



International Column



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## ED seizes cash, and documents in Uttarakhand paper leak case

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Employees of a Lucknow-located printing press and middlemen allegedly leaked question papers for the exams conducted by the Uttarakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission and sold them to a number of aspirants at a rate of about Rs 10-15 lakh per paper, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said.

The federal agency said it raided multiple locations in the state on Tuesday as part of a money laundering investigation into this alleged exam paper leaks case.

The agency added that it seized and froze cash and bank deposits worth about Rs 1.14 crore along with various "incriminating" documents and property papers after these raids, it said in a statement.

The ED alleged that a company named RMS Techno Solutions (India) Pvt.Ltd, Lucknow was the press where papers of the examinations conducted by

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## Two students achieve a perfect score of 720, and national cut-offs increase across categories: NEET 2023

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Tamil Nadu's Prabanjan J and Andhra Pradesh's Bora Varun Chakravarthi have topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG this year with 99.99 percentile scores, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced.

A total of 11.45 lakh candidates out of 20.38 lakh have qualified for the exam.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of qualifying candidates (1.39 lakh) followed by Maharashtra (1.31 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1 lakh).

Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are the two most populous states in the country while Rajasthan also figures in the top ten in terms of population.

The NTA conducted the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG) at 4,097 centers located in 499 cities throughout the country including 14 cities outside India on May 7.

"Seven candidates were identified using unfair practices in the examination and have been dealt with as per the norms," a senior NTA official said.

## MBBS students need to complete the course in 9 years: NMC

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Students pursuing MBBS need to complete the course within nine years from the date of admission, while they will get only four attempts to clear the first year, according to the new regulations issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

In the newly issued Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2023 or GMER-23, the NMC has stated that there shall be common counseling for admissions to graduate courses at all medical institutions in the country based on the NEET-UG merit list.

"Under no circumstances, the student shall be allowed more than four attempts for the first year (MBBS) and no student shall be allowed to continue the undergraduate medical course after nine years from the date of admission into the course," the NMC in a gazette notification on June 2 said.

The student admitted into a Graduate Medical Education Programme shall not be deemed to have completed his graduation until he completes his rotating medical internship as per Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship Regulations, 2021.

"Without prejudice to anything stated in the present regulations or other NMC regulations, there shall be common counseling for admission to graduate courses in medicine for all medical institutions in India based on the merit list of the NEET-UG," the gazette said. Counseling shall entirely be based on the seat matrix provided by NMC, provided the



The examination was conducted in 13 languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu).

The examination was also conducted outside India in Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Colombo, Doha, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore, Dubai, and Kuwait City.

"The NTA has provided all India rank to the candidates and the admitting authorities will

draw a merit list based on the ranks for the seats of MBBS and BDS falling under their jurisdiction.

"When candidates apply to their state, they will mention their category as per the state category list. State counseling authorities will accordingly make their merit list. The same is the case with the domicile. The NTA has no role in it," the official said.

## Cell with fresh SOP to check student suicides soon: Kota Police

■ EJ News - Kota

Kota Police have decided to set up a student cell to help the students who stay away from their families in this coaching hub to prepare for competitive exams.

The police have also prepared a fresh standard operating procedure to ensure a safe environment for the students.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Chandrasheel Thakur said, "An SOP for students has been planned and Inspector General of Police, Kota, has approved it following discussion with stakeholders. We will launch it soon."

For smooth implementation of the SOP, the city police have formed a student cell led by an additional superintendent of police who will meet students at coaching centers, hostels, and PGs and hold friendly interactions with them to ensure their well-being.

Thakur is the in-charge of the student cell.

As part of the SOP, coaching institutes are required to depute a liaison officer who would keep track of student behavior and



inform the cell in case a student shows any psychological disorder for remedial measures, the police official said.

Asserting that police can play the role of a psychologist, ASP Thakur said members of the student's cell would diagnose harmful tendencies and disorders in students and they will be given counseling.

So far, 11 student deaths, all suspected to be cases of suicide, have been reported in Kota this year.

Last year, at least 15 coaching students died by suicide.

Over 2.25 lakh students are taking classes in various coaching centers in the city this academic session to crack entrance exams of medical and engineering colleges.



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# How to Protect Teenagers from Cyberbullying

On December 1, 2021, the killing of two teenagers at School 51 on Khorava Street using knives highlighted the role of bullying in the commission of this crime. Unfortunately, the internalization achieved in the last decade has created a new type of bullying - cyberbullying. Buller's anonymity, which the Internet provides, has made victim abuse activities more intense and severe.

## What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying carried out using digital technologies, which takes place through social media, messaging or game platforms, and mobile phones. It is a repetitive behavior that aims to intimidate, embarrass and anger the target person. Examples of cyberbullying include:

- Spreading false information or embarrassing photo-video material about a specific person on social networks.
- Sending harmful, offensive, or threatening messages, photos, or videos through the messaging platform.
- Creating pages and accounts on social networks in the name of others to damage the victim's reputation in the eyes of the public.

