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Playful learning and well-being

In a world where well-being and ageing well are becoming increasingly central “Let’s play spoons for seniors” is positioned as an innovative and necessary response to a growing need. The method offers an accessible approach adapted to everyone, regardless of their age or physical condition.

By integrating movement, memorization, rhythm and music, it aims to promote physical and mental well-being.

“Let’s Play Spoons for Seniors” has already been presented and adopted by leading organizations in countries such as Poland, Finland, Australia, Japan, Italy, Russia, India, South Africa, Denmark, France – and the list goes on!



The method has also been adopted by the European organization of the Elderly.

Colored musical spoons can be a delightful group activity, creating opportunities for participants to interact and collaborate together. This collaborative experience promotes teamwork, listening skills, and the ability to synchronize with others.

From enhancing fine motor

skills and rhythm to fostering creativity, collaboration, and self-confidence, the musical spoons open a rhythmic gateway for everyone.

Boost your mood and confidence, unlock your memory and emotional balance through the power of Let’s play spoons method. Build strength, control and flexibility.

Dancing, moving and play-

- “Let’s play spoons seniors”
- For all Ages, Cultures and Abilities
- Rhythm, Music and Play with the whole Body
- Colored Musical Spoons – Rhythmic Percussion Instruments (legally patented)

ing rhythms with colored musical spoons helps participants feel accomplished and confident.

Tap your spoons along with the music developing rhythm and coordination in a fun and easy way. “Let’s play spoons” games and activities can boost physical, emotional and motor development.

This method inspires endless ways to be innovative and to learn new things. Playing with the musical spoons can be an activity that can reduce anxiety and depression.

Everyone can be a successful participant regardless of their music background.

To encourage participants to sing, move, dance, play, create, improvise, compose and perform.

To help participants feel good about themselves, develop their self-expression and enhance health and well-being through the joy of music, rhythm and movement.

It provides a creative outlet for participants to explore and express.

The rhythmic patterns and coordination required in playing the colored musical spoons activate various areas of the brain, promoting neural connections and enhancing cognitive abilities.

Through movement activities, participants work on skills such as turn-taking, cooperation, vo-

Effie Bachtsevana holds the distinction of being the first international author associated with Education Jagat. Her contribution during a challenging period helped strengthen the publication’s global outlook and literary reach. Through her insightful writings, she connected readers across borders and remains a valued part of Education Jagat’s journey and legacy...

Effie Bachtsevana was born in Melbourne Australia. She is a Creative Music Teacher, Teacher Trainer, an Award Winning Author and Educationist, Creator of the first Boomwhackers Orchestra in Greece, Inventor and Author of Let’s Play boomwhackers method “Learn English and Music through Play” for Kindergarten and Primary School Speaker and Researcher of various methods of teaching.

Since 2012 she has been the Instructor of Seminars addressing educators of all stages, of Preschool and School education, Kindergarten and Nursery school teachers, teachers of Physical Education and English teachers focusing on using her method in education.

She has presented her method to over 15 countries and 16,000 educators.



Effie Bachtsevana
Educationist
Melbourne - Australia

cabulary development, social skills, or gross motor skills such as strength, balance, hand-eye coordination, agility, memory, speed, attention, problem-solving skills etc.

The activities of the method encourage everyone to communicate, to be creative and to express themselves.

Simple dance steps using the colored musical spoons, helps us to improve skills, such as coordination, balance and rhythm.

Steady beat competency impacts gross- and fine-motor skills. Improve your sense of rhythm and internalize rhythmic patterns.

Dance and move to the music while tapping your spoons.

Arrange and perform simple choreographies.

Tapping the colored musical spoons rhythmically on our body and hands enhances: Motor planning, bilateral coordination, cognitive function, social connection and physical well-being.

Keep your mind active, improve your mood and well-being, boost memory and concentration, enhance coordination and balance, fun and social interaction.

“Let’s play spoons” method introduces a variety of music and dances from around the globe making each class a fun filled culture adventure.

Spoons help bring people together from different cultures and languages.

Immerse yourself in a transformative journey of music, dance, rhythm and well-being.

