

Goa resident heads to YouTube headquarters

Rohan Saxena, resident of Caranzalem who is pursuing his third year of Computer Engineering from BITS Pilani (Pilani campus) has been selected to visit the YouTube headquarters as a recipient of the 'Venkat Panchapakesan Memorial Scholarship', which is awarded to the students who are passionate about the field of Computer Science and Engineering.

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The 20-year old, Rohan Saxena who has been selected as a recipient of the 'Venkat Panchapakesan Memorial Scholarship' chose engineering for two reasons. First was that he grew up reading the stories about Bill Gates and Steve Jobs since his childhood about how they brought computers within the reach of people and solved tedious computational problems to reduce enormous human effort used earlier. Secondly, with the

advancement of software technology in the field of artificial intelligence and deep learning, he wishes to help the less fortunate people of the society. He adds: "Most people are not aware that AI can help vision and hearing impaired people and can even help people suffering from autism. I'm passionate about going into the field as soon as I can."

Expressing his happiness on being selected for the scholarship, Rohan says: "I was naturally ecstatic after receiving this scholarship since it is more or less a competition

among the best students of computer science in India and only six get selected. It is in a way a confirmation of a student's efforts going in the right direction for the future in the field of Computer Engineering. I normally believe in preparing to the best of my capabilities and wait for the result." He adds that as soon as he got to know about the opening date for application, he sent his application.

As a part of scholarship, Rohan will be receiving a financial reward of USD 750 and will get an opportunity to visit the YouTube headquarters in San

Bruno, California which is scheduled for November 1 to November 3, 2017 and will also be meeting Susan Wojcicki, the CEO of YouTube. Rohan says: "The YouTube HQ visit for me is the most exciting thing in this exercise. I would get an opportunity to meet different leaders of Google and most importantly the CEO of YouTube." During his meet with the CEO he would definitely like to ask her as to how YouTube is able to strike a balance between the commercial aspect of their business and making a difference in the society by devel-



oping and using technologies to help mankind. When asked how this scholarship will benefit him in the future, Rohan says that there is no denial that some of

the American companies like Google and YouTube are using and developing the technologies that he is most interested in. "Nothing can be a better learning opportunity for

a student like me to be able to visit the best organisations in the field and learn from them about their culture, their talent development plans and the innovation and research that goes into creating wonderfully user-friendly platforms for their customers and society."

Rohan's parents are equally qualified: his father Vikas Saxena is an engineer and management consultant and his mother Richa Saxena is doctor with the ESI dispensary, Government of Goa. Rohan says: "My parents have always been very supportive of all my efforts since my childhood. They have always told me to concentrate on the process and not to worry much about the result. They were very happy that God has blessed me with this opportunity. Obviously, fa-

vourable results make them happy but I know there is a long way for me to go and do something for the society." As far as his future plans are concerned, Rohan's prime concern is completing his studies including his masters and then PhD in subjects related to his fields of interest like artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and deep learning. "Once I do that, I wish to start my own company in Goa. I understand that our government is also very supportive of new technological ventures and the students in Goa are also coming up in terms of the competitive expectations at the national level. I sincerely pray to God to give me an opportunity that I may do something for our people and our state of Goa," Rohan concludes.