

# Newspaper Clips

## September 19, 2015

Economic Times ND 19/09/2015 P-1

# Passionate About Tabla & Arts, IITs Now Say We Also Teach Engineering

To learn life skills, students now taking courses in human values, pottery & theatre

## Offbeat Courses at IITs



### IIT-VARANASI

**COURSES** on painting, sculpture, music and dance are part of credit requirements



### IIT-KHARAGPUR

**SUBJECTS** include graphic design, visual communication, design semantics



### IIT-MADRAS

**COURSES** in art, music, singing - whenever it gets faculty; Not part of regular curriculum yet



### IIT-HYDERABAD

**COURSES** on painting, poetry, clay modelling, sculpture, theatre and dance are part of credit requirements



### IIT-MANDI

**FIRST** year students can opt for one out of three credit courses: art & architecture, music and dance & drama. In 3rd year, they have an optional course of 4 credits in which they go out and interact with society



### IIT-GUWAHATI

**SUBJECTS** include Assamese Sattriya dance, instrumental music (violin and tabla) and Hindustani vocal music; credits being worked out for these courses



Illustration: ANIRBAN

## SATURDAY SPECIAL

Prachi.Verma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** What's Odissi got to do with engineering? Or painting, sculpture and music for that matter? Everything, it would appear. India's top engineering schools have come to realise that allowing their students to acquire some of these skills is essential for all-round development, especially when it comes to dealing with stress.

Take Nikhili Jain, for instance—he had always wanted to try his hand at art and music.

Peer pressure and his parents, however, drove him to the Indian Institute of Technology at Varanasi, where he is a dual degree (B Tech and M Tech) student. But he's also enrolled for a course on human values, a subject not typically associated with a professional engineering degree.

Apart from the disciplines mentioned above, pottery, theatre and music appreciation are among the offbeat subjects that are now found in the curriculum of the IITs, the country's top engineering colleges. The objective is to make IIT graduates smarter, with well-rounded, balanced and holistic training.

"Now, having attended these courses, I intend to do something that would truly give me satisfaction, like either organic farming or something in alternative education," said Jain. "Before joining the course, our batch was very competitive and reeling under peer pressure. Also, the goals earlier were highly materialistic. I was always bothered about my placement in a big corporate and the size of the pay package.

When Jain and his batchmates step out into the world, they will be armed with more than just knowledge of engineering—they will also be equipped with the life skills needed to tackle real-world problems.

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# 'Mechanised Learning at IITs'

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Along with physics, mathematics and computer science, among others, most IIT students are now required to get credits in subjects such as pottery, ceramics, photography, meditation, architecture, human values, music appreciation, film critique, theatre, music and dance. These subjects are also intended to take the stress out of the students' lives.

"Learning at the IITs is mechanised and many students have been affected by this. Students in the past have dipped in academics due to pressures, both academic and personal," said IIT-Guwahati Director Gautam Biswas.

According to Biswas, three out of 10 IIT students suffer from pressure, leading to depression.

"These students need to de-stress with non-academic subjects that would also help them to rejuvenate mental strength," he said.

Professionals from all streams—engineering, finance, medicine—suffer from such anxiety and picking up a skill like writing, dancing or singing can help them beat this, according to Samir Parikh, consultant psychiatrist and director of the Department of Mental Health & Behavioural Sciences at Fortis Healthcare in the Capital. "If these skills are made part of the education system, especially in the higher education system like in the IITs, it will work as a stress-coping tool," Parikh said.

### MUCH-NEEDED STEP

Recruiters say it's a much-needed step that will enable more creative and balanced thinking of both engineering and real-world problems.

"As an organisation, we believe in cross-functional, 'whole-brained' teams," said Rahul Gama, head of human resources at Godrej Consumer Products Ltd.

"When we recruit from engineering and business schools, our hiring strategy is to attract young and talented India, especially people who are also passionate about their interests outside work." The IITs are attempting to do just this, by focussing on aspects involving interests outside the workplace. IIT-Rhubaneswar recently started Odissi dance as a B Tech sub-

ject. IIT-Guwahati introduced unconventional courses like the Assamese Sattriya dance, instrumental music (violin and tabla) and Hindustani vocal music. At IIT-Varanasi, every student is required to pick one humanities subject every semester. Arts courses here include painting, sculpture, music and dance, and are part of the credit requirements, as is a subject like human values. "Courses such as human values develop sensitivity and self-reflection. Such engineers would be better in teamwork with leadership qualities," said Rajeev Sangal, director of IIT (BHU) Varanasi.