AI in Education and the Workforce: Challenges, Risks and Future Implications

Are we preparing, or are we weakening future generations?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has not only been thoroughly incorporated into education at all levels, but it has also moved beyond being a simple futuristic concept. This article focuses on the difficulties and risks of students in both education and the workforce. Examples of AI technologies, like chatbots, automated tutors, and personalized learning platforms, offer great opportunities for personal learning. However, they also pose some considerable challenges and dangers for learners. These obstacles can affect students’ critical thinking skills, learning methods, and the cultivation of vital academic and life competencies, reaching far beyond mere convenience.

Challenges in learning, problem-solving, and autonomy

With the advent of Artificial Intelligence, students now face new challenges that concern not only what they learn but also how they learn. According to Holmes (2019), modern education should concentrate on deeper learning goals such as relevance, knowl-



edge transfer, and versatility.

• Relevance:

Relevance means that the learning process should be meaningful for the student and that the knowledge should be connected to real-life situations and personal interests. Students should learn how to use the knowledge they receive appropriately. The problem that arises with using AI machines is the ready-made answers, AI-generated answers. This means that learn-

ing becomes a more mechanical process rather than a meaningful experience as it should be.

• Knowledge Transfer:

The ability to apply what has been learned in one setting to another, whether it be new or unfamiliar, is known as knowledge transfer. Considering that students are not actively involved in the learning process when using AI, their ability to solve problems is limited, as the solution is predetermined.

• Versatility

Versatility is the ability to adapt,

think differently, and find solutions to upcoming problems. In other words, not just know “the one right answer”, but be able to navigate through uncertain situations. In contrast, AI tools provide quick results without allowing students to make mistakes through trial and error. Furthermore, students do not learn how to adjust in diverse situations; thus, they lose their mental flexibility as they rely on predefined answers rather than considering alternative solutions.



Elena Gourgouli
Educationist
Athens - Greece

Risks that Impact Students’ Educational Growth

• Academic Integrity and Concerns about Plagiarism

Artificial Intelligence produces texts that seem authentic, a factor that has called into question the academic integrity. Educational institutions around the world struggle to differentiate original content from AI-generated content. Moral issues are raised when students submit work generated by AI tools. Does the work really belong to the students, and how can this affect their academic record?

• Creativity and Authentic Thought

Creativity comes from exploration, experimentation, and mak-

ing mistakes. When students rely primarily on AI to create content, they face risks that may suppress their original thoughts. Artificial Intelligence is less likely to make novel discoveries since it relies on patterns seen in previously collected data. Students who use AI to produce creative work may miss out on their ideation skills, such as creativity, imagination, innovation, and brainstorming. These ideation skills are considered vital for both academic success and future employment.

• Emotional and Social Learning Challenges

Beyond academic content, conventional learning environments, such as classrooms, foster communication, collaboration, resilience, and most importantly, empathy. In contrast, AI interacts with students as a machine rather than physically. Overreliance on AI can unintentionally limit students’ opportunities to develop social skills, including meaningful negotiation, group collaboration, and peer feedback. In creative and team-oriented fields, these skills are becoming highly essential for future success.

• Risks of Reduced Employability in the Workforce

Apart from these short-term risks, longer-term risks become apparent; students’ future employability may be affected by the progressive atrophy of critical thinking skills caused by the growing reliance on AI. If students rely on AI tools to complete or create their work, how can they develop skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving

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NEET re-exam gets an extra 15 minutes, more rough-work space



NEET (UG) 2026 will be conducted from 2 pm to 5:15 pm, giving candidates a total examination window of 195 minutes

EJ- New Delhi

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced a series of student-friendly measures for the NEET UG 2026 examination, scheduled to be held on June 21, in an effort to improve the test-taking experience while maintaining fairness and security standards. The changes were detailed in a public notice issued on June 12 and come after feedback received from candidates over the years.

One of the most significant changes is the extension of the examination window from 180 minutes to 195 minutes. The exam will now be conducted from 2:00 PM to 5:15 PM. According to the NTA, the additional 15 minutes account for mandatory examination formalities such as attendance marking and invigilation procedures, ensuring that students can utilise the full intended examination time without administrative activities cutting into their writing time.

The agency has also increased

the space available for rough work in the question paper booklet. Candidates will now receive four rough-work pages instead of two, providing more room for calculations, diagrams, and problem-solving during the examination. This change is expected to benefit students tackling physics and chemistry sections that often require extensive calculations.

