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TOI, Aug 3

IIT-B convocation over 2 days due to space crunch

Mumbai: When the IITs rolled out the 27% OBC quota, it seemed they had planned for new hostel buildings, more classrooms and increased lab space. But on convocation day at IIT-Bombay, it was evident that the [institute](#) is grappling with space crunch. So, the convocation ceremony was made a two-day affair.

This year, IIT-Bombay will give out degrees to undergraduate students and postgraduate ones on two separate days. “We decided to spread the convocation ceremony over two days because the auditorium had little space to accommodate parents,” said IIT-B director Devang Khakhar.

In 2009, IIT-Delhi held their 40th convocation over two days. The [institute](#) had divided its students based on the streams they belonged to. While candidates of some disciplines were awarded degrees on the first day, those from the remaining departments got their degrees the next day. Many other older IITs may follow suit as number of students in engineering colleges have shot up by over 50%. TNN

VC Rai apologizes for sexist remark

New Delhi: Vibhuti Narayan Rai, vicechancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, has tendered an unconditional apology for making sexist remarks against women writers.

In an apology sent to HRD minister Kapil [Sibal](#), Rai referred to his interview in ‘Naya Gyanodaya’ and said, “The sentiments of certain women writers were hurt by some of the contents of the interview. I also feel that as vice-chancellor of a central [university](#), I should not have used inappropriate words which hurt the feelings of women writers. I sincerely apologise for the same.” TNN

Nalanda univ to get \$4m grant

New Delhi: Buddhist organizations in Singapore have committed to give almost \$4 million to rebuild the famous library in Nalanda [University](#) but the UPA government is yet to pass legislation in Parliament that will give life to this project.

The Nalanda mentor group on Tuesday announced Gopa Sabharwal as the vicechancellor-designate and hoped that the project would get underway within the next couple of years. Amartya Sen, chairman of the mentor group, said the group had crafted a plan to revive the [educational institution](#), which had attracted students from across the world in ancient times. Sabharwal is a professor in sociology at Delhi’s Lady Sri Ram College.

George Yeo, visiting Singapore foreign minister and member of the mentor group, said he hoped “that by the East Asia summit, the bill will be passed and work will begin”. Nalanda [University](#) is a pet project of the Indian government as a showpiece diplomacy in Asia, resurrecting an ancient seat of Buddhist learning at its original site in Rajgir, Bihar.

Sen said they were looking at both public and private funding for the [university](#). Planning Commission has promised funds for the [university](#), he said. The seat of learning and excellence plans to have partners from [universities](#) in the western world, as well as [institutes](#) like Chulalongkorn [University](#) of Thailand.

Along with Buddhist studies and religion and divinity, the [university](#) plans to offer studies in humanities and contemporary sciences like information technology and environment. TNN

‘Unfit’ deemed univs will be given a hearing: Centre

New Delhi: A scathing report slamming the state of affairs in deemed [universities](#) and its recommendation to de-recognize 44 of them will not be implemented without giving them a fair opportunity to counter the charges, the Centre informed the

Supreme Court on Tuesday.

This response came from solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam to a query raised by a Bench comprising Justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Verma, which was hearing a bunch of petitions by blacklisted deemed [universities](#).

The deemed [universities](#), through senior advocate K K Venugopal, argued that the [institutions](#) were inspected by [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#) and were allowed to continue, and the HRD ministry had no authority to constitute the Tandon committee and accept its recommendations which were contrary to that given by the regulatory body.

Subramaniam tried to narrow down the controversy by agreeing with the Bench that if the government was to take action recommended by the Tandon committee, then it was duty bound to justify it on the basis of material which clearly suggested that the deemed [university](#) no longer functioned as expected under the statute and that there had to be compliance of natural justice — opportunity to the [institutions](#) to present their defence. TNN

[Aug 4](#)

COOL QUOTIENT

In US, MIT the place to study, Georgia univ party hotspot

Boston: Students at the Massachusetts [Institute](#) of Technology are the most studious in the US, those at Brown [University](#) in Rhode Island the happiest, while the [University](#) of Georgia is the best party school in the country, a survey by admissions consulting company Princeton Review has said.

