



International Column'



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ED raids Medical colleges in 10 states in bribery case



EJ News - New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out coordinated searches across ten states on Thursday in a money laundering probe tied to allegations of large-scale bribery, leaked regulatory data, and manipulation of medical college inspection procedures. At least 15 premises were searched in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Seven of these locations belonged to medical institutions, while others were linked to private individuals named in a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case registered on June 30. The ED

HIGHLIGHTS » Seven searched premises belong to medical colleges, rest to private accused individuals
» Probe stems from June 30 CBI FIR alleging bribery to manipulate inspection and approval processes
» FIR lists 34-36 accused, including Health Ministry officials, NMC members and intermediaries
» Former UGC chairman D P Singh named among accused; ED investigating under PMLA
» CBI earlier arrested eight people, including three NMC doctors accused of taking Rs 55 lakh from a Chhattisgarh college

is acting under provisions of the Prevention of Money Launder-

ing Act.

According to investigators, the money laundering case follows a CBI First Information Report alleging that sensitive internal data, including future inspection schedules and identities of assessors from the National Medical Commission (NMC), was illicitly shared with representatives of private colleges. This is suspected to have enabled them to prepare fraudulent compliance conditions, arrange ghost faculty, and present fictitious patient numbers to obtain approval for new courses and renewal of rec-

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US court orders Byju to pay over \$1 bn to BYJU's Alpha, GLAS Trust



EJ News - New Delhi+

A United States court has ordered Byju Raveendran, founder of the edtech firm operating under the Byju's brand, to repay a default amount totaling USD 1.16 billion to BYJU's Alpha and US based lender GLAS Trust Company LLC, following a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court on November 20, 2025.

The judgment came in response to a petition filed by BYJU's Alpha and GLAS Trust Company LLC. The court ruled that Raveendran failed to comply with a discovery order and had been evasive in responding to requests for information. As a result, it issued a default judgment against him.

"The court will enter default judg-

ment against Defendant Raveendran in the amount of USD 533,000,000, and on Counts II, V and VI in the amount of USD 540,647,109.29," the ruling stated. The judgment also directed him to provide a full and accurate accounting of the Alpha Funds and any proceeds, including the Camshaft LP interest and any subsequent transfers.

BYJU's Alpha was incorporated during the period when Raveendran was managing Think and Learn Private Limited (TLPL), the parent compa-

ny that operated the Byju's brand. TLPL had raised around USD 1.16 billion through Term Loan B (TLB). The US based lenders later alleged that BYJU's Alpha violated loan terms and that USD 533 million of the debt had been moved out of the US improperly. Both BYJU's Alpha and GLAS Trust previously approached the Delaware Bankruptcy Court for the discovery of USD 533 million and related transactions.

The latest ruling noted that Raveendran had knowledge of the discovery order but "simply refused to comply." It also recorded that he continued to ignore prior contempt orders. The court determined that monetary sanctions already imposed at USD 10,000 per day had been ineffective. "Raveendran lives abroad and apparently has no intention of satisfying his financial penalties or complying with the discovery orders," the judgment said, adding that a harsher penalty such as default judgment was warranted.

It rejected arguments presented by Raveendran that GLAS Trust

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Mushrooming coaching centres: Parliamentary panel to examine trend, existing legislations

EJ News - New Delhi

Amid rising student suicides due to stress, a Parliamentary committee has decided to review the "proliferation" of coaching centres to support students in competitive examinations and the social issues arising from it. The standing committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports will also examine impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and lever age of emerging technology on education and student. According to a recent Lok Sabha bulletin, the standing committee has also decided the review of PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) during the year 2025-26.

The panel will review proliferation of coaching centres to support students in competitive examinations, social issues arising from it and existing legislation on the matter, the bulletin said.

It will also review government's efforts to support mental health for students in higher education. There have been cases of students enrolled in coaching institutes ending their lives in recent years due to study pressure, with several cases reported in Rajasthan's Kota city alone, which is known as the "coaching capital of India".

The Ministry of Education had earlier this year set up a nine-member panel to examine issues relating to coaching and the



emergence of "dummy schools", besides the effectiveness and fairness of entrance examinations.

The panel is studying the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations in the context of the school education system and their influence on the growth of the coaching industry. During the year, the parliamentary panel will also examine the "current practices and policies" regarding school closure.

According to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the committee will also review the functioning and performance of the NCERT as also efforts to promote education of linguistic and religious minorities.

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Active Citizenship in Secondary Education – Teaching students to engage, think, and take action

Keywords: active citizenship, civic education, project-based learning, volunteering, digital citizenship, student engagement

Abstract

This article explores the concept of active citizenship in secondary education and offers practical classroom ideas for teaching it through experiential, project-based learning, collaboration and community involvement. Drawing on classroom practice and international collaboration within Erasmus+ projects, it demonstrates how civic values can be nurtured through discussions, hands-on projects and reflection. A practical classroom example — the *Small Civic Challenge* — illustrates how even simple student-led initiatives can spark meaningful local change and empower young people to become engaged and responsible global citizens.

Introduction

The world is changing fast. Education can no longer mean just cramming for tests or memorizing facts. It should push young people to be more than just observers—it should help them become thoughtful, responsible, and active members of society. That, in essence, is active citizenship —



ship — understanding your rights and responsibilities and choosing to participate in improving the world around you. Teachers matter a lot here. We, teachers, are the ones who can show students that they have the power to shape their communities—starting now, not someday far off.