Another major modification concerns the design of the question paper booklet. Earlier, rough-work pages were provided only at the end of the booklet. Under the revised format, two rough-work pages will be placed immediately after the instruction page at the beginning, while two additional pages will remain at the end. The new layout has been introduced in both English and regional language versions of the paper, allowing candidates to use whichever pages are most convenient during the examination.

In its notice, the NTA stated that even small improvements in examination design can positively impact the experience of candidates appearing for a high-stakes test such as NEET. The agency said the measures have been introduced to make the examination process more comfortable and candidate-friendly while upholding the highest standards of fairness and security.

Candidates have been advised to carefully read the instructions provided in their admit cards and information bulletins and cooperate with examination staff for the smooth conduct of the test. The NEET UG 2026 re-examination is scheduled for June 21 amid heightened security arrangements, following the cancellation of the earlier exam due to paper leak allegations. Authorities have implemented multiple safeguards, including stricter monitoring and enhanced logistics, to ensure the integrity of the examination process.

CBSE must disclose Class X, XII answer sheet procurement details, says CIC



EJ- New Delhi

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to disclose "point-wise categorical" information

permissible under the RTI Act related to expenditure on exams and details of answer books, including the tendering and procurement process, for Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations.

After setting aside the CBSE's earlier denial of information under the RTI, the transparency panel asked it to furnish revised replies and said that the information exempt from disclosure may be redacted or masked

under Section 10 of the RTI Act, while any denial under Section 8(1) (d) should be properly justified.

The case arose from an RTI application seeking details of answer books used in Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 sessions, including paper quality, number of pages, size, purchase cost, total expenditure, GST payments and details of the tender process for procurement of an-

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"Expensive Degrees, Cheap Futures: The Growing Placement Crisis in Private Universities"



EJ- Ravi Arya, New Delhi

Questions are increasingly being raised about campus placements and higher education practices in private universities across India. According to students, parents, and some education experts, several institutions promote attractive placement statistics and associations with a large number of companies, while the actual outcomes may not always match the expectations created by such claims.

Private universities frequently advertise hundreds of companies as their placement partners. However, placement professionals suggest that the presence of a company's name or logo does not necessarily guarantee large-scale recruitment. In many cases, companies may participate in campus recruitment drives, but the number of students ultimately hired remains limited.

Some professionals involved in placement activities also claim that various commercial arrangements and participation fees may be associated with campus recruitment processes. However, these claims could not be independently verified. Education experts believe that greater transparency in placement-related data and recruitment practices is necessary so that students can make informed decisions.

A section of education experts argues that marketing and admissions activities sometimes receive more attention than academic quality and long-term career development. They advise students to evaluate an institution's actual placement record, average salary packages, alumni achievements, and student satisfaction levels

- Attracting students to take admission by displaying the logos of major brands, creating the impression of strong industry connections.
- Advertising a 70-80% placement rate when the actual placement rate is only around 20-30%, thereby misleading prospective students.
- Showcasing 7-8-year-old alumni in current advertisements with salary packages of ₹70-80 lakh per annum, which can create a false impression and mislead new students.
- Companies often promise to send offer letters via email after the recruitment process, but in many cases, students never receive those offer letters, even after waiting for years.

rather than relying solely on promotional advertisements.

The growing participation of startup companies has also changed the campus placement landscape. Some students claim that many entry-level opportunities offer relatively modest salaries and may have lower employee retention rates. At the same time, startup industry representatives argue that such positions provide valuable work experience and opportunities for skill development.

Meanwhile, various claims have also emerged regarding a large private university based in the Delhi-NCR region. According to certain sources, the institution offers special financial

schemes and investment-related benefits to students. Supporters view these initiatives as student-friendly measures, while critics consider them marketing tools designed to attract admissions. The university's response to these claims was not available at the time of publication.

Education experts emphasize that students and parents should carefully examine an institution's placement history, industry partnerships, faculty quality, research output, and alumni outcomes before making enrollment decisions.

Higher education is not merely about obtaining a degree; it is a long-term investment in one's

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UGC clears three foreign universities to begin intake process in Mumbai, Bengaluru campuses



EJ - New Delhi.....

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved three foreign universities to begin operations in India, allowing them to start admissions for their first student batches.

