

# Induction Meeting in Distance Education

## REFLEX ACTION

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The tips to promote, enhance such skills will be highly beneficial for students. Induction Meeting gives such useful input for long term benefit of the learner.

The learner support centres of Open and Distance Learning System normally operates for limited hours and on selected days only. Knowing the correct working hours, working days, holidays etc. will save learners' time and energy. Such vital information are mentioned in sign boards/notice boards also. As the teachers are empanelled academic counselors to teach distance learners, most of them are part-time associate of Open and Distance Learning University. Introduction of variety of subject teachers, in front of new learners, will bridge the academic gap between the learner and the teacher. For instance, the IGNOU Study Centre at JNRM College, has over 100 teachers for teaching nearly 400 varieties of subjects/sub-jects. The identification of subject specific teachers is made easy in the Induction Meeting.

The unique methodology of Open and Distance Learning System needs awareness camp for new learner. For example, even before giving first year exam, the learner is supposed to pay school fee for 30 months ahead of starting of second year academic session. Such unique, special procedure of Distance Education universities are unknown/less known to the new learners. Missing the deadlines will force to student to wait (unnecessarily) for a long period. The basic requirement of self-learning skills for a learner in Open and Distance Learning System.

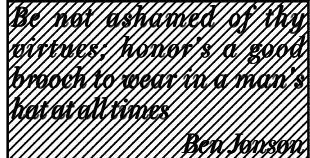
of new learner. Frequently contacting (or) visiting the LSC/RC, once in a month, keeps the learner updated regularly. For the same, the new learner must store the enrolment number (unique admission number), phone numbers; e-mail IDs of Learner Support Centre/Regional Centre/Head Quarter of the distance education provider, in their mobile phone.

The Induction Meetings are normally conducted through:  
• Face-to-face mode  
• Printed material  
• Electronic mail mode  
• Radio  
• TV  
• Website

For small groups, course-specific interaction session is much suitable for face-to-face mode of Induction Meeting. Considering the space limitations, it is limited to 50-100 students per Induction Meeting. The individual meeting with student is possible through printed material. It can cover 100% students, leaving none. The printed material can be distributed by hand or by post. The power point slides of Induction Meeting contents can also be e-mailed to larger group by mass e-mail communication. To reach a mass, the Distance Education universities also uses electronic mass media such as Radio, TV, Webcast, Face-Book etc. Being first meeting with registered learners (fresh), the Open and Distance Learning System gives adequate importance in organizing the Induction Meeting.

By just entering the hall of Induction Meeting, a fresh learner is educated about Open and Distance Learning university through various display/notice boards/standees/posters/charts etc. A simple walk through from entrance to exit of the hall expose the methodology and make the new learner aware about procedure, process of teaching-learning in Open and Distance Learning System. Mere physical presence in the meeting motivates, inspires the fresher. In other words, the Induction Meeting is spring board for smooth take-off for Open and Distance Learning journey.

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## Future of anti-BJP alliance

BSP supremo Mayawati has said there will be no poll alliance with the Congress in UP. She has already tied up with Ait Jogi's Janata Congress in Chhattisgarh and announced that her party will field candidates on its own in MP and Rajasthan without getting into any poll alliance. Her clear understanding with the Congress. So her decision to go it alone in UP will not cause much surprise. But the long statement she issued on Wednesday is cleverly drafted. For her decision to break with the Congress she has blamed 'some' leaders of the Congress but specifically named only one - Digvijay Singh. In the same breath she said that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are for an alliance but it is the others who are not, who want to harm the BSP.

Now policy decisions in the Congress party are not taken by State leaders like Digvijay Singh but by party president Rahul Gandhi. Behenji knows it well. Then why did she resort to the flimsy excuse that Rahul and Sonia are for an alliance but other leaders were not, because they are 'casteist'? Is she keeping a door open for making future overtures to the Congress while engaging in a hard bargain with it? Quite possible. It is also possible that she is under pressure from BJP to keep the Congress out of an opposition alliance. The BJP is uneasy about a Grand Alliance or Mahagathbandhan of all opposition parties that includes the Congress. The BJP wants to isolate the Congress. If the BSP and Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party can be weaned away from the Congress, BJP can breathe more easily.

