

Newspaper Clips

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Meta College off to a good start

NEW VENTURE Apart from studying in various DU colleges, students will get an opportunity to be mentored by teachers from other institutes

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The new academic session at Delhi University (DU) brought in a wave of change as the varsity started its Meta College programme with the introduction of BTech in Humanities course.

Students will now have a myriad options to pick from as their core specialisation area. While the course will be conducted by the Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), students will have the option of choosing between journalism, education counselling, historical tourism, art and design.

"So far the response has been positive. It has just been two days and we have received more than 120 applications. We are sure that by August 1 the numbers will be quite high," said a

WHAT IS META COLLEGE?

- First Meta College course - BTech in Humanities - was launched on Wednesday
- Conducted by the Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC)
- Students can choose from Media studies, education counselling, Historical Tourism, art and design
- Course spread out over 8 semesters (4 years)
- Last date of Application - August 1
- Entrance Test to be held on August 5
- Classes start from August 16

CIC official. While students will be inducted through a written test and a personal interview for 40 coveted seats, the wide range of subject combinations has students' interest piqued.

For those who take up the course, not only will there be an opportunity to study across different DU colleges, but other institutes such as the Institute of Lifelong Learning and Central Institute of Education (DU) and AJK Mass Communication Research Centre of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University.

"It is a great opportunity for students to explore different disciplines and use their practical and theoretical knowledge in their research projects. These students will also be mentored by some great minds from other institutes, which will give them a wide exposure," said vice chancellor, Dinesh Singh.

Singh also added that students who graduated four years hence would be at par with some of the best minds from the country, the novelty of the course notwithstanding.

Ragging check in DU hostels

TO CURB any incidents of ragging that may have been found within Delhi University (DU), police and DU officials paid a surprise visit to the Hindu, Ramjas and Hansraj College hostels.

However, officials were in for a pleasant surprise when matters were found in order in all the three hostels. "We have not found any incident of ragging so far. In fact, we observed that the facilities in all the hostels are excellent and the students are very happy. Next week, we will inaugurate and check the hostel that has been made for north eastern students," said Usha Rao, proctor, DU. **HTC**

Scrapping JEE format will dilute IIT brand: Online poll

MIHIKA BASU

MUMBAI, JULY 26

THE Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) have arrived at a compromise formula on the new entrance test but an online poll among IIT Bombay alumni, faculty and students reveals that 89 per cent believe scrapping the current Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) format will eventually dilute brand IIT, even as 78 per cent have voted against the current structure of JEE reforms.

The results of the poll, conducted by the IIT Bom-

bay Alumni Association (IITBAA), had been submitted to the IIT Bombay senate that met on Wednesday to pass a resolution on the new compromise formula for admission to the IITs. IITBAA said though the poll was started before the compromise formula was arrived at, there was no noticeable change in the voting pattern even afterward.

"In the wake of the IIT Council decision to change the JEE format, the IITBAA initiated a survey on the issue to solicit alumni opinion and provide visibility to alumni viewpoints... We received 1,800 responses from not just IIT Bombay alumni, student and faculty but also a fair number of other IITs as well," said Damayanti Bhattacharya, chief operating officer, IITBAA.

According to the survey, 78 per cent said they did not support the ministry decision to create a two-tier common entrance test as a reasonable compromise between the desires of MHRD and maintaining the meritocracy of IITs. "It shows that an overwhelming majority of respondents have voted against the current structure of JEE reforms," said Bakul Desai, director, board of directors, IITBAA.



आईआईटी की पढ़ाई यूट्यूब पर मिलेगी

[श्रेया विश्वास नई दिल्ली]

जल्द ही आपको माउस की एक क्लिक पर इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) का क्लासरूम कंटेंट मिल सकेगा। आईआईटी और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की तरफ से शुरू किया गया नेशनल प्रोग्राम ऑन टेक्नोलॉजी इनहैंड्स लर्निंग (एनपीटीईएल) दिसंबर तक 1,200 कोर्स ऑफर करने जा रहा है। एनपीटीईएल अभी 450 कोर्स ऑफर कर रहा है, जिनमें 250 कोर्स फ्री वीडियो लेक्चर्स के जरिए चलाए जा रहे हैं। ये सभी कोर्स इंजीनियरिंग से जुड़े कॉमन नेशनल करिकुलम के तहत चलाए जा रहे हैं।

आईआईटी मद्रास के केमेस्ट्री प्रोफेसर और एनपीटीईएल प्रोजेक्ट में वेब कोर्स के नेशनल को-ऑर्डिनेटर मंगल सुंदर कृष्णन ने बताया, 'हम दिसंबर तक 1,200 कोर्स ऑफर करेंगे। इससे स्टूडेंट्स फ्री में घर बैठे आसानी से यूट्यूब पर वीडियो देखकर सिविल या मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई कर सकेंगे।'

