

8th Year Publishing

Education Jagat International Issue on 1 April 2023



Morten Flate Paulsen
Educationist
Norway

After 40 years in international flexible and online education, my four favorite words are flexibility, cooperation, transparency, and celebration. So, I hope Education Jagat will continue to support and honor these words. Congratulations on the 7th anniversary.



Dr. Ijeoma Esther Nnamdi
Educational Consultant
Nigeria

Happy 7th Anniversary to the entire team of Education Jagat, India.
It pleases me to send my heartfelt felicitation to a formidable team whose devotion and dedication to this International publication widened its impact not just in India but to the shores of other countries on diverse continents. For the past seven years, your excellent publication has helped transmit the voice of millions of students, educationists, and global educators; a countless number of applauses won't even be enough to celebrate these giant strides.

International Column



Eka Sepiashvili
Educationist
Georgia

I am Eka Sepiashvili, a leading English teacher from Georgia. Based on my pedagogical practice, I can confidently say that it is a great pleasure for me to work with students. I have unique approaches in my relationship with them, and as a result, I get high academic achievements both in school assessments and national exams.

My students participate in numerous regional and international level competitions and are actively involved in projects and activities in the direction of informal education.

My motivation is contagious to my colleagues and together we create a perfect learning environment, which helps us to develop high-thinking skills for 21st-century students.

>> Contd. p.2..

New IIT campus being planned in South Goa

■ EJ News - Panaji

The Goa Chief Minister has announced that a new IIT campus will be constructed in the South of Goa. The government is currently working on finding suitable land for the new IIT campus.

The state government had initially designated property in Shel-Melaulim village in Sattari taluka of North Goa district for the construction of the IIT campus; however, the project was later abandoned due to violent local protests in 2021.

Later, another piece of land was identified at Cotarli in Sanguem taluka of South Goa district but as it was insufficient, the project was dropped last year. The issue was discussed during the recently held winter session of the Goa Assembly.

Photo of govt. exam paper appears on social media; Sikkim PCS probe on

■ EJ News - Sikkim

Days after the picture of a recruitment test question paper was uploaded on social media, the Sikkim Public Service Commission (SPSC) has said it is looking into how it was clicked inside the examination hall where mobile phones were not allowed.

The student wing of the opposition SDF demanded that the Sikkim Services (Combined Recruitment) Preliminary Examination be conducted again by the SPSC.

The exam to recruit secretaries, deputy superintendents of police, and accounts officers was conducted on January 16. Around 8,000 aspirants appeared for the examination and one of them took a photo of the question paper and posted it on social media. "The Commission has taken the matter seriously and is verifying



the facts proactively. As per the findings, appropriate action will be taken accordingly... The Commission assures fair evaluation to all the aspiring candidates," the SPSC said in a statement.

President of SDF's student front, North and East districts, Rikzing

Norbu Dorji Bhutia, said a delegation of the organization had met SPSC officials in this regard.

"We are shocked that such an important and prestigious exam was held without transparency. We demand that it be conducted again," he told.

Highest enrolment in BA courses, max Ph.D. students in Tech stream

■ EJ News - Agency

Bachelor of Arts (BA) methods had the highest enrolment in the country at 1.04 crore students, followed by Bachelor of Science (BSc) courses at 49.12 lakh students, according to the government's All India Survey for Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21.

The survey report released by the Ministry of Education showed that of the 1.04 crore students enrolled in Bachelor of Arts (BA), 52.7 percent are girls and 47.3 percent are boys.

"Bachelor of Science (BSc) has 49.12 lakh students enrolled (of them 52.2 percent are girls). There are 43.22 lakh students enrolled in BCom (of them 48.5 percent are girls). BTech has 23.20 lakh enrolled students, of which 28.7 percent are females. The report said that the Bachelor of Engineering (BE) has 13.42 lakh students enrolled, of which 28.5 percent are females," the report said.

At the postgraduate level, the maximum number of students are enrolled in the Social Science stream (9.41 lakh students, of whom 56.5 percent were girls), followed by Sci-



ence.

"The total number of postgraduate students in Social Science courses is 9,41,648, out of which 56.5 percent are female students. Total enrolment in the Science stream has 6,79,178, out of which 61.3 percent are females. Management stream has 6,86,001 enrolled for postgraduate with 43.1 percent being girls.

"Commerce stream has 5.36 lakh students enrolled for PG with 66.5 pc female students. There are 3.20 lakh students enrolled in PG in Indian lan-

guages which are divided into 12 sub-streams. The number of students enrolled in the Education stream is 2.06 lakh, in which major contribution is female with 64.4 pc," it said.

At the Ph.D. level, the maximum number of students are enrolled in Engineering and Technology stream, closely followed by Science. The engineering and Technology stream is divided into 21 sub-streams with a total of 56,625 students enrolled for Ph.D., out of which 33.3 percent are women.

DU plans to launch 2 new courses

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The University of Delhi is planning to launch two new courses MBA in Business Analytics and BA (Hons) in Psychology through distance learning. The DU Academic Council is going to meet on January 25 to discuss the courses.

The MBA in Business Analytics will be offered as a regular program by the Faculty of Business and Commerce and the BA (Hons) Psychology course will be offered through open and distance learning (ODL) by the Faculty of Open Learning. The Faculty of Business and Commerce already offers two MBA programs. One program will be in international business while another one will be in human resource development.

According to the program brochure which the Faculty of Business and Commerce submitted, the focus of the MBA (BA) is aimed at improving the student's abilities in data analysis and helping them to become a competent decision maker and business leader who can contribute to nation-building.

The proposal is recommending launching the course in the forthcoming academic year.



The MBA program is going to be a two-year course and it will be divided into four semesters and consists of 112 credits. There will be 60 seats in total for the program.

