrastructure is also a thing of the past.

The post of facilities manager, who looks after building maintenance and other such functions, has started attracting many takers.

Thirty-five-year-old Raman Saxena, who got hired as one at a telecom multinational company, was offered a pay package of ₹ 45 lakh per annum.

"I never imagined I'd get such a salary package. Jobs such as these are opening up a world of opportunities for people," said Saxena.

Explaining the hefty pay package, a spokesperson of energy provider British Gas said that a good office atmosphere and ergonomics is imperative to improve productivity.

Another job opportunity, according to HR practitioners, is in the e-commerce or online retailing space, where companies need people who can manage everything from content to the supply chain.

"This includes sourcing, warehousing, marketing and product delivery. We have received thousands of enquiries, but there is a paucity of talent in this sphere," a senior executive at a headhunting firm said.

(Some names have been changed on request)

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