



Does the use of Artificial Intelligence increase students' motivation in the teaching and learning process?

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an important part of modern education. Digital tools, smart platforms, and virtual assistants are increasingly used in classrooms around the world. One of the most significant questions educators ask today is whether the use of AI can increase students' motivation in the teaching and learning process. Motivation plays a crucial role in academic success, as motivated learners are more engaged, confident, and willing to participate in learning activities.

The Role of AI in Education

AI technologies support teachers by offering innovative ways to present information and organize lessons. Interactive applications, adaptive learning platforms, and automated feedback systems allow students to learn at their own pace. As a result, learning becomes more personalized and student-centered. This personalized approach helps learners feel more responsible for their own progress, which can positively influence their motivation.

Increasing Engagement and Interest

One of the main advantages of AI-based learning is the ability to make lessons more engaging. Multimedia resources, gamified activities, and instant feedback encourage students to participate actively in the classroom. When students experience suc-



cess through interactive tasks and see immediate results of their efforts, they develop a stronger interest in learning. This sense of achievement contributes to higher motivation and improved academic

performance.

Supporting Different Learning Styles

Students have diverse learning preferences and abilities. AI tools can adapt content according to indi-

vidual needs, providing additional explanations, practice exercises, or challenges for advanced learners. Such differentiation helps students feel supported and understood. Consequently, they become more confident and mo-

Smart Classrooms Need Smart Mindsets

To equip students as future-ready learners and prepare them for emerging career opportunities shaped by AI, many schools are now incorporating AI into their curricula from a young age. This technology is no longer a distant concept; it has already made its way into education. However, a pressing question remains: are we truly prepared to embrace AI and adapt our teaching methods accordingly?

Before implementing AI in classrooms, it's crucial to recognize existing barriers, such as inadequate infrastructure, insufficient training and awareness among teachers, and a curriculum that hasn't yet evolved to keep pace with AI advancements. The digital divide continues to hinder many schools and educators from adopting AI, even if they are considering it. Yet, perhaps the most significant obstacle is the need for a mindset shift among teachers, parents, and students. Integrating AI isn't just a technological change; it requires a collective alignment of attitudes to ensure that even the most sophisticated tools can make a meaningful impact.

Teachers must shift from resistance to reinvention. Many educators worry that AI might take over their jobs, but it's essential to recognize that AI can be a valuable ally in managing repetitive tasks. Rather than



competing with teachers, AI can offer insights that simplify their workload, allowing for more time to engage with students. Embracing a mindset open to experimentation with new methods is crucial, as AI continues to evolve. Before integrating it into classrooms, teachers should adopt a flexible approach that includes learning, unlearning, and relearning as part of their professional development. This transition will enable them to move from being mere knowledge dispensers to becoming facilitators, mentors, and guides for their students.

Parents play a crucial role in helping their children un-

derstand and utilize technology effectively. While many express concerns about AI in education—worrying it may distract kids, increase screen time, or diminish critical thinking—these fears can sometimes be justified. However, it's essential for parents to view AI as a tool that can enhance learning rather than a threat to traditional methods. By educating themselves about how AI can be integrated into education, including concepts like personalized learning and instant feedback, parents can better support their children. They should emphasize that AI tools are meant to assist rather than replace human thought. Encouraging offline activities, setting limits on technology use, and discussing the mindful and

ethical use of AI can help parents guide their children in navigating this evolving landscape.

Children are introduced to technology at a young age, but simply using it doesn't ensure they learn effectively. Instead of relying solely on AI tools for answers, kids should be encouraged to ask questions, analyze information, and explore topics deeply. They can gather information from AI, connect it to what they already know, and apply it to real-life situations. It's important for them to recognize that AI is a tool for exploration rather than a crutch. When children learn to use AI mindfully, it can boost their creativity and critical thinking. However, if they

NEET Paper ...

informed registration data, candidature, and examination centres opted for in the May 2026 cycle will be carried forward to the re-conduct NEET. There will be no fresh registration, and no additional examination fee will be levied. "In addition, fees already paid, will be refunded to the students and the exam will be re-conducted using NTA's internal resources."

'NEET not exam...

were being sold on WhatsApp 42 hours before the exam," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

Over 22 lakh children studied through sleepless nights all year, burning the midnight oil, and in one night, their future was openly "auctioned off" in the marketplace, he said.