The course will teach management and organizational behavior, marketing management, accounting and economics for managers, business statistics and research methods, and operations management.

The BA (Hons) Psychology course offered by the Faculty of Open Learning will require students to have at least 50 percent in their Class 12 examinations. The course will include topics such as biopsychology, and cognitive psychology, among others.

Delhi: DoE seeks suggestions to improve the education atmosphere

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) has sought suggestions from school stakeholders, including teachers, students, and their parents, to bring out improvements in the academic atmosphere, officials said.

The move comes in the backdrop of an incident, in which a 29-year-old teacher was allegedly stabbed by a student inside a government school in west Delhi's Inderpuri. Issuing a circular, the DoE said, "Despite a generally friendly atmosphere in our schools, at times, freak incidents of violence pose a threat to the overall safety and security of our students and teachers. In this regard, suggestions of all stakeholders - including teachers, parents, and students - are invited on how to make the atmosphere of schools more convivial so that our schools remain safe."

The DoE has asked the collaborators to mail their suggestions

to schbranch@hotmail.com within a week. Earlier, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia held a review meeting with education department officials where measures to prevent such attacks on school teachers in the future were discussed.

The teacher attacked on January 19 and was identified as Bhudev. He takes physical education classes in the school, police said, adding that the 18-year-old accused has been arrested. According to police, the victim had scolded the accused student in the past for not wearing the school uniform properly.

When the teacher pulled up three students on the staircase over the same issue, one of them allegedly took out a knife and stabbed him, they said. Bhudev hailed from Rohtak in Haryana and joined the school only in September last year. He has a daughter and his wife is pregnant, police added.



Management of motivation processes

Motivation is a condition that activates and sustains behavior toward a goal. It is critical to learning and achievement across the lifespan in both informal settings and formal learning environments.

Motivation is also increasingly viewed as an emergent phenomenon, meaning it can develop over time and change as a result of one's experiences with learning and other circumstances. Research suggests, for example, that aspects of the learning environment can both trigger and sustain a student's curiosity and interest in ways that support motivation and learning (Hidi and Renninger, 2006).

Researchers have also tried to integrate the many concepts that have been introduced to explain this complex aspect of learning to formulate a more comprehensive understanding of motivational processes and their effects on learning. For example, researchers who study psychological aspects of motivation take a motivational systems perspective, viewing motivation as a set of psychological mechanisms and processes, such as those related to setting goals, engagement in learning, and use of self-regulatory strategies

LEARNERS' BELIEFS AND VALUES

Learners' ideas about their competence, their values, and the preexisting interests they bring to a particular learning situation all influence motivation.

Self-Efficacy

When learners expect to suc-

ceed, they are more likely to put forth the effort and persistence needed to perform well. Self-efficacy theory (Bandura, 1977), which is incorporated into several

vailing cultural stereotypes about their position in the world cause them to doubt themselves and perform more poorly

Values

Learners may not engage in a



models of motivation and learning, posits that the perceptions learners have about their competency or capabilities are critical to accomplishing a task or attaining other goals (Bandura, 1977). Another important aspect of self-attribution involves beliefs about whether one belongs in a particular learning situation. People who come from backgrounds where college attendance is not the norm may question whether they belong in college despite having been admitted. Students may misinterpret short-term failure as reflecting that they do not belong, when in fact short-term failure is common among all college students. These students experience a form of stereotype threat, where pre-

task or persist with learning long enough to achieve their goals unless they value the learning activities and goals.

Interest

Learners' interest is an important consideration for educators because they can accommodate those interests as they design curricula and select learning resources. Interest is also important in adult learning in part because students and trainees with little interest in a topic may show higher rates of absenteeism and lower levels of performance

Many studies of how interest affects learning have included measures of reading comprehension and text recall. This approach has allowed researchers to assess the separate effects of topic interest and interest in a specific text on how readers interact with

text, by measuring the amount of time learners spend reading and what they learn from it. Findings from studies of this sort suggest that educators can foster students' interest by selecting resources that promote interest, providing feedback that supports attention by demonstrating their interest in a topic and generating positive affect in learning contexts. The positive effect learners experience as part of interest also appears to play a role in their persistence and ultimately their performance

Intrinsic Motivation theory posits that behavior is strongly influenced by three universal, innate, psychological needs—autonomy (the urge to control one's own life), competence (the urge to experience mastery), and psychological relatedness (the urge to interact with, be connected to, and care for others).

Intrinsic motivation is the experience of wanting to engage in an activity for its own sake because the activity is interesting and enjoyable or helps to achieve the goals one has chosen. From the perspective of self-determination theory (Deci and Ryan, 1985, 2000; Ryan and Deci, 2000), learners are intrinsically motivated to learn when they perceive that they have a high degree of autonomy and engage in an activity willingly, rather than because they are being externally controlled. Learners who are intrinsically motivated also perceive that the



Eka Sepiashvili
Educationist
Georgia

challenges of a problem or task are within their abilities.

External Rewards

The effect of external rewards on intrinsic motivation is a topic of much debate. External rewards can be an important tool for motivating learning behaviors, but some argue that such rewards are harmful to intrinsic motivation in ways that affect persistence and achievement.

Effects of Choice

When learners believe they have control over their learning environment, they are more likely to take on challenges and persist with difficult tasks, compared with those who perceive that they have little control.

Evidence suggests that the opportunity to make meaningful choices during instruction, even if they are small, can support autonomy, motivation, and ultimately, learning and achievement

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOALS

Goals - the learner's desired

outcomes - are important for learning because they guide decisions about whether to expend effort and how to direct attention, foster planning, influence responses to failure, and promote other behaviors important for learning.

