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SUPER 30 NOW LIVE FOR ₹1

TICKET TO IIT Anand Kumar's initiative is offering an IIT coaching lecture series online

Vanita Srivastava

Every year Anand Kumar selects 30 meritorious students from under-privileged backgrounds and coaches them for the IIT-JEE Exam in his native Patna. Last year 27 students cleared the exam. Since 2002, when Kumar started his free coaching classes under the banner of Ramanujan School of Mathematics, 263 students have made it to IIT.

The 42-year-old is now going to expand the reach of his project by offering lectures online for the very modest sum of ₹1. The lectures posted online will initially be only for Mathematics but will also include Physics and Chemistry at a later stage. Kumar is hoping to roll out the online platform by the end of 2015.

While the content will be provided by Kumar, the technological model for dissemination will be supported by the professors and research scholars of Massachusetts



■ Anand Kumar (c) wanted to study at Cambridge but couldn't due to financial problems

Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford in the US.

"I had visited MIT and Stanford last year and some professors and scholars showed interest in my desire to expand the ambit of coaching for IIT for all classes. There are many who cannot afford to get a coaching for IIT.. We will approach the teaching in a different way. For instance one problem alone will be discussed in many ways. Besides generalising we will ask the kids to think

on multiple solutions for similar problems. There will also be personalised questions, assignments and exams," Kumar explained.

The 100 lectures for class 12 students will be delivered by him in both English and Hindi. "The terms will all be in English but I will also explain in Hindi so that a wider range of kids benefit. If this model is a hit, then I can also start offering such lectures in other regional languages."

Kumar's online tutorials are likely to

(If this model is a hit then I can also start offering such lectures in other regional languages)

ANAND KUMAR

shake up the existing system of coaching institutes. Kumar has a better success rate than any existing institute and with 90 per cent or more of his students cracking the exam. Institutes like Kota charge ₹150 for each online lecture. Their regular enrollment runs into lakhs of rupees putting it out of the reach of most people.

Kumar is offering lectures at less than a hundredth of that price and estimates that he will need only half the time to cover topics (three lectures on an average as opposed to six or seven).

The money generated from this, Kumar says, will be used to help increase the number of children he trains at his institute from 30 to around 100. Right now it costs Kumar ₹18 lakhs to teach students every year. He has however clarified that there won't be any change in the name.

Kumar and his Super 30 are both established names and brands. People Magazine in fact profiled him in 2012 and hailed him as a 'People's Hero'. Time Magazine listed him in an annual round-up of the best in Asia while Discovery documented his initiative in a film called Kumar's revolution.

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DU's innovation centre doesn't need AICTE

Gauri Kohli

Started in 2011 with a thrust on innovation and research, Delhi University's Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC) offers a unique BTech programme in IT and mathematical innovations. But CIC students are concerned about the status of their course, change in their course structure and availability of transcripts. "This can be a huge concern if another institution raises this question once we go in for a master's degree or apply for a job," says Madhav Mishra (name changed), a student.

The first batch of the BTech course will be graduating this year. Since CIC was established by the university, its officials say it does not need an AICTE approval. "Any department or centre that is part of a university governed by the UGC rules is in no way under the jurisdiction of the AICTE. Functioning of CIC is decided by the university's academic and executive councils within the framework of UGC rules," says Professor Madan Chaturvedi, director, CIC.

After the Supreme Court's last judgment in May 2014 which clarified that prior approval of AICTE is compulsory and mandatory for conduct of technical course by existing affiliated technical colleges for the academic year 2014-15, does this mean that

ANY DEPARTMENT OR CENTRE THAT IS PART OF A UNIVERSITY DOES NOT COME UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDU

the CIC is fully exempted from taking an AICTE approval and can function as per its own rules?

"If a Central or a State university is running a programme in its own department, it does not need an AICTE approval upfront, provided it follows the rules and regulations laid down by the AICTE. If an institute affiliated to a university is running a BTech programme, it requires an approval from the AICTE," says SS Mantha, former chairman, AICTE.

However, there are other pertinent questions that the students and the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) have raised. CIC was earlier offering BTech /BS innovation with mathematics and IT. The course structure and name were then changed in 2014.

