

# Newspaper Clips

## May 19-20, 2013

### May 19

Times of India ND 19/05/2013 P-4

# Learning at DU goes 'virtual'

## Every College To Have 10-12 E-Classrooms In Two Months

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: If you thought distributing laptops to all students entering DU this year was a radical move, process this — come July, all Delhi University colleges will have to set up 10 to 12 virtual classrooms each. This will enable teachers to “review” their own as well as their peer’s work in the classroom.

Principals and representatives of 30 DU colleges were informed of this development at a meeting in the South Campus on Saturday. According to a North Campus college principal, “We were asked to create the infrastructure for 10 to 12 ICT (Information and communication technology)-based virtual classrooms before the start of the first semester of the four-year undergraduate programme. So we are expected to set these up by July 2013.”

As per a “concept note on virtual classroom” (TOI has a copy) presented at the meeting, the objective is to “simulate the experience of attend-

### TECHVANTAGE

#### How virtual classes score over traditional classrooms

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Campus network removes geographical barrier</li> <li>▶ Recorded sessions will allow students to review lessons, while teachers can appraise their own or colleagues' performance</li> <li>▶ Training can be organized faster compared to traditional classroom</li> <li>▶ One-to-one communication</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in a virtual classroom</li> <li>▶ Features of virtual classroom</li> <li>▶ ICT-based classroom teaching</li> <li>▶ High-quality lectures, which can be broadcast</li> <li>▶ Multimedia content</li> <li>▶ Effortless content creation</li> <li>▶ Review through browser</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

ing a class using university’s campus network.” The presentation stated, “Just as [the] term virtual means — a simulation of real thing — virtual classroom is a simulated classroom via internet which provides a convenient communication environment for learners just like traditional face-to-face classroom. A virtual classroom allows learners to attend a classroom anywhere

and aims to provide a learning experience that is similar to a real classroom.”

As per the plan, a virtual classroom will be an online teacher-led training session where teachers and learners can interact using computers linked to a network. It is expected to... greatly reduce the travel time and expense of on site teaching/ training programme... It facilitates instructor and

student in teaching learning event such as a seminar, on-line discussion or a live training of teacher.”

But teachers are cautioning against an over-dependence on technology. A faculty-member with SOL and chairman of AAD, J Khuntia said: “We have seen the crumbling of virtual universities in the West. The technology may promote quality and transparency in DU, but at the same time, too much dependence on technology may harm us as there are cultural implications and there can be no substitutes to traditional classroom. Staff council of every college should be involved and should deliberate on how to use this technology. Also, technology should not be allowed to take away our jobs.”

Majority of DU colleges are already battling space crunch. Even a college like St Stephen’s had recently decided to reduce its annual intake by 50 seats. Many college principals believe they will be in for a major crisis if they are to spare 10-12 classrooms for virtual learning.

**MISSION  
ADMISSION**



# Harvard students erupt at scholar's claim of Hispanic inferiority

**Meghan E. Irons**

Harvard students, outraged over a doctoral dissertation arguing that Hispanic immigrants lack 'raw cognitive ability or intelligence', this week urged the university to investigate how the thesis came to be approved and to ban future research on racial superiority.

The students presented 1,200 signatures to president Drew Faust and the dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, David Ellwood.

"Academic freedom and a reasoned debate are essential to our academic community," the petition said. "However, the Harvard Kennedy School cannot ethically stand behind academic work advocating a national policy of exclusion and advancing an agenda of discrimination."

The thesis - 'IQ and Immigration Policy', by Jason Richwine, a former doctoral candidate at the Kennedy School -- compared IQ scores of US residents, including immigrants from a variety of countries, and concluded that

the scores of Hispanic immigrants were substantially lower than those of native whites. The paper argued that the United States should allow only immigrants with high IQs.

## IMMIGRANT INTELLIGENCE

"Today's immigrants are not as intelligent on average as white natives," Richwine wrote in the thesis. "The IQ difference between the two groups is large enough to have substantial negative effects on the economy and on American society."

