



International  
Column'



**Khatia Bibiluri**  
Educationist  
Tbilisi - Georgia

I'm Avto Gogoladze from Georgia as an English teacher and I work in one of the private schools. I do not devote sufficient time to my family because of my hectic schedule. I am entirely dedicated to my work. I enjoy working with children.

I take part in youth exchanges and training to gain experience and acquire knowledge. I have a keen interest in this realm and I am eager to become a professional teacher. I have a certificate in CAE and TOEFL. I need CELTA, which will enable me to work at a University.

I am in constant search of new and modern teaching methods that will allow me to improve my students' academic achievements.

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## Gate Exam 2023 schedule

■ EJ News - Kanpur

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) has released the complete schedule of the GATE exam. IIT Kanpur has announced the GATE 2023 exam dates on its website - gate.iitk.ac.in. As per the official announcement, GATE 2023 exam will be conducted on 04, 05, 11, and 12 February 2023. Candidates who have applied for the GATE 2023 exam and preparing for the exam can also check the exam dates for GATE 2023 on the official website - gate.iitk.ac.in.



Organizing committee chairman R Suresh Kumar informed Union Minister G Kishan Reddy through a letter that four cities - Adilabad, Kothagudem, Medak and Nalgonda - have been identified as new cities for GATE Jam 2023 exam in Telangana region for the convenience of the students. has been added to the list.

## AICTE launches calendar for an engineering book discussion in vernacular languages

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's vision to make technical education accessible in Indian mother tongues, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched a calendar for AICTE's outcome-based engineering book discussion for undergraduate and diploma level books in different Indian languages.

Part of the first series of discussions that concludes on January 31, 2023, will be First-year engineering books in Hindi, Odia, and Marathi medium along with second-year engineering books in English medium from the five major disciplines namely Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics & Communication, Civil and Computer Science.

As per AICTE's statement, in the next phase of book discussion starting from February 2023 the AICTE engineering books in other languages Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Urdu & Assamese will be discussed.

On occasion, AICTE chairman Prof M Jagadesh Kumar said, "NEP 2022 has guided us that learning has to happen in students' languages. If you see the list of top 10 countries



which have obtained the largest number of Nobel Prizes, you will see that in each country, kids study from a young age to Ph.D. in their mother tongues."

Agreeing with Kumar, AICTE vice chairman MP Poonia said, "For years, we have been trying to deepen the understanding and conceptual clarity of students in technical education. It will happen if they get the confidence to learn in their language as fear of facing the English language at a higher education level is creating barriers for many students from entering the professional realm. These books will boost access to education, quality of education, and employability of our students."

Among the first-year books covered in discussions include Mathematics-I and II, Applied Physics-I, Applied Chemistry, Engineering Graphics, Fundamentals of Electrical and Elec-

tronics Engineering, and Environmental Science (all diploma level).

Nine books at the undergraduate level namely, Chemistry-I, Programming for Problem Solving, Engineering Graphics & Design, Basic Electrical Engineering, Workshop /Manufacturing Practices, Physics (Introduction to Electromagnetic Theory), Physics (Introduction to Mechanics), Mathematics-I - Calculus and Linear Algebra (For Non-Computer Science Engineering Branches) & Mathematics-I - Calculus and Linear Algebra (For Computer Science Engineering Branches) will also be part of the online panel discussions.

In addition to the above, five second-year books will also be part of the discussion series Python Programming, Information Technology Workshop in Matlab, Fluid Mechanics & Fluid Machines, Digital Electronics, and Data Structures Theory & Practicals.

AICTE initiated a technical book writing scheme in 2021-22 to provide study material in Indian languages - Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, and Odia. Assamese, Urdu, and Malayalam.

## Use education as a tool to reach goals, says Stalin

■ EJ News - Chennai

Chief Minister MK Stalin said college educational qualification earned by women is not the end, but the beginning of possibilities. Addressing the 104th Convocation of Queen Mary's College, the Chief Minister also urged the first-generation students to ensure that the future generations in their families pursue higher education and urged the girls to gain more and more knowledge and reach maximum heights in their lives using the education.

Further, the CM also asked the students to develop a scientific temper. Instead of believing everything said to them, students must question things rationally, he said. Stalin also spoke at length about the measures being taken by his government to empower women.

"When the state government wanted to abolish social evil like child marriage, they had to face and overcome many roadblocks and obstacles in the name of religion and culture," said the chief minister. Despite all of this, child marriage was abolished and education was



made accessible to women.