What is active citizenship?

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines active citizenship as "the practice of being a responsible member of a

community by taking part in activities that improve life for everyone." That's the heart of it. Schools shouldn't just get students ready for exams or jobs—they should help them get ready for life in a democracy.

John Dewey, an American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer put it best: "Democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife." Schools are places where students practice democracy for the first time — by speaking up, listening to others, working in teams, and solv-

ing problems together.

Teaching active citizenship in practice

You cannot confine active citizenship to a single class or subject. It should be integrated into the entire curriculum, everything students do shaping the values of the whole school. In my own work with high schoolers, I use a mix of strategies to promote engagement, empathy, critical thinking, and—most importantly—acting.

Project-based learning (PBL)



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Through Erasmus+ and other international projects, my students engage in real-world issues—cultural diversity, inclusion, sustainability and social responsibility. They learn by doing—planning initiatives, conducting research, presenting results, and reflecting on their impact.

Debates and simulations

Sometimes, we set up debates, run mock parliaments, or even try out model UN sessions. These activities sharpen their argument skills and push them to see things from different points of view.

They also get a feel for how democracy works—not in theory, but in real conversations (sometimes heated ones!) with classmates. Democracy is never silent or simple, and students learn that through experience.

Community involvement

I regularly show my students inspiring examples of youth vol-

unteering initiatives in Croatia — such as young people supporting local charities, participating in environmental actions, or organizing cultural and educational events. By seeing their peers' positive impact, students realize that citizenship is not an abstract concept but a lived experience within their own community.

To strengthen the spirit of volunteering, I also highlight global observances such as International Volunteer Day, proclaimed by the United Nations and celebrated annually on December 5th, which serves as a reminder of how important volunteering is for building stronger and more welcoming communities.

Example from Practice: Small Civic Challenge

To help students experience civic responsibility, we run the Small Civic Challenge. After discussing and comparing active and passive citizenship, students design a simple but meaningful action to benefit the school or local community. They work in groups, create posters, present goals, debate feasibility, and then carry out their chosen project.

Previous ideas have included cleaning and greening school surroundings, organizing a donation action, or creating a campaign for mental health awareness. This challenge helps students see that change does not always come from big speeches or large budgets — it often starts with everyday kindness, teamwork, and initiative.

Traditional Teaching to AI-Driven Education: A Journey of Transformation

The word classroom reminds us of a room with desks and benches arranged in a row, and a teacher with printed books, delivering a lesson and writing on the blackboard. With Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the learning ecosystem, education has seen a powerful transformation. Some people believe that AI will replace teachers, but the fact is that it has evolved as a catalyst for innovation. AI has reshaped the teaching-learning process through intelligent algorithms, virtual tutors, and data-driven insights. It seems to be a revolution for how the knowledge is delivered, absorbed, and applied.

Personalization: The New Classroom Standard

Personalization is the most compelling gift of AI to education. In traditional classrooms, teachers often struggle to balance the varied learning speeds and interests of students. AI helps break these barriers through adaptive platforms that provide a customized learning experience. These systems instantly evaluate students' performance and give suggestions on improving the weak areas. Virtual tutors offer round-the-clock assistance by explaining the concepts, generating practice questions, and providing feedback. This makes education more inclusive and empowering as students learn at their own pace, in their own style.

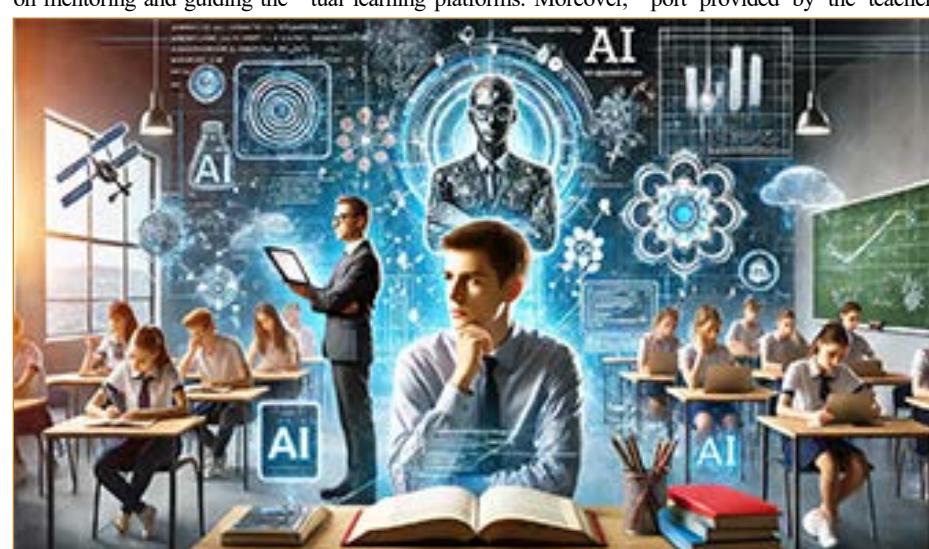
Smart Tools: Elevating the Teacher's Role

AI is now becoming a strong supporter of the teachers. They can use AI-based tools for re-

petitive tasks such as planning lessons, tracking attendance, and evaluating assignments. This will free them to focus on mentoring and guiding the

in places with scarce resources, or those who are unable to continue their education due to their personal obligations, benefit from these virtual learning platforms. Moreover,

personalized, accessible, and aligned to the needs of the future. However, AI can never replace the warmth and emotional support provided by the teachers.



students. AI-generated analytics help teachers to understand performance trends, identify learning gaps, and provide appropriate interventions. They can use AI-based content creators to generate quizzes and engaging presentations in less time than traditional methods. With the help of AI, the teacher's role is changing from an information provider to a learning designer.