In the 21st century, when most people are active users of the Internet, cyberbullying has become a big threat, especially among teenagers. Often the victims of cyberbullying are schoolchildren (according to research, the perpetrator and

victim of cyberbullying are 12-19-year-olds of both sexes).

Unlike regular bullying, cyberbullying is not like face-to-face bullying/threats. It is



usually permanent, public, and anonymous. The victim is not sure who is doing it and who to fear. Cyberbullying can lead to low self-esteem, anxiety, anger, depression, truancy, poor academic performance, violence against others, and suicide. A study conducted on German students showed that as a result of cyberbullying: 67.9% became angry; 35.9% suffered mental damage; 22.3% - became desperate; 21.5% felt helpless; 17.9% were afraid.

Cyberbullying victims faced psychosomatic problems: 7.6% had headaches; 6.6% have abdominal pain and 17.1% had insomnia. In addition, 3.7% no longer wanted to go to school and 9.3% did not want

to communicate with friends.

## Practical experience

Distance education, unfortunately, increased the cases of cyberbullying even more, and teenagers practically became vulnerable to the mentioned challenge, therefore, for the prevention of cyberbullying, I aimed to raise awareness among students (6th grade), namely:

- I suggested to minors to analyze what cyberbullying is and how it manifests itself.
- Have we discussed who can become a bully or vice versa, a victim of cyberbullying?

- Discuss ways to protect against cyberbullying.

To make the problem visible, the students watched the movie "Cyberbully" (2011), the movie portrays the harsh reality and

best shows how bullying attempts made using the social network can lead the victim to commit suicide.

Through practice, it was established that the students had a general idea about cyberbullying, but there was a clear lack of knowledge about the prevention of the latter or the measures to be taken in case of becoming a victim. In some cases, it turned out that they became victims of bullying on the social network. In the background of the discussion and consideration of vari-



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ous examples, the students realized the danger of cyberbullying and the accompanying, in some cases, irreversible consequences that can result from a seemingly "harmless" action.

## How to recognize that a child is a victim of online bullying?

- He no longer wants to communicate, he closes in himself.
- He is always worried, and his sleep pattern is disturbed.
- As soon as he sees his parents or someone else, he turns off the computer, trying not to let anyone know what he is doing.
- Asks unusual questions, mostly about suicide, revenge, and similar issues.
- Avoids using the Internet.
- Cyberbullying Prevention Strategies
- Adolescents should learn to protect the confidentiality of information (not to share their data with others), and also not to establish contact with those they do not know personally through social networks.
- In case of unwanted commu-

nication on the social network, the teenager should save photos, comments, and personal messages (in the form of "screenshots") and contact a teacher, parent, or other authority to take measures on this matter, so that the bully does not have the feeling of "impunity syndrome".

• In case of long-term harassment, it is necessary to actively involve adults and inform the police, since some forms of cyberbullying may even take the form of a crime (for example, in the case of sending threatening or obscene sexual messages).

• Minors should understand the need to use secure passwords and access codes, in particular, they should not choose e. year intuitive passwords, do not reveal data from social networks or other sites to anyone.

• In some cases, it is better to temporarily stop using the pages and social networks where they are victims of cyberbullying or create a new profile with a name that is harder to find and add only those with whom they want to keep in touch.

Finally, active parental involvement is crucial in the cyberbullying prevention process. The parent needs to teach the child what is right and what is not, often talk to the teenager about the possible negative consequences of spending too much time on social media, and pay attention to the child's behavior when using the phone or computer. Due to the complexity of the problem, it is necessary to combine all such forces to fight against cyberbullying, such as the education system, parental involvement, the role of children's rights defenders, the goodwill of the state, and community activism.

# Cyber Education: Preparing the Next Generation Guardians

As our world embraces growing global connectivity and technology permeates every facet of our lives, the significance of effective cybersecurity is at an all-time high. Considering the ever-increasing advancements in cyber threats, it is imperative to equip the next generation with a comprehensive knowledge of cybersecurity. Cyber education is indispensable in preparing youngsters to navigate the complexities of the digital realm while safeguarding our future as a nation.

Incorporating a cybersecurity curriculum is not a preference but an absolute necessity for all educational institutions globally. The traditional schooling system must adapt to an ever-changing technological environment, recognizing the critical role that cyber education plays in preparing students for tomorrow's challenges.

It goes beyond basic computer literacy to include a comprehensive understanding of digital risks, risk assessment, ethical practices, and the ability to respond to cyber incidents successfully. The education sector is the most impacted industry of cyberattacks. Sophos, a global cybersecurity leader, reported that 71% of educational institutions globally experienced a notable increase in cyberattacks in 2022, compared to 66% in 2021.