"I am glad that this institute is offering and trying to integrate more such courses into the curriculum. I will get more exposure in the field that I always wanted to be in," said Jain.

### ADDING NEW COURSES

Last semester, IIT-Hyderabad started courses like sculpture, painting, poetry, clay modelling, theatre and dance. It is mandatory for every student to pick up at least two of these courses under "creative arts".

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new courses to creative arts. The next we will add ceramics, and in future we will also increase the credits for these courses," said Deepak John Mathew, head of the department of design at IIT-Hyderabad. "There are often complaints that engineers lack in life skills. These courses will help the students to connect to society and country." At IIT-Mandi, first year students can opt for one of three credit courses: art and architecture, music and dance, and drama. "In addition, in their third year, they have an optional course of four credits in which they go out and interact with society. This will help them design more useful products as an engineer," said a faculty member at IIT-Mandi. While IITs are roping in experts in various domains for these courses, some have had to delay introducing these subjects for want of fac-

ulty. IIT-Madras offers such courses to students for credits whenever it gets experts. "Since we do not hire full-time faculty in these specialities, offerings partly depend on availability of guest faculty, their willingness, their ability to adapt to a classroom ambience, teach in English, and so on," said IIT-Madras Director Bhasakar Ramamurthi. "It is well-established that any good programme, be it in science, engineering or medicine, should include a certain number of courses in the liberal arts/humanities. This gives a well-rounded education," Ramamurthi added. About 50 students enrol at IIT-Madras each time courses on art history and music appreciation are offered.

### NOT ALL IITs ON BOARD

However, not all the IITs are treading this innovative track. IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi do not have any such offbeat courses or subjects as of now.

There are enough extracurricular options on campus to take the stress off students, including a range of cultural, educational, athletic and social activities, according to the website of IIT-Bombay. It also has a number of student festivals, the most well-known and popular of which are Mood Indigo, Techfest and the Performing Arts Festival.

At IIT-Delhi, there have been discussions about bringing in these courses, said a faculty member at academic affairs. A decision, however, may be taken only when the curriculum is revised two years from now.

Even so, there's one other reason for IITs to look beyond conventional subjects: to balance development of both sides of the brain. Music, art, intuitive thought or pre-mature meditative/rapturous states are features of the right side of the brain, which can help balance out aspects of engineering streams that are associated with the left side, said Joy Sen of IIT-Kharagpur, who is the principal investigator of Sandhi, a project on the interface between science and heritage, which has been introduced at the institute. "I do believe non-engineering inputs will balance their left-brain strengths with the right. This should enable more creative and balanced thinking of both engineering and real-world problems," said Prabir Ku-

## ET VIEW

## Imagineers, Not Just Engineers

India needs engineers. It also needs 'Imagineers'. For that to happen, a neglected area has to be brought under the spotlight: study of the humanities. While introducing 'off beat' subjects—the unfortunate term being used, thereby underlining their unimportance in any holistic knowledge-equipping process—institutions should push students to break out of traditional silos that make for good executors, but lousy innovators. It was one of the world's most iconic physicists (an adept violinist, too) who said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Our future engineers and technologists, as well as their teachers, must realise that being playful with their acquired knowledge is the biggest 'skill set'.

mar Jha, global chief people officer (designate) at Cipla. Subjects such as graphic design, visual communication and design semantics are already taught to students at IIT-Kharagpur. At the department of architecture, music and dance as rhythms of anthropometry (the systematic collection and correlation of measurements of the human body) are also covered while explaining vernacular forms, styles and patterns.

**Deccan Herald ND**  
**19/09/2015 P-8**

## IITs, NITs to refund fees to candidates not taking admission

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The human resource development ministry has clarified that the Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology will refund the seat acceptance fee after deducting the processing charge of Rs 1,000 to those students who remitted the fee but did not take admission.

The move came the after ministry received queries from a large number parents and students on the refund of the seat acceptance fee.

“Candidate who remit seat acceptance fee, report to any reporting centre but do not join the participating institute will be treated as rejecting the offer. Such candidates may seek for the refund of the acceptance fee after the completion of seat-allocation process. In such cases, candidates will be refunded the seat acceptance fee paid by him or her after deducting one thousand rupees,” the ministry said on Friday.

The Joint Seat Allocation Authority has already taken a decision in this regard earlier.

