



Neet (UG) cancellation: SC raps NTA, says it hasn't learnt its lesson

Govt. exploring the option of using the IAF for the transportation of NEET retest papers



Maka Berishvili
Educationist

Martvili - Georgia
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■ EJ - New Delhi

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The Supreme Court asked the National Testing Agency why Union Public Service Commission exams witnessed no question paper leaks and directed the government to fix responsibility for the leaks on specific individuals.

"In UPSC exams, there has never been such a situation. You need to learn from it," the bench of Justice P.S. Narasimha and Justice Alok S. Aradhe observed.

This year's NEET-UG, the national entrance test for

undergraduate medical and dental courses, had to be cancelled following a massive paper leak an affliction suffered all too often by exams conducted by the NTA, the country's apex testing agency. A fresh examination will be held on June 21.

"What has happened has been traumatic for the students, parents and families who had spent years preparing for the test. We should not disappoint our youngsters," Justice Narasimha told solicitor-general Tushar Mehta and others during the day's hearing.

"The real problem will not stop till accountability arises. Not in terms of 'So-and-so will be liable'. It will be effective when

we know on which individual shoulders the responsibility lies. Unless you identify the duty holders, it will be a diffused obligation."

The bench is hearing two public-interest pleas that want the NTA replaced by another authority and a CBI probe into the repeated NEET-UG question leaks (the agency is already investigating the matter).

It has received two affidavits on what action the NTA has taken on a court-ordered monitoring

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After the cancellation of NEET-UG over allegations of a paper leak, the Centre is preparing one of the most tightly monitored examination processes for the June 21 retest, with officials considering the use of Indian Air Force aircraft to transport question papers for nearly 23 lakh candidates expected to appear again.

At a high-level meeting held at Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence in Delhi on Thursday, senior ministers and officials reviewed fresh security arrange

ments covering every stage of the exam nation process, from paper setting and printing to transportation and delivery at centres. The meeting, which lasted around 40 minutes, was attended by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, National Testing Agency Director General Abhishek Singh and senior PMO officials.

Government sources said officials discussed whether IAF aircraft could be used to move NEET papers securely across

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Masweneng Mokolwane Eric
Educator and Education advocate
South Africa

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Placement challenges increase at Sharda University, leaving students worried

■ EJ - Yatendra Singh

Recently, discussions among students and parents have intensified regarding the placement situation at Sharda University, which reportedly does not appear as strong as expected in recent times. Several students claim that the number of major companies visiting the campus has declined, and salary packages also seem more limited compared to previous years.

According to education experts, the identity of any university is not determined only by its infrastructure or advertisements, but also by the employment opportunities provided to students. If the placement percentage continues to decline, it may directly affect the university's reputation and future admissions.

Many final-year students are reportedly worried about better job opportunities. Some students say that due to the reduced number of companies visiting the campus, competition has increased significantly. Meanwhile, several students are being forced to search for off-campus opportunities.

Today, students prefer institutions that offer strong placement records, industry connections, and skill development opportunities. In such a competitive environment, merely providing degrees is no longer enough; ensuring employment opportunities has become



Students said

- This year, only 26 companies visited the campus for placements.
- Out of the 26 companies, 10 were startups.
- Several companies left after telling students that an offer letter would be sent.
- Some students alleged that Casio and Wipro had blacklisted placements at Sharda University.

a major responsibility for universities.

Education experts suggest that the university should focus on strengthening industry collaborations, inviting more companies for campus recruitment, and enhancing skill-based

training and internship programs so that students can access better career opportunities.

In view of the growing dissatisfaction among students, the university administration has taken a significant step by appointing Associate Professor Dr.

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Culture Connects People

Culture is a body of characteristics such as beliefs, social norms, and ethnic backgrounds shared by a population of people in a particular region. Development and discipline can be influenced by culture. Culture contains values, norms, social influences, and human activities. Values and beliefs hold great importance in every society.

Different people define culture in different ways. For example, culture can be described as learned and shared human patterns or models for living. These patterns influence all aspects of human social interaction and daily life. Culture is the identity of a group of people living in a specific place. They follow the traditions and way of life that their culture teaches them. It is the shared, learned, and dynamic complex of knowledge, beliefs, values, behaviors, and material objects that define a group's way of life, including language, religion, traditions, and arts.

Every country has its own unique culture, which makes the world colorful and diverse. Culture helps people understand who they are and where they come from. It also connects generations by passing traditions and values from parents to children. There are many forms of culture. For example, people express culture through traditional dances, songs, clothing, celebrations, and national holidays. Food is also an important cultural element because every nation has special



dishes and eating habits. Language plays a very important role as well because it is the main way people communicate their thoughts, feelings, and traditions.

