CBSE clears open book assessments for Class 9 from 2026-27

■ **EJ News** - *New Delhi*

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has confirmed that Open Book Assessments (OBAs) will be introduced for Class 9 students from the 2026-27 academic year. The decision, endorsed by the board's Governing Body on June 25, aligns with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023 and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to pro mote competency-based learning and lessen reliance on rote memorisation.

According to CBSE officials, the OBAs will be part of the three pen-paper assessments held each term and will cover core subjects including Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. "The approach will encour age students to think critically and apply con cepts in real-world scenarios," a senior board official said.

The proposal was first examined by the CBSE curriculum committee in November 2023 and received formal approval later that year. A pilot run was conducted in select schools, testing Classes 9 and 10 in English, Mathematics, and Science, and Classes 11 and 12 in English, Mathematics, and Biology. The trial assessed student performance, time management, and feedback from teach ers and parents.

Results from the pilot indicated that stu dents scored between 12 per cent and 47 per cent, with many finding it challenging to use reference material effectively and grasp inter disciplinary concepts. Teachers, however, noted that

♦ *CBSE approves Open-Book Assessments for Class 9 from 2026-27 session*
♦ *OBAs to be part of term exams in core subjects like Maths, Science, Language, Social Science*
♦ *Pilot study showed mixed scores but teachers positive about skill development*

the model could strengthen analytical and higher-order thinking skills over time.

To prepare schools, CBSE will issue a comprehensive framework, clear guidelines, and sample papers for the new format. Initially, implementation will be optional, giving insti tutions the flexibility to adapt.

This initiative follows a similar experiment between 2014-15 and 2016-17, when CBSE introduced the Open Text-Based Assessment (OTBA) for Classes 9 and 11, which was later withdrawn after receiving mixed feedback.

In contrast to traditional exams, open-book assessments allow students to refer to textbooks and approved resources during the test, focusing on conceptual understanding and practical application rather than memorisation.

SC-backed task force launches mental health portal to curb student suicides

■ **EJ News** - *New Delhi*

The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) launched a dedicated portal to address mental health concerns and prevent suicides in higher education institutions.

The platform will host online surveys for students, parents, faculty, and mental health professionals, as part of a multi-pronged effort to understand and tackle the crisis. An interim report is expected by the end of September, with the final report due later this year.

Medical colleges and other educational institutions across the country have been directed to share records of student suicides with the panel.

According to the NTF, the survey aims to understand not just the pressures that students face but also the institutional and systemic gaps that may be worsening the crisis.

"The remit of this task force is to prepare a comprehensive report that includes identification of the predominant causes which lead to commission of suicides by students, including but not limited to ragging, discrimination, academic pressure, financial burden and mental health-related stigma," the body said in an official note.

It added that the study would

♦ *Medical colleges and other educational institutions across the country have been directed to share records of student suicides with the panel.*
♦ *Initiative seeks views from students, parents, faculty, experts and public to inform report to apex court*

also include an "analysis of existing regulations to assess the institutional and systemic failures that may impact student wellbeing" and recommend concrete steps to improve mental health support and prevent suicides.

TN CM unveils new education policy in response to NEP

■ **EJ News** - *Chennai*

Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the state's new education policy in response to the Centre's NEP (New Education Policy) that he considers to be against social justice and aimed at 'imposing' Hindi upon the state.

Tamil Nadu was firm in following the bilingual policy of Tamil and English and the new state education policy has been framed to make the students future-ready and well equipped, the chief minister said at the event.

The policy was deep-rooted in progressive ideals and was aimed at creating students who think and ask questions rather than merely learn by memorising.

"We want to provide the necessary energy for future life. We want to create students who are technologically minded, creative, future-ready and well equipped,"

Stalin said while speaking at a state-level felicitation for school students and release of the State Education Policy 2025.

Also, it has been proposed to give importance to physical activities, he added.

"Mother tongue Tamil is our identity, our pride. The bilingual policy of Tamil and English will be our firm stand. And I reaffirm this," Stalin said at the event organised by the school education department.

The chief minister gave away certificates of appreciation and laptops to the state government school students who secured admissions in institutes of higher education.

"It is a great joy to release the Tamil Nadu State School Education Policy 2025. Tamil Nadu has a unique character in everything. There is progressive thinking. Based on that, we have created this education policy with the

♦ *Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin unveiled the state's new education policy in response to the Centre's NEP that he considers to be against social justice and aimed at 'imposing' Hindi upon the state.*
♦ *There would be no public exam for Class XI, as per the Tamil Nadu State Education policy-School Education released by the Chief Minister at the Anna Centenary Library,*

necessary vision for the future," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, State Ministers, Chief Secretary N Muruganandam, and senior officials were among those who participated.

There would be no public exam for Class XI, as per the Tamil Nadu SEP - School Education released by the Chief Minister at the Anna Centenary Library, here.

