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Shoolini University

NEWSLETTER



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ADMISSIONS HELPLINE

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Placements on a roll

This year's pre-placement season consulting giants like KPMG, McKinsey, and PwC actively participating in recruitment processes at the Shoolini cam-

MUSKAN CHAUHAN

The pre-placement season at Shoolini University has started with remarkable success, attracting top-tier companies eager to pick up talent from the campus.

The first session witnessed companies such as L'Oreal Paris, Aditya Birla Group, Deloitte, EazyDiner, Incedo, ICICI Group, FPL Technologies, and Learning Roots actively engaging with students well before their final examinations.

This year's pre-placement season marked a significant departure from tradition, with consulting giants like KPMG, McKinsey, and PwC actively participating in recruitment processes at the Shoolini campus. The university's commitment to producing industry-ready professionals has been evident, showcasing the adaptability and relevance of Shoolini's academic programmes to the dynamic needs of the corporate landscape.

The success story extended to the Biotech and Food Technology, and Nutrition placements, with exceptional placements at Fitelo this year.



Students dressed up for the placements drive in the campus. PIC: PREM BHATTI

Despite previous challenges in Food and Nutrition placements over the last 2-3 years, this year, the placements have witnessed a head start.

Director of Admissions and Placements, Mrs. Avnee Khosla, said the diversification in industries participating in the placement season, have moved beyond the traditional dominance of financial services.

The season boasted an extensive corporate guest list spanning technology, consulting, FMCG, retail, financial services, and banking, providing students with a diverse array of

career pathways to explore. The average packages offered ranged from Rs 6.5 lakh to Rs 9.5 lakh, accompanied by attractive Employee Stock Options (ESPOs) worth up to 15 lakh, serving as a testament to the university's expansive reach.

Notably, TATA AIA, a major player in the financial services sector, extended a robust package of Rs 16.5 lakh p.a to MBA students, adding a touch of financial gravitas to the mix. With over 200 companies participating, the annual placement event at Shoolini

University stands out not only for its sheer magnitude but also for the emphasis on diversity.

The season showcased opportunities in technology, consulting, FMCG, retail, financial services, and banking, reflecting the university's commitment to providing a holistic and globally relevant education. Mrs. Avnee Khosla credited the robust placements to her dedicated team, led by Ms. Ritu Bajjal, Director of Partnerships and Alliances, and Dr. Nitin Gupta, Associate Director of Placements.

Prerna Diwas marked with celebrations

SNL TEAM

A SERIES of events marked the celebrations of the Prerna Diwas on the occasion of the 84th birthday of its Founder and Chancellor Prof. P.K. Khosla which reflected university's commitment to excellence, innovation and welfare of the society. The day started with the unveiling of a statue of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the "Father of the Green Revolution" who was recently conferred Bharat Ratna, and the laying of the foundation stone for the Centre of Happiness.

Faculty, staff members and students participated in a hawan organised at the temple in the campus. It was followed by a cake cutting ceremony.

Later addressing a function organised to celebrate his birthday as Prerna Diwas, Prof. Khosla, said that life is not a bed of roses and emphasised that adversities should be turned into opportunities. He encouraged faculty and

students to go for a shift in perspective and to build up a strong will power to achieve one's goals.

Prof. Khosla expressed his vision for India's bright future, attributing a significant part of this growth to the nation's deep-rooted spiritual beliefs and the unique adherence to the doctrine of Karma. He stressed the importance of spirituality in a nation's development, asserting that India's

THE DAY MARKED THE 84TH BIRTHDAY OF ITS FOUNDER AND CHANCELLOR PROF PK KHOSLA

commitment to these values sets it apart on the global stage.

Chairperson of the Foundation for Life Sciences and Business Management Mrs Saroj Khosla, described Prof Khosla as a man with a very strong will power and said he has worked hard to achieve his goals.

The event was attended by top management of the University including Vice-Chancellor Prof. Atul Khosla, Trustees Mr Satish Anand and Mr Ashok Anand, former Panjab University Vice Chancellor Dr. RC Sobti, President Innovation Mr. Ashish Khosla, Chief Learning Officer Mrs. Ashoo Khosla, Vice President Admissions and Placements Mrs. Avnee Khosla, Dr. JM Julka, and Dr. Sunil Puri.

The inauguration of the Centre of Happiness marked a significant step towards promoting mental and emotional health among individuals, underscoring the university's holistic approach to education and well-being.

The celebration of Prerna Diwas also featured various cultural activities, and Assistant Prof. Lokinder Kumar Sharma was honoured with a Rs. five lakh award for publishing a research paper in the prestigious Nature Journal. Assistant Professor Indu Negi conducted the stage.



Rekhi Foundation to set up Happiness Centre



SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rekhi Foundation to establish Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness at Shoolini University.

The MoU was signed by Prof Atul Khosla, Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University, and Dr Satinder Singh Rekhi, founder of the Rekhi Foundation for Happiness and CEO of R Systems, in Delhi.

On the occasion, Prof Atul Khosla said this partnership marks a significant stride in fulfilling Shoolini University's mission. "We are on an exciting path to promote the

Science of Happiness, perfectly aligning with our ethos of providing a holistic educational experience and fostering overall well-being", he added.

The Rekhi Centre of Excellence is set to revolutionise the academic landscape, offering an innovative range of courses focusing on happiness and well-being, starting February 1. The pioneering courses, including "Happy and Effective Leaders of Mindfulness," "Science of Happiness," "Diet and Nutrition for Happiness," "Astrology for Happiness," and "Yoga for Health, Healing, and Happiness," are designed to enhance various dimensions of individual wellness.