Culture influences people's daily lives and behavior. It teaches respect, kindness, and social rules. Through culture, people learn how to interact with others and become part of society. Schools, families, and communities all help preserve and develop culture.

Today, globalization and technology allow cultures to mix and influence each other. People can easily learn about foreign traditions through the

internet, movies, music, and travel. This cultural exchange helps people become more open-minded and tolerant. However, it is also important to protect and preserve national culture and historical heritage over time.

- ◆ The Culture Wheel
- ◆ Values
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Traditions and rituals
- ◆ The arts
- ◆ Food and drink
- ◆ Creative community
- ◆ Knowledge and stories
- ◆ Technologies and skills

Culture also brings people together. Festivals, museums, theaters, and cultural events create opportunities for people to share different

cultures and strengthen friendship between nations.

Cultural Studies

Cultural studies is an academic field that explores culture, society, media, traditions, language, art, and the way people live. It studies how culture influences people's ideas, behavior, and everyday life.

- Main Topics in Cultural Studies
- Traditions and customs
- Music and art
- Films and television
- Language and communication
- History and identity

Social media and popular culture.

Cultural studies help people



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understand different cultures and societies.

A Simple Scheme of Culture Culture and Media

- Traditions
- Television
- Internet
- Art
- Films
- Music
- Language
- Society
- People
- Communities
- Lifestyle
- Identity
- History and heritage
- Georgian Culture

My country, Georgia, has a rich and ancient culture that is famous around the world. It is based on traditions, religion, art, music, food, and history.

Traditional Georgian food is an important cultural symbol. Famous Georgian dishes include khinkali, khachapuri, mtsvadi, and churchkhela. Every region of Georgia has its own special recipes and culinary traditions.

Georgian music and dance are unique and expressive. Traditional Georgian polyphonic sing-

ing is recognized by UNESCO as an important part of the world's cultural heritage. Georgian dances are energetic and emotional, showing courage, grace, and national spirit.

Georgia is also famous for its literature, art, and historical monuments. The country has many museums, theaters, and cultural festivals that help preserve national traditions. The Georgian alphabet is one of the oldest and most unique writing systems in the world.

Georgia continues to protect its traditions while also becoming more connected to the world. Young people learn both modern and traditional values, helping Georgian culture remain alive and strong.

Georgian culture is rich, diverse, and deeply connected to the country's history and traditions. It is an important part of national identity and makes Georgia a special and beautiful country.

Culture plays a very important role in human life and society. It is an essential part of society because it connects people, preserves traditions, encourages creativity, and helps nations maintain their identity. Culture makes the world more diverse, interesting, and beautiful.

Conclusion

In conclusion, culture connects people and helps us appreciate the uniqueness of every nation. It is a valuable treasure that shapes human identity and society. It helps people remember their history, express creativity, and connect with others. Without culture, the world would lose its beauty, diversity, and uniqueness.

Future Skills for an AI-Driven World: Redefining Education for the Next Decade

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved from a concept once confined to science fiction into a transformative force shaping everyday life. Today, AI-powered technologies are deeply integrated across diverse sectors, enabling organizations to automate processes, improve decision-making, and enhance productivity. These intelligent systems assist in software development, support medical diagnosis, create digital content, analyze complex legal information, power autonomous vehicles, and handle customer interactions through advanced virtual assistants.

As AI continues to advance, its influence on industries and society is becoming increasingly significant. The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence is transforming education systems, workplaces, and public institutions across the globe. As this technological shift accelerates, an important question emerges: which careers and skills will remain relevant by 2035? Throughout history, technological breakthroughs have reshaped the nature of work and created new economic opportunities. However, the AI revolution is unique in its ability to influence not only routine and physical tasks but also cognitive and crea-



tive activities that were once considered exclusively human capabilities. Rather than viewing AI as a competitor, society must focus on developing effective ways for humans and intelligent machines to collaborate. Technological progress has consistently altered labor markets—from the industrialization of manual work to the digital revolution driven by the internet, which fundamentally changed communication, information sharing, and global connectivity.

In past decades, each technological shift created new career opportunities and fueled the growth of emerging industries. Today, AI represents the next major phase of this ongoing transformation. In comparison to conventional technologies, AI is transforming the landscape with even greater impact. Unlike previous technologies, AI can learn patterns, make decisions, and continuously improve based on the given data. As a result, intelligent systems can accomplish tasks in seconds that once took humans years of training. For instance, AI

powered tools can now handle customer interactions, analyze financial reports, create marketing campaigns, and assist in generating or debugging computer code. Consequently, repetitive and predictable jobs are increasingly vulnerable to automation as businesses seek to boost efficiency and cut costs.

