



International Column



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Study says 46% drop in enquiries for studying in the US over the last year, 75% for Canada



EJ News - New Delhi

Enquiries from those aspiring to study in the United States have declined by over 46 per cent in the last one year while those for Canada have come down by around 75 per cent in the last two years, according to top officials at IDP Education.

Founded by the Australian government in 1969, IDP Education is a global leader in international education services that helps students achieve their goals of studying abroad. The company provides free expert guidance on course and university selection, application, visa processing and pre-departure planning for popular destinations like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK and the US. It also conducts the English language proficiency test IELTS.

According to Piyush Kumar, Regional Director, South Asia, Canada and Latin America (LATAM), IDP Education, the geopolitical situation has impacted students' plans to go to the US and Canada.

"If we talk about the geo political situation, I think primarily it concerns the US and we have seen that in the last... 6 to 12 months, the situation has obviously impacted the plans of students who are planning to go to the US. It started actually before President Trump (came in), so we saw that after June onwards, we did see

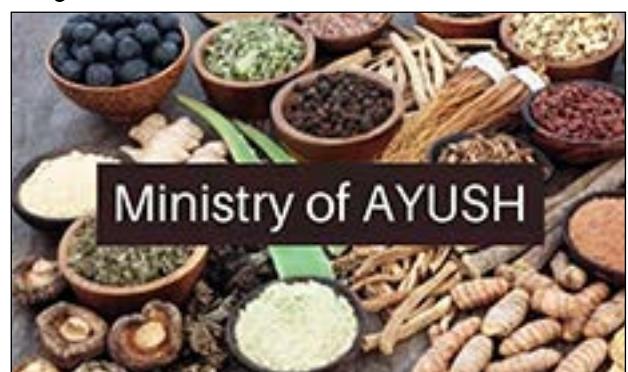
the visa approval rates go down," Kumar said.

"Typically, what happens is that during the election year, every time we see that visa approval rates go down for whatever reasons. But after President Trump has come, I think he is planning, or there is a lot of noise about some changes which are going to happen, which obviously is acting as a dampener," he added.

Citing official statistics, Kumar said there was a 46.4 per cent

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Govt. Plans to Integrate Ayurveda into School and College Curricula: Ayush Minister



EJ News - New Delhi

The government is set to make Ayurveda part of the health education curriculum in schools and colleges, said Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav. The minister said that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) are collaborating to create course modules for school and higher education to bring the younger generation closer to the principles of holistic health.

States like Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh have already incorporated the Indian knowledge system in school education, Jadhav said. "Discussions are underway

with NCERT and UGC for preparing course modules for the school education and higher education," the minister told PTI. He also said that the Ayush Ministry is working on growing evidence-based research to put Ayurveda on a global level. Jadhav said that the Ayush Ministry is focusing on evidence-based research.

On the competition between modern medicine and Indian healing practices, Jadhav said that the goal is to develop

Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRS) and other research institutions. In partnership with WHO, standards are being set to further strengthen the scientific credibility of Ayurvedic treatments, Jadhav said. On the competition between modern medicine and Indian healing practices, Jadhav said that the goal is to

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NEP has changed
The education sector
opened doors for
International universities:
British Council

EJ News - New Delhi

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been truly transformative for the landscape of India's education landscape, said the Country Director India of the British Council, Alison Barrett. It has paved the way for international universities to establish campuses across the country.

In an exclusive interaction with this newspaper, Barrett touched upon various aspects, including trade between the UK and India. On the NEP 2020, she said, "In just five years, what began as an ambitious blueprint has already reshaped the sector – paving way for joint and dual degrees, encouraging research collaboration, supporting student mobility and enabling international universities to establish campuses in India."

UK's University of Southampton was the first foreign university to open a branch campus in the country in July 2025 under the new UGC regulations which began a new era in higher education partnerships, she specified.

A new chapter has been opened in transnational education between the nations, she opined, adding "Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad are



fast emerging as the first hotspots for this wave of academic expansion." The University of Liverpool has secured approval to open a campus in Bengaluru while the University of York, the University of Aberdeen and the University of Bristol have secured Letters of Intent to establish campuses in Mumbai.

