

Education TIMES

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TOWARDS TOMORROW

Advertorial, Education Promotional Feature

OFFBEAT CAREERS

This month, *Education Times* will focus on a variety of courses and careers, with upcoming options, expert guidance, industry trends and more

PORTALUPDATE

POLL

Your voice

Should education services be taxed?

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EXPERT EYE

Data right

The vice president of a visual analytics platform on the importance of data analytics in the workplace of the future

> Click on 'Expert Eye' at www.educationtimes.com

WALK A JOB

Path to success

A young entrepreneur who recently received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from President Pranab Mukherjee on his journey until now

> Click on 'Walk a job' at www.educationtimes.com

LIVE CHAT

In an exclusive live chat, **Shveta Raina, CEO, Talerang**, an organisation that works to bridge skill gap and make graduates employable, will address students' queries on the importance of internships and how it helps students choose the right career path. Log on to chat.educationtimes.com between 3-4pm on Tuesday, June 6

→ AMOL KAMAT, candid and celebrity photographer

I am a graduate from MIT, Manipal and worked with an IT company, L&T Infotech, for five years until 2011. Photography was always my passion. While I formally studied engineering, there was no stopping me from self-learning, experimenting and shooting. I used to shoot office events

and team outings. Everyone's appreciation boosted my confidence. In 2010, the paid job didn't satisfy my creativity. It was never an easy decision to quit a well-paid job to follow my passion, but nonetheless I took the leap. My peers encouraged and supported me to make my passion my profession. It was mid-2011 that saw me plunge into photography professionally. I am a photographer self-trained with help from a few senior photographer-mentors. With over six years of experience, I now shoot celebrities. I love what I do. I plan to continue to do this, and take on more challenging assignments in the future.

→ PUNIT PANIA, stand-up comedian

I am a science graduate with an honours degree in inter-religious studies from St Xavier's College, Mumbai. I also hold an MBA in Pharmaceuticals Management. After pursuing a corporate job for seven years, I decided to do stand-up comedy for a living. Though I enjoyed my job, I didn't see myself growing older in a cubicle, regardless of position, pay-cheques or perks. When I look back, I realise most of my education and career decisions were not by design. Even stand-up happened rather serendipitously. I had been writing regularly for over 10 years on a variety of topics but the common theme was humour. While I tried everything from blogs to articles to full-length novels, no break was forthcoming. Then a friend suggested that I should try performing

what I had written live at Open Mic events. Until that point, I had no idea that there was a structured way of getting into stand-up. All it needed was stepping out a little, meeting people and not being cynical. It was only when stand-up started looking like it could be sustainable that I began the process of phasing myself out of the job.

I had a small target of monthly earning when I first switched careers and have exceeded that target every month. In the last couple of months, I have started overtaking my last-drawn salary. Apart from performing, I also produce shows under my banner. At over 20 public shows a month, it is a lot of work which I do myself end-to-end.

I don't regret the MBA or the years spent in corporate jobs. Almost every bit of experience and skill from those years still come in handy. Parents, elders and relatives will never be completely at ease with an offbeat vocation. But money and material comfort can never be lasting motivations for a lifetime



ILLUSTRATION: SACHIN VARADKAR



TAP YOUR INTEREST

Professionals from different walks of life on how they quit their mainstream careers to pursue their calling

→ DR SHRUTI SHRINGARPURE, senior animal behaviourist

Pursuing a career in animal behaviour was never on my agenda. I am a doctor with a specialisation in ear, nose and throat medicine (ENT). An exposure to stray dogs in the vicinity and a keen interest in wanting to understand why they behave in a particular manner encouraged me to take a course in animal

training and behaviour. However, even so, I hadn't decided to change my career.

I simultaneously began experimenting with animal behaviour and training and soon realised that my calling lies in the field. I quit my practice as a medical professional and began working with animals, primarily dogs.



Many things can influence how an animal behaves, including hunger, illness, hormones, the presence of a potential predator or prey, even the weather. The job of an animal behaviourist is to scientifically study the cause and reaction of an animal's behaviour and work towards solving the same. The process in-

volves visiting the animals confidence (who are usually someone's pets), assessing their behaviour and then helping the family understand their pet. Once that is achieved, the family is made to understand various issues that can trigger a change in the animal's behaviour. It is important to trust your instincts when handling pets. Even though very offbeat, the career allows creative freedom and is monetarily rewarding.

— As told to Ruchi Chopda and Anisha Sahijwala

Women's hostel

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University of Delhi's Janki Devi Memorial College is constructing a 105-bed hostel which is scheduled to open in the coming academic session. Students face several issues in PG accommodation and pri-

vate hostels — security is the prime concern, followed by the food facility, said Swati Pal, principal of the college. "In this regard, the hostel would assure 24x7 security, as it is on the college campus, with CCTV cameras and security officers guarding it."

The four-storeyed building — which looks over the ridge belt of the city — has an in-house laundry facility, dining area and kitchen. The ground floor of the hostel would be custom-built and reserved for physically challenged students.

The hostel has 35 rooms and a common room. With attached toilet facilities, each room can accommodate three

students. The rooms would be allocated after internal consultation. "The parameters to allot rooms would be decided after a meeting with the governing body of the college. However, the criteria would be almost the same as those for other DU colleges' hostels," Pal said. The rooms would be allotted at competitive rates, but not subsidised as all the

facilities would be provided on campus and the cost has to be borne by students, she said.

The college also promises to be environment-friendly, as it is equipped with solar panels, LED lights and a rainwater harvesting system.