Highlighting the contributions of the social reformer, Periyar, towards educating women in the state, Stalin called upon first-generation graduates to be instrumental in ensuring that their future generations study. "That is why I request the first-generation graduates in you to teach subsequent generations."

The chief minister also highlighted the rich legacy of Queen Mary's College, which was one of the first three colleges for women in the country. Minister for Higher Education K Ponmudy and other dignitaries were present at the event.

## 16 new medical colleges to come up in Punjab in next 5 years: CM Mann

■ EJ News - Chandigarh

Punjab will emerge as a hub of medical education for the world, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said after inspecting the site of an upcoming medical college in the district. According to an official release, he said the medical college, coming up on an area of 20 acres for Rs 428.69 crore, will be named after Guru Nanak Dev. The design has been finalized and work on this ambitious project will start soon, the chief minister said.

He said that since a large number of students from other states will also come to this college, a hostel facility along with a 300-bed hospital will also be constructed.

The Punjab government has decided to construct 16 medical colleges in five years, raising the total number of such institutes in the state to 25, Mann said.

The foundation stone of the Sant Attar Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences at Mastuana Sahib in Sangrur had already been laid and worked on two medical colleges at Kapurthala. Hoshiarpur will also commence soon, he said.

The students aspiring to pursue medical education will no longer have to go to countries like Ukraine as they will be provided quality medical education here, the Punjab chief minister said.

Accusing the previous governments of not having paid any attention to medical education,



he claimed that health, education, power, and clean water are the major thrust areas of the AAP government.

Reiterating that the state government is fully committed to preserving the hard-earned peace in Punjab, Mann said strenuous efforts are being made to discourage the gun culture, and police officers have been directed not to spare anyone delivering hate speeches.

Later, Mann also inspected the site of an upcoming medical college at Hoshiarpur to be named after martyr Shaheed Udham Singh. He said this medical college would come up over an area of around 23 acres and the total cost of the project will be Rs 418.3 crore.

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## CBSE to migrate to new education format from next year

■ EJ News - New Delhi

In line with the recommendations of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is gearing up to prepare for a shift towards the 5+3+3+4 pedagogical structure. The board will soon disseminate an order asking all CBSE board-affiliated schools in India to make provisions for a migration from the current 10+2 system to the proposed 5+3+3+4 one.

According to CBSE chairperson Nidhi Chhibber, the board will make the shift from the upcoming academic session onwards. The panel "will be shortly issuing directions for the adoption of the new 5+3+3+4 system of education for all the schools instead of 10+2 as envisaged in NEP," she said, adding that CBSE will initiate the creation of a school registry, teacher registry, and student registry to track the growth of these resources throughout the multiple stages of schooling.

The CBSE chief said that the inclusion of 3- to 6-year-old children in formal education is

a salient feature of the NEP. She further highlighted that several CBSE schools, through any into younger children's education. Efforts through pre-nurseries and preparatory schools from the board will bring this

visions are claimed to be by the kind of cognitive development stages that children and adolescents go through.

Under the NEP, while the board exams for grades 10 to 12 will continue, this system of



under the formal CBSE system framework.

The new pedagogical structure outlined in the NEP 2020 divides children's education into four stages. The first is the foundational stage lasting for five years. The following two followings, preparatory and middle, will be three years each. The secondary stage will be four years long. The new di-

examinations will be changed to remove the need for coaching classes. The NEP states that to do away with the 'high stakes' aspect of board exams, all students will be allowed to take these examinations on two occasions during a school year. The main examination will be compulsory, while the improvement exam will be optional.







# A grand annual inter- Institute Technical Fest “INNOTECH 2022-23”: KIET

■ EJ - Ghaziabad

KIET Group of Institutions organized the annual inter-institute technical fest “INNOTECH 2022-23” on the theme “providing solutions for sustainable development”.

Innotech-22 began with the ribbon-cutting ceremony by Mr. Atul Garg (Vice Chairman, MLA Ghaziabad Legislative Assembly), Dr. A. Garg (Director, KIET Group of Institutions), Dr. Manoj Goyal (Joint Director, KIET Group of Institutions), and Dr. Shailendra Kumar Tiwari (Professor and HOD Civil).

Mr. Atul Garg was very happy to see the projects presented by the students. Expressing his enthusiasm, he said that “Innotech-22 organized in the premises of KIET is a unique way to interact with young talent. I have visited all the stalls and inspected the student projects and must admit that it is not easy to declare any one project as the winner. I liked the project of glasses designed for Drowsiness Detection that one can use while driving and avoid accidents at night.”