“In cases where candidates leave after joining the participating institute and if the seat falling vacant has been filled by another candidate by the last date of admission, the institute may return the fee collected with proportionate deductions of monthly fee and proportionate hostel rent, where applicable,” the ministry added.

**Financial Express ND 19/09/2015 P-3**

## Boeing, IIT to hold aerospace summit in Oct

**fe Bureau**  
**New Delhi, Sept 18**

**U**S aerospace major Boeing and the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay will convene a summit on aerospace innovation in New Delhi on October 16 to bring together thought leaders and stakeholders from the government, industry, academia and research institutions.

The focus of the summit will be on India's role in the second century of aerospace by exploring ideas that are redefining the fu-

ture of aerospace and examining the transformative nature of new technologies in space and aviation.

will participate in the summit. “Boeing is working with local companies to help strengthen all aspects of the Indian aerospace industry, including manufacturing, sourcing, engineering, and research and development.”

The government, industry and academia, added McNerney, play a central role in spurring innovation while helping to shape economic and business environments around the world.

Pratyush Kumar, president, Boeing India, said that with India's aerospace sec-



tor ready to take off, New Delhi provides the perfect place to exchange ideas such as India's disruptive technological innovation; how to create an aerospace environment to realise the full potential of “Make in India;” how space exploration will continue to change life on earth; and, finally, what it takes to create a highly skilled aerospace manufacturing workforce.

“We are thrilled to convene this summit in India to accelerate the development of the aerospace sector, which is critical for meeting objectives of the ‘Make in India’ programme and harnessing India's full potential for aerospace and defence,” said Kumar.

“As we look to our second century in business, it is clear that India has the talent, technology and entrepreneurial resources to play a pivotal role in the evolution of the aerospace industry,” said Boeing chairman Jim McNerney, who

later remarking, “I think we can build a better one.”

“We are thrilled to convene this summit in India to accelerate the development of the aerospace sector, which is critical for meeting objectives of the ‘Make in India’ programme and harnessing India's full potential for aerospace and defence,” said Kumar.

**Asian Age ND 19.09.2015**  
**P-3**

# **IIT student commits suicide in Guwahati**

**MANOJ ANAND**  
**GUWAHATI, SEPT. 18**

A final-year B.Tech student, Ujjawal Shailabh, on Friday committed suicide by jumping from the top of his hostel. In what has set alarm bells ringing, this was the fourth incident of suicide since March 2014 at IIT Guwahati.

The security guards of the IIT spotted a body in the backyard of Brahmaputra Hostel, which was later identified to be of Ujjawal Shailabh who hails from Tribeniganj in Supaul district of Bihar. The police said that preliminary investigation has indicated it to be a case of suicide as student is suspected to have jumped from fourth floor of the hostel.

The police said that it took time in identifying the body as it was damaged beyond recognition. A team of forensic experts has gathered the evidence for further investigation. The spokesperson of IIT Guwahati Labanu Konwar said that security guards noticed the body at about 11.30 am and informed the administration, which rushed its chief medical officer to the spot. However, doctors found him dead.

He said that Ujjawal Shailabh had joined the IIT in 2009. He was appearing for his B.Tech final examination this year. It is significant that a student S.M. Shohaib Ahmed, a second semester M.Sc. student of Mathematics department, had committed suicide on March 11, 2014 in the hostel room. It was followed by another incident in the IIT Guwahati on September 15, 2014 when a first-semester student Tushar Yadav committed suicide.

## Special meeting of NE NITs will be convened soon: Irani

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agartala/Special-meeting-of-NE-NITs-will-be-convened-soon-Irani/articleshow/49011624.cms>

AGARTALA: A special meeting of the NITs of the north eastern region would be convened soon to discuss the problems and opportunities for their improvement in the region, HRD minister Smriti Irani today said.

"I am sure the interactions of the NITs in the region would not only be beneficial for the students of the region, but the NITs of the country as a whole," she said in her brief speech at a function at the NIT Agartala campus.

The Minister also directed the NIT authorities of Agartala to invite at least one foreign academician in the institute for delivering lectures and teach the students at least for 15 days and furnish a list of foreign academicians to the ministry.

"The cost of travel of the academicians would be borne by the ministry and the lectures would be video recorded for future use by the students," she said.

She also stressed on the need for student exchange with the other NITs of the country for benefit of the students.

Irani said students of all NITs should participate in the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' programme for imparting education to the students of at least five panchayat areas adjacent to the institute.