The approvals have been issued to the University of York and the University of Bristol for their campuses in Mumbai, and to UNSW Sydney for its campus in Bengaluru. The move comes under the UGC regulations that allow foreign higher education institutions to establish campuses in India, under NEP's "internationalisation" proposal.

The announcements were made on June 9 at an event in New Delhi, with the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan present during the handing over of approvals. Other attendees included University of York Vice-Chancellor Charlie Jeffery, University of Bristol Mumbai Enterprise Campus Director Michelle Jones, UGC Chairman and Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron and

British Council India Director Alison Barrett.

The University of York said it has received its Letter of Approval from the UGC for its Mumbai campus and can now formally begin student enrolment for the 2026 academic session. The university plans to offer undergraduate programmes in business, economics and computer science, along with postgraduate courses in artificial intelligence, finance and management.

The University of Bristol has also received UGC approval for its Mumbai Enterprise Campus. The university said its first batch of students is expected to begin classes in August 2026 from its temporary location at Cignus Powai in Mumbai. In the first year, the institution plans to admit up to 250 students across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in data science, economics, finance and immersive arts.

Meanwhile, UNSW Sydney has received approval to establish its first international campus in Bengaluru. Classes are scheduled

CBSE students from West Asia suffer due to delayed Class XII results; Centre says relief measures are being framed



EJ - New Delhi.....

The Centre said the Supreme Court that it was considering framing a policy to provide relief to private students from West Asia whose Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board examination results have not been declared due to ongoing conflict in the region.

A partial working day (earlier called as Vacation bench) of the apex court, headed by Justice Augustine George Masih and also comprising Justice Vijay Bisnoi was apprised by the Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Me-

hta, senior law officer appearing for the Centre, that the Union government is considering to come out with a decision or some policy shortly in the important matter involving career of many students.

"This is a wider issue, the union government is considering laying down some policy for similarly situated students," the law officer told the top court.

The Centre's submissions came as the SC was hearing a plea filed by one, Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, challenging the CBSE's failure to declare his result despite an assessment scheme having been

framed for students affected by the cancellation of examinations in several Gulf countries.

Mehta, further submitted that the present matter may be kept to be heard later on June 22, considering that it raises some wider questions which the government is currently looking into it.

Hearing these contentions of Mehta, the bench allowed his prayer and adjourned the matter for further hearing to June 22.

Patel had moved the top court challenging the CBSE's failure to declare his result despite an assessment scheme having been framed for students affected by the cancellation of examinations in several Gulf countries.

In the last date of hearing on June 8, the top court -- while agreeing to hear the case -- earlier issued notices to the CBSE and its regional officer on Patel's plea and asked them to file the detailed reply. "This is about the career of a child, he will miss all his admissions. Whatever it is, burn the midnight oil," the bench

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Quantum computing is starting to show real-world impact: Dr. Prabhat Manocha



EJ - Ghaziabad.....

Renowned technology leader Dr. Prabhat Manocha, Account Technical Leader, IBM India/South Asia, addressed students, academicians, and industry experts at KIET Deemed to be University's flagship event, "Shaping Tomorrow: Industry and International Partnerships."

As the esteemed guest, Dr. Manocha inaugurated the Centre of Excellence - Quantum Computing Lab, established in collaboration with IBM and C-DAC Delhi. In his insightful address, he highlighted the transformative potential of Quantum Computing, the strategic importance of India's National Quantum Mis-

sion, and the emerging role of Quantum Cryptography in securing the digital future.

Emphasizing that quantum technologies are rapidly moving from research to practical applications, he encouraged students to embrace interdisciplinary learning and leverage the opportunities offered by the new CoE for research, innovation, and industry engagement. He noted that quantum computing is poised to reshape industries and create exciting career opportunities for the next generation of technology professionals.

The session inspired participants to prepare for the quantum era and reinforced KIET's commitment to fostering future-ready talent through strong industry-academia collaboration.

CJP founder Dipke reiterates demand for Union Education Minister Pradhan's resignation, sets June 20 as deadline



EJ - Mumbai.....

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke reiterated the party's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in connection with the NEET paper leak case and recent fiasco in several key examinations.

He also appealed to parents not to stop their children from speaking out against the tyranny and wrong policies of the government.

Abhijeet Dipke was in Pune,

where he said that they had sought permission for the protest in Pune University against the incumbent government and its failure to conduct exams.

He said that CPJ will carry out a countrywide protest in other metro cities like Lucknow and Bangalore.