More than 2000 students participated in the fest, and 595 projects and 200 posters were registered



for innotech 22. The event was organized at two levels. In the first level, the registered projects and posters were showcased at a department-level exhibition from 12 to 15 November 2022. In the second phase/level, the three best entries were shortlisted from each department for the institute-level exhibition. These were then showcased in “INNOTECH 2022-23” on 18th November 2022. In addition to this, around 350 students from 20 schools participated enthusiastically in the event and presented 35 projects.

At the institutional level, WASRUK in the environment category, Quadraped Robot in the economic and governance category, and Smart Summary projects in the social class got the first position.

With a project based on AI in agriculture, DPS Hisar bagged the first position. The second position was secured by two schools, viz. DLF Public School Sahibabad and Surevin International School, wherein these schools exhibited their projects on Astro Space and Mountain Accident Rescue respectively. The third position

too had a tie between Parevar-tan School Ghaziabad and KL International School, Meerut. The students of these schools showcased their projects on Smart Dustbin and Medicare respectively.

Toward the end, Dr. A Garg, Dr. Manoj Goyal, all the Deans, and HODs congratulated the entire convening committee. Dr. Atul Kant Piyush, Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Siddharth Jain, Vinay Ahlawat, Dr. Preeti Chitkara, Ms. Neelam Rawat, Ms. Madhu Gautam, student coordinators, and faculty members contributed to making this program successful.

## Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Chaturvedi joins GIMS

■ EJ News - Gr. Noida

Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Chaturvedi joins GIMS (GNIOT Institute of Management Studies) as Director. Previously, he was associated with EDII (Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India), Ahmedabad as chairman of – the PG Program and deputed as Advisor at Tashkent-



Uzbekistan at India Uzbekistan Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IUEDC)

Dr. Chaturvedi has traveled to more than 40 countries. He is a seasoned academician, an academic administrator, author, and philosopher with a firm grasp of entrepreneurship and international economics with 33 years of experience working across industry and academics.

In industry, he has worked in senior positions as General Manager in Lan Eseda Industries Ltd, Deputy Director of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (GOI Undertaking), and Resident Director-UP a Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce & Industry, etc.

During his journey, he has served as Associate Dean at IILM-Business School-New Delhi, as Professor at Amity University, Noida Campus, as Dean at Symbiosis Group, Pune, and as Chief Academic Officer at NGASCE, Narsee Monjee University, Mumbai. He was also a visiting faculty at California State University, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, USA, and Birkbeck University, London, UK regularly. He has also worked as DG National Institute of MSME, Hyderabad.

# Educators from India and Singapore collaborating on enhancing early childhood education in Mumbai

■ EJ News - Mumbai

Parent interactions and involvement, teacher appraisals, play facilitation, social development, and classroom environment are among the key subjects educators from India and Singapore worked on during the “Early Childhood Education Curriculum Enhancement and Pedagogy” project. The capacity-building initiative is being organized by the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) and Muktangan Education Trust, a non-profit organization that mentors municipal schools in Mumbai.

Since the inception of the project in 2017, 32 educators from Singapore have worked closely with about 700 educators in Mumbai to raise the professional standards of early childhood education (ECE) in Maharashtra.

“The success of this five-year project marks another milestone in the 26-year friendship between the SIF and India, where Singaporeans and their Indian counterparts worked together on shared challenges at the people-to-people level,” said Ng Herk Low, Division Director, Strategic



Management at SIF. Elizabeth Mehta, Founder of Muktangan Education Trust said, “Quality early childhood education is an essential pillar of any community’s economic and social development. The learning exchange has resulted in higher professional standards and enhanced ECE curricula. I believe the project will spur more cross-cultural collaboration and friendships between our countries.”

During the program, the educator completed a series of in-person and online workshops, dialogues, and study visits as part of the project. The educators from Singapore and

India collaborated on topics including parent interactions and involvement, teacher appraisals, play facilitation, social development, classroom learning environments, inclusive practices, and early interventions.

The project also saw 34 Indian Master Trainers equipped with the relevant skills and knowledge to train other ECE educators. At least 3,400 Indian ECE educators learned how to improve curricula and developed new pedagogical and assessment skills. About 45,000 educators and students in Maharashtra have collectively benefitted from this project.