Teachers can influence the goals learners adopt during learning, and learners' perceptions of classroom goal structures are better predictors of learners' goal orientations than their perceptions of their parents' goals. Perceived classroom goals are also strongly linked to learners' academic efficacy in the transition to middle school.

Motivation to learn is influenced by the multiple goals that individuals construct for themselves as a result of their life and school experiences and the sociocultural context in which learning takes place. Motivation to learn is fostered for learners of all ages when they perceive the school or learning environment and its purpose.

Educators may support learners' motivation by attending to their engagement, persistence, and performance:

- Helping them to set desired learning goals and appropriately challenging goals for performance;
- Creating learning experiences that they value;
- Supporting their sense of control and autonomy;
- Developing their sense of competency by helping them to recognize, monitor, and strategize about their learning progress; and
- Creating an emotionally supportive and non-threatening learning environment where learners feel safe and valued.

Let's Address Mental Health

Mental health has become a global concern. It is a problem for everyone. Millions of people around the world are suffering from it. But there are very few who speak about it. The cases of mental illness have increased drastically after the Covid pandemic. There has been an increased focus on mental health issues after the pandemic. According to a report by WHO one in every three Indians is suffering from depression. A recent survey by India's National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) says that 150 million Indians need services for mental illness but only 30 million have received support. Treatment of mental health has become a necessity. In this article, we will discuss the four factors awareness, acceptance, availability, and affordability which should be addressed to deal with the increasing mental health cases.

Awareness: The first challenge that is observed while dealing with mental health is a lack of understanding. People keep themselves informed about physical health. They are aware of the primary symptoms when they know they have a health problem. They know which doctor they should visit. For example, everyone is aware that if a person is suffering from a toothache he should visit a dentist, or if he is having symptoms like dizziness or weakness, it is time to go to a general physician. People are aware of the symptoms and also the category of health professionals. When it comes to mental health, very few realize that they are suffering from



some kind of disorder and they need treatment. If they realize it they do not know whom to seek for help. The stereotypes of society cease them from asking for help. Mental health is a stigma in society. People don't realize that it is a health condition. It is another kind of disorder that can happen to everyone. Along with the awareness of symptoms of mental health issues, professional help we need to raise awareness in society to remove the stigma associated with it.

Acceptance: The second issue that is observed in this regard is acceptance. Sometimes, either the health care professionals or others who know about mental health suggest people visit a counselor or a psychologist for help. Though people realize they are experiencing some problem, something that is not getting cured or something that they are not able to ex-

plain, they do not accept that it is an issue of mental health. As soon as they get a suggestion to seek the advice of a counselor, they feel people are misguiding them. But if someone is suggested to meet a doctor for physical illness, they will reach out at the earliest. There are instances when doctors are not able to diagnose a disease of the patient. They suggest medicines, and do different tests and scans but are not able to find the exact cause of the disease. In such cases, doctors suggest visiting a psychiatrist or psychologist. The next second the people start doubting the doctor. They do not accept. Once a person comes to know he is experiencing symptoms of mental health he should not hesitate to accept it and seek help.

Availability: The third challenge we need to address is the availability of mental health professionals and services. It is very hard to find a psychiatrist, neurosurgeon, and psychologist in rural parts of India. A person living in a rural

area has to travel to the city for treatment. Mental health professionals are available in cities but are very few. There is a crisis in the human workforce. Several organizations are working on the awareness of mental health. The awareness programs are helpful. People know about it and try to go for treatment. The availability of mental health professionals becomes a limitation. Though someone realizes that he needs help, he is not able to find the right person. Looking at the current situation the number of psychiatrists and psychologists should be increased. More people should be encouraged to learn these courses and at the same time, the number of institutes offering these courses should be increased. Research should be encouraged to develop affordable treatment. Subsidies and grants should be provided for starting clinics for mental health. The second problem associated with this problem is people are not aware of the availability of mental health doctors. Generally, we try to approach our friends or colleagues to get information when we need some doctors. You will receive many suggestions from people. On the other hand, if you try to find out a doctor who can treat you for mental health, there are few possibilities of receiving responses from others. As mental health is not considered to be a problem people don't give importance to it. They do not keep updates about the related treatment and services. In severe cases, till someone finds a mental health treatment, it is too late.

Affordability: In India health



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care services are unaffordable. The same applies to mental health. Many people face financial burdens due to mental health treatment. Diagnostic tests and medicines are expensive. People from moderate families cannot afford the tests. So they don't go for the tests and receive treatment. Few Government health schemes cover mental disorders. The procedures for this scheme

should be made more accessible and awareness regarding it should be increased. Recently, it has been made mandatory for insurance companies to cover mental illness. The schemes should be improved to reduce the financial burden.

It is time to work together and help those who suffer in silence. Help to overcome the stigma and prioritize mental health.

City's school education system had leakages in its foundation: Sisodia

The problem in Delhi's school education was leakages in the system's foundation and the missing dots in its policies, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

Speaking at the Delhi Education Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Sisodia said another issue in the education system was students harboring a mindset of seeking jobs, instead of creating employment opportunities on their own.

"We overcame several problems in Delhi's education system after 2015. There were leakages in the foundation, missing dots in the education policies, and students who had the mindset of only seeking jobs," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said.

He said with the entrepreneurship mindset curriculum in the schools run by the Delhi government, students have begun aiming at becoming job providers, instead of job seekers.

The proportion of school students taking pvt tuition classes up since pre-Covid years

■ EJ - Agency

The proportion of students taking private tuition classes after school has increased by more than four percentage points over the Pre Covid levels across the country, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022 launched.

The increase in certain states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, is up to eight percentage points.

The crucial report has pointed out that over the last decade, rural India has seen small but steady increases in the proportion of children in Classes 1 to 8 taking paid, private tuition classes.

