



International Column'



Bela Sulashvili
Educationist

Dedoplistskaro - Georgia

I am Bela Sulashvili from the town of Dedoplistskaro Georgia. I have been working at the school for 16 years. During my work at school, I carry out various projects and activities and get acquainted with international literature. I like to search for innovations and put them into practice. Together with my students, I implement projects that respond to the goals of sustainable development. I have created a variety of learning resources for the different subjects I teach. In my school, there is a collegial environment and we are always ready to help each other to progress and develop. My main motivation is the bright faces of my students when they discover new knowledge.

>> Contd. p.2..



Ishwar Deshmukh
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Move to increase internship period for foreign medical graduates opposed

■ EJ News - New Delhi

To be eligible for the Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) or clinical medical rotatory internship, foreign medical graduates who had a break in their final year and returned to India due to the Covid pandemic or the Russia-Ukraine war, and finished their coursework online, will need to complete a mandatory one-year clinical clerkship, as stated by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Medical colleges can levy a fee of up to ₹ 5,000 per month on such students for their clinical clerkship, according to a notification from the NMC.

Students who had a break from their studies during the second-to-last year of the program due to a pandemic or war and finished the foreign medical graduates (FMG) course, including the exam, online, will need to complete a two-year clinical clerkship (CC), as stated in the notice. The notice further outlines that upon the successful completion of the



two-year clerkship, supported by a logbook and authenticated by the respective college authority, students will be permitted to commence CMRI. This can be conducted in a medical college or any recognized institute.

"After successful completion of a two-year clerkship and supported by a logbook, followed by authentication from the concerned college authority, they will be allowed to begin CMRI, which may be done in a medical college or any recognized insti-

tute," the notice stated.

According to the NMC, which oversees the nation's medical education and profession, the number of seats allowed for an internship or clinical clerkship will be 7.5 percent of the permitted MBBS seats in old colleges that have their students pursuing CRMI, and it shall be 100 percent in new medical colleges that do not have their students doing CRMI.

JNU diktat: ₹20,000 fine for dharnas, ₹10,000 for slogans

■ EJ News - New Delhi

Nine months after Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) issued a notification warning students of fines as high as Rs 20,000 for protesting and engaging in intimidation or insulting behaviors and later withdrawing it following criticism, the varsity released a similar manual.

A 15-page chief proctor manual on the 'rules of discipline and proper conduct of students' has been approved by the JNU executive council. JNU students can now face a penalty of Rs 20,000 for engaging in activities such as holding dharnas, hunger strikes, group bargaining, and any form of protest around the residence of any member of the university and within a 100-meter radius of any academic and administrative complex.

This manual also outlines punishment for various acts such as protests, forgery, and "organizing events such as freshers' welcome parties, farewells, or disc jockey events in university premises without permission." It was in February when the



JNU issued a notification saying that students can be imposed a penalty of Rs 20,000 for holding dharnas and face admission cancellation or a fine of up to Rs 30,000 for resorting to violence in the university, its latest rules stipulate.

However, within a week, the notification was reportedly withdrawn following criticism. However, Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit told this newspaper: "No changes in the rules. Only the proctor's office has made the documents legally sound. The fines are all

>> Contd. p.4..

72.7% of Universities have not yet appointed officers for students' grievance panels

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The commission has set September 30 as the deadline for all higher education institutions to appoint an ombudsman. Around 72.7% of universities have yet to appoint an ombudsman for the redressal of students' grievances.

Four months after the higher education regulator directed all universities to appoint an ombudsman to redress student grievances, 72.7% of them are yet to comply, officials of the University Grants Commission said.

The universities were given 30 days from the notification of the regulations dated April 11, 2023, failing which they would face "punitive action", which includes "withholding any grant allocated to the institution, informing the public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice displayed prominently in suitable media and posted on the website of the commission, declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum standards for redressal of grievances".

Under the UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023, notified in April, every university has to appoint an ombudsman for redressal of student grievances of the university and colleges or institutions affiliated to them.

If the students fail to get relief from the institutions' students grievance redressal committees, they can appeal to the ombudsman, the guideline states.

College Grievance



The ombudsman will be a retired vice-chancellor a retired professor with 10 years of experience or a former district judge. UGC Chairman M Jagadish Kumar said, "Addressing the grievances of students should be the top priority of the higher educational institutions. Those universities that have not appointed an ombudsman are doing a disservice to the student community by not allowing them to redress their grievances. UGC will take appropriate action against the defaulting universities."

The move came days after the commission pulled up Kolkata's Jadavpur University for not being clear on the steps taken to curb cases of harassment in its report submitted on the death of a student that has sparked allegations of ragging on the campus. Until now, six letters have been sent to Governors, Chief Ministers, vice-chancellors of Universities, state Chief Secretaries, and Principal Secretaries (education). Recently, a reminder was sent on UGC's behalf on August 10, 2023, to principal secretaries (education) of various states and Union Territories.

