



International
Column'

Candidates cannot withdraw applications after submission, says UPSC

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Candidates of the Civil Services Examination will not be able to withdraw their applications after submission, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has said.

The UPSC had in 2018 announced a facility for the withdrawal of applications by candidates after it found that roughly 50 percent of the 10 lakh-plus candidates who fill in the application forms for the preliminary examination write the test.

"The candidates will not be allowed to withdraw their applications after submitting the same," said a recent notification issued by the UPSC.

The Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2023 will be held on May 28.

The prestigious examination is conducted annually in three stages – preliminary, main, and interview – to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Ser-



vice, and Indian Police Service, among others.

According to the notification, the number of vacancies to be filled through the examination is expected to be approximately 1,105 which include 37 vacancies reserved for persons with benchmark disability category, i.e. seven vacancies for candidates of blindness and low vision; five for deaf and hard of

hearing and 15 for locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy, among others.

The final number of vacancies may change after getting a firm number of vacancies from cadre controlling authorities, it said.

The UPSC had announced to fill 861 vacant posts through Civil Services Examination

2022. It will also be conducting recruitment for the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) through the Civil Services Examination 2023.

Candidates can apply for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination online through the website www.upsconline.nic.in. The online applications can be filled up to February 21, 2023, till 6 pm.

"The Commission has also decided to extend the facility of correcting (s) in any field(s) of the application form for this examination from the next day of the closure of the application window of this examination. This window will remain open for seven days from the date of opening of the same, i.e., from 22.02.2023 to 28.02.2023," it said.

Government strives to have a workforce that reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply, the notification said.

NEET-PG Exam will be held on Mar 5

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The NEET-PG examination will be conducted as per schedule on March 5 for those aspiring to get admission to postgraduate medical courses, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Lok Sabha.

To ensure that no one is left out, the ministry has extended the cut-off date for all those MBBS students who are yet to complete their internship, he said while replying to a question by Congress member Gaurav Gogoi.

Raising the issue in Lok Sabha during the Question Hour, Gogoi sought to know from Mandaviya his ministry's stand on the students' demand for postponement of the NEET-PG 2023 examination for a few months.

"On March 5, the examination has to be conducted and this was declared five months ago. Those students, who had to appear for it (entrance test), are already preparing," the minister said in his response.

"Earlier examinations were delayed by seven-eight months and later by four months. If I keep delaying, such a situation will come....," he said, adding, "It is very necessary to fix it".

The minister said it is essen-

EXCLUSIVE
Address

India has always been rich in its cultural heritage and has produced numerous geniuses who have left a lasting impact on the world. From Aryabhata, the ancient astronomer and mathematician, to S. Ramanujan, the self-taught mathematical genius, and S. Chandrasekhar, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist, India has a long history of producing brilliant minds. **Education Jagat's** vision is to continue this legacy by identifying and nurturing the next generation of talented individuals.

My sincere hope is that this vision will come to fruition and that many more students will be inspired to pursue their passions in both the arts and sciences.

As **Education Jagat** embarks on their 8th year of publication, I wish them all the best in its journey. I hope that your publication encourages students to explore new subjects, even if they may seem unrelated to their current field of study. By combining intellectual cultures, you will gain a unique perspective and gain valuable insights that will serve you well in the future.



Bulent Atalay
Educationist
Fredericksburg - Virginia

tial to conduct the entrance test timely. Mandaviya said his ministry has already extended the cut-off date for those who are yet to complete their internship.

"I have extended the cut-off date so that all students get a chance to appear for the NEET-PG exam, clear it and take admission in PG (postgraduate medical courses)," he said.



Maia Japoshvili-Ghvinashvili
Educationist
Georgia

I am Maia Japoshvili-Ghvinashvili from Georgia, Tbilisi. I am a certified Mentor and a Career Counsellor.

I am an English teacher/tutor. I started my career as a teacher when I was still a university student. As soon as I interacted with the pupils, I realized this was my real profession. Since then I have been teaching students and together we have achieved a lot of success. My students always enroll in universities with the highest grades and have a state grant.

My goal as an English teacher is to convince young people how important it is to know English in today's reality. This is a prerequisite for their successful steps. I am aware of my responsibility to the next generation.

I always look for something new to share with my students and help them correctly define their duties and responsibilities.

My goal is to contribute to quality education.

>> Contd. p.2..

Neet aspirant jumps off the sixth floor

Kota: There are frequent deaths of students in the previous accident Ishanshu Bhattacharya (20), a NEET coaching student, died after falling from the sixth floor of a hostel in the Jawahar Nagar area on February 11. He had fallen from the balcony deteriorating after sitting on the open window of the balcony with three of his friends at 3.10 pm. This is the second case of suicide in the landmark city in the last 30 days. Earlier on January 29, a student committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan at Friend Residency Hostel in Landmark City. Earlier in January, a coaching student had attempted suicide in Kota's Vignyan Nagar.



