

UGC bars **engg college** affiliations

1 YEAR BAN Universities not to affiliate new colleges, no increase in student intake in existing institutes

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MUMBAI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday instructed all universities to put a one-year halt on the affiliation of new engineering colleges. The apex body for higher education has also told varsities not to entertain requests by existing technical institutions to increase the intake of students.

"It has been decided to have a one-year moratorium on affiliation of fresh colleges providing technical education by universities, and approval of increase in the intake of students in technical colleges. All affiliating universities shall neither invite nor process any application from colleges providing technical education for the academic year 2014-15," the order states.

City engineering colleges' fac-



UNREGULATED EXPANSION?

WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE MUMBAI UNIVERSITY

63 engineering colleges are affiliated to the Mumbai university

Every year, at least two new colleges apply for affiliation to the varsity

Over 50 % of the technical institutions apply for increase in student intake and for increasing the number of branches they offer. These will have to be put on hold.

Why the directive

Following a Supreme Court judgment in April 2013 absolving the AICTE of its regulatory functions, experts say universities have overweening powers regarding the affiliation and running of engineering colleges, as colleges are now answerable only to affiliating universities.

What is the UGC

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is the apex body in charge of regulating all institutes of higher education in the country. Working under the Central government, it is the only grant-awarding agency responsible for issuing funds, coordinating and maintaining standards of institutes of higher learning.

ulty said that the UGC's move was in order, as universities have overweening powers in affiliating and running engineering colleges following the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) being stripped off its regulatory role. A Supreme Court judgment in April 2013 had stated that the AICTE was

only an advisory body.

"The AICTE was a good body and the UGC may have called for the moratorium as the control mechanism [for colleges] rests solely with universities. The increasing number of engineering institutions causes a lot of issues, such as the staff not being paid. In such cases, neither the

university nor the college takes responsibility," said professor KY Rajput, senior engineering faculty, Mumbai university.

Vivek Yakkundi, principal of Lokmanya Tilak College of Engineering, said that while the country needs engineers, private institutions mushrooming in the country are failing to provide

quality education, and this could be the reason for the moratorium.

According to varsity authorities, an average of two new colleges apply for affiliation every year: "At least 50 % of the existing colleges apply for approvals for increasing intake and branches every year," said Suresh Ukarande, dean of technology.

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90% students placed on campus in IIT-Roorkee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, April 4

Ninety per cent undergraduate students at IIT-Roorkee received campus placement offers this year from globally renowned companies, with the highest international placement offer standing at ₹73 lakh. As many as 1,047 out of 1,631 students registered at the institute got job offers from global giants such as Google and Microsoft through campus interviews, a release from IIT-Roorkee said here on Friday. The large number of job offers is the highest in the history of the institution, it said.

NP Padhy, professor-in-charge (Training and Placement), IIT-Roorkee, said, "10 start-ups have also visited the campus this year and offered 56 jobs to the students. Some of these include companies such as Unbxd, MySmartPrice Web Technology and Printvenue.com."

DU's education on wheels project a hit among pupils

KNOWLEDGE TRIP Students submit research project reports on various topics

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NEW DELHI: The Gyanodaya Express rolled out by Delhi University has started bearing results already.

The students who were part of the journey this year have submitted their research project reports that are on varied topics - such as the impact of urbanization on amenities, trade, education, art forms as well as health care.

Students of Zakir Husain PG Evening College have, in fact, come out with an urban local manifesto for the cities of Varanasi, Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Bhopal and Surat.

The common issues with all these cities, especially for the urban poor, according to the project report is the lack of adequate housing facilities, poor waste disposal, lack of adequate public transport, shortage of electricity and lack of security.

The students have also identified specific problems in the cities. According to the report, Kanpur and Varanasi have a multitude of problems such as bad roads, drainage issues and pollution while Bhopal, Ahmadabad and Surat seem to be more developed.

The Delhi University started the Gyanodaya Express in 2012 with the aim of giving students an idea about life outside the

campus and also to learn more about the problems in the country first hand.

The students of the Cluster Innovation Centre, meanwhile, completed a project on literature and mathematics in various cities. The second part of the report, devoted to mathematics, speaks about symmetry and architecture of the monuments spread across these cities.

The report also explored the role of mathematics in weaving a Banarasi sari as well as in the languages that are spoken in the city.