Furthermore, according to a report by Check Point, in the first quarter of 2023, India witnessed an 18% surge in weekly

cyber attacks compared to the previous year. Each organization faced an average of 2,108 attacks per week during this timeframe, a substantial increase from 1,787 weekly attacks in 2022.

Schools must include age-appropriate cybersecurity awareness programs to lay the foundation for cyber education. Educating youngsters about the dangers of cyberspace encourages ap-



propriate online behavior and instills a sense of digital citizenship. We enable children to make informed choices and become responsible digital citizens by teaching them about cyber hygiene, safe online practices, and the necessity of

protecting personal information.

Cyber education should be a core component of students' learning experiences as they advance through their educational journey. It should include specialized courses, workshops, and hands-on training that foster technical and critical thinking abilities. Students acquire the ability to detect vulnerabilities, evaluate risks, and formulate efficient strategies for minimizing cyber threats by developing an

in-depth knowledge of cybersecurity principles.

Collaboration between educational institutions, industry professionals, and government agencies is crucial for establishing all-encompassing cyber education endeavors. Partnerships can bridge the gap between aca-

demia and industry by providing students with real-world exposure, internships, and mentoring opportunities. By cultivating these connections, we can ensure that students' skills fit the demands of the rapidly changing cyber ecosystem.

Cyber literacy, however, is not primarily the responsibility of schools and universities. Parents, guardians, and society as a whole can establish a cul-

ture of cybersecurity awareness. They must actively interact with children and young adults, emphasizing the significance of responsible online behavior, privacy protection, and the potential consequences of cybercrime. We can build a robust infrastructure that pro-



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motes cyber education within and beyond the classroom by working together.

Ultimately, cyber education serves as the foundation to empower the next generation to be digital guardians. By incorporating comprehensive cyber literacy into our educational system, we provide students with the information, skills, and ethical foundations they need to navigate the complex and ever-changing digital realm. It is an investment in our society's security and prosperity. Let us work together to empower the next generation since they will be our future guardians in the evolving cyber sphere.

## Paper leak case...

UKSSSC were being printed and it had played a "major role in the leak".

"The examination papers were sold to a number of candidates at an approximate cost of Rs 10-15 lakh per paper by the middlemen and employees of RMS Techno Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd.," it said.

"Huge amount of money was taken by the accused persons from potential candidates in lieu of leaking the papers to them. The accused made/earned properties worth crores of rupees in a short span of time", it said.

The ED case, filed under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), stems from multiple FIRs filed against the accused by the Uttarakhand Police.

## School dropout...

drive every year with a focused household survey with the help of a mobile app, it was noted.

Data showed that in Maharashtra, the annual average dropout rate at the secondary level had declined from 11.2 percent in 2020-2021 to 10.7 percent in 2021-2022. However, the dropout rate in five districts of the state is 15 percent and above.

In Uttar Pradesh, the annual average dropout rate is "very high" in districts of Basti (23.3 percent), Budaun (19.1 percent), Etawah (16.9 percent), Ghazipur (16.6 percent), Etah (16.2 percent), Mahoba (15.6 percent), Hardoi (15.6 percent) and Azamgarh (15 percent), the collated data showed.

The dropout rate in Rajasthan is consistently decreasing, but the dropout rate amongst scheduled tribes (nine percent) and Muslim (18 percent) children are still "very high" at the secondary level, the documents showed.

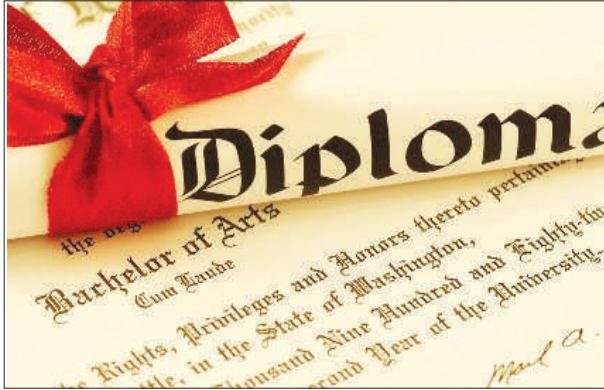
# Students can get degrees, diplomas if required credits earned irrespective of the term

■ EJ - New Delhi

A student may be considered for the award of a qualification, including a certificate, diploma, or degree, once the required number of credits have been earned irrespective of the minimum duration of the program, a UGC panel has recommended.

The "Expert Committee to Review the Notification on the Specification of Degrees and Suggest New Degree Nomenclatures" has suggested that given the provisions for multiple entry and exit in higher education, the National Credit Framework and the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes as envisaged under the NEP 2020, it would be appropriate to recognize qualifications at the level of undergraduate certificate, undergraduate diploma, and postgraduate diploma also.

