

# Nikhil Rai

✉ nikhil.be.careers@gmail.com    ☎ 098715 66429    📄 nikkurai9999

## Summary

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Full-stack Developer with **2.5+** years of experience building **scalable backend systems** and modern web apps serving **10M+** users. Specialized in **Java, Spring Boot, Kafka**, and **AWS**, with experience in **React, Next.js**, and **TypeScript**.

## Experience

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### Limeroad

Software Development Engineer 2

Gurgaon

Nov 2022 – present

#### Search and Recommendation System

- Led 4-engineer team building scalable semantic search & recommendation engine for **5M+ products** at **50K+ RPM**.
- Architected and **migrated legacy Solr** to a distributed cloud setup with **HTTP-proxy caching** using Varnish and **real-time updates** using Kafka, reducing response times to **sub-30 ms** (75% improvement).
- Boosted search **CTR by 20%** using hybrid **vector search** (text + image embeddings) and **L2R** model for ranking.
- **Optimized infra costs by 50%** with an auto-scaling strategy leveraging **AWS spot instances** for the Solr cluster.

#### Server-2-Server Payment Service & Integration

- **Built payment-gateway agnostic service** with Spring Boot and strategy pattern, supporting **5+ providers**.
- **Enhanced system resilience** with **circuit breakers**, reducing failures by 90% and achieving a **99.2% success rate**.
- Optimized payment flows with **Server-Sent Events**, **reducing server load by 23%** and improved user experience.
- Introduced the **‘Pay with Rewards’** feature, boosting **checkout conversions by 8%** and **retention by 15%**.
- Built seamless payment UI with live status tracking and failover flows, **increasing successful checkouts by 5%**.

#### Ads Monetization Platform

- **Spearheaded** development of a real-time bidding system enabling **5K+ vendors** to compete for premium spots.
- Designed a scalable **bidding engine** with **Vickrey auctions**, integrated with search and recommendation pipelines.
- **Increased revenue by 12%** and **vendor engagement by 35%** via real-time bidding and analytics dashboards.
- Implemented **high-availability architecture** using **Redis Cluster** for caching and Kafka for event streaming.
- Developed real-time dashboards for vendors in **React**, improving bid insights and raising **active bids by 25%**.

## Technical Skills

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**Backend Development:** Java (8+), Spring Boot, Hibernate/JPA, Kafka, RabbitMQ, REST APIs, Microservices, Node.js

**Databases & Caching:** MySQL, Amazon Redshift, MongoDB, Redis, Apache Solr, Varnish, Aerospike, ZooKeeper

**Cloud & Infrastructure:** AWS (EC2, Lambda, RDS, S3, API Gateway, SNS), Docker, Nginx, NewRelic, Jenkins CI/CD

**Frontend Technologies:** React, TypeScript, JavaScript (ES6+), Next.js, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, React Native

## Education

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### Delhi Technological University

B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering (Minor in Computer Engineering)

New Delhi

July 2019 – June 2023

- CGPA: **9.30/10.00**, ranked **3rd** in the Department

## Achievements

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- Awarded **Best Innovator** at **Limeroad** for leading **Search & Recommendation**, boosting user engagement by **20%**.
- **SIH finalist** for building a Deep learning based maritime **search & rescue** solution for the **Indian Coast Guard**.