



# IIT Madras Aims to Incubate 100 Startups in Various Sectors in '24

## Institute expects to close FY24 with 366 patents, says director

### Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) aims to incubate at least 100 startups across various sectors in 2024, its director V Kamakoti has said.

“For 2024, we have a lot more exciting initiatives and socially relevant projects that would greatly benefit the nation,” Kamakoti said while revealing the roadmap of things to come in 2024 at IIT-M on Tuesday. “We are looking at closing this financial year (March 31, 2024) with 366 patents. We will try our best to see one patent a day. We are also looking at starting 100 startups in 2024.”

IIT Madras' Incubation Cell—recognised as one of India's top deep-tech start-up ecosystems—is the institute's umbrella body for cultivating, aiding, and supervising numerous innovation and entrepreneurship projects.

The incubation cell has already nurtured more than 350 startups while raising north of ₹10,425 crore and creating more than 8,800 jobs. It has more than 100 startups in the pipeline.

Highlighting the work done by IIT-M incubated startups, Kamakoti said, “We are also seeing a lot of interesting tech-



ISTOCK

nologies coming up through Hyperloop startup, ePlane, Agnikul Cosmos, and Mindgrove Technologies, all of which are IIT Madras-incubated startups. These startups will deliver products, which will be of great national importance.”

JandKOps, an IIT-M-incubated firm, in 2023 developed an indigenous mobile operating system—called BharOS—that can benefit India's one billion mobile phone users.

This software can be installed on commercial off-the-shelf handsets and is being provided to organisations that have stringent privacy and security requirements and whose users

handle sensitive information that requires confidential communications on restricted apps on mobiles. Such users require access to private cloud services through private 5G networks.

In consonance with the vision of promoting interdisciplinary courses in the National Education Policy, 2020, Kamakoti said, “We are also looking forward to launching a new school on interdisciplinary sciences. It is very important as today, we are moving towards interdisciplinary education.”

The institute has set up a department of medical science and technology which will offer a first-of-its-kind four-year BS programme in medical sciences and engineering. The course offers an interdisciplinary approach to prepare students for designing life-saving medical devices, drug discovery, AI in medicine, and fundamental medical research.

IIT-M was ranked No 1 in the 'overall' category for the fifth consecutive year in NIRF's India 2023 ranking. It became the first-ever IIT to launch a campus in a foreign country in 2023. The campus set up in Zanzibar will offer BS and MTech programmes in data science and artificial intelligence.

# UGC launches annual capacity building plan for training and skill development of employees

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has become the first autonomous organisation to have launched an annual capacity building plan after the Centre established the Capacity Building Commission in 2021, according to officials.

The annual capacity building plan (ACBP) was officially launched on Tuesday by UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar in the presence of R Balasubramanium, Member HR, Capacity Building Commission.

“UGC is the first autonomous organisation to have initiated planning for the capacity building of its employees in collaboration with CBC. The ACBP

is a comprehensive plan outlining interventions essential for enhancing individual officials’ competencies and the overall capacity of UGC.

“The plan is derived from a robust capacity need assessment exercise that was done with UGC officials and staff over a period of six months starting from March, 2023,” Kumar said.

The UGC chief explained that the idea is to build, develop and enhance the abilities, talents, competencies, efficiency and qualifications of UGC employees to increase their capacity to serve the higher education system in India.

Through the initiative, UGC employees will be trained in four key areas - behavioral,

functional, domain and technology competencies.

“Behavioral competencies will help the UGC staff take up bigger roles than what they normally perform. Functional competencies will help the UGC staff perform better in administration, procurement and financial management. Enhancing domain competencies help them perform better in specialised fields such as policy making or project management.

“Training in newer technology competencies will help them realise shorter turnaround time and improve efficiency, better digital record keeping and utilise technology platforms to reach out to stakeholders,” he said.

# Infrastructure growth, expansion: DU VC outlines ₹1,633cr plan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi University vice chancellor **Yogesh Singh** has outlined a comprehensive plan for infrastructure development, with an estimated allocation of Rs 1,633.6 crore for the projects.