With the rapid advancement of AI, several routine human-centric jobs, including data entry, telemarketing, administrative support, traditional customer service, and repetitive bookkeep-



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ing, may gradually disappear over time. Even certain areas of software development are being transformed by AI coding assistants capable of generating functions, debugging errors, and producing documentation. In manufacturing and logistics, AI-powered robots are increasingly taking over repetitive human tasks with greater speed and efficiency. Meanwhile, the transportation sector is expected to undergo significant transformation as autonomous vehicles and intelligent delivery systems become more widespread. For millions of workers worldwide, these rapid technological chang-

es raise serious concerns about long-term employment stability and job security.

While AI excels at analyzing data, automating tasks, and creating content, it cannot fully reproduce the emotional understanding, ethical reasoning, and personal experiences that define human intelligence. Consequently, success in the future workplace will depend on the ability to collaborate with AI, leveraging its strengths while contributing uniquely human skills and perspectives.

The most future-resilient professions are likely to emerge from technical and multidisciplinary areas where human judgment, systems thinking, and adaptability remain indispensable. Demand is expected to grow for specialists, who can integrate AI with engineering and real-world applications, particularly in fields such as Embedded AI Systems, Robotics Engineering, System Architecture, Cybersecurity, Edge Computing, Quantum Computing, and Intelligent Infrastructure Design. These areas increasingly rely on intelligent technologies embedded within devices, machines, and connected environments, as well as advanced computational platforms for solving complex problems.

For example, professionals in Embedded AI Systems design and deploy intelligent algorithms across autonomous vehicles, drones, medical equipment, industrial automation platforms, and smart-city infrastructure. These positions require a blend of knowledge in electronics, sensors, communication technologies, safety engineering, and hardware-software integration.

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GNIOT Receives “Best Management College Placement in India Award 2026”



EJ- Gr. Noida

GNIOT Institute of Management Studies has been honored with the prestigious “Best Management College Placement in India Award 2026” at the 7th National Education and Leadership Summit. The event was organized by the Intexcellent Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in New Delhi.

This recognition reflects the institute’s outstanding placement

system, strong industry collaborations, commitment to the holistic development of students, and continuous efforts toward career advancement. The achievement is the result of the collective efforts of the institution’s students, faculty members, alumni, corporate partners, and the Corporate Resource Center team.

On behalf of the institute, the prestigious award was received by Ankita Chauhan, Deputy General Manager of the Place-

ment Department. On this occasion, she expressed gratitude to the entire team, students, and industry partners, stating that the honor is the outcome of everyone’s collective dedication and excellent work.

On this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer of the institute, Swadesh Kumar Singh, said:

“This recognition is a matter of great pride for us. Our objective is to provide students with quality education along with industry-oriented training and better employment opportunities. This achievement is the result of the dedication of our entire team, the hard work of our students, and the trust of the corporate sector. In the coming years as well, we will remain committed to setting new benchmarks in the fields of education and placements.”

GIMS, functioning under the GNIOT Group of Institutions, continues to establish new benchmarks in management education and placements while working with complete dedication toward building a bright future for students.

3,765 students miss CUET exam due to technical glitch



EJ- New Delhi

Already reeling under the fiasco of this year’s NEET-UG exam paper leak, the National Testing Agency (NTA) again found itself battling a technical glitch which was faced by more than 3,700 CUET (UG) 2026 candidates.

The candidates left their examination centres after a technical glitch delayed the start of Shift 1 of the test and the NTA announced that they will be given a one-time opportunity to reappear for the entrance exam for undergraduate admissions.

Following the disruption, examination timings were revised at the affected centres and “most candidates (about 95 per cent) were able to complete their exam once it resumed”, the NTA said.

“Most candidates were able to complete their exam once it resumed. We understand that 3,765 candidates who were present and

had completed biometric registration chose to leave before the exam could restart,” the NTA said on X.

“For these candidates, NTA will hold a rescheduled examination as a one-time measure,” it added. The new date and details will be announced separately, the agency said.

It also said that the technical service provider, TCS iON, “has been asked to conduct a root-cause analysis and submit its report immediately” after the glitch delayed the commencement of the examination at some centres.

“Earlier today, some centres faced a technical glitch that delayed the start of Shift 1. We know this was stressful, and we’re sorry for the anxiety it caused. The technical service provider, TCS iON, has been asked to conduct a root-cause analysis and submit its report

immediately,” the agency said.

“We know that today’s unfortunate technical disruption caused distress for some CUET (UG) 2026 candidates. Candidates who did their biometric registration and were present at their examination centres today, but couldn’t complete their examination due to this technical glitch, will get another opportunity for examination,” the NTA said on X.

Earlier, the agency had said that the technical issue had been resolved and the examination was being conducted with full compensatory time so that no candidate was disadvantaged.