Bridging the Gap

AI is helping educators create an inclusive environment for the learners. AI-driven mobile platforms or online platforms and low-cost digital tools are providing access to quality education. The learners living

they can use features like speech-to-text conversion, digital narration, and language translator to learn their courses in a language they understand. These courses have opened doors to people with disabilities. AI is becoming a social equalizer by making education accessible to remote villages and underserved communities. AI in education is not just a technological shift, but is making it borderless and equitable.

The transition from traditional teaching to AI-powered learning marks a significant shift in modern education. It envisages an era of interactive classrooms, empowered teachers, and engaged learners. Integration of AI into learning environments will make education

This technological shift ensures smarter classrooms with smarter possibilities for all the learners.



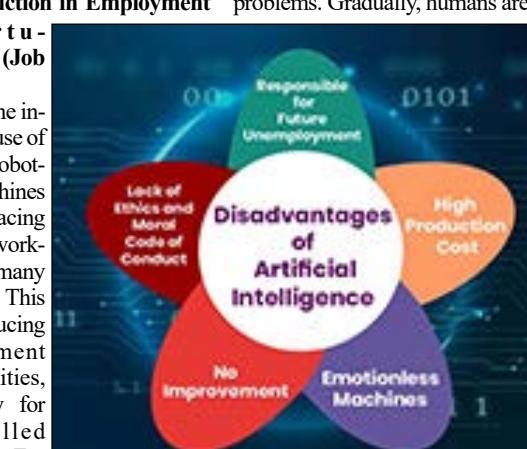
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Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Human Life

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has made human life easier and more convenient in many ways, but at the same time, it has also brought several serious disadvantages and challenges. The major negative impacts of AI are explained below:

1. Reduction in Employment Opportunities (Job Losses)

Due to the increasing use of AI and robotics, machines are replacing human workers in many sectors. This is reducing employment opportunities, especially for low-skilled workers. For



example, automation is rapidly growing in manufacturing, customer service, data entry, and similar fields.

2. Decline in Human Interaction and Emotional Connection

Excessive dependence on AI has led to reduced face-to-face interaction and social bonding among humans. This can negatively affect mental health and social balance.

3. Threat to Privacy and Data Security

AI systems use vast amounts of personal data. If this data is misused or falls into the wrong hands, it can pose a serious threat to personal privacy and security.

4. Ethical and Bias Issues

AI systems are created by humans, so human biases can be embedded in them. This can lead

to unfair decisions in areas such as recruitment, loans, law enforcement, and healthcare.

5. Overdependence and Loss of Creativity

Excessive use of AI can make people lose their natural abilities to think, analyze, and solve problems. Gradually, humans are

becoming more dependent on technology, which may reduce creativity and innovation.

6. Security Risks and Misuse

AI can be misused in cyber-crimes, autonomous weapons, fake news, deepfakes, and misinformation campaigns. This poses a serious threat to society and democracy.

7. Lack of Emotional Understanding

AI machines cannot fully understand emotions, empathy, and human sensitivity. Therefore, relying solely on AI in areas such as healthcare, education, and counseling can be risky.

8. Loss of Human Control

If AI becomes too autonomous, it may become difficult for humans to control it. This could

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'Indifferent, lukewarm response' to study MBBS in Hindi in Chhattisgarh



■ EJ- Raipur

The Chhattisgarh government's push to introduce a Hindi-medium MBBS course has met with what officials describe as "indifferent and lukewarm" response from students who are inclined to study the course in a language they are comfortable with.

Although the scheme was announced with fanfare last year, none of the 10 government medical colleges in the state has begun Hindi-medium classes even after the new academic session opened in September.

Officials say the core issue is not eligibility but willingness. "The issue is not of taking admission in an MBBS course in the Hindi medium but of nurturing interest to pursue MBBS in that language. Around 70 students admitted to MBBS courses are usually from a Hindi-speaking background in the state. But there are difficulties with opting for Hindi, so the students are not taking an interest.

The books in Hindi are available in the medical college, but

students are not keen," Dr U. S. Paikra, Director (Medical Education), told this newspaper.

He added that those who complete MBBS in Hindi may face hurdles when they move on to postgraduate studies conducted entirely in English.

According to officials, no student has applied for the Hindi-medium track this year. Last year, only two or three students expressed interest, far too few to run separate classes. "So the plan of starting Hindi-medium classes in MBBS was dropped.

Doctors familiar with the ground reality also point to practical challenges. Dr Harish Podiyami, a 25-year-old medical officer from Sukma whose mother tongue is Gondi, said students do struggle initially but eventually adapt.

"Students speaking languages other than English might face some problems only in the initial 4-5 months after taking admission in an MBBS course. Later, these students at their ease get accustomed to the English language," he said. Students, too, have observed that Hindi translations of medical terms can be harder to grasp than the English originals.