The policy is viewed as an alternative to the Centre's National Education Policy. With this, Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to introduce its own education policy based on the set of recommendations made by a 14-member panel headed by retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, D Murugesan.

Future-Ready Professionals: Skills Development Strategies Needed for Career Growth in 2025

ABSTRACT

In an era of rapid technological advancement and evolving workplace dynamics, continuous professional development has become essential for career sustainability and growth. This article examines the critical importance of skill building in the modern professional landscape, where the half-life of learned skills has decreased to five years or less in many fields. Through analysis of current industry research and expert insights, this piece identifies core competencies required across all professions, including digital fluency, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. The article presents evidence-based learning strategies, particularly the 70-20-10 model, and provides industry-specific skill development priorities for business, marketing, operations, and human resources professionals. Key barriers to professional development—including time constraints and information overload—are addressed with practical solutions. The research demonstrates that professionals who actively pursue continuous learning experience higher job satisfaction, increased earning potential, and greater career resilience. This comprehensive guide offers strategic frameworks for creating personalized development plans and emphasizes that in a rapidly changing economy, the ability to learn continuously is not just a career advantage but a professional necessity.

Keywords: professional development, skill building, continuous learning, career growth, workplace trends, digital fluency, upskilling, reskilling

In today's rapidly evolving workplace, standing still is equivalent to falling behind. The professionals who thrive are those who embrace continuous learning and actively invest in their skill development. As we navigate an era of artificial intelligence, remote collaboration, and shifting industry demands, the question isn't whether you need to upskill—it's which skills will make the biggest impact on your career trajectory.

The New Reality of Professional Growth
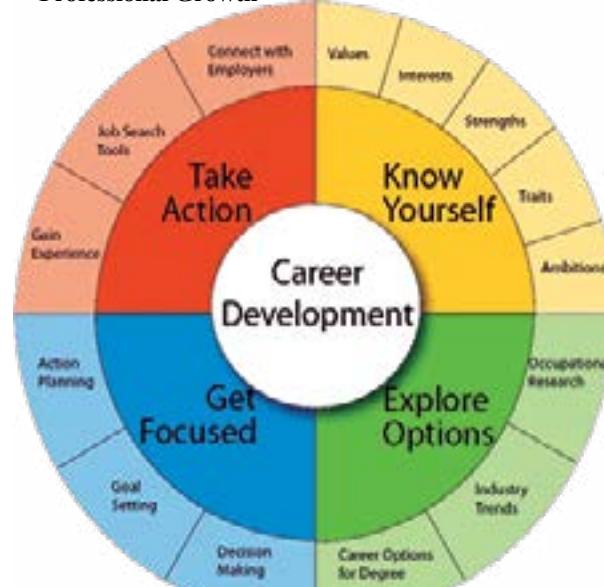
The traditional career ladder has been replaced by what experts call a "career lattice"—a multidirectional path where professionals move sideways, diagonally, and sometimes even backward to move forward. This shift demands a new approach to skill building, one that prioritizes adaptability and continuous learning over static expertise.

Recent studies indicate that the half-life of learned skills has dropped to just five years in technical fields and even less in rapidly changing sectors like digital marketing and data analysis. This means that half of what you learned in your field five years ago is now obsolete or significantly less relevant.

CORE SKILLS EVERY PROFESSIONAL NEEDS

Digital Fluency Beyond the Basics

While most professionals can navigate email and basic software, true digital fluency goes deeper. This includes understanding data privacy principles, being comfortable with cloud-based collaboration tools, and having a working knowledge of how emerging technologies like AI might impact your industry. You don't need to become a programmer, but understanding the language and possibilities of technology will keep you relevant in virtually any field.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

As routine tasks become increasingly automated, human value lies in complex problem-solving and critical analysis. This means developing the ability to synthesize information from multiple sources, identify patterns that aren't immediately obvious, and approach challenges with both analytical rigor and creative thinking.

Emotional Intelligence and Communication

The rise of remote and hybrid work has actually increased the importance of emotional intelligence. Professionals who can read virtual room dynamics, communicate clearly across cultures and time zones, and build genuine relationships through screens have a significant advantage in today's workplace.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The 70-20-10 Learning Model

Research shows that the most effective professional development follows the 70-20-10 model: 70% of learning comes from challenging assignments and experiences, 20% from interactions with others, and 10% from formal coursework and training. This means that while online courses and certifications have their place, the bulk of your growth should come from taking on stretch assignments and seeking mentorship.

Micro-Learning for Busy Professionals

Rather than waiting for the perfect time to pursue a major certification, successful professionals embrace micro-learning—dedicating 15-30 minutes daily to skill building. This might involve listening to industry podcasts during commutes, reading relevant articles during lunch breaks, or practicing new software skills for short periods throughout the week.