Since course structure and name of the degree has been changed, the question is what degree will the outgoing batch be



■ BTech students at the DU Cluster Innovation Centre workin on a project

FILE

awarded? If the new one, will their course structure reflect the latest one?

Bibhu Biswal, programme coordinator, BTech (IT and mathematical innovations), says, "The change of the name and the structure are two separate decisions of the academic council. The new name of the degree is valid for all students passing out from the year 2015 onwards. So the first outgoing batch this year will obtain

the degree BTech (IT and mathematical innovations)."

The centre also started a course called BTech (humanities) under the Meta College concept but the name was changed to BA (hons) humanities and social sciences last year. DUTA members had also submitted a white paper to the visitor (President of India), MHRD and UGC citing violations of the UGC Act in setting up of CIC.

Hindustan Times ND 04/02/2015 (HT education) P-1

Will DU colleges apply for AICTE nod for BTech courses by Feb 20?

IN THE DARK

Status of BTech courses not clear after rollback of FYUP. Will degrees to be awarded to 6,000 students not be valid? Jeevan Prakash Sharma investigates

About 6,000 students enrolled in BTech courses in 25 Delhi University (DU) colleges since 2013 will be awarded degrees that won't be considered valid in the Indian education system. It's because five four-year BTech programmes—computer science, electronics, food technology, instrumentation electronics and polymer science—launched as part of Delhi University's four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) in the 2013-2014 academic session, do not have requisite approvals from the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

According to AICTE, February 20, 2015, is the last date to apply for approvals. Those who stand to lose are 6,000 bright students, who despite scoring more than 90% in the Class 12 exams, chose the BTech programme because these were being run by prestigious Delhi University colleges and were introduced under the much-hyped FYUP initiative of the human resource ministry of the previous UPA government.

On investigating, this correspondent found teachers of the programme, principals of the concerned colleges and many DU officials unable to come up

AICTE APPROVAL AFTER A YEAR IF DEADLINE EXPIRES

APRIL 25, 2013

SC stripped AICTE of its power to regulate technical courses and vested it with UGC

MAY-JUNE 2013

FYUP introduced in DU and three-year BSc (H) was changed to four-year BTech course with UGC approval

APRIL 17, 2014

SC restored AICTE powers to regulate technical institutes

APRIL 2014 - JAN 2015

No Delhi University colleges running BTech courses have applied for any approval from AICTE citing various reasons

FEB 20, 2015

If DU colleges do not apply for AICTE approvals within the deadline, they will have to wait for a year for the same



■ Hundreds of BTech students of DU colleges had, in June, 2014, demanded clarity on the validity of their courses.

FILE PHOTO

I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM ALL INSTITUTIONS THAT FEBRUARY 20, 2015 IS THE LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL. IF ANY COLLEGE FAILS TO DO THAT, IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR

DR AVINASH S. PANT, AICTE's chairman (acting)

with a clear answer on AICTE approvals. "Is it a mandatory requirement to run a BTech course," one of them asked.

The answer to this is yes, AICTE approval is a must if one goes by Supreme Court orders of April 17, 2014, and May 9, 2014; HRD Minister Smriti Irani's statement in Rajya Sabha and the University Grants Commission (UGC) circular to all DU colleges in June 2014.

The Apex court, which had stripped AICTE of its regulatory powers in a judgment dated April 25, 2013, reversed its position with two consecutive orders in 2014. "It is directed that prior approval of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is compulsory and mandatory for conduct of a technical course, including the MBA/Management Course by an existing affiliated Technical College and

also new Technical College which will require affiliation by a University for conduct of its Technical Courses/Programmes for the academic year 2014-15," the SC order dated May 9, 2014, said in the matter of Orissa Technical Colleges Association vs AICTE.

Irani, while replying to a question in Rajya Sabha in July 2014, had said that DU colleges offering BTech programmes would need AICTE approval. A similar direction vide a UGC circular dated June 29, 2014 to DU and all its affiliate colleges, said, "The colleges under Delhi University, which admitted students in the academic year 2013-14 for these programmes may, wherever required, obtain appropriate approval of the regulatory

bodies such as the UGC and the AICTE and ensure that students admitted in these programmes are not put to any disadvantage."