Addressing a gathering at the VC's office lawn on Monday, Singh said a new building of the Institution of Eminence (IOE) will be constructed, as well as an IOE hostel and computer centre. The library will also be expanded.

Two new academic blocks have been planned at the Delhi College of Economics while the Faculty of Technology is expected to be expanded. A campus in Surajmal Vihar and an academic block at Dwarka are also in the works. "New construction is expected to begin by April. Renovation in various places will also be completed," Singh said.

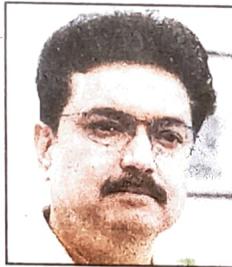
The 100th convocation ceremony of DU will be held in February, the VC added.

Singh went on to highlight the university's accomplishments in 2023 "due

to the commendable performance of everyone". Commending the collective effort, he said 3,716 appointments and 5,979 promotions for teachers took place last year.

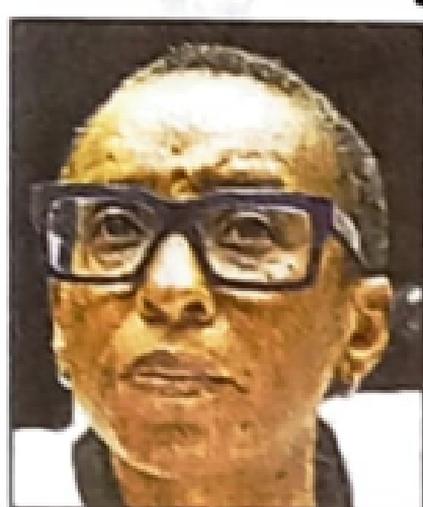
Singh added that there was a 13% increase in research publications in Scopus indexed journals during the past one year. He highlighted the rise in the H-Index rankings, from 230 to 268, reflecting the enhanced quality of research by faculty members. Besides, DU signed 33 MoUs with foreign universities last year, fostering global collaboration.

Singh said the university secured the top position in India and 220th globally in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024, showcasing an improvement from the previous year. He stressed the university was committed to further enhance its national and international rankings and aspires to secure a position among India's top 10 universities in the National Institutional Ranking Framework and the top 400 global institutions. 102



# Harvard prez resigns amid plagiarism accusations

Faced with a new round of accusations over plagiarism in her scholarly work, Harvard's president Claudine Gay announced her resignation Tuesday, becoming the second Ivy League leader



to lose her job in recent weeks amid a firestorm intensified by their widely derided congressional testimony regarding antisemitism on campus.

The resignation of Gay marked an abrupt end to a turbulent tenure that began in July. Her stint was the shortest of any president in the history of Harvard since its founding in 1636. She was the institution's first black president, and the second woman to lead the university.

Over the last month, plagiarism accusations had surfaced against Gay, the president of Harvard, signalling that the attacks on her qualifications to lead the Ivy League university are continuing, and miring the university deeper in debate over whether Harvard holds its president and its students to the same standard. The latest accusations were circulated through an unsigned complaint published Monday in Washington Free Beacon, a conservative online journal that has led a campaign against Gay over the past few weeks. The new complaint added accusations of plagiarism to about 40 that had already been circulated in the same way, apparently by the same accuser.

Support for Gay began eroding after what some saw as the university's initial failure to forcefully condemn the Hamas attack on Israel and some pro-Palestinian student responses. Outrage against her rose after Gay gave what critics saw as lawyerly, evasive answers before Congress when asked whether calls for the genocide of Jewish people were violations of school policies. NYT

NYT

# J&K first UT to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JANUARY 2

In a significant step towards empowering the craftsman community, enhancing their competence, making them self-reliant as well as equipping them with industry-relevant skills, J&K today became the first UT of country to launch the prestigious PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) from Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Shopian.

The scheme was launched virtually by Adviser to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, along with Secretary, Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Atul Kumar Tiwari with the first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) of darzi craft being imparted training at ITI-Shopian from today.