“Between 2018 and 2022, this proportion increased further among students in both government and private schools. Nationally, the proportion of children in Classes 1 to 8 taking paid private tuition classes increased from 26.4 percent in 2018 to 30.5 percent in 2022. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, the proportion of children taking paid private tuition increased by eight percentage points or more over 2018 levels,” the report said.

ASER is a nationwide, citizen-led household survey that provides a snapshot of children’s schooling and learning in rural India. The first ASER was conducted in 2005 and repeated annually for 10 years. ASER 2022



is the first field-based “basic” nationwide ASER after a gap of four years. It comes at a time when children are back in school after an extended period of school closure.

“Tutoring seems to have been a tradition in several states such as West Bengal and Bihar, where the proportion of children going to private schools was low and nearly 70 percent of children were going to tutors. Many young people in villages earned a living by tutoring children in these states. It appears that in the post-pandemic period, the practice of private tutoring may spread and grow in other states as young educated people prepare for, and wait for jobs,” it said.

The report has pointed out that

the all-India level incidence of tuition went up from about 25 percent in 2018 to 30 percent in 2022, but there is a lot of variation across the states.

“Bihar and Jharkhand are high tuition states 70 percent of children in Bihar and 45 percent in Jharkhand were taking tuition in 2022 as compared to only 10 percent of children in Himachal Pradesh and 15 percent in Maharashtra. It is possible that this extra help in the form of tuition successfully restricted the learning loss in these states.

“Tuition could also be behind the lower learning loss in math as compared to reading anecdotaly we know that tuition is used more for subjects like math and science rather than for reading,” the report said.

Kerala will adopt Finnish education models: V Sivankutty

■ EJ - Thiruvananthapuram

The state government will adopt Finland’s educational models that are suitable for the state and will also explore the possibility of modernizing teachers’ training with the assistance of the Scandinavian country. This was announced by General Education Minister V Sivankutty here on Wednesday after discussions with a delegation of Finnish officials who are visiting the state.

He said ideas that were generated during discussions between the Finnish delegation and officials of the education department from January 21 to 25 will be used while revising the school curriculum.

The discussions mainly centered around child care and education, teacher training, classroom exchange methods in mathematics and science, and teacher leadership. Sivankutty said a team of education officials from the state was likely to visit Finland sometime in May this year to further strengthen cooperation in these areas.

This is the second delegation from Finland to visit the state. Last month, a delegation from the country called the state. It held discussions on cooperation in pre-primary education, the teaching methodology used in science and mathematics, teachers’ training, evaluation methods, and research. The

discussions with the two groups followed the visit of a high-level delegation led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to Finland last year.

The discussions mainly centered around child care and education, teacher training,

classroom exchange methods in mathematics and science, and teacher leadership. Sivankutty said a team of education officials from the state was likely to visit Finland, sometime in May, as part of further strengthening cooperation in these areas.



Scholarship: Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships 2022-23

Description: The Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships aim to support meritorious students from all corners of the country with an undergraduate college education, empowering them to continue their studies, become successful professionals and realize their dreams, unlocking their potential to lift themselves and their communities up and contributing towards India’s future socio-economic development.

Eligibility: ♦Students must be enrolled in 1st-year full-time undergraduate (UG) degree in any stream at a recognised Indian institute.

♦Must have passed class 12 with a minimum of 60% marks

♦The annual household income should be less than INR 15,00,000 (preference will be given to those students whose family income is less than INR 2,50,000)

♦Open for resident Indian citizens only.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 2,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Feb. 14, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/RFS6

Scholarship: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2022-23

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India’s future leaders who can think big, think green, think digital for the benefit of society.

Eligibility: ♦Students who are enrolled in the first-year of postgraduation programmes in following streams can only apply for this scholarship:

- >Computer Science
- >Artificial Intelligence
- >Mathematics and Computing
- >Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering
- >Chemical Engineering
- >Mechanical Engineering
- >Renewable and New Energy
- >Material Science & Engineering
- >Life Science

♦Must have secured 500 to 1,000 in the GATE examination OR

Must have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalized to CGPA) [If students have not attempted GATE]

♦Open for resident Indian citizen.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Feb.14, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/RFS7

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: March 31, 2023

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

In a first, SSC to conduct multi-tasking staff exam in 13 languages

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The Staff Selection Commission will conduct the multi-tasking (non-technical) staff examination, in 2022, in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English for the first time, an official statement said.

The 13 regional languages are Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Konkani, Manipuri(also Meiti), Marathi, Odiya, and Punjabi, it said.

The SSC is one of the government’s largest recruiting agencies. Its primary mandate is recruitment to all Group B (non-gazetted) and Group C (non-technical) posts in various central ministries/ departments.

The medium of examinations conducted by the Commission is normally Hindi and English.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the move is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of providing a level playing field to all job aspirants and ensuring that no one is denied an opportunity or being at disadvantaged due to language barrier. He said the move will fulfill the long pending demand of candidates from different states, and particularly from south India, for the exams



being conducted earlier in English and Hindi.

“This is likely to benefit a very large number of candidates from all over the country,” the minister added.

Singh asserted that after this historic move, efforts are gradually to include all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

He said PM Modi during the inauguration of the “Kashi Tamil Sangamam” in Varanasi in November last year had pointed out that “despite having one of the world’s oldest living languages, i.e., Tamil, we lack in

honoring it fully.”

Singh said it is the continuous endeavor of SSC to provide a level playing field to different sections of the population to bridge the regional disparities and attain the ideals of the Constitution while at the same time celebrating the linguistic diversity of our country.

The minister said to review the scheme and syllabus of examinations conducted by the Commission, including the medium in which the tests are conducted, the Department of Personnel and Training had constituted an expert committee.

gether, this might be the right course for you. Take a look at the course structure, seat matrix, career scope, and more.

