

KKR Puts Edu Venture Lighthouse on the Block, Eyes \$1.2B Valuation

KKR, which bought EuroKids in 2019, hires investment bankers to run the sale process

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Mumbai: KKR & Co is all set to sell its education portfolio in India — Lighthouse Learning (formerly EuroKids International). KKR has hired JP Morgan and Avendus to run the sale process, which is expected to start as early as next week, said two sources aware of the development. KKR, which is looking to exit its five-year-old investment, is eyeing a valuation of \$1-\$1.2 billion (₹8,300-₹10,000 crore). Alpha Asia Holdings II (an investment arm of KKR) holds 94.53% in the

Class in Session

Operates more than
**1,350 pre-schools
& 45 schools**

KKR buys EuroKids in 2019
from Gaja, Partners Group



Group has
157,382 students

Group estimated to reach
₹1,000-₹1,200 cr
by year end fiscal 2024

MAJOR BRANDS

Pre-school segment

➤ EuroKids ➤ Kangaroo Kids ➤ Mother's Pet

K-12 segment

➤ EuroSchool ➤ Billabong High

➤ Centre Point ➤ Heritage Xperiential



holding

company Lighthouse Learning, while co-founder & CEO Prajodh Rajan holds the balance 5.47% stake. Rajan will remain as a minority shareholder, while KKR will sell its entire stake in Lighthouse, added sources.

Lighthouse, among the largest educational groups in India, has

seen interests from global educational institutions based out of the Middle East and Europe, and PE buyout funds, added sources.

The Lighthouse group operates more than 1,350 pre-schools and 45 schools through a network of franchisee and self-owned properties. It has seven core brands — EuroKids, Kangaroo Kids and Mother's Pet (pre-school segment) and Eu-

roSchool, Billabong High, Centre Point and Heritage Xperiential (K-12 segment).

KKR acquired the controlling stake in EuroKids in 2019 from a consortium led by Indian private equity firm Gaja Capital and Swiss firm Partners Group for about ₹1,500 crore.

KKR is considering a sale of its controlling stake in Indian pre-school and early-learning provider EuroKids International for around \$1 billion, Bloomberg reported in March.

When contacted, KKR, Prajodh Rajan, JP Morgan, Avendus declined to comment. The student base of Lighthouse has been increasing for the past few fiscals. The group currently has a combined student strength of 157,382 as on December 31, 2023, as compared with 135,752 on March 31, 2023. The group has posted an Ebitda, or operating profit, of ₹450 crore in FY24 and this is expected to cross ₹500 crore in FY25, said one of the sources.

For full report, go to
www.economicstimes.com

Research body asks varsity why legal action can't be initiated for 'incorrect' association

ICMR Criticises BHU for Linking it to Covaxin Study

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New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has castigated Banaras Hindu University (BHU) researchers for "incorrectly" associating it with an observational study on the side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, and asked why it should not take legal and administrative action for it.

The premier research body has also directed BHU to immediately remove the "acknowledgement to ICMR" for the study and publish an erratum.

According to a recent research by a team of researchers at BHU, nearly a third of the 926 participants of an observational study on the side effects of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, reported adverse events of special interest (AESI). The study covered a one-year period after the vaccine was administered.

In its letter to the researchers, ICMR said the research body is not associated with this "poorly designed" study and has not provided any financial or technical support for the research.

"You have acknowledged ICMR

for research support without any prior approval of or intimation to ICMR, which is inappropriate and unacceptable," ICMR's director general said in the letter. "ICMR cannot be associated with this poorly designed study, which purports to present a safety analysis of Covaxin."

ET has seen a copy of the letter dated May 18.



Research body asked BHU to immediately remove the "acknowledgement" to ICMR

The director general said the study has flaws like it has no control arm of unvaccinated individuals for comparing the rates of events between the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups.