The thesis was accepted by Harvard in 2009, but it surfaced in recent weeks after the conservative Heritage Foundation published a new study coauthored by Richwine arguing that amnesty under proposed immigration reform legislation would cost the country \$6.3 trillion. Criticism and backlash quickly followed, and amid the firestorm, *The Washington Post* reported Richwine's Harvard dissertation. Richwine has since resigned from the Heritage Foundation.

In a *Globe* interview Friday, Richwine lashed back at students pushing the petition, calling their demands to ban such research "worrisome and shameful."

"I wonder what thoughts they would seek to ban in the future," said Richwine, who said he stands by everything in his thesis. "This is a really worrisome idea here, that the students want to dictate what scholarship will be allowed at Harvard University."

Ellwood, the Kennedy School dean, said in a statement that any views and conclusions by its graduates do not reflect the views of Harvard. He urged scholars and critics to engage in reasoned discussion and criticism after fully reviewing the work.

"All PhD dissertations are reviewed by a committee of scholars," Ellwood said in the statement. "In this case, the committee consisted of three highly respected and discerning faculty members who come from diverse intellectual traditions."

George Borjas, chairman of

the Kennedy School's Standing Committee on Public Policy, which accepted Richwine's work, also defended the paper.

"Jason's research was sound," wrote Borjas, in an e-mail to the Kennedy School student newspaper, *The Citizen*. "None of the members of the committee would have signed off on it if they thought that it was shoddy empirical work."

Richwine, who said he is currently unemployed, said he was surprised by the media maelstrom over his dissertation, calling criticism unfair and saying it has been used to attack the Heritage Foundation.

"One of the many mischaracterisations of my dissertation is that I support an ethnicity-based immigration policy," he said. "I do not. I endorse treating everyone as individuals. That's clear throughout the text."

## RACIST UNDERTONES

Richwine wrote in his thesis that low immigrant IQ scores could be the result of factors

including poverty, poor nutrition, and education and 'genetic differences'.

He said the result among immigrants is lack of socioeconomic assimilation, more underclass behaviour, less social trust, and an increase in the proportion of unskilled workers in the American labour market.

"Selecting high IQ immigrants would ameliorate these problems in the US, while at the same time benefiting smart potential immigrants who lack educational access in their home countries."

The protesting Harvard students have condemned the paper's suggestions about race.

"I was very surprised that this was approved by Harvard," said Fernando Berdion, a Kennedy School doctoral candidate in public policy and spokesman for the students. "I'm very surprised that a PhD candidate here would devote his dissertation to try to demonstrate that one race is inherently superior than another." — **New York Times News Service**

Aaj Samaj ND 19.05.2013 P-4

## आईआईटी व एनआईटी में एक साथ दाखिला नहीं

आईआईटी तथा एनआईटी  
संस्थान अपने प्रवेश से  
संबंधित डाटा ऑनलाइन  
एक-दूसरे से करेंगे शेयर

नई दिल्ली। जेईई परीक्षा में उच्चतम स्थान प्राप्त करने के बावजूद भी कोई छात्र एक साथ दोनों संस्थान आईआईटी व एनआईटी में दाखिले के लिए आवेदन नहीं कर सकते हैं। उन्हें एक संस्थान में प्रवेश सूची में नाम आने के बाद किसी अन्य संस्थान में प्रवेश से पूर्व पहली सूची से अपना नाम वापस लेना जरूरी होगा। जानकारी के अनुसार आईआईटी तथा एनआईटी संस्थान की परीक्षा आयोजन से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने पिछले सप्ताह इस संबंध में एक समझौता किया है। समझौते के तहत आईआईटी तथा एनआईटी संस्थान अपने प्रवेश से संबंधित डाटा ऑनलाइन एक दूसरे से शेयर करेंगे। हालांकि यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि हर साल अंतिम मौके पर कुछ सीटों के खाली रहने की समस्या समाप्त हो जाएगी तथा ज्यादा छात्रों को इन संस्थानों से इंजीनियरिंग करने का अवसर मिलेगा। इस फैसले से उन छात्रों को फायदा मिलेगा जिनकी रैकिंग कम होगी। मंत्रालय के इस फैसले से उनको कॉलेजों में दाखिले का अवसर प्राप्त हो सकेगा।