Shoolini University Chancellor Prof P K Khosla unfurls the national flag on the occasion of Republic Day. PIC: PREM BHATTI

Shoolini scholar makes it to top int'l journal

BHAVNA SHARMA

A RESEARCHER from 15-year old Shoolini University has achieved an extraordinary feat in the world of scientific research with the publication of a research paper in the prestigious 'Nature Journal'.

Dr. Lokinder Kumar, an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Biotechnology, who is also a proud alumnus of the university, is the visionary behind this path-breaking contribution. The



achievement transcends not merely academic accolades; it symbolises a significant milestone for both Dr. Kumar and

the university, focusing on their shared dedication to research and innovation.

Nature Journal, a leading multidisciplinary scientific journal with an impact factor of 64.8 and an SCIMAGO Journal Rank of 20.957, is renowned for its thorough peer-review process, making publication a testament to the quality and significance of the research conducted. Over the last five years, Nature has so far published 14,900 papers

Continued on Page 2

Shoolini researchers pioneer green solution for water purification with game-changing breakthrough

From Lab to Life: Cleaner water for all



BHAVNA SHARMA

ACCESS TO clean water is one of the greatest challenges that the humanity is going to face in the future. Even currently several regions of the world find it difficult to obtain clean water mainly due to pollution and degradation of environment.

Traditionally, the process of cleansing water involves addition of chemicals, which effectively removes impurities but may introduce harmful substances into the water.

Shoolini University researchers, including Pardeep Singh, Adesh K. Saini, Pooja Shandilya, Pankaj Raizada, and Divya

Mittal, have made significant strides in revolutionising water purification methods.

As part of its latest groundbreaking research, the team has pioneered a groundbreaking approach utilising photocatalysis, an advanced water purification technique. This method harnesses the power of light to degrade pollutants in water, offering a safer and more sustainable solution to ensure clean water for consumption while minimising adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The team has leveraged the remarkable properties of graphene, an ultra-strong and ultra-thin carbon-based material, to address water pollution challenges. Graphene, akin to a paper-thin sheet yet significantly stronger, offers a non-toxic and easily synthesisable solution with a vast surface area ideal for capturing pollutants.

This innovation represents a significant leap forward in water purification, offering a new, environmentally friendly approach that sidesteps the need for harsh chemicals and costly procedures. It's akin to discovering a novel

tool in our arsenal for ensuring cleaner, safer water for all. While conventional methods like filtration, sedimentation, chlorination, and ozonation are effective in treating wastewater by physical and chemical means, and biological processes utilising bacteria are common, the use of adsorption processes stands out. Adsorption processes are widely favoured for treating industrial wastewater due to their simplicity, high efficiency, low maintenance requirements, economic advantages, and resilience against toxic substances.

This latest advancement promises to enhance the efficacy and sustainability of water treatment efforts, marking a significant stride towards a cleaner, healthier future.

The patent for utilising graphene as a support material with photocatalyst in wastewater treatment represents a major breakthrough with profound implications for society. Its adoption has the power to fundamentally transform the cleanliness and safety of water supplies, especially in areas facing challenges

with access to clean water or inadequate treatment facilities. By efficiently eliminating pollutants and bacteria from wastewater, this technology holds the promise of curbing waterborne diseases and significantly improving public health outcomes on a global scale. Additionally, gra-



phene, being a 2D carbon-based material, offers distinct advantages: it's cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and non-toxic, further underscoring its potential as a sustainable solution for addressing water quality challenges.

The adoption of graphene as support materials with photocatalyst not only brings about

remarkable advancements in wastewater treatment but also offers significant environmental benefits. This transition towards eco-friendly treatment methods aligns with broader efforts towards environmental protection and conservation. Dr. Pradeep highlights the novelty of the research, emphasising that while there have been numerous reports on graphene-supported photocatalysts, the materials we have synthesised—specifically fluorine-doped graphene (FG) and EV/FG24—are truly pioneering, marking a significant step forward in the field of water purification.

This innovative approach not only promises to revolutionise water treatment but also holds the potential for resource conservation. By enhancing treatment processes, this technology could lead to significant reductions in water consumption and energy usage within treatment facilities. Such optimisation aligns with sustainability goals and promotes responsible stewardship of natural resources, he added.

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'Communications skills are key to success'

BHAVNA SHARMA

As part of our series on eliciting views of principals on various aspects of school education, we interviewed Mr Rajesh Rathore, Principal of JK Public School, Jammu. Here are excerpts from the interview.

Please tell me about your academic journey and about your school.

My academic journey has been deeply intertwined with the environment of JK Public School (JKPS) Kunjwani, which is known for its commitment to providing great education to students. Throughout my years at JKPS, I have experienced a learning environment that focuses not only on academic excellence but also character development and personal growth. Here every aspect of educational experience is meticulously crafted to instill values, foster creativity, and ignite intellectual curiosity. From spacious and well-equipped classrooms to a vibrant array of co-curricular activities, our school offers a comprehensive platform for students to explore their interests and talents. The emphasis on fluency in English and at least one Indian language, coupled with a strong foundation in mathematics and science, underscores JKPS's commitment to nurturing well-informed and versatile individuals. The school stands out for its initiatives such as the introduction of 18 clubs aimed at grooming students in various co-

scholastic domains. These initiatives not only enrich the academic experience but also cultivate essential life skills and foster a spirit of collaboration and leadership among students.

What is your take on the future of online education?

