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OlishaLocal

The Draft National Education Policy 2019 proposes to invite foreign universities to operate in India through a legislative framework



For both students and educational institutions, moving along with the changing times is the only way to success. What they considered as useful subjects a decade ago are giving way to hyper-modern, technology-based courses. TOI's Hemanta Pradhan reports

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

WHAT: Ability of a computer or a robot controlled by a computer to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent people, used in a range of applications, including computer search engines, voice or handwriting recognition and customer care services

WHERE: IITBBS, Xavier University Bhubaneswar (XUB) and Siksha 'Y' Anusandhan (SOA) offer courses on AI. IITBBS provides this course as a sub-specialization (elective) for students of MITech in computer science and engineering. XUB offers a two-year

master's degree programme, MITech (AI) to students with a bachelor's degree in technology/engineering/science or MCA. SOA plans to start MSc in AI from this year. GM University Sambalpur also plans to start a course on AI

HOW MUCH: XUB charges Rs 725 lakh (payable in two annual instalments) for MITech (AI). IITBBS and SOA offer it as an elective

WHY: Get jobs in different AI firms across the world or work in research and development in the sector

CHARTING A new course

Unsurprisingly, most 'new age' courses revolve around technology: Artificial Intelligence, big data and cyber security are the realities of a world in which the harsh, lived realities of people are also finding space in academics like never before. Subjects such as sustainability management, urban management and governance deal with the here and now.

These courses — be they on new healing techniques such as osteopathy or cutting edge science such as nano technology — have also led faculty members to follow the latest innovations in their field and broaden their knowledge.

"Osteopathy was introduced in the Indian education sector around four years ago. We have seen a lot of interest from students seeking a non-invasive and effective alternative to the conventional medical approach," explains Juan Francisco Guillen from Argentina, who heads the department of osteopathy at Sri Sri University R V Rajakumar, director of IIT Bhubaneswar, adds. "New courses are needed because technology is developing very fast."

Some of the courses have even more of a resonance in the state. For example, urban management is of paramount importance in Odisha, which has two cities on the Centre's Smart City Mission. "Bhubaneswar and Ro-

urkela are both smart cities. Our two-year master's degree programme is designed to build multi-skilled professionals with the spatial and systemic understanding of urban areas," explains Paul Fernandes, vice-chancellor of Xavier University Bhubaneswar.

Even something like event management, a sector that has only recently begun to become formalised, has now become a subject of study. The UGC recently has approved Satipar Autonomous College's advanced diploma course in event management. Similarly, with the Centre increasing its focus on creating a digital India, IIM Sambalpur is planning to come up with a part-time programme on digital economy.

Students who take up these courses don't just stumble on to them. They think hard and long and make, as the market would say, an informed choice. "Humsam hai in a crossroads. It is imperative that we change our lifestyle," explains Prarubha Chand, who is studying for a master's degree in sustainability management in XUB.

The only factor that may act as a deterrent is the high fee these courses offer. Those who can afford them, however, are convinced that they will help. Vidyut-han Routy, father of IITBBS student Pratyush NIP, a final-year student of IITech in computer science and engineering, says, "Courses like AI will help computer science and engineering students." Pratyush says he chose augmented and virtual reality as an elective as it has a "bright future".

OSTEOPATHY

WHAT: Manual examination and treatment of integrated musculoskeletal, visceral and craniosacral systems, provides a range of approaches to the maintenance of health and management of a disease. It is patient-centred rather than disease-centred



WHERE: Sri Sri University offers two-year BSc osteopathy and two-year MSc osteopathy courses. For BSc, candidates with 10+2 in science with physics, chemistry and biology as main subjects and a minimum of 60 per cent aggregate can take admission after appearing for an entrance test of the university or scoring more than 75 per cent in NEET UBBES/

IBBS or IIBMS or IIFT degree-holders can apply for the MSc course

HOW MUCH: Rs 1.5 lakh per semester for eight semesters for BSc osteopathy, Rs 1.7 lakh per semester for four semesters for MSc osteopathy

WHY: Practice in hospitals and private clinics, lectur in university and colleges

BIG DATA (DATA SCIENCE)



WHAT: Big data is part of data science and deals with complex data sets that cannot be handled by traditional data processing techniques

WHERE: Sri Sri University offers both bachelor's degree (three years) and master's degree (two years) in data science. Plus IT science students can apply for BSc in data science, while students with BSc (mathematics)/BE/ITech can apply for MSc in data science

HOW MUCH: Sri Sri University charges Rs 45,000 per semester for a total of six semesters in BSc data science and around Rs 50,000 per semester for four semesters in MSc data science. XUB charges Rs 11.5 lakh for a two-year course

WHY: Get placed in companies like Google, Netflix and Starbucks, and those that conduct market research and analyse customer experience

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SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT



WHAT: Focuses on long-term gain by incorporating environmental and social costs of doing business into management decisions

WHERE: XUB offers BSc in sustainability development (SD) and MBA in sustainability management. It

also provides a PhD programme on this topic. The minimum requirement for admission to the master's programme is a three-year bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in any discipline with at least 55 per cent marks in aggregate from a recognised university. Plus IT students can opt in BSc (SD) course

HOW MUCH: Rs 6 lakh for three-year BSc (SD) course, Rs 12.2 lakh for two-year MBA (SM)

WHY: Get jobs in a range of companies or open your own firm to provide consultation to companies on sustainable management

URBAN MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

WHAT: Development and management of urban infrastructure and systems, planning and management of livable, sustainable and smart cities, especially relevant for state that has two smart cities, Bhubaneswar and Boudh

WHERE: XUB offers two-year master's course in subject. Candidates with a three-year bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in any discipline with at least 55 per cent marks in aggregate from a recognised university can apply with a valid admission test score in a national-level aptitude test like XAT or

GATE. Candidates with bachelor's degree with minimum 60 per cent marks in aggregate can apply by writing directly to XUB with their resume and statement of purpose

HOW MUCH: Rs 12.20 lakh at XUB

WHY: Get hired by organizations in urban development, including consulting organizations, infrastructure development entities, state and local governments, international organizations, rating agencies and the urban development ministry



Students of osteopathy at Sri Sri University try and improve their perception by feeling the 'sur' of an apple

SPECIAL MENTION

Virtual reality (VR)

Commonly used in entertainment applications such as videogaming and 3D cinema, IITBBS and SOA offer the course as an elective for IITech and MITech students. They can get jobs in the gaming industry and in companies that create VR training modules

Micro & nano manufacturing

A stream of manufacturing that produces tiny, high-precision components and represents both a new field of science and a new marketplace. IITBBS offers this as an elective for IITech students of mechanical engineering

Design Thinking

Process by which a company understands the target user of a product, makes assumptions about them, questions these assumptions and comes up with solutions to potential problems. The human-centric course is offered by IIM Sambalpur as an elective for PG students of management