Building a Personal Learning Network

Your professional development shouldn't happen in isolation. Cultivate relationships with colleagues in different departments, join professional associations relevant to your field, and participate in industry forums or LinkedIn groups. These connections provide insights into industry trends, offer different perspectives on challenges, and can become valuable references for future opportunities.

INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC SKILL PRIORITIES

For Business and Finance Professionals

Data analysis and visualization tools like Tableau or Power BI have become essential, along with understanding of digital currencies and fintech innovations. Regulatory compliance knowledge is increasingly valuable as rules evolve rapidly across different markets.

For Marketing and Communications

Marketing automation platforms, customer relationship management systems, and basic understanding of search engine optimization are now baseline requirements. The ability to create compelling content across multiple formats—video, audio, written—is increasingly valuable.

For Operations and Project Management

Agile methodologies, lean principles, and familiarity with project management software like Asana, Monday.com, or Jira are essential. Supply chain resilience and sustainability principles are becoming crucial across industries.

For Human Resources

Understanding of remote team dynamics, diversity and inclusion principles, and employment law in multiple jurisdictions (for global companies) are critical. Familiarity with HR technology platforms and data-driven decision making are increasingly important.

CREATING YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Assess Your Current Position

Start with an honest evaluation of your current skills versus market demands. Use job postings in your desired career path as a benchmark—what skills are consistently mentioned that you lack or need to strengthen?

Set SMART Development Goals

Your skill-building goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Instead of "improve communication skills," aim for "complete a public speaking course and deliver three presentations to cross-functional teams by year-end."

Identify Multiple Learning Pathways

Prof. Dr. Rita Aguilar Gonzalez
Director Academica
Mexico

For each skill you want to develop, identify several ways to build competency. This might include formal training, finding a mentor who excels in that area, volunteering for projects that require the skill, or joining professional groups focused on that competency.

Track and Measure Progress

Keep a learning journal or use apps like LinkedIn Learning or Coursera to track your progress. Regular self-assessment helps maintain momentum and allows you to adjust your approach when something isn't working.

OVERCOMING COMMON BARRIERS

Time Constraints

The most common excuse for not pursuing professional development is lack of time. The solution isn't finding more time—it's being more strategic about the time you have. Replace some social media scrolling with industry reading, use commute time for educational podcasts, or wake up 20 minutes earlier for focused learning.

Information Overload

With endless online courses and resources available, it's easy to become paralyzed by choice. Focus on skills that directly relate to your career goals and current role challenges. Quality trumps quantity—it's better to deeply develop three relevant skills than to have surface knowledge of ten.

Lack of Employer Support

While employer-sponsored training is ideal, your career development ultimately rests in your hands. Many high-quality resources are available for free or at low cost. Libraries often provide access to online learning platforms, and professional associations frequently offer member discounts on training programs.

The ROI of Continuous Learning

Investing in skill development yields measurable returns. Professionals who actively pursue continuous learning report higher job satisfaction, increased earning potential, and greater career security. They're also more likely to be considered for promotions and special projects that can accelerate career growth.

Inspiration is Everywhere!

(Creativity is necessary at all levels of society, but it is especially crucial for students, who will be tomorrow's leaders and thinkers. You are in the life stage of a student of possibilities. Rigid roles and antiquated systems do not confine you. You are free to think differently, to ask big questions, and—above all—to try new things and explore. But there are also a lot of obstacles to innovation)

*C*reativity becomes a potent tool when combined with invention, one that not only solves issues and gives concepts life, but also elevates the world and puts people at the centre of it. However, what is creativity exactly? Is it limited to the performing arts, poetry, or painting? Is it just for designers and musicians? "The inclination to generate or recognise ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating

with others, and entertaining ourselves and others" is how famous psychologist Robert E. Franken defines creativity in his book Human Motivation. In this way, creativity transcends all disciplines and occupations. It is a kind of thinking that helps us see beyond the obvious; it is frequently intentional, occasionally impromptu, and occasionally difficult. It's about transforming possibilities

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into solutions and discovering connections where others perceive confusion. We are drawn to creativity for several reasons. Creativity's limitless possibilities satiate our innate desire for novelty and excitement. It also enables us to communicate with others and express ourselves. Creativity is what propels the necessary solutions, whether we are dealing with personal difficulties or global disasters.

We can examine a pivotal point in the IT industry, the divergent trajectories of Apple and BlackBerry, to fully see the importance of innovation in action. BlackBerry, renowned for its efficiency, professionalism, and security, was once a world leader in mobile communication. However, Apple posed a daring, original query: "What if a phone wasn't just a phone?" whereas BlackBerry concentrated on improving what already existed. Apple revolutionized the mobile experience with the 2007 release of the iPhone. It evolved from a simple communication tool to a comprehensive ecosystem that included music, the internet, photography, productivity, and creativity. Apple reinvented the phone, not just made it better. Conversely, BlackBerry was unable to innovate or adjust. It gradually lost

Education alone can break 'chain of Sanatan,' says Kamal Haasan

■ **EJ** - *Chennai*

Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan has said that education is the only weapon that could break the chains of autocracy and the Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing an event here, the Rajya Sabha MP said the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET) has prevented access to medical education for so many children and the strength to change that rule of exam could emerge only from education.

