New Delhi: The Standing Committee of the Academic Council of Delhi University gave the final go-ahead for 50-odd semester-based syllabi on Thursday.

The committee studied the course structures and now they can be sent to the Academic Council and Executive Council for the final approval. The courses are supposed to shift to semester mode from the new academic session starting July 21.

The departments presented the syllabi which were passed with relevant amendments, committee members said. With this, the approval of semester-based courses is complete. The syllabi will be placed before the Academic Council on Friday for final clearance.

The courses include history, economics, English, computer science, geography, sociology, political science, home science and physical education, among others.

For courses like history, economics, political science and geography only the first two semester courses were passed as the rest of the syllabi is yet to be prepared by the respective departments.

Delhi University introduced the semester system at the undergraduate level in 2010 across 13 science courses. It could not implement the system in other streams because of teachers’ opposition.

The semester implementation will be completed this year with its introduction across arts, commerce, mathematical science, social science and science faculties.

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Cassini spacecraft captures Saturn storm

Press Trust of India
London, July 7

For the first time, scientists have captured in unprecedented detail a massive storm raging on Saturn which is producing lightning bolts 10,000 times stronger than those on Earth.

The storm has caused a “Great White Spot” on the planet which is visible from Earth.

Great White Spots, which are 10 times larger than the regular storms, are rarer and occur about once per Saturnian year (or 29.5 years on Earth), the Daily Telegraph reported.

According to researchers, the storm has a latitude and longitude of 9,975 km and 16,895 km respectively — meaning it would spread across half of the Earth.

Observations from the Cassini spacecraft combined with images from ground-based telescopes, showed that the electric spectacle is producing a tempest so intense the flashes are occurring at the rate of up to ten times a second, according to the researchers who reported their findings in two papers in the journal Nature.

This outburst, they said, began last December as Cassini orbited the usually calm ringed planet while a network of ground-based observers also monitored the storm’s evolution.

Prof. Agustin Sanchez-Lavega of the School of Engineering of Bilbao and colleagues said: “It is only the sixth time the once-in-a-generation phenomenon — which occurs as spring comes to the -1,39,983-km wide planet’s northern hemisphere — has been spotted since 1876.

In a second study, Dr Georg Fischer of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Graz and colleagues said: “The visible plume consists of high-altitude clouds that overshoot the outermost ammonia cloud layer owing to strong vertical convection, as is typical for thunderstorms. “The flash rates of this storm are about an order of magnitude higher than previous ones, and peak rates larger than ten per second were recorded.”

“Unlike storms on Earth, the total power of this storm is comparable to Saturn’s total emitted power,” the researchers said, adding that appearance of such storms in the northern hemisphere could be related to the change of seasons.
Top 10 Recruiters from B-Schools

#1 of students hired at 18 B-Schools

India's Biggest Recruiters

Banking, IT and consulting companies sweep the cream of the crème at the leading business schools, reports Saumya Bhatthacarya

T his different season climaxed last week and the new crop is soon to be plucked. The past intake of MBAs was a goldmine for the banks, especially the public sector banks. The recruitment by the public sector banks was not only a win-win scenario for the students but also for the banks.

The last few years have been a muddled and complicated period for the banking industry. The financial crisis of 2008, the economic slowdown that followed, and the ensuing reforms have played havoc with the banking sector. However, the banks have been able to recover and are now looking to fill up the gaps created in the last few years.

The banks have been looking for talent and the MBAs have been the first choice. The Banking, Insurance and Financial Services (BIFS) has been the most popular choice for B-School students. The banking sector has been the largest recruiter of MBAs in recent years.

The other industries that have been active recruiters are technology and consulting. The technology sector has been growing at a rapid pace and has been a major employer of MBAs. The consulting sector has also been active and has been looking for MBAs with strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

The placement season has been a mixed bag for the students. While the top schools have been able to place their students with top companies, the students from the lower-ranked schools have been facing a tough time finding placements.

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VYOMESH JOSHI TAKES OVER AS HP'S V-P OF PRINTING AND VISUALIZATION SOLUTIONS

Vyonesh Joshi takes over a job that was previously held by William White. The head of Hewlett-Packard's imaging and printing group says it was brought about by a French publisher within four days of the wedding, complete with photos and details. "From baloney to brochure in 48 hours," he says.

Digitization and web-enabled printers, he says, is raising the appetite for printing, and is finding creative applications, such as photo books that tell your life story or your vacation story with pictures and text.

Joshi was born and raised in Ahmedabad, where he did his engineering and also worked for three years in a CSR institute. He went to the US in 1978 to do masters in electrical engineering from the Ohio State University. Two years later, he joined HP where his first job was to design thermal printers. The first three projects he worked on were cancelled. He then started working on inkjet technology: "I did the original work on the colour inkjet cartridge," he says.

That was in 1981. He became executive vice president of HP's imaging and printing group in 2002, and under him the business has grown from $10 billion to $20 billion. It's the $20 billion company's most profitable business.

Joshi was in Delhi to announce a new threat in India. He spoke to TOI:

Excerpts:

**We hear you have just been assigned an India role too.**

Yes. Right now, I'm on a listening tour. India is a huge opportunity. Leo (HP CEO Leo Apotheker) wanted to make sure that from the executive council we (HP) get attention, support and facts. I'm going to work with the India teams to figure out how we can accelerate our growth. I want to make sure India becomes an innovation hub.

**What specifically is India's attraction for you?**

India's GDP growth is big. It is heading to become one of the world's top three economies. We see the option growing rapidly. I see extraordinary opportunities in consumer, small and medium business, and enterprise.

**What is Apotheker's expectation that India will contribute a lot more to HP's growth and innovation?**

Yes. I'm very passionate about this. And I know we can make a difference. I'm an HP lifer. It's going to be 31 years since I joined HP. I love this company. We have tremendous passion for it. I joined as an R&D engineer.

**Can you tell us the perpetual No. 2 at HP.**

I enjoy what I do. I never thought I'm going to be this. Always thought I would make a contribution.

**There are reports that investors would like HP to be broken up.**

Leo (Apotheker) is taking the company in the direction of cloud, connectivity and software. Look at the printing strategy. That's also about cloud, connectivity and software. If you look at our parts and the overall business, and if you look at where the market is going, there's a value for the customer in an open and enterprise.