SC's April 25, 2013, judgment stripping AICTE of its powers is likely to have created the confusion over approvals. The principal of a DU college, requesting anonymity, said, "It was in April 25, 2013, that the SC stripped AICTE of its regulatory powers and vested it with UGC. FYUP was introduced during that time and six branches of the existing three-year BSc (H) courses—computer science, electronics, food technology, instrumentation electronics, polymer science and psychological science—were changed to four-year BTech programmes with some modifications in syllabus. That's

why the need for AICTE approvals was not felt then."

After the FYUP rollback from academic session 2014-2015, UGC directed DU to continue five branches of the five BTech programmes—but only for the students admitted for the academic year 2013-2014. The colleges were also asked to seek AICTE approvals.

"There is no confusion on the question of AICTE approval for a valid BTech course. Running BTech courses without AICTE approval not only amounts to violation of the SC order, which is a serious offence, but it also causes serious hardship to thousands of bright students," says a senior AICTE officer bearer.

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DISCONCERTING NEWS FROM EDUCATION SECTOR

147 B-schools shut shop during 2013-14

'Scarcity Of Students The Main Cause'

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Chennai: Management programmes across the country may be losing some of their sheen. Latest figures released by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) show that 147 standalone B-schools and MBA programmes offered by engineering institutions across the country closed down in the last academic year.

The number of postgraduate diploma programmes in management institutes has also dropped from 606 to 600 in the same period.

Maharashtra where 24 MBA colleges shut down and TN with 23 account for the largest number of closures followed by Andhra Pradesh with 19. Among other states, only Bihar, Jharkhand and Kerala have shown growth by adding new institutions. They have each started one new institution in this period.

Educational consultant Moorthy Selvakumaran said most institutions closed down because of lack of patronage. The decline started a couple of years ago after a dip in number of registrations for CAT, scores of which determine admission to the premier Indian Institutes of Managements and other management programmes across the country.

T N Swaminathan, director, branding and alumni relations, Great Lakes Institute of Management, said the reason for the closures was surplus supply and a demand crunch.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

ON THE DECLINE



NO. OF MBA INSTITUTES				NO. OF MBA INSTITUTES			
State	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change	State	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
Maharashtra	406	382	-24	J&K	11	9	-2
Tamil Nadu	395	372	-23	Chattisgarh	20	20	0
Andhra	851	832	-19	Delhi	18	18	0
UP	447	431	-16	Assam	9	9	0
Haryana	150	135	-15	Puducherry	6	6	0
Karnataka	209	198	-11	Meghalaya	1	1	0
Rajasthan	110	99	-11	Nagaland	1	1	0
Gujarat	108	100	-8	Sikkim	1	1	0
Uttarakhand	49	43	-6	D&N Haveli	1	1	0
MP	203	198	-5	Kerala	73	74	1
W Bengal	55	51	-4	Bihar	18	19	1
Punjab	129	127	-2	Jharkhand	6	7	1
Odisha	72	70	-2	Total	3364	3217	-147
Himachal	15	13	-2				

Surya namaskar made compulsory in Raj schools

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Rajasthan's education department on Tuesday issued orders making surya namaskar compulsory in all secondary and senior secondary schools in the state with immediate effect.

According to the order issued by the office of director, secondary education, Rajasthan, every secondary and senior secondary school will each day have to hold a 20-minute assembly or 'bal sabha'

that will include surya namaskar, meditation and newspaper reading. Effectively, the directive will be applicable in about 48,000 schools, including 28,000 government ones (secondary and above).

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh, too, had issued a similar direction earlier but had not made it mandatory. It had asked only government schools to introduce surya namaskar.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Having troubled sleep? Blame it on your gadgets

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Overexposure To Screen Affects Nerves, Disturbs Sleep

Kounteya.Sinha@timesgroup.com

London: Excessive use of smartphones and computers throughout the day can worsen quality of sleep in teenagers, a study has found.