**May 20**

Indian Express ND 20/05/2013 P-6

# Setting the JEE record straight

## A CBSE centre works to correct over one lakh wrongly-filled JEE Main forms

**ANUBHUTI VISHNOI**

NEW DELHI, MAY 19

WHILE they are in the midst of hectic discussions to normalise school board marks for JEE Main, introduced this year, the examination authorities also have to attend to another urgent task: to scrutinise and correct application forms — more than a lakh of them.

The applications are riddled with errors, from incorrect dates of exams to wrong names of school boards. Such is the magnitude of errors that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which conducts the JEE Main, has set up a dedicated centre to set it right. And over the past two months, the centre has marshalled all its resources — computers, voice broadcasting, telephone calls, SMS and such — to get correct the forms.

Some 12 lakh candidates appeared for JEE Main 2013, which will determine admissions to NITs and a host of engineering institutes, and serve to sift the top 1.5 lakh students

who will be eligible to appear for JEE Advanced that determines admissions to IITs.

“A good 10 per cent candidates have provided incorrect information. There are students who have misspelt their names or short spelled or have not spelled it as it is in their board examination forms. Others have even given names of wrong school boards or even fake boards. This is the first year of the JEE Main format and we want to ensure no student suffers due to these errors. A dedicated centre is working round the clock to verify details now,” an official associated with the centre said.

This is how the dedicated centre sets the records straight: as soon as a possible error is spotted, the centre attempts to verify it through information provided by various school boards; then they call up the student or her guardian, inform them of the discrepancies and ask them to rectify them on the CBSE website. The centre has so far corrected more than 40,000 forms.

Times Of India ND 20/05/2013  
P-1 Education

# ACCESS ANSWERS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has finally decided to provide a photocopy of the OMR sheet, answer key and calculation sheet to those who appeared for the JEE (Mains) this year. The JEE (Mains) was conducted on April 7.

Students who wish to access the photocopies of their answer sheets and other examination-related documents, have to apply for them by paying a fee of Rs 500 via a demand draft (payable to Secretary, CBSE) at New Delhi. Their application should be received by CBSE before June 15. Once the board receives their application, they will scrutinise it for authenticity. If

**6** Students who wish to access their answer sheets and other exam-related documents have to apply for the photocopies by paying a fee of Rs 500

they are satisfied with the application, they will dispatch all the requested documents through speed post.

According to a notification issued from the JEE unit, candidates who have already applied under the RTI Act 2005 or otherwise, may apply afresh for the same along with a fee of Rs 500. Photocopy of the OMR sheet, answer key and calculation sheet will not be provided to any institution or school for display or for commercial purposes.

The application submitted on behalf of the candidate or an incomplete application will be summarily rejected. JEE (Mains) scores are used for admission to engineering colleges and to shortlist students for the JEE (Advanced), to be held on June 2, for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and ISM Dhanbad. JEE (Mains) scores will be used to gain admission in NITs, IIITs and other engineering institutes.

# Financial Express ND 20/05/2013 P-12

## **IIT-BHU to host mega alumni meet in the Silicon Valley of India**

IIT-BHU is among the pioneers in imparting engineering education in India and has the largest alumni base of any engineering college in India. With more than 10,000 registered members, IIT (BHU) alumni has announced its annual global mega meet on June 29, 2013, at Hotel Lalit Ashok, Bangalore.

Asian Age ND 20/05/2013

P-21

## INDIA, U.S. LIKELY TO INK STUDENT EXCHANGE PACT

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

The government hopes to further strengthen ties with the US in the field of higher education with the visit of Union HRD minister M.M. Pallam Raju to the country.

Sources stated that the two countries are soon likely to ink pact to increase exchange of students. "India is also likely to seek the help of the US in the field of establishing community colleges in the country," sources added.