## IITs helping engineering students beat stress with offbeat subjects

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iits-helping-engineering-students-beat-stress-with-offbeat-subjects/articleshow/49019434.cms>

NEW DELHI: What's Odissi got to do with engineering? Or painting, sculpture and music for that matter? Everything, it would appear. India's top engineering schools have come to realise that allowing their students to acquire some of these skills is essential for allround development, especially when it comes to dealing with stress.

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## ET View: Imagineers, Not Just Engineers

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## IIT-BHU's first alumni meet from December 30

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-BHUs-first-alumni-meet-from-December-30/articleshow/49008045.cms>

VARANASI: After getting the status of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in 2012, Banaras Hindu University's technology wing, IIT-BHU will host its first ever alumni meet from December 30 to January 1.

The authorities are all busy chalking out elaborate plans and making initiatives to invite ex-students from across the globe and honour them.

An 'alumni portal' has also been developed for one-time registration wherein the details of all former students will be stored in the 'alumni database', for signing up to the impending 'Alumni Meet'. The online registrations for the meet has started from September 15.

"The three-day meet which will begin from December 30 and over 1,000 ex-students are expected to join the meet," member secretary of the meet, Ashok Kumar told TOI on Sunday. The tagline affixed to the meet is 'Reconnect. Reminisce. Celebrate!', he added.

Divulging into the details of the upcoming meet, Kumar said, "We have come up with this online brochure on our portal which emphasizes on meeting your batchmates, rekindling the good old days and has a special mention of 'Limbdi Corner ki Chai' which holds a special place in every IIT-BHU student's heart." A tentative programme list has been chalked out which includes quite a lot of interactive sessions and lectures by noted alumni members, he said, adding that, "We are aware of the busy schedule of those ex-students serving various organizations in different parts of the country, yet are hopeful that they do not miss this nostalgic visit back to their campus."

"Although we have published all the details online at [www.alumnimeet.iitbhu.ac.in](http://www.alumnimeet.iitbhu.ac.in) as most of our ex-students keep themselves updated by checking details online, yet for those who are not more of net savvy, efforts are being made to contact them via e-mails and register alumni settled abroad as well as other places," he said.

As per the online portal, the features of the meet include campus tour with updates about recent infrastructure development, departmental visits and interaction with professors and faculties of concerned department, exploring the holy city and a visit to Sarnath for reviving the city experience and a series of cultural programmes. The registration charges are Rs. 5,000 per visiting alumnus and Rs. 3,000 per accompanying person.

## HC reserves verdict on AMU VC appointment

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/HC-reserves-verdict-on-AMU-VC-appointment/articleshow/49007917.cms>

ALLAHABAD: The Allahabad High Court has reserved its judgment on a writ petition challenging the appointment of Prof Zameeruddin Shah as Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

The order was passed by a division bench comprising Justice Dilip Gupta and Justice V K Mishra on a writ petition filed by one Syed Abrar Ahmad of Aligarh district after hearing counsels for all sides associated with this case. The petitioner has challenged the appointment of Prof Zaheeruddin Shah as Vice-Chancellor of AMU on the ground that he does not fulfill

the qualification as prescribed under the Regulations 2010 of UGC.

Counsel for the petitioner, Rishi Chaddha, contended that UGC Regulations 2010 have specifically provided that for becoming a vice-chancellor, one should be a person of academic excellence. In addition to it, one must have experience of 10 years as professor. Since, the present VC does not possess both the qualifications, his appointment must be declared illegal and be quashed, the petitioner's counsel demanded.

However, appearing for the Vice-Chancellor, senior counsel Shashi Nandan and counsel for AMU Ikram Ahmad contended that UGC Regulations 2010 are not applicable on the Vice-Chancellor, as they are applicable only on teachers. Further, the AMU itself has not adopted these regulations, therefore, their applicability on the Vice-Chancellor of AMU does not arise.

Appearing on behalf of the University Grants Commission (UGC), its counsel Rizwan Ali Akhtar contended that UGC Regulations 2010 pertaining to minimum qualifications are statutory in nature and are applicable on Vice-Chancellor also.

## **UPTU is now Kalam Tech University**

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

LUCKNOW: The state government has issued a notification declaring that Uttar Pradesh Technical University (UPTU) will now be known as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University. The university has adopted the notification and said henceforth all official work will be done with this new name. In a befitting tribute to India's Missile Man, chief minister Akhilesh Yadav had on July 31 announced that the UPTU would be named after the former president. The CM also promised a grand memorial in Kalam's memory on the new campus of the university.