To get admission to BTech in industrial chemistry, candidates must pass IIT-JEE (Joint Entrance Exam) Advanced along with class 12 from a recognized state or central board.

Over 13.18 lakh students to appear for the Bihar Board class XII exam

■ EJ News - Patna

The Bihar School Examination Board Monday announced 13,18,227 will appear for the intermediate (class 12) exam out of which 6,36,432 are girls and 6,81,795 are boys. The BSEB exams will be held in 1,464 centers across the state from February 1 to 11.

There are 80 exam centers set up in Patna where a total of 79,641 students will be appearing for the board exams. This is the first time that the board has generated a unique ID for the students appearing in the exam.

This year, students will get 100 percent additional questions. Earlier in objective-type questions, students had to answer 50 questions and they have to answer any 50 questions. Similarly, students will get extra questions in subjective-type questions.

The latest a student can report to the exam venue is 10 minutes before the commencement of the exam. Students registering after the notified time will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

The government has put Section 144 will be in effect 200 meters from the exam center so that except for students no other individual can enter the premises. CCTV cameras are put in place for the smooth conduct of exams. One videographer has been appointed for every 500 students. Students will be frisked before entering the exam hall.

During the first shift, students must submit the OMR sheet by 11 am and in the second shift by 3:15 pm. Students will get 15 minutes to read the question paper.

New BTech Courses in Industrial Chemistry: IIT Hyderabad

■ EJ News - Hyderabad

The IIT Hyderabad last year introduced a new BTech program in Industrial Chemistry. This program will prepare the students for the emerging need for qualified persons with adequate knowledge in both chemistry and its technology-related issues, in

both academics and industry. It will also provide students with practical training in basic science and engineering.

A similar five-year integrated dual degree in Industrial Chemistry program is offered by IIT BHU (Varanasi). If you want to study the applications of science and engineering to



Education needs more allocation for infrastructure needs: Experts

■ EJ - Bengaluru

As the presentation of the Union and State budgets draws near, many educational institutions and experts have held out hope that more focus will be given to education in the coming year, especially in improving infrastructure. Development educationist Dr. Niranjanaradhya V P said that the Right to Education (RTE) and National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) cannot be adequately implemented if at least 5% of the Union budget is not allocated to education. "The state of government schools is pathetic in both the country and state. Currently, only 2.7% of the state's GDP and 0.47% of the country's GDP is spent on education, as opposed to the RTE's suggestion of 6%.

While this is difficult, at least 5% of the Central budget should be allocated to education," he said. On the lack of funding in the state, he said the bulk of the budget is spent on faculty sala-

ries. "The state is left with only around 5 to 10 percent of the total funds allocated to education, to provide better facilities and teaching material for students.

The state should provide children with disabilities with specially trained teachers, hearing



aids, textbooks, and other necessities they may need, instead, they are only offered grants. There should be special allocation in the budget for quality education, to be spent on improving schools and providing better facilities for children," he said. Others believe the state should focus on digitization to ensure that education can reach people even in the most rural areas.

"While the NEP's primary goal is to ensure everyone has access

to education, it suffers from a lack of infrastructure, especially digital, in rural and semi-urban areas. We believe there should be dedicated funds to assist educational institutions in building and scaling digital infrastructure to become hybrid learning centers," said Ali Sait, CEO of Tech Avant-Garde.

Interestingly, with the pandemic bringing to light issues of how mental health is managed in the country, some also believe that counseling in schools should be given more importance. "As a nation, now would be an ideal time to put mental health in the spotlight, this budget should allocate some amount on counseling school and college students. A mandatory and effective counseling program should be drawn up to uplift children from all societies and backgrounds," said Dr. S Nagendra, professor & dean of the Department of Management Studies, Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology.

This UP school gets 'Power' on its own

■ EJ - Yatinder Singh

The story of a school in the Banda district of UP is unique. There was no electricity in the school here for 12 years. The school administration pleaded with the officers and dignitaries, but no one listened. Exhausted, the school staff themselves collected money and got an electric transformer installed, due to which electricity reached the school after 12 years. The faces of the children blossomed after the lights came on in the school.

Due to the apathy of the Electricity Department in Banda, UP, the future of children was hanging in the balance for 12 years. But now the present teachers of the school have shown the way of light to that dark future. Electricity reached a government high school in a rural area after 12 years, which was welcomed by the school administration with flower garlands, and the faces of the children also blossomed.

The school administration says he was tired of going around the offices of the electricity department for many years. Money was not received. The MPs of the district pleaded with the MLAs to give them Samiti funds, but no one listened, due to which all the school staff together made arrangements for



electricity in their respective schools.

In the end, being upset, the teachers of the school collected donations from themselves and got a transformer installed on the school campus, after which electricity reached the school. By doing such work, the school staff gave a message to the other school staff that due to lack of budget, do not darken the future of the children, work with your initiative, and not depend on anyone.

Ravi Karan Singh, Principal of Government School Pakhrauli said that the Government High School was established in 2010. He said, 'I was posted in this school in 2013, there was no electricity system, so we tried a lot. Tried a lot from public rep-

resentatives to officials, but did not get success. There is a lot of problems in May-June, there used to be disruption in teaching work, and in 2020 four more teachers came.

He said, 'When this work was not being done at the government level, then in the interest of the students, arrangements for electricity were made by donating among themselves. All of us deposited Samiti by donating Rs 1.5 lakh and got a new electricity connection. All this has been done together, our students will not have any problems now. The electricity meter and other equipment were inaugurated by offering flower garlands on the regular power supply. The unfulfilled dreams of 12 years of children and teachers were fulfilled.

