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engineering in Indian languages, the AICTE has introduced technical book writing and translation in 12 scheduled Indian languages.

CUET, the online entrance exam for admissions to Central universities, including the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the DU, will drastically change the admission process to undergraduate courses in India's top colleges. Colleges under these universities will no longer be able to lay down ridiculously high cut-off barriers, or be swayed by state board-specific marks inflation, as a national multiple-choice question test will ensure obliteration of human subjectivity in admissions.

In addition, the DU, which has under its belt many of India's top colleges, unveiled the four-year undergraduate structure where both an honours degree in a single discipline and a multidisciplinary degree will have multiple exit options—students can choose to leave in all four years with different

certificates and degrees, with the fourth year meant to be a research degree with honours. It distinguishes between dissertation and an academic project where the pursuit of the former will lead to bachelor's degree (honours with research).

The DU is the first higher educational institution (HEI) to implement the four-year programme as suggested in the NEP recommendations. However, the university is still finalising the first-semester syllabus for most of its programmes. In fact, at the time of admission, students will only know the details of the first-semester syllabus.

There is also greater focus on "internationalisation" of higher education with more active roping in of overseas faculty and students alongside greater collaborations. In April, the University Grants Commission notified the Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning,

Rajendra Shinde (in pic)
Principal,
St. Xavier's College,
Mumbai

[Students] insist on online lectures. They cannot sit through an offline class. They have not grasped concepts, and BSc students are unable to handle lab equipment. For now, it is back to basics.

Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes Regulations, 2022, effective from May 2, thereby liberalising the law for such arrangements.

This period of transition is bound to be overwhelming. With so much set to change, a student entering college life this year is going to be excited or confused. The new batches this year are set to have more opportunities than their seniors, not to mention a highly diverse student body. How will the college classroom experience change?

St. Stephen's College, Delhi, has the marquee billing in the THE WEEK-Hansa Research Best Colleges Survey 2022, notching the top spot in both arts and sciences. This 142-year-old institution has been a preferred choice among high-performing students, eliciting an Oxbridge kind of reverence in India. It is known to produce civil servants of the highest repute and leaders in the upper echelons of technocracy. This year alone 18 young men and women made it to the civil services from the college.

Recently, the college was in the news for its legal logjam with the DU over retaining its time-honoured tradition of conducting personal interviews for admissions for the 2022-2023 batch, in addition to the CUET scores. The college is trying to prepare its best for the new four-year UG programme (FYUP) and the changes brought in by the NEP. "Covid-19 has also brought a new realisation of what is possible with technology. We are learning as we go along and hopefully will be on top of the curve even as we incorporate new methods into our teaching-learning environment," says John Varghese, principal of St. Stephen's College. "The college is confident of breaking into the top

ARTS COLLEGES ALL INDIA



RANK	COLLEGE	CITY	SCORE
1	St. Stephen's College	Delhi	688
2	Lady Shri Ram College for Women	Delhi	671
3	Hindu College	Delhi	634
4	Miranda House	Delhi	602
5	Hansraj College	Delhi	587
6	Loyola College	Chennai	559
7	Madras Christian College	Chennai	549
8	St. Xavier's College	Mumbai	534
9	St. Xavier's College	Kolkata	519
10	Gargi College	Delhi	495
11	Christ (Deemed to be University)	Bengaluru	485
12	Kirori Mal College	Delhi	454
13	Ramjas College	Delhi	446
14	Sri Venkateswara College	Delhi	428
15	Indraprastha College for Women	Delhi	426
16	Stella Maris College	Chennai	423
17	Mithibai College of Arts, Chauhan Institute of Science & Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce & Economics	Mumbai	421
18	St. Joseph's College	Bengaluru	410
19	Fergusson College	Pune	398
20	Mount Carmel College	Bengaluru	384
21	Ethiraj College for Women	Chennai	381
22	Kristu Jayanti College	Bengaluru	366
23	Jesus and Mary College	Delhi	365
24	Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce	Pune	360
25	Kamala Nehru College	Delhi	357
26	Jai Hind College	Mumbai	350
27	Sophia College for Women	Mumbai	349
28	St. Xavier's College	Ahmedabad	346
29	K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce	Mumbai	342

ranking institutions globally, but we need the support and backing of the UGC and the government," he adds.