A MBBS first-year student dies by suicide at Subharti University

■ EJ News - Meerut

In Meerut, the body of Gopesh Krishna (20), an MBBS first-year student, was found hanging in his room at Dr. Kotnis Hostel

of Subharti University. The incident created panic on the university campus. He reportedly hanged himself after his roommates left for class.

>> Contd. p.4..

According to sources, he had been under considerable stress due to a family matter. Gopesh lived in Room No. 122 of the

IIM Mumbai launches postgraduate diploma in Public Policy



■ EJ- Mumbai

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai has launched a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Policy Management (PGDPPM) programme, developed in partnership with the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Government of India.

The programme is being offered in collaboration with Talentsprint, part of Accenture, which supports the digital learning and delivery framework.

According to a statement from the institute, the initiative is struc-

tured as a one-year, 45-credit diploma intended for mid-career professionals working across government, corporate, and social sectors.

The curriculum includes components on public policy, sustainability, technology, strategy, and leadership. It integrates simulations, applied projects, and peer learning to enable participants to analyse policy issues and administrative challenges. IIM Mumbai has positioned the programme to admit both DoPT-sponsored officers and external candidates, aligning with its collaboration

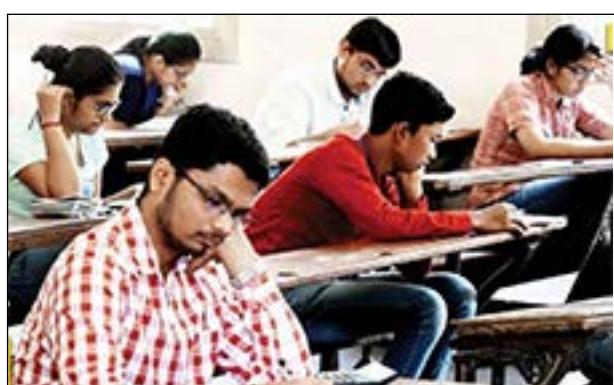
with the Government of India.

The institute noted that this approach aims to build a diverse cohort that facilitates multidisciplinary exchange and strengthens classroom discussions.

Applications are now open for the batch commencing February 2026. Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree with at least 50 per cent marks or an equivalent CGPA, along with a minimum of five years of work experience. Admission will be based on the IIM Mumbai Admission Test (IMAT) or a valid CAT, GMAT, or GRE score obtained within the past five years, followed by a personal interview. The last date to apply is 20 December 2025.

The partnership with DoPT aligns with the institute's involvement in capacity-building initiatives for government departments and public sector professionals. According to an official statement, the PGDPPM is part of a broader effort to strengthen management and policy education tailored to administrative and governance roles in India.

Calicut University repeats last year's question paper in the semester exam



■ EJ News - Agency

A question paper for the Undergraduate Multi Disciplinary Course (MDC) examination held recently at Calicut University here was found to be a repeat of

the one used in a previous year's exam, officials said on Thursday.

University authorities said the matter has come to their notice and will be placed before the Board of Studies for further de-

cisions on the conduct of a fresh examination.

According to the officials in the office of the Controller of Examinations, 'Art of Stress Management' exam for the first-semester of MDC Psychology was held on November 25. The question paper for this exam was a repeat, they added.

Except for the year, the paper's content was identical. The issue surfaced after students and teachers pointed out the repetition, the officials said.

According to them, no formal complaint has been received so far. Officials said three sets of question papers are usually submitted by teachers, and one among them was a duplicate of last year's exam.



Indian Readers	Global Readers	Figures in Million's
Qtr. Ended Dec, 2024	Qtr. Ended March 2025	Groth %
5.39	5.64	+4.7%
3.26	3.71	+13.9%

Jagat Media Solutions

(Source CAAR)

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Bhopal: Students vandalise VIT University, torch vehicles amid jaundice outbreak



EJ - Sehore

Massive student unrest broke out at VIT Bhopal University in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, forcing the university to declare holidays till November 30, an official source said.

Around 4,000 students, frustrated over inadequate campus facilities particularly poor drinking water, substandard food, and unhygienic toilets—staged a violent protest late Tuesday night at the Ashta-area campus.

Initial attempts by university security to control the situation failed, and videos showing some first-year students being assaulted by security staff outside a boys' hostel further fueled the unrest. Students also alleged a rise in suspected jaundice cases due to non-potable water, with some even claiming deaths, though

Byju to pay...

had access to relevant documents through BYJU's Alpha. "There is nothing in the record to support the assertion GLAS has access to relevant documents," the court stated, adding that his conduct amounted to "a strategic pattern of willful failure to comply with discovery."

Raveendran has denied any wrongdoing related to alleged fund diversion. He previously said payments to overseas entities, including UK-based OCI and Camshaft, were part of routine business and international expansion activities. He also stated that BYJU'S Alpha had bought a small interest in Camshaft to provide credit support to OCI while discussions with other investors continued.

Responding to the ruling, Raveendran's legal advisor, Lazaroff Le Bars Earl Senior Litigation Advisor J Michael McNutt, said the decision would be appealed. "The court issued this judgment without Byju being permitted to present a defence," he said. "We consider that the US Court erred in its judgment of this matter and will be filing the necessary appeals and other contestations."