"This isn't the first time. In 10 years, 89 paper leaks—48 re-exams. Every time, the same promises, and then the same silence," the former Congress chief said.

CBSE XII result...

stronger results than boys, achieving a pass percentage of 88.86, while boys stood at 82.13 per cent. Transgender candidates achieved a complete pass rate.

Regional performance varied across the 22 CBSE zones. Trivandrum emerged at the top with a pass percentage of 95.62, followed by Chennai at 93.84 and Bengaluru at 93.19. At the lower end, Prayagraj recorded 72.43 per cent, while Patna stood at 74.45 per cent.

Among school categories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan led with a 98.55 per cent pass rate, followed closely by Jawahar Navodaya Vidya laya at 98.47 per cent. Government schools reported 89.55 per cent, while independent schools recorded 84.22 per cent.

The examinations were conducted across 19,967 schools and 7,573 centres, with more than 5.06 lakh invigilators deployed. In a first, CBSE implemented full-scale digital evaluation through On Screen Marking, under which 98,66,622 answer books were assessed by around 70,000 evaluators.

Students placed in the compartment category or seeking improvement can appear for supplementary exams scheduled on July 15. The List of Candidates submission window will open on June 2. Results are available on the official CBSE web site and DigiLocker.

Row erupts in...

condition of anonymity, said, "The Army Public Schools are all across the country, mid-session transfer of parents takes place, thus only standardized language subjects can be taught in army schools in classes VI to VIII. These languages are English, Hindi and Sanskrit. However, schools may opt to teach a fourth regional language, if sufficient students opt for the same."

Parents expressed concern that reducing structured Punjabi teaching could affect students' linguistic and cultural learning. Several Punjab-based organisations also termed the move a violation of the Punjab Learning of Punjabi and Other Languages (Amendment) Act, 2008, which mandates Punjabi instruction in schools up to Class 10 in the state.

Army Public Schools follow NCERT curriculum and are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education. There are 140 Army Public Schools across military cantonments in the country run by the Army Welfare Education Society under the Ministry of Defence.



Oliko Bekoshvili
Educationist
Georgia

tivated to continue learning.

Challenges and Considerations

Despite its many benefits, the use of AI in education also presents certain challenges. Teachers need proper training to integrate technology effectively into their teaching practice. In addition, schools must ensure equal access to digital resources for all students. It is also important to maintain a balance between technological tools and human interaction, as emotional support and communication remain essential elements of the learning process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of Artificial Intelligence can significantly increase students' motivation when applied thoughtfully and responsibly. By creating interactive, personalized, and engaging learning environments, AI helps students develop positive attitudes toward education. However, the successful integration of AI depends on teachers' professional development, adequate resources, and a balanced approach that values both technology and human connection.



Dr. Anjum Nazir Quresi
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only turn to AI for quick solutions, they miss out on valuable learning experiences. Using AI for brainstorming and clarifying doubts can help them become more confident and independent learners.

Integrating AI into classrooms goes beyond just adopting a new tool; it's about fostering a mindset that encourages growth and collaboration. When teachers embrace continuous learning, parents take on supportive roles, and children engage as active participants, AI can revolutionize educational environments, enhancing human potential rather than replacing it. With a shift in mindset, attitude, and awareness, technology and human values can harmoniously coexist.



“Prarambh 2026”: Grand farewell for PGDM batch 2024–26



■ EJ - Gr. Noida

The prestigious management Institute, GNIOT Institute of Management Studies, organized the grand annual farewell ceremony “Prarabdh 2026” for the PGDM Batch 2024–26 students. The evening was filled with music, emotions, excitement, celebration, and memorable moments.

The vibrant and energetic event witnessed a spectacular live performance by renowned singer and performer Raul, which became the highlight of the evening. His melodious songs, dynamic performance, and electrifying music filled the atmosphere with thrill and enthusiasm. Students thoroughly enjoyed the musical extravaganza, making the evening truly memorable.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of the institution’s top leadership, including Chairman Dr. Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Vice Chairman Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Chief Executive

Officer Mr. Swadesh Kumar Singh, Director Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Som, and Executive Director Dr. Ruchi Rayat.

In his inspiring address, Director Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Som appreciated the students for their academic achievements, dedication, perseverance, and ability to adapt to changing environments. He stated that the institute has always remained committed to the holistic development of students and continuously works towards preparing them for the challenges of the corporate world.

