



International Column



Shalala Mammadli
Educationist
Baku - Azerbaijan

Shalala Mammadli is an MIE Trainer, MIE Expert, National Community Member of Global Education Network, STEM, and TESOL/TEFL certified teacher of English at Kalbajar School 37 in Baku, Azerbaijan. She has a Master's degree in International Journalism. After graduating from Baku State University she continued her education at the Azerbaijan University of Languages. She's a member of the Association of Educators of Azerbaijan, T-network (Platform for Experience and Communication of Educators), and Global Forum for Teacher Educators (GFTE). Also, she has been chosen as an Education Ambassador and Country Director of International Internship University in Azerbaijan. She is actively participating in E-twinning projects that allow schools, teachers, and students from different parts of Europe to collaborate, exchange experiences, and work on engaging tasks. She believes that learning has no age or boundaries.

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Education Jagat

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Grammy winner Ricky Kej releases Indian National Anthem rendition with largest orchestra in UK

EJ News - London

On the eve of India's 77th Independence Day, three-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej on 14 August a rendition of the country's National Anthem recorded with the largest orchestra ever at the iconic Abbey Road Studios in London.

The recording of 'Jana Gana Mana' features a 100-piece British orchestra from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) and was recorded a few days ago in time for India's Independence Day on Tuesday. Kej and the Indian mission in London called on members of the diaspora to share the one-minute-long video as they mark the milestone.

"A few days ago, I conducted a 100-piece British orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, to perform India's National Anthem at the legendary Abbey Road Studios, London," Kej tweeted.

"This is the largest orchestra ever to record India's National Anthem, and it is spectacular! The 'Jaya He' at the end gave me goosebumps. Felt great as an Indian composer. I am sharing this historic recording with every one of you this Independence Day - use it, share it, and watch it, but with respect. It is yours now. Jai Hind," he said.

The RPO is recognized as the UK's "most in-demand" orchestra, founded by Sir Thomas



Beecham in 1946 - a year before India's independence.

Its stated mission is to place orchestral music at the heart of contemporary society and, through collaboration with creative partners, foster deeper engagement with communities to ensure that live orchestral music is accessible to as inclusive and diverse an audience as possible.

"Ricky Kej, three-time Grammy Award winner, always innovative, always at the cutting edge of doing something new in the world of music. This year, we congratulate and thank Ricky for putting together a unique project - celebrating India on its Independence Day with a recording and a performance of India's National Anthem with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London; the largest-ever

orchestra to record the Indian National Anthem and put out as a tribute to India," said Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

The High Commission in London will mark the occasion with a customary flag-hoisting ceremony and its rendition of the National Anthem.

No plans to revive MP quota for KV admissions: Education Ministry

EJ News - New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Education on ruled out any proposal to revive the quota for Members of Parliament for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country.

Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi said this in response to a written question in the Lok Sabha.

"There is no such proposal, at present, to revive the quota for Members of Parliament for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas. KVs are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the wards of transferable central government employees including defense and paramilitary personnel, Central Autonomous Bodies, Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and Central Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) by providing a common program of education throughout the country.

"There is no such proposal under consideration since the admission under some special provisions including Members of Parliament's quota were granted over and above sanctioned strength of the student strength of 40 per section which was adversely affecting learning due to high pupil-teacher



Kendriya Vidyalaya

ratio in classes," she added.

The Centre had last year scrapped several discretionary quotas, including that of MPs, for admissions in the Kendriya Vidyalayas, a decision which was aimed at freeing over 40,000 seats in the centrally funded schools.

There are over 1,200 KVs in the country with over 14.35 lakh students. The MPs 543 in Lok Sabha and 245 in Rajya Sabha could collectively recommend up to 7,880 admissions a year under the quota.

Under special provisions, MPs had discretionary powers to recommend the admission of 10 children to a Kendriya Vidyalaya. Even a district magistrate had the power to recommend 17 students under the sponsoring authority quota in KVs.

In the first offline exams, 1700 students score zero in the Chhattisgarh varsity

EJ News - Raipur

A dedicated cyber police station was virtually inaugurated by CM Bhupesh Baghel for each division/range level of Chhattisgarh to confront the rising challenge owing to cyber frauds/crimes. The new cyber thanas have begun functioning at Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bastar, and Surguja. The Standard Operating Procedures have been released for these cyber police stations that will take up the cases in which huge losses of money via online digital fraud have been reported, Raipur SSP Prashant Agrawal said. FIRs here will be registered for probe only at the recommendation of the superintendent of police or IG.

Professors and academics of Raipur-based Pt Ravishankar University and affiliated colleges were left astounded when they found out over 1,700 students failed as they scored 'zero' in at least one subject. These students had written absurd replies



in their answer sheets. Interestingly, they are the same students who passed the online examinations with flying colors consecutively for two years appearing from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, after appearing in offline tests after three years, over 1,700 out of 1.25 lakh students got '0'.