The future of online education holds immense potential to revolutionise the way we learn and acquire knowledge. With advancements in technology and the widespread availability of digital resources, online education has become increasingly accessible and effective. However, its success hinges on various factors, including the adoption of best practices, investment in infrastructure, and support for educators and learners. Online education offers numerous advantages, such as flexibility, convenience, and personalized learning experiences. It enables students to access high-quality educational content from anywhere at any time, breaking down barriers to learning and expanding educational opportunities. Moreover, online platforms cater to diverse learning styles and preferences, allowing students to learn at their own pace and focus on areas of interest or difficulty. The role of educators remains paramount in guiding and supporting students, facilitating meaningful interactions, and fostering a sense of community and collaboration in the virtual classroom.

What according to you is the one thing students should definitely

focus on in schools but they don't notice its importance?

One aspect of schooling that students often overlook but is crucial for their overall development is the acquisition of communication skills. While academic achievement and extracurricular pursuits receive considerable attention, the ability to communicate effectively is often undervalued despite its importance in various aspects of life. Communication skills encompass verbal, written, and interpersonal abilities that are essential for success in both personal and professional domains. Strong communication skills enhance academic performance, facilitate critical thinking and problem-solving, and boost confidence and self-esteem.

What is the biggest challenge to a fully educated India?

The biggest challenge to achieving a fully educated India lies in fostering a culture of creativity, critical thinking, and innovation among the youth. While access to education has improved significantly in recent years, particularly with initiatives like the Right to Education (RTE), ensuring universal enrolment is only the first step. True education goes beyond mere literacy and encompasses the development of essential skills, competencies, and attitudes necessary for success in the 21st century. One of the primary obstacles to a fully educated India is the prevalence of rote learning and outdated teaching methods that prioritise memorisation over understanding. This

PRINCIPALSPEAKS



Mr. Rajesh Rathore,
Principal, JK Public School,
Jammu

approach stifles creativity, curiosity, and independent thinking, resulting in a workforce ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Societal pressures, rigid academic structures, and limited opportunities for exploration and experimentation further hinder the development of innovative thinking and problem-solving abilities among students.

Are you satisfied with the current education system in India?

While the education system in India has made significant strides in expanding access to education and improving enrolment rates, there are several areas that warrant attention and reform. To address these challenges, there is a need to shift towards a more learner-centered and holistic approach to education that focuses on developing

critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. This includes revising curriculum frameworks, promoting experiential and project-based learning, and fostering a culture of inquiry and exploration in schools. Teachers' professional development is crucial to ensure that educators are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical tools needed to facilitate meaningful learning experiences.

Is RTE a good policy? What other reforms would you suggest to improve the education system in India?

The Right to Education a landmark policy aimed at ensuring universal access to education and promoting equity and inclusion in the education system. By guaranteeing free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of six and 14, RTE has helped bridge the gap in educational opportunities and expand access to schooling, particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged communities. While RTE has made significant strides in improving enrolment rates and reducing disparities in access to education, there are several challenges that need to be addressed to fully realise its potential. One of the key issues is the quality of education provided under RTE, which varies widely across different states and regions. Many government schools lack basic infrastructure, qualified teachers, and resources, undermining the quality of learning and educational out-

comes for students. To address these challenges, there is a need for comprehensive reforms to strengthen the implementation of RTE and improve the quality of education. This includes increasing investment in education, enhancing teacher training and support, and promoting community participation and accountability in the education system. Additionally, efforts should be made to address issues such as school infrastructure, learning materials, and student-teacher ratios to ensure that every child receives a quality education.

Do you think that the government should exercise control over private schools?

In my opinion, government control over private schools may hinder their ability to innovate and adapt to the diverse needs of students. Just like premier institutions such as IIMs, IITs, and AIIMS, private schools should be granted autonomy to shape their educational philosophy and practices. This autonomy enables private schools to implement innovative teaching methods, curriculum enhancements, and infrastructure improvements tailored to the specific requirements of their student body. Imposing government control may lead to bureaucratic hurdles and stifling regulations that impede the efficient functioning of private schools. Instead, a balanced approach that ensures accountability while allowing for flexibility and innovation is essential. Private schools should be

held accountable for maintaining high educational standards and fostering a conducive learning environment, but they should also have the freedom to innovate and experiment with new approaches to education. By leveraging the strengths of both sectors and promoting a culture of innovation and excellence, we can create a vibrant educational ecosystem that benefits students and society.

Would you like to make any other point regarding school education in India?

School education plays a very important role in shaping the future of India by nurturing young minds, fostering creativity, and instilling values of integrity and excellence. To realise the full potential of education for social and economic transformation, it is imperative to prioritize holistic development, innovation, and inclusivity in our education system. One of the key priorities is to move away from rote learning and exam-centric approaches towards a more learner-centred and holistic model of education that focuses on critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Moreover, partnerships between government, civil society, and the private sector are essential to drive innovation, investment, and reform in the education sector. By working together collaboratively, we can create an education system that empowers students, fosters creativity and innovation, and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to thrive in the 21st century.



MoU signed with Malaysian institute for research collaboration

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Institute of Technology PETRONAS, Malaysia. The MOU was by Shoolini University Pro Chancellor Vishal Anand and Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Bin Abdul Mutalib, Vice Chancellor and CEO of Institute of Technology PETRONAS.

Prof Ir Ts Dr Nor Hisham B Hamid, Deputy Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, M Thavasegaran, Director of Corporate Strategic Planning and Aminur Rashid, Head of Career Services Department, played instrumental roles in formalising the partnership.

Under the provisions of the MOU, both universities have

The MOU facilitates various collaborative activities for the academic and educational needs of both universities, including the exchange of faculty and scholars, students, collaboration on university ranking activities, the organisation of joint research programmes

committed to a wide-ranging exchange programmes for faculty and scholars, students, academic information and materials. The initiative is designed to enrich research and education at both the institutions. The MOU facilitates various collaborative activities for the aca-

demical and educational needs of both universities, including the exchange of faculty and scholars, students, collaboration on university ranking activities, the organisation of joint research programmes, and the hosting of conferences, workshops, and seminars.