Responding to a query on the impact of the adoption of the India-UK Vision 2035 by the governments in July 2025, the Country Director said education and knowledge exchange were crucial aspects of the cooperation. "The agreement is anchored within the wider India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and aligned with India's NEP 2020. For Indian students, it means more ways than ever to

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Strengthening scientific, social, and digital skills: A partnership between teachers and students

In contemporary education, characterised by rapid change and increasing demands, the development of educational skills has become a cornerstone for meaningful learning and holistic development. These skills comprise a set of abilities, competences, and attitudes that enable students to learn effectively, take an active role in their own learning, and apply what they have learnt in different contexts. Education is no longer solely focused on accumulating knowledge; it is increasingly important to foster the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and adapt to new situations. Therefore, strengthening cognitive, socio-emotional, metacognitive, and digital competences is essential to prepare students for academic success, social interaction, and the professional world, laying the foundations for responsible citizenship and lifelong learning.

When we talk about cognitive skills, it is important to mention reading comprehension, critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving. These competences enable students to process information, ask questions, and generate creative solutions. They are crucial not only for academic tasks but also for decision-making in everyday life. Also, socio-emotional skills encompass empathy, assertive communication, teamwork, resilience, and emotional regulation, which support



motivation and harmonious interaction inside and outside the classroom. Moreover, metacognitive skills allow students to plan, monitor, and evaluate their learning, fostering autonomy and self-regulation. And digital skills, increasingly essential, involve searching for, analysing, and using information and technology responsibly and ethically.

The development of these competences occurs progressively throughout life. In childhood, curiosity, exploration, and the acquisition of attention and fine motor skills form the foundation for learning. Activities such as guided play, shared reading, and experi-

mentation stimulate creativity, concentration, and problem-solving. During adolescence, abstract thinking and decision-making consolidate, making it vital for education to promote reflection, autonomy, and strong values. In adulthood, learning continues through skill updating, flexibility, and the ability to adapt to changing social and professional environments. Lifelong learning enables adults to remain relevant in the workforce, engage meaningfully in civic life, and respond effectively to complex challenges.

To enhance educational skills, teachers and students can implement strategies that make learning active and meaningful. Project-based learning allows students to

apply knowledge to real-world situations, strengthening creativity and problem-solving. Gamification and case studies capture attention and facilitate understanding by linking theory to practical experiences. Differentiated instruction, adapting activities to individual learning paces and styles, promotes inclusion and personalised growth. Formative assessment, with continuous feedback and self-evaluation, helps monitor progress and adjust strategies. Collaborative work fosters communication, shared leadership, and respect for diverse ideas. Responsible use of technology enriches learning, provided ethical and critical information management is pro-



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moted.

Similarly, the development of these skills is, by nature, a shared process. This is because teachers cease to be mere transmitters of knowledge and instead become motivators, guides, and creators of safe and stimulating learning environments, modelling attitudes such as curiosity, perseverance, and critical thinking. Students actively participate in their learning by asking questions, organising their time, and reflecting on progress, strengthening both competence and autonomy. Educational institutions must provide resources, ongoing teacher training, and inclusive environments that support innovation, equity, and collaboration.

Despite their importance, challenges remain. Digital and socio-economic inequalities can limit access to quality learning

resources. Teacher training must incorporate digital and socio-emotional skills to meet diverse student needs. The integration of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies offers opportunities for personalised learning but also requires instruction in critical, responsible, and ethical information use. Inclusive education, which recognises and values individual differences, demands creativity, resources, and pedagogical sensitivity to ensure all students can thrive.

In conclusion, the development of educational skills is a continuous, collaborative process that extends beyond merely passing subjects. It involves cultivating cognitive, socio-emotional, metacognitive, and digital competences that prepare students to face challenges with confidence, integrity, and resilience. When teachers and students work together, the classroom becomes a dynamic space in which learning is synonymous with personal growth, responsible citizenship, and professional development. Therefore, it is necessary to invest in these skills from childhood through to adulthood in order to improve academic performance, foster social participation, employability, and collective well-being. These competencies must also be prioritised, as they represent an investment in a more humane, equitable, and sustainable future, preparing individuals to navigate the complexities of the twenty-first century with competence, ethical awareness, and adaptability.

The role of Artificial Intelligence in the development of education

Introduction

The modern world has entered an era of technological innovation, where artificial intelligence (AI) is gaining special importance. It is gradually moving beyond the level of theoretical research and becoming a practical tool in various fields: healthcare, economics, culture, science and education. Education, as a fundamental basis for social development, is particularly sensitive to new technologies. That is why the question becomes relevant: what role does artificial intelligence play in the improvement and transformation of the education system?