Haasan, who days ago assumed office as a Rajya Sabha MP was addressing an event on Sunday, held by Agaram Foundation of noted Tamil actor Suriya.

In this war against NEET, even Aagaram Foundation cannot do anything and education alone could mould the nation without any other weapon.

"This is the only weapon that can break the chains of autocracy and Sanatana (Dharma)," he said.

Furthermore, he said: "Do not lay your hands on anything else, because you cannot win; because the majority will defeat you, the majority fools will defeat you and wisdom (knowledge) will lose."

Manekshaw Centres: IIT, Guwahati leads defence academia collaboration

■ **EJ News** - *Guwahati*

The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati is leading an initiative to establish the "Manekshaw Centres" for defence and national security research. They will act as an interface between defence forces and academia, research institutions, and work toward next-gen education, innovation, productisation, manufacturing and research-based consulting/operations.

The IIT-Guwahati in a statement said a high-level delegation recently briefed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on the establishment of nodal centres at premier institutes dedicated for defence and national security research. The minister underlined the ministry's commitment to supporting Manekshaw Centres in building a robust innovation ecosystem that brings academia, defence, armed forces, security agencies and industries together to address the evolving challenges of national security, the IIT-Guwahati said.
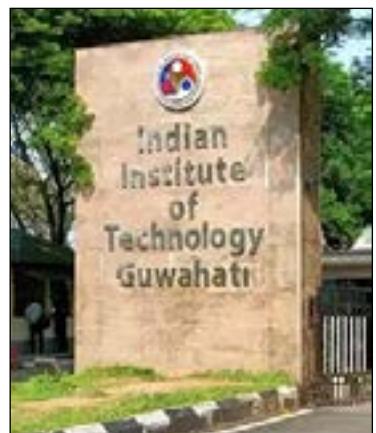
The director of the institute Prof Devendra Jalihal, said IITs, IISc, IIITs, and NITs would be the members of the Manekshaw Centres. "The Manekshaw Centres will periodically carry out dialogues with defence agencies and participate actively to define and design systems for Indian security needs. They will work towards finding Indian solutions, thus fulfilling the aspiration of Atmanirbhar Bharat," Jalihal said.

"Aligning with Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, this visionary initiative will unite IITs, IISc, IIITs, and NITs on a collaborative academic and research platform focused on defence technology and national security," the IIT-Guwahati statement said.

The idea of setting up the nodal centres for collaboration among IITs was conceived by Lt. Gen. Dr. Subrata Saha (Retd.), and Prof. Sukumar Nandi, Dean of Administration, IIT-Guwahati. The Manekshaw Centres currently covers several IITs, IISc Bangalore and IIIT Delhi with more institutions expected to join soon.

UP: Parents assault daughter over desire to study, face legal heat

■ **EJ** - *Etah*

A 14-year-old girl in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district has lodged a complaint against her parents for allegedly assaulting her when she expressed her desire to continue her studies, police said.

The parents -- Digambar Singh and his wife Lata Devi -- are now facing legal action under the Juvenile Justice Act's Section 75 (punishment for cruelty to child), they said.

According to the police, the incident took place on July 25, and was reported to the Jalesar police station in Etah district on August 5.

Citing a complaint filed by Bhavna Singh, a student of Class 10 at Siddhartha Inter College in Jalesar, the police said, on July 25, the girl had asked her parents to register in the school so that she could appear in the examination.

Her parents declined her request saying that they do not have the money to educate her.

When she insisted on educating herself and her younger brother Ramraj, she was beaten up by her father at the home and later on Agra-Jalesar Road during a journey, the police said.

They added that when a passerby, Ankit Pradhan, saw Digambar assaulting the girl, he came to her rescue.

Ankit Pradhan took Bhavna, her brother and their mother to a police check post in Jalesar.

From there, suddenly Lata Devi disappeared along with her son, and did not return to the police post even after a long-time, the police said.

The 14-year-old girl also mentioned in her complaint that her father had dialled 112 and gave false information that Ankit Pradhan had kidnapped his wife, they said.

"The fact is that I myself want to study, and also want to make my younger brother educated," the

Delhi Assembly passes key bill to regulate fees in private schools

■ **EJ** - *New Delhi*

The fifth day of the Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session on Friday saw the BJP-led government pass its first-ever legislation to regulate fee hikes by recognised private unaided schools, alongside heated debates on the GST Amendment Bill, a scathing CAG report on labour welfare, and policy measures to curb illegal borewells.

The Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025 was cleared after a four-hour discussion. All eight amendments moved by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were rejected. Forty-one BJP MLAs and 17 AAP legislators were present during the vote. Speaker Vijender Gupta said the Bill will be sent to Lt Governor V.K. Saxena for approval.

The Bill, tabled by Education minister Ashish Sood on Monday, extends prior government approval for fee hikes to all private unaided schools, replacing the earlier rule that applied only to about 350 schools on government land. "All private unaided schools in Delhi, irrespective of where they are built, will now need prior permission before raising their fees," Sood said.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called the legislation a message that "education is not a commercial enterprise" and "the first time

Delhi Assembly...

a government is openly standing alongside the parents of school children in Delhi". She added, "The AAP is looking sideways now as the BJP government did what it could not do while being in power."

LoP Atishi criticised it as "a bill in favour of private schools, not parents", demanding it be sent to a select committee. "Why not put it for public opinion even once in four months? The bill stamped the increased fees of private schools. Why does the 13-page bill not mention audits? The bill also took away the right to go to court," she charged. AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed the bill sought to shield 350 schools from past court scrutiny.

The Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was passed after sharp exchanges. CM Gupta said the amendments, mirroring central GST reforms, aimed to "simplify tax administration, boost compliance, and provide substantial relief to taxpayers".

Key measures included extending ITC claim deadlines, lowering appeal pre-deposits from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, setting up a GST Appellate Tribunal, launching an amnesty scheme, and machine-tracking gutkha production. The CM said the amnesty scheme alone had yielded Rs.218 crore. She rebuked Atishi for "questioning reforms passed in meetings she did not attend", noting absences from several GST Council sessions.

Atishi countered that the bill "will further harass ordinary traders" by allowing officials to "de-

Study Abroad...

we've already partnered with prestigious institutions such as Virginia Tech, CentraleSupelec, and Babson College, among others."

Going further, the education experts suggested that to continue this trend, India will need continuous structural reform in the education sector.

"The scope for Indian universities to lead global academic innovation is growing, but it must be backed by continuous structural reform", said Dr Kannan, Director, SRM Group of Institutions, Ramapuram and Tiruchirappalli.

"We need sustained public and private investments in digital learning, research, and student life, alongside policies that support academic autonomy and international mobility. At SRMIST Trichy, we've signed MoUs with reputed bodies like the Officers Training Academy (OTA), IC-AR-NRCB, and L&T EduTech, which promote joint research, faculty exchange, and advanced skill development. Many Indian universities now hold Institution of Eminence (IoE) status, which includes structured partnerships with foreign universities, further strengthening India's global education appeal", he further added. The experts highlighted that initiatives like the Study in India portal and financial aid for foreign students have simplified access while setting the tone for a more integrated and inclusive system.

They said that by scaling up, raising academic excellence, and building robust global partnerships, Indian universities are now emerging as strong contenders, giving tough competition to their global counterparts.

According to a recent report by rating agency ICRA, India's higher education institutions are expected to record a revenue growth of 9-11 per cent in FY2026, driven by expanding seat capacities, rising enrolments and the introduction of new courses.

mand paperwork in any format" and offering tax exemptions to SEZs "belonging to BJP's industrialist friends". She alleged it would "crush small traders under new layers of bureaucracy" and impact prices in the real estate and commercial sectors. Chaos ensued, and AAP MLA Anil Jha was marshalled out.

CM Gupta accused the former AAP government of leaving Rs.5,200 crore in the labour welfare fund unused while construction workers awaited aid. Quoting the CAG, she said no benefits were disbursed for tool assistance, permanent disability, or medical aid in multiple years. "What happened to the remaining Rs 6,000 per worker when the approved assistance was Rs 8,000?" she said, citing a Supreme Court rebuke.

Speaker Vijender Gupta highlighted that Rs 15,327 crore remained unspent in 2023–24, with Rs 8,376.40 crore lapsing, and Rs 3,760.84 crore lacking utilisation certificates. The reports on finances and labour welfare were referred to the PAC for examination.

AI surveillance...

Lesley Mathis knew what her daughter said was wrong. But she never expected the 13-year-old girl would get arrested for it.

The teenage girl made an offensive joke while chatting online with her classmates, triggering the school's surveillance software.

Before the morning was even over, the Tennessee eighth grader was under arrest. She was interrogated, strip-searched and spent the night in a jail cell, her mother says.

Earlier in the day, her friends had teased the teen about her tanned complexion and called her "Mexican," even though she's not. When a friend asked what she was planning for   .   . Thursday, she wrote: "on Thursday we kill all the Mexico's."

Mathis said the comments were "wrong" and "stupid," but context showed they were not a threat.