In an attempt to opt for leading practices for sustained 'green growth', a vital initiative has been adopted towards a complete transition to electric forklifts across the plant operations in the Korba-based Bharat Aluminium Company (Balco). The eco-friendly initiative using forklifts with advanced safety features plays a vital role in Balco's day-to-day operations, facilitating tasks such as finished

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“Digital tourist” eTwinning project

Connecting nearly 1 million teachers and more than two hundred thousand schools across Europe in a single virtual space, eTwinning enables educators to become part of the most exciting learning community in Europe by communicating, collaborating, creating, and implementing educational projects together.

As we know, Azerbaijan started participating in the international “eTwinning Plus” project in 2013. This program is an extension of the “eTwinning” project, which is part of the Lifelong Learning Program of the European Union.

The implementation of the projects incorporates many different activities such as drama, music, creative writing, children’s games, brainteasers, and coding puzzles. As a result of it, the following goals are achieved: inculcating 21st-century skills in students, making learning a habit, expanding creative thinking skills, supporting personality formation, actively acquiring knowledge, skills, and habits, developing communication, cooperation, self-expression, and ICT skills, growth of self-confidence in students, learning to use many web 2 and web 3 tools.

Nowadays, we live in a digital world and it is very easy to access different types of information through search engines. Along with the positive features like being time-saving and accessible, such accessibility also brings with it challenges like cyber security and unwanted content.

One of the main goals of our current project was to educate

our students in this area - internet security. For this, educational materials were watched, online games were played to check what they knew, certificates were won, and a virtual meeting was organized with the founder and head of the Microsoft

closer.

The project also served to develop students’ abilities to research information, present it using various web2 tools (Canva, Wordwall, Storyjumper, Quizizz), acquire social-communicative skills, show tolerance for cultural diversity, and think creatively.

they took Digichick, the symbol of the project, to their country and created an e-book about its adventures.

At the end of the project, the best examples of work were presented in the spatial exhibition hall. In the room arranged for the project on the spatial platform, the students

communicated with each other using their avatars, everyone placed the flag and other symbols of their country and left their heartfelt words there.

In addition to being fun and engaging for students, eTwinning also requires collaborative and

focused work. For example, in one of our common tasks, teachers from each country had to take one letter of the project name based on the list, prepare it using WordArt, then students had to think of a word that begins with that letter and characterizes the project, and at the end, they had to make a video pronouncing that word in class. Finally, the videos sent by participants from all countries were



Azerbaijan and Innovative Learning Network (ILN) Ms. Mehriban Ziya as an expert.

The name of our project “Digital Tourist” indicated that two main goals were set: to teach students to operate more safely and comfortably in the digital environment and to get information about different cities and countries by virtually crossing borders and bringing long distances

During the five months of the project, teachers and students from seven countries - Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Romania, and Albania - received information about Metaverse (Metaworlds), the Spatial platform, and its working principles. The students of each country researched the countries, and cities where they live and then created an electronic book using the Storyjumper tool. As a joint product,

combined into one common video and a magnificent image emerged.



Shalala Mammadli
Educationist
Baku - Azerbaijan

This acrostic work, which seems simple at first glance, actually required strong cooperation and synchronized work from each of the project members located in different time zones and locations. Because in such teamwork, everyone does a part of the work, and a break in one link of the chain hurts the whole result.

If we add to this the fact that the conditions and technical equipment in the classrooms are different, the difficulties that arise often require creative solutions. For example, since we don’t have a smartboard in our classroom, we tried to create the impression of an electronic board by pasting a printed picture of the letter on our board.

What makes winning projects so interesting for teachers and students is the unique spirit of eTwinning, which combines creative thinking and the spirit of cooperation.

Studying in Germany..

India said a growing number of Indian students come to Germany. “We have now 35,000, I have another 32,000 applications on the table of the embassy. That’s quite a lot. And unfortunately, we need a little time to process these applications. I know that some students might be a little frustrated that it doesn’t go as quickly as they had expected, but I can tell you that, in principle, Indian students are very welcome in Germany,” he had said.

“I would advise every student from Punjab to make an application in Germany, a verification of the documents on his or her own. We have seen agencies that are fraudulent and therefore I would recommend doing it individually and not through an agency,” he had said.

Ackermann had said that India is a very interesting market for Germany. “It’s a big market, it’s a growing market. India has a very solid growth for years now. We are very impressed with this growth. It’s one of the very few countries in the world that has sustainable growth. And therefore German business sees increasingly an opportunity also for further investment in India. Now, Germany is by far the biggest trading partner in Europe with India. But I think in the years to come, we’ll see much more investment in German business here,” the German Ambassador had said.

