



Education Times

MONDAY | JULY 1, 2013

TOWARDS TOMORROW

BANGALORE EDITION

Advertorial, Education Promotional Feature

PORTALUPDATE/www.educationtimes.com

ALERTS

Animal world

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University invites applications for BVSc and AH/BTech (dairy technology) programme



> For more details, visit www.educationtimes.com/alerts

YOUR VOICE

Online Poll

Should B-schools in India grant extra marks to women applicants at the pre-interview stage as adopted by institutes like IIM Calcutta to increase the number of women-students in class?

> To vote, visit www.educationtimes.com and click on 'Poll'



COUNSELLOR FORUM

Right choice

A panel of experts will clear your confusion and guide you to make the right choice. Post your query on www.educationtimes.com/counsellorforum



Follow us on [f](#) [t](#)

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

FOR A NOBEL TIME

Subhendu Roy and Debasish Manna, from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, are attending the 63rd Nobel Laureate Meeting in Lindau, Germany from 30 June to 5 July

Poonam Jain / TNN

Subhendu Roy is an integrated PhD student, doing his research in the department of inorganic and physical chemistry. His aim is to get an insight into the chemical reactions and exploit it for further benefit of mankind "This branch of chemistry, which is known as computational chemistry, can help research immensely where experiment fails," he says, hoping to soon arrive at feasible ways of doing an experiment, which may otherwise, seem improbable and thus limit the unwarranted expenditure.

Inching closer to a cure for thyroid is Debasish Manna, also pursuing his research in the same department as Roy. He, along with the other scientists, are attempting to develop a new drug molecule that could combat hyperthyroidism. "My research work primarily focuses on understanding the mechanism of inner and outer ring deiodination of thyroid hormones by IDs using simple chemical models," says Manna. If successful, it would be the first molecule to come out of an Indian lab for hyperthyroidism.

Both, Roy and Manna, are currently rubbing shoulders with the Nobel Laureates and other researchers from across the world at the Lindau Meeting. "This is one of the rare opportunities that will allow me to interact with the best scientific minds in the field of chemistry and allied interdisciplinary areas," says Roy, adding that the interaction with the Nobel Laureates will help him better his thought process.

Manna has been selected to present his research work on thyroid at the University of Regensburg during the study tour organised by the German Research Foundation. "I hope that our recent findings on thyroid hormone deiodination will be critically judged, as it would immensely benefit the future designs of anti-thyroid drugs," he says, eagerly waiting to get a glimpse of the German culture during the visit.



Subhendu Roy

Debasish Manna

Humanities has for long been misunderstood and perceived as a weaker sibling of science and commerce. A discipline, meant for the less-eligible, for those who failed to make it to the technical fields, and for those who had little choice to make it big in their careers. But, breaking this myth, there has been a marked resurgence in the number of students opting for the social sciences or humanities courses. The mindset has changed. Students, well-versed with their passion and areas of strength, are now beginning to follow their dreams.

Among the universities that offer humanities or social science courses, Delhi University (DU) heads the list as a 'popular choice.' Earlier, under the three-year UG programme, the university offered core humanities courses like political science, sociology, psychology, English, philosophy and social work and history coupled with a Bachelor's in language courses.

With the introduction of the four-year UG programme in DU, courses like ethics, society and justice, geographic diversity, Buddhist studies, romance studies, African and East Asian Studies offer further choices to students.

For Uma Pal, a student of LSR Delhi, it is the age of interdisciplinary courses. Clarity of thought and an analytical approach are what characterises humanities students. "Literature courses are broad in spectrum and even include study of the Mahabharata. Concurrent courses like philosophy also provide us with a wider perspective," she says.

an important role. Rashmi Tikku, professor of English and Women Studies and convener at LAD College (Nagpur University),

UG in humanities encapsulates a holistic approach towards anything oral, visual or written. From teaching to journalism, every aspect requires a humanities student

points out that UG in humanities encapsulates a holistic approach towards anything oral, visual or written. From writing reports, teaching, journalism to research; every aspect requires a humanities student.



PICT: SOHAM PRASAD, GRAPHIC: VAIDEN PAHER

SUBJECT WISE

>> CLEAR FAVOURITE

Economics, for years, has largely been associated with the science stream. However, its growing relevance in social sciences cannot be ignored. Many colleges such as LSR or JU are known for their BA programme in economics. Other favourites among students include journalism and mass communication, film studies, public relations and advertising, animation, multimedia, photography and documentary filmmaking. "An intensive course at this institute increases the outcome levels of students and helps them maximise their potential with corporate exposure," says Urvashi Athavale, UG student at SIMC.

with in contemporary curricula.

Corroborating his view, Nikita Solanke of St Mira's College, Pune University, adds, "UG in humanities has a lot of scope. A psychologist, sociologist or an economist are indispensable to any organisation. It is a more applicable field as compared to others."