McNutt added that a claim of not less than USD 2.5 billion would be submitted shortly and argued that the court did not address the claim that Alpha loan monies were used for the benefit of TLPL. "GLAS Trust controls Think & Learn Private Limited and the Resolution Professional of TLPL should be confronted and held responsible to explain the use of these funds," he said, noting that related applications are pending before Indian courts

university officials denied any fatalities.

The protests escalated rapidly, with students damaging or setting fire to six to seven vehicles, including motorcycles, cars, and a university bus. Reports also indicated vandalism at the vice chancellor's residence.

Police from five Sehore district stations were deployed to the campus to restore order. A university official, speaking to TNIE on condition of anonymity, said, "There had been growing concern among students about suspected jaundice cases after Diwali. But no deaths have occurred on campus."

Senior police officials confirmed that a heavy force remains deployed in and around the campus as students leave, ensuring safety and monitoring the situation. Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari targeted the government over the matter.

In a post on X, he claimed, "Jaundice has spread widely in VIT, the state's premier educational institution. A large num-

Around 4,000 students protest over drinking water, food, and hygiene issues; varsity declares holidays till Nov 30 amid heavy police deployment.

ber of students are admitted to hospitals in Bhopal, Ashta, and Sehore. There are also reports of several children being seriously ill. This is a failure not only of the educational institution but also of the government and the system," he alleged.

If, despite charging hefty fees, the institution fails to provide children with basic amenities, clean water, and pure food, this should be considered a "crime", Patwari said.

"The BJP government wants to suppress the voices of children," the Congress leader alleged.

"Congress will fight for justice with the children. We will not let our future be wasted," he added.

by Indian and Chinese nationals, who originally arrived on study visas, while nine out of 10 British people emigrating are of working age," she said.

UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, who has tabled a series of tighter measures in Parliament this month in an attempt to bring down immigration figures, welcomed the latest data which she said showed that net migration was at its lowest level in half a decade and has 'fallen by more than two-thirds under this government'.

"But we are going further because the pace and scale of migration has placed immense pressure on local communities. Last week, I announced reforms to our migration system to ensure that those who come here must contribute and put in more than they take out," she said.

The Work Rights Centre charity cautioned that the fall in skilled worker visas to a three-year low was impacting British industries and services, eventually hitting economic growth figures in the longer term.

"This government's preoccupation with reducing immigration is actively working against economic growth," said Dr Dora Olivia Vicol, CEO of the Work Rights Centre.

"The government is prioritising a performative 'tough' stance on immigration, but in doing so, it is gambling with migrant welfare and directly undermining its own manifesto promises to build homes and boost industry," she said.

Indian students...

related visas is primarily being driven by the large numbers of Indian and Chinese nationals leaving in YE (year ending) June 2025," it notes.

Indians, meanwhile, continue to hold on to the top slot in terms of immigration into the UK with 90,000 logged under study visa grants and 46,000 for work purposes.

"Indian, Pakistani, Chinese and Nigerian are regularly among the top five most frequent non-EU+ nationalities for long-term immigration," the ONS added.

Reducing net migration, or the difference between the number of people arriving and leaving, has been among the British government's priorities due to pressures of soaring immigration figures on the economy in recent years.

"Net migration is at the lowest level seen since 2021, when pandemic lockdown restrictions were lifted and the new immigration system was introduced following the UK's EU exit," said the ONS.

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"Non-EU+ emigration is driven

IIT-Mandi invites applications for winter break courses on EVs, AI, and Optics

EJ - Mandi

The Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (IIT Mandi) has announced a new series of short-term, high-impact certificate courses scheduled for the winter semester break 2025. These on-campus programmes, offered by the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), will begin in the second week of December.

Designed for students, researchers, educators, and working professionals across India, the courses aim to enhance practical skills through hands-on training. Participants will gain exposure to advanced laboratories, receive mentorship from expert faculty, and work on real-world problem-solving tasks, ensuring an immersive and application-driven learning experience.

CCE will offer three specialised short-term programmes in emerging and industry-relevant areas:

This programme provides in-depth training in electric mobility, covering EV fundamentals, vehicle architecture, hybrid systems, battery technology, and live demonstrations.

An advanced course combining theoretical foundations with hands-on training in machine learning, neural networks, and contemporary deep learning architectures. Participants will work with modern analytical tools and real-world applications. A specialised course on state-of-the-art optical instrumentation, laser-based diagnostics, spectroscopy techniques, and their applications in scientific research.

Prof Laxmidhar Behera, Director of IIT Mandi, said the initiative aims to equip learners with the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving career landscape. "By engaging directly with electric vehicles, deep learning models, and advanced optical systems, learners

Disadvantages of...

lead to future concerns about "AI dominance" or "machine control."

Conclusion

AI is a powerful technology that can improve human life, but if not used responsibly, it can lead to serious problems such as social inequality, unemployment, privacy loss, and ethical crises. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize human values, ethics, and transparency in the development and application of AI.

Would you like me to prepare a balanced essay on "Advantages and Disadvantages of AI" in about 250–300 words?

Children's Career...

tions even surprised the parents. These moments marked the children's first explorations into their future professional paths.

The Outcome?

Introducing children to various professions at an early age strengthens their career awareness and opens a broader window of imagination for the future. Moreover, this process benefits students and reinforces the bond between school and family.