On this occasion, CEO Mr. Swadesh Kumar Singh shared that the students of this batch had received nearly 100% placement offers through the institute, which brought immense enthusiasm and confidence among the students. He emphasized that the institution remains committed to providing quality education along with excellent career opportu-

nities. As a result, students of the institute have been selected by several prestigious national and international companies.

He further added that the institute regularly provides corporate training alongside academic education, which significantly helps students in personality development, communication skills, leadership abilities, and achieving success in placement processes.

The Ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Executive Director Dr. Ruchi Rayat, who expressed gratitude to all the guests, faculty members, organizing committee, and students for making the event successful.

“Prarabdh 2026” gifted students and attendees countless emotional and unforgettable memories. The event also reflected the institution’s commitment towards the holistic development of students and its vision of shaping future leaders.

NEET-UG 2026 re-exam to be held on June 21, says NTA



■ EJ - New Delhi

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced that the re-examination for NEET-UG 2026 will be conducted on June 21, days after the medical entrance test was cancelled over allegations of a paper leak.

In a post on X, the NTA said the decision had been taken with the approval of the Government of India and urged candidates and parents to rely only on official communication channels for updates

related to the examination.

“The National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has scheduled the re-examination of NEET (UG) 2026 on Sunday, 21 June 2026,” the agency said.

With the schedule now out, candidates can expect the agency to release admit cards four to five days before the examination.

The NTA has earlier clarified that no additional fee will be

charged from candidates for the reconduct of the NEET UG 2026 examination. Students who had already registered for the May 3 exam will be eligible to appear for the June 21 test without making any fresh payment.

The NEET (UG) 2026 exam for admission to undergraduate courses in medical colleges, held on May 3, was cancelled amid allegations of paper leak.

The decision was taken with the approval of the central government after allegations of a paper leak and other irregularities surfaced.

“Based on the inputs subsequently examined by NTA in coordination with the central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforcement agencies and to ensure that there is transparency in the system, the National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has de-

>> Contd. p.4...

Over 2.6 lakh students fail Class XII across the country



■ EJ - New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday declared the Class XII board exam results for this year, recording an overall pass percentage of 85.2%, a decline of 3.19 percentage points compared to last year’s 88.39%.

According to the board, a total of 17,80,365 students registered for the exams across the country, and 17,68,968 of them appeared. Out of them, 15,07,109 students cleared the examination.

Girls once again outperformed boys in the overall results. The gender gap stood at 6.73 percentage points, continuing the trend witnessed in previous years. The board, however, did not release the topper list, in line with its policy aimed at reducing unhealthy

academic competition.

Trivandrum emerged as the best-performing region with an impressive pass percentage of 95.62%, while Prayagraj recorded the lowest at 72.43%.

Students can download their digital marksheets and certificates through multiple official platforms, including the official CBSE website, the board’s results portal, DigiLocker, and the UMANG App. The board has also enabled access to results via SMS services for students facing Internet connectivity issues.

The exams were conducted between February 17 and April 10 this year in a single shift from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm across centres in India and abroad.

Notably, the performance of students from foreign CBSE-

■ CBSE nationwide pass percentage drops by over 3%, but girls continue to outperform boys.

■ According to the board, a total of 17,80,365 students registered for the exams across the country, and 17,68,968 of them appeared. Out of them, 15,07,109 students cleared the examination.

affiliated schools also witnessed a decline this year. According to official data, 185 foreign schools and 115 examination centres participated in the examinations. A total of 24,047 students had registered, while 24,009 appeared for the exams. Out of them, 21,728 students passed, taking the overall pass percentage in foreign schools to 90.5%.

Girls studying in foreign schools also outperformed the boys. The pass percentage among girls stood at 92.23%, while boys recorded 88.69%. In comparison, the overall pass percentage in the foreign schools last year was 95.01%, marking a dip of 4.51 percentage points.

‘What is the need for girls’ education?’ Major backlash over Bihar minister’s remarks



■ EJ - Rajesh Jha - Patna

Bihar’s newly appointed education minister, Mithilesh Tiwari, courted controversy on Monday when he said that girls were not required to study, as they should remain within the four walls of the house.

In the video which went viral on social media soon, the first-time minister, who is a BJP MLA from Baikunthpur in Gopalganj district, apparently sought to undermine the importance of education for girls and suggested that daughters should remain within the household rather than step out for public demonstrations.