Harvard [University](#) has the best library and Northeastern [University](#) here has the best career services programme in the US, the annual survey said. Princeton Review surveyed 122,000 students at 373 top US colleges to rate their schools on 62 categories including best professors, least accessible professors, best financial aid, classroom experience, best college newspapers and best athletic facilities.

The most sober campus, for the 13th year in a row, went to Brigham Young [University](#) in Utah Bowdoin College in Maine scored for serving the best campus food.

Most accessible professors are at US Air Force Academy in Colorado, most conservative students are at Texas A and M [University](#), while the most politically active students are at American [University](#), DC. Franklin W Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts was rated the best for its “great financial aid” programme.

“Students have become very savvy. They want to know what the campus will be like but they also want to know what is the value of their [education](#),” said Robert Franek, senior vice president of the Princeton Review. PTI

Is a large US public varsity for you?

Here's a snapshot of life in America's large public universities to help you find out what fits you while you make your choice of college

Arjun Seth

This week we focus on large public universities in the United States and shed light on issues related to college setting, size, academic experience and diversity of student population in some of its highly-selective, nationally-ranked universities. This is to help students understand the importance of the right fit while making their college list.

The setting

Many top-ranked public schools are located in a college town setting. Describing the University of Illinois's (www.uiuc.edu) setting, Karmanya Agarwal (enrolling in a computer engineering major) says, "The U of I is in itself a small town. We like to call it Cham-bana-Champaign plus Urbana. It is a sweet little town in itself. I do feel I'll miss out on city life at times but, at the same time, I feel UIUC's collegiate setting will add to my overall academic and social experience. I had thought a lot about this kind of life and the pros and cons before applying here. I guess this kind of setting grows on you."

Abeer Saha, a sophomore at the University of Virginia (www.virginia.edu), says "When applying, I didn't give much thought to geographic location or setting. But once you actually get there, these things start to matter. So it's important to consider things like, whether you like rainy, cold, or hot weather. And whether you can survive rural/college town areas where there isn't a tall build-

ing in sight and little night life or just one shopping mall."

On the other hand, Raghav Chandra, an electrical engineering and computer science major, loved everything about the location of the University of California Berkeley (www.berkeley.edu). He says, "UCB is in a college town setting, close to San Francisco/Bay Area. The geographic location is perfect for the field I am in, that is, software engineering and Silicon Valley. The weather is also good; sometimes windy, sometimes sunny. While deciding the school, it did not play an important role, but as time passes, it gains significance as ultimately you have to live here for a long time, and the experience of the school (interacting with friends, commuting, etc.) depends directly on this. These factors affect me more now. For example, because of the pleasant weather, I tend to socialise more outdoors, and be involved in sports. Being in an urban environment close to a big city allows me to enjoy more resources, better connectivity and transportation options."

The academic experience

It is true that in a big public university, there is generally a stronger focus on research, publication and a larger number of graduate and PhD students. The undergraduates are largely left to their own devices to survive. The strong and prudent undergraduate student in a public school will be very proactive and seek out the attention of the professor. You must



Students at University of Virginia enjoy a pillow fight

remember that because many of your classes will be very large (more than 300 students in an auditorium-style lecture hall), it is not enough to just get good grades. There will be too many students getting good grades. You need to take the extra step and approach the professor. The upside of this is that not many students do this. So, a professor is pleasantly surprised by this initiative and will often reward that enthusiasm with opportunities.

Writing about his experience at UVA, Saha says, "Some intro classes are huge, with more than 300 students. It's not ideal, especially if you're serious about your studies. But as you start specialising, the class size is bound to drop significantly. Even though it's still possible to get the professor's attention, if you're scared of

speaking up in front of hundreds of people, then you might want to consider a smaller college."