In short, when families share their professions in the classroom, they plant seeds of great hope in young hearts. Because at some point, every child begins to think:

"One day, I too will have a profession."

MBBS first-year...



hostel with two roommates — Aryan Kumar from Bijnor and Rajeev Sardar from Betul, Madhya Pradesh. On Saturday morning, both roommates left for class. After the class ended, when they returned, they found the room locked from inside. Despite knocking several times, there was no response. They then called the warden and security staff. When the door was broken open, Gopesh was found hanging.

Police arrived after receiving information, brought the body down, conducted a forensic examination of the room, and took his mobile phone and other belongings into custody.

ED raids...

ognition. Officials described the network as one involving public servants, intermediaries and college managements who allegedly worked in a coordinated manner to subvert the regulatory process. A source confirmed, "Currently, ED is conducting searches at 15 locations, including seven premises of the medical colleges located in multiple states and certain private persons named as accused in the First Information Report." The FIR originally listed 34 people, among them eight officials of the Union Health Ministry, one officer of the National Health Authority, and five doctors who were part of NMC inspection teams. Another list cited by sources expanded the accused to 36 individuals, including former

University Grants Commission chairman D P Singh, now Chancellor of Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. "Meena used a portion of these illicit gains to fund the construction of a Hanuman temple in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs 75 lakh," the FIR recorded.

Investigators also traced financial trails leading to southern states through an associate of Kumar, identified as B Hari Prasad of Kadiri in Andhra Pradesh.

The document stated that Prasad and his contacts, including Ankan Rambabu in Hyderabad and Krishna Kishore in Visakhapatnam, arranged dummy faculty and expedited clearances in exchange for fees. In one incident, Kishore allegedly received Rs 50 lakh from the director of Gayatri Medical College, after which funds were directed to Kumar.

The CBI had previously arrested eight suspects, including three doctors from the NMC assessment team. They were accused of collecting bribe money worth Rs 55 lakh to offer a favourable inspection report to a Chhattisgarh-based institution. In the same case, the role of intermediaries came under scrutiny, with officials alleging that ministry personnel photocopied confidential file notes, including remarks from senior authorities, and circulated them privately through mobile phones.

Among the institutions named in the case is Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SRSIMSR), Raipur. Investigators stated that the institute's head, Ravi Shankar Ji Maharaj, is among those booked. Also identified are Mayur Raval, registrar of Geetanjali University in Udaipur, and Suresh Singh Bhaduria, chairman of Index Medical College in Indore. The inquiry claims that payments to secure regulatory clearance were routed through a network of middlemen operating in northern and southern states.

The FIR further stated that Virendra Kumar of Gurgaon al-

Coaching centres...

ties. The panel will also seek details on the Education Ministry's "efforts" to create a Higher Education Council of India (HECI).

A bill to set up a higher education regulator, which will replace bodies such as the UGC, is listed for introduction in the Winter session of Parliament, set to commence on December 1.

The HECI which was proposed in the new National Education Policy, looks to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). While the UGC oversees non-technical higher education, the AICTE oversees technical education, and the NCTE is the regulatory body for teachers' education. The panel will also review study of Indological academic traditions and its impact on current education system.

Reviewing current practices and policies to popularise library access for school students and literate adults; Ministry of Education's efforts to promote education of linguistic and religious minorities; functioning of Central government funded and supported institutions of higher education and implementation of reservations for SC, ST, OBC, EWS communities in student and faculty positions in government funded and supported institutions of higher education, are also on the panel's agenda.

legedly received leaked inspection data and maintained links with Jitendra Lal Meena, then a whole-time member of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). Kumar is suspected of collecting bribes through hawala channels from college officials and delivering them to Meena. "Meena used a portion of these illicit gains to fund the construction of a Hanuman temple in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs 75 lakh," the FIR recorded.

Investigators also traced financial trails leading to southern states through an associate of Kumar, identified as B Hari Prasad of Kadiri in Andhra Pradesh. The document stated that Prasad and his contacts, including Ankan Rambabu in Hyderabad and Krishna Kishore in Visakhapatnam, arranged dummy faculty and expedited clearances in exchange for fees. In one incident, Kishore allegedly received Rs 50 lakh from the director of Gayatri Medical College, after which funds were directed to Kumar.

The CBI has described the alleged network as having roots inside the Union Health Ministry where officials facilitated illicit access and duplication of confidential files. The agency reported that advance disclosure of inspection schedules gave colleges an upper hand in preparing compliance displays that did not reflect actual conditions. It claimed that the process allowed institutions to "orchestrate elaborate deceptions" to influence the outcome of statutory inspections. With searches continuing across 15 locations and multiple individuals under investigation, both the ED and CBI are examining cash transfers, document trails, and communication exchanges to establish the full extent of alleged bribery and regulatory manipulation within medical education over sight. Officials stated that the inquiry involves widespread collusion between regulators, intermediaries and institutional heads, and that further action may follow based on the evidence recovered during Thursday's search operations.

China and Japan issue student safety alerts



EJ - Agency

China's Ministry of Education has warned of "social unrest" and rising crimes against Chinese nationals in Japan, while Japan has urged its citizens in China, especially students, to take extra precautions and said it is working to ensure the safety of its students, families and faculty members.

The diplomatic clash, one of the most serious in years within an already rocky decades-long relationship, follows Japanese PM Takaichi's message to lawmakers that any Chinese military action against Taiwan, which Beijing sees as a breakaway province, could be deemed a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, potentially triggering a military response.

