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Learning net widens in DU, teachers to go online soon

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi [University](#) is now planning to stretch the interaction between teachers and students beyond classroom. DU's [Institute](#) of Lifelong Learning is ready to launch e-classrooms from August 18 wherein teachers in any college can give and receive assignments from students, chat, discuss and blog with their students online.

As part of the e-learning portal ready for use by students from this year, ILLL will launch webpages of individual teachers while also giving every student a password. "We are providing this facility to teachers to create their own webpages which can be accessed by students. They can upload assignments for students on their webpage which can then be used for internal assessment," explained professor A K Bakhshi, director, ILLL. He further said, "We are officially launching this facility on August 18 with representative teachers from different colleges. They will be trained in uploading content and managing the webpage so that teaching can be taken beyond the classroom."

According to Bakhshi, teachers will have to get over their inertia to embrace technology to make the teaching-learning process more effective. "At present, a teacher is available only for an hour in the classroom. Many times, students have a lot of questions, but they have to wait for another class to get the answers. With this facility, the teachers can simply post the answers on the webpage," Bakhshi said. The assignments can be submitted and graded on the webpage itself. While the teacher can keep a record of assignments of all the students in the group with date and time of submission and their grades, a student can see the schedule of assignments to be given by the teacher in the future.

Aug 16

IITs, IIMs to dump grades?

PSUs Recruiting From Top Institutes Now Ask For Percentages

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: The country's centres of excellence, mentored by foreign governments, have graded their graduates based on a Western system — the cumulative grade point index — for several years. Now, a section of them is moving to a more conventional marking system — based on percentage — after public sector undertaking (PSU) companies recruiting from top [institutes](#) have asked IITs, IIMs and National [Institutes](#) of Technology to provide an equivalence of their grades by giving percentages.

Each [institute](#), autonomous in nature, has its own grading system. Most IITs award a cumulative performance index (CPI) on a scale of one to 10 but IIT-Kanpur does not award odd-number grades. And, among the IIMs, those in Ahmedabad and Bangalore award a CGPA on a scale of one to four — like American [universities](#) — but IIM-Calcutta grades its students on a range of one to nine points.

This, according to PSUs, creates a lot of confusion and hence the move to ask for a more conventional grading system. But, just like the current varied marking system, the decision to move to percentages, too, has elicited divergent opinions among India's premier [educational institutes](#). Some are internally drawing up an equivalence and will publish that on the report card but others say they don't feel the need to carry out such an exercise.

Professor in charge of placements at IIT-Bombay Ravi Sinha said, "Each PSU has its own human resource policy and they want us to provide our grade equivalence for the minimum threshold level which they can interpret." So, IIT-Bombay, "keeping in mind students' interest" — in its senate — decided to flesh out an equivalence so that a "system of conversion

equivalence should emerge from reliable data and a clear and unambiguous basis to stand the test of time”.

But most NITs have asked the PSUs to either devise their conversion table or refer the matter to the All-India Council for Technical Education. “I have a method of grading my students and the PSUs should draw up their own method of assessing the graduates they hire. We have referred the case to the AICTE,” NIT-Nagpur director SS Gokhale said.

IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Barua too said converting grades into percentage was “no easy answer”. IIT-Delhi chairman (placement) Kushal Sen confirmed that such a request had come from the PSUs but “there is no way we can convert CPI to percentages”.

Many of the IIMs, however, have already designed a formula to convert. “PSU recruiters last year had the same request. They wanted us to provide the corresponding percentage for our CG,” IIM-Bangalore placement official Sapna Agrawal said.