Much, however, will depend on the outcome of the State Assembly polls in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. If the Congress, fighting to isolate the BJP, emerges as the best alternative for the 2019 general elections will change in favour of the Congress. The BJP will be able to assess itself and it will be difficult for other parties like the BSP to ignore the Congress in 2019. There is no doubt that Rahul Gandhi has been able to make the Congress a fighting force and the BJP considers him as its main opponent. The Pappu's fold has been replaced by a new Rahul relentlessly attacking Narendra Modi on a whole host of issues - from Rafale to ILL & FS to farmers' demands to fuel prices. What is more, he is getting greater response from the public than the BJP thought he would. The year 2019 is still a few months away and the situation is still fluid. Nothing is final yet.

## Gratitude expressed

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 5/-/** The State Transport Authority has cleared all pending applications for registration of commercial vehicles in its meeting held recently.

The president, Mr Girish Arora and members of Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry have expressed gratitude to the Lt. Governor, Chief Secretary and other officers of Administration and Directorate of Transport in resolving the long pending issue which the chamber has persistently demanding. The registration of commercial vehicle will give great relief to the unemployed youths who have taken loan from banks and purchased vehicles and also the visiting tourists who will get better choice in choosing the vehicles at affordable cost.

## 100W FM relay transmitter with DD LPVT setup approved for Carnic

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 5/-/** provide FM services to the entire Car Nicobar region, which spans about 11 kilometer East to west and about 14 kilometer North to South.

The setup is likely to be operated by end of this year. As far as private FM is concerned, three private FM & Radio channels have been proposed in Port Blair, A & N Islands under the FM Radio Phase III scheme, which are likely to be put to auction in the subsequent batches of phase III auction, the Ministry said. In a release, Mr Ray expressed gratitude to Col Rajyavardhan Rathore for enhancing radio services in the Car Nicobar region.

## Big haul of illicit IMFL by police

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 5/-/** Singh, SHO, PS Aberdeen carried out raid at Mohanpura near Vegetable Market, Aberdeen Bazar area and recovered 45 bottles of 750 ml IMFL from the possession of a person named Abdul Imran (31 yrs) Pvt Worker R/O Mohanpura. The accused was arrested under 32A & N Regulation III of 1876. Further investigation of the case continues. The general public have been requested to pass such information to Police on phone No. 100 or nearest Police Station about any illegal activity.

## Heavy rain forecast

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 5/-/** The Indian Meteorological Department, Kolkata has forecast heavy rain (07-11) cm at one or two places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the next 48 hours. The general public have been advised to take precautionary measures and contact the State Control Room, District Control Room and Emergency Helpline Centres in case of any emergency.

Conventional Crossword grid with numbers 1-29.

ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle.

## SUDOKU: 2333

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

## Yesterday's Solution 2332

Solved Sudoku grid for 2332.

## Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 341

Solved crossword puzzle grid for 341.

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## Agromet bulletin for farmers

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 5/-/** The Central Agricultural Research Institute has released the agromet bulletin for farmers for the period from Oct 5 to 10, 2018. In the bulletin, CIAR forecast cloudy weather with moderate to heavy rainfall in the afternoon. In the South Andaman 187 mm of rainfall and in North and Middle Andaman 198 mm of rainfall and in Nicobar 197 mm of rainfall is expected for the period. The maximum temperature will be 31.3 to 33.7°C with minimum temperature of 25.1 to 28.3°C, whereas the maximum relative humidity is expected to be in the range of 72 to 81% and wind speed respectively in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Wind speed of 2.1 to 6.0 mph is expected from South West to direction. Farmers in South Andaman have been advised to keep open the bund of rice main field to remove excess water as moderate to heavy rainfall is expected. In the evening, farmers are advised to take to the nearby market, provide net around the pond to stop escaping of fishes due to overflow and provide clean and hygienic water to the ponds to avoid gastrointestinal infection. In Nicobars, farmers have been advised to avoid fertilizers application in vegetable crops and avoid spraying of pesticides in the paddy fields to avoid crop and human health problems. In the paddy fields to avoid gastrointestinal infection.