Problems in modern education and ways to solve them

An educated society is the strength of any country because human resources are the main determinant of the country's development. Education is a multifaceted topic that has no alternative. It is essential in the process of human socialization. The main way of getting an education is through educational institutions. School gives a child the skills that no other social institution can provide because a child's place in society has already been determined from the school desk. "Education is the key to unlocking the golden door of freedom" (George Washington Carver). Therefore, it must be accessible to everyone, regardless of social status. Based on the example of my country, everyone, in Georgia has the right to receive an education. Even more, primary (includes 6 years) and basic (includes 3 years) education are compulsory. Georgia also provides education for students with special needs.

Nowadays, public schools face different challenges. I will speak about some of the existing problems and my visions of their solutions.

Overcrowded classrooms

Overcrowded classrooms are caused by population growth, especially in big cities. This problem is in my country, too. The number of pupils exceeds 30-35, sometimes even more. This causes serious problems in the teaching process. In many cases, it is not easy for teachers to manage classes of this number of students, because

disciplinary violations and academic backwardness are frequent. This kind of problem does not exist in private schools in Georgia, but when we talk about access to education for everyone, this problem must be arranged. The construction of new schools is a long process and I only see the solution in the

who need it.

- The teacher should work out the rules of behavior in the classroom together with the students. The environment must be friendly.

- Students with exemplary behavior should be praised in front of the class. In case of a remark, the teacher should talk to the student individually.

In my opinion, these methods

experienced by a child in childhood can follow him for the rest of his life. It will certainly hurt his/her future. What should be done?

- Even in this case, the teacher's role is extremely important. They should teach the child how to set goals and strive to achieve them, instill hope for the future, relieve stress, and



proper planning of the lesson.

Recommendations:

- The teacher should create an interesting program for the students. Each of the students should be busy during the lesson. In the technology era, education integrates modern technology. This method has facilitated and created new teaching and learning possibilities. It allows the teacher to include all students in the lesson process and if necessary to work individually with those students

will significantly improve the teaching and disciplinary process.

The impact of poverty on education

Social well-being affects the full development of children. Poverty affects a child's emotional and physical development. Poor children not only have problems with education but also with health because they do not have adequate nutrition. A child, living in poverty has a harder time getting an education and socializing because constant stress interferes with brain development. Stress



Maia Japoshvili-Ghvinashvili
Educationist
Georgia

will no longer have to choose whether to send their children to school or make them work.

Less interest in the book

The development of modern technologies has caused less interest in reading not only among children but also among adults. Computer technology has made everyone's life easier. It is simpler for students to search for any facts or information than it was during their parents' time. Teenagers and even primary school children do not like reading, because reading books requires effort and a child always tries to find an easy way to get information. Without reading the level of general education will not be raised, which is a constituent part of quality education because reading helps a person to develop critical thinking. This issue can be resolved jointly in families and educational institutions.

Advice to parents:

- The child should get used to

the relationship with the book as early as possible. Don't let the computer enter his/her life before the book.

- A parent ought to choose a beautifully illustrated book for a child at a young age. At home, readers should always be placed in an accessible place for a child so that he can use them if he is interested. This will form a child's interest in books.

Recommendations for schools:

- The teacher should constantly instruct the pupils to read a short story or a literary work and then present it as a presentation. This will help them develop their reading skills, improve their speech, express emotions, and accurately convey information.

- Libraries should be modernized so that students will have the opportunity to find the desired literature.

I believe these steps will spark students' interest in the books because even a small encouraging action can positively affect a child. I had such a case in my practice, I gave each of my pupils adopted reading literature as a gift. After several days all of them gave books to each other.

Nowadays, we are all worried about the problems in contemporary education. We know that taking care of the future means taking care of quality education. Whatever progress mankind has made is because of knowledge. So we must contribute in our ways to provide quality education. 'Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace' – Confucius.

Shortly, the fate of the future lies in education.

Patience wins in an impatient world!

(There should be higher motivations for outdoor games. Play is an important source of relaxation and it can make our younger generations more creative and productive)

Students must stay optimistic about their future. Maintaining confidence for them takes work because it can be damaged anytime. But they need to work hard to improve their self-confidence if they want to be the leaders everyone looks up to. With confidence, they will be able to achieve flow and a magical feeling and achieve their goals quickly.

Students do need to remember there is a need to be conscientious as it is often linked to success and productivity. They must be consistent and punctual, more organized, and thoughtful of others. Moreover, students should never think that they are too small to contribute. What matters is the contribution, be it a small or a big one. There are immense benefits to volunteering. It creates social gain, which leads to more interaction, engagement, and trust, significantly impacting a person's mental health.

Our younger generations must highly develop the skill of patience. Keeping patience occasionally, frequently, or inappropriately can harm our reputation and relationships. It can even increase stress or escalate a difficult situation. One must challenge their negative assumptions instead of letting

impatience build. Students must aim to reframe the circumstances in a more positive light. It is a challenging skill to master, but patience is a virtue. We must keep in mind that patience wins in an impatient world.

Meditation can also help us effectively and it can improve moods and reduce the stress. It can also lessen anxiety even increase the decision making abilities and self-control. Meditation can



Dr. Shahid Amin Trali
ITM University
Gwalior - INDIA



also help students perform better academically and can be incredibly beneficial in many aspects of children's lives.