Pro Chancellor Vishal Anand said that it marks the beginning of an innovative journey towards advancing research and knowledge exchange.

Dr. Rozy Dhanta, Deputy Director International Affairs at Shoolini University, stated, the university is eager to offer several scholarships for students pursuing Masters and Ph.D. programmes. We are also keen to collaborate in the liberal arts and start faculty exchanges to share expertise, she added.

FROM PAGE 1

Shoolini scholar gets published in international journal

worldwide, with only 140 of those contributions coming from Indian authors. Publication of Dr. Kumar's paper underlines the significance of the accomplishment within the Indian scientific community.

Chancellor Prof PK Khosla complimented Dr Kumar and said he was proud of the fact that he was an alumni as well as a faculty member. He announced a cash award of Rs five lakh to him and said the award would be presented to him on the ensuing Prerna Diwas.

He also announced that any faculty member who publishes a paper in Nature would be awarded Rs five lakh. He talked about the university's dedication to research, and said, "Our mission is to advance knowledge and make significant contributions to society through research. Rewarding high-quality research output underscores our commitment to this mission and sets a benchmark for academic excellence."

Vice Chancellor Prof Atul Khosla said he was extremely



proud of Dr Kumar's achievement and complimented him for bringing pride and joy to the university as well as to the country. He said the university would continue to nurture research and would encourage other researchers to achieve the standards set up by Dr Kumar.

Founder President and Trustee

Foundation for Life Sciences and Business Management Mrs Saroj Khosla said she is proud of Dr Lokender as he was a student of SILB and among the first batch of gold medalists of

HPU. She congratulated him and said she is extremely proud of his achievements.

Dr. Kumar's research focuses on the role of 7-dehydrocholesterol (7-DHC) as regulator of cell death, which is of significance in many cellular processes and diseases. This discovery is worthy because it sheds light on the adaptive mechanisms of cells to regulate Ferroptosis, highlighting a key role of 7-DHC in cellular processes. By understanding how cells utilize 7-DHC, researchers in future can explore new strategies aimed at targeting this molecular mechanism. This research opens new ways for targeted therapies, also offering potential insights into neuroprotection, cancer, aging, cardiovascular health, and metabolic disorder and treatments.

Before joining Shoolini University, Dr. Kumar enriched his expertise with extensive multidisciplinary training at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, USA, and

earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Panjab University, India. His academic excellence and research progress have been recognized through prestigious awards, including the DST-INSPIRE Fellowship and the CSIR-UGC junior research fellowship. Dr. Lokinder did his Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Microbiology (Gold Medalist) from SILB affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University. With his multidisciplinary training, Dr. Kumar is engaged in research understanding cellular signaling pathways in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Dr. Kumar, with roots in the serene town of Manali, Himachal Pradesh, stands at the forefront of pioneering scientific exploration of the region.

In 2010, Shoolini University established an incentive to foster a culture of high-caliber research among its faculty. This achievement not only highlights Dr. Kumar's dedication and expertise but also reinforces Shoolini University's position as a leading research institution.

Registrar Prof Puri gets prestigious science fellowship

SNL TEAM

PROF SUNIL PURI, Registrar and Dean Faculty of Science and at Shoolini University, has been conferred the honorary fellowship of the Punjab Academy of Sciences. The prestigious honour was presented to him at the valedictory function of the 27th Punjab Science Congress held at Desh Bhagat University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.

The honorary fellowship of the Punjab Academy of Sciences

is a prestigious recognition awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to science and academia.

As a distinguished academician and researcher, Prof Puri has published 189 papers and authored 13 books, establishing himself as a leading authority in his areas of expertise. His work encompasses diverse topics such as stress physiology, land use systems, climate impacts, agroforestry, biofuel, and energy conservation.

Furthermore, Prof Puri's initiatives in education, including the



introduction of innovative programmes at Shoolini University and the establishment of the MSc Agroforestry programme at

Haryana Agricultural University, have significantly enriched his academic landscape.

Prof Puri's efforts have not

only shaped the curriculum but have also influenced teaching methodologies, benefiting students and institutions alike.

Prof Puri's contributions extend beyond academia, encompassing practical solutions for sustainable land management and environmental conservation. His work on biomass production, carbon storage, and species selection under agroforestry practices has practical implications for mitigating climate change and enhancing ecosystem

Digital technology set to redefine educational landscape



VINAY SINGH NEGI*

IN THE ever-changing landscape of the 21st century, digital education has become a vital force, fundamentally altering how we learn and access knowledge. With technology deeply integrated into education, it's no longer just a trend but an essential component, particularly in a world characterised by continuous progress and innovation.

The current digital education landscape spans a wide array of tools and technologies, empowering learning beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. With the widespread use of smartphones, tablets, and laptops, educational content is now available on-demand and across various locations. Online courses, virtual classrooms, and interactive learning platforms have revolutionised education, dismantling geographical barriers and fostering opportunities for lifelong learning.

The COVID-19 pandemic expedited the adoption of digital education, prompting educational institutions to swiftly transition to online learning models. This crisis highlighted the resilience and adaptability of digital education, demonstrating its effectiveness in ensuring educational continuity during times of upheaval.

Digital education transcends geographical limitations, providing individuals from



varied backgrounds access to high-quality educational materials. This inclusivity is pivotal in fostering equal opportunities and bridging educational gaps. Additionally,

adaptive learning technologies customise educational content according to individual learning preferences and progress, enhancing understanding and retention by catering to the specific needs of each learner.