The HRD minister is understood to be keen to be keen on involving the US on the community college issue as it has a very healthy, vibrant and strong network of community colleges.

# To meet shortage of docs, 5,000 more seats in 2013

Chetan Chauhan  
 ■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** In a major boost to health education in India, the government is set to add around 5000 new medical seats in 2013 academic year, to meet the shortage of doctors in the public health sector.

Despite a huge demand for medical seats with both public and private health sector expanding, strict rules was proving to be a major

hurdle in the opening of new medical colleges. The government, however, amended the archaic Medical Council of India Act a few years ago allowing medical colleges in smaller areas.

"The old law was not relevant for the present time when land resources especially in urban areas are scarce. We changed the regulations resulting in the capital cost of opening a medical college falling by around 25%," health minister Gulam Nabi Azad

told Hindustan Times on Saturday.

Another key change incorporated by the government was to allow intake of 250 students in place of the earlier cap of 150. The government also eased norms for the hospital to be attached with the medical colleges.

The changes in the law resulted in creation of about 3,595 new medical seats in 2012.

This year, the government expects another 5,000 seats

to be added through opening of about 15-20 new medical colleges and allowing higher intake in under-graduate courses in existing medical colleges of more than 10 years old.

What would remain a challenge for the government is whether the new medical graduates would join public health or not. The planning commission's 12th five year plan (2012-17) documents says about 40% of the posts of doctors in public health

sector are lying vacant. The problem is more acute in rural parts of India than in urban areas.

The health minister added that medical education was primarily based in southern and western India and added that the government was making efforts to start medical colleges in eastern and northern part of the country. The government has already started working on five AIIMS-like institutes in different parts of the country.

## MEETING THE DEMAND

- Despite a huge demand for medical seats, strict rules were proving to be a major hurdle in the opening of new colleges.
- The government has allowed intake of 250 students in place of 150.
- It has also eased norms for hospital to be attached with the medical colleges.

Financial Express ND 20/05/2013P-12

## Our MBA is a big draw for Indian students

Professor Anton Muscatelli, the principal and vice-chancellor of University of Glasgow, in an interaction with FE's Vikram Chaudhary, talks about the University of Glasgow's commitment to expanding its activities and partnerships in India. Excerpts:

**What are the current tie-ups the University of Glasgow has in India?**

The University of Glasgow is committed to expanding its activities and partnerships in India, working on projects of mutual interest with Indian universities. Currently our academics are visiting a num-

ber of partners throughout the country. We have existing partnership agreements with University of Delhi, University of Calcutta, University of Navrachana (Gujarat), IIT Ropar and IISER Pune which we are hoping to expand.

We are also actively seeking to increase staff and student exchanges with Indian institutes, aiming to have more summer school programmes, developing joint degrees and increasing our joint research activities. In fact, we are in the early stages of developing an India-Scotland Knowledge Forum to bring together all the academics in the University of Glasgow with research interests focused on India.



**INTERVIEW: ANTON MUSCATELLI**  
 VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

**Have you launched any new programmes?**

We are always updating our programmes to meet the needs

of students, and many of our degrees are highly relevant to international students, including Indians. The University of

Glasgow Adam Smith Business School attracts the highest number of Indian students and we have launched new masters degrees—MSc Finance & Management, MSc Asset Pricing & Investment and MSc Investment Fund Management. Our MBA is also a big draw for Indian students. A big area of growth in India is life sciences and biotechnology. Here also we have relaunched masters degrees in bioinformatics, polymomics and systems biology.

**What about helping students find jobs?**

Helping students find jobs after graduating is very important and we have taken a number of measures to help achieve

this, including embedding more industrial links and placements in our programmes and also in recruiting a graduate opportunities manager who makes connections with employers in India and an enterprise manager who helps students develop business ideas.

**And visa regulations...**

Recent changes to the visa regulations have seen a doubling of the number of graduate entrepreneur visas to 1,000 and the University of Glasgow has been awarded the maximum number of 20 visas that we can sponsor. Half of these will be given to the MBA students.