"A student may be considered for the award of a qualification (like a certificate, diploma, or degree) once the required number of cred-



its have been earned irrespective of the minimum duration of the program. The degree nomenclature may be modified to be in sync with international norms," the University Grants Commission (UGC) panel said. Proposing the procedure to introduce new nomenclatures at any level relevant to contemporary and emerging societal needs, the panel has recommended that a proposal for the same, along with justification, shall be submitted to the UGC.

"The Standing Committee constituted for the purpose shall consider the same and make recommendations to the Commission. On the approval of the Commission, the newer degree nomenclature shall be notified by the UGC.

"UGC may adopt a practice of publishing its subsequent notifications with a comprehensive list, including the names of all previously specified degrees as well, for ease of reference and clarity," it said.

# CUET-UG to continue till Jun 17, results expected in July

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) will continue till June 17 with more than 65,000 candidates yet to take the exam, according to officials.

This will be the second extension of the undergraduate admission entrance test. The exams were scheduled from May 21 to May 31, which was later extended to June 7. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has now released the admit cards for June 9 to June 11. The NTA will soon announce the dates for further rounds of the exam. The results are expected to be announced in July.

The exams are likely to continue till June 17 and most of these tests will be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand. The results are expected within 15 days from the date of completion of the exams.

"According to the original schedule, the results were expected around June 20, which will now



probably be announced around the first week of July," a senior official said. More than 14 lakh applications have been received for the CUET-UG this year, registering a 41-per cent increase from its debut edition last year. The CUET-UG is the second-largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of applicants. In its first edition,

12.5 lakh students had registered and 9.9 lakh had submitted their applications.

Unlike last year, the exam is being conducted in three shifts. Most of the pending candidates are from Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand, while there are some from other states and Union territories too who are waiting for the dates.

# In 2021-22, the school dropout rate at secondary the level was higher than the national avg in 7 states

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Gujarat, Bihar, Karnataka, Assam, and Punjab are among seven states where the school dropout rate at the secondary level was higher than the national average of 12.6 percent in 2021-22, according to official data.

This information was collated from the minutes of the Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings held under the Ministry of Education to discuss the implementation of the "Samagra Shiksha" program for 2023-24.

The meetings with states and union territories took place between March and May this year. The government views drop[1] as a barrier to achieving the new National Education Policy's aim of a 100 percent Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at the school level by 2030, according to officials. The details of the PAB meeting

minutes show that the dropout rate at the secondary level in 2021-22 was 20.46 percent in Bihar, 17.85 percent in Gujarat, 20.3 percent in Assam, 16.7 percent in Andhra Pradesh, 17.2 percent in Punjab, 21.7 percent in Meghalaya and 14.6 percent in Karnataka.

In West Bengal, though the dropout rate has improved substantially from 2020-21 to 2021-22, particularly at the elementary level, it needs to continue taking adequate measures to reduce the dropout rate and improve the retention rate at the secondary level, it was noted in one of the minutes. There are a lot of out-of-school children in the Union Territory of



Delhi. Details of school children mainstreamed should be uploaded on the PRA[1]BANDH portal, it was stated in one of the documents.

The minutes did not have the dropout rate figures for West Bengal and the national capital. In Madhya Pradesh, the dropout rate at the secondary level has declined from 23.8 percent in 2020-21 to 10.1 percent in 2021-22, data showed. The state runs a special enrolment

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# TN CM opposes NExT and calls it an additional burden on medical students

■ EJ - Chennai

The Tamil Nadu government strongly opposed the National Exit Test (NExT), with Chief Minister M K Stalin telling the Centre it was an additional burden on medical students and also saw it as "another attempt to dilute the role of State Governments and universities in the health sector." According to the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, NExT will serve as a common qualifying final year MBBS exam, a licentiate exam to practice modern medicine and for merit-based admission to postgraduate courses, and a screening exam for foreign medical graduates who want to practice in India.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Stalin said the Government of Tamil Nadu has been consistent in its opposition to the introduction of NEET (National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test) and NExT in any form for both undergraduate and postgraduate medical admissions.

"The NEET-based medical admission system under the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act has already adversely impacted the equitable, school education-based selection process and its contribution to the strengthening of the public health system.

At this juncture, the proposed introduction of NExT will surely exacerbate this trend and cause irreparable damage to the interest of rural and socially disadvantaged students and the public institutions under State Governments," the CM told Modi.

# Fifty new Medical Colleges approved in India this year

■ EJ News - New Delhi

50 new medical colleges have been approved this year, adding 8,195 more undergraduate seats and taking the total number of such seats in the country past 1,07,658, official sources said.

With the addition of these 50 colleges (30 government and 20 private), the number of medical colleges in the country now stands at 702, they said.

The 50 medical colleges have been approved in Telangana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, the sources said.

The recognition of 38 medical colleges across the country was withdrawn in the last two and a half months during inspections by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board of the National Medical Commission (NMC) for allegedly not following the prescribed standards, the sources said. Further, show-cause notices have been issued to 102 medical colleges, they added.