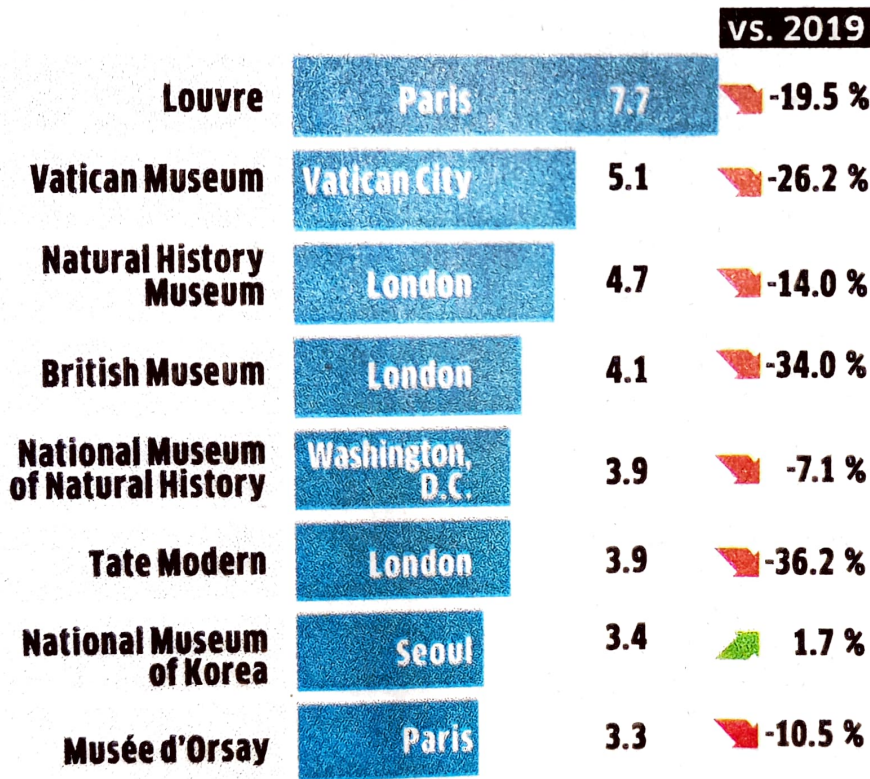
"Hence, the reported events in the study cannot be linked or attributed to Covid-19 vaccination," the letter said.

The director general said the study does not provide background rates of observed events in the population, making it impossible to assess the change in incidence of observed events in the post-vaccination period. "Baseline information of study participants is missing," the letter said.

Most-Visited Museums

Half of the most-visited museums worldwide in 2022 were in the UK or the US, according to the most recent issue of the Theme Index and Museum Index report by the Themed Entertainment Association and researchers at AECOM. However, the Louvre in Paris remained at the top with 7.7 million annual visitors...

Most visited museums worldwide (2022, in millions)



Even with the overall visitor numbers recovering from the coronavirus pandemic dip, almost all top-ranking museums still struggle to reach pre-pandemic attendance numbers. For example, in 2019, 9.6 million people visited the Louvre. The 7.7-million Louvre figure, therefore, is a 20% decrease compared to the last year before the classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic, even though numbers increased by 173% between 2021 and 2022

Note: Notably absent from 2022 ranking are the four Chinese museums (because of zero-covid policy) that claimed four out of the top five spots in 2021

Museums are pillars of culture and education



BIJU
DHARMAPALAN

Museums play an essential role in preserving the history of human civilisation, offering tangible evidence of our existence and activities throughout time

Museums play an indispensable part in understanding the history of human civilisation. It is proof of our existence on this planet and material evidence of human activity carried out during our lifetime. Understanding the diverse cultural tapestries that make up human history helps build more inclusive societies.

Museums come in various types, each focusing on different aspects of human knowledge, culture and the natural world, like Art museums, history museums, natural history museums, science museums, military and war museums, aviation and space museums, etc. This range of purposes results in a remarkable diversity of museums in terms of their form, content and function.