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Adaptation of first graders in school, The role of teachers and parents

For first graders, the start of schooling is an important stage in a child's life. It is during this period that the child's attitude towards learning and school is formed. We, the teachers, and the parents, ensure that the children successfully pass the period of adaptation to school.

Adaptation of first-graders to school is always relevant because, at the beginning of each year, we encounter many situations when the student has difficulty adjusting to school. We hear similar examples from every first-grade teacher: he couldn't get used to school, he doesn't want to go to school anymore, he can't communicate with children, he's not ready for school, it's hard for him to follow the rules of behavior, his mother often cries, he can't stay in class, he plays with toys from home during class, when I ask about the lesson, he hurts. He sleeps in the morning and is always late. I have witnessed such similar examples many times. On the same issue, I had to work on a school needs study, where it was revealed that the role of the school, teacher, and parents is very important in the adaptation of first graders to school.

It is easy for the teacher, by observing the school environment, and interviewing the parent and the student, to find out what difficulties the first-graders face during adaptation. If the child is calm, cheerful and cheerful, it is not difficult to make friends with classmates, he is happy to talk about the time spent at school and teachers and new

friends, he does his tasks with pleasure, he likes the school regime and learning new things, he responds adequately to the teacher's advice and instructions, we can conclude based on this even a small list, that he has no problem adapting to school. If such issues as the student often causes fatigue, head, and stomach pain, often scolds classmates, has a feeling of inner protest in situations where he used to be calm, finds it difficult to



fulfill school requirements, cannot follow school rules, then we should already delve into the given issue. To investigate the possible causes of the problem and on this basis to take care of the implementation of the interventions that will help the student to overcome the problem

painlessly.

The role of parents and family in the process of school preparation for a child is very important and immeasurable. Thus, a parent should know what skills to focus on developing so that his child does not face difficulties in the learning process in the future and can easily adapt to the school environment. A healthy relationship between parent and child in the family, friendly attitude, trust, and explanatory relationships are important to overcome any diffi-

culties later on. To promote school readiness, the parent should focus on the following issues: being able to complete the tasks given to the child and control his own emotions, having the desire to communicate with other children, the ability to analyze information, speak correctly and fluently, be able to control attention. The par-

ent should explain to the child in advance that his life schedule will change from now on; talk about the feelings he has before going to school; It is desirable to visit the school with the child before the start of school, to see the classroom where he will have to spend time, to meet the teacher before the official start of the school period; Tell them that all children are nervous on the first day of school, and this is natural; If there is a problem at school, you and the teacher will help to solve it.

Thus, when the school-teacher-parent-student circle closes and each of them takes responsibility and cooperation for their duties, this will ultimately have a positive effect on the student, and we will get the result that the child will adapt to the school without any difficulties



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and easily, without difficulties, freely adapt to the school environment.

Recommendations to the school, teachers, and parents for adaptation to school for first graders

- Ceremonial meeting with the first graders and decorating the school environment will create a pleasant impression on the first graders, positively affecting their easy adaptation to the school.

- If the practice is introduced to organize an excursion to the school for preschool children before the start of studies (in the summer), meeting with the teacher, and performing familiarization activities, we will help first-graders to adapt to school.

- A school equipped with a variety of learning resources will help the teacher to conduct interesting lessons, which will increase the motivation and inter-

est of the students in the school.

- The role of the first-grade teacher is especially important for the adaptation of the students to the school.

- An elementary school teacher must have sufficient knowledge to accurately recognize the signs of successful adaptation and maladaptation of first graders to school.

- The teacher must first be able to correctly identify the problem, then investigate the causes of the problem and work to improve each issue.

- Detailed study and analysis of the problematic issue by the teacher is one of the prerequisites for properly planned interventions.

- The teacher should always familiarize himself with the relevant literature that he will use in his interactions with children. Acquaintance with the literature on problematic issues, sharing it with colleagues, and discussion, gives the teacher great knowledge and experience to effectively use the received information in the educational process.

- The use of game elements in primary classes always gives the desired result.

- Timely delivery of necessary information to parents, and cooperation with them, always has a positive effect on the results of students.

- Psychological preparation of the student and promotion of school readiness on the part of the parents will help the first grader to adapt to school easily.

- The parent's willingness and active cooperation with the teacher is a prerequisite for the correct solution of the problem.

Efforts towards vibrant and sustainable institutions

In the vast expanse of education, the journey toward institutional greatness is paved with commitment, innovation, and an unyielding commitment to excellence. An exceptional institution stands as a testament to its academic prowess and the guiding principles etched into its very core. This article is an attempt to define pillars that elevate exceptional institutions to unparalleled heights.