The aim of the article is to analyze the capabilities and challenges of artificial intelligence in the field of education, determine its positive impact on students and teachers, and also to present the prospects for ethical and humane use.

The capabilities of artificial intelligence in education

Organization of an individual learning process

The traditional learning model is often guided by uniform standards and takes little account of the diversity of students' abilities. Artificial intelligence allows for the creation of a personalized learning path for each student. Algorithms analyze the student's strengths and weaknesses, offer appropriate exercises and resources, thereby increasing both learning efficiency and motivation.

Automated generation of learning resources

AI can generate a variety of materials: tests, visual dia-

grams, animations, explanatory texts. This reduces the teacher's time and energy on administrative and technical tasks, while allowing him to concentrate on pedagogical and humane relationships.

Benefits of AI for students

The integration of AI into the educational process provides students with a variety of opportunities: Increasing motivation - interactive and game-based programs make learning interesting and motivating. Developing creative skills - students can create texts, drawings or research projects using AI. Strengthening problem-solving skills - AI often offers several alternatives, so the student learns to analyze and make the right decision. Individualizing the pace of learning - AI allows the student to work at

his own pace, quickly or slowly.

The Role of the Teacher in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



As a result, learning becomes more equal and accessible to all children.

Intelligence

Despite technological progress, the role of the teacher is irreplaceable. Artificial intelligence cannot replace it, because education is not just about transmitting information. The teacher is a spiritual and emotional guide who transmits not only knowledge, but also values to the student.

In the era of AI, the function of the teacher becomes even more diverse:

He becomes a mentor who guides students in selecting the right information and critical analysis.



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Provides ethical-humanistic education, which is based on human spirituality rather than technology.

Stimulates social skills and emotional intelligence, which no algorithm can replace.

Challenges and Threats

Integrating AI into education also carries certain risks:

Over-reliance on technology - students may become overly dependent on AI and lose their ability to think independently.

Data security - students' personal information must be protected to prevent its misuse.

Information accuracy - AI sometimes provides inaccurate or biased answers to users.

Negative impact on human relationships - Over-reliance on technology can reduce live communication between teachers and students.

Principles of humane and ethical use

Successful integration of AI

into education requires a humane and ethical approach:

Teacher supervision - AI should be used under the guidance of a teacher.

Development of critical thinking - students must be aware that

AI answers are not always the final truth.

Balance with real-world experiences - It is essential to maintain real-world experiences, play, connection with nature, and human relationships alongside digital learning.

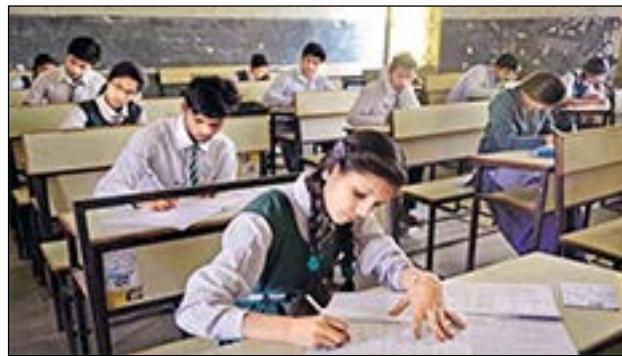
Values education - Along with the use of AI, students should learn the love, compassion, and respect that only come from human relationships.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is a powerful innovative force that can transform the educational process. It enables the individualization of teaching, the creation of an inclusive environment, the diversification of resources, and the reduction of the administrative burden of the teacher.

However, AI can never replace the spiritual warmth, emotional support, and the formation of value orientation of the teacher. The future of education should be based on the synthesis of technology and humane pedagogy, where artificial intelligence will be only an auxiliary tool, and the person will be the main creator of the process.

CBSE to conduct Class X and XII board exams from Feb 17


EJ - New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct Class 10 and 12 board exams from February 17 next year, officials announced on Wednesday.

The Board announced a tentative datesheet for the crucial exams. This is the first time that board exams for Class 10 will be conducted twice in an academic session.

"While the first edition will be conducted from February 17 to March 6, 2026, the second edi-

tion is scheduled from May 15 to June 1," CBSE Examination Controller Sanjam Bhardwaj said.