The history of museums is a fascinating journey that reflects humanity's evolving ways of collecting, preserving and interpreting objects of significance. The concept of collecting valuable or significant objects dates back to ancient civilisations. In ancient Greece, for instance, temples often housed collec-



tions of art and artefacts dedicated to the gods. The word "museum" originates from the Greek "mouseion," a term used to describe a place dedicated to the Muses, the goddesses of the arts and sciences. The concept of the public museum began to take shape in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Many consider the Ashmolean Museum, which opened in 1683 at Oxford University, as the first public museum of its kind.

The founding of the British Museum in London in 1753 was a watershed moment in the evolution of museums worldwide. Numerous national museums were founded in the 19th century, frequently serving as emblems of cultural identity and national pride.

The history of museums in India is deeply intertwined with the country's rich cultural and historical legacy. The colonial period saw the estab-

lishment of the first formal museums in India. The British East India Company and other colonial powers began collecting artefacts, often to showcase their conquests and understand local cultures. The Indian Museum in Kolkata, founded in 1814, is the oldest museum in India and one of the earliest in the world. It was established by the Asiatic Society of Bengal and housed collections that ranged from geological to archaeological artefacts.

Post-independence, the National Museum under the Ministry of Culture was established in Delhi in 1949. It houses a vast collection of artefacts representing over 5,000 years of Indian history. It was a significant step towards preserving and showcasing India's cultural heritage. To propagate science and develop scientific temper, the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) was established on April 4, 1978. Today, it administers 26 Science Centres/Museums spread across the country and is considered the world's largest network of science centres/museums.

Museums not only play a vital

role in education and research, serving as repositories of knowledge, culture and history, but also in the conservation and preservation of the region's cultural heritage. Their contributions extend beyond simply displaying artefacts; they provide immersive learning experiences, support scholarly research and engage the public in various educational activities. Museums offer interactive exhibits that engage visitors in hands-on activities. These interactive elements make learning more engaging and memorable, helping visitors, especially children, to grasp complex concepts in science or history through experience. Museums also act as centres of active research. Researchers in archaeology, anthropology, biology and art history rely on museum collections for their studies. Much breathtaking research in science, especially on paleogenomics, was done using the artefacts from museums.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)

09/06

How to navigate the right course to academic choices

GAJAL KASERA

Imagine you are hurtling down a rollercoaster, but instead of loops and drops, there are endless mock papers and a mountain of textbooks. This is the nerve-racking reality for many high school and undergraduate students facing the twin terrors of academia: career course selection and entrance examination.

Selecting a path can be intimidating because it feels like you are choosing your future. Entrance exams are high-pressure situations, and choosing the right course feels monumental. Preparing for competitive exams like JEE Main, BITSAT, CAT, CLAT, NDA, NEET, GATE, MET, CUET, NIIFT entrance, the Civil Services examination and other college-specific entrance tests that do not just give admission based on merit but require a strategic planning along the way.

- Anxiety may result from making the incorrect choice, feeling pressured

by loved ones, or being unprepared for the workforce.

Sohini Mondal, currently an MSc Psychology student, shares her experience,

"Everyone in my family was against my decision. In class nine, I decided to study psychology. My parents did not approve of it because it was not well known to people back then, but I started understanding the importance of mental health by seeing people around me, so I decided to go with my decision. Now that mental health is being given importance and so many students are pursuing psychology, they are happy with my decision. I decided to follow my heart instead of thinking about what the world would say."

While anxiety is a natural part of these hurdles, it doesn't have to be a GPA-wrecking monster. Following a broad routine that allows flexibility

rather than a rigid schedule is important. You can outsmart stress and navigate the storm by accepting that a little stress is normal. You're picturing your future career, lifestyle, and maybe even where you will live. Working hard and staying motivated while also feeling calm throughout the process is very important.

- Explore what your interests are. Values? Strengths? This will guide you towards courses that resonate with you. Research different fields! Talk to professionals in areas that pique your interest. Job shadowing or volunteering can also give you a taste of real-world work.

Sayantika Roy, currently studying law at KIIT, Bhubaneswar, takes us through her experience when she was preparing for CLAT and makes suggestions for the students who are currently studying for it.