"It made me feel like, is this the America we live in?" Mathis said of her daughter's arrest. "And it was this stupid, stupid technology that is just going through picking up random words and not looking at context."

Surveillance systems in American schools increasingly monitor everything students write on school accounts and devices. Thousands of school districts across the country use software like Gaggle and

Inspiration...

significance while adhering to its essential model. This simple example highlights an important reality: creativity is a need rather than a luxury. Relying on what has "always worked" might easily become outdated in the swiftly evolving world of today. In addition to appearing in the most unexpected places, creativity can appear in predictable, structured ways.

Consider Dolly Chaiwala, a tea vendor from Nagpur who gained notoriety for enhancing the appearance and taste of a simple cup of chai. He was distinctive not only because of the tea but also because of the experience he produced. Think about the recent smart dog who barged onto an IPL field, and grabbed attention. There are countless examples that show how unplanned creativity may take control and elevate the commonplace to the spectacular. Who could forget actor Ranveer Singh? Not only is his clothing creative, but so is his attitude: fearless, unrepentant, and always pushing the envelope. These small examples show that creativity doesn't always have to be regimented; it may be vibrant, eccentric, and amusing. Sometimes humor, curiosity, or even a willingness to look foolish to try something new are the first steps towards invention. Creativity is necessary at all levels of society, but it is especially crucial for students, who will be tomorrow's leaders and thinkers. You are in the life stage of a student of possibilities. Rigid roles and antiquated systems do not confine you. You are free to think differently, to ask big questions, and—above all—to try new things and explore. But there are also a lot of obstacles to innovation.

Common obstacles include

rigid system, social pressure to fit in, and fear of failing or being judged. Mental obstacles like anxiety, tunnel vision, or low self-esteem can also stifle creativity. Students need to be inspired to adopt an attitude of possibility to overcome these challenges. Instead of being viewed as a talent that only a select few possess, creativity is a skill that can be developed, exercised, and used in any aspect of life. It's about accepting the flexibility to take measured risks and learning to question "what if?" "We know where most of the creativity, the innovation, the stuff that drives productivity lies — in the minds of those closest to the work," as former GE CEO Jack Welch once stated. That implies that you, the students, are mostly driving the creative revolution in education.

Recently we have witnessed 'World Creativity and Innovation Day', we are reminded that creativity is more than just a unique quality or a moment of genius. Above all, it is a way of life, a skill, and an attitude. It appears in classrooms, in innovative products, at viral events, and even at chai stands. It manifests in the inquiries we make, the issues we resolve, and the narratives we narrate. Therefore, we shouldn't confine innovation to aesthetics or the arts. Creativity doesn't have to be grand. By paying attention to the ordinary, we can discover new ways to think and create. Inspiration is everywhere, waiting to be noticed. Let's acknowledge creativity and innovation for what it is: the way of thought that propels advancement. Let's cultivate a culture that values, encourages, and celebrates creativity in our communities, universities, and schools, colleges and workplaces.

CBSE to revise legal studies curriculum to include recent landmark law changes

■ **EJ** - *New Delhi*

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will update the Legal Studies curriculum for Classes XI and XII to reflect major legal changes, including the repeal of triple talaq, the decriminalisation of homosexuality through the removal of Section 377, and the scrapping of sedition provisions. The revised curriculum will also include the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code, among other new laws.

This decision was approved by CBSE's Curriculum Committee and ratified by the Governing Body in June. Students will now study newly enacted legal provisions that have replaced colonial-era laws, along with important judicial decisions and emerging

legal principles.

According to official records, the proposed changes aim to update Legal Studies textbooks to reflect:

Key provisions of BNS, BNSS (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita), and BSA (Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam)

Notable legal rulings and recent doctrines

Repealed or outdated laws, including sedition, Section 377, and triple talaq

A teaching approach aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

UP: Parents...

14-year-old girl said.

"It is my humble request to the Justice Board that proper arrangements be made for my education and that of my brother. And take appropriate legal action against my father Digambar Singh, who beat me and threw me out of the house and my mother Lata who left me alone," she said in her complaint.

A case was registered in Jalesar and the matter has been presented in the Juvenile Justice Protection Board.

Despite being summoned several times, the parents did not appear in court.

Finally, the court has appointed police station in-charge Sudhir Kumar as the guardian of the girl, they said.

Jalesar SHO Sudhir Kumar said that the girl's father is a peon at

Siya Devi Degree College and a habitual drinker and quarrelsome person by nature.

There has been a dispute between the husband and wife for a long time and at present both live separately.

Some time ago, the wife had also filed a case of attempt to murder against the husband.

The SHO has taken the responsibility of the girl and has gotten her registered at a school so she can continue her studies and also provided books, uniform and Rs 2,000 cash for any other expenses.