While China has urged Takaichi to retract what it called her "brazenly provocative remarks concerning Taiwan", saying they had undermined the atmosphere for China-Japan exchanges, Japan's top government spokesperson said the comments did not "alter the government's existing position" and expressed hope that Taiwan-related issues would be resolved peacefully through dialogue.

With over 123,000 Chinese students in Japan as of May 2024 and more than 10,000 Japanese students studying in China through short-term and long-term programs, both countries are now expected to see a decline in enrolments.

"The resulting security situation and study environment are unfavorable, increasing the safety risks for Chinese citizens in Japan," read a statement from China's MoE.

"The Ministry of Education reminds those already in Japan or planning to study there to closely monitor the local security situation, strengthen risk assessments, and enhance their awareness of

prevention. Chinese citizens are advised to carefully plan their study abroad arrangements in Japan."

Similarly, Japan's education minister Yohei Matsumoto said at a news conference on Tuesday that he will soon issue a notice to reinforce efforts to safeguard Japanese children, students and exchange students in the neighbouring country.

According to Matsumoto, in light of past incidents in which Japanese school students were killed or injured in China – with two major cases making headlines last year – Japan "wants to avoid such a situation at all costs and ensure all possible measures are taken".

As per Japan Association of Overseas Studies (JAOS) data, of the 70,253 Japanese students who studied abroad through JAOS member agents in 2024, 815 went to China – over half for short-term language programs, about 15% for long-term language study, and the rest spending a year at Chinese universities through certified study abroad programs offered by Japanese universities.

While Tatsuhiko Hoshino, international relations officer, JAOS, stated that the association is not currently considering issuing any warnings or alerts, member agents are advising their students in China "to exercise caution regarding their words and actions".

"It is likely that such an announcement will lead to cases where Japanese universities cancel their study abroad programs to China," Hoshino told The PIE News.

"While individual study abroad arrangements are less susceptible to impact than those introduced by Japanese universities, an increase in students canceling their plans to study in China is anticipated if the relationship between the two countries further deteriorates in the future."

The country is also preparing to respond to the Chinese government's call for its students to re-

consider studying in Japan, a matter that will be discussed in line with the "overall government policy".

According to Anna Esaki-Smith, cofounder of Education Rethink, which advises global education institutions on internationalisation, most students would need more than rhetoric to change their decision to study in Japan or China, as finances and other ambitions play a major role. Still, the situation could lead to both countries "losing a lot on both sides".

"It's important to note that Japan currently hosts around 336,000 international students, which is a record-high for the country, and Chinese students make up around 40 percent of that total," stated Esaki-Smith, adding that if fewer Chinese students came, Japanese universities would need to expand English-language programs to attract students from elsewhere – a potentially significant challenge.

"Conversely, Chinese students would need to find affordable alternative destinations that provide high-quality engineering and STEM programs comparable to what Japan offers. There's a lot to be lost on both sides."

Beyond affecting people-to-people exchanges – with one airline analyst estimating that around 500,000 tickets to Japan have already been cancelled – the tensions have also hit cultural and trade ties, with China suspending the release of two Japanese anime films and banning all imports of Japanese seafood.

Though Tokyo has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, it maintains working-level relations and opposes any unilateral attempts to change the region's status quo, at a time when China has indicated it may eventually reclaim the 23-million-strong country – by force if necessary. China has warned that any Japanese intervention in its conflict with Taiwan would result in a "crushing defeat".

"Should the Japanese side fail to draw lessons from history and dare to take a risk, or even use force to interfere in the Taiwan question, it will only suffer a crushing defeat against the steel-willed People's Liberation Army and pay a heavy price," stated Chinese defence ministry spokesperson Jiang Bin, in a statement.

topped the tally of visa-holders leaving the United Kingdom as the country's latest net migration data revealed a significant drop of 204,000, down 80 percent from a peak in 2023.

Chinese nationals as the second highest in the UK's exit tally.

"Indian was the most common non-EU (European Union) nationality to emigrate (or leave) from the UK," the ONS states in its data release.

"The increase in long-term emigration of non-EU+ nationals who originally arrived on study-

residence in the year ending June 2025.

An additional 7,000 Indian nationals logged under the 'other' visa category also left the country, making up a total of 74,000 Indian emigrants followed by 42,000

Children's career journey begins from primary school



Children's future career choices are shaped not only during high school or university but also much earlier. A simple classroom presentation in primary school can ignite big dreams in young hearts.

Career Dreams Begin in Childhood

Many people associate career development with decisions made in adulthood. However, research shows that the foundations of occupational aspirations trace back to childhood. For primary school children, the strongest role models are their parents and close family members. Children value these models by observing professional roles at home and construct their career perceptions accordingly.

Parents' Contribution in the Classroom

In recent years, a growing practice has emerged in schools: "My Family's Profession" presentations. Students introduce the professions of their parents or close relatives to their classmates. In this way, children are exposed to real-life examples of professions beyond the theoretical knowledge found in textbooks.

These presentations do more than introduce different careers; they also foster students' communication skills, curiosity, and habits of inquiry.

"I Could Be That Too"

Seeing their family members present their professions in the classroom transforms children's perspectives:

Role model effect: Students adopt the mindset of "I could be that too."