Bijaylakshmi Nanda, principal of Miranda House, a consistently top-ranking college under the DU, says: "We are trying to bring about as much digitalisation this time but we want the students to be in college so that there is cross-learning between peers. Of course, now they can do a few courses from home in the online mode, but the challenge is going to be able to bring about blended learning without missing out on the vibrant campus life." The college is popular for courses in humanities and social sciences, including English, political science, economics and sociology. Also known for its robust language department, the college is ready to expand and diversify its roster with specialised language labs and several translation and transliteration initiatives.

There will be training of human resources, capacity building of existing faculties and further engagement with external resource personnel to build these language labs. There is a skill hub now to keep up with the option of branching out to entrepreneurship in the fourth year of college, alongside a Northeast Research and Resource Centre which encourages incubation labs and promotes languages from the region. Now that internship is part of the curriculum, it is an area that will require the maximum amount of investment, says Nanda.

The BA programme or the integrated BA programme had already started picking up, especially among students who wanted to prepare for the Union Public Service Commission examination. So, the BA multidisci-

30	Ramnarain Ruia College	Mumbai	327
31	Osmania University College for Women	Hyderabad	322
32	Sacred Heart College	Kochi	319
33	Kishinchand Chellaram College	Mumbai	316
34	Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women	Chandigarh	314
35	Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College	Chandigarh	313
36	S. S. Jain Subodh P.G. College	Jaipur	312
37	PSG College of Arts & Science	Coimbatore	306
38	D. G. Ruparel College of Arts, Science and Commerce	Mumbai	303
39	St. Aloysius College	Mangaluru	295
40	Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector-11	Chandigarh	288
41	B. K. Birla College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	284
42	Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya	Jalandhar	278
43	St. Ann's College for Women	Hyderabad	276
44	Loyola Academy	Secunderabad	275
45	Amity School of Economics	Noida	274
46	Scottish Church College	Kolkata	252
47	KET's V.G. Vaze College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	232
48	St. Wilfred's College	Jaipur	229
49	Maris Stella College	Vijayawada	213
50	V.O. Chidambaram College	Thoothukudi	210
51	AISECT University	Hazaribag	124

Base Experts: 76 | Students: 340 | Total: 416

SCIENCE COLLEGES ALL INDIA



RANK	COLLEGE	CITY	SCORE
1	St. Stephen's College	Delhi	603
2	Miranda House	Delhi	593
3	Hindu College	Delhi	576
4	Loyola College	Chennai	572
5	Hansraj College	Delhi	555
6	Madras Christian College	Chennai	536

plinary degree is something Miranda House is watching out for. Even though the college has had several memorandums of understanding with foreign universities, there was no credit transfer until now. Students could only go to overseas campuses for short-term exchange or summer programmes, but now there is an option for credit exchange, too.

“Every day, there are five students who want to do internships, and you cannot really align their requests with attendance schedules and existing curriculum of the old system. But, it is possible now,” says Nanda. “Young students want to do more research papers, we give them that opportunity, but now it is part of their curriculum. We will need to develop the research abilities of our own faculty members now. So the teacher and the taught, both have to learn together.”

Reverend A. Thomas SJ, principal of Loyola College in Chennai, says: “Campus life would be exciting for the freshers. More interaction and programmes for leadership and soft skills, related culturals and in-person class experience are in the offing.” Founded in 1925, the premier college has produced notable alumni in law, politics, civil services and science over the years. Its most popular courses continue to be BCom and BSc, visual communication, computer science and BA English. This year, the college expects MSc data science, MA international relations and MSc counselling psychology to become more sought after.

