

SUMMER CAMP
A month-long summer camp is being organised by students of Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIITD) from May 15. The initiative is an extension of an outreach effort by students who visited a nearby government schools on Saturdays to give classes on computers, communication, problem-solving and other topics. BTech students have volunteered to teach the children in

the summer. The team consists of five co-ordinators and 30 volunteers. The first such camp was organised in 2016 when around 100 students took part. In addition to regular subjects, students attending the camp will be taught soft skills, table manners and personal hygiene as well.

TECHNIQUE
A Japanese ed-tech company has tied up with 10 Kendriya Vidyalayas in

Ranchi. Kiwami's "Tamai" Method has been brought to numerous schools, kindergartens and educational centres in Japan. Its 3D environment for learning geometry is a new instructive technique. The programme has a self-learning and cloud-based learning framework for youngsters from pre-school till class VIII to be a part of the structure. Its technique has been adopted in Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam as well.

CURRICULAR SCAN

NILANJAN BANIK, professor (economics), School of Management, Bennett University, on what to keep in mind before picking a business or related course



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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Every year, 12 million Indians enter the workforce while only five million jobs are created. Why is around half the population not able to find jobs? The answer lies in the curriculum because machines are taking over jobs in this age of 3D printers and robotics. However, what academics teach follows certain guidelines set by government authorities including the

University Grants Commission. To bridge the gap between jobs offered and created, the curriculum needs a significant change. If it is a question of your career, then how you select a university or business school is important. While that is yet to happen, there are a few things that a student should check on his/her own before enrolling. Students interested in a business curriculum can take different academic routes, for exam-

ple, a master's in economics or an MBA. After the first, you need a doctorate to qualify for several roles even in industry. With the latter, you can enter the job market without a PhD. For an MBA, what matters are analytical skills. That requires knowledge of some econometrics tools or programming languages. However, many institutions in the country do not have the faculty or databases to teach because these come at a price. Few train students to use software such as R which is required in analytics jobs. Institutions need to prepare students for that domain by training them in software packages such as R and Stata or at least by giving them some exposure to data analytics. Databases are also necessary for the faculty to work on live projects.

Along with classroom teaching, check if the concerned department organises live workshops with physical demonstrations that go beyond sharing ideas.

Next, scrutinise the quality of faculty. How do you do that apart from looking at the number of permanent faculty and their credentials? One way to do so is to see the H index, which is an author-level metric calculated on the basis of the number of a scholar's publications and the number of

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FOR AN MBA, ANALYTICAL SKILLS MATTER. IT REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE OF SOME ECONOMETRICS TOOLS OR PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

citations to them. It can indicate how scholarly the faculty is — the higher the H score and number of citations, the better the researcher. Also, there should be a mix of full-time teachers and visiting practitioners.

The class size is crucial too — the higher the faculty-student ratio, the better it is.

Another important aspect is international collaboration. You must be careful about the kind of association a university has. Instead of merely touring the partner campus, students should be able to earn credits for courses taken at partner institutes. In my view, a tie-up involving direct intervention for, say, faculty exchange or curriculum development is more fruitful.

Pick prudently

Kanika K Ahuja, associate professor, department of psychology, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, on what to keep in mind before choosing your course



Kanika K Ahuja

and your core values. Think about your aim in life. Who is your role model? What are your core skills, competencies and weaknesses? You should

know your strengths and let them lead you on.

● **Temperament:** Would you describe your temperament as scientific or that suited for commerce or the humanities? Scientific temperament is a way of looking at the world in a scientific manner, with a spirit of enquiry and creativity. An affinity for numbers, business and finance, on the other hand, is central to commerce. To do justice to the humanities, you need an analytic, imaginative and creative mind.

In case, you find yourself stuck with the wrong course, all is not lost. You can try to switch at the postgraduate level. Try and undertake internships while in college to find your calling.

basic liking, but also an inherent ability to handle a particular subject. The ability to score good grades does not necessarily reflect good aptitude. Often, it is a mere reflection of students' basic intelligence, coupled with a motivation driven by competition. Aptitude has nothing to do with competition; it must flourish even without competition, and will do so only if the student enjoys what he/she is doing. There are several tests that will allow you to assess your aptitude.

● **Personal interests:** Do consider aspects of your personality, such as things you have always been interested in, activities you enjoy doing, topics and subjects you like reading about



FACULTY VIEW

Marks pay a crucial role in a student's life. The choice of course and college depends on these marks. At times, the student may get admission into the desired college but not for the desired course while at others, he/she may settle for a not-so-popular college just because they offer the desired course. But it is essential to keep in mind that marks should not be the only deciding factor in one's choice. There are several factors that need to be considered before choosing a particular subject such as:

- **Aptitude:** It implies not just

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STUDENTS SPEAK

AASTHA RAJPAL
> Fourth year, environmental engineering Delhi Technological University (DTU)

SILVER LINING

Charu.Narula@timesgroup.com

When I chose to opt for science subjects at the plus-two level six years ago, I wanted to pursue electrical engineering at a renowned college. However, I made the decision without adequate information about the field and what it entails. Later, I was not able to secure the desired marks to pursue the branch at the college I wanted. Even after consulting my teachers and well-wishers, I was indecisive. At last, I decided to enrol for the environmental engineering programme at DTU. Initially I thought I could not completely like what I was studying as I still nurtured my fascination for circuits. Devoting four years of my life to something I am not passionate about has been tough. It has drained my interest for engineering. However, I do not regret picking what I did — a known college. I am now happy doing all that I can here. I grew as a person at DTU.

When I started college, I was aimless and shy. But college gave me the right atmosphere to hone my public speaking ability and turn me into a confident person. It gave me ample extracurricular opportunities which helped me discover myself and my interests. For instance, I found that I can write poetry and have an inclination towards finance and the stock market which is what I would like to make my career in.



Aastha Rajpal

REVISED CURRICULUM

Concerned about student suicides, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has decided to revamp its curriculum in a way that helps them tackle study pressure effectively. The revised curriculum, which is likely to be implemented next year, will have a reduced focus on theory. Students will be offered more hands-on experience. The decision has come after the Union ministry of human resource development asking all the IITs to take initiatives to stem the trend.

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