We cannot challenge the benefits of technology, but its usage beyond limits can also lead us toward a disaster. Technology affects our children's growth and

development when its use is not limited. Some severe issues witnessed now are communication, unresponsiveness, behavioral problems, addiction, sleep disturbances, eye problems, etc. There should be higher motivations for outdoor games. Play is an essential source of relaxation and can make our younger generations more creative and productive.

NEET UG 2023: Tips and Tricks

Preparing for any competitive examination relies upon the discipline shown by the candidate. With a good strategy along with the right guidance, any applicant willing to go the extra mile can ace NEET 2023. Exam Pattern of NEET 2023

The test will be conducted offline in pen and paper mode with the exam duration being 3 hours and 20 minutes. A total of 200 questions will be provided to the candidates, out of which they will have to attempt 180 with the total achieving marks being 720.

The paper will be divided into three subjects- Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (Botany and Zoology). Candidates will gain 4 marks for each correct answer while 1 negative marking for each incorrect answer. The physics and chemistry sections will have a total of 50 questions whereas the biology section will have a total of 100 questions.

Physics

Physical world and measurement, Electro statistics, Kinematics, Current electricity, Magnetic effects of current and magnetism, Work, energy, and power, Motion of systems of particles and rigid body, Laws of Motion, Electromagnetic waves, Optics, Electromagnetic induction, and alternating currents, Properties of bulk matter, Dual nature of matter and radiation, Gravitation, Thermodynamics, Atoms and nuclei, Electronic devices, Oscillations and wave, and Behavior of perfect gas and kinetic theory

Chemistry

Some basic concepts of chemistry, Solid state, Structure of atoms, Solutions, Electro-

chemistry, Chemical kinetics, States of the matter: Gases and liquids, Classification of elements and periodicity in properties, Thermodynamics, Surface chemistry, General principles and processes of isolation of elements, Equilibrium, P-block elements, Redox reactions, Chemical bonding, and molecular structure, D- and f-block elements, Hydrogen, Coordination compounds, S-block elements (Alkali and Alkaline earth metals), Alcohols, Some p-Block elements, phenols, and ethers, Organic chemistry – Some basic principles and techniques, Haloalkanes and haloarenes, Aldehydes, ketones and carboxylic acids, Hydrocarbons, Environmental chemistry, Biomolecules, polymers, and chemistry in everyday life, Organic compounds containing nitrogen

Biology

Diversity in the living world, Genetics and Evolution, Cell structure and function, Reproduction, Biology and human welfare, Structural organization – Plants and animals, Plant Physiology, Human physiology, Ecology and Environment, Biotechnology and its applications

Preparation Tips

- Preparing a timetable- As 3 months are remaining for the examination, candidates need to prepare a timetable by dividing time equally for all subjects (or as they see best). The timetable will help keep the speed of the student on track and will help them complete the preparation on time.

- Understanding the syllabus and mastering NCERT Books- As the questions in NEET

2023 are majorly based upon NCERT, students need to master the NCERT books while understanding the fundamentals behind every topic.

- Conceptual clarity is key- For aching the medical exam, the candidates need to keep clearing their doubts and understand the topics with clarity. Referring to other study materials can be beneficial for students.

- Test yourself with Mock papers- Mock exams are game-changers in any difficult entrance exam. Taking them will help the candidate evaluate oneself while finding the weaknesses where they need to focus.

- Expert guidance- Students need to seek expert guidance to clear their doubts and problems to move on with their preparation.

- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle will lead to better brain functioning- Doctors say that the human brain has the best functioning in the morning which is why candidates need to give their brains enough time to relax. By encouraging themselves to study early in the morning rather than late at night, candidates will be able to maximize their brain functioning.

The correct strategy and effective time management are important in determining an aspirant's rank. This time is best for aspirants to master their preparation and time-management skills. Learning how to maintain accuracy and quality when responding to a single question while identifying and addressing weak areas is also essential.

Ravi Arya
Career Consultant
New Delhi

IIT Madras Prof. RI Sujith from India elected as an International Member of US National Academy of Engg

■ EJ - Chennai

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) faculty Professor R. I. Sujith has been elected as an International Member of the United States National Academy of Engineering (NAE). He was elected in recognition of his contributions to engineering “for applications of dynamical systems theory to the understanding and control of instabilities in engineering systems.” He is one of the 18 international members newly elected. Prof. Sujith is currently the D. Srinivasan Chair Professor at the department of aerospace engineering, IIT Madras, and the head of the center of



excellence for studying critical transitions in complex systems. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant

contributions to the engineering literature” and to “the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.”

Prof. RI Sujith is the second Indian to be elected to the Aerospace Section of the National Academy of Engineering after Dr. B. N Suresh, the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, ISRO, from 2003-07. He also became the second IIT Madras professor who is elected to the National Academy of Engineering, after Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala.

Dy CM meets students who scored 98+ percentile in JEE

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Forty-five students from Delhi government schools have secured above 98 percentile in JEE mains, of which two have secured 99.98 percentile. Last year, 496 students from Delhi government schools qualified for JEE mains and of them, 74 cleared the advanced round.