IISc Bangalore launches PG certification program in Micro and Nanoelectronics

■ EJ - Bangalore

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore launched a new PG-level advanced certification program in Micro and Nanoelectronics to equip the upcoming generation of semiconductor experts, who are prepared to benefit from the industry's rapid expansion currently being experienced by the semiconductor sector.

The program is launched in collaboration with TalentSprint, an ed-tech company to meet the growing demand for semiconductor/VLSI professionals, or professionals having more profound semiconductor knowledge to interface with any electronics industry. The program's



curriculum has been curated by MSDLab, Department of Electronics Systems Engineering (DESE) at IISc Bangalore.

Professor Mayank Shrivastava, Programme Director, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) stated about the program, "The field of Micro and Nanoelectronics is the enabler of next-generation semiconductor technologies which is the heart of today's faster, sleeker, lightweight and energy-efficient

systems. This is also the backbone of upcoming neuromorphic and quantum technologies. Keeping the immense potential of this ever-growing field in mind, this is the right time for professionals to gain a deep insight into designing, modeling, characterizing, and developing semiconductor technology and tap into the promising opportunities this sector offers. Soon semiconductor sector will be a trillion-dollar industry and one must not miss this opportunity."

The program offers industry-oriented training and the program instructors are a team of researchers and experts from MSDLab, headed by Professor Shrivastava.

Indian-origin professor in the US, Ganesh Thakur to lead scientists and researchers in Texas

■ EJ - Agency

Ganesh Thakur, an Indian-origin professor in the United States, has been named as the vice president of the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science, and Technology (TAMEST). It is an organization that brings together the state's various scientists and researchers to advance research, innovation, and business in Texas.

Thakur, a distinguished professor of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Houston (UH), was designated as vice president by the TAMEST board of directors, alongside Brendan Lee, who will serve as president.

Originally from Jharkhand, Thakur is the first UH faculty member to lead TAMEST. During his two-year term as vice president, he will help coordinate and guide the board of directors with strategic planning, programs, and communication. He will eventually be named the president of the organization in 2025.

"Texas is home to some of the most brilliant minds in the world, and I'm honored and excited by this opportunity to strengthen collaboration and advance innovation across the state in fields critical to our continued growth and development," said Thakur, who has been a member of the organization since 2016, most recently serving as treasurer. "TAMEST is a scientific and biomedical intellectual engine for the state, and I am passionate about its mission to benefit public good and business," he added.

A member of the National



Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors, Thakur is a globally recognized pioneer in Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS). His patent on forecasting the performance of water injection and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) using a hybrid analytical-empirical methodology provided a much faster approach that served as an alternative to more time-consuming reservoir simulation.

In a USD 5 million partnership with Oil India Limited, Thakur's team helped capture carbon dioxide from petrochemical plants to boost oil recovery in several fields in Assam. The project is targeted to help reduce India's carbon footprint and increase its ability to fulfill its energy needs.

"Dr. Thakur's leadership, passion, and cutting-edge research have been instrumental in positioning the University as a strategic partner to the energy industry," said Ramanan Krishnamoorti, UH vice president of energy and innovation. "His extensive knowledge and expertise will greatly benefit TAMEST and the state of Texas. I sincerely congratulate him

on this well-deserved appointment," he added.

"We fully support Dr. Thakur's involvement in this key leadership position which is critical to advancing innovation across our state. He has an incredible passion for teaching and collaboration which will be a great asset to the TAMEST," said Joseph W. Tedesco, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean of the Cullen College of Engineering.

Thakur joined UH in 2016 with a grant from the Texas Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI). He joined as director of UH Energy Industry Partnerships after almost four decades working in the industry at Chevron, where he served in several leadership roles, including vice president of reservoir management. He earned his doctorate in petroleum and natural gas engineering (PNGE) from Pennsylvania State University in 1973, after earning his master's degrees in mathematics and PNGE there. He also has an MBA from Houston Baptist University and received his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in India.

TAMEST membership includes all Texas-based members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the state's nine Nobel laureates, and 18 member institutions, including the University of Houston. According to the TAMEST website, it brings together the state's "best and brightest" scientists and researchers to foster collaboration and advance research, innovation, and business in Texas.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023: PM Modi advised students to adopt digital fasting once a week

■ EJ - New Delhi

During the sixth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday advised students to observe "digital fasting", which means cutting screen time, "once a week". According to the prime minister, digital fasting would "reconnect students with family members".

"We should keep one area as no technology zone and do not use any tech devices in that area of your home," he said.

Replying to a student on how to stay focused on studies without getting distracted by social media, he said "I believe students are smarter than smartphones to analyze its right usage. We should monitor our usage and utilize it smartly as per our need."

The prime minister cautioned the students against being slaves to these gadgets. "Say to yourself that you are an independent person, make the best of technology but also limit yourself to only that," he said.

The event held at Talkatora Stadium witnessed students' participation from all over the country.



Around 2000 students, teachers, and parents participated in the event, where the prime minister interacted with students on tackling exam stress. This year over 38 lakh registrations were recorded, which is double what it was in 2022.

The students and teachers were selected through an online competition where students, teachers, and parents had to showcase their creativity. The themes for students were Know your freedom fighters; Our Culture is our pride; My Book My Inspiration; Save Environment for future generations; My Life,

My Health; Why is staying healthy so important? What do you do to remain in good health?; My Startup Dream; STEM Education/ Education without Boundaries; Toys and Games for Learning in Schools. The themes of parents were—My Child, My Teacher; Adult Education- Making Everyone Literate; Learning, and Growing Together. The themes for teachers were Our Heritage; Enabling Learning; Environment; Education for Skilling; Lesser Curricular Load and No fear for exams; Future Educational Challenges.