# The story of Muqabala

## A mobile quiz game that lets you win cash prizes



It is an alarming sign when a life-long banker decides to be an entrepreneur in an area in which he knows nothing off, which in this case is online entertainment and decides to build a company in a country that he left more than two decades back.

Well, that's me, Avi Sengupta, founder of a small software company Zivanta Analytics based out of Kolkata, India. And my full time job is being a banker at one of the largest banks in USA managing a very complex financial portfolio. I am aware that with my full time job and family commitments in US, managing such an online media venture in India remotely, that too part time has a greater likelihood of failure than success.

entrepreneur to a "successful" entrepreneur.  
**Zivanta Analytics:** Initial focus of Zivanta was to develop analytical software for the US Financial Services Industry, parlaying my experience in the industry. We achieved middling success and late last year, I was evaluating whether my entrepreneurial dream has finally seen the end. One of the key reasons for lack of growth was that I was not able to commit myself fully to the business, as I had to continue to maintain my full-time job to support my family commitments as well as fund the entity. Being a "part-time entrepreneur" turned out to be a double edged sword, it allowed me to keep my entrepreneurial dreams alive for years, but I could not scale it to a sustainable level.

The first few years of Zivanta Analytics however, have taught me some invaluable lessons in terms of how to build a start-up, hire and retain talents, understand web and programming frameworks, develop creative ways to continue funding Zivanta, develop strategies to market to consumers and businesses, deal with regulations and compliance and so much more. In summary, I received a very practical, although expensive education on "how to do business". The end result was that I have built

a good, functional team and infrastructure, which I can leverage.  
**The mobile and internet transformation in India:** Having arrived in the US in the mid-nineties, I had a first-hand view of the how internet was shaping up, but I did not have the astuteness to understand its long-term implications. I worked in a large consulting organization in the online supply chain management area, but with the bust in 2000, 2001, I went back to traditional banking. However, I continued to stay involved in the sector. The mobile and internet transformation in India occurring now reminds me of the late nineties in US, but happening at a much greater speed and scale. With the experience under my belt and the team that I have built with much pain and passion, I decided that I am not going to miss this second opportunity. **Muqabala: The quiz app that lets you win prize money:** This is when I decided to go ahead with

my vision of creating a quiz game app that would reach out to practically everyone across the country. Muqabala, an exciting quiz app that lets you win real prize money will be launched on 8 October 2018 and will run for 12 consecutive weeks ending on Dec 28, 2018. You can download the app from the Google Play Store for free, register and start playing. Muqabala can be played in English and five times a week from Monday to Friday. Everyday there will be two sessions, one in Hindi and one in English. You can win up to Rs. 10,000 daily by answering 10 simple questions correctly. A player will start each session with 10,000 points. Each session consists of 10 questions split into 3 rounds. The 1st and 2nd round consists of 4 questions each.

If the player answers the question correctly, he or she gets 2,000 points. If answered incorrectly, loses 1,000 points. The 3rd round, also known as the "Bouncer" round, will have 2 challenging questions. If the player answers correctly, he or she wins 4,000 point and if answered incorrectly, loses 1,000 points. At the end of the 3rd round, the player with the highest score will receive the prize money. If there are multiple players with the highest score, the prize money will be split equally among all such players. As mentioned above, the total prize money for each session will be Rs. 10,000. The rewards will be paid quickly through a mobile wallet so there will not be any long waiting. After the regular season ends on Dec 28, 2018, the top scorers for both Hindi and English will be eligible to participate in a Mega Finale, scheduled for January, 2019 and where they have an opportunity to win an additional Rs. 50,000. The game will have picture-based questions. First, a hint will appear on the screen after which the question and the picture will be displayed. Then the player will get four options out of which he or she has to choose the correct answer within a given time. Once the player has selected the answer, the correct answer will be displayed with an explanation. The idea is to create something that brands would like to connect with, reach out to their premium customers across India. (Author is the Founder & CEO, Zivanta Analytics)

## FOCUS

Avi Sengupta