In fact, liberal arts courses provide students with a skill-set that enables them to think critically and out-of-box. As Kanika Khandelwal, associate professor, department of psychology, LSR, puts it, it is a myth that studying humanities does not lead to good careers, a misconception that leads many students to take up commerce or science.

Adds professor Shibashis Chatterjee of Jadavpur University (JU), "The faculty council of arts offers both conventional and unconventional courses in all programmes and provides dynamic opportunities."

METHODOLOGY

St Xavier's College (SXC), Kolkata (autonomous) encourages in-depth analysis over pedantic learning. The English Academy, presided by the head of the department, Chandrani Biswas has seen a gamut of exchange programmes where students of other reputed colleges have performed plays like *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *A Streetcar named Desire*, and the like.

Says Biswas, "We are not only focused on teaching and research, but the syllabus also gives expansive exposure to the language. Prescribed texts, besides providing theoretical thrust, improve creative writing and broaden the knowledge of literature."

According to Zaid Al Baset of the department of sociology, SXC, pertinent topics are introduced to rekindle interest in the subject and break away from the mundane. Also, the department offers courses on sexuality and the body, which does away with rote-learning.

Broad in Spectrum

Today, students opting for humanities at the undergraduate level are spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing a course that is a blend of the heart and the mind. Aditi Guha reports

While careers as engineers and doctors still predominate the Indian jobscape, students are beginning to think differently. For instance, according to Arya MP, a literature student of MG University, Kerala, a choice is always a part of one's life. We have a paper, he says, on Gandhian philosophy, which includes extensive teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Also, women and literature or ecocriticism are recent fields, which are dealt

NEXT WEEK
Everything you need to know about postgraduation in humanities along with student testimonials, admission alerts, scholarships and course details

INSIDE PAGES
MORE ON HUMANITIES

EXTRA EDGE

Humanities as a discipline has a lot to offer for a fruitful future. Choice of subjects plays

>> COURSE TRENDS

- Cinema and ideology, comparative mythology, living with climate change, and understanding Indian classical music, at the department of liberal arts, Symbiosis University
- Human rights, human and community development, theology and social work at DU and private universities such as Amity in Noida
- Foreign languages like Spanish, Arabic, French and Italian at DU, Russian at Calcutta University
- Courses highlighting the cultural heritage of the place, like Tagore Studies at JU
- Theatre studies and gender studies as part of the UG curriculum of the department of English at JU
- Journalism and film studies at St Xavier's College (autonomous) Kolkata and JU

(indicative listing)

Three courses in Kathakali Chenda, Carnatic music and Mridangam are likely to equip students with viable professional skills. Poonam Jain reports

Kerala Kalamandalam has added three postgraduate programmes in Kathakali Chenda, Carnatic music and Mridangam. With this latest addition, the university now has six PG courses to offer. The reasons cited for starting these courses were, "sufficient infrastructure, including a well-planned syllabi and qualified staff. Besides, there are a high number of students learning these three subjects at the degree level in Kerala and this prompted us to begin postgraduate courses," says PN Suresh, vice-chancellor, Kalamandalam deemed university of art and culture, Thrissur.

The three courses have a demand in the professional field with many job opportunities available. According to V Kaladharam, deputy registrar, "Most of the art disciplines taught at Kalamandalam require specialised platforms, unlike the newly-introduced courses. For instance, those who receive advanced training in Chenda can enter other genres like Melam and Thayambaka, which have a strong audience both in Kerala and other states. Kathakali Chenda is not as flam-

SMART STEPS



COURSE CURSOR

boyant and an artist can participate in temple rituals to earn more." Since its inception, the institution has been at the forefront of nurturing art forms like Kathakali, Thullal and Mohiniyattam. The institution prides itself in retaining the Gurukul system of imparting art education despite all odds. But, the university is currently at the crossroads. Some artists and critics are sceptical about the decision to introduce more general subjects at the expense of reducing time for training in the art forms at Kalamandalam.

In order to lay a strong foundation for research in the field of

performing arts, the university also plans to add courses in cultural studies and journalism, multimedia, mass communication, women studies and documentation. According to Suresh, this will facilitate exchanges at academic and cultural levels.

Kalamandalam recently conducted a six-day workshop on sage Bharata's Natyasastra. Over 70 students from Kerala, Karnataka, Pune, Chennai and Dubai partic-

ipated in the workshop guided by the Natyasastra scholar and aesthete, professor Pappu Venugopal Rao.

MK Narayanan, governor, West Bengal, and rector, Viswabharati University, visited Kalamandalam to facilitate cultural and educational exchange programmes between the two institutions. Last year, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Kalamandalam and laid the foundation for a museum displaying artefacts used in south Indian performing arts.

Course requirements

■ **ELIGIBILITY:** BA degree in the subject concerned

■ **CURRENT BATCH:** 5 students for Carnatic music, 2 for Kathakali Chenda and 2 for Mridangam. Maximum intake for PG programme: 4

■ **FEES:** Rs 3750 + 1000

■ **MORE INFORMATION:** www.kalamandalam.org/courses.asp