The second phase scheduled in May will be optional for students who wish to improve their performance. In case a student appears for both phases, the best score of the two will be retained. Both the examinations will be conducted on the full syllabus meant for the year and the scheme of studies and scheme of examinations will remain the same. The Board has clarified

that no separate supplementary exams will be conducted under this system. Instead, the second session of the board exam will serve as the supplementary exam for those who wish to improve their scores. At present, students have an opportunity to improve their scores in supplementary exams.

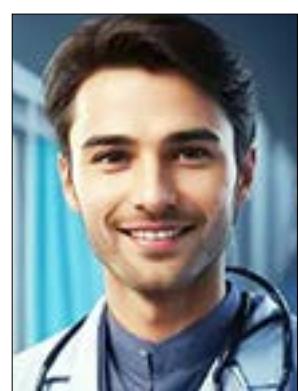
The Class 12 board exams will be conducted from February 17 to April 9, 2026, he said. "As a general guideline, evaluation of answer scripts will commence approximately 10 days after the conduct of each subject's examination and will be completed within 12 days. For instance, if the Class 12 Physics examination is scheduled for 20th February, 2026, evaluation is likely to begin on 3rd March, 2026 and conclude by 15th March, 2026," Bhardwaj added. Around 45 lakh candidates are expected to appear in 204 subjects across Class 10 and 12 from India and 26 countries abroad.

Govt. approves 10,023 new medical seats to strengthen the healthcare system

EJ - New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on September 24 approved the addition of 10,023 medical seats across existing government colleges and hospitals, with an investment of ₹15,034 crore, in a bid to strengthen healthcare coverage in India. According to an official statement released on Saturday, the decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The move is part of a larger plan to create 75,000 additional medical seats over the next five years, addressing the persistent gap



between demand and supply in medical education. With a population of 1.4 billion, India has significantly expanded its

medical infrastructure over the past decade, but the need for trained healthcare professionals continues to grow.

"Approval of Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme will add significant PG and UG medical seats. This will improve our healthcare system and enhance medical education infrastructure. It will ensure that every part of India has access to skilled doctors," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Officials said the new seats will provide greater opportunities for aspiring doctors and help improve healthcare delivery across

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NCERT is allowed to issue Class X and XII certificates equivalent to boards


EJ - New Delhi

The Centre has entrusted the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) with the responsibility of granting certificates equivalent to that of the Secondary (Class 10) and Senior Secondary (Class 12) certificates awarded by various School Education Boards in India, officials said.

This is aimed at facilitating smooth inter school education board migrations, they added.

An official release from the Education Ministry said, "This responsibility will be exercised for the purpose of admission of stu-

dents to higher education institutions and employment under the Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories."

It said the notification was published in the e-Gazette on September 6, 2025 by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Education Ministry. "The direction supersedes its earlier one dated November 15, 2021, wherein the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) was entrusted with this responsibility," it added.

Under the new arrangement, NCERT will discharge its responsibility through the National

Assessment Centre, Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), which has been established as per the provisions of the National Education Policy 2020, the Ministry said.

"This institutional mechanism will ensure that equivalence determination is conducted through a robust and academically rigorous process that maintains the highest educational standards," it added.

The new system applies to Central Government, State Government and private Indian School Boards established by an Act of Parliament or State legislature, executive orders of the Central Government or State Governments, or by statutory bodies and recognised institutions having the mandate to do so.

"The notification ensures that the equivalence granted by NCERT shall automatically be considered as inter-se parity between the Boards in India, thereby facilitating smooth inter-School Education Board migrations for students across the country," the statement said.

GATE Registration 2026: IIT Guwahati extends application deadline

EJ News - New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has extended the registration window for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2026, without a late fee. Candidates who have not yet applied for GATE 2026 must complete the process through the official portal, gate2026.iitg.ac.in, before October 6. Applicants are required to log in using their Enrollment ID and password to access the portal and submit their forms.

IIT Guwahati, the organising in-



stitute for this edition, will hold the GATE 2026 examination on February 7, 8, 14, and 15, 2026. The results are scheduled to be declared on March 19, 2026.

To be eligible, candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in Engineering, Technology, Architecture, Science, Commerce, Arts, or Humanities from a recognised institution. Students

currently in their third year or higher of these programs are also allowed to apply. The qualifying degree must be recognised by the Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE, UGC, or UPSC as equivalent to professional programs such as BE, B.Tech, B.Arch, or B.Planning.