## NMC warns Indians against admission in one of Kyrgyzstan’s medical college

■ EJ News - New Delhi

There are many question marks over the quality of medical education provided in countries like Ukraine, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan. The latest is, National Medical Commission (NMC) has warned Indian medical aspirants against the fake claim of Avicenna International Medical University in Kyrgyzstan that it is NMC’s approved. According to the official notification, the NMC has not given recognition to the Avicenna International Medical University in Kyrgyzstan. The NMC has warned students not to fall for the fake letter circulating

on social media and other platforms, claiming that ‘NMC has recognized the Avicenna International Medical University in Kyrgyzstan and Indian students can study there to become a doctor.’

“This is to inform all that a fake letter dated September 16, 2022, stating that “Avicenna International Medical University (Bishkek) is recognized by National Medical Commission and Indian students can study here to become a doctor,” the official notification states.

“The said institution has in its

advertisement published in various newspapers claimed that the Hon’ble High Court in the case of IGNOU has held that there is no provision in the Indian Medical Council Act which authorizes and empowers BoG-MCI to grant permission or recognition to IGNOU to enable it to take admission and impart education in MBBS and other medical courses. The said institution mischievously claims that a judgment of the High Court covers it without referring to the cause title and the Court that has pronounced it,” the NMC had stated.

### Scholarship: Technip Energies India Scholarship Program 2022-23

**Description:** Technip Energies India invites applications from female students coming from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai who are currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. courses.

**Eligibility:** ♦Open for female students from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai (NOTE: Applications from Ghaziabad, Navi Mumbai, and Thane are also acceptable).

♦Applicants must be currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. (Chemical, Electrical, Civil, and Mechanical Engineering) courses.

♦Must have scored 70% or more marks in Class 12.

♦Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 4,00,000 from all sources.

**Prizes & Rewards:** INR 30,000

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** Dec. 31, 2022

**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/jagat/TSPSS1

### Scholarship: Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship

**Description:** Amazon invites applications from first-year girl students currently pursuing BE/B.Tech courses in computer science, IT and other allied branches. The scholarship aims to enable access to computer science learning and career opportunities for young girls in India. These girls are usually ‘First Generation Learners’, from underserved and economically constrained backgrounds.

**Eligibility:** Indian girl students pursuing BE/B.Tech in Computer Science or allied branches are eligible. They must be currently studying in the first year of undergraduate programme. Annual family income is less than INR 3,00,000. Admission must be taken through a state or national-level entrance exam. **Prizes & Rewards:** INR 1,60,000 (INR 40,000 per year until graduation)

The Amazon Future Engineer Scholars will also receive mentorship for tech careers, skill-building as well as networking opportunities, and a chance to appear for Amazon internship.

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** Dec. 31, 2022

**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/jagat/AFES3

### Scholarship: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and Individuals

**Description:** Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

**Eligibility:** ♦For individuals helping others, the applicants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them.

♦For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/ within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** Dec. 31, 2022

**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/jagat/KSSI2

### Scholarship: Commonwealth Master’s Scholarship 2022-23, UK

**Description:** Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), UK in partnership with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India invites applications for Commonwealth Master’s Scholarship 2023, UK from students willing to pursue full-time Master’s degree courses commencing from September/October 2023 at a UK University.

**Eligibility:** Open for candidates who are permanent residents of India and have completed or are expected to complete the Bachelor’s degree by September 2023. The candidates must be available to start his/her academic studies in the UK by September 2023 and hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours or a second class degree (2:2), and a relevant postgraduate qualification. Also, the candidates must not be able to afford to study in the UK without a scholarship.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Tuition fees, stipend and other allowances

**Application:** Online applications only

**Last Date to Apply:** Dec. 06, 2022

**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/jagat/CMAS6



# Over 6,000 Government-Run Schools In Himachal Pradesh Have Less Than 20 Students: Report

■ EJ - Shimla

According to a report, a total of 6106 government schools in Himachal Pradesh have less than 20 students including 5113 primary and 993 middle schools in the state. The number ranges between 21-60 in 4478 primaries and 895 middle schools and 61 to 100 in 681 primaries and 47 middle schools, a recent report by Unified District Information System for Education stated. There are 18,028 schools in the state of which 15,313 are government-run.

According to the report, there are 65,973 teachers in government schools including 39,906 males and 26,257 females. However, 12 primary government schools are running without a teacher while 2,969 have one teacher, 5,533 have two teachers and 1,779 have three teachers, it stated. Similarly, 51 middle schools are being run by a single teacher, 416 by two teachers, 773 by three teachers, and 701 by four to six teachers, it said.