The 38 medical colleges, 24 have appealed to the NMC while six have now approached the health minister.

The sources said the colleges were not found to be complying with the set norms and several lapses related to CCTV cameras, Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance procedures, and faculty rolls were noticed during the inspections carried out by the UG board of the Commission. According to the government data.

In all the states of the country, the curriculum for medical education is already being devised under the norms fixed by the NMC. The curricula, training, and examination system are monitored vigilantly by the respective State Medical Universities, Stalin said. The students are awarded MBBS degrees in recognized colleges, only after such rigorous training and examinations.

"In this situation, the introduction of such a common exit test will be an additional burden on the students. Given the high academic burden and stress faced by our medical students, this



needs to be strictly avoided. In addition, the introduction of such a course as a mandatory exit test will also hamper the clinical learning, which is vital for MBBS graduates," Stalin told the PM.

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## Scholarship Alert

### Scholarship: Kotak Junior Scholarship 2023

**Description:** Under the CSR initiative on Education & Livelihood by the Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Junior Scholarship 2023-24 from Class 10 passed students who are studying in Class 11 at junior colleges/schools, specifically within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

**Eligibility:** ♦ Applicants must have secured above 85% marks in Class 10 board examination (SSC/CBSE/ICSE) in 2023.

♦ Applicant's annual family income must be Rs. 3,20,000/- or less

♦ Applicants must have secured admission in Class 11 at junior colleges/schools in Mumbai for Arts, Commerce and Science Streams, in Mumbai Metropolitan Region\* for academic year 2023-24.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Scholarship of INR 3,000 per month

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** June, 30 2023

**Short Url:** [www.b4s.in/jagat/KJSP1](http://www.b4s.in/jagat/KJSP1)

### Scholarship: ONGC Foundation Scholarship Scheme 2022-23

**Description:** ONGC Foundation Scholarship Scheme 2022-23 is an opportunity offered by the ONGC Foundation to students enrolled in Engineering, MBBS, MBA, and Master's degree in Geology, Geophysics.

**Eligibility:** Open for candidates who have secured at least 60% marks in Class 12 for Engineering or MBBS programme OR 60% in Graduation for PG courses in Geology/Geophysics/MBA. The applicants must have an annual income of less than INR 2,00,000 from all sources.

**Prizes & Rewards:** INR 48,000 per annum

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** July 08, 2023

**Short Url:** [www.b4s.in/jagat/ONGC8](http://www.b4s.in/jagat/ONGC8)

### Scholarship: Voluntary Internship Scheme for Law Students 2023

**Description:** Voluntary Internship Scheme for Law Students 2023 is an initiative by the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research (ILDR) with the purpose to motivate students to create interest in legislative drafting as a profession.

**Eligibility:** Open for candidates pursuing 4th and 5th year integrated bachelor's degree in law (5 years) or pursuing the final year of 3 years bachelor's degree in law from recognized law colleges in the country.

**Prizes & Rewards:** A certificate by ILDR

**Application:** Via email or post to - Branch Officer, ILDR, 416 'D' Wing, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

**Last Date to Apply:** Round The Year

**Short Url:** [www.b4s.in/jagat/VSL8](http://www.b4s.in/jagat/VSL8)

### Scholarship: FAEA Scholarship 2023-24

**Description:** FAEA Scholarship 2023-24 is an opportunity offered by the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) to Class 12 passed/first-year undergraduate students in Arts/Commerce/Science/Engineering and other technical and professional disciplines at any university/institution/college in India.

**Eligibility:** Open for applicants who have passed Class 12 from a recognized board in India or be in first-year undergraduate courses in arts/commerce/science/medical/engineering and other technical and professional disciplines at any university/institution/college in India.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Complete course fees and other benefits

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** June 30, 2023

**Short Url:** [www.b4s.in/jagat/FAE9](http://www.b4s.in/jagat/FAE9)



## University and College teachers to continue protest against the implementation of NPE-2020

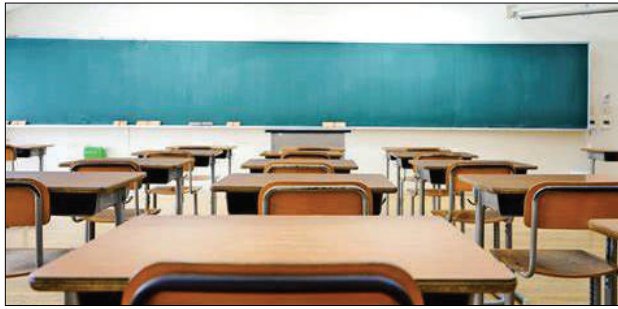
■ EJ - Agency

All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organizations (AIFUCTO) asserted that it would continue with its democratic protest against the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in the country.