Exposure to diverse careers: Each child gains awareness of career paths beyond their own family.

Motivation: Children begin to form aspirations for their future. Social awareness: By seeing how professions contribute to society, they develop a sense of social responsibility.

What Does Science Say?
Psychological literature supports this experience:

Bandura's Social Learning Theory: Emphasizes that children learn through observation.

Super's Career Development Theory: Defines the primary school period as the "fantasy stage."

Ginzberg's Model: Describes how children gradually transition from fantasy to more realistic career choices.

Notes from Classroom Practice
Teachers have also started to implement this method in their classrooms. For example, when some parents present their professions, children's engagement



Elif Banu Yetimoglu
Educationist
- Ankara Turkey

reaches surprisingly high levels. One student may be fascinated by an engineer parent's drawings, while another eagerly listens to a doctor's stories. Children's questions reveal they are beginning their first reflections on future career choices.

I, too, have tried this practice in my own classroom. At times, I invited parents to share lesser-known aspects of their professions. My students listened with such curiosity that their ques-

>> Contd. p.4..

Indian students, workers top UK's exit tally



EJ - Agency

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) data reveals that around 45,000 Indians on study visas and 22,000 professionals on work-related visas had left the UK as their country of

residence in the year ending June 2025.

An additional 7,000 Indian nationals logged under the 'other' visa category also left the country, making up a total of 74,000 Indian emigrants followed by 42,000

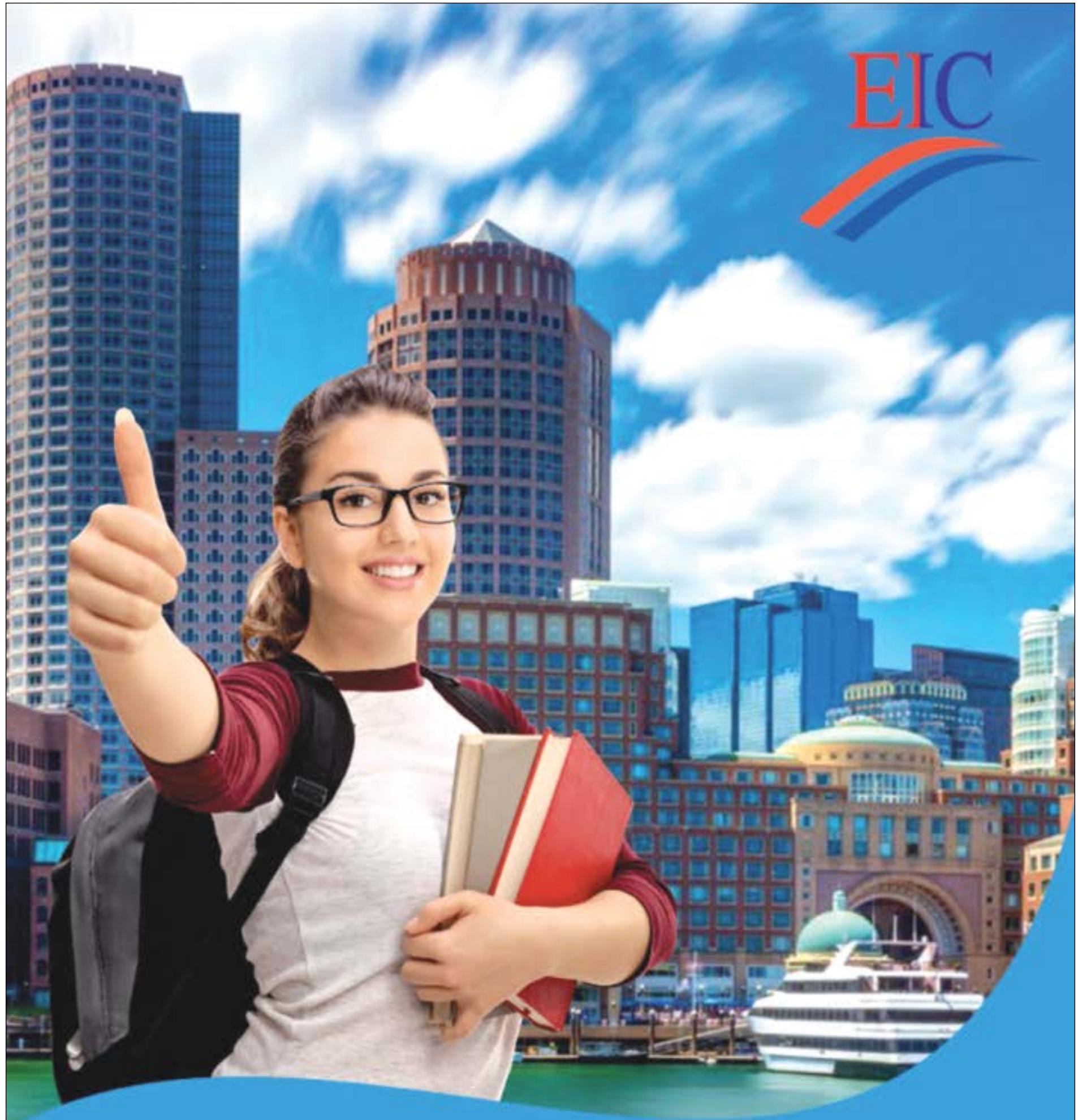


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