Loyola is designing a software that will enable student competency mapping. This will help in scientifically identifying the entry-level competency of the students, and, based on the assessment, give students orientation, career guidance and work plans to prepare themselves to meet their goals. Moreover, the concepts of blended learning—namely encouraging students to join massive open

7	St. Xavier's College	Kolkata	505
8	Stella Maris College	Chennai	485
9	Kirori Mal College	Delhi	453
10	Sri Venkateswara College	Delhi	440
11	Christ (Deemed to be University)	Bengaluru	435
12	St. Xavier's College	Mumbai	414
13	Gargi College	Delhi	411
14	St. Joseph's College	Bengaluru	409
15	Mount Carmel College	Bengaluru	403
16	Mithibai College of Arts, Chauhan Institute of Science & Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce & Economics	Mumbai	401
17	Acharya Narendra Dev College	Delhi	398
18	Fergusson College	Pune	394
19	Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College	Chandigarh	385
20	Ethiraj College for Women	Chennai	380
21	Kristu Jayanti College	Bengaluru	377
22	Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women	Chandigarh	349
23	Kishinchand Chellaram College	Mumbai	348
24	St. Aloysius College	Mangaluru	347
25	St Xavier's College	Ahmedabad	346
26	Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector-11	Chandigarh	345
27	Sophia College for Women	Mumbai	344
28	S. S. Jain Subodh P.G. College	Jaipur	338
29	B. K. Birla College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	335
30	Sacred Heart College	Kochi	326
31	Ramnarain Ruia College	Mumbai	315
32	PSG College of Arts & Science	Coimbatore	312
33	Guru Nanak College	Chennai	300
34	Loyola Academy	Secunderabad	293
35	The Oxford College of Science	Bengaluru	286
36	St. Ann's College for Women	Hyderabad	283
37	Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College	Coimbatore	255
38	St. Albert's College	Ernakulam	253
39	Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya	Jalandhar	247
40	St. Wilfred's College	Jaipur	246
41	Hindusthan College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	245
42	KET's V.G. Vaze College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	242
43	Dr. SNS Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	240
44	V.O. Chidambaram College	Thoothukudi	223
45	RBVRR Women's College	Hyderabad	222
46	Rathinam College of Arts & Science	Coimbatore	220

online courses and continued use of online resources, in-person classroom interaction and inputs—would be taken up on a larger scale. The college is moving the whole campus to fibre-networking to facilitate blended learning.

However, some aspects of the NEP are yet to be accepted in Tamil Nadu. The University of Madras, to which Loyola College is affiliated, is not accepting CUET scores. “As learning is transferred on the local and contextual basis, the entrance exams have to be planned at local need-based and context-based level,” says Thomas. “Once any test or examination is centralised, the affordable class gets the advantage in terms of expensive coaching, good teachers, whereas a poor student cannot afford all these things. As the maxim goes, one size does not fit all. One centralised test cannot judge the true potential of a candidate.”

Several other states have only just begun discussing the modalities of implementing NEP-driven reforms in colleges. Maharashtra is one of them. For most undergraduate courses in Mumbai, the academic calendar starts in the second week of June. Autonomous colleges like St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, have their own internal admission process. Rajendra Shinde, who took over as principal of St. Xavier’s in 2018, says the Maharashtra government has told them to start preparing for applying NEP recommendations from next year. “If we are implementing the [FYUP], I really have to think about my logistics in terms of classrooms and teachers and their workload,” he says. “In addition, we have a junior college (Class XI and XII) in our building. The government is quiet on that. The NEP says hand them over to a school. It is not as simple as that, especially physically shifting some 1,500 students elsewhere.”