The fee varies depending on the category of the candidate and the application timeline. During the regular application window, the fee is as follows:

- For SC, ST, PwD, and female

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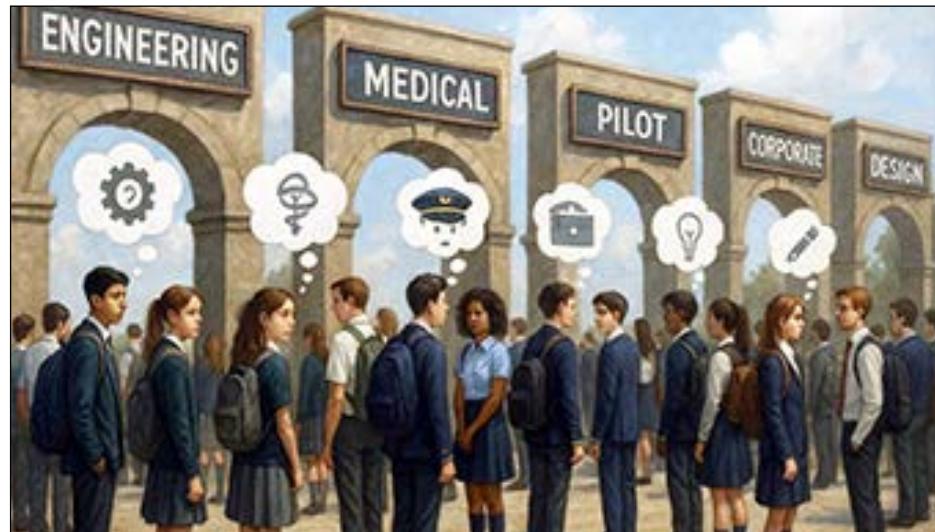
Indian Readers	Global Readers	Figures in Million's
Qtr. Ended Dec, 2024	Qtr. Ended March 2025	Groth %
5.39	5.64	+4.7%
3.26	3.71	+13.9%

Jagat Media Solutions

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90% of Indian students choose careers blindly, sparking a crisis



EJ - Agency

Are you doing what you once dreamed of in school? For most, the answer comes with uncertainty. The lost dreams of many lead them to say no. This does not stem from the mere absence of opportunities, but rather from scattered effort and almost invisible guidance. In India, the absence of career counselling is not a side issue; it is an issue. A United Nations study shows that only 10% of students receive expert career advice or are aware of it.

"Without the support of a professional, students chase the shadows of secure employment or trendy professions, instead of pursuing what might ignite their livelihood potential. Millions of untapped capabilities lie in treasure boxes of band-aid routes, chosen for comfort rather than ability," says Ritika Gupta, CEO & Counsellor, AAera Consultants.

According to the Gallup 2024 State of the Global Workplace report, only 14 per cent of Indian employees consider themselves to be 'thriving' far below the global average of 34 per cent.

Experts attribute this gap in part to career choices misaligned with personal interests and skills, leading to widespread job dissatisfaction.

Many find themselves in roles dictated by external pressures rather than passion, a factor that significantly affects overall workplace fulfillment.

JEE Main 2026 registration starts in October

EJ - New Delhi

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will open the online application window for the Joint Entrance Examination Main (JEE Main) 2026 in October. The exam will be held in two sessions – January 2026 and April 2026.

The NTA, in a notification released on September 29, urged the aspirants to ensure that their Aadhaar card, UDID card (for persons with disabilities), and category certificates (EWS/ SC/ ST/ OBC-NCL) are updated and valid before filling out the JEE Main 2026 application form. This step seeks to avoid discrepancies or rejection at later stages of the admission process.

The advisory also highlights that the Aadhaar card should have accurate details, including the candidate's name, date of

Surveys like the India Skills Report and NASSCOM surveys are a persistent reminder of a harsh fact: nearly half of Indian graduates are not employable to industry standards.

Experts believe that the employability crisis is not just due to a lack of resources or flaws in the education system, but also because many individuals lack interest.

In engineering, the percentage is actually worse; a study puts the estimate of job readiness at a paltry 20-25 percent.

Even this incompatibility does not happen at interview time but long beforehand, at decision time, when students choose courses they do not understand or do not like.