1,700 students...

goods movement, breakdown, and maintenance, raw material movement, store management, or warehouse operations. The move conveys a message for every major industry to move towards a greener sustainable future.

Online vs Offline Learning

Recently, UNESCO warned to ban smartphones from schools, and online and offline education has again come to the fore. Why should UNESCO give instructions to expel the same smartphone from school today, which has helped students, parents, and teachers keep children connected with education and keep them in the flow of education..? As a result, it is time for the smartphone to give rise to online education as a result.

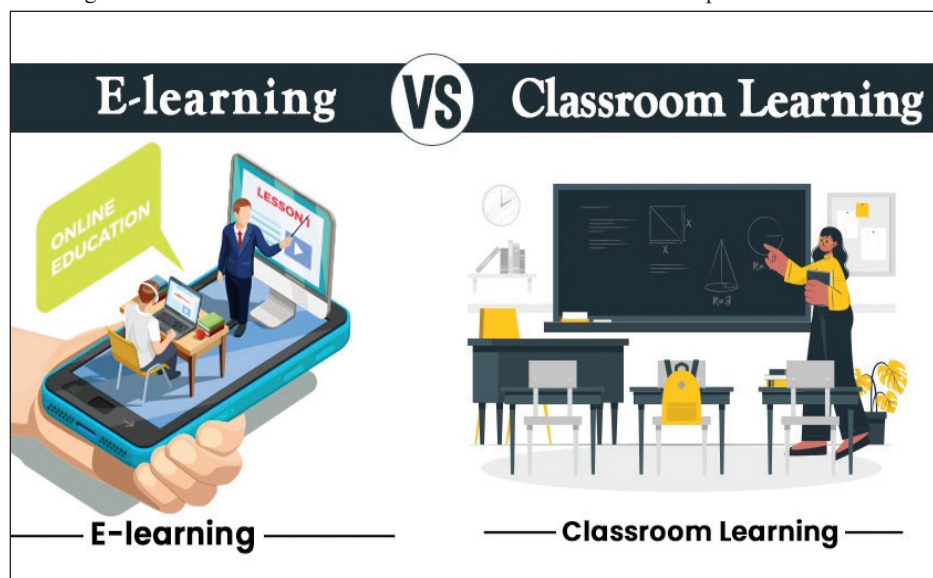
When something is overdone, its side effects start to be felt, and then it is time to stop that thing. In that way, the same happened with the smartphone or the online education provided. When the schools were closed, the use of the smartphone, which was the teacher, guide, and friend of all the students, had become so excessive. Today the students and children have cut off all other relationships and kept the smartphone close. Hence, innocence, loveliness, mischievousness, playful attitude, laughter, gardening, and fun in children have been lost due to the smartphone, which has made children a machine just like it. Today, children carry smartphones or other gadgets for study and are increasingly addicted to them and using them for bad things. They are seen wasting hours on apps like Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Nowadays, the fad of making reels, posting them on social media, and getting maximum likes and followers has been created among today’s young teenagers, which

is why online education is getting a bad name. The desired good effect of education is not seen. The actions of these children deteriorate the value of education. Smartphones are being misused by students in the name of online education.

Online education has many advantages. We can learn

desire and determination to learn from their hearts. The cost of going to college or school, the physical stress of traveling, and all these things can be avoided due to online education. Online learning can lead to great success if you strictly discipline yourself with good thoughts and in a good way. However, today is the time to banish online educa-

Due to the huge use of online materials for education and its increased importance, the importance of offline education was reduced, but today again, UNESCO has opened the ears of all of us by telling us to banish smartphones. Offline education was important before, and even today, it has been proved that it is much



from anywhere and at any time of our convenience. Also, online education is much less expensive than offline education. Online education can be a boon for students from poor and ordinary families. At the same time, students who are average in a study can study the related recorded video any number of times to understand a difficult study component.

Online education is the best option for students with the

tion, which has many advantages due to its excessive use, some disadvantages of online education have been exposed to everyone. The adverse effects on the eyes due to sitting in front of the screen for maximum time and the various apps on smartphones that distract while studying and the most important disadvantage is the lack of communication between students and teachers in online education and the growing distance and technical relationship created due to this are all errors in online education.

more important and necessary than online education. The observation of various organizations has revealed that online education can be very dangerous for young students when consumed properly. Sitting in front of the screen all day can’t ignore the huge strain on the eyes and the adverse effects it causes. Due to excessive use of online gadgets, along with physical ailments, students are becoming mentally ill. Many examples of this come to the fore daily through the media.