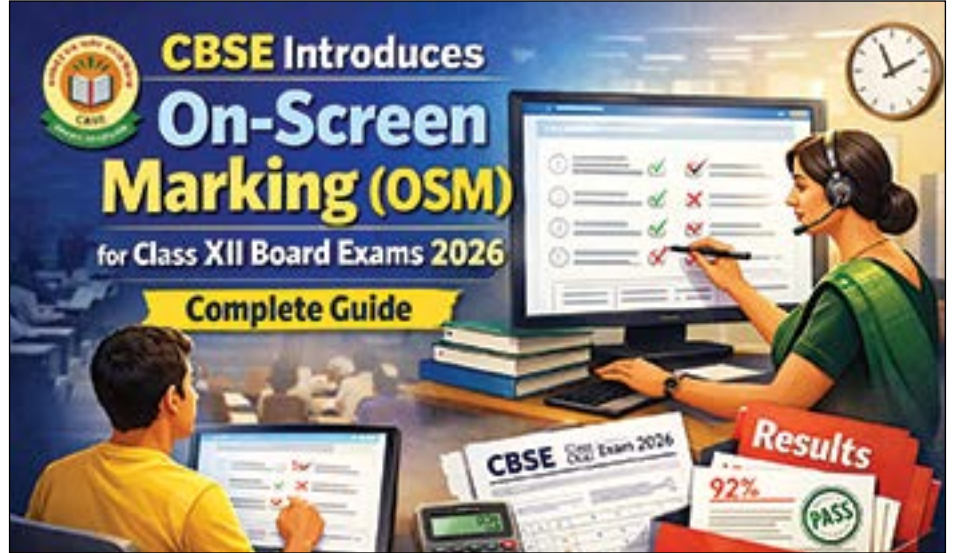
“TCS has reported that a technical glitch at their end delayed the commencement of CUET UG 2026 at some centres on Saturday. The issue has since been resolved, and the exam is being conducted with full compensatory time so that no candidate is disadvantaged,” the NTA said on X.

In a statement, K Krithivasan, CEO and Managing Director at TCS, said that “a brief technical issue” caused a delay of around two hours in the morning shift of the CUET-UG examination.

“The issue was promptly identified and resolved by our technical teams and the examination has since resumed without any impact to the sanctity of the exam. We regret the inconven-

>> Contd. p.4...

CBSE defends OSM system amid row, says platform is ‘secure and robust’



EJ- New Delhi

Amid row On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday asserted that it is a “secure and robust IT platform” and that no compromise or vulnerability has been reported in the actual evaluation portal.

The Board said the platform has been “tested and certified through empanelled security audits” and is backed by a “robust digital infrastructure” with multiple safeguards and quality checks to ensure secure scanning and processing of answer books.

In a post on X, the CBSE said answer books are “safe” and have undergone “multiple quality-control mechanisms”.

The post comes amid a controversy over the contract awarded for the digital evaluation of Class

12 board exam answer sheets for 2026, along with social media claims alleging flaws in the OSM system.

A day earlier, the CBSE had rejected allegations related to the award of the contract to Coempr Edutech, calling the claims erroneous, misleading and unfounded.

The Board said the contract was awarded after following due procedure under the General Financial Rules.

The issue escalated after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi demanded an independent judicial probe and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the “entire scam”.

He alleged that a firm with a controversial history in Telangana had been awarded the contract by the CBSE.

Gandhi said CBSE students and

parents are traumatised while Prime Minister Narendra Modi “has nothing to say.”

In a video shared on social media, Gandhi said, “COEMPT, the company that did the On-Screen Marking (OSM) for your exam, was actually called Globarena. Globarena has carried out this scam twice before in Telangana, once in the board exam in Telangana in 2019 and after that again in Telangana in 2023.

The same OSM-based errors were responsible for the death by suicide of 23 young Indians in Telangana,” the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Meanwhile, several Class 12 students have alleged discrepancies in marks and mismatches between scanned copies of answer sheets uploaded by the Board and their handwriting, raising concerns over the OSM process.

Congress will not rest till Dharmendra Pradhan resigns: Rahul Gandhi on NEET paper leak issue

EJ- New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said his party will not rest until Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns and a fool proof system is put in place to prevent paper leaks like in NEET.

He shared a video of students protesting in Hyderabad, highlighting the NEET paper leak and demanding Pradhan’s resignation. They also raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pradhan.

“When millions of youth are on the streets, the future of 22 lakh children is at stake and the PM remains silent, then the government is not focused on responding but is busy evading,” the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said.

“Until Dharmendra Pradhan resigns and a foolproof system is established to prevent paper leaks like NEET, we will not stop,” Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

The Congress has been de-

manding that Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan step down or be sacked after the NEET-UG exam was cancelled due to paper leak.