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UK mulls to cut down time frame allowed to foreign students for the job hunt

■ EJ - Agency

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman is said to be on a collision course with the country's education department over plans to cut the period of stay allowed for overseas students under a post-study visa route, according to a UK media report.

The new Graduate Visa route, which allows foreign graduates – including Indians – the chance to stay on to job hunt and gain work experience for up to two years without the requirement of a specific job offer, is expected to be cut under Braverman's proposed review.

The Indian-origin home secretary has drawn up a plan to "reform" the Graduate Visa route requiring students to obtain a work visa by getting a skilled job or leave the UK after six months. The newspaper refers to leaked advice to say that the UK Department for Education (DfE) is attempting to block the changes as they fear it would harm the UK's attractiveness to international students.

A government source who backs Braverman's plan said students were increasingly using the Graduate Visa on short courses at "less respectable universities".

"It's being used as a backdoor immigration route," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.

The DfE, however, argues that the two-year Graduate Visa of-



ten referred to as the UK's post-study offer, was aligned with most of Britain's main competitors, with only the US offering a one-year visa.

According to the latest statistics by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Indians overtook the Chinese as the largest cohort of foreign students last year and the new Graduate Visa route, introduced in July 2021, was dominated by Indians accounting for 41 percent of the visas granted.

Braverman's proposal is reportedly among several drawn up after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak asked the Home Office and the DfE to submit proposals for reducing the number of foreign students coming to the UK. Figures published last week showed there were 680,000 foreign students in the UK. The government's 2019 Higher Education Strategy in-

cluded a target of 600,000 students by 2030, which was met last year itself.

Another proposal being considered would reportedly allow foreign students to bring dependent family members with them only if they were on postgraduate research-based courses such as a Ph.D., or doctoral courses that were at least two years long.

The UK Home Office refused to comment on the leak, but a government spokesperson said: "Our points-based system is designed to be flexible according to the UK's needs, including attracting top-class talent from across the world to contribute to the UK's excellent academic reputation and to help keep our universities competitive on the world stage."

Remove study placements from Australia's work hour cap, say universities

■ EJ - Agency

The number of hours that international students in the country are permitted to work is set to be capped once again from 30 June 2023, after the 40-hour fortnightly limit was lifted in January last year. It has not yet been announced how many hours students will be able to work once the policy returns.

In submissions to a parliamentary inquiry in December, many universities welcomed the change with the Group of Eight saying unlimited work hours "has the potential to distract students from their studies and has been linked to a rise in non-genuine student visa applications".

"It is also critical that Australia actively works to maintain its enviable reputation for quality and not allow international student talent to become perceived as a proxy migrant workforce," the organization wrote.

Bond University echoed this, saying that Australian education is becoming "an easy target for non-genuine students", while Navitas said that "unscrupulous providers and agents" are exploiting the policy. Both Bond University and Victoria TAFE also noted that the policy is impacting course completion rates.

But the University of Adelaide and UNSW Sydney urged the government to maintain unrestricted work hours.

"The amendment of international student work hour allowance during the Covid-19 pandemic provided not only much needed financial support to international students but also kept several domestic busi-



nesses afloat," UNSW wrote, adding that the policy is "mutually beneficial" for businesses and students.

"Recent media attention has exposed the role some private for-profit institutions are playing in facilitating the exploitation of students – charging low student fees and turning a blind eye to student non-attendance at classes," wrote Victoria TAFE. "This behavior has been fuelled by uncapping of work hours for international students."

The National Tertiary Education Union said that unlimited work hours would "make these visas even more attractive to individuals and organizations involved in labor trafficking".

"These factors make international student workers susceptible to exploitation by employers"

The trade union noted that international students are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, regardless of a limit on work hours, as their visas are generally subject to less employment regulation.

"These factors make interna-

tional student workers susceptible to exploitation by employers, with underpayment, wage theft, bullying, harassment, and labor trafficking all potential risks," said NTEU.

Several educators also questioned how the policy applies to study-related work experience, with RMIT calling for "greater clarity" around how course placements, particularly unpaid ones, impact work hours.

Under the previous policy, only mandatory work placements did not count towards the 40 hours, but any other jobs were counted, including unpaid roles and work experience as part of electives.

Griffith University recommended that non-compulsory work-integrated learning should not count towards the total number of permitted work hours for those on student visas, arguing that the policy creates an "unnecessary barrier for international students in obtaining relevant work experience and connecting with potential employers".

Afghanistan: Taliban bans women from attempting university entrance exams

■ EJ - Agency

With a message to private universities, the Taliban on Saturday doubled down on their ban on women's education. As per the message Afghan women are barred from taking university entry exams.

The note comes despite weeks of condemnation and lobbying by the international community for a reversal of measures restricting women's freedoms, including several senior UN officials' two back-to-back visits this month. It also bodes ill for hopes that the Taliban could take steps to reverse their edicts anytime soon.

The Taliban barred women from private and public universities last month. The higher education minister in the Taliban-run government, Nida Mohammed Nadim, has maintained that the ban is necessary to prevent the mixing of genders in universities and because he believes some subjects being taught violate Islamic principles.

Work was underway to fix these issues and universities would reopen for women once they were resolved, he had said in a TV interview.

The Taliban have made similar promises about girls' middle and high school access, saying classes would resume for them once "technical issues" around uniforms and transport were sorted out. But girls remain shut out of classrooms beyond sixth grade.

Higher Education Ministry

'Find a solution in 6 weeks for Ukraine -returned medical students': SC

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Supreme Court asked the committee to present a solution within six weeks for Indian students who returned from Ukraine due to the war. There are nearly 20,000 Indian students who had to return to India mid-degree.