Kunda Bacchav
Educationist
Anandawali - Nashik

Reading news like a child vandalizing a house because a mother snatched away her mobile phone or a child committing suicide by playing a game on a mobile phone is mind-numbing. We are worried about the future of our country after seeing such an irresponsible generation of ours. And then, our mind returns to our childhood and education (offline). How beautiful was your childhood and your education.. where there was no connection with any of the gadgets? There was only Guruji, you, your class, and your friend Khadu Phloa. We used to dance and write beautiful poems I didn’t do my homework, but I got the rota from Guruji. He used to come and sit with Guruji while eating daba later. He used to play with us during the game hour. But then, neither the body nor the mind was sick, I had the pleasure of seeing my friends at school every day.

The country’s future generation must get a good education, but it is equally important to keep their mind and body healthy. To keep this good, there is no substitute for offline

education. It is accepted that technology in education has become very necessary in the 21st century, but what is the use of technology that leads the generation that is building our country on the wrong path? Then in such a time, even if education decreases, online education that degrades morals is not wanted. Teaching online is a responsible task. Teaching offline may be easy at once because it is fun and exciting, but in online education, the teacher has to impart education with more responsibility and attention. In online education, the relationship between teacher and students becomes technical and robotic. Education remains, but joy in education seems to have disappeared somewhere, taken away due to a lack of emotions. At such a time, the students in the classroom are crowded with their teacher, teaching in the form of dancing, singing, and drama in front of them, again and again, we feel that we need a class of our education with a nice picture and once again the suggestion given by UNESCO is right. All parents and teachers today need to think deeply and accept this advice from UNESCO. Otherwise, you will never know when we will swallow this technology in our eyes in the name of online education. Though Online education is the need of the day but it is not a soul of education. Less use of it will maybe give you more output.

So Parents and teachers, be aware and be careful.

Help at hand for students who want to pursue medical education in Uzbekistan

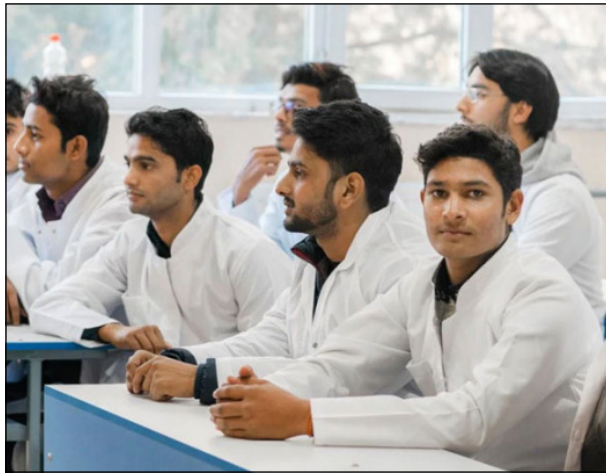
■ EJ - Agency

The Health Ministry of Uzbekistan and TMA University have jointly launched a toll-free helpline and an official website to help Indian students planning to study medical education in Uzbekistan.

The official website is studyinuzbek.uz and the toll-free helpline number is 1800-123-2931. This website has all information about courses, universities, scholarships, processes and documents required for study visas, and more.

Meanwhile, reports suggest India and Uzbekistan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote student exchange between the two countries. The MoU will facilitate the exchange of students between Indian and Uzbek universities. It will also provide for the establishment of joint research centers and the exchange of faculty and experts.

Last year, Uzbekistan's Medical



Higher Educational Institutes (MHEIs) offered 2000 seats to relocate Indian medical students from Ukraine by accepting the erstwhile MCI and NMC norms (Screening test regulations 2002) and (Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate - FMGL Regulations 2021).

Uzbekistan was offering two undergraduate medical pro-

grams to Indian students: 6 year MD Diploma and 5+1 years MBBS degree with a one-year internship.

Additionally, Uzbekistan also offers scholarships for Uzbekistan students to study in India. The scholarships are being offered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program.

704 medical colleges in India, Tamil Nadu tops the list with 74: Minister

■ EJ - New Delhi

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of medical colleges in the country, there are 74 medical colleges in the state. The second position is held by Karnataka with 70 medical colleges and third by Uttar Pradesh with 68 medical colleges. There are a total of 704 medical colleges in the country as of now.

The data was shared by Minister of State for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati



Pravin Pawar in Lok Sabha on the last day of the monsoon session.

Answering a question regarding the setting up of medical colleges in all districts of the country, the minister said, "The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' with preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no existing Government or private medical college with fund sharing between the Centre and State Governments in the ratio of 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States and 60:40 for others."

A total of 157 government medical colleges have been approved in three phases under this scheme including 58 medical colleges in the first phase, 24 in the second phase, and 75 in the third phase.

Out of the 157 approved medical colleges, 27 will be established in Uttar Pradesh, 23 in Rajasthan, and 14 in Madhya Pradesh. A total of 20 states will be getting medical colleges in the first phase, 8 in the second phase, and 18 in the third phase.

NCERT forms a 19-member panel for textbooks revision

■ EJ News - New Delhi

A new committee formed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is set to shape the curriculum and textbooks for classes 3 to 12.