In a great institution, the academic foundation transcends the mere dissemination of knowledge; it's an endeavor to instill values that mold students holistically. Exceptional institutions try to be realistic and prioritize sustainability, ethical conduct, inclusivity, and a commitment to societal well-being. These values form the guiding principles students carry into their professional and personal lives. They have every reason to become a strong force in the society. Moreover, as the educational landscape evolves, exceptional institutions stand at the forefront of pedagogical innovation. Embracing diverse teaching methodologies, technology integration, and experiential learning, they ensure that students are active participants in their educational journey, not just passive recipients of information.

Faculty are the essential and critical stakeholders of any institution. The exceptional institutions boast educators who transcend being subject matter experts; they are inspirational mentors. These educators bring a

wealth of knowledge, distinctive pedagogical styles, and a commitment to fostering an environment that sparks intellectual curiosity. The best and most effective faculty members have a high sense of ownership and are highly engaged in research through institutional support.

Continuous improvement, a hallmark of outstanding institutions, is facilitated through



dynamic evaluation and feedback mechanisms. Regular assessments and constructive feedback create an environment where students and faculty thrive, fostering a culture of excellence and perpetual growth. Recognizing that education extends beyond the classroom walls, outstanding institutions place a premium

on crafting a holistic student as well, as faculty experience. This involves providing opportunities for extracurricular activities fostering a supportive community, and offering resources that contribute to students' and faculty's overall well-being.

We cannot deny the role of leaders in eminent institutions. They are leaders by exception. Strong leadership, coupled with a clear vision, acts as the guiding compass steer-

ing institutions towards their goals. Visionary leaders set the tone for the institution's progress and inspire faculty and students to ascend to new heights. Their adeptness in navigating challenges and adapting to evolving landscapes shapes the unique identity of any institution. They are committed to excellence and believe it's not merely a destination but an ever-evolving

journey that propels boundaries, establishes new standards, and demands a perpetual commitment to dedication, hard work, and continuous improvement. Every facet, from program initiation to daily operations, is conducted precisely, ensuring a seamless and efficient environment. This meticulous attention to detail becomes the canvas upon which transformative learning experiences are painted. One of the best qualities of great institutions is that they believe that complacency hinders progress. The perpetual quest for improvement entails a readiness to adapt, innovate, and embrace change. This proactive approach ensures that the institution remains relevant and impactful in the ever-evolving educational landscape.

In conclusion, the pillars of excellence above can transform institutions into eminent ones. These great institutions can thrive with all the stakeholders and potentially transform societies.



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CBSE X & XII Board Exams to begin on February 15

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the date sheets for Class 10 and 12 board exams 2024 on its official website, cbse.gov.in. The examination for both classes is scheduled to begin on February 15, 2024. On the first day, the examination will be held in two sessions: from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm and from 10.30 pm to 2.30 pm. On other days, it will be held in one, two, three, and four sessions.

"CBSE Class 12 board exams will be conducted from February 15 to April 2, 2024, while Class 10 board exams will be held from February 15 to March 13," examination controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said. "While formulating the date sheets, the board has taken into consideration



the need for an adequate interval between successive subjects. The scheduling of Class 12 exams also takes into account the dates of competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)," the examination controller added.

Class 10 will have the Sanskrit examination on February 19, 2024, succeeded by the Hindi exam on February 21, 2024. The English test is slated for February 26, 2024, with the Science exam following on March 2, 2024. March 4, 2024, is reserved for the Home Science exam, and March 7, 2024, marks the Social Science examination. The final two exams

include Mathematics on March 11, 2024, and Information Technology on March 13, 2024.

Last year, the overall pass percentage for Class 10 was 93.12 percent. A total of 21,658,05 candidates had appeared for the examination, of which 20,167,79 candidates passed.

However, the overall pass percentage for Class 12 was 87.33 percent. The Trivandrum district secured the top spot with a 99.91 pass percentage. The girls' pass percentage was 90.68 percent.

A total of 16.9 lakh candidates were registered for Class 12 board exams last year. Among these, 7.4 lakh were female students, and 9.51 lakh were male candidates.

KIET organises Manthan 2.0, Inter-School Quiz Competition

■ EJ - Ghaziabad

KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi-NCR, Ghaziabad organized the highly awaited second chapter of its flagship program, MANTHAN 2.0 which is an inter-school quiz competition. The event attracted nearly 1200 online registrations from a wide range of nationwide senior secondary schools in Rajasthan, Bangalore, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal, and other states.

Day 1 began with the registration of more than 250 participants who qualified for the offline quarterfinal and semi-final rounds on campus. Oak Grove School Mussoorie, Goenka Public School, Jhansi, DAV Calderys School Katni, DPS Hisar, Presidium Raj Nagar, G.M.S.S Sarai Khwaza, Chitra Group of Institutions, Kanpur, Aum Sun Public School Muradnagar, Surevin International School, Modinagar, K.L. International School, Meerut, Shaheed Babu Singh Public School, Mohali, Punjab, and Gayatri Public School, Agra are some of the schools that participated in the event.