The educational scenario of our nation "suffers from the evils of neoliberal economics measures" while the retreat of the state from the domain and powerful entry of market forces have provided a "serious threat" to the inclusive education system of our nation, AIFUCTO General Secretary, Prof Arun Kumar said. "To make the matter worse the NEP-2020 came into effect July 28, 2020," Kumar said while addressing media persons on the sidelines of the two-day AIFUCTO North Eastern Council meeting cum National Seminar at Kohima Science College here on Friday.

No stones are now being left unturned to implement the policy at a rapid pace, directives are issued, and reports are summoned thereby posing a great threat to the future of the country, he alleged.

Opposing NEP-2020, Kumar claimed even as the policy declares its motives of reflecting the aspiration of the 21st Century, severe attempts at privati-



zation, commercialization, centralization, and saffronisation are perceived throughout the policy.

The NEP is a "corporate-communal conspiracy" to demolish the constitution's foundation on which the people of the country wish and dreamt of visualizing education, he alleged.

The "flaws" in the NEP are so fundamental in order and base that the document cannot be rectified by redrafting. It should be withdrawn in the interest of the collective wisdom of the nation, he said.

"Since the announcement of NEP 2020, AIFUCTO has been holding various webinars, seminars and mobilizing political parties and state networks so that a situation will come where the Government of India will be compelled to repeal the policy," said Kumar.

He also asserted that AIFUCTO will continue its democratic protest till the NEP-2020 is with-

drawn in toto.

AIFUCTO President Prof Kesab Bhattacharya lamented that NEP 2020 despite the demands of almost all democratic organizations that education policy should have the combination of three Es – entry for all, equity, and excellence, the present government has transformed it to "3 Cs – centralization, commercialization, and communication." The NEP 2020 is a "dangerous" policy for the future of the country, he alleged.

He also claimed that in the NEP 2020 document, nothing is mentioned about gender equilibrium in education or women's education despite the Central government's policy of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.' Bhattacharya alleged that the NEP 2020 is "deeply flawed" and the most unwanted immediate impact will be the closing down of government schools and a sharp increase in dropouts in higher education levels.

## Karnataka CET Results 2023 declared

■ EJ - Bengaluru

The Karnataka CET 2023 results were declared. The results will be available on the KEA website at 11 a.m. The KCET 2023 was held on May 20 to 23 across Karnataka.

Vignesh Nataraj Kumar has topped the engineering stream with 97.889% of marks. He is from Sri Kumaran Children's Home, Bengaluru.

The Common Entrance Test (CET) is the gateway to professional courses in colleges in Karnataka.

Pratiksha from Sri Kumaran Children's Home Composite PU College, Padmanabhanagar in Bengaluru, is a topper in the BNYS course with a score of 98.611%.

Pratheeksha R., from Sri Kumaran Children's Home Composite PU College, Pad-



manabhanagar is a topper in the B.Pharm stream with 97.22% of marks. She also topped the Pharma-D stream with a score of 97.22%.

Byresh, Expert PU College, Mangaluru topped in B.Sc (Agri) with 96.75%.

Malavika Kapoor, from Mahesh PU College, Bengaluru, is the topper in B.V.Sc (veterinary science) with a score of 97.22%. She also topped B.Sc. (nursing) with a score of 97.22%

The results were announced by Higher and Technical Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar at

the KEA head office.

A total of 2,62,610 students had registered for CET and 2,44,345 students attempted the exam. Of this, 1,66,746 students are eligible for BNYS course, 2,03,381 students are eligible for engineering, 1,64,187 students are eligible for B.Sc (Agri), 1,66,756 students are eligible for BVSc (Bachelor of Veterinary Science), 2,061,91 students are eligible for B.Pharm, 2,06,340 students are eligible for Pharma-D, and 1,66,808 students are eligible for B.Sc (Nursing).

## Odisha train accident: KIIT to give jobs, education to victims' families

■ EJ - Bhubaneswar

The KIIT Deemed-to-be-University will employ one of the family members of the deceased of Odisha in the Balasore rail tragedy and free education to the children.

Announcing this to the media in Bhubaneswar, the Founder of KIIT & KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta said: "We can't reduce the sorrow of the family members of those who died in the train accident, but we will try our level best to support them. We will try to support the victims' families by offering a job to one member from each family at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility and provide free education to their kids at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility from standard

one up to higher level. We will inform them how to apply for the job as well as free education."

KIIT has always come forward and extended humanitarian services during stressful events. During COVID-19 as well, KIIT came forward to support hundreds of students who had lost their parents, giving free education, and jobs to the family members of the Covid disease. Continuing with this gesture, KIIT has come forward to help and support the victims of the train accident.

"We thank and praise the effort of the local people for their immediate response in saving the lives of the people. The effort of the Govt. of Odisha under the



leadership of Naveen Patnaik, CM, saved the lives of thousands of people in the accident. KIIT & KISS pray for the departed souls who died in the accident and convey sympathies to the family members," Samanta said.