Amay Kataria, a computer engineering major at Virginia Institute of Technology (www.vt.edu), says, "The class size at VTech was generally about 200-250 students. I was complaining the first time but I realised the choice is either to sink or swim. The whole academic perspective counts down to adjustment and the willingness to learn in any environment. The quality of your communications with the professors in the classes is an important way to make the most of your academic experience. They remember you if you raise important questions without wasting the time of the class and that motivates you to do well in their class."

Says Chandra, "I had a

class with 700 students as well (intro classes). I did not face a problem. At Berkeley, people are comfortable asking a question while the lecture goes on and after, though it's not that personal with the professor as smaller classes. You have to make an effort to go in office hours to interact with the professor.

For both the above points, the criticism of a large university like Berkeley is heavily based on lack of attention from the professors. On the bright side, it teaches you to do your work efficiently, relying more on your resources. At the end of the day, you will have to put in effort to understand the material. The core courses at UCB are hard and competitive. I advise students to give their APs (Advanced Placement exams, conducted by the College Board), even if they are in an Indian system, as it

might help them skip a lot of courses which they might have done in high school. This will save a lot of time, effort and money. A lot of other interesting classes could be taken instead of these mandatory classes which could be waived via APs."

Size, diversity and life

Those seeking true diversity and an ocean of interests in and out of class will love the big campus environment. Some students feel claustrophobic in some of the smaller schools where it can feel a little like high school with the cliques and gossip. Though at least 80 per cent of the students in a public school will be residents of that state, they will come from different backgrounds and have a wide variety of interests. These will be represented in a myriad of different clubs and

organisations offering a student the chance to really branch out into different things. There is also a very good chance that the public school will have a great and well-funded sports programme that fuels that "Ra-Ra" spirit of the Big Game.

Says Chandra, "Berkeley being a big public university, the size was a concern initially. There was always the question of being lost in the crowd. It is true that in smaller places, one tends to have stronger ties with friends. It is mainly because of the fact that you are in the same classes as the others, unlike in bigger universities, where due to the numerous sections and options, one might have different classmates every semester. Though, it exposes you to a larger diversity and a more vibrant culture. For me, I would like to be a part of a school which is big but

has smaller divisions (based on the department, classes, etc) providing opportunity to get close to a smaller group, giving the best of both worlds."

Says Chandra, "Being a public university (which is mandated to educate residents of that state), there are only 10 per cent international students in UC Berkeley. However, there are a lot of second/third generation Americans with international (especially Asian) origin. This makes it culturally diverse, so it is easier to settle."

Says Saha, "I love meeting new people and learning about their cultures. A pleasant surprise for me was that everyone seemed interested in who I was and where I came from. They wanted to know about India and its diverse people and culture. Going to big universities in America means meeting people from all over the world. It has been a fascinating experience. I know students from Turkey, Jamaica, India, China, South Africa, France, England, and Columbia."

Says Chandra, "The student body is very active at Berkeley. Especially this year, due to the economic crisis, there were a lot of protests. Being a liberal place, people are expressive of their ideas. This makes for a very lively student body with a lot of thoughts and ideas floating around for people to absorb."

Fraternity in large public universities is often misunderstood to be an excuse for excessive partying. However, staying away from it can mean missing out on a lot of what college has to offer. Says Saha, "Greek Life (a residential society) is a big part of public school culture. Lots of kids rush in their first year, it's a unique experience and participating doesn't bind you to any fraternity."

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HindustanTimes

Title : The UK is now number one

Author :

Location :

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While the UK has unseated the US as the most favoured destination for Indian students, countries of the European Union are gaining popularity, says **Pranab Ghosh**

As per the latest figures available, the United Kingdom has replaced the United States as the most favoured destination of Indian students going abroad for studies. For the year 2010 (academic session 2010-11) 57,500 fresh student visas for the UK have been issued. "It's almost 73 per cent more than the visas issued in 2009," says Amit Chaturvedi, head education, UK (north India). The 2009 figure was 31,500. "I think it is the interest shown by Indian students in the one-year Master's programme that engineered the spurt in numbers," says Chaturvedi. On the other hand, last

year (Fall 2009 to January 2010), 26,890 Indian students were issued F-1 visas to study in the US. This is a 20 per cent drop from the year 2008 (Fall 2008 to January 2009), when 36,140 students were issued visas. "The wobbly economy of the US may be a reason behind the drop in numbers," says Renuka Raja Rao, country coordinator, educational advising services, United States-India Educational foundation. "The visa season for the students going to the US in the Fall of 2010 is still going on and the numbers will only be available later this year," she says. However, this year, as of now, there has been a renewed interest among the

Indian students, she said.