Shinde is more concerned about students disinterested in offline

47	Sri G.V.G. Visalakshi College for Women	Tiruppur	212
48	St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women	Hyderabad	205
49	Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science for Women	Coimbatore	202
50	IPS Academy	Indore	201
51	Maris Stella College	Vijayawada	199
52	Shri Nehru Maha Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	184
53	Sri Durga Malleswara Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala (S.D.M.S.M. Kalasala)	Vijayawada	182
54	K.S. Rangasamy College of Arts and Science	Tiruchengode	174
55	Faculty of Science, Integral University	Lucknow	155
56	AISECT University	Hazaribag	111

Base Expts: 132 | Students: 385 | Total: 517



RANK	COLLEGE	CITY	SCORE
1	Shri Ram College of Commerce	Delhi	683
2	Lady Shri Ram College for Women	Delhi	634
3	Hindu College	Delhi	568
4	Hansraj College	Delhi	532
5	Loyola College	Chennai	528
6	St. Xavier's College	Kolkata	501
7	Madras Christian College	Chennai	489
8	Christ (Deemed to be University)	Bengaluru	482
9	Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics	Mumbai	477
10	St. Joseph's College of Commerce	Bengaluru	466
11	R. A. Podar College of Commerce & Economics	Mumbai	461
12	Stella Maris College	Chennai	450
13	Gargi College	Delhi	439
14	Mount Carmel College	Bengaluru	434
15	Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce	Pune	432

classes two years after the start of the pandemic. "This is the first time students have returned on campus after the pandemic but they have not been able to get out of their comfort zone," he says. "They insist on online lectures. They cannot sit through an offline class. They have not grasped concepts, and BSc students are unable to handle lab equipment. For now, it is about getting back to the basics, hands-on, offline mode. It is learn, unlearn and re-learn." He adds that BA psychology, economics, microbiology and life sciences continue to be the most popular courses, apart from political science and the combination of maths, statistics and economics.

The faculty at colleges of the DU are working overtime to grapple with the swift changes about to take place in the structure of UG courses. "The pandemic has not really gone away. Many resource persons are still apprehensive about meeting physically as far as formulating courses are concerned," says Deepika Chatterjee, associate professor in the department of philosophy at Gargi College. "Most of the students are done with languages as a compulsory paper in school. But under the new FYUP curriculum, college students have to study one Indian language listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution as a credit-earning subject in the first semester. One needs to remember that few colleges in the DU have an active language department, except for Hindi and Sanskrit. And English is no longer compulsory as an elective."

The omission of English from ability enhancement compulsory courses and as a core option in the BA and BCom programmes in the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework, 2022, has been a bone of contention among English teachers at the DU. They fear the loss of workload will lead to job losses.

Varghese sums up the challenges

16	Sri Venkateswara College	Delhi	430
17	Mithibai College of Arts, Chauhan Institute of Science & Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce & Economics	Mumbai	428
18	H. R. College of Commerce & Economics	Mumbai	425
19	Acharya Narendra Dev College	Delhi	423
20	Ethiraj College for Women	Chennai	421
21	Kristu Jayanti College	Bengaluru	413
22	Indraprastha College for Women	Delhi	339
23	Kishinchand Chellaram College	Mumbai	334
24	Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College	Chandigarh	333
25	S. S. Jain Subodh P.G. College	Jaipur	332
26	PSG College of Arts & Science	Coimbatore	330
27	B. K. Birla College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	328
28	Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women	Chandigarh	326
29	St. Ann's College for Women	Hyderabad	325
30	Presidency College	Bengaluru	323
31	St. Joseph's College	Bengaluru	321
32	St. Aloysius College	Mangaluru	320
33	Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector-11	Chandigarh	319
34	Sri Krishna Arts and Science College	Coimbatore	315
35	Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science (Formerly SNR Sons College)	Coimbatore	311
36	Guru Nanak College	Chennai	304
37	Loyola Academy	Secunderabad	297
38	J. D. Birla Institute	Kolkata	295
39	Badruka College of Commerce and Arts	Hyderabad	293
40	Amity College of Commerce and Finance (ACCF)	Noida	291
41	St. Joseph's Degree & PG College	Hyderabad	288
42	Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College	Coimbatore	286
43	KET's V.G. Vaze College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Mumbai	284
44	Indian Institute of Management and Commerce	Hyderabad	281
45	H L College of Commerce	Ahmedabad	278
46	Dr. SNS Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	275
47	Chandigarh University, University School of Business	Mohali	273
48	H A College of Commerce	Ahmedabad	271
49	St. Wilfred's College	Jaipur	268
50	C.M.S. College of Science & Commerce	Coimbatore	266
51	The Oxford College of Business Management	Bengaluru	264
52	Hindusthan College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	262
53	Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya	Jalandhar	260
54	Rathinam College of Arts & Science	Coimbatore	257
55	MIT WPU School of Commerce	Pune	254
56	Amity Business School	Lucknow	252