SHO Kumar said after a month, when the girl returns from Noida, then efforts will be made to get her enrolled in a good residential school like Kasturba Gandhi or Sainik Vidyalaya so that she can continue her studies even without her parents.

Career Growth in 2025...

More importantly, in an era of rapid change, continuous learners are more adaptable and resilient. They view industry disruptions as opportunities rather than threats and are better positioned to navigate career transitions when they arise.

LOOKING FORWARD

The future belongs to professionals who can learn, unlearn, and relearn quickly. The specific skills that matter will continue to evolve, but the meta-skill of continuous learning will remain constant. By developing strong learning habits now, you're not just preparing for your next role—you're building the foundation for a career that can adapt and thrive regardless of how your industry changes.

The question isn't whether you can afford to invest in professional development—it's whether you can afford not to. In a world where change is the only constant, your commitment to growth isn't just a career strategy; it's a survival skill.

Start today. Choose one skill that would make an immediate impact in your current role, identify three ways to develop it, and commit to taking the first step this week. Your future self will thank you for the investment.

CONCLUSION

The modern professional landscape demands a fundamental shift from viewing education as a finite phase to embracing learning as a lifelong journey. As this analysis has demonstrated, the accelerating pace of technological change and evolving workplace dynamics have made continuous skill development not merely advantageous, but essential for career survival and advancement.

The evidence presented throughout this article underscores several critical realities: skills become obsolete faster than ever before, traditional career paths have been replaced by multidirectional growth opportunities, and the professionals who thrive are those who proactively adapt to change rather than react to it. The 70-20-10 learning model, industry-specific skill priorities, and strategic development frameworks outlined here provide actionable roadmaps for navigating this new landscape.

Perhaps most importantly, this research reveals that the barriers to professional development—time constraints, information overload, and lack of organizational support—are surmountable through strategic planning and consistent execution. The micro-learning approaches, personal learning networks, and systematic development plans discussed offer practical solutions

for busy professionals across all industries and career stages.

The return on investment in continuous learning extends beyond immediate career gains. Professionals who embrace ongoing development report greater job satisfaction, enhanced adaptability, and increased confidence in facing industry disruptions. They transform from passive participants in their careers to active architects of their professional futures.

As we look toward an increasingly uncertain and rapidly evolving economic landscape, one certainty emerges: the ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn will distinguish successful professionals from those left behind. The meta-skill of continuous learning transcends specific technical competencies and provides the foundation for sustained career resilience and growth.

The choice before every professional is clear. Embrace the challenge of continuous development and position yourself as a future-ready contributor to your organization and industry, or risk professional obsolescence in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. The tools, strategies, and frameworks for success are readily available. The question that remains is not whether to begin, but how quickly you can start building the learning habits that will define your professional future.

In this new era of work, standing still is not an option. The future belongs to those who move forward through purposeful, continuous learning. The journey begins with a single step, and that step starts today.

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Master in innovation and didactics in English.

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BSc Nursing vs BSc Paramedical: Choosing the right healthcare career

Choosing one's undergraduate course is a difficult task, especially when the course deals with careers that directly affect human lives. BSc Nursing and BSc Paramedical are two of the most demanding health courses in India, attracting students to an extremely respectable and in-demand profession. Just like all other courses receptive to the medical science field, both are inherently different from one another in terms of professional assumptions, skills, and employment opportunities. The global demand for health professionals remains strong. It is important to know the differences between these two courses and which one is of interest.

Understanding the core difference

Coming from a British BSc Nursing, it is a four-year undergraduate program majoring in the area of patient care. The curricula build skills necessary for registered nurses who will cater to hospital duties, assist in surgeries, and provide long-term care to patients. Theoretical instruction is combined with field practice, preparing graduates for roles in hospitals, but also in community health settings, nursing homes, and international healthcare organisations.

BSc Paramedical, on the other hand, refers to some specialised paramedical degree courses, which include those training in conscious shaping but are technically inclined and diagnostic roles; direct patient care is absent. This course usually runs from 3 to 4 years depending on the specialisation that can include Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiology and Imaging, Anesthesia Technology, Operation Theatre Technology, and Dialysis Technology; thus, the fundamentals in training are to equip professionals to assist medical teams through diagnostic tests, surgical helps as well as life-saving emergency services in providing such service.

Qualifications and curriculum

Usually, both BSc Nursing and BSc Paramedical courses typically require students to have the same physics, chemistry, and biology background of 10+2. Many Paramedical courses accept a student with only PCM along with the Paramedical course, but usually only in fields such as radiology or medical imaging.

Nursing students complete the same rigorous subject matter during their BSc programs in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology, and then go through each of their rotations.

Paramedical students will be exposed to the same subjects, but mainly when we are only learning how to work the equipment and lab tests, and to provide support to a surgeon or a physician during a procedure. Both programs require students to have an academic education and practical hands-on experiences, but the environments of both programs can be different.