Digital education offers flexibility in scheduling and learning pace, catering to the needs of diverse learners, including working professionals and those with family responsibilities. This adaptability allows individuals to pursue education on their own terms, enhancing accessibility and engagement.

Online resources frequently alleviate the financial strain of traditional education, presenting a more economical option for learners seeking educational and skill-building opportunities. This affordability broadens access to education and empowers individuals to invest in their personal and professional development.

Anticipate greater integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in digital education, prom-

ising more intelligent and adaptable learning experiences. AI algorithms will analyse student performance data, offering personalised recommendations and feedback, enhancing the learning journey.

Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) will also evolve to become pivotal tools in education. As these technologies advance, they will enable immersive learning experiences, simulating real-world scenarios across various disciplines like science, medicine, and engineering, fostering hands-on learning opportunities.

Blockchain technology stands poised to transform credentialing and verification procedures. By securely storing digital certificates and credentials on a blockchain, educational qualifications gain heightened authenticity and portability.

Digital education will continue to facilitate global collaboration among students and educators. Through virtual classrooms

and collaborative platforms, learners from diverse geographical locations will connect, fostering cultural exchange and the sharing of varied perspectives.

In conclusion, the significance of digital education in today's world cannot be overstated, extending its influence far beyond traditional learning settings. With technology's continuous advancement, the future of digital education presents thrilling prospects. The integration of AI, VR/AR, blockchain and enhanced global collaboration is set to redefine the educational landscape, offering learners unprecedented avenues for growth and advancement. Embracing and adapting to these changes will be essential for individuals, educational institutions, and policymakers as we navigate the evolving frontier of digital education.

*(The writer is a PhD in Marketing with the Faculty of Management Sciences, Shoolini University)

'Good placements for all eligible students is the aim for 2024'



The annual Placement Season 2023 at Shoolini University stood out for its magnitude and emphasis on diversity. Even before the final examinations, there was outstanding engagement with top-tier companies such as L'Oréal Paris, Aditya Birla Group, Deloitte, ICICI Group, FPL Technologies, TATA AIA and Learning Roots.

Avnee Khosla, the Director of Placements and Admissions at Shoolini University, spoke to Shoolini Newsletter providing a glimpse into student placements in 2024. Excerpts from the interview:

Liberal Arts programmes, pure Sciences programmes, and programmes like Yoga. Our stance is that if you're a student, whether at an undergraduate, post-graduate, or doctoral level and seeking a job, our mission is to provide that job opportunity to you. So, we aim for inclusivity in our placements — not just focusing on standard subjects where people usually expect placements. That's the first thing. The second is, in terms of our strategy, we are also looking at launching more startups for students.

The youth believe that startups are an exciting way to jumpstart their careers. While the salary packages might sometimes be modest, students can get exciting Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and join a company that is not yet in autopilot mode. This way, they can build fantastic careers. Focusing on startups and securing placements for students in these ventures is another key objective for this year. So, the vision is inclusivity and startups.

Additionally, our 'Mission 130' is aimed at achieving 100 per cent employability with 30 per cent great jobs, and this year we are trying to push that 30 envelope to 50. This means 100 per cent placements, 50 per cent jobs in top-tier companies.

What kind of industry partnerships or collaborations do you have? Shoolini University has recently launched the Himachal chapter of the National Human Resources Development Network (NHRDN) on the campus. This gives us access to 6,000-plus Chief Human Resources



Avnee Khosla, the Director of Placements and Admissions at Shoolini University

Officers (CHROs) across the country. Many of these are employed in established companies and quite a few in startups. We have signed an MoU with them. In February, we are hosting the first NHRDN conference on the Shoolini campus. So, imagine the power of a university when it has access to 6000-plus CHROs pan India and the kind of collaborations and opportunities we can open for our students.

Morever, we have tied up with the ICT Academy which specialises in providing training for Cloud Computing and deep tech Data Science. Once these students undergo this certification for anywhere between 20 and 40 hours (about 1

and a half days), ICT Academy will open job roles for them in the industry. The academy has already opened roles at Tech Mahindra, Infosys, and TCS. So that's one collaboration on the Tech side. On the Journalism side, we have been able to get our entire eligible batch from last year placed into full-time jobs. Journalism works very differently. People don't get a job right after graduation. They typically get jobs as interns. But all eligible 2023 graduates are now sitting in full-time jobs in Journalism. We have tied up with news channels and content creators and influencers. The Pharma placement season will begin in the first week of March 2024, and like the last three years, we are expecting 100 per cent placements in top Pharma brands.

How is the university planning to strengthen ties with industries for better placement opportunities?

Academic strengthening is one of the key ways to consolidate collaborations with the industry. We have introduced programmes where the industry has a deep partnership with us. For example, when it comes to our MBA programme, we have recently signed an agreement with KPMG for the subjects of Accounting and HR. We are doing a tie-up with Algo 8, an AI startup, for our data science courses. We are in discussions with the London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) for a collaboration for our MBA Finance and BBA Finance programmes. Apart from this, we are also working with industry giants such as Henkel and Biocon for

our bioengineering programs and research.

How is Shoolini University equipping students to meet the changing job market demands in 2024?

Our Board of Studies is very active and keeps analysing market trends. Our Learning team effectively looks at new skills employers seek, whether hard skills or soft skills. These are taken care of by our SPRINT programme, our advanced training programme for MBA students. We also regularly update the curriculum to reflect the demands of hard skills in the market — This means all technical skills. For example, just before our students headed back to the university for the new semester, we revamped the curriculum. During this extensive exercise, a lot of obsolete things have been taken off the curriculum, and new skills added.