Researchers surveyed almost 10,000 teenagers aged 16-19 in Norway and concluded that recommendations on use of gadgets should be updated, and extended to tablets and smartphones.

Total screen-use time of over four hours was linked to a 49% higher chance of the teens taking longer than 60 minutes to fall asleep. A total of more than 2 hours of screen time after school was linked to both longer sleep onset latency and shorter sleep duration.

On an average, teenagers need 8-9 hours of sleep each day. But those who spent more than 2 hours emailing or chatting were more than 3 times as likely to sleep for less than 5 hours.

While those who spent more than 4 hours in front of any screen were more than 3.5 times as likely to sleep for less than 5 hours.

Use of a computer, smartphone, or Mp3 player in the hour before



Those who used 2-3 devices were 50% more likely to sleep for less than 5 hours

Soon, smartphones that will sniff out life-threatening disorders

Jerusalem: Experts are developing a new technology that would enable smartphones to screen their users' breath for life-threatening diseases.

A research consortium headed by professor Hossam Haick of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is developing a product that, when coupled with a smartphone, will be able to screen the user's breath. The SNIFFPHONE project will link Haick's breathalyzer

screening technology to the smartphone to provide non-invasive, fast and cheap disease detection.

It will work by using micro- and nano-sensors that read exhaled breath and then transfer the information through the attached mobile phone to an information-processing system for interpretation. "Early diagnosis can save lives, particularly in life-threatening diseases like cancer," said Haick. פת

bedtime was associated with taking longer to fall asleep. The effect was more pronounced in multitaskers. Teens who used 4 or more devices were 26% more likely to take 60 or more minutes to fall asleep than those who used one.

Teens who used 2-3 devices

were 50% more likely to sleep for less than 5 hours than those who used just one; those who used 4 or more devices were 75% more likely to do so. Screen use may simply replace sleep time or interfere with sleep by stimulating the nervous system, said the researchers.

Where do women science toppers end up?

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/Where-do-women-science-toppers-end-up/articleshow/46113534.cms>

BENGALURU: Noted scientist and chairperson of the National Academy of Sciences, India, Manju Sharma on Tuesday said there was an urgent need for the country to nurture talented women in science. "What we see is a tragic waste of human capital. I attend convocations of universities across the country and find that 90 per cent of the toppers are women. Where do they go after winning gold medals?" she said.

Manju said women seldom reach the pinnacle of the hierarchy in academics or research institutions. "Though there are some positives in the recent past, the pace is very slow. Recently, I attended a conference of agricultural universities and found there was not a single woman among the 30 vice-chancellors," she added at the three-day conference on women in science organised by IISc and the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR).

Manju, also a former secretary in the department of biotechnology in the central government, called upon young women scientists not to give up higher studies and continue research. "Whenever young women join doctoral programmes, seniors should encourage them to continue in science. The role of directors of various science institutes is important. We need to move beyond talks of gender equity, reservation, etc. and utilize the talent of women as they bring in new perspectives. There's a need for a change in mindset and attitude among policy-makers too," she added.

Manju said inclusiveness in science and technology leadership is needed the world over in addition to transparency in appointments, financial assistance, confidence building, technological empowerment at ground level and networking among women scientists to encourage them to continue in science.

Young women scientists from IISc and France will present technical papers and interact with experts on various subjects at the conference.

Scientistspeak

Prof Rohini Godbole, Centre for High Energy Physics, IISc, said there are many women role models in India who have excelled in different fields and young scientists can look up to them for inspiration. "The list begins with Anandi Gopalrao Joshee, one of the first Indian women to qualify as a doctor in the US in 1886," she added. Rohini has been working at CERN, Geneva, as a theoretical physicist and is part of the theoretical predictions of the God Particle.

IISc needs more women researchers

IISc, the country's premier science centre, has a long way in taking more women researchers onboard. Its director Anurag Kumar said IISc needs to scale up the number of women researchers and it's working on this. "We have no gender bias. The number of women PhD students is going up but in the faculty we need more," he added. Sources in IISc said of the 430 professors in the institute, only about 30 are women.