Meanwhile, the BJP on Sun day accused Gandhi of conspiring to destabilise the Narendra Modi government by “creating anarchy” in the country, alleging that he was acting at the behest of foreign forces.

Several BJP leaders, including Union minister Piyush Goyal,



claimed that Gandhi’s “plan” was exposed after the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha reportedly said at a meeting of the advisory council of the Congress’ Minority Department on that the Modi government will fall within a year.

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Russia backs stronger academic ties with India



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Russia pitched for deeper educational and academic engagement with India, with Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov describing education as a potential "strong pillar" of the broader India-Russia strategic partnership.

Speaking at the inauguration of the second Russia-India Education Summit here, Alipov said both countries shared a long-standing tradition of cooperation in the education sector and were now looking to explore newer avenues of collaboration.

"The India-Russian Educational Summit is a welcome development. Both our countries have a long-standing tradition and history of cooperation and ties in education. We are very eager to explore newer avenues in educational cooperation," Alipov said.

He noted that the number of

Indian students studying in Russia had increased significantly in recent years, alongside a growing presence of Russian universities in India.

"Russia has rigorous education standards. India has progressed a lot in educational standards. There is so much to gain from each other," he said, expressing confidence that education could emerge as a major pillar of bilateral cooperation.

The summit, organised by Rosotrudnichestvo with the support of the Russian Embassy in India, commenced on Wednesday and will continue till May 29.

In his inaugural remarks, Alipov also underlined the growing demand for wider scientific and academic exchanges between the two countries. He stressed the need to strengthen educational cooperation by increasing the number of Indian students in

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Indo-Russian Education Summit, being held in New Delhi, reflects the growing importance of academic collaboration between the two countries
- Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov described education as 'one of the most powerful instruments' for promoting co-operation and mutual understanding among nations
- The ambassador underlined the strong educational ties between the two countries, particularly in medicine, engineering and technical education

Russian universities and expanding Russian language study centres in India.

The forum has brought together representatives from more than 50 leading higher educational institutions, besides members from public, political, expert and academic circles from both countries.

The two-day programme includes thematic panel discussions and roundtable sessions focusing on academic cooperation, student mobility, scientific exchanges and institutional partnerships.

Alipov expressed optimism about the response to the summit and voiced hope that similar education summits would continue in future as part of efforts to deepen India-Russia people-to-people ties.

Pooja Vayal was selected for the NASA educational experience program



EJ - Jalna.....

Talented student Pooja Vayal from Jalna has brought pride to the district and the nation with her remarkable achievement. Based on her outstanding performance, she has been selected for the prestigious NASA Educational Experience Program (USA).

Pooja received the "Best Performer" award at ISSC for her exceptional performance, which led to her selection for this special educational program in the United States. Her achievement has become a matter of great pride for the entire Jalna district.

During the program, selected students will get the opportunity to visit the NASA Space Center, participate in activities related to science and space research, and gain exposure to advanced technologies and innovation in the field of aerospace and space exploration. The initiative aims to encourage scientific thinking, creativity, leadership, and interest in space science among young students.

3,765 students...

ience," the company said in a statement.

It added that its teams are "actively monitoring all systems" and remain committed to working closely with NTA "to ensure seamless conduct of the computer-based tests."

Several students and parents reported the delay on X and alleged lack of communication at the examination centres.

"CUET 2026 students forced to wait 3-4 hours due to technical glitches. No proper communication, no arrangements, students and parents suffering in extreme heat. This is unacceptable for a national-level exam," an X user posted.

"CUET exam delayed. The centre for most kids was many miles away from the main city. Kids and parents left at 6 am to reach the centre on time. At 11 am, parents are told that the exam has not even started. Meanwhile, kids are just sitting inside waiting," a parent said.

The Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate, or CUET-UG, is a standardised, national-level entrance exam conducted by the NTA for admissions into undergraduate degree programmes across central, state, and select private universities.

Since its introduction in 2022, the second-largest entrance test in the country has witnessed multiple operational disruptions in different phases, including last minute changes in exam centres, delayed entry and commencement at several venues, and technical issues such as server and login failures at select centres.

There have also been instances of exam cancellations at some centres due to system-related problems, as well as rescheduling of tests for the affected candidates.

In certain cases, students reported confusion over admit card details and exam dates, leading to

missed attempts. The recurring issues have created concerns among the students and parents over the smooth conduct of the examination.

The CUET-UG has been conducted in the computer-based test (CBT) mode since the 2025 cycle, with the NTA citing improved standardisation, efficiency and logistics in the conduct of the nationwide entrance test.