During the event, Dr. Anil Ahlawat highlighted the importance of quizzing. He said, "Raja Vikramaditya was known for his justice; justice comes through wit and activities like these, help in the grooming of kids and improving their wit, intellect, and wisdom."

Of all the 80+ teams, the top 12 teams were selected for the semi-final rounds, while the top 6 teams, i.e. 2 teams from K.L.



International School, Meerut, and 1 team each from Vanasthali Public School, Heritage Academy, BBPS Noida, and Oak Grove School Mussoorie competed against each other for the winner's trophy in the Grand Finale on 12th December 2023.

On both days, the Celebrity Quiz Master for the event, Mr. Gautam Bose started the quiz competition in a very interactive and playful manner. Not just with the participating teams, but also with the audience, Mr. Bose interacted pretty well and awarded them with ceramic mugs, keychains, pens, and other gifts, upon giving the right answer to the question.

The team from Oak Grove School Mussoorie was declared as the winning team of MANTHAN 2.0, while Teams from K.L. International School, Meerut, and Bal Bharati Public School, Noida were declared as the first runner-up and second runner-up respectively. Also, the winning team was awarded a winner's trophy along with a winning amount of Rs. 25,000, certificates, and other goodies. Similarly, the first and second runner-up teams were awarded an amount of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively along with certificates and other goodies.

In addition to the Grand Finale of teams from senior secondary schools, there was a separate

segment of quiz specially conducted for specially-abled students from Mata Bhagwanti Chadha Niketan and Swayam Special School. The quizzing student club of KIET conducted their quiz and team MBCN 4 from Mata Bhagwanti Chadha Niketan won the quiz. The winning team was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000 along with certificates and other goodies.

Dr. Manoj Goel, Joint Director, congratulated the winning team and all the other teams that participated in the event.

Dr. Preeti Chitakara presented a complete report of both days and explained how this year's MANTHAN came out to be bigger and more grandeur than MANTHAN 2022.

State Board's 2024: Class X and XII Exam date sheets released

■ EJ News - New Delhi

The date sheets for the Andhra Pradesh Classes 10 and 12 board exams 2024 have been released by the Board of Intermediate Education Andhra Pradesh (BIEAP). Students can access the timetable by visiting the official website at bie.ap.gov.in. The practical exams for Class 12 are scheduled from February 5 to February 20, while the theoretical exams will be held from March 1 to March 20, 2024. Class 10 exams will start on March 18 and end on March 30.

To successfully clear the AP Inter and SSC exams in 2024, students must achieve a minimum of 35 percent marks in each subject.

The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP) on officially released the examination schedule for Class 10 and Class 12. The UP Board 2024 exams are scheduled to commence on February 22. The Class 10 examinations will initiate with papers in Hindi, general Hindi, and commerce, while the Class 12 inter-exams will begin with military science. The exams will be conducted in two sessions - morning and afternoon. The first session will be held from 8.30 am to 11.45 am, while the subsequent session will take place from 2 pm to 5.15 pm.

Earlier, UPMSP instructed schools to organise Class 12 pre-board practical exams between January 5 and 12, 2024.

The Uttar Pradesh Class 10, 12 date sheet includes comprehensive information such as UP board exam dates for 2024, subject names, exam timings, and guidelines for the students.

The UPMSP timetable for 2023 in PDF format can be downloaded from the board's official website at upmsp.edu.in.

This year, the number of ap-



plicants for the 2024 final exams stands at 55,08,206.

The pre-board practical examination for Class 12 will be administered at the school level by middle school principals, spanning from January 5 to Jan-

uary 12, 2024. The practical exams for UP Board Class 12 will occur in two stages: from January 25 to February 1 and from February 2 to February 9, 2024.

Additionally, other state boards such as Bihar, Mizoram, Ra-

jasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Nagaland have published their Class 10 and 12 board exam date sheets. Tamil Nadu's exams are set for March 26, Maharashtra's HSC board exams will run from February 21, and SSC Class 10 exams from March 1.

The Bihar School Examination Board will hold the Inter and Matric theory exams in February 2024, with practical exams in January.

The Karnataka board has scheduled SSLC exams and Karnataka 2nd PUC exams from March 2 to March 22, 2024. Rajasthan board exams are slated to start on February 15, and the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) will conduct Class 10 and 12 exams from February 6 to 26.

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Scholarship Alert

Scholarship: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Programme 2023 - 24

Description: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Programme 2023 - 24 aims to provide financial support to meritorious and underprivileged female students pursuing graduation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects from government colleges/universities.

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

Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000 (fixed amount)

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Dec. 31, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/ONSS2

Scholarship: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2023-24

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

Eligibility: *Students who are enrolled in the first-year full-time regular postgraduation programmes in following streams can only apply for this scholarship:

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

♦Must have secured 550 to 1,000 in the GATE examination OR

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

♦Open for resident Indian citizens.