In a project - carried out by students of Acharaya Narendra Dev College, which analysed the civic amenities in the five cities - a conclusion was drawn that Surat had the best amenities while Kanpur had the worst. The indicators included the presence of street lights, urinals and garbage dumps.

Bhopal and Ahmedabad came after Surat while Varanasi took the number four spot in the list of cities that provided the best amenities.

A total of 56 project reports have been submitted to the university with by from 52 colleges and institutes. This included teams from the school of open learning as well as the Cluster Innovation Centre. Each team consisted of 9 to 16 students. This was the fourth journey of the Gyanodaya Express.

Over 50 Indian colleges opt for Law School Admission Test

The test is an integral part of the law school admission process in the US and Canada, among other countries

NAVADHA PANDEY

New Delhi, April 4

More than 50 law schools in the country will accept Law School Admission Test (LSAT)-India scores for admission to their 2014 batches, Daniel O' Bernstine, President, Law School Admission Council, said.

"LSAT India offers an opportunity for law schools to gain quality students. We hope to increase the number of Indian law schools that are using the examination," Bernstine told *Business Line*.

LSAT is a standardised test which is a measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills that law schools can use as one of several factors in assessing applicants. The test is an integral part of the law school admission process in the US,

Canada, and many other countries.

Outside the US, the focus is on India, Australia with respect to emerging markets for legal education, Bernstine said. Among other initiatives, the council has also offered Spanish LSAT in order to expand to more markets in the world.

The entrance examination will be conducted across 16 cities in the country this year.

On whether there are plans to increase the number of centres to include tier 2, tier 3 cities, Bernstine said, "At this point, we don't have any concerns from students not being able to get to test centres, but as we continue to expand the number of schools and the number of students taking the exam, we won't be insensitive to the fact that we will need



The LSAT will not go online in the near future.

The entrance examination will be conducted across 16 cities in the country this year.

to make adjustments as we continue to grow."

He also added that LSAT, unlike the Common Admission Test (CAT), will not go online any time in the near future.

ISRO launches second navigation satellite

PROFICIENT Satellite navigation has been useful in the fields of maritime, aviation, automobiles, disaster management and tracking

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NEW DELHI: India moved a step closer to having its own satellite navigation system when scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its second Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS-1B) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

With this successful launch, the second of the seven satellite system, India inches closer to a select group of countries that have such a navigation system.

The 1,432 kg satellite was blasted off by the rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C24) at 5.14 pm from the launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Center. IRNSS-1B is the second navigation satellite of the seven satellites constituting the IRNSS space segment. Its predecessor IRNSS-1A was launched in July 2013. Two more navigational satellites—IRNSS-1C and IRNSS-1D are scheduled to be launched before the end of 2014.



■ Hoisting of PSLV-C24 second stage during vehicle integration to carry the navigational satellite IRNSS - 1B, in Andhra Pradesh PTI PHOTO

“The PSLV in its 25th successive successful flight precisely injected India’s second regional navigation satellite. I thank the entire ISRO team that made the major milestone for the country. This proves again that India’s PSLV has a place of pride.” ISRO chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan said.

IRNSS-1B carries two types of payloads — navigation payload

and ranging payload. The IRNSS system will provide two types of services — Standard Positioning System provided to all the users and the Restricted Service provided only to authorised users.

Besides applications in surveying, mapping, archaeology, satellite navigation has proved useful in the fields of maritime, aviation, disaster management operations and tracking services.

Indian-American named for key US govt post

HT Correspondent

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WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama on Thursday nominated Indian-American Sunil Sabharwal to serve as executive director to the International Monetary Fund representing the US.

Sabharwal will do what Rakesh Mohan, former RBI deputy governor, does at the IMF for India: sit in meeting of the IMF topmost decision-making body, the Executive Board.

Except, Sabharwal will command many times more clout than Mohan given the US's vote share — 16.75% to India's 2.81%, common held with Bangladesh,

Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

Voting shares — also called IMF quotas — are based on countries' overall position in world economy and determine its contrition to the fund, and therefore, its clout.

India, China and other emerging economies have been seeking a reform of the quota system to reflect their growing clout in the world economic system.

Sabharwal, who has a BS from The Ohio State University and an MS from the London Business School, has been an independent investor in the payments sector since 2006. He was the chairman of the Board of Ogone, a European ecommerce payment services firm, from 2011 to 2013.