Replacing multiple entrance tests, the CUET-UG aims to provide a uniform assessment platform, and evaluates candidates on language skills, domain-specific subjects, and general aptitude, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020 to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities.

Placement ...

Ankit Khare as the new Head of Placements in addition to his academic responsibilities. However, he has been in this role for only 11 months, and a comprehensive assessment of the actual situation may become clear only after the next months.

According to reports, the university claims to achieve placement rates of around 80% every year, but the ground reality appears to tell a different story. Some university sources and affected students allege that campus placements have witnessed a sharp decline this year, with the placement rate reportedly dropping to around 35%-40%.

Typically, only 65%-70% of students actively participate in campus placement drives and seek employment opportunities. As of now, the university administration has not issued any official clarification regarding the matter. However, the newly appointed Placement Head, Dr. Ankit Khare, now faces the major challenge of improving the declining placement graph and restoring students' confidence in the university's placement system.

'Vulnerabilities contained, steps being taken to rule out exploitable weaknesses': CBSE

EJ - New Delhi.....

The Central Board of Secondary Education stated that vulnerabilities spotted in the OnMark portal of its service provider have been contained and actions are being taken in order to find out any other exploitable weaknesses.

"We have been closely monitoring the vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of our service provider that are being flagged in the public domain," CBSE said in a statement posted on X.

"An expert team of cybersecurity professionals has been deployed over the last few days from across various arms of the government as well as the IITs to fortify these systems, including taking them over to a more secure set-up," the board said.

"We are grateful to all alert citizens and ethical hackers pointing out such weaknesses, and have gotten in touch with some of them directly. We re-

Newly-qualified...

mates did not have to.

The paper also warned that the Revenue Commissioners would be "highly unlikely" to be willing to take part in a scheme to enforce repayment, and that therefore repayment where graduates left Ireland, or did not work in the public system, could be left to contract law and debt recovery.

If the schemes are to go ahead, the paper says, it will also require the Department of Health and the Department of Finance to become involved, while some options also require legislation.

Future Skills for an AI-Driven...

Since the work demands multidisciplinary expertise, critical judgment, and the ability to address real-world challenges, it remains difficult for AI to completely replace human professionals in these roles.

Cybersecurity is another domain that is expected to become increasingly critical in the years ahead. As societies, businesses, and governments become more reliant on interconnected digital systems and AI-driven technologies, the risks associated with cyberattacks, data breaches, misinformation, and sophisticated digital threats are also expected to increase. While AI can assist in detecting anomalies, monitoring networks, and identifying potential vulnerabilities, human expertise remains essential for ethical decision-making, strategic security planning, digital investigations, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

With artificial intelligence rapidly reshaping modern industries, universities need to redesign their educational approaches to equip students for an automation-driven future. Conventional degree programs centered on limited specialization may become less effective in an increasingly fast-changing global economy. Academic institutions should therefore encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary education that blends technological knowledge with human-oriented competencies. To remain relevant in the future workforce, students must develop not only technical expertise but also abilities such as innovation, analytical thinking, adaptability, communication, and ethical decision-making—qualities that remain difficult for AI to replicate.

Thus, multidisciplinary studies that integrate AI with electronics, robotics, healthcare, law, psychology, design, sustainability,

quest any others to reach out to our security teams at secy-cbse@nic.in for any further

Australia's Swin...

completion of the program. According to the university, the initiative reflects Swinburne's commitment to attracting academically talented students from across the globe and supporting them throughout their studies.

International students applying for undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs at the Hawthorn campus for the first time in 2026 will be considered for the scholarship, subject to meeting the eligibility requirements.

To be eligible, applicants must meet all course-specific entry requirements and should not be receiving any other Swinburne tuition fee scholarship or reduced fee arrangement simultaneously. Students also cannot hold another tuition fee scholarship or fee reduction from an external organisation at the same time. In cases where multiple fee arrangements apply, Swinburne will offer the most beneficial option to the student.

The application deadline for the scholarship is June 26, 2026.

Students applying for an eligible course at Swinburne's Hawthorn campus for the first time in 2027 will be automatically assessed for international scholarships based on their previous academic performance. Successful candidates will receive a letter of offer confirming admission and scholarship details, if awarded.

Neet (UG) ...

committee's recommendations on preventing question leaks. The affidavits were filed separately by the NTA and K. Radhakrishnan, head of the monitoring committee, which was formed in November 2024.

The bench observed that if the NEET-UG leaks happened despite the high-powered committee's recommendations, there was either something seriously wrong with the recommendations "or, there is no proper implementation".

It asked Radhakrishnan whether the recommendations had had any positive impact and, if so, why the latest leak happened.

Radhakrishnan said 95 recommendations had been made, involving 60 short-term and 35 long-term measures, and some of them had already been implemented. He underscored that last year's NEET-UG had faced no major hitches.