"Despite these protests, if Dharmendra Pradhan refuses to resign and if PM Narendra Modi does not sack him, we will carry out another mega protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on June 20. We

will continue to press our demand and keep asking questions to the ruling parties," Dipke said. "If we do not ask the question, then who will?" he asked.

"Parents and students are scared to speak out against the government and wrong policies that are destroying the future of our students. My parents are also worried. My mother cried when I led the protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. She told me that I should stay and work in the US as the people who are in power here will harass, attack, and arrest me," Dipke said.

He recalled that he had asked his mother that if he and others kept mum, then what would happen to this country and the future of thousands of students.

"The people who are in power can muzzle one dissenting voice, but they will not stop if we all start speaking out against the government. Unity has power. We should not be afraid of being sent to jail. 'Fear' is a huge enemy that we have to remove," he added.

NTA releases admit cards for NEET-UG re-exam, asks candidates to verify bank details



EJ - New Delhi.....

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced that it had released the Admit Cards for candidates who will be appearing for the re-exam of the medical entrance exam on June 21.

It has also asked the students to cross-check the bank details they had submitted for the reimbursement of the fee paid for the May 3 National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) exam, which

was subsequently cancelled.

The NTA, in a fresh statement released late at night, said that 1 lakh candidates have already downloaded their admit cards for the June 21 NEET UG exam. Around 100,000 students have downloaded their Admit Cards by 10.45 pm.

"There is a load on our servers, but our teams are working to ensure that all candidates are able to download their Admit Cards," it said.

NTA will reimburse more than Rs 300 crore in total to all the aspirants before June 30, said an official.

Over 13.31 lakh (58%) female candidates and 9.47 lakh male candidates will take up the re-exam, to be held from 2 pm to 5.15 pm. Persons with Disabilities will be given 65 minutes more than regular candidates.

The public notice from NTA asked candidates to log on to <http://neet.nta.nic.in> to download their admit cards.

"The candidates should verify their bank account details for refund before downloading the Admit Card. The information about the allotted centre is available in the Admit Card," it said.

In another notice, the NTA said that scrutiny of the bank account details received from candidates for reimbursement revealed that some of them have furnished in-

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KIET teamed up with IBM, SAP, EY India, and L&T, and strengthened global partnerships with RWTH



■ EJ - Ghaziabad

KIET Deemed to be University marked a significant milestone in its journey towards innovation-driven, industry-aligned, and globally connected education through its event, "Shaping Tomorrow: Industry and International Partnerships." The event witnessed the inauguration of three state-of-the-art Centres of Excellence and the signing of strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with leading international universities and global industry partners.

The event brought together distinguished leaders from academia, industry, government, and international institutions, viz. Sh. Vinod Singh Yadav (Deputy Secretary, UGC), Jagadisha Bhat (Market Leader - IBM Technology Expert Labs, ISA, IBM India Private Limited), Furqan Warsi (Partner, EY India), Vijay Vohra (VP and Head Services, Advisory and Digital Skilling, SAP), Ram Sharma, (Associate Director, LTI), Mr. Ravi Sastry (MD, Festo India Pvt. India), Mr. Harish Nachnani (Head, Didactic), Dr. Asokan Vasudevan (Director of International Relations and Collaborations Centre, INTI International University, Malaysia), Dr. Sandeep P. Patil (Director of India Office at RWTH International Academy), Dr. Shiva Kumar (CTO, QMD Foundation, IIT, Delhi, Ex-Director, DRDO HQ), Sh. Jitendra Singh (Scientist G & Center Head C-DAC, Delhi), and Dr. L. Venkata Subramaniam (Former Head - IBM Quantum India, CEO Qbit Force).

The event was led by the university leadership, including Shri Sunil P. Gupta, General Secretary - KIET, Dr. Nagaraj Ramrao, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Manoj Goel, Pro Vice Chancellor; Dr. Adesh Pandey, Director Academics; Dr. Abhinav Juneja, Director CRPC; along with all the Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, students, and staff of the University.