ahead and possible ways to reduce the risk, especially by reposing trust in teachers who will be the ultimate foot soldiers of the new era of education being ushered in by the NEP 2020. “With the changes that the NEP seeks to effect, there is a huge deficit in terms of infrastructure and teaching staff, considering there is now one more year for the UG programme and we hope that the UGC will keep in mind this sudden demand and support HEIs with teaching staff and support for infrastructure, even if only through a one-time grant,” he says. “It would have helped smoothen the transition if we had taken a few steps at a time rather than move into the new system en masse. I fear the consequences of rushing into such a drastic change are not going to be pleasant.”

“As always, students will bear the brunt of this—having just taken their board exams, they are now sitting for an all-India level entrance exam,” adds Varghese. “How comprehensive the exam is, is anyone’s guess. How will the results be interpreted by the university? I have also come to know that in case of a tie in the results, the university will fall back on class 12 scores. So does that not show the proverbial chink in the CUET’s armour?”

Varghese says it would have been wiser to begin with primary school-level changes and scale them up to HEIs over a five-year period. He points out that the NEP has some excellent ideas and noble intentions, but ground realities need to be taken into account. “If we have some of the best bureaucrats, some of the best technocrats, some of the best administrators, entrepreneurs, captains of industries and judicial experts in the world, we must not forget that they were all products of an educational system which nurtured them,” he says. “Like in the Aladdin story, are we selling our old magic lamp for a shiny, new and impotent system? Time will tell.”

57	Chitkara Business School	Patiala	245
58	Vels Institute of Science and Technology in Advanced Studies	Chennai	242
59	Chandigarh School of Business	Mohali	240
60	Nehru Arts and Science College	Coimbatore	237
61	Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science for Women	Coimbatore	235
62	Career College	Bhopal	232
63	V.O. Chidambaram College	Thoothukudi	230
64	St. Claret College	Bengaluru	227
65	MM Institute of Management	Ambala	225
66	CMR University, School of Economics & Commerce	Bengaluru	223
67	Department of Commerce and Business Management, Integral University	Lucknow	221
68	Prestige Institute of Management & Research	Gwalior	219
69	Shri Nehru Maha Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	218
70	Jagannath International Management School, Kalkaji	Delhi	217
71	St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women	Hyderabad	216
72	Sri G.V.G. Visalakshi College for Women	Tiruppur	215
73	Patrician College of Arts and Science	Chennai	214
74	Krupanidhi Degree College	Bengaluru	213
75	Faculty of Commerce (SMPIC)	Ahmedabad	212
76	Shri Shankarlal Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women	Chennai	210
77	RBVRR Women’s College	Hyderabad	209
78	VLB Janakiammal College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	208
79	Villa Marie Degree College For Women	Hyderabad	207
80	Maris Stella College	Vijayawada	205
81	IPS Academy	Indore	204
82	Sri Durga Malleswara Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala (S.D.M.S.M. Kalasala)	Vijayawada	171
83	Sri Krishna Adithya College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	169
84	K.S. Rangasamy College of Arts and Science	Tiruchengode	166
85	BV Patel Institute of Commerce	Bardoli	163
86	Chandigarh Business School of Administration	Mohali	154
87	BGS Institute of Management Studies	Chickballapur	150
88	Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sikkim Manipal University	Gangtok	148
89	Nazareth College of Arts and Science	Chennai	134
90	B V Raju College	Bhimavaram	126
91	Chanderprabhu Jain College of Higher Studies & School of Law	Delhi	122
92	Himalayan Institute of Technology	Dehradun	111
93	G Pulla Reddy Degree and PG College	Hyderabad	104

Base Experts: 151 | Students: 432 | Total: 583