This 19-member committee, named the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), will be led by MC Pant, the Chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). Notable figures including Sudha Murty, author and Infosys Foundation chair, singer Shankar Mahadevan, and economist Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, are part of this endeavor according to an internal note of NCERT.

The primary goal of this committee is to align the curriculum with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). Developed under the guidance of the K Kasturirangan-led steering committee as a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation. Although the final NCF-SE version has already been submitted to the Union Ministry of Education, its public release is still pending. The draft was unveiled in April.

NSTC's responsibilities encompass the development of school syllabi, as well as teaching and learning materials for classes 3 to 12. This committee will also undertake the task of appropriately revising existing textbooks for classes 1 and 2, ensuring a smooth transition to NCF-SE guidelines, according to the note. "The textbooks and other learning material developed and finalized by NSTC shall be published and distributed by the NCERT," the note stated.

The composition of this committee reflects a diverse range of expertise. Manjul Bhargava, a mathematics professor at Princeton University, co-chairs the committee. Other members include Sujatha Ramdorai, a distinguished mathematician, U Vimal Kumar, a badminton player, MD Srinivas, chairperson of the Centre for Policy Studies, and Chamu Krishna Shastry, chairperson of Bhartiya



Bhasha Samiti.

To facilitate a thorough approach, Curriculum Area Groups (CAGs) will be established. These groups, comprising subject experts, will assist NSTC in shaping textbooks and learning materials for the various subjects covered in the syllabus. 11 CAGs will be constituted to work on the 11 domains mentioned in NCF-SE including mathematics, science, physical education, and social sciences said Chamu Krishna Shastry. "More than 1,000 subject experts will be engaged in the process of curriculum development and textbook design-

ing," Shastry said.

The committee aspires to conclude its activities by the end of the current academic year, ensuring that the new textbooks are ready well in advance of the next session. Supporting NSTC's initiatives is a National Oversight Committee (NOC), helmed by Jagbir Singh, the chancellor of the Central University of Punjab. "NOC will provide detailed orientation to the members of NSCT and others including CAGs. It will ensure full alignment of textbooks, syllabus, and teaching learning material to NCF-SE," a senior NCERT official said.

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Scholarship Alert

Scholarship: Alstom India Scholarship Program 2023-24

Description: Alstom India is offering this scholarship with an aim to provide financial support to students across India to help them pursue their higher education and prevent them from dropout.

Eligibility: ♦ Students studying in any year of ITI/diploma, general graduation, or graduation (engineering) STEM courses for FY 2023-24 can apply.

♦ Applicants must have secured at least 60% marks in their previous academic year/semester.

♦ The annual family income of the applicants must be less than or equal to INR 6,00,000 from all sources.

♦ Preference will be given to students residing in locations such as Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Madhepura (Bihar), Sri City (Andhra Pradesh), or Vadodara (Gujarat).

♦ Students pursuing graduation in STEM (any year) at any of the Alstom India specified institutions are also eligible to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000 (one-time)

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Sep, 15 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/AISDG4

Scholarship: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2023

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2023 from Class 12 passed girl students, who have secured more than 85% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to Rs. 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh). The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges.

Eligibility: ♦ Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.

♦ Applicants must have scored more than 85% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.

♦ Annual family income must be Rs. 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh) or less from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Rs. 1.5 lakh* per year

*Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Sep. 30, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/KKGS2

Scholarship: Aspire Scholarship Program 2023-24

Description: Aspire Scholarship Program 2023-24 is a CSR initiative of SWAYAM Charitable Trust, a not for profit organization set up by Mr. Ajai Chowdhry and his family. The scholarship aims to provide financial support to underprivileged students pursuing B.Tech. courses at 11 prestigious engineering institutions across India.

Eligibility: ♦ Students joining the first-year of B.Tech. courses at any of the specified 11 institutions can apply.

♦ Annual family income of the applicants should not exceed INR 6 lakh from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship based on the actual fee structure to cover academic expenses, such as tuition fees, hostel fees, food, and related expenses.

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Sep. 10, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/ASPI1

Scholarship: Indiabulls Foundation Education Support Program 2023

Description: Indiabulls Foundation Education Support Program 2023 is an opportunity offered by the Indiabulls Foundation (CSR department of Indiabulls Group - a leading business house in India). The scholarship is offered to students who have passed Class 12 and wants to pursue a sustainable career in the field of Engineering, Medicine, Law, IT, ITI, Management or any other stream. The organisation focuses on creating social impact by supporting higher education for deserving students in need.

Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens who are not more than 25 years of age. The candidates must have passed Class 12 and be pursuing a graduation course or higher education in the academic year 2023-24.