A major highlight of the event was the inauguration of three cutting-edge facilities designed to equip students with future-ready skills and provide hands-on exposure to emerging technologies. Established in collaboration with IBM and C-DAC Delhi, the Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computing will provide students access to next-generation quantum computing platforms such as Qiskit and Quniverse. The facil-

ity aims to nurture talent in one of the world's most transformative technologies and aligns with India's National Quantum Mission. As part of the initiative, KIET also signed an MoU with C-DAC to promote collaborative research, faculty development, and student upskilling in the field of quantum technologies. The collaboration will further support the university's newly launched industry-integrated learning track in Quantum Computing with IBM.

The university also inaugurated its AICTE-sponsored IDEA (Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship Academy) Lab, established with support from NASSCOM as Training & Skilling Partner, Qmansys Infosolutions as Technical Partner, and HCP Technologies and VOLTRON-EV as Corporate Partners.

The IDEA Lab has been envisioned as a multidisciplinary innovation hub that will promote creativity, design thinking, rapid prototyping, entrepreneurship, and product development. Equipped with advanced technologies and maker-space facilities, the lab will enable students from diverse disciplines to work on real-world challenges in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), Robotics, Electric Vehicles, Embedded Systems, Product Design, and Smart Technologies.

The Centre of Excellence for Industrial Automation, established in collaboration with FESTO, has been designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industrial requirements. The facility will provide practical training and exposure in industrial automation, advanced manufacturing systems, and Industry 4.0 technologies, preparing students for modern industrial environments and enhancing their employability.

The event also featured a Strategic MoU Exchange Ceremony aimed at strengthening KIET's global academic network and industry collaborations.

International partnerships were formalized with RWTH Aachen University, Germany and INTI International University, Malay-

sia. These collaborations will facilitate academic and research cooperation, student and faculty mobility, joint projects, global learning opportunities, and cross-border knowledge exchange.

Further strengthening its industry-academia ecosystem, KIET exchanged MoUs with distinguished organizations including IBM, L&T EduTech, SAP, and EY India.

These partnerships will enable the launch of industry-integrated B.Tech and MBA learning tracks featuring specialized domains such as Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Cyber Security, Semiconductor Design, Electric Vehicles, Industrial IoT, Full Stack Development, SAP Cloud Enterprise Applications, FinTech, and Business Analytics. 30%-35% of the syllabus will be taught by these industry professionals.

Students enrolled in these programs will benefit from industry certifications, experiential learning, internships, mentorship from industry experts, and exposure to real-world business and technology challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nagaraj Ramrao, Vice Chancellor, KIET Deemed to be University, said, "The future of higher education lies in meaningful collaboration between academia, industry, research organizations, and global institutions. The Centres of Excellence and strategic partnerships launched today are designed to provide our students with world-class learning opportunities, industry exposure, and global perspectives. These initiatives will play a vital role in preparing future-ready professionals capable of addressing complex challenges and driving innovation."

The inauguration of the Centres of Excellence and the formalization of strategic partnerships underscore KIET's commitment to empowering students with globally relevant competencies while contributing meaningfully to technological advancement, innovation-led growth, and nation-building. The event concluded with a press interaction and networking session attended by academic leaders, industry representatives, international delegates, faculty members, researchers, students, and members of the media.

IIM Lucknow opens BS in AI and Business Analytics for JEE Advanced qualifiers; apply by July 3



■ EJ - Lucknow

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow has opened applications for its Bachelor of Science (BS) in Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics programme, designed for higher secondary graduates who have qualified for the JEE Advanced. The inaugural batch will admit 60 students, with applications open until July 3, 2026. Interested candidates can apply on the official website at iiml.ac.in/bs-artificial-intelligence.

The programme is open to Indian candidates who have completed their 10+2 or equivalent examination in 2025 or 2026 with Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics as main subjects and have qualified for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced. Candidates will be selected based on their academic performance and JEE Advanced score. A relaxation of 5 per cent marks is applicable for

candidates belonging to the SC and ST categories as per Government of India norms.

A standout feature of the programme is a structured pathway for students to transition to IIM Lucknow's Tech-MBA programme, which is scheduled to commence in 2027-28, after completing the third year of the BS programme. This enables eligible students to pursue an integrated dual-degree pathway at one of India's premier management institutions.

The curriculum integrates high-demand disciplines like advanced AI, machine learning, data engineering, analytics, and responsible AI with business and management education. Students will be trained in areas including Data Warehousing, Big Data Computing, Computer Vision, Deep Learning, Cloud Computing, Business Analytics, and Machine Learning Deployment, among others. They will also

have access to IIM Lucknow's specialised laboratories in Business Intelligence, Computer Vision, Digital Transformation, Linguistics, and Social AI.