When a reporter interrupted and reasoned that education is girls’ right, he responded, “Girls will

get their rights automatically.”

Interestingly, Mithilesh Tiwari was a teacher, holding a BA (Honours) degree in Economics, before joining politics. He also ran a coaching institute in Patna for some time.

Tiwari’s remarks are in sharp contrast

to former chief minister Nitish Kumar, who promoted education of girls and women. His innovative idea to provide bicycles to schoolgirls improved attendance of girls in government schools across the state. Subsequently, the ‘poshak’ yojna was launched under which money was provided for their school uniforms.

Tiwari joined the ABVP in

1988 and entered active politics through BJP in 1990. During the RJD’s tenure, the BJP fielded him in February 2005, but he lost. In 2015, he won the election, leaving behind the JD (U)-RJD candidate. In the 2020 elections, he was unable to secure a victory, contesting from Baikunthpur. In 2025, he emerged victorious by defeating the RJD candidate.

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Students blame Class XII low score on 'on-screen' marking of answer sheets



■ EJ - New Delhi.....

Students across the country expressed anger and disappointment over the CBSE Class 12 results, alleging unfair checking under the newly introduced On-Screen Marking (OSM) system. Social media was flooded with screenshots of marksheets, emotional reactions and complaints of unusually low scores after the results were declared on Wednesday.

Many students claimed their scores did not match their academic performance. Samriddhi, a student of Army Public School said, "I expected around 95 per

cent but scored around 80 instead. I studied day and night for these examinations. The system feels extremely unfair to students."

Sparsh Tanwar, a PCM student from The Maurya School, said his marks were nearly 10 per cent lower than expected. "We were profoundly disappointed," he said.

This year, CBSE introduced large-scale digital evaluation through the OSM system for Class 12 answer sheets. According to the board, nearly 98 lakh answer books were assessed digitally to improve efficiency and reduce manual errors.

The Class 12 pass percentage dropped from 88.39 per cent last year to 85.20 per cent this year, while the number of compartment cases reportedly increased.

A checker associated with the evaluation process, seeking anonymity, alleged that technical glitches affected digital marking. The examiner claimed the system sometimes failed to register marks properly.

Defending the system, CBSE said the OSM process was introduced to ensure objective assessment, reduce manual errors and improve transparency in evaluation.

Not enough infra, will take 20 days to conduct NEET exams online: NTA



■ EJ - New Delhi.....

Conducting the NEET-UG examination completely online, on the lines of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and other competitive tests, is not possible under the present circumstances because of inadequate technical infrastructure and the sheer number of candidates, a senior official of the National Testing Agency (NTA) has said.

This year, 22.05 lakh candidates appeared for the examination out of the 22.79 lakh who had registered. "Over 22 lakh aspirants is an extremely large number. To conduct the examination online for all candidates successfully, it would take nearly 20 days continuously. It is not feasible to implement it this year," the official said.

With lakhs of candidates in In-

dia and abroad appearing for the examination in the traditional pen-and-paper format, the same pattern has been followed in earlier years as well.

Several parents and teachers have strongly advocated shifting the entire examination process online following the alleged leak of questions in the NEET-UG 2026 examination that came to light earlier this week. A similar demand had also been raised after the question paper leak in May 2024.

Conducting the examination entirely online was among the key recommendations made by the seven-member committee headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Radhakrishnan, constituted to suggest measures for ensuring a foolproof examination process.

A senior official told this news-

paper, "At present, the number of aspirants who can take the examination online at one time ranges between one lakh and 1.5 lakh. The existing system does not have the capacity to handle more than that."

The official added that a complete shift to online mode could be considered from next year if substantial technological upgrades are implemented.

Meanwhile, NTA officials have been meeting over the past two days with the Ministry of Health, the National Medical Commission, and officials of the Education Ministry regarding the re-test and measures to ensure a foolproof examination process.

NEET 2026 row...

sible links to last year's NEET examination. Notably, four children from Dinesh Binwal's family had reportedly qualified for NEET last year. Sources claim that the Haryana-based network being probed has also revealed information related to the previous year's examination.

According to the SOG, Dinesh allegedly sold the leaked paper to several individuals in Sikar, including hostel operators and consultancy firms. The probe has further indicated that the racket may have been deeply entrenched in the coaching hub, where institute administrators, students and middlemen allegedly operated WhatsApp groups and channels to circulate leaked examination material.