Prizes & Rewards: Academic expenses excluding hostel and mess fees

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Sep. 30, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/IFES1



KIET Organized an FDP on Universal Human Values

■ EJ - Ghaziabad

The "Happiness and Cognition Centre" at KIET Group of Institutions successfully organized an AICTE approved Faculty Development Program on Universal Human Values-II from July 31, 2023, to August 07, 2023. Nearly 63 faculty members from KIET and other top engineering colleges registered for this FDP. However, only 48 completed the eight-day programme within the premises of the institute.

The FDP was inaugurated by Dr. A Garg, Director, KIET, who gave an insightful and inspiring speech to the audience. He said, "organizing such FDPs is really important for every citizen of the nation as they emphasize on the relevance of human values and encourage people to become competent citizens."

This was followed by the welcome of main dignitaries deputed through AICTE, viz. Moti Chand Yadav (resource person), Dr. Manishi Mishra (co-facilitator), Dr. Manorama (co-facilitator), and Raghvendra Pratap Singh (Observer).



As the resource person, Moti Chand Yadav chaired all the sessions conducted during this 8-day FDP. All of his sessions on Universal Human Values were as per the norms and schedule defined by the AICTE. Also, they were very interactive.

The observer, R. P. Singh informed the rules and regulations to the audience to ensure sincerity during the FDP. His insightful remarks set the tone for the FDP, inspiring participants to actively engage in the upcoming sessions.

Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, head of "Happiness and Cognition Center" (HCC-KIET), emphasized stress-free management and briefed everyone regarding the future initiatives of the vertical.

The last day of the FDP concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Amit Kumar and Dr. Kapil Sharma, who were the Local Program Coordinators throughout the FDP session. Alok Pandey, Dr. Arunima Mishra, and Ms. Pallavi Sharma were present as the supporting team members.

'NExT exam likely to be held in August 2025'

■ EJ - New Delhi

Discussions between the Health Ministry and NMC officials indicate that the National Exit Test (NExT) is likely to be held in August 2025 for the final year MBBS students of the 2020 batch, official sources said. The National Medical Commission (NMC) in its NExT Regulations 2023 issued in June stated the exam will be held in two phases - NExT Step 1 and NExT Step 2 - within 12 months.

NExT shall serve as a licentiate examination for medical graduates in India and determine the eligibility and ranking for admission to postgraduate medical education in the country. It will also be a screening exam for foreign medical graduates who want to practice in India.

Last month, the National Medical Commission deferred the exam for the final year MBBS students of the 2019 batch.

"Going by the deliberations being held between the health ministry and NMC officials, the NExT Step 1 is likely to be held in August 2025 for the final



year MBBS students of the 2020 batch," an official source told Press Trust of India.

Around 65,000 students took admission to MBBS courses across the country in 2020. According to a data analysis by the health ministry, of these, 62,000 students will be eligible to appear for the August exam in 2025.

Presently, there is no uniformity in the MBBS course completion period in the country because of which around 3,000 students will not be able to appear for the NExT part 1.

Sources said that NExT Step 2

will be held in February. Those who won't be able to appear in the August 2025 exam can appear in the February exam. Those who fail to clear the NExT exam Step 1 or are not satisfied with their ranks can also appear in the February exam.

There will be just one counseling for admission to PG courses in a year. However, students can appear for medical PG counseling for the next session based on their NExT February exam.

According to the National Exit Test Regulations-2023, the NExT Step 2 results shall be declared as only "pass or fail" based on the acquisition of appropriate competence that is being evaluated.

The marks from NExT Step 2 will be considered to prepare a merit list for admission into broad specialty PG seats. The NExT Step 1 shall be a theory examination and the questions shall be one or more than one type of multiple-choice type with the examinations being conducted online.

Uttarakhand to introduce MBBS courses in Hindi in state medical colleges

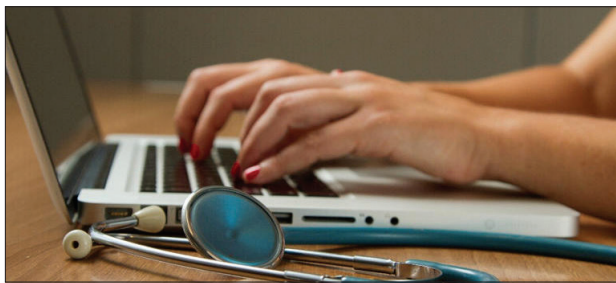
■ EJ - Agency

Uttarakhand will introduce MBBS courses in Hindi in the state's medical colleges this month, Minister of Health and Education Dhan Singh Rawat said.

He said Uttarakhand would be the second state in the country after Madhya Pradesh to bring such an initiative.

Rawat said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has agreed to formally launch the MBBS courses in Hindi in Uttarakhand's medical colleges before the end of August.

He added that the syllabus for the courses in Hindi was prepared by a state government-appointed committee of expert doctors, who studied the Mad-



hya Pradesh model before finalizing it for medical colleges of Uttarakhand.

