

Coimbatore university celebrates Google Day

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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Coimbatore: Bannari Amman Institute of Technology on Wednesday celebrated Google Day after its experiment of introducing Google Chromebooks in the college proved a huge success enabling it to cut the expenses on stationery by 60% in current academic year.

BIT had entered into an MoU with Google in 2013 to install Google's applications and educational services. With the help of a team of students and faculty members, it then developed around 10 applications on Google platforms to help improve the college's administration and academics.

Trustee and director of the college, M P Vijayakumar, said, "The college spends around Rs 25 lakh on its stationery and we expect this to be reduced by 50% during this academic year." The college has designed applications for applying leave, accessing learning materials and test performances, issuing notices and circulars, getting feedback from teachers and faculty and facilitating administration.

"This has reduced the efforts of the staff and students, and also reduced the use of pa-



Bannari Amman Institute of Technology will announce the signing of MoU with Google

per," said Vijayakumar.

BIT has invested around Rs 83 lakh for purchasing 300 Chromebooks and around Rs 70 lakh for installing 200Mbps wifi connection on the campus. "You can access any of these applications with the Chromebook. We are also planning to introduce Google classrooms on the campus and it will allow a student to connect with other students and teachers while travelling, besides helping one clear a doubt back at home or in hostel," said chairman of the college, S V Balasubramaniam.

Google has installed similar facilities in 102 institutions in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Students develop apps on Google platform

Special Correspondent

When Bannari Amman Institute of Technology went in for Google Apps for Education two years ago, it was for higher use of technology in interaction with students and for administration work.

The Google Development Team, including students and faculty, launched in the college in 2013 has used the opportunity and developed several apps that help the faculty, college management, and the students take teaching, administration work, and learning more into the virtual space.

The college observed Google Day on October 7 and a team from Google visited the institute to see the way it has made use of the Google Apps.

Bannari Amman Institute has invested over Rs. 2 crore in creating the required bandwidth, strengthening the network, and in Chrome books. It plans to use the Chrome books extensively, launch an innovation lab, and introduce virtual classrooms too. A Google Chrome Lab at the college was inaugurated on Wednesday.

S.V. Balasubramaniam, chairman of Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, told presspersons here on Wednesday that several activities have been automated and students can access the teaching material anywhere, anytime.

M.P. Vijayakumar, trustee of Bannari Amman Educational Trust, added that Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Forms have been used extensively to send communications to students, interact with parents, get feedback from students, analyse attendance, examination results, etc. The college has achieved 60 per cent to 70 per cent saving in stationery. "In the last two years, efficiency levels have improved manifold," he said.

According to N. Lakshminarayanan, chief executive of Cloudreign Technologies – which is a partner for Google, it has helped as many as 102 institutes in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh use the Google Classroom, Google Chrome Console, etc.