## The collective effort in jeopardy, drop our names from textbooks: Academicians to NCERT

■ EJ - New Delhi

Days after political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar wrote to the NCERT, asking their names to be dropped from textbooks, 33 academicians, who were part of the Textbook Development Committee, have written to the council, saying their "collective creative effort is in jeopardy".

The academicians have also demanded that their names be "dropped" from the textbooks.

The signatories to a letter sent to NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani include Kanti Prasad Bajpai, a former JNU professor who currently serves as the vice dean at the National University, of Singapore, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a former vice-chancellor of the Ashoka University, Rajeev Bhargava, a former director of CSDS, Niraja Gopal Jayal, a former JNU professor, Nivedita Menon, a JNU professor, Vipul Mudgal, the head of civil society watchdog Common Cause, KC Suri, a former professor at the University of Hyderabad who is now associated with the Gitam University, and Peter Ronald deSouza, a former director of the Indian Institute of Advanced



Studies.

"Since there are several substantive revisions of the original texts, making them thereby different books, we find it difficult to claim that these are the books we produced and to associate our names with them... We are now given to believe that this creative collective effort is in jeopardy," the letter read.

"The textbooks were the result of extensive deliberations and collaborations among political scientists from various perspectives and ideological backgrounds and originally intended to impart knowledge about India's freedom struggle, the constitutional framework, the functioning of democracy, and key aspects of Indian politics, while also integrating global developments and theoretical principles of political science," it said.

## 105 varsities introducing 4-year UG courses from the new academic session: UGC

■ EJ - New Delhi

A total of 105 universities across the country including 19 central universities are going to start the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) in the upcoming academic session, according to the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The Central universities opting for the four-year UG courses are -- Delhi University, Aligarh Muslim University, Viswa Bharati University, Assam University, Tezpur University the Central University of Jammu, Sikkim University, National Sanskrit University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

The Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, English And Foreign Languages University, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Rajiv Gandhi University and central universities of Haryana, South Bihar, and Tamil Nadu have also

joined the list.

The other universities include over 40 deemed-to-be universities, 18 state private universities, and 22 state universities.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, had recommended that the undergraduate degree is of either a three- or four-year duration, with multiple exit options within this period, with appropriate certifications a UG certificate after completing one year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, or a UG diploma after two years of study, or a Bachelor's degree after a three-year program.

The four-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's program, however, shall be the preferred option since it allows the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education in addition to a focus on the chosen major and minors as per the choices of the students, the policy had recommended.

By the NEP 2020, the UGC had formulated a new student-

centric "Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes (CCFUP)" incorporating a flexible Choice-based Credit System (CBCS), multidisciplinary approach, and multiple entry and exit options.

"The existing CBCS though provides flexibility for students to choose from a range of disciplines, it lacks multi or inter-disciplinary flavor. In its efforts to revise the CBCS, the UGC has developed a 'Curricular Framework and Credit System for FYUGP' by taking into account all relevant policy recommendations of NEP, 2020," UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said.

"A suggestive credit structure for FYUGP with 160 credits is also given in the framework. The curricular framework and credit system developed by the UGC for undergraduate programs emulating the limitless learnings existing in ancient India will throw infinite opportunities to students, we hope," Mr. Kumar said.

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## Almost 80 schoolgirls poisoned and hospitalized in Afghanistan, official says

■ EJ - Agency

Nearly 80 girls were poisoned and hospitalized in two separate attacks at their primary schools in northern Afghanistan, a local education official said.

It is thought to be the first time this kind of assault has happened since the Taliban swept to power in August 2021 and began their crackdown on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls.

Girls are banned from education beyond sixth grade, including university, and women are barred from most jobs and public spaces.

The education official said the person who orchestrated the poisoning had a personal grudge but did not elaborate.

The attacks took place in Sar-e-Pul province on last Saturday and Sunday.

Nearly 80 female students were poisoned in Sangcharak district, said Mohammad Rahmani, who heads the provincial education department. He said 60 students were poisoned in Naswan-e-Kabod Aab School and 17 oth-



ers were poisoned in Naswan-e-Faizabad School.

"Both primary schools are near to each other and were targeted one after the other," he told The Associated Press. "We shifted the students to the hospital and now they are all fine."

The department's investigation is ongoing and initial inquiries show that someone with a grudge paid a third party to carry out the attacks, Rahmani said.

He gave no information on how

the girls were poisoned or the nature of their injuries. Rahmani did not give their ages but said they were in grades 1 to 6.

Neighboring Iran has been rocked by a wave of poisonings, mostly in girls' schools, dating back to last November. Thousands of students said they were sickened by noxious fumes in the incidents. But there has been no word on who might be behind the incidents or what if any chemicals have been used.

## Japa: MDCN advises Ondo medical graduates against leaving Nigeria to practice outside

■ EJ - Agency

The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), has advised young medical graduates of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo State, from leaving the country to practice abroad.