According to Koteswar Prasad Dhubal, director PR, Assocham, "The US is the lead destination for students going for management studies and the UK is the preferred destination for students studying medicine and finance." Chaturvedi has a different take. "The most popular programme is the one-year MBA. It's the crowd puller. About 12 to 14 per cent of all the students going to the UK study the one-year MBA; followed by engineering programmes (6 to 8 per cent) and subjects like fashion, law, design, biotechnology, all of which account for 20 per cent of the total number."

"Engineering, business and liberal arts programme continue to be the most popular of all programmes in the US," says Rao, adding, "environmental studies, pharmaceutical science, inter-disciplinary programmes and physiotherapy are also favoured."

The popular sentiment, however, is that the US is still the most preferred destination for Indian students and this view is corroborated by the fact that at any given point of time there would be more Indian students in the US campuses than in any other country. "In 2009 there were 1,03,260 Indian students in various US campuses," says Rao. The reason for this is that students going to study in the US stay for a longer duration - either for four-year graduation, two-year post graduation or for PhDs, which take five to six years to complete, points out Rao.

Even private education and immigration consultants put the US ahead of the UK.

"Earlier students from India preferred going to the USA, Australia, the UK, Canada and New Zealand. But with recent developments in rules and regulations in various countries the trend has changed. It's the US, the UK, Germany, New Zealand and Canada now," says Maninder Singh Nayyar, of Time Educational And Immigration Consultants, a Delhi based agency sending students abroad.

According to Nayyar, Australia has lost its reputation with Indian students as a safe destination, whereas European countries are now opening their doors to Indian Students.

Agrees Sanjay Kaushik, MD Revata International, a consulting firm for students going abroad. "There has been a significant drop in the number of students going to Australia. It's difficult to predict the percentage, but it's significant," he says. Australia, it might be recalled, attracted a large number of students opting for vocational studies.

Dobhal of Assocham, however, doesn't agree. "Students are still interested in Australia because the cost of education is less there.

Moreover, both the Australian and Indian governments have said that Australia would give Indian students state protection. This has impacted the country's prospects among Indian students positively." According to him, out of around 1 lakh Indian students who have gone abroad to study in the current academic year, 30,000 have gone to Australia.

The majority of the Indian students going abroad favour contemporary courses such as "computer science, computer engineering, electrical, mechanical, and electronics engineering, communications and biotechnology," says Kaushik. pranab.ghosh@hindustantimes.com

HindustanTimes

Title : Bajaj Capital joins hands with IIT-D and NID to start a fashion school

Author :

Location :

Article Date : 08/04/2010

**Bajaj Capital joins hands
with IIT-D and NID to start a
fashion school**

In collaboration with IIT Delhi, National Institute of Design(NID), Ahmedabad, and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and small Business Development (NIES-BUD), Delhi, Bajaj Capital has floated a fashion institute named International College of Fashion (ICF). It will run a one year PG diploma programme in fashion entrepreneurship.

These academic partners have jointly designed the curriculum and some modules will also be taught at IIT Delhi as well as NIESBUD, for which students will receive separate certificates from both these institutions. The programme will train students in fashion entrepreneurship, marketing, branding, sales and other managerial and technical skills.

Eligibility to apply for this programme is a Bachelor's degree in any discipline and a strong inclination towards

fashion. No academic or professional exposure is mandatory to be eligible to apply.

In order to give industry exposure to the budding entrepreneurs, there would be a two month compulsory internship in the fashion houses in India or Italy, where ICF has partnered with Lorenzo De Medici, a fashion institute. The last date to apply is August 14. For more details, visit www.icf.edu.in or call 011-6160 1212.