Could you highlight any updates or changes in the 2024 admission criteria?

Shoolini has always had an entrance test for its undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral processes, and we just want to say that the bar went up higher this year. The entrance exam is tougher. We will be testing students for their aptitude and language skills. Also, for the MBA exam, we have made the eligibility quite difficult, especially if you lack certain skills. Then we are also doing a pre-batch six-week intervention for these students on campus so that before they merge into the larger batch, they are a lot more confident.

What are Shoolini University's anticipated challenges in 2024 placements, and how do you plan to address them?

There's been a hiring slowdown in the tech sector. So, I urge students to use their free time to add skills to their CVs. Pick up online courses, network with your friends, and get your first job. Careers are nonlinear, so you can move in any direction eventually. However, getting a campus placement is critical. So, whatever companies visit the campus for recruitment drives, please take them seriously. Once you are out of the campus, your market value becomes 50 per cent. So, if you're getting a Rs 10 Lakh job today with on-campus placement, chances are you won't even get a Rs 4 Lakh job outside in the market as a job seeker. Whatever opportunities the Placement Cell on the campus offers, take them seriously. Sit for those interviews... put your best foot forward... you can always switch to a better profile... a better company... a better CTC as the market opens.

What role do students play in the placement process, and are there any student-focused initiatives for 2024?

This year we tried to create student placement committees across all departments. The MBA and computer science teams are active, as is the biotechnology team. Additionally, all support from the faculty and the placement department is there. But it's an amazing opportunity for them to reach out to employers through their LinkedIn network, build that first impression, and get a great offer.

An intern's progress at the Express



TANIYA ACHERJEE*

AS I climbed the stairs to The Indian Express office in Kolkata to join an internship, my heart pounded with nervousness. Although I had spoken to Ravik Bhattacharya, who heads the Express office, meeting him face to face was intimidating.

However, to my great relief, he welcomed me warmly and even offered me coffee and made me relax. He then assigned me the task of writing a weather report, which I completed with his guidance. To my great surprise the report was published in the newspaper the very next day. It was a thrilling experience but I was in for even more pleasant surprise when I found my byline printed with a story only a day later! Since then it was no looking back as I immersed myself in the reporting work and have been having a wonderful

learning experience.

With a profound affection for my home city, I eagerly embraced the opportunity to delve into the diverse issues that characterise Kolkata's dynamic landscape. Despite its moniker as the "City of Joy," Kolkata is not devoid of challenges, and my internship, spanning six months, has afforded me a first-hand understanding of the complexities within.

From the very outset, I recognised the demanding nature of journalistic endeavours, where weekends are seldom tranquil. Initially assigned to weather reporting, I swiftly grasped the capricious nature of Kolkata's climate, which garnered significant viewership. Alongside this, I have ventured into various spheres, covering two cybercrime incidents, stories from the local zoo, the Kolkata International Book Fair, and engaging in a conference with India's Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani, among other assignments. My aspiration is to delve deeper into pressing societal issues as my internship progresses.

Contrary to my prior inclination towards a desk job in media,



I found myself thrust into the realm of reporting, albeit reluctantly. However, under the mentorship of my supportive boss and colleagues, I have cultivated a newfound appreciation for the craft. Despite inevitable blunders, the patience and guidance of my colleagues have been invaluable. While weather reporting remains a staple, my burgeoning interest in crime journalism has been acknowledged and facilitated by my colleagues, who provide insights into relevant incidents in West Bengal.

Beyond the confines of the newsroom, the intern's journey unfolds amidst a backdrop of

networking and community engagement. A highlight of my experience has been the opportunity to network extensively within the industry. Adhering to my boss's directive to establish daily contacts, I have frequented the Press Club, Kolkata, becoming a familiar face within two months. Going to the press club also benefits me from making various contacts from the political and other media sector. Till now I have met media persons from ABP Bangla, News18 Bangla, Zee 24 Ghanta and many more. Attendance at diverse press conferences has honed my journalistic approach,

adapting distinctiveness in my writing amidst a crowded media landscape. Moreover, engagements at esteemed establishments such as the Turf Club (race course) in Kolkata have facilitated enriching encounters, including discussions with notable figures over lunch, such as an Air Force commander.

In the crucible of journalistic pursuit, the intern's journey is punctuated by invaluable lessons and profound insights. Throughout this journey, I have gleaned invaluable lessons. Understanding the intricacies of one's surroundings at a grassroots level is imperative in journalism, necessitating familiarity with every nook and cranny of the city. Furthermore, the profession demands unwavering vigilance, emphasising the importance of adaptability and diligence in navigating its unpredictable terrain. In essence, my internship has not only broadened my horizons but has instilled in me a profound respect for the rigours and rewards of journalistic endeavour.

*(The writer is a final semester student of MA in Journalism)

From maddening Mumbai to the serene Shoolini



APURVA MISAL

IN 2022, Gupta Rohit Kumar UmeshChandra, a BSC Behavioural and Neuropsychology student from Mumbai in Maharashtra made a well-considered choice to enroll at Shoolini University after researching various renowned universities in India. He selected Shoolini University for its outstanding features, emphasising its environmental friendliness, economic viability, and the campus's picturesque beauty.

Two years on, he remains captivated by the enchanting and rejuvenating infrastructure of Shoolini, often finding solace in the library, which he considers the prime spot on



campus. He notes the faculty's adeptness in delivering precise and relevant knowledge across departments such as Humanities, Law, and Science.

Overcoming initial challenges with punctuality, he learned valuable time management skills, accelerating his personal growth amid the nurturing environment, which also provided support for his mental well-being. He firmly believes in nature's ability to heal all ailments.