"The most effective strategy for



cracking any entrance for me was to practise as many mock tests as possible. The most useful resource other than CLAT-centric books is to get a regular source of consolidated material for general knowledge. I wish I had started my preparation a lot earlier than I actually did. Put a lot more focus on the general knowledge element.

Law is not for the weak. Think twice before you apply to any law college. It is nothing like a subject that 'suits'. You cannot crack CLAT in 10 days' worth of preparation. It's not NEET or JEE, but it still requires consistency and dedication."

To crack any entrance exam, you must solve past papers and practice tests to familiarise yourself with the format and content. Ensure adequate sleep to boost focus, memory, and concentration. Aim for 7-8 hours a night.

- Getting an MBA is not a simple or glamorous path. Aspiring MBA students frequently struggle with concerns about finding a balance between their studies and careers. The program's intensity plus the pressure to perform well and land a well-paying job can make for a stressful combination. Additionally, some may fear they do not measure up to their accomplished classmates or that their undergraduate experience has not prepared them for the quantitative rigour of business school. These anxieties can be overwhelming.

Muskan Gardlia, a BBA undergraduate from Nalsar University of Law and an MBA aspirant, shares her preparation techniques and what she would have done differently.

"As I am weak at Quants, my main strategy revolved around giving maximum time to practise sums and making clear and concise conceptual notes for each chapter, and this helped as I could revisit them. I gave as many mocks as I could. Not just full-length mocks but also sectional and topic-based mocks helped a lot in understanding my strengths and weaknesses.

There are many things that I wish I had done differently, as I had learned a lot through the whole process. The first is to be consistent, no matter what. CAT is so hyped that it takes a toll on the aspirants' mental health. After CAT, it was getting very tough to still maintain focus and prepare for other MBA college entrance exams, but these were also equally important because we never know what might work out for us. Second, I feel I could have worked more thoroughly on my concepts rather than focusing on just completing them in a hurry to complete the syllabus, so my advice would be not to rush things and take time but to grasp the concepts properly."

- Taming the academic challenges also involves mastering time management and effective exam writing skills. During exams, prioritise effectively,

allocating more time to your strengths and strategically tackling your weaker areas. Practice writing concise, clear, and well-structured answers that directly address the question.

Kaushiki Sarkar, currently studying BTech in Computer Science, tells us how she made sure to maximise her score in JEE Mains, and WBJEE.

"Solve your paper effectively. There's negative marking in these exams; hence, focusing on getting the answers right is more important. Solve two mock papers daily. Focus on finding out your weaknesses. See where you are getting stuck. Create a study schedule that allocates sufficient time for each subject, factoring in breaks to avoid burnout. Find a classmate to quiz each other and keep each other motivated. Shared goals and accountability can be a powerful weapon against anxiety."

Choosing a course is a big decision, and doing well in any entrance exam is important, too, but it's not the only factor that shapes your future. Throughout your education, you will acquire invaluable knowledge and expertise that will present you with unanticipated opportunities. Embrace the exploration, enjoy the journey of learning, and trust that you'll find the perfect path, even if it takes a few twists and turns. After all, many successful people don't have their entire career trajectory mapped out at this age.



New academic year fuels retailers' sales

Stationery Cos, Laptop Makers Get Boost From Back-To-School Shopping In Apr-June

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New Delhi: It's this time of year when students gear up for the academic year ahead, even as retailers and stationery companies prime themselves for a surge in demand. Back-to-school shopping over April-June quarter is a peak period for stationery companies, such as, ITC and DOMS, laptop makers like Dell, Lenovo and Samsung and retailers like Reliance Retail's Smart Bazaar stores, resulting in an uptick of five times the normal sales, industry experts said.

The spending category covers a wide range of items, including basics like pencils and paper as well as high-tech electronics, like laptops and tablets. Notebooks, school bags, lunch and geometry boxes, pencils and sharpeners fly off the shelves during this period, with the average ticket size estimated to be Rs 2,000.