LOCAL VOCAL

> For more campus news, visit www.educationtimes.com

Soothing Souls

Swarali Karulkar, a dance and movement therapist in New York, on her student years and what it takes to make a career in her field

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I wanted something that combines two of my passions, dancing and psychology. So, a career in dance movement therapy seemed perfect. Dance movement therapy is beyond performance and helps individuals to express themselves through movement. Individuals, with mental illnesses or physical disabilities, of all ages, genders and sexual orientations, gain control of their emotions and manage symptoms.

I have completed my Masters of Science in Dance Movement Therapy as a part of the creative arts therapy programme at Pratt Institute, NYC. During my student years, I was always involved in a lot more than just academics. I danced, acted, played sports, took part in debates, essay writing and everything I could possibly participate in.

The course is divided into four semesters. Each semester has six to eight subjects with a combination of theory and practical work. We were required to write a thesis in the second year. My topic was 'Effects of dancing on body image of female dance therapy students'. We are also required to work as unpaid interns during both the years. In the first year, I worked at a public school with three- to five-year-olds on the autistic spectrum and the ones presented with developmental delays. In the second year, I worked at an in-patient adult psychiatric unit.

I am currently working as a dance/movement therapist with preschoolers on the autistic spectrum and ones presenting with developmental delays or learning disabilities at William O'Connor Midwood School. I use movement as a medium to help children communicate and find creative expression.

Apart from this, I work as a performer and choreographer and teach dance.

I want to use my knowledge of dance therapy and my training in dance to create expressive, authentic and original work of art. Don't decide to be a dance therapist unless you are passionate about it. It is not a course with fancy jobs and an excellent salary. It requires a lot of patience, understanding and focus. It is an opportunity for self-exploration.

> For the complete story, click on 'OffBeat' under 'Careers' at www.educationtimes.com

ENTRY PLAN

GANESH CHANDRA



The University of Delhi (DU) announced that the registration process for postgraduate, MPhil and PhD programmes would start on June 7, 2017. Meanwhile, more than 1,98,400 applicants had registered for undergraduate courses on the DU website till June 2, 7pm, while only 54,242 applicants paid the registration fee

New food tech degree

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University of Delhi's Lady Irwin College plans to introduce a BSc Food Technology course in the upcoming academic session. It proposes to launch the course with 32 seats. Anupa Sidhu, director of the college, said, "We already run the BTech in food technology in the college. The BSc course will be parallel to the BTech." According to the curricu-

lum, students on the BSc food technology course would be taught the fundamentals of food technology; principles of food science; technology of food preservation; food processing technology; food and nutrition; and technology of fruit, vegetables and plantation crops. The course will follow the choice-based credit system. To be eligible to apply, a student should have read physics, chemistry and biology (PCB) in class XII. However, the college would

offer a three per cent advantage to applicants who had taken maths in addition to PCB.

Aparna Agarwal, assistant professor, food technology department, said, "After pursuing the three-year course, students can look for jobs opportunities in food chemistry, basic nutrition, food engineering, food biology, food nutrition and more fields." According to Sidhu, BTech graduates have been placed in companies such as Lays, PepsiCo, Cremica and Britannia, among others.

'Students welcome in US'

Dismissing controversies on safety and H1B visas, ALFRED BOLL, branch chief, EducationUSA, US Department of State, tells Ruchi Chopda in Washington, that Indian students are welcome on US campuses

The recent hate crime against an Indian in Kansas City and the H1B visa review has triggered concerns about the safety and future of Indian students at US universities. How are you addressing these concerns? American campuses are places where students can pursue academia; they are quiet places, places of reflection and of achievement where students can develop their talent, knowledge. But when you have a big country and as wide a system as we do, there can be issues. But these are, by far, the exception. What students find in the US is a welcoming, open and diverse environment where they can prosper. They can focus on their interests and academia.

Campuses and communities are dedicated to student success and their well-being and their safety on campus. Safety has to be a priority for everybody. Universities and colleges throughout the country are



Alfred Boll

running the 'You are Welcome Here Campaign' as a message to broadcast to students that not only are they welcome here but that the communities are dedicated to them. Diversity on campus is a very welcome and increasingly prominent issue in the US. Schools are dedicated to diversity on campus because they see it as benefiting themselves as well as benefiting American students.

We live in this globalised world where we are tied to one another. The US and India have a robust and positive education dialogue where we talk about how we can engage one another in the best possible sense in terms of promoting international education, facilitating each

other's students to learn in our countries. And universities are the first to want to be at the table when we raise that issue. They want us to be open, welcoming and they want to send a strong message that they are concerned for their students and dedicated to them.



There is speculation about changes in the rules for Optional Practical Training (OPT) options for students once they graduate. How valid are these concerns? Nothing has changed as far as how the system works and the possibilities that students have in terms of their education and what they do afterwards. We have 166,000 (figures from 2015-16) students from India currently in the US. Sixty percent of these students are graduate students of which 75% are in the STEM fields. The quality of Indian students in terms of what they do and how hard they work is high

and we hope that part of the reason why they come to the US is to get a quality education that will serve them well wherever they go or whatever they choose to do. And our system wants to facilitate that with practical training with as much flexibility as possible. When students come to the US, they realise that schools are interested in their success.

Also, alumni community is important for us. Even though most students will return home, we want them to have lifelong connections with the US.

Recent reports point towards a dip in enrolment from international students at US universities.

It is too early to speculate what the numbers will actually be. But the US welcomes students from India. Our commitment to India is unshakeable and we want to do everything for Indian students to imagine what it is to study in the US.

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