The investigation has also brought another accused, Rakesh Mandavriya, under the scanner. Rakesh allegedly operated a consultancy office opposite a coaching institute in Sikar and was involved in counselling activities. Investigators believe he had received the paper several days before the examination. The SOG later detained Rakesh and his associates from Dehradun. Officials suspect that he procured the paper through Dinesh Binwal.

Investigators say Rakesh circulated the paper not only among students but also among PG operators and coaching faculty members. Agencies are now struggling to determine the exact number of beneficiaries involved in the racket.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has now formally taken over the case. On Tuesday night, a CBI team reached the SOG headquarters in Jaipur to collect details related to the investigation. So far, the SOG has arrested 15 people, while the opposition claims that more than 45 individuals have been detained or questioned.

With Binwal now allegedly linked to the conspiracy behind the NEET paper leak, the opposition Congress has gone on the offensive against the BJP government over the issue. Opposition leaders allege that the government, which had previously promised strict action against paper leak mafias, is now facing allegations involving its own political circles.

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly have both questioned whether the government tried to suppress the matter because the accused was linked to the BJP.

In a post on X, Gehlot alleged that the government deliberately avoided filing an FIR despite repeated questions being raised since May 11.

'Will not let malpractice happen again': Dharmendra Pradhan announces computer-based NEET from next year

■ EJ - New Delhi.....

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct the NEET-UG re-examination on June 21 and shift the medical entrance test to Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode from next year, following the latest paper-leak controversy. Addressing a press conference, Pradhan assured students that the government would not allow irregularities to recur and said protecting students' interests remained the Centre's top priority. "Our topmost priority is the future of the students, and the government is sensitive towards their hard work and efforts. We will not let malpractice happen this time. The government is with you. We had to make a difficult decision in the interest of the nation. We are very sad," Pradhan said.

The minister admitted that questions had circulated under the guise of "guess papers".

"Questions have gone out under the guise of guess papers," Pradhan said.

Explaining the timeline leading to the cancellation of the examination, he said the verification process began on May 8 and continued for four days before the government decided to scrap the exam on May 12.

"The process began on the morning of May 8 and continued through May 8, 9, 10 and 11. When we got clarity and were



confirmed that questions had gone out this time on the basis of the leaked paper, we made a decision on May 12 in the interest of the students. We did not want any deserving candidate to be deprived of their rights because of the conspiracy of education mafias," he said.

Pradhan said the government had adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards examination irregularities and had implemented all recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee after controversies in the previous year.

"After the irregularities that surfaced last time, the Radhakrishnan Committee had been constituted, and we implemented its recommendations word for word for both 2025 and 2026. Despite that, this incident occurred. Hence, our first decision was to cancel the examination," he said.

The minister said the government had handed over the case to the CBI and expressed confi-

dence in the probe.

"CBI has rightly said. No one will be spared. Whether someone is within the NTA or outside it, no one will be spared," he said.

"CBT (computer-based test) mode of exam is comparatively better than OMR. It is a bit protected. Cybercrime has become a big world in itself. There are challenges, however, we will have to trust the system of our country," the minister said.

Defending the NTA, the minister said the agency remained accountable and capable of conducting large-scale examinations.

"NTA is fully accountable. The NTA is in the hands of an able person. It has been formed with the recommendation of the Supreme Court and conducts examination of nearly 1 crore students each year. We will ensure 0 errors in the NTA," he said.

Pradhan also announced a series of measures for students appearing in the re-examination, includ-

ing a refund of examination fees and waiver of charges for the upcoming test.

"We will return the fees of the students. Zero fees in the upcoming examination," he said.

The minister further said NEET would transition to CBT mode from next year to strengthen transparency and prevent malpractice.

He added that candidates would be allowed to reselect their preferred examination cities.

"A large number of students appear for this examination every year. The NTA will issue a detailed public notice by this evening with complete information. Prima facie, the NTA has decided to give students one week to choose their preferred examination city again, because many candidates may have left the city where they appeared for the pre-vious exam," Pradhan said.

To ease examination-day procedures, the duration of the test will also be extended by 15 minutes. "Keeping students' convenience and time constraints in mind, the NTA has decided to extend the examination duration by 15 minutes. The exam, which was scheduled from 2 pm to 5 pm, will now continue till 5:15 pm," he said.

Pradhan added that the Centre would coordinate with state governments to minimise travel-related difficulties for students.