A typical back-to-school basket during April to June is 10-14 notebooks, school bags, tiffin box, water bottles and ancillary products like pens and pencils. During rest of the year, there's a fragmented purchase of mainly ancillary products.

For the country's largest stationery player ITC, which markets Classmate: "Q1 and Q4 are the season quarters for notebooks, with a significant part of the year's business done in these quarters," the company's divisional chief executive, education and stationery, Vikas Gupta, told TOI. Classmate notebooks are one of the largest selling categories for the company.

The domestic stationery and art materials market

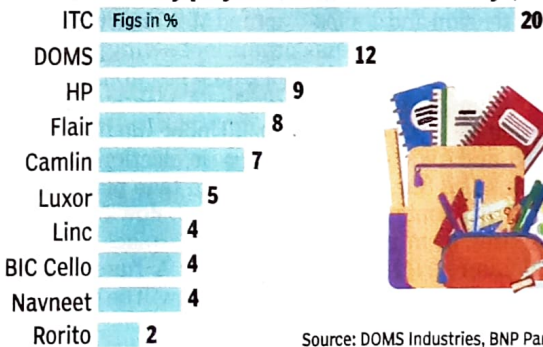
can be segmented into school, office and others, with the school segment accounting for more than half of the demand. Players with value-added products and/or with innovative and differentiated offerings have been able to fortify their market share, industry experts said.

Character series merchandise is popular among

Flipkart, retail chains like Reliance Digital and Croma and companies including Dell, HP and Samsung, run offers for tablets and laptops during this period. Flipkart runs a 'Back to Campus' campaign in May-July, with deals across student-focused categories, including laptops, tablets, and accessories (printers, monitors etc), see

MAJOR PLAYERS

Mkt share of key players in branded stationery (FY23)



Source: DOMS Industries, BNP Paribas Exane

school-going kids. "Marvel and Avenger series character merchandise in the category in collaboration with Disney is the rage among school children at Reliance Retail's Smart Bazaar stores this year. Along with attractive pricing and robust in-store promotions, the creation of combo packs—for instance, lunch and pencil boxes, water bottle sets — are among the many factors driving sales," said a senior industry executive.

A Pen & Stationery Association of India official said, "The period, May to July is peak, with a sales spike of about 30% in stationery and writing instruments". Overall the market size is around Rs 60,000 crore, of which over 40% is school consumption.

E-commerce platforms including Amazon and Flip-

kart, retail chains like Reliance Digital and Croma and companies including Dell, HP and Samsung, run offers for tablets and laptops during this period.

Flipkart runs a 'Back to Campus' campaign in May-July, with deals across student-focused categories, including laptops, tablets, and accessories (printers, monitors etc), see a 2x spike in demand as compared to regular days. A similar trend is visible for other student-related purchases. Says Manjari Singhal, head of business for FMCG and general merchandise, Flipkart: "As schools prepare to reopen in May, we have observed strong growth in student-related e-commerce purchases. Categories like school bags, books, stationery, pens, pencils, and school supplies compared to last year have witnessed over 2x growth. The convenience and wide selection offered by e-commerce is resonating strongly, with parents and students preparing for the new academic year. We expect this momentum to continue in the coming months as schools reopen and consumers gear up for the new season".

देश में तेजी से बढ़ रही निजी विश्वविद्यालयों की संख्या : यादव

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: एक दशक में केंद्र सरकार कई ऐसी नीतियां लेकर आई, जो शिक्षा के निजीकरण और व्यवसायीकरण को बढ़ावा देती हैं। हालांकि निजी निवेश पर सरकार का ध्यान अच्छा विचार लग सकता है, लेकिन यह अक्सर सार्वजनिक वित्त पोषित संस्थानों की कीमत पर आता है। यह बात दिल्ली प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष देवेंद्र यादव ने कही। वे इंडियन नेशनल टीचर्स कांग्रेस (इंटेक) की ओर से दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के टाउन हाल में आयोजित बैठक को संबोधित कर रहे थे।



इंटेक की ओर से आयोजित टाउन हाल बैठक में उपस्थित दिल्ली कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष देवेंद्र यादव व इंटेक के सदस्य ● सौजन्य इंटेक