Business Line ND 20.05.2013 P-16

# Indian hacker gets paid for dropping off college

## Asian News International

Washington, May 19

An Indian immigrant is set to become the most accomplished hacker in US, as he is being paid for dropping college studies and engaging himself in Silicon Valley's entrepreneurial environment.

Diwank Singh Tomer, 19, has enrolled himself with Facebook's first investor and the co-founder and former CEO of PayPal, Peter Thiel, who is paying \$100,000 to 20 teenagers to launch a business of their own, ABC News reports.

Tomer, who is designing an interactive learning environment with funding from the Thiel Foundation, had dropped out from an Indian University after

continuing only for less than a month, when the computer science major realised that he can launch a start-up to help people learn to code while learning coding basics himself. Tomer said he believes that dropping out is an important part of the growing up process, adding that instead of promoting students to ask questions, traditional Indian schools force the students to only appear smart. The unconventional entrepreneur also said that people learn best when they have access to mentors and the ability to learn in a way that suits them. The Thiel Foundation mentors the young entrepreneurs during the two year fellowship as they pursue advance studies and

practices in everything from robotics to fashion but does not entitle them to join school or get employed during the period without special approval from the foundation.

Stating that the entrepreneurs have exceeded the foundation's expectations, Thiel said that the company's intention was to help a small number of creative people learn and accomplish more than they might have otherwise.

Not fearing failure, Tomer has developed an algorithm that will respond to the user's actions, where the programme will direct the user to take cues from the ways he interacts with the site as he yearns to learn about a small area of coding.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: May 20, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 2;

# Concrete works swallow Jia Sarai stepwell

**TOI traces city's lost & dying water bodies in this series**

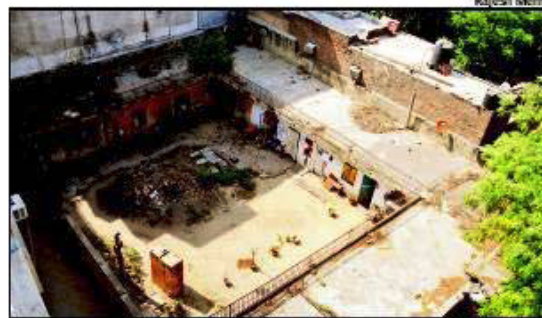
Neha Lalchandani | TNN

New Delhi: When Delhi Development Authority acquired land for IIT in 1960, it was a far cry from the crowded urban city centre it is now. In the middle of the flush open farmland was a stepwell which was almost transferred to Indian Institute of Technology but better sense prevailed and the civic au-

thorities left it alone. This baoli is now lost under tightly packed concrete buildings.

Ranbir Singh, a resident of Jia Sarai where the stepwell is located, has been fighting for it since 1980s when the encroachment first started. The baoli is mentioned in Delhi government's 2006 list which has recorded 629 water bodies in the city. "The land was first acquired by DDA and transferred to the municipal corporation a few years later. The land in question comes under khasras 74 and 75. DDA has said on

record that the land is a water body and belongs to the municipal agency which is authorized to take action. However, till date, construction



Rajesh Mehta

**DO YOU SEE A STEPWELL HERE?** The baoli is mentioned in Delhi government's 2006 list which has recorded 629 water bodies in the city



work is taking place. The stepwell has been covered entirely

and no part of it is visible," said Singh.

Not much is known about the structure

except that it is an old construction and built in an area of about 1.75 sq yard. "In 1982, a lower court had instructed that status quo be maintained on the land. Despite the order, the construction continued and private

buildings cover not only the stepwell but a substantial area surrounding it. Only part of a wall is visible but that too is now enclosed by a residential building... Delhi Wakf Board has also complained against the encroachers," said Singh.

Municipal officials have accepted in court that the area has been encroached upon and the buildings are illegal. However, no information has been given on what it intends to do with the illegal buildings or the construction that is taking place even now. Government officials say this is a classic case of land owning agencies being negligent. "The case has been dragging on for 30 years and if the departments wanted, they could have preserved the water body," said an official.