Surveys confirm the career misfits and mental health link. A sizeable percentage of job professionals who are burned out are not happy with the career they have selected.

Obviously, "stress" is simply a misfit.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has offered a chance for change with an emphasis on vocational and multidisciplinary education.

But policy on paper must be brought to counsellors in the classroom, aptitude mapping from the first classes, and designed internships in industries.

"India can evolve into a global hub for knowledge only when career guidance is respected, just like mathematics or science. Imagine schools where mentorship,

skill mapping, and career exploration are simply part of everyday lessons and not just a scheduled workshop," adds Ritika.

Part of the gap can be bridged with technology. AI-enabled career platforms, local language mobile applications on smartphones, and online mentorship networks can democratise access.

Experts suggest that AI-driven platforms could be a transformative solution to India's vast career counselling gap, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

"Traditional counselling relies on a few city-based experts, but AI can change this. Mobile apps can offer aptitude tests, career guidance in local languages, and updates on emerging fields like AI and green jobs, reaching even remote students, adds Ali.

A student in a rural area with a smartphone should have equal access to career choices as a student in urban Mumbai or Delhi. Only 10 percent of students know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, highlighting a major issue that must be addressed. CBSE and state education boards need to come together to bridge this gap.

Finally, career counselling is not a privilege. It's as necessary as mathematics or science instruction. If it does not do so, India will be a demographic dead weight rather than a demographic dividend.

The question then is not whether India can afford career counselling. It is whether India can afford not to.

GATE Registration

candidates: Rs 1,000 per paper. – For all other categories: Rs 2,000 per paper.

During the extended application window with late fees, the fees increase to:

– For SC, ST, PwD, and female candidates: Rs 1,500 per paper.

– For all other categories: Rs 2,500 per paper.

GATE 2026: How to Apply?

The application process is completely online.

Step 1: Interested candidates should visit the official GATE 2026 website – gate2026.iitg.ac.in and access the application portal.

Step 2: After registering with their personal details, applicants must fill in the required information, upload supporting documents, and pay the applicable fee.

GATE 2026 will be held for a total of 30 test papers. A new sectional paper on Energy Science (XE-I) is being introduced in the Engineering Sciences (XE) paper.

Brain drain is likely to drop as H-1B fee hike may stop students from going abroad

EJ - Agency

The US administration's recent move to levy a one-time H-1B visa fee of Rs 88 lakh, is set to have a crippling impact on Indian students going to the US for higher education as the job market could dry up for them.

Top educationists feel this is a massive opportunity to retain our native talent while educational consultancies to the US feel Europe stands to benefit due to this move.

In 2024, nearly 11 lakh students from Asia went abroad according to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement with 4.2 lakh of them being Indians.

Professor G Ramesh, a Public Policy specialist, who recently retired from IIM Bengaluru, said, "The best part is that we will be able to retain bright Indian talent within the country." Indian and Chinese students dominate the international students studying in the US. "Upto 70% of the top three programmes offered by the top ten universities in the US have Indians or Chinese students. The education sector in the US will take a big beating."

Most students go to the US to get an MS in Computer Science or any other STEM degree, he pointed out. "For this two-year course, they take a loan between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 75 lakh with the hope of repaying them when they get a job in the US.

Approves 10,023... the country, particularly in under-served regions.

The Cabinet approved an additional 5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats by 2028-29 to make quality healthcare accessible to all, especially in rural, tribal, and hard-to-reach communities.

According to the official statement, the expansion will not only strengthen India's healthcare system but also position the country as a global hub for affordable healthcare. It added that the move would create new direct and indirect employment opportunities, including doctors, faculty, and paramedical staff, researchers, administrators, and support services.

British Council...

access a UK education – whether through UK university campuses in India, joint and dual degree programmes, credit transfer pathways or skill programmes," she explained.

Over 5,000...

pected to cost USD 28 billion through 2029, delivers on a campaign promise by Subianto, who was elected last year, which has more than 282 million people and Southeast Asia's largest economy.

The National Nutrition Agency recorded about 1,376 cases of school-linked food poisoning cases between January and the end of June.

The number of students affected rose to 4,711 this week, with more than 1,000 victims reported in hardest hit West Java province alone.

Agency chief Dadan Hindayana said kitchens with poisoning cases had been suspended and local governments had set up task forces of nutritionists and health workers to supervise the free meals.



