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

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 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 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.

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

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 Haneraj 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.
Scraping JEE format will dilute IIT brand: Online poll

MIHIIKA 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 Bombay 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 overwhelming majority of respondents have voted against the current structure of JEE reforms," said Bakul Desai, director, board of directors, IITBAA.

Navbharat Times
28/07/2012 P-13

आईआईटी की पहाड़ को पड़ाई यूट्यूब पर मिलेगी

[ 'भेरो विश्वास वह नई दिल्ली ' ]

जब है आपको मादाक का एक फिल्म पर इंडियन एस्ट्रोइट ओफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) का क्लासिस कंटेंट मिल सकेगा। आईआईटी और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की तरफ से शुरू किया गया नेशनल प्रोग्राम ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी इन्हेंड लर्निंग (एनपीटीईएल) दिसंबर तक 1,200 कोर्स ऑफर करेगा जा रहा है।

एनपीटीईएल अब 450 कोर्स ऑफर कर रहा है, जिनमें 250 कोर्स फ्री वीडियो लेक्चर्स के जरिए चलाए जा रहे हैं। ये तत्कालीन कोर्स इंजीनियरिंग से जुड़े कॉम्पैट नेशनल कर्फ्यूल्म के तहत चलाए जा रहे हैं।

आईआईटी महाराष्ट्र के केमेस्ट्री प्रोफेसर और एनपीटीईएल प्रोजेक्ट में वेब कोर्स के नेशनल कॉ-ऑर्डिनेटर मंगल कुमार ने बताया, 'हम दिसंबर तक 1,200 कोर्स ऑफर करेंगे। इससे स्टडेंट्स की मंजूरीमें पर वैडियो देखकर सिलिया या मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पहाड़ कर सकेंगे।'

यूट्यूब एजुकेशन दुनियामें 2009 में लॉन्च हुई थी। पिछले 2 वर्षों हैं कंपनी इंडिया में पाठ्यक्रम के लक्ष्य कर रही है। यूट्यूब एजुकेशन को हेड एंजेला लिन ने बताया, 'पिछले 2 सालों में इंडिया में हमारे यूनाइटेड कूस्त्ता की संख्या 1.1 करोड़ से नवीन यानी 3.3 करोड़ हो गई है। यही सबसे है कि हम इस प्रोजेक्ट को भव्य एक श्रृंखला के लिए लेते रहे हैं।' कंपनी ने आईआईटी और गजरात 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

Preema 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 Jantar 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 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 used 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 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

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 944 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 1996. 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."