इंटेक में शामिल हुए प्रोफेसर

प्रदेश कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष देवेंद्र यादव की उपस्थिति में डूटा के सह सचिव डा. त्रिवेंद्र चुंबक और किरोड़ीमल कालेज के डा. मोहम्मद मोहसिन के नेतृत्व में कई नए शिक्षक इंटेक में शामिल हुए और इंटेक और कांग्रेस पार्टी को मजबूत करने का संकल्प लिया।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार पांच वर्षों में 140 निजी विश्वविद्यालय बन गए हैं। हाल के वर्षों में केंद्र सरकार की ओर से वित्त पोषित उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को सहायता अनुदान के वितरण में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट आई है।

2015 के बाद से सभी संस्थानों में छात्रों की वार्षिक फीस में कई गुना बढ़ोतरी की गई है। आइआइटी,

जेएनयू और डीयू में भारी फीस वृद्धि इसके प्रमुख उदाहरण हैं। बैठक में कालेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों के शिक्षकों ने भाग लिया और देश में उच्च शिक्षा और शिक्षा जगत की सामान्य स्थिति से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा हुई। आठवां वेतन आयोग लागू करने की मांग जोर-शोर से उठाई गई।

जेएनयू में पीएचडी के लिए नेट स्कोर ही होगा वैध

उदय जगताप ● जागरण



नई दिल्ली: जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (जेएनयू) में पीएचडी में प्रवेश के लिए नेशनल एलिजिबिलिटी टेस्ट (नेट) के 2024-25 के स्कोर को ही वैध कर दिया गया है। पिछले नेट स्कोर के जरिये छात्र प्रवेश के लिए पात्र नहीं होंगे। विश्वविद्यालय के फैसले से छात्र दुविधा में आ गए हैं। उनकी पुरानी मेहनत जाया हो गई है। हालांकि जेआरएफ से प्रवेश की प्रक्रिया को पहले की तरह ही रखा गया है।

जेएनयू ने नवीन शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25 से नेट के स्कोर के आधार पर पीएचडी में प्रवेश के लिए अनिवार्य कर दिया है। इसके लिए 26 अप्रैल को अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी। इसमें जेआरएफ पास छात्रों का प्रवेश 100 प्रतिशत साक्षात्कार के आधार पर होना तय किया है।

नेट पास करने वाले छात्रों के प्रवेश के लिए नेट स्कोर को 70 प्रतिशत और साक्षात्कार को 30 प्रतिशत वेटेज दिया गया है, लेकिन इसमें यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया था कि नेट किस सत्र का पास कर आवेदन करना होगा। इसके बाद जेएनयू प्रशासन ने एक और अधिसूचना जारी की है और स्पष्ट किया है कि सत्र 2024-25 के लिए होने वाली नेट परीक्षा के स्कोर मान्य किए जाएंगे। जेएनयू के फैसले पर एक छात्र ने कहा, यह निर्णय दुविधापूर्ण है और हजारों छात्रों को संकट में डाल दिया है। मैंने खुद

दिसंबर में नेट परीक्षा दी है। अगर मुझे जेएनयू में पीएचडी में प्रवेश लेना है तो फिर परीक्षा देनी होगी।

एक बार नेट होने के बाद छात्र दोबारा उसकी पढ़ाई पर ध्यान नहीं देते, लेकिन अब उन्हें बार-बार अध्ययन करना होगा, क्योंकि इसकी एक वर्ष की अवधि को ही प्रवेश के लिए मान्य रखा गया है। अगर प्रवेश नहीं मिलता है तो उन्हें अगले वर्ष फिर परीक्षा देनी होगी।

छात्र ने बताया कि पीएचडी प्रवेश के लिए कामन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट होता था या विश्वविद्यालय अपना टेस्ट लेते थे, उसमें विषय और शोध से संबंधित प्रश्न ही पूछे जाते थे, लेकिन नेट में रीजनिंग, मैथ्स और जनरल स्टडी पूछी जाती है। शोध छात्रों को इससे परेशानी होगी, क्योंकि पीएचडी प्रवेश के लिए होने वाली परीक्षा और नेट परीक्षा के स्तर में काफी अंतर है।