According to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, there is no shortage of potential among kids attending government schools in Delhi. If given a chance, these students can put in the necessary effort to pass tests like the JEE.

Interacting with the government school students who qualified for JEE main, Sisodia said that students’ and teachers’ hard work and facilities like upgraded libraries,



free coaching classes, and reading rooms have contributed to this success.

“Our students come from varied socio-economic backgrounds and have seen the toughest times in their lives, but still they are determined to

achieve their goals,” he said, addressing the students.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that not just students, but the hard work of their parents, teachers, and the entire team of Delhi education had contributed a lot to their feat.

150 Students from Bihar’s Gaya clear JEE Mains, City emerges as an education hub

■ EJ News - Patna

At least 150 students from Gaya, a city in Bihar, have performed exceptionally well and cleared the JEE-Mains 2023 conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) recently. There are many coaching institutes in Gaya, where students prepare for medical and engineering exams on the lines of Kota and Patna.

Now there are better education facilities available to the students and IIT teachers come to teach in Gaya. As per the declared result, 117 students of Dronacharya Sansthan and 40 students of Manipur Patwatoli have cleared the first stage of JEE Mains exam.

Gaya is slowly becoming the center of education in Bihar, where most students used to go to Patna to stud earlier. The best



part is that the students get the highest education standards while staying in Gaya. Not only from this city, but students from other districts are also relocating here for educational purposes.

People enrolled in Gaya from other districts acknowledge that the quality of education in the city is good. Not only the facilities for a student but the

study environment is also being appreciated a lot. Students are getting quality counseling and mentorship.

Some are coming to Gaya for exam preparation because of the test series and study material provided by the institutes. Out of 170 students who appeared for JEE-Mains 2023 at a private coaching institute, 117 cleared the exam.

695 varsities, 34,734 colleges yet to receive NAAC accreditation: Ministry data

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The Ministry of Education informed Parliament that only 418 universities and 9,062 colleges across the country had received accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

As per the All India Survey on Higher Education Report 2020-21 published on January 31, there are 1,113 universities and 43,796 colleges across the country. A

total of 695 universities and 34,734 colleges are yet to receive NAAC accreditation.

In response to questions raised by BJP MPs, Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar said that the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) envisions all higher educational institutions (HEIs) to aim to attain the highest level of accreditation over the next 15 years. In India, universities and colleges are accredited

by NAAC, an inter-university center of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The UGC said that to bring all educational institutions under the accreditation system, NAAC has considerably reduced the fee structure for assessment and accreditation. The metrics or questions in the manual for self-study reports for affiliated or constituent colleges have also been significantly reduced.

KIET on Its Way to Celebrate and Promote Cyber Peace

■ EJ - Ghaziabad

KIET Group of Institutions recently celebrated the foundation day of one of its Centre of Excellence, i.e. Cyber Peace Centre, in the presence of Sh. P.N. Dohare (Senior General Manager) and Mr. Abhishek Gupta, (SDE(EB)) from ALTTC Ghaziabad.

The event began with the welcome address by the Director of the institute, Dr. A Garg, who focused on the need for a cyber-trained skilled workforce and the scope of Industry in this domain.

During the event, the Cyber Peace Centre launched its website and Cyber Helpline Number to help the KIETians in case of cyber-related threats and fraud. Staff and Students were felicitated during the event, based on their outstanding contribution to the CoE. The COE also signed an MOU with Network Bulls, Gurugram for collaboration in the domain with the institute. Earlier during the day, a workshop on ‘Networking and



current cyber security trends’ Pramod Singh from Network Bulls was also conducted by Mr. Bulls for the CPC students.



Scholarship: LSCL Horticulture Internship 2023

Description: LSCL Horticulture Internship 2023 is an opportunity offered by Ludhiana Smart City Limited via the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) internship portal to B.Sc. degree holders.

Eligibility: Open for B.Sc. degree holders who are specialized in Horticulture with relevant skills and interests. The internship will be available for a duration of 12 months.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 12,000 per month

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Feb. 28, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/LHSI3

Scholarship: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Program 2022

Description: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Program 2022 aims to provide financial support to meritorious and underprivileged girl students pursuing graduation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects from government colleges/universities.

Eligibility: Girl students from Haryana who have passed Class 12 and are currently pursuing graduation (any year) in STEM-related subjects from government universities/colleges are eligible. The annual family income of the applicants must be less than INR 6 lakh from all sources. Applicants must have scored an aggregate of 60% marks or above in Class 12 (or equivalent) examination. Students studying in the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of STEM courses must score at least 60% in the previous class/semester.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000

Application: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Program 2022

Last Date to Apply: Feb.28, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/ONSS1

Scholarship: DBS Scholarship Program

Description: DBS Bank invites applications from students who are currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10 to support them in continuing their education. The scholarship is meant for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector and below ranks).