The report also stated that one secondary school with a minimum of ten classes is being run by two teachers, ten schools by three teachers, 212 by four to six teachers, and 710 by seven to ten teachers. Even the senior secondary schools are facing a shortage of teachers and 22 schools are running with four to six teachers, 189 with seven to ten teachers, 684 with 11 to 15 teachers, and 981 schools have more than 15 teachers. Further, the report pointed out that despite 63,690 rooms in government schools, seven primary schools are without a space, 338 are running in one room, 2,495 in two rooms, 4,111 in three rooms, and 3,402 in seven to ten rooms.

Meanwhile, three middle schools are without a room, 216 have only one room, 241



are running in two rooms, 1,111 in three rooms, and 352 in four to six rooms. The situation is no better in secondary and senior secondary schools with a minimum of ten and 12 classes respectively. As many as six secondary schools are being run in one room, 25 in two rooms, 117 in three rooms, 697 in four to six rooms, and 74 in seven to ten rooms. Similarly, one senior secondary school in the state is functioning in a single room, seven in two rooms, 17 in three rooms, 245 in four to six rooms, 947 in seven to ten rooms, 454 in 11 to 15 rooms, and only 205 schools have more than 15 rooms. Schools have been opened to comply with the guidelines of the Right to Education Act.

As per the act, there has to be a primary school within 1.5 km for school-going children but due to tough demography and topography in the hill state, the strength of students is low but still they have to be taught. However, the rationalism of teachers is an issue, officials in the education department said. The student-teacher ratio is 14.68 in the primary section, 12.09 in middle schools, 10.38 in secondary, and 12.31 in senior secondary schools, they said. The general enrollment is 100 percent or above in primary, middle, and second-

ary levels and 90 percent in the senior secondary level while the dropout rate is zero percent at the primary and elementary levels and 1.47 percent at the secondary level, they said.

The sustained efforts of the state government to shift students from the government to private schools have yielded results as enrollment in government schools has increased by 37,952 during 2021-2022, the report said. However, enrollment in all schools in the state registered an insignificant decrease of 1,067 as compared to a drop of 26,154 in 2020-21. The total enrollment in all schools dropped from 13,33,315 to 13,32,148 but the enrollment in 15,313 government schools stood at 8,31,310 in 2021-22 compared to 7,93,358 in the previous year.

Director of higher education Amarjeet Sharma said, the "Har Ghar Patshala" initiative introduced during the pandemic and the use of information and communication technology in government schools has brought them at par with the private sector and we are now focusing on academics, sports, and co-curricular activities for the overall development of the children. He said the high fee structure during the pandemic in private schools also compelled parents to shift to government schools.

## Normalises 'violent masculinity': DCPCR asks NCERT to modify Class 9 textbook

■ EJ - New Delhi

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) chairperson Anurag Kundu has written to the NCERT flagging concerns that a story included in its class IX English curriculum "normalizes violent masculinity, perpetuates patriarchy and promotes toxic behavior in the family".

The child rights body has raised concerns about a chapter entitled "The Little Girl" in its class IX English textbook, and has stated that the body consulted gender experts and concluded that the chapter is "deeply problematic".

The story is about a young girl Kezia who is terrified of her overbearing father. When his birthday approaches, her grandmother asks her to make him a gift and she makes a pincushion. Later, the family finds out that she accidentally tore a speech her father was scheduled to deliver to use as stuffing for the pincushion. When her father finds out, he strikes her as punishment. Later, when Kezia observes her father sleeping, she realized that he works too hard and is too



tired which is why he does not play with her and is frequently angry.

"It teaches children to accept the violence at home because the father works 'too hard'. The father is so violent that the young girl who speaks finely with everyone else starts to stutter in front of him... The 'Before You Read' section of the chapter argues that with time the story is about a little girl whose feelings for her father will probably find an echo in every home. It essentially means that once we understand the 'why' of the violence, it becomes acceptable," stated

Kundu in his letter.

He has requested that the chapter either be modified or replaced from the textbook from the next academic session onwards.

Kundu stressed that textbooks play an important role in shaping young minds as they grow up to challenge the notions of misogyny and violence.

"Chapters such as this is a self-defeating exercise to that end. Therefore, I request your kind intervention to either modify the chapter suitably or replace the chapter from the textbook for the 2023-24 academic year onwards," he added.