इग्नू: यूजी, पीजी समेत 250+ प्रोग्राम, 30 जून तक चांस

विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी नेशनल ओपन यूनिवर्सिटी (इग्नू) में जुलाई 2024 सेशन के लिए ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया शुरू हो चुकी है। 30 जून तक स्टूडेंट्स बैचलर्स, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा, डिप्लोमा, सर्टिफिकेट के कई

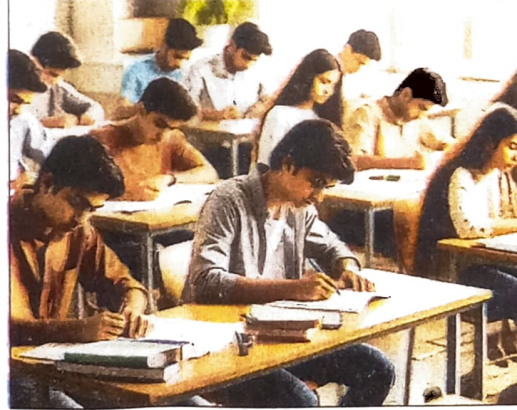
कोर्सेज के लिए ऑनलाइन (ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in) अप्लाई कर सकते हैं।

इग्नू में साल में दो सेशन - जुलाई और जनवरी सेशन के लिए एडमिशन प्रक्रिया चलती

है। जुलाई 2024 के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी ने ओपन एंड डिस्टेंस लर्निंग (ओडीएल) और ऑनलाइन मोड में कई प्रोग्राम के लिए एडमिशन प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। यूनिवर्सिटी ने अपनी वेबसाइट में कॉमन प्रॉस्पेक्टस भी अपलोड कर दिया है।

यूनिवर्सिटी 250 से ज्यादा प्रोग्राम के लिए एडमिशन करेगी जिनमें अंडरग्रेजुएट, पोस्टग्रेजुएट, पीजी डिप्लोमा,

AI Image



डिप्लोमा, पीजी सर्टिफिकेट, सर्टिफिकेट और एप्रेशिएशन/अवेयरनेस प्रोग्राम शामिल हैं। इग्नू की वेबसाइट में पूरी जानकारी ली जा सकती है। इसके अलावा कई ऑनलाइन पीजी, यूजी, डिप्लोमा, सर्टिफिकेट प्रोग्राम के लिए भी स्टूडेंट्स अप्लाई (ignouiop.samarth.edu.in/iop.ignouonline.ac.in) कर सकते हैं। ऑनलाइन मोड में वीडियो और हर क्रेडिट के रीडिंग मटीरियल की मदद से स्टूडेंट्स को पढ़ाते हैं। सभी प्रोग्राम के लिए अप्लाई करने की आखिरी तारीख 30 जून है।

IP में एमफिल के लिए 2 जून को एंट्रेस

विश्व, नई दिल्ली : गुरु गोबिंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ (IP) यूनिवर्सिटी में साइकलॉजी में एमफिल प्रोग्राम के लिए एडमिशन प्रोसेस शुरू हो गया है। यूनिवर्सिटी एमफिल-क्लिनिकल साइकलॉजी और एमफिल-साइकेट्रिक सोशल वर्क के लिए एडमिशन करेगी। प्रोग्राम के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन 22 मई तक (ipu.admissions.nic.in) दिए जा सकते हैं। दो साल का यह प्रोग्राम राम मनोहर लोहिया हॉस्पिटल के मनोचिकित्सा विभाग में चल रहा है। दोनों में 13 और 12 सीटें हैं। इन प्रोग्राम में प्रवेश यूनिवर्सिटी के कॉमन एंट्रेस टेस्ट (CET) के आधार पर होगा। इसके लिए सीईटी 2 जून को होगा। कोर्स से जुड़ी पूरी जानकारी वेबसाइट www.ipu.ac.in पर मौजूद इन्फॉर्मेशन बुलेटिन में मिलेगी।