MDCN said doctors that the medical practice was a service to humanity, they need to see the need to contribute to the Nigerian medical system.

Dr. Tajudeen Sanusi, the Registrar of the Council, told the 34 medical graduates at the maiden induction ceremony of the institution, that we owe the society the responsibility of keeping them in good health, not minding if they are paid well or not. Today's ceremony is a call to humanity's service. The syndrome of 'japa' may look rosy in the beginning, but not profitable at the end.

Sanusi noted that some of them had the opportunity to be trained abroad but realized that no place like home.

When you go, make sure to do postgraduate training there and think of coming back to build the system, you have been largely trained, free of charge, not minding that you are paying. If the cost of training each of you is considered, you will realize



that you have enjoyed free education.

In the Western world, their children are no longer going to school, and they do not have money to train, which is why they are looking up to the third world to poach. Let us be patriotic and think of what we can give to this system.

He commended the university for the quality training offered to students, noting that UNIMED had the best phantom head laboratory for dental training in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adesegun Fatusi, stated that the induction has positioned the his-

tory of the school and health profession education in Nigeria.

He noted how they had to keep up with the training amidst the COVID-19 pandemic despite shutting down medical schools across the country.

Some of you argue that your parents paid. It is because Nigeria's economy is good and that is why your parents can make money in Nigeria.

Think of giving back to the county, seeing that not enough doctors, the ones we have should be utilized to benefit society, he added.

## Delhi University to introduce 3 BTech programmes this year; admission through JEE Main 2023

■ EJ - New Delhi

Delhi University will introduce BTech programmes from the upcoming academic session with a capacity of 360 students who will be admitted in three engineering courses through JEE Mains, an official has said.

According to the official, the three courses which will be

conducted by the Faculty of Technology are BTech Computer Science and Engineering, BTech Electronics and Communication Engineering, and BTech Electrical Engineering.

A proposal in the matter will be presented before the university's Executive Council on Friday, the official told, adding the university received approval

from the Ministry of Education in April for the creation of 72 teaching and 48 non-teaching posts for the new programmes.

"The committee authorised the vice-chancellor to decide upon the space and other essential physical infrastructure for initiation of these B.Tech programmes,"

## 'Developing process to provide a remedy for Indian students facing deportation, says Canadian minister

■ EJ - Agency

The Canadian government is developing a process to ensure that a large number of Indian students facing the prospect of deportation on charges of obtaining visas using fake admission letters will get an opportunity to prove that they were taken advantage of, immigration minister Sean Fraser has said.

The Indian students, mostly from Punjab, face deportation from Canada after the authorities here found their admission offer letters to educational institutions fake. The matter came to light in March when these students applied for permanent residency in Canada.

Responding to a question in Parliament, Fraser, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser asserted that the "innocent students, who are the victims of fraud", would be allowed to "prove that they were taken advantage of."

The government will provide an "appropriate remedy" for them, he said while noting that many students were "dealing with serious mental health concerns with the uncertainty they are struggling with."

"We'll put a process in place to allow them to prove that they were taken advantage of and provide an appropriate remedy for them," Fraser said in response to a question by Jenny Kwan, a member of the opposition New Democratic Party.

The minister, however, reiterated that the fraudsters or those complicit in fraudulent schemes would bear the consequences of not following Canada's laws.

India has repeatedly been urg-

### DU begins the admission process for UG courses for 2023-24

■ EJ - New Delhi

Delhi University (DU) started the admission process for undergraduate programs for the academic year 2023-24, with the launch of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS).

The university is offering 78 undergraduate programs in 68 col-



leges. Besides, there are 198 BA program combinations.

There are 71,000 seats across the DU colleges. Like last year, the admissions will be done based on the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores.

"The admission process has started. We are opening the

sources agency to stop the deportation of Indian students who were duped by unscrupulous education consultants in India to enter the country with fraudulent college admission letters.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has taken up the issue with Canadian authorities.

"If there were people, who misled them (the students), the culpable parties should be acted upon. It is unfair to punish a student who undertook education in good faith," he said in New Delhi.

"We are in touch with Canada on the issue," he said. Some Indian students in Canada facing the prospect of deportation on charges of obtaining visas using fake admission letters have received "stay orders" from Canadian authorities, government sources said in New Delhi on Sunday.

The sources also said that the actual number of Indian students facing deportation from Canada is much less than 700.

Last week, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, responding to a question by Indian-origin MP Jagmeet Singh on the fate of the Indian students, said, "We are deeply aware of cases of international students facing removal orders over fraudulent college acceptance letters."

"To be clear, our focus is on identifying the culprits, not penalizing the victims. Victims of fraud will have an opportunity to demonstrate their situations and present evidence to support their cases," he said.

CSAS-UG. Students can apply for UG programs," Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh said. The university is offering 78 undergraduate programs in 68 colleges. Besides, there are 198 BA program combinations. There are 71,000 seats across the DU colleges.



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