# UGC all set to unveil a framework for 4-year UG programs

■ EJ - New Delhi

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised the framework for the four-year undergraduate program (FYUGP) that will be implemented in all higher education institutions from the upcoming academic session 2023-24.

According to the UGC, next week, these rules for four-year undergraduate courses will be shared with all universities across the country.

Besides all 45 central universities, the FYUGP will also be implemented in most state and private universities from the next academic session. Apart from this, many deemed universities are also going to give consent to implement the program.

From 2023-24, when all new students will have the option to opt for the four-year undergraduate courses, the FYUGP would likely get the UGC's approval for old students as well. This means that the students who have taken admitted to normal three-year undergraduate courses this year may also get an opportunity to join the four-year degree program from the next session.

According to the UGC, a four-year undergraduate course will be provided for all students, but students will not be forced to opt for it. If a student wishes,



he can continue with the three-year undergraduate course.

According to UGC chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar, the complete scheme of four-year undergraduate courses will be made public soon.

The UGC chairman has said that students already enrolled in universities will also get an opportunity to be a part of four-year undergraduate courses. "Such students who are in their first or second year, if they wish, can also be provided with the option of four-year undergraduate courses. However, it will start only from the new session starting next year i.e. 2023-24."

The UGC will also give freedom to various universities to make some rules and regulations. "Necessary rules can be fixed in this regard in the academic council and executive council of universities. If the university wishes, students

studying in the final year can also be allowed to be a part of 4-year undergraduate courses," he added.

Explaining the reasons for these important changes, the UGC

chairman said that if only new students were given a chance to enroll under FYUGP, then its results will be known after four years. On the other hand, if old students get a chance to join it, results would be visible earlier.

After four-year undergraduate courses, it will be mandatory for students pursuing two-year post-graduation and M.Phil to score 55 percent marks for admission to Ph.D. However, the M.Phil program will not be continued for much longer. Also, many big universities will not offer M.Phil courses in the coming years. This is being done due to the changes made under the new education policy.

While the UGC is fully prepared for the FYUGP, many teachers and teacher organizations have registered their objections to this. They argue that it will put an additional financial burden of one year on students.

## IIT Madras opens Jan 2023 admissions for BS Program

■ EJ - Chennai

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) is inviting applications for the January 2023 batch of the BS Programme in Data Science and Applications. The candidates can apply for this programme on the official website- online degree.iitm.ac.in, the last date to apply is January 16, 2023.

The programme allows students to be admitted to IIT without appearing for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). The students with English and Mathematics in Class 10 and those who are in Class 12 are eligible to apply for the BS programme. Students from any stream can apply for the BS programme and there is no age limit, as per IIT Madras.

The BS programme started last year, and students of the first batch have already received internship offers from Ford Analytics, KPMG, Aditya Birla, Renault Nissan, Vunet, Buckman Asia Pacific, and Reliance Jio, among others. "The institute actively interacts with vari-



ous industries for placement and internship opportunities. The team has met with more than 100 companies from various parts of the country who are eager to recruit students from this programme," the IIT Madras release read.

The BS programme starts with the foundation level followed by diploma-level courses. The Diploma in programming includes courses on Data structures and algorithms, Java programming, Web application development (front end & back end), Database management, Introduction to Linux programming and two full-stack development projects.

The students will get to learn about the foundations of Ma-

chine learning, and expose students to the business side of data collection, organisation, cleansing, analysis, and inferences, with a specific course on data visualisation. In addition, two projects on the business side and ML implementation help demonstrate the student's learning of the subjects, read the IIT Madras release.

The BS programme has multiple exit options that provide learners to exit with a certificate, diploma, or degree. Speaking about this programme, V. Kamakoti, Director, of IIT Madras, said, "this BS in data science is the first step in opening up IIT Madras in an inclusive manner to the learners across the country. Hands-on training in every single course, building strong foundations in learners, exposing the learners to cutting-edge technology and topics, and the rigorous assessment methods make this an employment-oriented program in a domain where the projection is 11.2 million jobs in the next 10 years."

## Education certificates, job letters, or pay slips? These scamsters offer them all

■ EJ - Hyderabad

Do you want a degree? Why go through the rigorous three or four years of academic grind? Just walk into Ricco Consultancy in Malakpet or Way 4 Overseas in Saroornagar. You can buy the degree of your choice and what's more, you would get the necessary help in going abroad for higher studies based on the degrees you have just purchased.