The Uttarakhand minister said the syllabus was submitted by an expert panel to the Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna University of Medical Education, which has also completed all formalities for its introduction.

It will be a big gift for the stu-

dents who have had Hindi as their medium of education, he added.

Rawat had gone to Delhi to invite the Union health minister to formally launch the MBBS courses in Hindi in Uttarakhand and attend the groundbreaking ceremony of a satellite center of AIIMS, Rishikesh, in Udham Singh Nagar.

France to offer 5-year Schengen visa for 30,000 Indian alumni by 2030

■ EJ - Agency

A few days after France announced a longer post-study work visa for Indian students in France, the European country today announced that Indian students who have even spent just a semester in France are now eligible for a 5-year short-stay Schengen visa.

"France believes that when an Indian student spends even just a semester in France, it creates a connection that ought to be fostered and cherished. That is why, Indian students who hold a Master's degree or above and have spent at least a semester studying in France are eligible for a 5-year short-stay Schengen visa. This is a special provision for Indian alumni to enable them to keep close links with France and their French counterparts," the official statement from the French Embassy read.

As per the official notification, to be eligible, applicants must have studied in France for at least one semester and must have reached a Master's degree level or above at a recognized university in India, France, or a third country. These candidates will also need to submit a duly completed visa application



fully compliant with the usual Schengen requirements.

The embassy today announced that France aims to welcome 30,000 students from India by 2030.

"Our teams are working double time to implement the decisions taken by President Macron and Prime Minister Modi in Paris to benefit students. France has always been an inclusive and diverse country, eager to share our rich cultural heritage and world-class education opportunities with Indian students. My

message for Indian students: France will always be your friend, and we will do everything possible to ensure you have an amazing academic and life experience in our country," the Ambassador of France to India, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lennain, said.

Additionally, to spread this message across the country, the embassy and the French Institute announced the upcoming 'Choose France Tour 2023', which will be held in different parts of India during October.

IIT-Delhi plans for new campuses in Jhajjar and Sonipat, Abu Dhabi Campus set for 2024 Launch

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) will soon open two new campuses in Haryana's Jhajjar and Sonipat. The announcement was made by IIT Delhi's director Rangan Banerjee. He further announced that the work of the new campus will be completed by the end of November 2023.

On the Sonipat campus, construction of the IoE-funded SATHI building is likely to be completed by November 2023 end. The total cost of the project is Rs. 59.73 Crore. The Jhajjar campus will be the country's first-of-its-kind institute for Patient-Specific Drug Development for Cancer Treatment.

Banerjee also announced that formal programs at the IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi campus will start in 2024. "We still need approvals, both internally and externally. We have different mechanisms to do admissions in both India and UAE. We are trying to have a blend of both. We aim to have diversified classrooms," he said



in a press conference.

A temporary campus for IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi is already assigned, and work for customization of the existing facilities to IIT Delhi's requirements has already started, the institute clarified.

IIT Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi in July, as a part of the 'IITs go Global' campaign. This will be the second international IIT campus after IIT Madras Zanzibar.

The courses at the IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi will cover sev-

eral areas such as Energy and Sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science and Engineering, Healthcare, Mathematics and Computing, and other disciplines of engineering, sciences, and humanities.

At present (July-August 2023), a three-week mathematics immersion program is underway in Abu Dhabi, where selected high school students are undergoing an intensive program in mathematics being taught by IIT Delhi faculty. This program is designed to be a rigorous in-class experience in mathematics, meant for talented high school students.

Meanwhile, IIT Delhi has planned a diverse range of multiple outreach events till the end of the year and beyond as part of its efforts to reach out into the education landscape of Abu Dhabi. The Institute has also planned to hold other training programs for various stakeholders in Abu Dhabi and UAE in the coming month.

Centre rules out changes to age limit, attempts in UPSC civil services exams

■ EJ - New Delhi

Union minister Jitendra Singh said it has not been found feasible to consider any change in the existing provisions regarding the number of attempts and age limit in respect of the civil services examination.

The civil services examination (CSE) is conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by the CSE rules notified by the government, the minister of state for Personnel said.

"Based on the judgments

passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the writ petitions filed by some CSE candidates and in light of the views expressed by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, the matter has been duly considered in the Department of Personnel and Training and it has not been found feasible to consider any change in the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the CSE," Jitendra Singh said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.



He said the dates and the places for conducting the preliminary examination and main examination of CSE are fixed and notified by the Commission.



Canada cancels 3,000 Indian students' admissions

■ EJ - Agency

Northern College, located in Ontario, Canada, denied admission to these students for the September session. According to the students, they received this information through mail from the college in early August.

Canada has given a big shock to Indian students by canceling admission for the September session. It has now been decided to call these students for the January session. This decision of Canada increased the anxiety of about three thousand students, as all of them were fully prepared to go to Canada. Some of them have also taken houses on rent in Canada and have also booked tickets to go. Most of these 3,000 students are from Punjab.