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

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Dec.17, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/RFS9

Scholarship: AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls 2023-24

Description: AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls 2023-24 is a government scholarship scheme implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious female students from economically weaker sections of society to pursue technical education.

Eligibility: Open for female applicants who have taken admission in full-time first-year diploma or degree programs in approved AICTE institutions. Candidates must have a family income of less than ₹ 8,00,000 per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to ₹ 50,000 per annum for every year of study

Application: Online applications only

Last Date to Apply: Dec.31, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/SSGC4

Scholarship: ICTS - S.N. Bhatt Memorial Excellence Fellowship Program 2024

Description: ICTS - S.N. Bhatt Memorial Excellence Fellowship Program 2024 is an initiative of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research for UG and PG students who are studying in Science, Mathematics, or Engineering courses.

Eligibility: Open for UG and PG pursuing students studying in the third, fourth, or fifth year of a Science, Mathematics, or Engineering course.

Prizes & Rewards: Stipend and accommodation for the duration of the programme

Application: Online applications & through post to - International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Survey No. 151, Shivakote Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru

Last Date to Apply: Dec. 31, 2023

Short Url: www.b4s.in/jagat/TIC3

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JEE Main 2024: To improve calculation

■ EJ - Ravi Arya.....

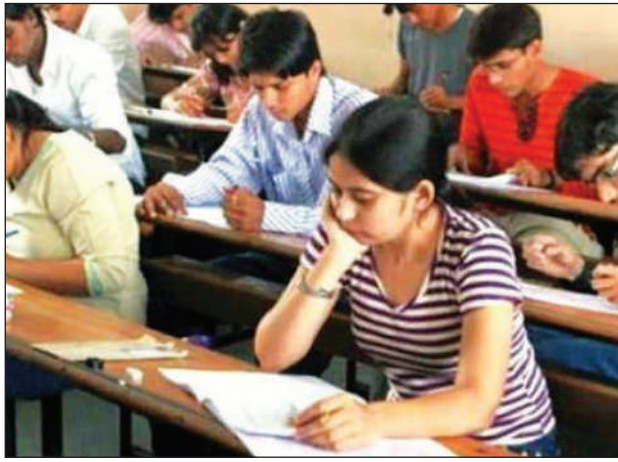
As the JEE Main 2024 session 1 is approaching, students might be feeling stressed. This stress then changes into silly mistakes, a common phenomenon in the last phase of preparation. Calculation mistakes are one of the most common mistakes students seldom make at this juncture. So, the critical question is how to improve our calculation for JEE Main so that students do not mess up the questions, which can easily be attempted with calmness and the right tactics.

Efficient calculation plays a pivotal role in navigating this rigorous exam's time constraints.

Emphasize the fundamentals: In the rush to tackle complex problems, students often overlook the importance of solid foundational knowledge. Students need to work on their basics, like the basics of arithmetic, such as multiplication tables, squares, and cubes. A strong foundation in these fundamental operations minimizes the chances of making such errors.

No use of calculators: While mental math is crucial, integrating technology is impractical for JEE Main as calculators are not allowed in this exam. So, it would be best to start practicing without calculators from the beginning to practice better before the exam.

Strategic practice sessions: Incorporate strategic practice sessions into the curriculum, setting realistic time constraints to create exam conditions. Such practice improves students' calculation skills and helps make the proper discipline required to manage their time effectively during problem-solving. Focus on various problems, gradually increasing complexity to ensure a comprehensive skill set. For example, students need to work on integer-type questions as the absence of options motivates



them to do calculations more effectively. Working on the subjective type of problems helps them to build confidence.

Mnemonic devices and visualizations: Try visualizing techniques and mnemonics to make calculations easier. By doing so, students can quickly memorize complex formulas or sequences, which will significantly lessen the mental strain they will face in the exam. Mathematical concepts can be made more concrete and psychologically operable by visualizing them.

Real-world application of concepts: Students should try to create an example independently. Make new questions, modify them, and make the calculations more challenging. The more they play with the concepts and technicality of the topic, the more confidence they will gain in it. Also, doing this activity sharpens their calculation skills.

Encourage approximations: In time-bound exams, precision is essential, but so is efficiency. Try to apply the approximations wherever required. For example, we deal with many approximations in the Equilibrium chapter in Physical chemistry. If we try to solve all the quadratic, cubic, and higher-degree equations, it leads to higher chances of error. This skill saves time and allows

the students to focus on the core concepts rather than getting bogged down by intricate numerical details.

Mastering time management: In the fast-paced environment of JEE Main, effective time management is as crucial as the calculations themselves. Allocating time wisely to each section, emphasizing the importance of swiftly identifying solvable problems and making strategic choices based on your strengths, will save your time and create less chance for calculation error.