The operators, who were four in number, had a dream run for some time till the police caught up with them and threw three of them behind the bars. The fourth one is on the run. Mahesh Bhagawat, Commissioner

of Police, Rachakonda: "One of the accused Anand Kumar had completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts from JNTU. He ran a flex designing unit at Chaitanyapuri. He joined hands with Mallepaka Hemanth and Kalyan who run educational consultancies at Malakpet and Saroornagar."

The duo was running Ricco Consultancy in Malakpet and Way 4 Overseas Consultancy in Saroornagar. They were collecting names and other details of the students who needed degrees. For the favor, they paid Anand Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 for input received from each student. They then began charging Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 for each

degree certificate supplied. The CP said that the accused persons used to collect information about dropouts from colleges by contacting them.

The Chaitanyapuri and LB Nagar police arrested all three accused while the Director of Way 4 Overseas Consultancy Kalyan is on the run. Police found fake certificates belonging to Osmania, Jawaharlal Nehru, Andhra, Acharya Nagarjuna, Kakatiya, SRM, GITAM, Gulbarga, and Annamalai universities. The police also found the certificates of Telangana Intermediate Board, SSC, GRE besides fake offer letters, bank certificates, pay slips, loan sanction letters.



## IIT in Tanzania could serve as an African base for technological education, says Dharmendra Pradhan

■ EJ - New Delhi

An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Tanzania can be a hub for technology education in Africa, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. An offshore campus of IIT Madras in Tanzania is among the options on the government's table as it works on a plan to ensure that the country's premier engineering institutes have a presence on the world map. Mr Pradhan met Lela Muhamed Mussa, Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar, here on Friday. He also proposed setting up a skill centre in Zanzibar.

"India is happy to assist Tanzania with the IIT project. IIT in Tanzania can be a hub for technology education in Africa. I put forward the support required for the implementation of the project and also shared India's willingness to establish a 21st-century skill centre in Zanzibar. "Leela Muhamad Musa assured of all the requisite support to make our education and skills cooperation more vibrant and for the prosperity of Tanzania and Zanzibar. NEP is creating new avenues for education in India. I invited Tanzanian and African students to



Study in India," Mr Pradhan said in a series of tweets.

Several IITs have received requests from Middle East and South Asian countries to set up their campuses. The Centre had earlier this year set up a committee headed by IIT Council standing committee chairperson Dr K Radhakrishnan.

The panel had recommended that there could be more than one model for establishing the institute depending on the specific location such as campuses by individual IITs, a group of IITs and HEIs, individual or group of IITs in collaboration with a reputed host university.

The panel has suggested creating

a generic system like IIT, NIT or IISER, under which a series of institutes can be established as the current IIT Act does not provide for setting up an IIT outside the country. Naming IITs "India International Institute of Technology", sending faculty members from the prestigious technology institutes here on deputation abroad, royalty from the institute established abroad for using the IIT brand name and safeguards for saving the IIT brand in the long run and in some cases where the institute found abroad does not do well due to any reason, are among the other recommendations made by the panel.

## Indians overtake the Chinese as the largest group of foreign students in the UK

■ EJ - Agency

Indian students have for the first time overtaken the Chinese as the largest group of foreign students studying in the UK with a massive 273 percent hike in visas granted over the past few years, according to the country's official immigration statistics released.

The UK Home Office data collated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveals that Indians also continue to be the top nationality granted visas in the skilled worker category, with 56,042 granted work visas in the past year. Indian nationals also represented the highest number of tickets at 36 percent of the total under the tailored Skilled Worker Health and Care visa targeted at medical professionals, reinforcing Indian contribution to the state-funded National Health Service (NHS).

"There were 127,731 [study visa] grants to main applicant Indian nationals in the year ending September 2022, an increase of 93,470 (273 percent) compared to 2019 (34,261)," the Home Office said.

"Chinese nationals were the second most common nationality granted sponsored study visas in the year ending September 2022, with 116,476 visas granted to main applicants, 2 percent fewer than the number seen in 2019 (119,231)," it said.

The new Graduate Route visa introduced in July last year to allow international students the chance to stay on and work at the end of their degree was also dominated by Indians – accounting for 41 percent of visas granted.

The particular High Potential Individual (HPI) visa, launched in May this year to attract the brightest graduates from the world's top universities across



the globe to work in the UK, also saw a 14 percent grant to Indian nationals despite no Indian university being on the approved set of top global universities.

The statistics show that study visas for Indian, Nigerian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi nationals, are now more than three times higher than they were in 2019, seen as a significant factor behind the UK's immigration figures hitting record levels over the past year.