The Adviser said it was a proud moment for entire Jammu and Kashmir that with the support of the Central Government, the UT had become the first UT in the country to

## 30 BEGIN TRAINING AT ITI-SHOPIAN

- The first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) of darzi craft started its training at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Shopian, on Tuesday
- Under PMVY, artisans and craftsmen get basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of ₹500 per day
- The scheme also provides modern toolkit of ₹15,000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides soft loans and marketing support

start this programme.

He said PMVY is an important scheme as it aims to provide recognition training tool kits certification marketing support and soft loans to empower our craftsmen He also underscored that this scheme is also committed to honouring and empowering artisans who immensely contribute towards the economy of

our nation as a whole.

The Adviser further highlighted that the present L-G led administration is committed towards fostering a culture of skill environment across the region in order to create maximum employment avenues for the youth. The scheme will be operationalised in all districts of J&K soon.

Speaking on the occasion, the MSDE Secretary highlighted the basic objectives of the scheme. PMVY is an initiative of the Central Government launched in September 2023.

The scheme aims at recognising artisans and crafts through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card as well basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs 500 per day. The scheme will also provide modern toolkit of Rs 15,000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides linkage with credit-based soft loans and marketing support for expansion of their business.

# V-P to attend SKUAST convocation tomorrow

JAMMU, JANUARY 2

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will participate in the 8th convocation ceremony of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) here Thursday and confer medals and degrees to meritorious students.

An official spokesman said Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the function. Dhankhar will lead the academic procession and award medals to outstanding students, he added. Sinha, the Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, will confer degrees to professionals in agriculture and veterinary sciences.



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar

The 8th convocation will be held in the state-of-the-art Baba Jitto Auditorium of SKUAST-Jammu at Chatha campus. Gold medals, merit certificates, and degrees will be awarded to more than 500 graduates and post-graduates (Masters and PhD) students of the University, the spokesman said. — PTI 75

# Eyeing LS poll, Modi unveils projects worth ₹20K cr in TN

**SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY**  
 TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 2

Not counting alone on the infrastructural push, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday simultaneously heaped praise on Tamil traditions and culture to endear himself to the people of Tamil Nadu before the Lok Sabha elections.

While dedicating to the nation and laying the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu today, Modi said that he mentioned Tamil culture at every opportunity during his travels abroad.

The Prime Minister said the establishment of sacred 'Sengol' in the new Parliament building and Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam events organised by the government at his instance were efforts directed at creating enthusiasm for Tamil culture throughout the country.



PM Narendra Modi presents a degree to a student in Tiruchirappalli on Tuesday. PTI

Addressing a gathering at Tiruchirappalli, the PM said Tamil Nadu was a reflection of India's prosperity and culture.

Chief Minister MK Stalin, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan and Governor RN Ravi were among those present at the function.

"Tamil Nadu is home to the ancient language of Tamil

and it is a treasure trove of cultural heritage," the Prime Minister said and mentioned saint Thiruvalluvar and Subramania Bharati among those who created magnificent literature. Modi mentioned Nobel Laureate CV Raman and said the astrophysicist's memory instilled new energy in him whenever he visited Tamil Nadu.

Referring to the rich history of Tiruchirappalli, Modi said in Tiruchirappalli, one can

find remnants of good governance models of old dynasties such as Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas and Nayaks.

The Prime Minister also paid tribute to Vijaykanth who passed away recently. He said the actor-turned-politician was a 'captain' not only in the field of cinema but also in politics. The PM also paid tribute to MS Swaminathan and recalled the role played by him in ensuring food security for the country.

# 40% drop in Indians applying for education in Canada

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 2

The Indian demand for Canadian education declined significantly with the number of study permit applications processed going down by more than 40 per cent since July 2023, according to a newly-released data.

The Canadian Government processed almost 1,46,000 new study permit applications for Indian nationals from July to October 2022.

But across the same period in 2023, it processed fewer than 87,000, representing a year-over-year decrease of 41 per cent, data released by ApplyBoard, an online platform for international student recruitment, said.