President Trump signed an executive order imposing a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications, significantly increasing costs from \$1,500. The fee applies only to petitions filed after September 21, causing chaos among Silicon Valley companies and foreign workers.

now advised them to consider some other European country or Canada."

Another consultant said, "We are just adopting a wait and watch approach. Policies keep changing on a daily basis. We are in a confused state now."

Study says...

decline in enquiries for the US in May this year as compared to May 2024. The Canadian enquiries have also declined by around 70-75 per cent over the last two years.

"In Canada, there have been a lot of changes in the last two years. It started when (former Canadian prime minister) Justin Trudeau and the Indian government got into a dispute. But over time, what has happened is that Canada has also been hit by the US tariffs and 80 per cent of Canadian exports are to the US, so they are very badly hit."

"People think that this is not the right time to go to Canada because they have limited the post-study work right also to only six streams and that is where a lot of students think that if they go and study something else, there is no post-study work and they will have to come back," he added. Since the Canadian government said that the measures have been put in place till 2027 and after that they will relook at this policy. So, the next two years are likely to be soft for Canada also," Kumar explained.

"If you look at other destinations, big ones, which is the UK and Australia, by and large the demand remains intact, the number of students who are going is absolutely intact."

"Australia in fact formally announced that this year they are going to increase the number of students by 9 per cent over last year, so they are talking about managed growth, so they will allow more students but in a managed way," he said.

Each year, almost 1,00,000 Indian students are studying at more than 800 universities around the world.

Education Jagat
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Majority support for international students in the US



EJ - Agency

A recent study by Pew Research Centre found that 79% of Americans agree that international students benefit US higher education, including 66% of Republicans and 93% of Democrats.

"In this challenging political and regulatory environment, the lead finding that the vast majority of Americans support international students is one of the most hopeful stats we've seen in a while," Clare Overmann, CEO of AIEA, said.

At the same time, wide differences emerged in the survey based on political leaning and age – particularly around support for restrictions based on students' country of origin and their views on US foreign policy.

Notably, just 16% of Democrats said they believed the government should be able to cancel the visas of international students who have criticised US foreign policy, compared to 70% of Republicans, producing an average of 42% of Americans.

The findings come at a time of heightened uncertainty around visa revocations following the US secretary of state vowing to revoke student visas of those

deemed to be "celebrating" the killing of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.

Notwithstanding the disparities, Overmann said the findings represented "a significant starting point for dialogue, a timely affirmation that most of us can at least agree on something fundamental, opening an opportunity to share stories, dispel myths, and engage in the kind of productive debate that is largely missing in the current climate."

Despite international students increasingly being drawn into domestic politics under President Trump, the share of Americans who support enrolling international students is largely unchanged since 2021 when the researchers asked the same question.

Beneath the broad vote of confidence, sizable shares of respondents supported restrictions on certain countries of origin, with half of Americans favouring limits on Chinese students coming to the US.

Over four in 10 Americans also supported limiting students from India (44%), Nigeria (42%) and South Korea (41%), and more than a third wanted to place restrictions on Canadian students.

For all countries, Republicans were more supportive than Democ-

Nearly 80% of Americans support international students in the US, though large proportions believe in restricting students based on their national origins and their views on US foreign policy, new data has shown.

crats of limiting international students, with 67% in favour of limiting Chinese students.

The data showed Republicans under 50 were significantly more likely than those aged 50 and above to support having international students at US colleges – 76% versus 56% – while Democrats' views showed little variation by age.

To a lesser extent, educational attainment was seen to influence people's views, with 87% of Americans who hold a degree favouring international students, compared to 76% of those without. This relatively small gap appeared within supporters of both political parties. The survey – fielding responses from a random sample of nearly 9,000 Americans – confirmed that the public perception of international student numbers looms much larger than the true figures.

In 2023/24, international students made up approximately 6% of the total student population in the US, yet 43% of respondents indicated they thought the share was over 10%, while 45% were not sure. Only 12% of Americans said international students made up less than 10% of the overall student body.

Over four in 10 Americans also supported limiting students from India (44%), Nigeria (42%) and South Korea (41%), and more than a third wanted to place restrictions on Canadian students.

For all countries, Republicans were more supportive than Democ-

Visa lodgements fall as Australia tightens integrity measures



EJ - Agency

Speaking at the ECAA's 2025 Melbourne conference, Matthew Noble, assistant secretary temporary visas, Department of Home Affairs, detailed how recent policy changes and shifting demand are reshaping the international education landscape.