"The Government of India will speak to the states regarding transportation, and I will also personally speak with Chief Ministers so that students face mini-

mal difficulties," he said.

Admit cards for the re-examination will be issued by June 14, the minister added.

NEET-UG 2026 re-exam...

cided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026," the NTA said.

The government asked the CBI to carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the "irregularities."

The cancellation left lakhs of medical aspirants uncertain about admissions, counselling schedules and preparation timelines.

India seeks...

while also encouraging students to register with the mission for better coordination and support.

According to Arora, the growing number of student welfare cases handled by Indian missions abroad - ranging from financial distress and visa issues to medical emergencies and misleading academic practices - highlights the need for stronger awareness and preparedness systems, with private organisations potentially helping provide more real-time, on-ground visibility into the student journey.

"I do not think this should be approached as a government-only initiative. The strongest model would involve collaboration between MEA, Indian missions, universities, verified housing providers, education platforms, and student communities," he stated.

"India's outbound student ecosystem has grown rapidly over the last decade. As students spread across a wider range of countries and cities, awareness and support systems also need to become more practical, localised, and coordinated. A national platform can become a very meaningful step in that direction if it is built around the real day-to-day experiences of students abroad."

Row erupts in Punjab after Sanskrit made compulsory in Army public schools

■ EJ - Chandigarh.....

A controversy has erupted in Punjab after Army Public Schools in the state made Sanskrit a compulsory subject while

Punjabi was made optional, drawing strong reactions from parents, language groups and education activists.

Sources said Sanskrit has already been made compulsory in some

Army Public Schools, while the remaining schools are expected to implement the policy next year. A communiqué issued by one school on May 5 stated, "All parents are hereby informed that Sanskrit language is compulsory

for the session 2026-27. Students who wish to take Punjabi language as additional subject need to bring the consent slip duly filled and signed by parents."

An Army officer, speaking on

>> Contd. p.2...



South Korea in post-study visa push amid shift towards quality



■ EJ - Agency

South Korea's Ministry of Justice has adopted eight new visa-related proposals aimed at easing workforce shortages and attracting more international students and professionals, while also launching a broader rethink of the country's international student visa system.

The ministry said the reforms come as South Korea entered the "300,000 international student era", with official data showing 314,397 international students as of February 2026. The adopted measures include eased D-4 trainee visa requirements, expanded post-study pathways for overseas graduates and a new "gap year" route for OECD high school graduates.

At the same time, the ministry has launched a new public-private consultative body to redesign Korea's international student visa framework, with final recommendations expected in August ahead of policy discussions in November.

In its announcement, the ministry acknowledged that previous international student policy had focused too heavily on expanding numbers, with insufficient attention paid to improving student quality and integration outcomes. "Until now, international student policy has focused heavily on expanding scale (300,000 students), while discussion around improving student quality remained insufficient," the ministry said in a statement translated.

The ministry added that the new direction would combine "strategic quality management" with "expanded post-graduation opportunities", while creating a "growth ladder visa system" allowing international students to move more smoothly from study to employment and long-term

settlement in Korea.

"The Ministry of Justice will continue to listen to voices from the field so that immigration and visa policies can respond to changes in Korea's industrial and demographic structure and help revitalise local economies," said justice minister Jung Sung-ho.

The recent reform policies have been introduced almost a month after reports of increasing concern over stability and post-study outcomes following the rapid growth in the number of international students in Korea.

Kyuseok Kim, director of IES Abroad's Seoul centre, told The PIE that the ministry's latest measures appeared to reflect a more balanced direction for Korea's internationalisation strategy.

"The ministry's own documents explicitly acknowledge that Korea's international student policy has been too focused on reaching 300,000 students, while quality, academic readiness and post-graduation integration have received insufficient attention," stated Kim.

He said some narrower or pilot reforms could begin this year, though broader student-related changes would likely move more gradually through the ministry's ongoing consultation process.

"The key checks should include pilot quotas, clear eligibility criteria, labour-market and wage safeguards, institutional accountability, Korean-language and student-support capacity, and transparent publication of outcomes before any expansion," he added.

Kim described the measures as "a step in the right direction", but cautioned that structural concerns around over-recruitment and integration still remain.

"To address over-recruitment, Korea will need stronger public indicators on retention, completion, language progression, em-

ployment outcomes, regional absorptive capacity, student welfare and agency practices," he said.

