We have developed a very strong staff development scheme wherein faculty members get rewards for articles published in journals of one of the top 20 universities.
C. Rajkumar, vice chancellor, JGU

needs of a digitised world and are introducing courses that are in sync with times. Hindustan University has announced a course in cyber security. The universities are also offering combinations of various subjects in one course. “We have combined disciplines because we have observed that various disciplines are inter-related. We have combined mechanical and electronics, called mechatronics, aviation and electronics called avionics, automobiles and electronics called autotronics,” says Ramachandran. Thanks to the big data boom, courses in analytics are also getting popular. BMU offers an MBA in business analytics in association with IBM. It has recently announced an MBA in forensic accounting and corporate fraud. “This is first of its kind in India. Incidents of corporate fraud have sharply gone up and right now there is a dearth of required skill sets to detect these frauds,” says Tapan Panda, dean of the school of management, BMU. Sharda University offers an innovative two-year distributed MBA in banking and financial services. The unique model incorporates one year of classroom training and one year of on-the-job training that helps students develop analytical thinking.

While science and technology have always found favour from students, liberal arts have started witnessing an increased interest. A well-rounded education, similar to the US system, is what liberal arts provide. “Arts education in India typically focuses on one subject, but liberal arts give me the opportunity to study several subjects and then choose the one I like for my majors,” says Rhea Kuthoor, a first-year student of BA liberal arts at JGU. “There is so much of variety in learning, which is a different experience altogether.”

With the government becoming more serious about accreditation of educational institutions, private universities are looking to actively gain recognition. “Accreditation helps in getting credibility in the market,” says Bhalla. “Universities are able to benchmark themselves and work on their shortcomings.”