Eligibility: Open for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector & below ranks) residing in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, or Puducherry. Applicants must be currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 20,000 per year (for up to 3 years)

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Feb. 20, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/DBSDS11

Scholarship: Orange Tulip Scholarship India 2023-24

Description: Orange Tulip Scholarship India 2022-23 is an opportunity offered by Nuffic’s Netherlands Education Support Office (NESO), India and Tilburg University to post-graduate applicants. The Orange Tulip Scholarship Program (OTS) gives talented students in India the opportunity to study in the Netherlands with a partial tuition fee waiver.

Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens who hold a degree from a non-Dutch university with excellent study results in a bachelor’s (or master’s) degree program. The applicants must be undergoing the admission process or be already admitted to a one-year master’s program at Tilburg University. The applicants must have not previously studied or worked in the Netherlands.

Prizes & Rewards: A tuition fee of € 4,450

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: April 1, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/OTSU7

courtesy - buddy4study.com



AICTE set to ease norms to boost admissions in core engineering courses

■ EJ - New Delhi

To increase admissions in core engineering courses, including civil, mechanical, and electronics, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) will now allow students pursuing these programs flexibility to also pursue a minor degree in any emerging area, council chairperson TG Sitharam said.

"India cannot become the visual guru or a global leader in technology without core engineering courses. Therefore, we have come up with some schemes this time," he said on Friday during a virtual interaction with stakeholders before finalizing the approval process for the 2023-24 academic session.

"We want to provide greater flexibility to students by throwing open all minor courses for all engineering disciplines so that a civil engineering student can minor in information and technology and become job-ready," Sitharam said. "Otherwise, what is happening today, even including in IITs, all these people are trying in the industry for the emerging areas. Instead of that, we thought they could earn 18 to 20 credits by pursuing a minor degree in emerging areas while pursuing their program."

The minor degree concept was introduced by the regulator of technical education in 2020-21 to make students ready to work in the industry. However, not all



minor courses are open for core engineering students.

The new rules will be reflected in the AICTE's approval process handbook which is likely to be released by the end of this month.

There have been concerns that the popularity of core engineering courses has been decreasing in the past few years. The AICTE in the past had asked all affiliated engineering colleges to promote these courses by interacting with industry experts, introducing compulsory internships, and providing hands-on experience.

The council will also hold discussions with industry experts regarding the changes, the AICTE chairperson said.

"Every year, the percentage of admissions in core engineer-

ing branches was going down. But last year, the graph moved upward. We will soon put the data in the public domain," AICTE member secretary Rajive Kumar said. "This year, we are going to give more emphasis on minor degrees while giving approvals. We request colleges to start minors to allow students to pursue one or two minors in their fields of interest and become more employable."

The council will also allow teachers of core engineering courses to take a 10-credit online course on emerging areas for the upcoming academic session and get certified. "This will allow these teachers to teach these minor courses in emerging areas within their department rather than depending on new faculty," Sitharam said.

Puducherry: 99.3 percentile NEET scorer in legal trouble over nativity claim

■ EJ - Puducherry

A legal dispute over a 21-year-old medical student's claim of the nativity at the esteemed JIPMER in Puducherry has sparked a larger discussion and called for adequate observation of admission standards.

Najih Khalid scored 99.30 percentile in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) last year and bagged admission to the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) under the residency quota, but his entry was challenged soon after.

Another medical student, 18-year-old Saminathan S, alleged that Khalid had claimed nativity in Puducherry and Kerala and moved the Madras High Court in November last year seeking cancellation of his admission.

Khalid has denied any wrongdoing on his part.

According to admission norms, a student cannot claim nativity in more than one state in an academic year while applying for admission to medical colleges.

But many students take advantage of varying nativity norms in different states and apply for admission in multiple states to "grab the best opportunity", claimed an organization fighting for the cause of students of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

"This nativity duplicity is frequent in many other states, particularly in border areas... Students should be aware that it can lead to a disaster in their ca-

reer," said M Narayanasamy, the president of the Puducherry UT All CENTAC Students Parents Association.

Petitioner Swaminathan, who secured a seat in the Karaikal campus of JIPMER, which is considered secondary to the Puducherry center, demanded that



Khalid's admission be canceled because he misled the authorities by filing a false affidavit.

Swaminathan also demanded his transfer to the Puducherry campus to the seat currently occupied by Khalid.

The high court has issued notices to the Director of Medical Education (DME) of Puducherry, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Khalid, and other parties concerned.

Though Khalid denied any wrongdoing, the report submitted by the DME confirmed that he had claimed nativity in Kerala as well in the 2022-23 academic session.

The high court then asked the DME of Puducherry to give its opinion. On January 24, 2023, during the hearing, the DME said the seats of the two students should be interchanged. The court expressed its anger and asked the lawyer appearing for

the DME to file an affidavit.

On February 6, the DME in an affidavit told the court that the Union Health Ministry is empowered to take action in this case and it had been informed of the matter.

DGHS, in its affidavit, said the last date for admission was

December 21. "It is therefore prayed that this honorable court may be pleased to pass any order to fit in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice," it said in the affidavit.

The court has reserved its judgment.

Swaminathan's advocate M Ravi argued that the authorities concerned took action against two candidates from a state government-run college and a private medical college for similar violations, but kept quiet about Khalid's case in JIPMER, which is run by the central government.