Following the recent leaks, the committee has suggested some additional measures for smooth conduct of the June 21 exam, he added.

Mehta said the government, too, had evolved certain new security measures. He pleaded that it would not be proper to publicise them.

"The Hon'ble Prime Minister is personally supervising it," Mehta told the court.

Justice Narasimha suggested the NTA seek collaboration with, and inputs from, various universities to deal with the problem. The next hearing will be held in the second week of July.

At the last hearing on Monday, the bench had said: "It is so sad that they (NTA) haven't learned their lesson."

The NTA — which holds key all-India entrance tests for medical (NEET), engineering (JEE Main) and general (CUET) courses has been plagued with paper leaks since its inception in 2018.

The UPSC conducts all-India recruitment tests for a range of government services including the civil, defence, medical, forest and central armed police services.

One of the petitions is a "letter petition", sent to the Chief Justice of India jointly by Dr Dhruv Chauhan, national spokesperson for the Indian Medical Association Junior Doctors Network, and Harisharan Devgan, social activist. The other has been filed by the Federation of All India Medical Associations.

Govt. exploring...

the country, though no final decision has yet been taken. The proposal is expected to be placed before Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is said to be personally monitoring preparations and receiving regular updates on the examination process.

Sources said PMO officials will closely supervise the entire chain of operations to prevent any repeat of the controversy that triggered pro tests and political criticism over the credibility of India's biggest medical entrance examination.

NEET-UG was conducted on May 3 in 551 cities across India and 14 overseas centres. According to the NTA, inputs regarding alleged malpractices were received on May 7 and shared with central agencies the following morning. The exam was cancelled on May 12.

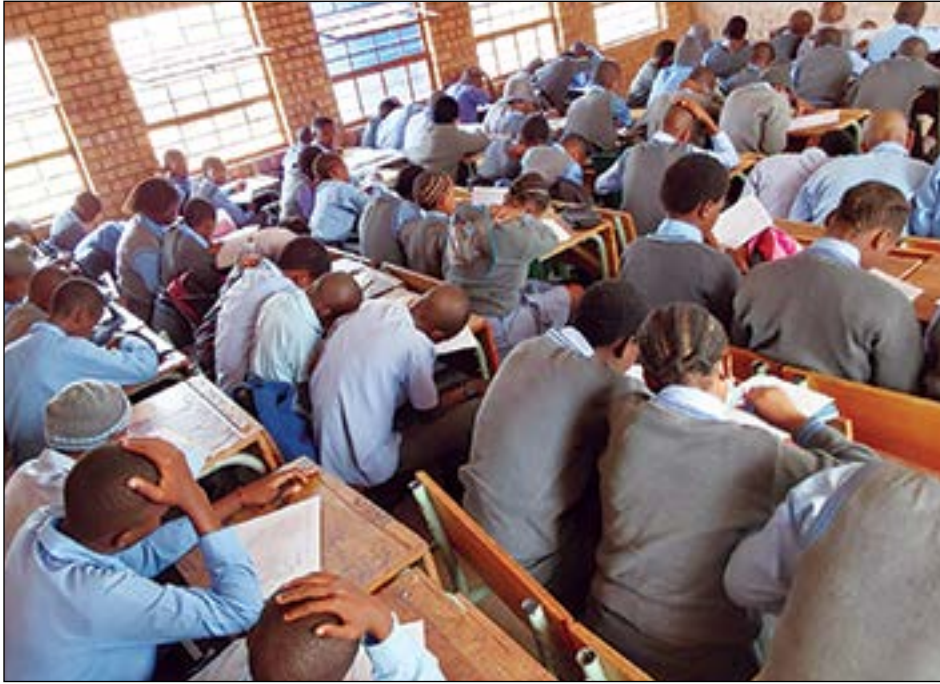
The CBI later registered a case following a complaint from the Department of Higher Education and formed special investigation teams. So far, 13 people have been arrested.

Development and Maintenance of poor infrastructure in rural schools

Poor infrastructure development and maintenance remain major challenges affecting many rural schools in South Africa. School infrastructure plays a critical role in creating an environment that supports effective teaching and learning. However, many rural schools continue to experience deteriorating buildings, overcrowded classrooms, damaged furniture, lack of electricity maintenance, and outdated technological resources. These challenges negatively affect both educators and learners.

Infrastructure maintenance is primarily the responsibility of school governance structures, especially the School Governing Body (SGB), which must ensure that school funds are used effectively and according to the prescribed norms and standards. Although the Department of Basic Education provides funding to schools for development and maintenance purposes, some governing bodies fail to manage these funds responsibly. In certain cases, funds intended for school improvement are misappropriated or used for personal gain rather than for maintaining infrastructure.