NTA फिर हुई फेल

इस साल यह उम्मीद की जा रही थी कि नैशनल टेस्टिंग एजेंसी (NTA) द्वारा ली जाने वाली संयुक्त विश्वविद्यालय प्रवेश परीक्षा (CUET-UG) बिना किसी बाधा के सहजता से पूरी हो जाएगी तो यह अकारण नहीं था। पिछले दो वर्षों के अनुभव इस उम्मीद को ठोस आधार दे रहे थे। इसीलिए इस आस का टूटना खास तौर पर निराशाजनक है।

CUET का तीसरा साल | यह लगातार तीसरा साल है, जब नैशनल टेस्टिंग एजेंसी देश की इस सबसे बड़ी परीक्षा को आयोजित कर रही है। पहला साल आयोजकों के लिए कठिन था तो परीक्षार्थियों के लिए तकलीफदेह। उस साल कई तरह की गड़बड़ियों का सामना करते हुए NTA ने जैसे-तैसे अगस्त के आखिर तक प्रवेश परीक्षा की प्रक्रिया पूरी की थी।



CUET: तीसरे साल भी दिक्कतें

अनुभव काम आया | दूसरे साल भी गड़बड़ियां रहीं, लेकिन यह प्रक्रिया 5 जुलाई तक पूरी कर ली गई। ऐसे में 2024 में जब NTA ने CUET का 15 से 24 मई तक का कार्यक्रम घोषित किया तो स्वाभाविक ही माना गया

कि इस बार बगैर गड़बड़ी के यह प्रक्रिया समय पर पूरी कर ली जाएगी।

सिर मुड़ाते ही ओले पड़े | दिल्ली में स्टूडेंट्स को परीक्षा की पूर्वसंध्या पर ही उस समय बड़ा झटका लगा जब उन्हें यह सूचना दी गई कि 'कुछ अपरिहार्य कारणों से' पहले दिन की उनकी प्रवेश परीक्षा स्थगित कर दी गई है। परीक्षा की नई तारीख 29 मई बताई गई। बाद की परीक्षा में शिकायतें कम नहीं रहीं। गंदे बाथरूम से लेकर टूटे पंखों, बायोमीट्रिक सिस्टम की गड़बड़ियों और निरीक्षण में लापरवाही तक-इन शिकायतों का दायरा व्यापक रहा।

गलत प्रश्नपत्र | दिल्ली से बाहर के केंद्रों पर भी कई तरह की समस्याएं रहीं। मसलन- कानपुर और इंदौर में स्टूडेंट्स को गलत प्रश्नपत्र दे दिए गए। इंदौर में परीक्षार्थियों ने हिंदी का विकल्प चुना था, लेकिन उन्हें दिए गए प्रश्नपत्र अंग्रेजी में थे। लखनऊ केंद्र पर गर्मी की तैयारियां ठीक से नहीं की गई थीं। मेघालय के शिलॉन्ग में तो भगदड़ जैसी स्थिति पैदा हो गई। कारण यह बताया गया कि NTA और शिलॉन्ग टेस्ट सेंटर में पर्याप्त समन्वय नहीं था।

आधा सफर | ध्यान रहे, इस साल पहली बार CUET-UG को हाइब्रिड मोड में रखा गया है। अभी सिर्फ ऑफलाइन परीक्षाएं हुई हैं। कंप्यूटर से संबंधित विषयों की परीक्षा 21 और 24 मई को होनी है। इस दौरान ज्यादा तकनीकी चुनौतियां सामने आ सकती हैं। CUET-UG निश्चित रूप से यूनिवर्सिटियों में प्रवेश की प्रक्रिया को व्यवस्थित रूप देने की सराहनीय पहल का हिस्सा है। NTA की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि वह इसे अमल की गड़बड़ियों की भेंट न चढ़ने दे।