The overall ONS data shows that net migration to the UK rose from 173,000 in the year to June 2021, to 504,000 in the year to June 2022 – an increase of 331,000 post-Brexit. The end of lockdown restrictions, the first full period of statistics following the transition since Brexit, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the resettlement of Afghans, and a new visa route for Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) are all said to have contributed to the "record levels of long-term immigration".

"A series of world events have impacted international migration patterns in the 12 months to June 2022. Taken together these were unprecedented," said Jay Lindop, Director of the Centre for International Migration at the ONS.

"Migration from non-EU coun-

tries, specific students, is driving this rise. With the lifting of travel restrictions in 2021, more students arrived in the UK after studying remotely during the coronavirus pandemic," she said. "However, there has also been a large increase in the number of people migrating for a range of other



reasons. This includes people arriving for humanitarian protections, such as those coming from Ukraine, as well as for family reasons," she added.

"These many factors independent of each other contributing to migration at this time mean it is too early to say whether this picture will be sustained," added Lindop. The data will concern the Conservative Party-led government, which has a manifesto commitment to reduce migration "overall", reiterated in recent weeks and months by UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

## MBBS in the Hindi language will limit knowledge: Doctors

■ EJ - Agency

The Madhya Pradesh government's decision to impart medical education in Hindi may help rural students initially, but will gravely restrict their scope for growth and knowledge, feel doctors.

In October, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released textbooks of three subjects in Hindi for first-year students of MBBS course as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to impart medical education in Hindi, a first in the country.

Shah also said work is underway to start technical and medical education in eight other languages in the country. He asserted that students across the country should come out of their linguistic inferiority complex and showcase their abilities in their language.

According to Dr. J A Jayalal, former national president of the Indian Medical Association, Shah may have said the abilities of students would "enhance" but, on the contrary, it may deter their growth.

"What we are talking about is modern medicine, it is universal medicine. It is not only practiced in India, it is practiced throughout the world. If you are trained in a regional language, you cannot expect to go outside to study and update your knowledge and skills," Jayalal said.

He added that medical education could not be taught through textbooks alone, it also requires frequently reading international research papers, journals, and articles, all of which are written in English.

"It will be ok if you are going to stay at a local community level and never connect with the global community. Basic understanding you can give in a regional language, but if you want to update your skills, it is not going to help you," he said.

In the first phase, Hindi text-



books on medical biochemistry, anatomy, and medical physiology have been released.

Following Madhya Pradesh's lead, the Uttarakhand government has also announced similar measures to be implemented in the subsequent academic sessions.

According to the state's Medical Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, a committee will prepare a draft of the new syllabus for colleges after studying the MBBS Hindi syllabus in government colleges of Madhya Pradesh.

Last week, Tamil Nadu Minister for Higher Education K Ponmudy also said the state government was now involved in introducing MBBS courses in Tamil and a committee of three professors was formed in that regard.

Karan Juneja, an MBBS doctor and national secretary of the IMA-Junior Doctors Network, said instead of offering medical education in regional languages, the government should focus on improving infrastructure and school education.

"We have seen students who come from rural areas, without any English background, managing well with the subjects and the language. They adapt to the environment and improve themselves. Offering them education in Hindi or any other

language will be detrimental to their growth," Juneja said.

"To make rural or regional students comfortable with the English language, they should improve their education at the school level. If they know the language, it wouldn't be a problem," he noted, adding that trained in an Indian language, the doctors won't be able to upgrade themselves. But, is it all bad? No, says Jaswant Jangra, president of the Resident Doctors' Association – AIIMS, New Delhi.

"On the one hand, the step will encourage regional students to continue and finish their education as at times they don't feel confident and comfortable with English, and on the other, it will improve doctor-patient communication," Jangra said.

"Sometimes doctors are not able to convey a message to the patient, which is very important in this profession. Conversing in a common language will solve that issue," he added.

While accepting the cons of medical education in a regional language as there are "no medical journals in Indian languages", he said that if it is not made mandatory, those who do not wish to get into research or do not plan to leave their familiar environment can opt for it.

## CBSE 2023 class X date sheet release

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is yet to announce the date sheet for the class 10 board examination. Once the CBSE date sheet is

out candidates will be able to check and download it from the official website- cbse.gov.in. However, earlier the board has already announced that the

Class 10 and Class 12 annual exams will begin on February 15, 2023.

At first, students need to go to the CBSE official website- [cbse.gov.in](https://cbse.gov.in)



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