This means that almost 60,000 fewer student visas were processed for Indian students from July to October 2023 than over the same period in 2022.

From January to June 2023, the Canadian Government processed 25 per cent more study permit applications from Indian students than it did over the same period in 2022. The sharp drop comes even as the Canadian Government announced last month that it will more than double the cost-of-living financial requirement for incoming international students beginning January 1, 2024.

So going forth, a single applicant will need to show

## HIGH COST OF LIVING TO BLAME

The reason for the drop in latter part of 2023 was attributed to a growing number of Indian students taking on to social media to speak about the hardships they faced in Canada, specifically calling out the high cost of living and lack of opportunity promised



they have 20,635 Canadian dollars (\$15,181) in addition to their first year of tuition and travel costs.

While it remains to be seen how the announcement will impact international students in terms of numbers, the reason for the drop in later part of 2023 was attributed to a growing number of Indian students taking on to social media to speak about the hardships they faced in Canada,

specifically calling out the high cost of living and lack of opportunity promised.

The ApplyBoard found that between April and August of 2023, the number of articles written about housing in Canada increased fivefold versus the same period last year. Additionally, the percentage of content flagged as negative rose from 12 to 30 per cent, with Indian students'

financial hardships and unemployment challenges being a consistent theme.

In September last year, students from Punjab actively took to 'X' to speak about skyrocketing house rents in the country, which was forcing many of them to stay in cramped basement setups, compromising their safety.

With the rising cost of living, many said they were finding it hard to meet their daily needs and were forced to seek monetary help from parents back home.

A social media user studying in the country spoke about how he was sharing a basement setup with six other students. — IANS *Tn*

# वरिष्ठ नागरिक से लेकर होममेकर्स तक पढ़ सकेंगे डीयू की क्लास में

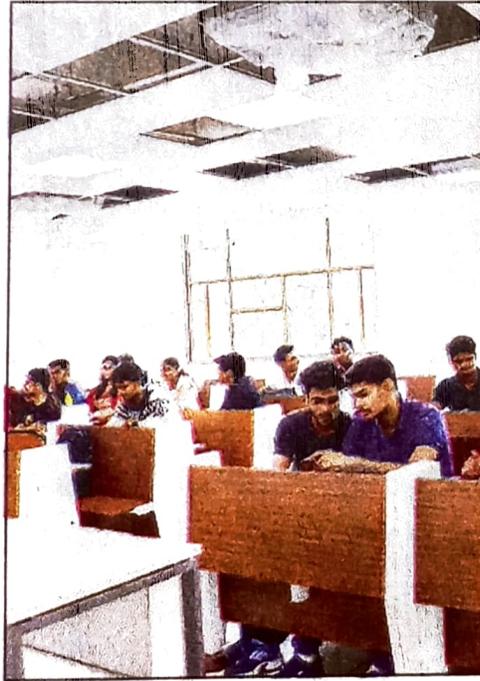
■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टूडेंट्स के साथ क्लासरूम में बैठकर पढ़ने का मौका चाहते हैं तो ऑनलाइन अप्लाई कर सकते हैं। डीयू की 'कॉम्पटेंस एन्हांसमेंट स्कीम' के साथ स्टूडेंट्स

12 जनवरी तक (दूसरे और चौथे सेमेस्टर) ऑनलाइन अप्लाई कर सकते हैं। इस

रेगुलर स्टूडेंट्स के साथ किसी भी कोर्स के एक से दो पेपर पढ़ने का मिलेगा मौका

स्कीम के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी में किसी भी उम्र के शख्स को किसी भी कोर्स के एक से दो पेपर पढ़ने का मौका मिलेगा, जिसके लिए डीयू सर्टिफिकेट भी देगा। पिछले साल जुलाई में शुरू हुई इस स्कीम को सिर्फ तीन स्टूडेंट ही मिले थे। इस बार डीयू की इस स्कीम की लिस्ट में पीजी कोर्स के अलावा अंडरग्रेजुएट कोर्स भी जुड़ेंगे।