Northern College, located in Ontario, Canada, denied admission to these students for the September session. According to the students, they received this information through mail from the college in early August, but before that, they had made arrangements for the tickets and the rest. The World Sikh Organization of



Canada (WSCA) has denied the way the college canceled admission. He also wrote a letter to the college about this. On the other hand, parents of students are also writing to the college appealing to give them admission from the September session. He said that for the January session, he will have to undergo document verification once again.

This is not the first time this has happened. Earlier also, Indian students faced deportation. In fact,

at the time of admission, about 7000 Indian students were given a notice by the Canadian government to go back due to fake documents.

The issue of deportation of Indian students to Canada is fast becoming worse. Students are also blaming the travel agent for this. Students are now protesting on the streets. He has also accused Canadian universities and colleges of giving admission through fake offer letters.

India has highest number of students in Germany: Philipp Ackermann

■ EJ - New Delhi

German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann on said India has the highest number of students in Germany with a total of 42,000 plus students, 25 percent more within one year.

"Great! 42,000+ Indian students in Germany, 25 percent more within one year. India is now the No. 1 group of foreign students in Germany, much faster than expected! Germany is popular among Indian students – and Indian students are popular in Germany, I hear from professors very often," the German Ambassador tweeted on Thursday.

Last month, Phillip Ackermann said German universities are keen on having Indian students due to their good reputation.

Ackermann, however, advised



students to exercise caution when working with agencies, as some fraudulent agencies have been identified. He recommended that students from Punjab independently verify their documents and submit their applications directly, without relying on

agencies. "German universities are very keen on having Indian students. They have a very good reputation in Germany," Ackermann had said.

The German Ambassador to >>> **Contd. p.2..**

Turkey hosts 300,000 int'l students

■ EJ - Agency

A total of 301,694 non-Turkish students enrolled at institutions across the country in the last year, figures from the country's Council of Higher Education (YÖK) show.

DEİK Education Economy Business Council president İrfan Gündüz said last year that Turkey was aiming to increase the number of international students it hosted to 300,000 by 2023.

In 2021/22, the country hosted a total of 260,289. Before the pandemic in 2018, reports suggested that the Turkish president was hoping that the country would welcome 350,000 students but no timeline for reaching the target was given.

The latest figures are up from the 48,183 total international students recorded in Turkey in the 2013/14 academic year.

In 2022/23, 34 countries sent more than 1,000 students, with Syria (58,213 students), Azerbaijan (34,247), Iran (22,632), Turkmenistan (18,250), and Iraq (16,172) accounting for the most international enrolments.

Traditional source countries for major English-speaking destinations such as China and India only accounted for 1,445 and 549 students, respectively.

Applications for international scholarships reached a record 165,000 in 2022.

Many students from the Middle East and North African region have enrolled at the country's higher education institutions, the figure indicates.

There were 2,801 new admissions from Somalia, bringing the total to 10,043, Egyptian enrolments rose by 3,718 new enrolments to reach 9,597 students



and 2,877 new Afghan students brought the total from the country where girls and women have been excluded from education to 9,203.

Other countries and regions accounting for more than 5,000 students include Kazakhstan (8,864), Yemen (8,198), Jordan (7,266), Palestine (5,705), Sudan (5,171), and Bulgaria (5,120).

Greece was the only other EU member state sending a significant number of students, with 2,614 enrolled across Turkey. Kosovo and Albania, neither of which are EU members, accounted for 1,190 and 1,051, respectively.

During Russia's war on Ukraine, Turkey has been a destination for Russian migrants – for those seeking to avoid sanctions, escape Vladimir Putin's government, or move their lives and assets overseas, according to the Washington Institute – and numbers are reflected in the YÖK statistics.

The number of Russians enrolled in universities across the country has almost doubled, with 1,457 new admissions bringing the total

to 3,083. Turkey's economic crisis – with inflation hitting a 24-year high above 85% in October of 2022 – has resulted in a weak lira, which could have lessened costs for students coming.

Other countries sending significant numbers of students, include Uzbekistan with 4,794 students, Indonesia with 4,662, Pakistan with 4,171, and Kyrgyzstan with 2,026.

In total there were 103,498 new international admissions, bringing the total of international students in the country to 301,694. Male students made up 179,670 of international enrolments and 122,024 were female.

Anadolu University in the student city of Eskişehir hosted the most international students, with 16,441 enrolled.

Karabük University, founded in 2007 in the city in the Black Sea region of Turkey, hosted 11,908. Istanbul University welcomed 9,938, Ataturk University in the eastern city of Erzurum 9,164, Istanbul Medipol 7,380, and Kutahya Dumlupinar University 7,255.



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