Reviewing and learning from mistakes: Every mistake is an opportunity for growth. Students must develop a culture of reviewing and learning from their errors. Identify the type of mistake after each exam. For example, whether the mistake is conceptual, casual, or calculative, identify it and work accordingly to rectify it. After giving every exam, analyze what went wrong, whether it is the calculation errors or misinterpretation of the problem.

In JEE Main, where time is a precious commodity, mastering calculating techniques is a crucial requirement. By implementing these practical strategies, students cannot just solve problems but do so with efficiency, accuracy, and a deep understanding of the subject matter

Hot oil was poured on the hands of Chhattisgarh students for not cleaning school toilets, and teachers suspended

■ EJ - Raipur.....

In a shocking incident, around 125 female students of a government school in Kondagaon district, Chhattisgarh allegedly suffered burns on their hands after they were forced to pour hot oil on each other's hands as a punishment.

The teachers found that someone had defecated outside the girl's toilet at the Kherwahi middle school in Kondagaon district, after which they started questioning the students. Failing to get answers, the students were allegedly asked to pour hot oil, used to cook mid-day meals, on each other's hands as punishment.

The parents protested and sought action against the teachers involved. On the instruction of the Kondagaon collector Deepak Soni, the district education officer based on a preliminary investigation suspended three teachers.

However, teachers said that they only advised the students to keep the toilet clean and develop a habit of cleanliness.



"The act was unacceptable. The students did not keep the toilets clean despite several warnings. Therefore, the children decided to punish themselves. Later, we found that the girls tried to find the culprit. There is an old belief that a guilty person will get blisters on their palm when hot oil is poured. So they used this method. We did not know the girls carried out such irrational practice," one of the teachers said.

"Based on the initial probe report, the head principal along with the two teachers have been suspended and the sanitation worker was sacked," said Madhulika Tiwari, the district education officer.

Students of MBBS 2020-21 batch got additional opportunity to qualify the exam

■ EJ - New Delhi.....

The National Medical Commission allowed one additional attempt to those MBBS students who were admitted to the medical colleges during the academic year 2020-21 and could not pass their first professional examination due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an official notification released on the NMC website, the commission said, "National Medical Commission decided to allow one additional attempt (5th attempt) to such MBBS Students who were admitted in medical colleges during the academic year 2020-21 and could not pass their first professional MBBS examination, as this batch was also affected by COVID 19 Pandemic." This shall be a one-time measure and may not be treated as a precedence for the future, the release added.

UNESCO invites applications for King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize ₹ 25 Lakh

■ EJ - New Delhi.....

UNESCO has invited applications for the King Hamad Bin Isa AlKhalifa Prize for the year 2023. The prize is awarded for the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the education sector. Interested and eligible candidates can submit the applications to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) by January 7, 2024, which will be further sent to the UN body by February 5, 2024.

The prize was introduced in 2005 with support from the Kingdom of Bahrain to reward projects that use new technologies to enhance learning and teaching. It can be awarded to individuals, institutions, other entities, or non-governmental organizations who have made significant contributions to the learning, and teaching sector with the help of information and communication technologies (ICT).



The 2023 edition of the prize will focus on the theme 'Digital learning for greening education' and will be rewarded to initiatives that use digital technology to develop innovative and inclusive climate pedagogies. The programs must provide learners with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, values, and skills to tackle climate disruption and promote sustainable development.

The prize will be funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and will consist of a one-time contribution sum of US dollar 758,600. The amount would cover both the monetary value of the prize and the costs of administering the reward.

A UNESCO release has also mentioned the address for the candidates to submit their applications. It also has the phone number and email ID of educa-

Portal SATHEE to assist students in preparing for JEE, NEET and other competitive exams launched

■ EJ - New Delhi.....

The Union Education Ministry has launched a portal SATHEE to provide quality education to every student who plans to participate in competitive examinations such as JEE, NEET, and various state-level engineering and other examinations.

The portal SATHEE - Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Examination - has been created by the Department of Higher Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed the parliament that it is an open learning platform available to everyone. AI-based tools (chatbots) have been integrated to offer valuable insights into effective exam preparation strategies.

The portal offers several facilities to help students with such

examinations.

One of the features is that a senior student who has passed a competitive exam solves mock test papers and explains his or



her thought process to solve difficult questions on camera. The session is telecasted live as well as recording is shared with the aspirants.

This helps aspiring students to understand the tips to ace a question paper beyond just sub-

ject knowledge.

The portal also offers an assessment platform with more than 60,000 questions.

These questions are obtained from various sources, such as NCERT textbooks, exemplar books, previous year's exam papers, or designed by experts. These questions follow the latest exam patterns and syllabus.

SATHEE provides video lectures and live sessions on various topics and subjects related to the NCERT curriculum. This feature provides a comprehensive and interactive learning platform for students who want to study the NCERT syllabus for board exams in addition to preparing for competitive exams. These lectures and sessions are delivered by expert students from IITs, AIIMS, and other premier institutes.