डीयू के 100 साल के मौके पर शुरू हुई इस स्कीम के तहत बाहर के इंस्टिट्यूट के स्टूडेंट्स ही नहीं बल्कि वरिष्ठ नागरिक, होममेकर्स, किसी भी कोर्स में रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाकर अपनी स्किल बढ़ा सकते हैं या नई स्किल सीख सकते हैं। खास यह है कि इन्हें रेगुलर स्टूडेंट्स के साथ ही क्लास में

पढ़ने का मौका मिलता है। डीयू के रजिस्ट्रार प्रो विकास गुप्ता का कहना है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग इस स्कीम का फायदा उठा पाएं, इसके लिए यह स्कीम अब सभी यूजी और पीजी कोर्सों के लिए लागू होगी। हालांकि डीयू ने अभी जो प्रॉस्पेक्टस ऑनलाइन दिया है, उसके हिसाब से 37 पीजी कोर्स इसमें शामिल हैं। स्कीम को यूनिवर्सिटी का इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ लाइफलॉन्ग लर्निंग चला रहा है। इंस्टिट्यूट के डायरेक्टर प्रो संजय रॉय बताते हैं, पिछली बार इस स्कीम के लिए 58 कैडिडेट ने अप्लाई किया मगर क्वालिफिकेशन के हिसाब से 3 ही स्टूडेंट इसमें चुने गए। बता दें कि नैशनल एजुकेशन पॉलिसी (एनईपी) के तहत इस स्कीम का 2022 अगस्त में ऐलान किया गया था। स्कीम के तहत स्टूडेंट हर सेमेस्टर में अधिकतम दो कोर्स पढ़ सकेगा। हर कोर्स में एक पेपर के लिए फीस 10 हजार रुपये तय की गई है।

NBT

# JEE मेन 2024 के नियम होंगे पहले से कहीं सख्त

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■ नई दिल्ली : इंजिनियरिंग में दाखिले के लिए होने वाले जॉइंट



एंट्रेस एग्जामिनेशन (JEE Main) के दौरान स्टूडेंट्स के लिए नियम पहले से सख्त होंगे। नेशनल टेस्टिंग एजेंसी यानी NTA ने परीक्षा में किसी भी तरह की गड़बड़ी को रोकने के लिए खास योजना तैयार की है। नए नियम के तहत अगर कोई कैडिडेट परीक्षा के बीच में वॉशरूम के लिए भी जाता है तो उसकी दोबारा तलाशी ली जाएगी और बायोमीट्रिक हाजिरी भी होगी। टेस्ट सेटर पर एनटीए के डायरेक्टर जनरल समेत अगर कोई भी अधिकारी आता है तो उन्हें भी तलाशी और बायोमीट्रिक पहचान प्रक्रिया से गुजरना होगा। जेईई में के साथ यह प्रयोग शुरू किया जा रहा है और एनटीए इस वर्ष होने वाली दूसरी प्रवेश परीक्षाओं में भी इन सख्त गाइडलाइंस को लागू करेगा। जेईई के बाद सीयूईटी, मेडिकल परीक्षा भी होनी है। सिर्फ उम्मीदवार ही

अपीयर होंगे 12 लाख से अधिक स्टूडेंट्स : जेईई में 24 जनवरी से 1 फरवरी के बीच होना है, जिसके लिए 12 लाख 30 हजार 347 रजिस्ट्रेशन हुए हैं। रिजल्ट 12 फरवरी को आ जाएगा। अभी तक सबसे ज्यादा रजिस्ट्रेशन पहले चरण की इस परीक्षा के लिए हुए हैं। टेस्ट सेंटरों पर छात्रों को समय पर पहुंचना होगा, ताकि बायोमीट्रिक पहचान की प्रक्रिया और तलाशी में लगने वाले समय के कारण कोई देरी न हो। गड़बड़ी पकड़ने के लिए पर्यवेक्षकों को ट्रेनिंग दी जा रही है।

■ नहीं, बल्कि अधिकारियों, पर्यवेक्षकों और जलपान परोसने में मदद करने वाले अन्य कर्मचारियों की भी तलाशी ली जाएगी। NBT