It is important to acknowledge that there are many dedicated



and honest members of School Governing Bodies who manage school finances effectively and always act in the best interests of learners and the Department of Basic Education. However, in some schools, certain SGB members lack sufficient financial management skills and understanding of their governance responsibilities. This creates opportunities

for corrupt school management teams to manipulate governance structures for selfish interests. As a result, school funds are squandered through fraudulent claims, unnecessary expenditures, and corrupt practices.

It is deeply concerning that even after more than thirty years of democracy, some rural schools continue to deteriorate

because of poor governance and weak financial management rather than a lack of funding. Although the Department of Basic Education conducts workshops on school financial management, these workshops are often insufficient because financial administration requires comprehensive and continuous training.

The poor maintenance of in-



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frastructure has serious consequences for curriculum delivery and learner performance. In some schools, electrical systems are not maintained, resulting in classrooms and offices operating without electricity. This prevents teachers and learners from effectively using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools for teaching, learning, assessment, and administration. Printers, computers, and other technological resources become outdated or remain broken for long periods due to poor maintenance planning.

Furthermore, overcrowded classrooms, broken desks and

chairs, and vandalised school property worsen the learning conditions. When classrooms are overcrowded, teachers struggle to give individual attention to learners. Formative and summative assessments become difficult to administer effectively, reducing the quality of teaching and learning. These conditions also contribute to teacher fatigue and professional burnout.

A learner cannot perform optimally in an environment that lacks proper furniture, adequate space, and suitable learning resources. Similarly, teachers cannot teach to their full potential in overcrowded and poorly maintained classrooms. Infrastructure development and maintenance are therefore essential components of quality education.

To address these challenges, accountability and justice in the management of school funds must be strengthened. School governing bodies and school management teams should receive proper financial management training, and strict monitoring systems should be implemented to prevent corruption and misuse of funds. Rural schools deserve safe, functional, and well-maintained infrastructure that promotes dignity, effective teaching, and improved learner performance.

Newly-qualified doctors could have college fees paid in bid to stem numbers moving abroad



■ EJ - Ireland

Newly-qualified doctors could be incentivised to stay in Ireland through the funding of part or all the cost of their education in return for a commitment to them working for the HSE for a set period, according to a Government options paper.

A number of approaches intended to halt the departure of new doctors on the completion of their studies have been identified by Department of Higher Education officials, who Minister James Lawless has asked to develop more detailed plans in advance of budget discussions.

The programme for Government commits to providing more supports for graduate entry courses, where fees are much higher, typically between €16,000 and €19,000, than for typical undergraduate courses in medicine.

Lawless has also signalled an interest in providing greater sup-

ports for graduate medical students in return for a commitment to work in the Irish health service for a set period.

Many newly-qualified doctors emigrate to work in different locations around the world, while the HSE is a major employer of doctors from overseas. Last year, 630 Irish doctors received visas to work in Australia.

In the options paper, seen by The Irish Times, officials suggested various ways of supporting medical students in the graduate entry programmes. Lawless asked them to examine options to create a financial support scheme for graduate students, where the State would cover more of the upfront costs of studying medicine as a second degree.

In return, graduates would commit to working in the Irish health system for a defined number of years.

At present, graduate entry medicine is not covered by the free fees system or by normal student grants

as those undertaking the courses are pursuing a second degree. This means higher costs for students, with many having to take on large debts to complete their studies. This is seen as a barrier to lower-income students entering the profession.

The options paper sets out a number of possibilities, including enhanced subsidies through existing student support structures, a State-backed loan or a bursary.

In return, students who avail of that support would agree to a defined "return-of-service" commitment, meaning they would work in the public health system for a minimum period after qualifying.

If they fulfil that commitment, the financial support would effectively be absorbed by the State, either through loan write-off or by not requiring repayment. Those who choose not to remain in Ireland would be expected to repay some or all of the funding. There are various methods of recouping the money suggested.

However, a number of concerns were expressed by officials in the options paper. They warned that any scheme would have to ensure that it does not disincentivise students from any particular courses and that it should not be "socially regressive" by tying more socially-disadvantaged students to working in particular circumstances, while better-off class-

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Australia's Swinburne University of Technology offers 30% tuition fee scholarship for international students

■ EJ - Agency

Swinburne University of Technology has announced the George Swinburne International Excellence Scholarship for international students enrolling in undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs at its Hawthorn campus in 2026-27.

Under the scholarship, eligible international students will receive a 30% reduction in tuition fees



for the standard duration of their course.

The scholarship is aimed at

recognising "outstanding academic achievement and supporting high-performing international students pursuing their first degree" at Swinburne. The tuition fee concession will apply from the course commencement date until the

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