Illegal recruitment agents conning Indians with the lure of foreign jobs says MEA

■ EJ - New Delhi.....

India has issued an advisory urging people to be cautious when applying for jobs through unregistered recruitment agents, as unsuspecting individuals often fall victim to scams. "It has been noticed that there is a significant increase in the number of overseas job seekers being duped by unregistered recruitment agents through fake job offers and overcharging ranging from Rs 2-5 lakh. These unregistered/illegal agents operate without obtaining a license from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which is mandatory for any recruitment for work abroad," states an advisory by MEA.

Reports indicate that many illegal agents use platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, text messages, and other mediums. These agencies provide minimal or no details about their whereabouts and contacts, relying solely on WhatsApp for communication, making it challenging to verify the caller's location, identity, and the legitimacy of the job offer.



"Such agents also entice workers to accept jobs in difficult and life-threatening conditions. Instances of such recruitment have been reported for positions in various East European countries, certain Gulf countries, Central Asian countries, Israel, Canada, Myanmar, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic," added the MEA.

Job-seekers are advised to consider that a valid job offer should include an employment contract duly signed by the foreign employer, recruitment agent, and the emigrant worker. "The employment contract must outline the terms and conditions of the job, including salary and other benefits. Valid job offers should enable the worker to emigrate based on an employment or work visa,

excluding tourist visas," it said. It said tourist visas should only be used for tourism purposes. Job-seekers should also be aware that reputable foreign employers typically cover the cost of airfare, boarding, lodging, and insurance.

the same." JNU...

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

- SMOKING: UP TO Rs 500
- Fresher's welcome party/farewell/DJ without prior permission - Up to Rs 6,000
- Consuming or possessing drugs, illicit substances & alcohol: Up to Rs10,000
- Forgery, printing, circulating, or pasting posters/pamphlets carrying derogatory religious, communal, casteist, or antinational remarks: Up to Rs 10,000
- False certificates, hunger strikes, dharnas, any form of protest within a 100 mt radii of the academic and administrative complex; unauthorized occupation of hostel rooms: Up to Rs 20,000, 2-semester eviction from hostel or rustication up to 2 semesters

Australia tightens visa norms for International students, skilled workers

■ EJ - Agency

The Australian government has tightened its visa rules for international students and skilled workers entering the nation. New measures aimed at reducing migrants include higher scores on English proficiency tests and increased scrutiny on second visa applications for extended stays. The Australian government said that this is a "major step forward in reforming Australia's broken migration system." They want to bring back migration to a sustainable level with the new strategy that touched a high of 510,000 by June 2023. With the new strategy, the government wants to reduce the number by half in the next two years by June 2025.

Under the new migration strategy, international students must achieve better scores on English tests. Additionally, there will be increased scrutiny during their second visa application which would prolong their stay.

"Our migration strategy is a bold plan to get migration working again for all Australians. The strategy helps us get the skills we need in healthcare, for our net zero transition, and in our digital economy. We are acting to design out migrant worker exploitation from the system so we can protect wages and conditions for migrants and



locals alike," said Minister for Home Affairs Clare O'Neil.

She further said, "This strategy is about building back integrity into the system, with treasury forecasts showing that migration is expected to decline substantially over the next financial year."

The decision comes after net immigration was expected to have peaked at a record 510,000 in 2022-23. Official data showed it was forecast to fall to about a quarter of a million in 2024-25 and 2025-26, roughly in line with pre-Covid levels. O'Neil said the increase in net overseas migration in 2022-23 was mostly driven by international students. "International education is a key national asset it is the biggest

export we don't dig out of the ground. That's why strengthening the integrity of our international education sector is so important. The Albanese Government's Migration Strategy sends a clear message that we will act to prevent the exploitation of students and protect Australia's reputation as a high-quality international education provider," said Minister for Education Jason Clare.

Migration has climbed to record levels in Australia, adding pressure to housing and infrastructure woes. It also mentioned that there are some 650,000 foreign students in Australia, with many of them on their second visa.

Canada demands higher funding proof; To hurt Indian students

■ EJ - Chandigarh

Canada's move to more than double the cost-of-living requirement for incoming international students will put an additional financial burden on people sending their children to study in that country, several aspirants' parents in Punjab said. They added that the decision has come as a big blow as they will now need to borrow more from banks or informal sources to arrange the funds to send their children to study in Canada.

Canada will more than double the cost-of-living financial requirement for incoming international students beginning January 1, Immigration Minister Marc Miller has announced, a move that will impact the arrival of foreign students in the country, including from India.

Starting next year, prospective students will need to show they have access to CAD 20,635 instead of the current requirement of CAD 10,000 -- a limit that had been in place for two decades in addition to paying for travel and tuition.

India was first among the top 10-origin countries for study permit holders in 2022 in Canada, with 319,000 students.