Following the earlier court order, the committee constituted by the Centre has already met once, Additional Solicitor General of India Aishwarya Bhati told a bench comprising Justices BR Gavai and Vikram Nath, reported Live



spokesman Ziaullah Hashmi said Saturday that a letter reminding private universities not to allow women to take entrance exams was sent out. He gave no further details.

A copy of the letter, shared with The Associated Press, warned that women could not take the "entry test for bachelor, master and doctorate levels" and that if any university disobeys the edict, "legal action will be taken against the violator." The letter was signed by Mohammad Salim Afghan, the government official overseeing student affairs at private universities.

Entrance exams start on Sunday in some provinces while elsewhere in Afghanistan, they begin on February 27. Universities across Afghanistan follow a different term timetable, due to seasonal differences.

Mohammed Karim Nasari, the spokesman for the private

universities union, said last month that dozens of private universities risk closure because of the ban.

Afghanistan has 140 private universities across 24 provinces, with around 200,000 students. Out of those, some 60,000 to 70,000 are women. The universities employ about 25,000 people.

Earlier this week, U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and leaders of two major international aid organizations visited Afghanistan, following last week's visit by a delegation led by the UN's highest-ranking woman, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. The holidays had the same aim — to try and reverse the Taliban's crackdown on women and girls, including their ban on Afghan women working for national and global humanitarian organizations.

Law.

The Additional Solicitor General asked for six more weeks to find a solution. "This is for penultimate-year students."

Last month, the apex court asked the government to form a committee of experts to find a solution for students. The Court also said that these students can be a national asset when the country is facing a dearth of doctors.

The court also adjourned a batch of petitions seeking to allow Ukraine-returned medical stu-

dents to complete their education in India for six weeks. It said, "We can't go on compromising with medical education. We have constituted a committee. We will go by whatever it says."

A petition seeking a shorter period said that the pool would become larger as more students are going to be inducted to which the Additional Solicitor General said that allotment will happen based on the present pool.



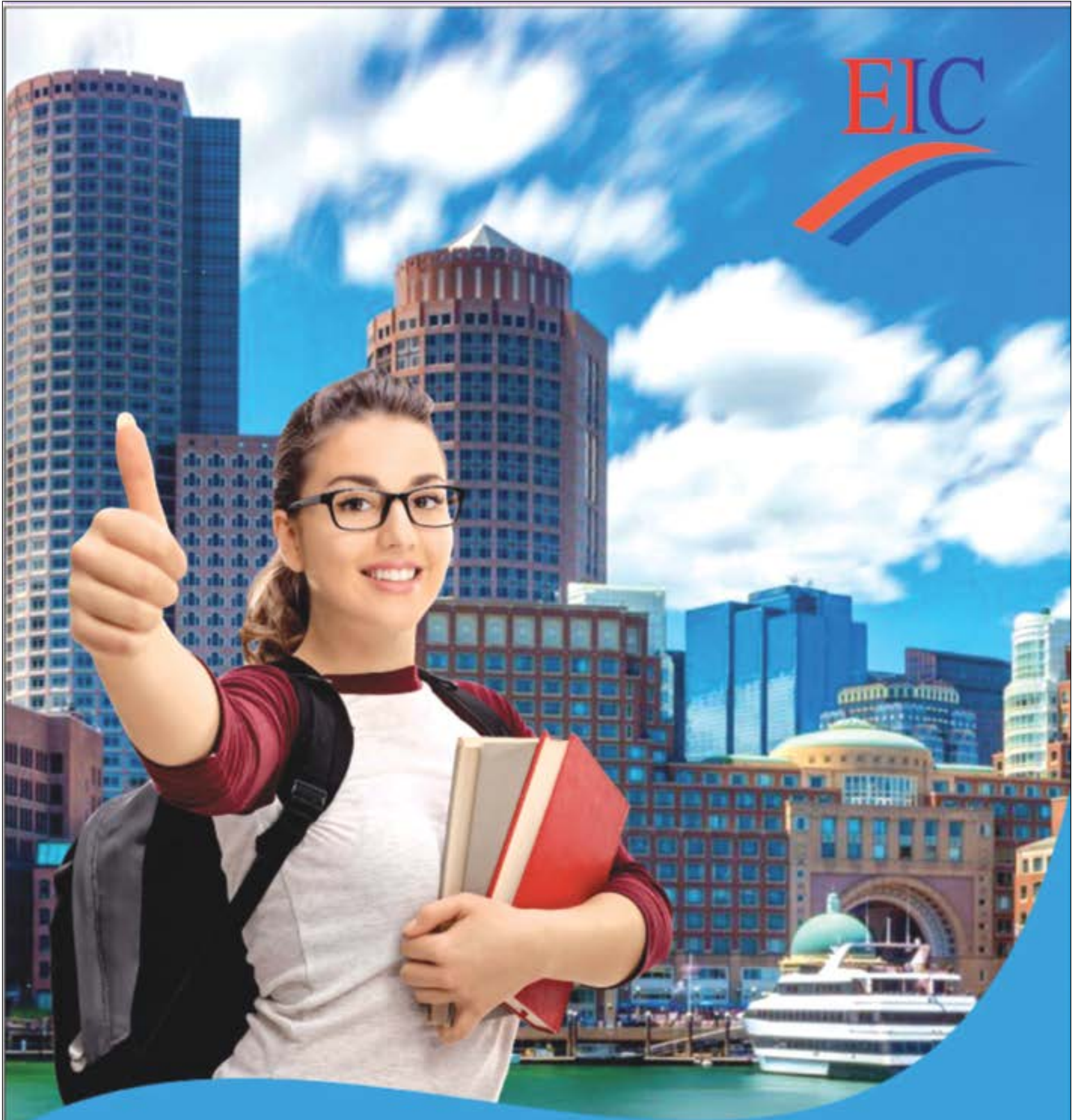
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