Student visa lodgements fell to around 427,000 in 2024–25, down from nearly 600,000 the year prior. Refusal rates remained at around 18%, though this marks a slight improvement on last year. Declines in applications have been sharpest in VET and ELICOS, while higher education enrolments have lifted modestly beyond pre-pandemic levels.

Top lodgement countries remained relatively stable with China, India and Nepal remaining the top three source countries

for student visa lodgements. Pakistan dropped out of the top 10, replaced by Bangladesh.

While offshore decisions are generally finalised within 25 days, the Department is working to reduce the larger onshore case-load. As of 31 July, around 67,000 applications lodged in Australia were awaiting decision – down by a third from over 100,000 a year earlier. Noble acknowledged that the 153-day median processing time for such applications remains higher than desired.

Key policy levers are also influencing outcomes. The visa application charge rose to AUD \$2,000 in July 2025, placing pressure on shorter-term and lower-cost sectors. National Planning Levels have been set at 295,000 commencements for 2025–26, representing a 9.3% increase. Under Ministerial Direction 111, "prior

ity one" providers under 80% of their planning allocation are receiving one-to-four week turnarounds, while others face waits of five to eight weeks.

The most significant change remains the Genuine Student (GS) requirement (under Ministerial Direction 106), which replaced the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) test. Now the leading driver of refusals, GS demands that applicants clearly demonstrate study as their primary purpose. Generic statements, poor academic progression, course downgrading and weak financial evidence are frequent grounds for refusal.

"Decision-ready applications are critical," Noble told the audience. "Strong, evidence-backed GS statements and credible financial documentation remain at the core of approvals." He urged providers and agents to scrutinise applications more rigorously, warning that fraudulent or implausible submissions risk undermining trust across the system.

While acknowledging sector concerns – particularly from ELICOS providers grappling with higher fees and refusal rates – Noble sought to assure stakeholders that English study is still viewed as a legitimate and valuable pathway.

Dubai emerges as key higher education hub with 42% international enrolments as Indian students: Report



EJ - Agency

Dubai is rapidly establishing itself as a premier destination for Indian higher education institutions seeking global expansion. The recent inauguration of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) first international campus in Dubai International Academic City marks a significant milestone in this trend.

The development underscores Dubai's aim to extend its global footprint, offering a blend of academic excellence, cultural proximity, and strategic location to Indian universities.

According to data published by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) 2024–2025 report, 42% of international higher education enrolments in Dubai are Indian students. With a 20% surge in total higher education enrolments in Dubai in the past year, 42,026 students are now enrolled in Dubai's higher education sector,

marking a record high.

As per a media release, under the Education 33 (E33) strategy announced by Dubai, the country aims for international students to make up 50% of the total student body by 2033.

According to Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA, "The inauguration of our Dubai campus marks a pivotal moment in IIMA's journey. This expansion allows us to bring the Institute's academic excellence and thought leadership to a truly global platform."

The establishment of IIM-A's Dubai campus is part of a broader movement, with other Indian institutions such as Symbiosis Dubai, the first Indian university in the UAE to launch with full program accreditation by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), marking its first anniversary

with a grand celebration at Taj Dubai, Business Bay.

The milestone also saw the presence of Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, who joined the Symbiosis family to commemorate one year of academic excellence and growth in the UAE. Along with the celebration, the university also held its Orientation Day for the 2025–2026 academic year, welcoming the newest batch of students and growing the Symbiosis Dubai family.

Reflecting its growing reputation as a premier hub of higher education in the region, Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis International University, said, "In just one year, we have grown into a place where students from across the world find not only academic excellence but also a true sense of belonging - a home away from home."

Over 5,000 school kids fall ill in Indonesia due to food poisoning

EJ - Bandung

Indonesia's government was facing calls on Thursday to suspend President Prabowo Subianto's multi-billion-dollar free meals programme after thousands of school pupils fell ill in an food

poisoning outbreak.

Television reports showed hospital wards filled with children, with some crying in pain and clutching their stomachs, while police and health workers carried away other victims in ambulances, vans and trucks.

The Free Nutritious Meal programme was started in January with the aim of fighting malnutrition by feeding nearly 90 million children and pregnant women.

The initiative, which is ex-

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