"The norm has to be respected and a message should go to all medical aspirants that they should not mislead the authorities about their nativity, or else they will spoil their career," Ravi said.

He added, "Dual nativity or residency has been a contentious issue in medical admissions since states have a percentage of share in seat allocation for local students in central government-run institutions." Due to different residency norms in different states, many candidates get eligible for nativity in more than one state.

Indian-American student named as 'world's brightest' for a consecutive second year

■ EJ - Washington

Indian-American schoolgirl Natasha Perianayagam was named in the "world's brightest" students list for the second consecutive year by the US-based Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth, based on the results of above-grade-level tests of over 15,000 students across 76 countries.

Perianayagam, 13, is a student at Florence M Gaudineer Middle School, in New Jersey.

She also took the Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth (CTY) test in the Spring of 2021, when she was a Grade 5 student.

Her results in the verbal and quantitative sections leveled with the 90th percentile of advanced Grade 8 performance, which catapulted her into the honors list that year.

This year, she was honored for

her exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, School and College Ability Test, or similar assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search, the university said.

Perianayagam, whose parents hail from Chennai, said she loves doodling and reading JRR Tolkien's novels in her spare time.

CTY used above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students worldwide and provide a clear picture of their academic abilities.

According to the university release, Perianayagam was among the 15,300 students from 76 countries who joined CTY in the 2021-22 Talent Search year.

Less than 27 percent of those participants qualified for the

CTY ceremony, receiving either high or grand honors based on their test scores.

In her latest attempt, Perianayagam scored the highest grades among all candidates.

"This is not just recognition of our student's success on one test, but a salute to their love of discovery and learning, and all the knowledge they have accumulated in their young lives so far," said CTY's executive director Dr. Amy Shelton.

"It is exciting to think about how they will use that potential to discover their passions, engage in rewarding and enriching experiences, and achieve remarkable things -- in their communities and the world," she added.



We will make schools in Delhi and Punjab the best in the world, says CM

■ EJ - New Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said education is "a priority" for the AAP-led dispensations. Work will be done to make government schools in both Delhi and Punjab the "best in the world".

AAP is the ruling party in Delhi and Punjab. Kejriwal was addressing a gathering of principals at an event here in the presence of his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann.

Mann said that teachers in Punjab will not be engaged in anything other than teaching.

In his address, Kejriwal said, "Improving and fixing the education system in Delhi since we took charge here was very difficult."

Infrastructure was given a push earlier and then the AAP government focused on training teachers and principals, the party supremo said.

He said that until teachers and principals are motivated, the impact will not be visible.

"If the government wants, they can give the best schools and education, but intentions and



priorities matter. And, education is our priority. We took seven years in Delhi, but it will take less time in Punjab," he said.

"We will make government schools in Delhi and Punjab the best in the world," Kejriwal said. Punjab will also experiment and Delhi will learn from it, the AAP chief said.

A group of principals from Punjab government schools who underwent professional training in Singapore from February 6 to 10, shared their experiences during the event.

Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains was present on occasion.

At the event, Manish Sisodia, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister who also holds the education portfolio, said this is perhaps the first time that chief ministers and education ministers of both Punjab and Delhi have come together along with principals from both sides to have such a feedback session.

Punjab Chief Minister Mann on February 4 flagged off the first batch of 36 state government school principals to participate in a professional teacher training seminar in Singapore.

Without naming anyone, Mann said some leaders have never appeared in any examination but give advice on exams.

Parents' association writes to Delhi CM over schools withholding Board Admit Card for fee arrear

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Delhi Parents' Association (DPA) has written a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena requesting legal action against schools that halted the board exam admit card for students over fee dues.

The letter has also been addressed to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the National Human Rights Commission, and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The DPA also asked to hand over the admit card to the stu-



dents "immediately".

"Schools are withholding admit cards of children who are slated to appear for the board exam, citing fee arrears. School children are being threatened not to be allowed to appear in the examination, while most of the schools are demanding wrong fees," the

DPA wrote in its letter.

The parents' association alleged that several schools have ignored the order of the courts on fees, putting the "future of the students at stake".

"The lives and future of the students are at stake. Several schools have ignored court orders on fees," the DPA alleged.

Afghan universities reopen with a trickle of women attending

■ EJ - Agency

Some public universities reopened in Afghanistan Wednesday for the first time since the Taliban seized power in August, with a trickle of women attending classes that officials said would be segregated by sex.

Most secondary schools for girls and all public universities were shuttered when the hard-line Islamist group stormed back to power, sparking fears women would again be barred from education -- as happened during the Taliban's first rule, from 1996-2001.

"It's a moment of joy for us that our classes have started," said Zarlashita Haqmal, who studies law and political science at Nangarhar University. "But we are still worried that the Taliban might stop them," she said.

Officials said universities in Laghman, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Nimroz, Farah, and Helmand provinces opened.

More were scheduled to resume operations elsewhere in the country later this month.

Taliban fighters guarded the entrance, a tripod-mounted



machine gun resting on a boom gate.

One employee said classes would be segregated, with women taught in the mornings and men in the afternoon.

The Taliban have said they have no objection to education for women, but want classes to be segregated and the curriculum based on Islamic principles.