Career options and work settings

Nursing graduates of BSc Nursing frequently start positions as a Staff Nurse, ICU Nurse, Nurse Educator, or Community Health Worker. They can work in government/private hospitals, armed forces, NGOs, or even in international settings, such as those available to Indian Nurses who are in high demand. Nurses typically work a combination of shifts and hours, including weekends and nights, and must demonstrate a concern for human kindness and compassion, which is demonstrated through being patient-centred.

Graduates of BSc Paramedical often work in the background but are equally important. Some positions include Lab Technician, Radiographer, OT Technician, and Dialysis Technologist. Paramedical professionals can help through assessment, intervention, and providing care to treat or change a physiological condition. Paramedics often work in operating theatres, laboratories, trauma centres, and critical care areas.

Salary trends and further education

The salaries of BSc Nursing and BSc Paramedical graduates starting in India can generally be said to be in the range of Rs 2.5 to Rs 5 lakh per annum, depending on the type of specialisation or course, the city or state, and whether they are working in a government or private institution or organisation. In addition to salary, many graduates also move into foreign work environments with a higher cost of living and responsibility; therefore, the salary increases accordingly. With experience, salary can go even higher, particularly with full-time practical experience coupled with postgraduate education.

The graduates from both courses can also take and join postgraduate studies. Nursing graduates can pursue MSc Nursing or hospital administration, while paramedical graduates can take their postgraduate diploma or master's in the specialisation they graduated in. Other courses to consider now include public health, health research, and other emerging study courses such as AI for healthtech, which is an area now pursued by ambitious graduates from both groups.

Which one will you choose?

If you are naturally empathic and happy to be in a caring role for others, and you have a high tolerance for people, then BSc Nursing is for you. It is best-suited for someone who wants a "frontline" role in healthcare and to work directly with patients to provide care and emotional support.

On the other hand, if your interests are more towards technology, diagnostics, and you prefer working with machines or in labs as a structured environment, a BSc Paramedical will offer you some options, as well as a range of specialisations that have technical depth and good career potential.

Both fields are essential pillars of modern medicine. Your choice should be determined by your interests, career aspirations, and what kind of working environment you want to be in.

"Experiencing in Experiential Learning"

Experiencing in Experiential Learning refers to the direct, active involvement of a learner in a meaningful activity or situation. It's the first stage in Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle, which includes *Concrete Experience, Reflective Observation, Abstract Conceptualization and Active Experimentation*

1. Experiencing Means:

This stage is about doing — participating in an activity, encountering a problem, or facing a real or simulated situation. The learner becomes immersed in the moment, often through:
- Hands-on tasks (e.g., lab experiments, simulations, role plays)
- Real-life experiences (e.g., internships, service learning, travel)

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- Memory: Direct involvement enhances retention.
- Relevance: Learners see the

- Group work or collaborative challenges

2. Examples of "Experiencing" in Practice
- A nursing student working in a clinical setting with real patients
- A business student managing a simulation of a company
- An art student participating in a live exhibit
- A language learner engaging in a conversation with a native speaker

3. "Experiencing" Matters:
- Engagement: Learners are emotionally and cognitively involved.

importance and context of what they're learning.
- Foundation for reflection: It sets the stage for the next steps in the cycle—analysing and applying what was learned.

4. Tips for Effective Experiential Learning:
- Make the experience authentic and purposeful.
- Encourage learners to step out of their comfort zone.
- Balance structure with freedom so learners can explore meaningfully.
- Follow up with reflection to deepen learning.

With Study Abroad Getng Tougher, India Shines as Education Destination: Report

■ **EJ**- *Agency*

As global universities tighten their admission policies and visa challenges grow, India is rising as a global education hub, prompting many students to rethink their study-abroad plans, according to several top officials of educational institutions. Top officials of many eminent educational institutions said that initiatives such as e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access Indian educational institutions.

Speaking on the trend, Amruta Ruikar, Head of International Admissions and Promotions, Symbiosis International University, said, "India is not just reforming education - we're reimagining our role in the global academic community. With the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as our foundation, we're opening pathways for joint degrees, credit transfers, and cross-border collaborations."

"Programs like Study in India, ICCR scholarships, and GIAN reflect a clear intent: to make India a destination, not just a departure point, for quality education. New steps like the e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access our institutions. But beyond policies, what truly sets us apart is our willingness to welcome, especially students from regions facing economic or political uncertainty," she further added.

Experts further added that the Indian institutions are stepping in with an alternative that combines globally benchmarked curricula, interdisciplinary programs and rich international exposure.

Dr Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor of Mahindra University, said, "If Indian higher education is to compete with the world's best, we must go beyond traditional metrics and reimagine student experience. That means investing not just in infrastructure or curriculum, but in nurturing interdisciplinary thinking, global partnerships, and cultural agility. At Mahindra University,