HindustanTimes

Title : IIT Bombay offers executive programme in Delhi

Author :

Location :

Article Date : 08/04/2010

IIT Bombay offers executive programme in Delhi

Graduate executives with two years of work experience can apply for a certificate programme in management (specialisation in HRM and marketing) from IIT Bombay. Anyone working in various types of organisations, viz. government, private and family managed businesses in Mumbai and Delhi is eligible. Classes will be held every alternate weekend (Saturdays and Sundays). Total number of programme days will be around 37 over 19 weekends in a year. Last date to apply is August 13. For details, visit www.som.iitb.ac.in and check details in MDP 2010 under the icon of programmes.



HindustanTimes
Title : IIT, Roorkee,
Author :
Location :
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**IIT, Roorkee,
in Greater Noida**

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, is developing an extension centre at the knowledge hub of NCR in Greater Noida. It would most probably start admitting students from the next academic session. The ten-acre campus is located at the Knowledge Park -II, Plot no 20, by the side of Express Highway in Greater Noida. It is surrounded by a large number of technical institutions and industries. IIT Roorkee, through this extension centre, intends to extend its outreach to the industry and academia. This centre will be used to undertake extension and other related activities.

A brainstorming session with the representatives of industry, academia and government agencies in NCR was organised to identify their needs and accordingly to identify various activities to be undertaken at the centre. This session was attended by 57 delegates representing 30 industries/agencies from diverse backgrounds for opinion sharing and cooperation. Ashok Bhatnagar, chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Roorkee presided over the event.



Obama: Plan ensured jobs not going to India, China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 3

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama has said that his government's new economic plan focused on making the middle class more secure and the country more competitive so that the jobs and industries of the future were not outsourced to China and India.

"When I took office... we put forward a new economic plan that rewards hard work instead of greed; responsibility instead of recklessness; focused on making our middle class more secure and our country more competitive in the long run. So that the jobs and industries of the future are not all going to China and India, but are being created right here in the US," Obama said.

Obama raised the pitch of outsourcing of jobs to India and China and gave it a political colour at a fund party raiser in Atlanta in the run up to the crucial mid-term election a few months away in which his Democratic party is anticipated to lose majority in the House of Representatives.

Obama said instead of spending money on tax breaks, his government was making smart investments in innovation, clean energy and education.

Engineering fest

IIT Madras, as part of its annual fest Shaastra, will be organising a four-day technical festival called 'Imagineering Impact', from September 29 to October 3 this year. The festival will include a host of competitions, lectures and workshops. Shaastra has been honoured with an ISO 9001:2008 certificate, which makes it the first technical festival to be given this rating. It also aims to showcase various engineering projects by the students of IIT Madras. Known as the spirit of engineering (SOE) projects, the display will include the quadrotor, paper flapper, Robo Snake and the autonomous all-terrain ground vehicle, which will be competing in the DRDO finals. Students from Pune can also be a part of the fest and put in their entries. The details for the same can be availed at www.shaastra.org.

DNA, Aug 3

IIT-B cell for students applying to foreign univs

Mihika Basu

Students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), who plan to pursue higher studies abroad, will now be guided by the institute in their application process. The app cell of IIT-B will work as a full-fledged entity to ease students pressure when they apply for foreign universities.

“There are wide levels of universities and there are many students interested in applying to institutes abroad. But, many do not know how to go about the application process. Applying is a costly affair and the app cell will simplify the processes for students. It will help them make an informed decision,” said Ramanjit Singh Anand, chemical engineering student and institute secretary, academic affairs. The cell, which will work under the guidance of the dean of academic affairs and the dean of international relations at IIT-B, will help students in writing their applications.

“We have also tied up with coaching centres who will come to IIT-B and train students on GRE and other exams,” said Anand. “We also have recorded interviews of alumni, who are currently studying at some of the most sought-after institutes abroad. It includes tips and tricks for application processes specific to each university.”