Reopening of some universities comes a week after a Taliban delegation held talks with Western officials in Norway, where they pressed on improving women's rights to unlock billions of dollars in seized assets and frozen

foreign aid.

The halting of aid has triggered a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which has already been devastated by decades of war.

No country has yet recognized the new Taliban regime, which has promised a softer version of the harsh rule that characterized their first stint in power.

The regime has imposed several restrictions on women that have banned them from many government jobs.

The Taliban say all girls' schools will reopen by the end of March.

UK Universities offer Afghan women free courses after the Taliban bans women from learning

■ EJ - Agency

Some of the UK's top universities offer Afghan women free learning. The universities have committed to women and girls in Afghanistan after the Taliban banned them from learning in universities and higher education institutions in Afghanistan. The latest move against women's rights after the regime change in 2021.

Twenty institutions have teamed up with Future Learn to offer 1200 courses that can be accessed online.

Future Learn was set up by The Open University in 2012 as an online learning platform, offering courses from many of the world's top universities. They will provide free learning to Afghan women for as long as they are banned from learning in Afghanistan.

Jo Johnson, the chairman of Future Learn described this as a lifeline to the women in Afghanistan.

"For girls and women who can access the internet and afford the time, this could be a lifeline," he said.



"While this is of course no silver bullet — poor connectivity, poverty, and language barriers mean many women may not be able to access the material — it can nonetheless play a valuable part in enabling women in Afghanistan to assert their inalienable human right to education." Whilst women in Afghanistan face increased oppression, many world leaders have come forward to condemn this move, with even countries like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia asking for the Taliban to

reverse the decision.

A joint statement was recently released from nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the US, who collaboratively said: "A stable, economically viable, and peaceful Afghanistan is only attainable and sustainable if all Afghans, including women and girls, can fully, equally, and meaningfully participate in and contribute to the country's future and development."

Japanese universities rush to set up data science departments

■ EJ - Agency

At least 17 Japanese universities are going to launch data science departments in the academic year starting in April to train some 1,900 students in skills needed to drive digitization in businesses and government, Nikkei has learned.

The efforts come as Japan struggles to deal with a severe shortage of talent in this area -- a lack of up to 790,000 by 2030, based on government estimates in 2019 -- at a time when data analysis has been identified as being crucial to business success.

The education ministry has confirmed that 17 universities will open departments dedicated to data science and information technology from April when the academic year begins.

The new departments will admit up to some 1,900 students a year, adding to the total of around 21,600 that take up data science at 137 other universities annually.

One of the universities launching a data science department is Tokyo's Hitotsubashi University, the first time it is opening a new faculty since 1951.



Its department of social data science will include experts in artificial intelligence and train students in applying data science to social science issues.

Hitotsubashi and other universities have been inspired by the success of Shiga University, also a public university, whose data science department has offered courses to train students in statistics, data analysis, programming, and AI. The department was established in April 2017.

The ministry of education is encouraging university departments, including those in humanities, to provide students

with training programs in data science. The graduates hope to acquire the skills necessary to lead companies' digitization drives.

Data science is aimed at gaining insight from data by applying statistics and programming to data analysis.

Data science skills are becoming increasingly important in decision-making for both businesses and policymakers, as they can take advantage of the huge volumes of data that are now easily collected thanks to the development of information technology.

UN experts alarmed by separation of 1 million Tibetan children from families and forced assimilation at residential schools

■ EJ - Agency

Around a million children of the Tibetan minority were being affected by Chinese government policies aimed at assimilating Tibetan people culturally, religiously, and linguistically through a residential school system, UN experts* warned today.

"We are very disturbed that in recent years the residential school system for Tibetan children appears to act as a mandatory large-scale program intended to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture, contrary to international human rights standards," the experts said.

In residential schools, the educational content and environment are built around the majority Han culture, with textbook content reflecting almost solely the lived experi-

ence of Han students. Children of the Tibetan minority are forced to complete a 'compulsory education' curriculum in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua) without access to traditional or culturally relevant learning. The Putonghua language governmental schools do not provide a substantive study of the Tibetan minority's language, history, and culture.

"As a result, Tibetan children are losing their facility with their native language and the ability to communicate easily with their parents and grandparents in the Tibetan language, which contributes to their assimilation and erosion of their identity," they added.

Another concerning fact is a substantial increase in the number of residential schools oper-

ating in and outside the Tibet Autonomous Region and the number of Tibetan children living in them. Though residential schools exist in other parts of China, their share in areas with Tibetan minority populations is much higher. Experts said that this is achieved by closing rural schools in the regions that tend to be populated by Tibetans.

"Many residential schools are situated far from the family homes of students boarding in them. We are alarmed by what appears to be a policy of forced assimilation of the Tibetan identity into the dominant Han-Chinese majority, through a series of oppressive actions against Tibetan educational, religious, and linguistic institutions," the experts continued.

Around 7.5 lakh students' moved abroad to pursue education: Govt.