यूट्यूब एजुकेशन दुनियाभर में 2009 में लॉन्च हुई थी। पिछले 2 क्वार्टर्स से कंपनी इंडिया में पार्टनर्स की तलाश कर रही है। यूट्यूब एजुकेशन की हेड एंजेल लिन ने बताया, 'पिछले 2 सालों में इंडिया में हमारे यूनीक यूजर्स की संख्या 1.1 करोड़ से तिगुनी यानी 3.3 करोड़ हो गई है। यही वजह है कि हम इस प्रोजेक्ट को ज्यादा एक्टिव ढंग से ले रहे हैं।' कंपनी ने आईआईटी और गुजरात यूनिवर्सिटी से पहले ही पार्टनरशिप कर ली है।

Youth gives up IIT course to fight graft

Says He Was Moved By Anna's Stir Last Year

Prerna Sodhi | TNN

New Delhi: In 2011, when Anil Kumar joined the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, he had dreams like many others to graduate as an engineer. He had not expected that he will give it all up to single-mindedly fight corruption. Youngest in the family, Kumar was moved by the anti-graft movement last year in August. It was then that he decided to be a part of the movement.

"Last year when Anna Hazare sat on fast, college students had organized a candle-light march. The entire experience had moved me and I started following the movement. I was hopeful that the government will wake up to the problem, but that did not happen," said Kumar, who is from Saharanpur.

"So I decided to join the movement and work towards weeding out corruption. It was on July 25, 2012, that I decided to give up my course at IIT," added Kumar. Kumar, who has completed two semesters in Masters in Technology from the institute, is fasting along with Team Anna at Jan-



Prerna Sodhi

STUDENT POWER: Anil Kumar was supported by 200 fellow students

tar Mantar. The 24-year-old, who worked hard to get into the institute, says he has lost faith in the system and that a degree will not help him. "I do

JOINING HANDS

not want to take a degree and be a part of the corrupt system. I'd much rather work for society," said Kumar.

Kumar, the only IIT student to be fasting, was supported by 200 students from the institute at Jantar Mantar.

He says he took his parents' permission before forsaking his degree, as they had worked very hard to get him educated.

"My parents used to work as labourers when I was in school. They have toiled to get me educated. So I took their permission before quitting my studies," said Kumar.

Kumar's father use to mend tyres when he was a child. "They were supportive of my idea. They have been affected by corruption too," said Kumar.

CBI books ex-VC of Ignou for favouring univs

Neeraj Chauhan | TNN

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday registered a case against former Indira Gandhi National Open University (Ignou) vice-chancellor V N Rajasekharan Pillai for allegedly granting permission to two private universities, Punjab Technical University and Sikkim Manipal

► Overruled UGC, P 15

University to run distance education courses in violation of rules.

The agency also conducted searches at his premises in Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam in Kerala and seized some documents.

Pillai was also the chairman of the Distance Education Council.

Distance Edu Council overruled AICTE, UGC

Neeraj Chauhan | TNN

New Delhi: The Distance Education Council, which monitors standards of open universities and distance education institutes in the country, had allowed Punjab Technical University and Sikkim Manipal University to offer certain courses after allegedly overruling the opinion of the joint committee of AICTE, Ignou and UGC.

According to the agency's FIR, the two universities made close to Rs 470 crore by running distance learning courses at their centres in five years. The FIR was filed against Pillai, unknown officials of the

two universities and some officials of (Ignou). CBI officials said they were trying to ascertain if Pillai received illegal gratification in return for favouring the two varsities. Officials said SMU admitted 17.6 lakh students in its 728 study centres all over India between 2004 and 2011 and made a profit of Rs 85 crore. Similarly, PTU admitted several lakh students in its 894 centres and made a profit of Rs 384 crore.

"Both universities did not get the approval of the joint committee of AICTE, UGC and Ignou but Pillai still gave approval for the courses setting aside the laid down guidelines," a CBI officer said.

The FIR said, "SMU is a self-financed state university established in 1995. It had approached DEC in 2004 for approval of conducting 51 courses/programmes in distance mode. The experts of DEC examined the study material and observed discrepancies which were communicated to SMU on July 3, 2006. Without any deliberation/examination of the response of SMU, Prof V Pillai allowed a provisional approval for a period of one year, i.e. for 2007-2008 and post facto recognition was given on August 29, 2007 by manipulating minutes of meetings of the third meeting of the joint committee held on August 7, 2007."