Jee Suk (Jay) Kang, director of academic relations at Pullye Campus by Freewheelin, said the latest reforms appeared far more targeted than the earlier vocational high school recruitment push, with many of the measures applying to highly specific institutional or vocational cases.

"These eight policy changes are mostly very specific for certain cases," said Kang, pointing to measures linked to Jeju's international school initiatives, OECD gap-year pathways and Sura School, a newly established culinary institution for foreign students.

Kang also noted that the adopted measures formed only part of a wider set of 20 proposals currently under discussion, adding that "it might be more interesting to check what those not-selected 12 proposals were".

Among the most notable education-related changes is the easing of work experience and Korean-language requirements for students enrolling in Sura Academy programs, an Agriculture Ministry-backed initiative designed to train international students in Korean cuisine.

The ministry has also expanded visa pathways for international graduates by extending professional (E-7) and job-seeking (D-10) visa benefits to graduates from five Education Ministry-certified overseas universities. Meanwhile, high school graduates from OECD countries will be able to spend a "gap year" in Korea under an exchange student visa arrangement.

IP University launches seven new paramedical programmes

■ EJ - New Delhi

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has introduced seven new paramedical programmes for the academic session 2026-27, expanding its offerings in healthcare and allied sciences.

The newly introduced programmes include B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.), Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical & Trauma Technology (B.Sc. EMTT), Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) / Master in Applied Epidemiology, MA (Clini-



cal Psychology), Post Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Psychology (PGDRP), M.Sc. Speech Language Pathology (M.Sc. SLP), and Bachelor of Optometry.

According to the university, the process for submission of online application forms for these cours-

es has commenced. Interested candidates can apply through the university websites and IPU Admissions Portal.

The last date for submission of online application forms is May 31. Candidates can register themselves by paying an application fee of Rs 2,500 per course.

The university has advised aspiring candidates to regularly visit the official websites for updates and detailed information regarding the admission process.

India seeks a database of outbound students amid global conflicts



■ EJ - Agency

With millions of Indians studying abroad and student mobility patterns shifting towards Europe and the Middle East, rising geopolitical tensions have prompted India to consider stronger coordination and evacuation planning measures.

According to reports, the lack of a dedicated government database of Indians studying abroad – with authorities largely relying on student visa data released by destination countries and estimates compiled by Indian missions – has prompted awareness campaigns encouraging students to register with embassies and high commissions, particularly following recent conflict-related evacuations. Though the MEA launched the MADAD ("help" in Hindi) portal a decade ago for overseas grievance redressal, registrations remain low, with only around 41,000 students signed up so far.

Reports suggest voluntary registrations with Indian missions abroad also remain limited, sometimes accounting for less than 10% of the actual student population in a country even after advisories are issued.

The measures could include revamping the MADAD portal or launching a new platform for In-

dians going abroad for education and employment, with outreach focused on major destinations including the US, China, Germany and Canada, alongside emerging medical education hubs like Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Beyond improving coordination during conflicts, the database is also expected to support orientation and outreach efforts for students navigating challenges related to local language, culture, laws and documentation, with industry experts suggesting the platform could evolve into a more student-centric support system.

"A student does not become vulnerable only during a war, conflict, or evacuation. In many cases, the challenge begins much earlier, when they land in a new country without fully understanding tenancy contracts, local laws, emergency systems, housing processes, or even how to identify a legitimate accommodation listing," Saurabh Arora, founder and CEO of University Living, said.

"Housing deserves particular attention because it is often the first major financial commitment a student makes abroad. If students misunderstand lease terms, deal with unverified landlords,

or choose housing without enough awareness of safety or connectivity, the impact goes far beyond finances. It affects their confidence, wellbeing, and overall student experience."

Though outbound university enrolments from India fell last year after three consecutive years of growth, delegates at The India 2026 heard that overseas tuition and living expenses by Indian students still amount to an estimated INR 6.3 trillion – roughly 2% of India's GDP – underlining the scale and economic significance of India's outbound student market.

The growing shift towards lower-cost destinations in Europe and Asia has already prompted Indian diplomats in some countries to step up engagement with educational institutions and student groups to better address student concerns. One such example is Georgia.

Georgia – an emerging hub for Indian medical students – India's first full-time ambassador to the country, Amit Mishra, said that the embassy has recently increased engagement with student groups and institutions amid issues related to visa deadlines, documentation and other student-related concerns,

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