He harbours aspirations of becoming an exceptional neuro psychologist and collaborating with top-tier neurosurgeons. Being inherently empathetic, he has dedicated his life to studying, healing, and understanding

individuals facing adversity. Shoolini is instrumental in guiding him toward realising his lifelong ambitions and shaping him into the professional he envisions himself to be.

He recalls unforgettable experiences during departmental field trips to Shimla Hospital, Indian Association of Muscular Dystrophy (IAMD) Jatoli and Nehru Hospital in PGI at Chandigarh. There, he witnessed remarkable displays of empathy towards patients and noted the exceptional professionalism of the medical staff. He encountered individuals dedicated to rescuing victims of child abuse and assisting Nehru Hospital patients and those struggling with narcotics in Shimla. One poignant moment occurred when he encountered a patient from Maharashtra at IAMD. He counselled and related to him in Marathi providing personalised consultation and support.

"I admire the warm faculty members and the friendly students who make me feel at home in Shoolini", he added.

SNL TEAM

IN A groundbreaking study, scientists from the Centre of Excellence in Energy Science and Technology (CEEST) at Shoolini University, in collaboration with the University of New South Wales, Australia, have unveiled a pioneering compressor-free cooling technology.

This innovative approach, powered by a photovoltaic (PV) system, marks a significant stride towards achieving net-zero energy buildings (NZEB) and reducing greenhouse gas emis-

sions globally. The results of this transformative study were published in the prestigious International Journal of Cleaner Production, with Cite Score of 18.5 and an impact factor of 11.1. The team comprising Rahul

Chandel, Shyam Singh Chandel, Deo Prasad and RP Dwivedi, introduced a sustainable method to replace traditional compressor-based air conditioning systems with thermoelectric cooling technology. The novel, modelled

system was tested at the Solar Energy Research Facility of the CEEST under full solar loading conditions, and demonstrated the capability to effectively reduce indoor temperatures by 5-16°C. The key highlight of the study

is the development of novel semi-transparent thermoelectric-PV (STEM-PV) modules, which pave the way for future commercial cooling devices and further research into NZEBs. "This model can evaluate per-

formance under various climatic conditions worldwide, leveraging solid-state semiconductor devices that operate on the Seebeck or Peltier effects for energy conversion and avoids the use of environment harming

refrigerant gases that are based on CFCs and HCFCs," explained Prof. Shyam Singh Chandel, one of the co-authors and a globally recognized top 2% scientist in Energy by Stanford University and Elsevier.



ANSHUL CHAUHAN

Implementation is the key to UCC, say students

With Uttarakhand Assembly passing the Uniform Civil Code Bill, doors have opened for other states to also introduce similar Bill in their respective Assemblies. We spoke to a cross-section of Shoolini students to elicit their point of view on the issue. Excerpts :



I am in support of the UCC as a legislation but not with the politics around it that tends to take a communal angle. The UCC is a great step towards achieving uniformity in laws relating to marriage, inheritance, adoption, divorce, etc. UCC also plays a part in achieving gender neutrality as in the case of shariat law. Earlier the son of the deceased received twice the property than the daughter of the deceased. This won't be the case in future after the implementation of UCC. It is good move but what lies ahead is whether the Uttarakhand Government will be able to implement it as they claim.

Parth Bhimta, BBA 2nd year



I am in support of the decision of the Uttarakhand Government and look forward to what lies ahead for the state in the realm of family laws. Yes, it may seem abrupt and out of the blue to some, but this change has led the common populace to dive deeper and meditate on this topic. However, the bill may have many advantages, personally, I believe that a Uniform Civil Code is necessary for a nation that was born on the tenets of equality and secularism.

Awaran Thakur, BBA 2nd year



I support the UCC. I believe it will promote national unity and equality. It will ensure uniform laws across religions to ensure fairness. I support the UCC as it emphasises the need for gender equality and modernisation of laws. I believe it will lead to a more progressive and unified legal system. I also support the nationwide replication of the UCC, emphasising its importance in promoting gender equality and modernising legal systems.

Khushal Sharma, B. tech CSE 3rd year



I support the UCC bill as it guarantees uniformity and equal laws for all individuals, regardless of their gender, religion, caste, or creed. This bill will ensure that spouses and children have equal property rights, thereby empowering women financially. Additionally, it will eliminate polygamy and child marriage from our country. One of the significant benefits of this bill is that it will also provide legal protection to couples in live-in relationships. However, the government must ensure that it doesn't take away the rich cultural heritage of India.

Shruti Kumari, BBA 2nd year



I think the implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand is an essential step towards the new India. As it will provide rights for the women which includes the land reforms and procedure of divorce. It will give equal rights to the women for the inheritance of land. It will also terminate some marriage practices such as Iddah and Nikah Halal which is a good step for the welfare of society. The government should take the steps slowly and without hurting the feelings and beliefs of any religion and ensure that it doesn't take a bad turn. I think it will be good if it is implemented all over India.

Sidhi Sherwal, BBA 2nd year



I am in support of the Uniform Civil Code as it ensures equal rights under a single set of laws for all citizens regardless of religion. It promotes unity and social justice by streamlining legal procedures. In marriage, it mandates a common marriage registration process and equal rights for spouses. Divorce proceedings are standardised, ensuring fair treatment for both parties. Adoption rules are unified, prioritising the welfare of the child. Additionally, inheritance laws are standardised, preventing discrimination based on gender or religion.