■ EJ - New Delhi

As many as 7.5 lakh students moved abroad to pursue education, the union ministry told Lok Sabha. Responding to questions from JDU MPs Lalan Singh, Dinesh Chandra Yadav and Santosh Kumar, minister of education Subhas Sarkar said that in the year 2022, 7,50,365 students went abroad.

This marks an increase of 69 percent from 2021 when 4,44,553 students went abroad. Before this, the highest number of students going abroad was recorded in 2019, before the pandemic, when 5,86,337 went abroad. In December last year, the government told Parliament that 6.5 lakh students had left the country by November.

"Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs maintains departure and arrival data of Indians. But there is no index for capturing the category of Indians going abroad for higher education purposes. Purpose of Indians going abroad for higher education is captured manually based either on their verbal disclosure or the type of visa of the destination country produced by them at the time of immigration clearance," Sarkar said in his reply.

The lawmakers also asked if the government intends to come up with a high-caliber educational institution to cut down this outflow, to which Sarkar replied in the negative, adding that the

University Grants Commission has come up with regulations to allow foreign universities to set up.

University Grants Commission has drafted enabling Regulations to facilitate the establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India. The draft University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions In India) Regulations 2023 was put in the public domain for stakeholder feedback by January 18, but the last date for comments on the draft regulations has been extended till February 20 now.

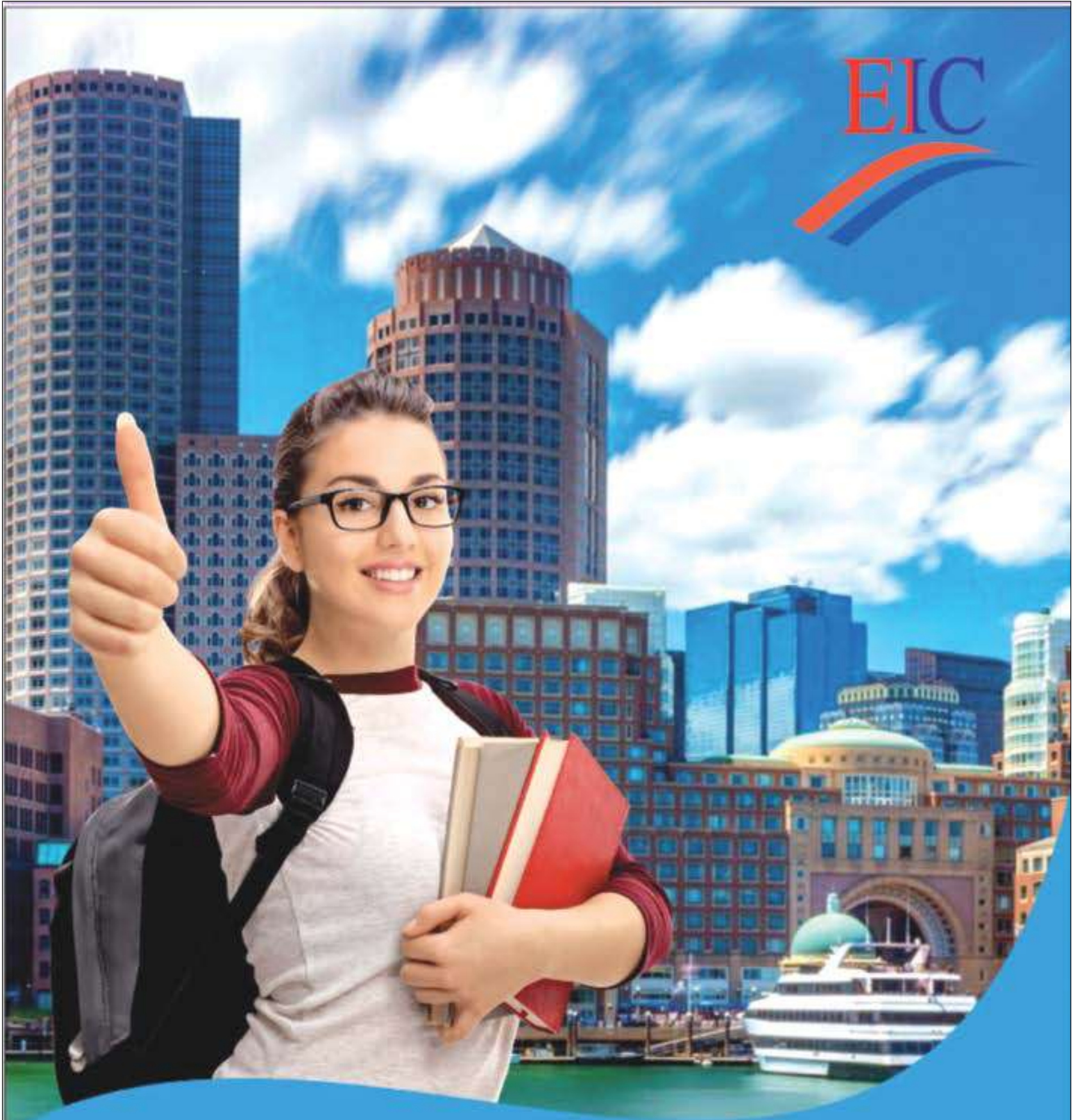
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