The move comes in the wake of India suspending visas to Canadians for several weeks as part of a diplomatic row.

Miller said the financial requirement had not kept up with the cost of living over time, resulting in students arriving in Canada only to learn that they did not have adequate funds.

This change will apply to new



study permit applications received on or after January 1.

Canada is among the preferred destinations for people from Punjab to study and settle down.

In Punjab, Moga-based immigration consultancy services representative Rashpal Singh Sosan said the expense of sending students to Canada will rise by around Rs 6.

50 lakh in the immediate aftermath of the Canadian government's decision to hike the cost-of-living financial requirement -- known as the Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC).

Parents will now have to arrange for more funds to send their children to Canada, he added.

Kapurthala-based Amandeep Singh, whose daughter aspires to study engineering in Canada, said he will now have to borrow more funds from the banks to realize her dreams.

It is an additional burden on the pocket of every parent whose children want to go to Canada for higher studies, he said.

"It will take a big chunk out of my pocket to fulfill the desire of my son, who is preparing to study there," he said.

In Hoshiarpur, Surinder Kaur, the mother of a student who

wishes to study in Canada, also expressed concern over the increase in the GIC amount.

At the same time, she said the Canadian government's decision will allow international students to meet their living expenses given that there are limited work opportunities for them.

Suresh Kumar, a Ludhiana-based student who wants to study in Canada, said it will be difficult for middle-class parents to arrange for additional funds to send their children to Canada.

With the new rules being implemented from January 1, many students and their parents are approaching immigration consultancies to expedite their files related to studies in Canada before December 31 to save themselves from the impact of the GIC hike.

Rahul Dangar, the representative of a Kapurthala-based immigration consultancy, said more than 40 students have approached their center to expedite their cases since the Canadian government's announcement on the increase in cost-of-living financial requirement.

Sports for every student

Sports should remain in schools for many reasons as it comprises exercise, fun, friendships, teamwork, and academics. This is an important argument because it can change lives and has both positive and negative effects on young athletes. "Exercising regularly is a key strategy in preventing heart disease." This will especially help later in life and will save lives. Sports enable them to have the energy required to have a successful day at school.

The next reason why sports in schools are important is friendships that result from teamwork. Socially, sports help young people get along with others. This is essential because students need to get along or they will never enjoy life or have friends. Second, in sports you learn to work together, "You're all working towards a common goal, and things like a tough coach or rough play can help bond you all together. This can produce friendships because students will meet other students who want the same thing. Last, teamwork is a necessary skill that is best created in sports. Teamwork will help with many life skills such as communication. Another point worth bringing up is a student who is extremely skilled at a sport has a chance of getting a scholarship to college. This is not something to rely on, but it is a possibility. Sports should remain in schools! It is a necessity! Without sports, students will not get enough exercise, their friendships will be limited, their teamwork skills will be finite and academics will decline. Sports are something that kids enjoy and are motivated. Sports is important in so many ways. Many parents may not afford sports outside schools for their children. Schools must take ownership of the healthy

environment and the personal values of students. Sports are generally liked by all especially kids. If we look at the history, we see the importance of sports from ancient times. The demand for sports is decreasing in modern times due to the popularity of video games, TV, etc. But the fact is the trend of games and sports can never finish.

Sports activities are made compulsory in schools and colleges for the student's good, physical and mental health. If one wants he/she can make a career in this field. The interested in sports can be more active and lead a healthy life as they develop leadership qualities, with disciplined routines. It certainly



Ishwar Deshmukh
Physical Education
Indian School
Salalah - Oman



teaches the values of dedication and patience. A sports-playing person would certainly experience less depression. Sports ensures the peace of mind of those playing it. Most noteworthy, Sports brings happiness and joy in the life of individuals. It helps to build the character and personality of a person.

Sport is an aspect of human

life. Sports is as important as education and should be made mandatory in schools and colleges. I feel and suggest that everyone must perform at least one sports activity regularly.

I would like to conclude with a quote "You will never know what you're capable of until you take that first step and just go for it"

CBSE to make 75% attendance mandatory for class X and XII board exams

■ EJ - New Delhi

As per the Standard Operating Procedure, (SOPs) prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), students must have a minimum of 75 percent mandatory attendance for appearing in the class 10 and 12 board exams.

To ensure the importance of classes and attendance, the board has introduced various measures such as preparing Standard Op-

erating Procedures for dealing with students who have attendance less than the prescribed percentage.

Schools are required to compile all shortages of attendance separately for classes 10, and 12 supported with documents. These details should be sent to the concerned Regional Office within January 7 of the academic session.

The Regional Office will com-

municate any deficiency to the schools within 15 days of receipt of the attendance details. The office should contact the schools by January 21 of the academic session.

Schools will communicate fulfillment of deficiency to the regional office within seven days from the date of activity. The last date according to approvals by CBSE is February 7 of the examination year.

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