Lakshika, Btech CSE (Cloud Computing) 2nd year

IPB to nurture banking talent at Shoolini



SNL TEAM

IN A significant development for academic and professional education, Shoolini University, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute of Professional Banking (IPB). The partnership is aimed at launching an MBA programme in Banking and Financial Services at Shoolini University.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Ashish Khosla, President of Innovation and Marketing and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at Shoolini University, and by Mr. Gursimran Singh Oberoi from IPB.

Sumet Kaur, Reepika Arora, Manjula, and Abhay Garg were

THE MOU WAS SIGNED BY MR. ASHISH KHOSLA, PRESIDENT OF INNOVATION AND MARKETING AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY AT SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY, AND BY MR. GURSIMRAN SINGH OBEROI FROM IPB.

also present from IPB. The event symbolised a shared commitment towards fostering academic excellence and professional readiness among students.

Mr. Ashish Khosla said careers in banking and finance are much sought after, and "we plan to equip students at Shoolini through online and distance education to get the relevant skills for successful placement and roles in this area. We also aim to be the most preferred

university for skilling banks, NBFs, and fintech companies".

Mr. Khosla further stated that through this association with IPB, "we will strive to provide relevant practical skills and internship opportunities to students starting from day one of their MBA course, thus enabling their employability. I have had the opportunity to be a senior banker at leading multinational banks in different parts of the

world and want to help open the door for Shoolini University's online MBA students in the exciting world of banking and finance", he added.

The collaboration between Shoolini University and the Institute of Professional Banking heralds a new era of academic excellence and professional readiness, poised to shape the next generation of leaders in banking and financial services, said Mr. Gursimran Singh Oberoi Managing Director and founder IPB.

The collaboration between Shoolini University and the Institute of Professional Banking was initiated by Mr. Tarun Gupta, Director of Operations at SCDOE.

Tie-up with Herbalife India on Direct Selling

SNL TEAM

HERBALIFE INDIA, a premier global health and wellness company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shoolini University to introduce the subject of direct selling as a part of its online MBA and BBA programmes.

The MoU provides for reorganising and restructuring the Centre of Excellence for Direct Selling in Academics (CEDSA) at Shoolini University, in collaboration with Herbalife India. With this understanding between the two knowledge partners, the MBA and BBA curriculums at the university will now come in with a specialisation in 'Direct Selling Management'.

The new restructured programmes will commence from the next academic session in 2023-2024. The course will be a



stepping stone towards familiarising students with the corporate and entrepreneurial opportunities present in the industry.

Mr Ashish Khosla, Co Founder and President Marketing and Innovation, Shoolini University, said: "I am delighted to announce the formalisation of a strategic partnership between Shoolini University and Herbalife International Pvt Ltd India

through the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding. The collaboration marks a significant milestone in our commitment to fostering innovation, research, and holistic education. By joining forces with Herbalife, we aim to create a dynamic platform that combines academic expertise with industry insights, offering guidelines for unparalleled opportunities of growth and development in the fields

of inclusive entrepreneurship, sales, health and wellness."

Ajay Khanna, SVP and MD, Herbalife India commented on the collaboration, saying, "We are delighted to announce our collaboration with Shoolini University. The signing of the MOU is a testament to our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of the direct selling industry. The industry is rapidly expanding in India,



Shoolini hosts 128th NHRDN Board meeting and conclave

SNL TEAM

SHOOLINI chapter of the National Human Resources Development Network (NHRDN) hosted the 128th NHRDN Board meeting and HR conclave titled "New Age of HR: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities" at Shoolini University campus on February 17.

The event marked a pivotal step forward in reinforcing the Industry-Academia partnership and showcasing the latest in HR practices and innovations.

Speaking at the event, Prof. PK Khosla, Chancellor, Shoolini University, emphasised the university's commitment to making its students ready for the highly competitive job market through comprehensive HR training. "Our ongoing partnership with NHRDN is a proof of our dedication to equipping our students with the skills needed to secure prime positions in their respec-

tive fields," he stated.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Atul Khosla shared his vision for the future, highlighting the importance of fostering geographical entrepreneurs. He projected that in the coming years, India would become a major contributor to the global workforce. Prof. Atul also encouraged students to embrace leadership roles. He said, "Become geographic entrepreneurs with a profound understanding of HR to lead the next generation of business."

Mr. Ashish Khosla, Director of Innovation and AI Learning at Shoolini University, delivered an insightful lecture on the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and online tools in HR processes. "Collaborating with AI enhances our capabilities across various domains, including hiring, screening, and employee assessment, through advanced techniques like sentiment analysis," he explained,

THE EVENT MARKED A PIVOTAL STEP FORWARD IN REINFORCING THE INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP AND SHOWCASING THE LATEST IN HR PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS.

underscoring the synergistic potential between human and artificial intelligence.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Prem Singh, National President of NHRDN and Group HR JK organisation, who stressed the importance of early preparation for those aspiring to attain high-ranking positions. He also encouraged students to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skills, and utilise AI effectively to navigate the evolving HR landscape.

The panel discussion members were Mr. Agniwesh Thakur, National Treasurer of NHRDN, and Director Human Capital Consulting Deloitte, Prof. Munish Sherawat, President and Dean of FMS, and Prof. BK Kaul, Professor of Practice Shoolini University. The panelists shared their insights on embracing challenges, leveraging technology, and maintaining a curious mindset as key drivers for personal and professional development. Leadership from NHRDN Mr. Dhananjay Singh, Director General, NHRDN and Nalin Ranjan Srivastava, Deputy Director, NHRDN also attended the conclave.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Arvind Nanda President (People Practices and HR) at Shoolini University. Mr. Nanda extended a vote of thanks to all attendees, with special gratitude towards Mr. Prem Singh for his significant contributions to the success of the Shoolini NHRDN chapter's event.



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