"The programme will equip students with the skills and perspective needed to create meaningful impact in business, society, and the economy," said Prof Sanjay K Singh, Dean (Programmes), IIM Lucknow.

"We aim to attract top talent in the country by offering admission exclusively to top performers in JEE Advanced," said Prof Pradeep Kumar, Chairperson, Admissions, IIM Lucknow.

Graduates will be positioned for roles including AI Engineer, Data Scientist, Machine Learning Engineer, Business Analyst, and Analytics Consultant across sectors spanning technology, consulting, financial services, healthcare, and e-commerce.

Similarly, several other IIMs have launched undergraduate programmes in recent years, including IIM Bangalore, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Sambalpur and IIM Sirmaur.

The first list will be announced on July 10, followed by the announcement of the second and third lists on July 23 and August 3, respectively. The release of the second and third lists is subject to requirements. The session will start on August 17.

UPSC notifies over 400 vacancies under direct recruitment scheme

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has launched a major recruitment drive under its Direct Recruitment Scheme 2026, announcing more than 400 vacancies across 98 posts in various ministries, departments and Union Territory administrations. Interested candidates can submit their applications through the Online Recruitment Application (ORA) portal. The registration process commenced on June 13

and will continue till July 3, 2026, up to 6 PM.

The recruitment drive offers opportunities in diverse sectors, including technical, scientific, administrative, medical and academic fields. Candidates are advised to carefully go through the official notification before applying, as educational qualifications, age limits and experience requirements differ according to the post. The vacancies are spread across several Central Government ministries and Union Terri-

tory administrations, providing opportunities to aspirants from different professional backgrounds.

Candidates can apply online through the UPSC Online Recruitment Application (ORA) portal. Since the recruitment covers 98 different posts, eligibility conditions vary from one position to another. Applicants should carefully verify educational qualifications, age limits. The application window will remain open until July 3, 2026.

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Indonesian students protest government policies



■ **EJ** - Herdiana Dewi Nurfika
Jakarta

Hundreds of Indonesian students rallied on Friday in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, demanding lower fuel and food prices and urging President Prabowo Subianto to roll back costly state spending programmes as economic pressures mount.

About 1,500 protesters tried to march to the Hotel Indonesia traffic circle, a key city landmark, after Friday prayers. Authorities stopped many of them and also blocked streets leading to the presidential palace, where many protests often end up. More than 6,000 police and soldiers were deployed there. Protesters, many wearing yellow university jackets, voiced their

frustration over living costs, which have risen as a result of higher fuel costs since the US launched its war against Iran. Indonesia's rupiah currency has come under pressure, hitting a historic low of 18,000 rupiah to the US dollar earlier this month.

Protesters outlined five key demands, including cuts to what they called wasteful state spending, lower prices for fuel and staple goods, and a halt to major government programmes such as a free nutritious meal initiative and a plan to revitalise rural areas.

The free meals programme, costing about 268 trillion rupiah (USD 15 billion) for this year alone, is aimed at alleviating poverty and malnutrition, but Prabowo recently fired the head of the programme amid a mas-

sive graft probe.

They also called for an end to what they described as the increasing role of the military in civilian affairs, something they view as a threat to the young democracy. "The government is in denial about the current situation," said Yatalathof Ma'shum Imawan, who chairs the student organisation that organised the rally. "We urge Prabowo to have the courage to acknowledge his mistake and stop denying it."

Demonstration marks one of the largest student mobilisations since nationwide protests erupted last August, when thousands took to the streets, and clashes with security forces left at least 13 people dead. Similar protests were also held in West Java's Bandung city and in Pontianak, a city on Borneo island.

CBSE says over 1.6 lakh candidates applied for post-result services, clarifies on 'Roll Number Not Found'



■ **EJ** - New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said more than 1.6 lakh candidates successfully submitted requests for over 3.8 lakh answer books, adding that its post-result services portal was fully functional during the notified application period.

In a statement on X, the board said the application window for verification and re-evaluation was fully functional throughout the notified period, June 2-7, under the supervision of government technical agencies and IIT teams.

"During the above application period, more than 1.6 lakh candidates successfully submitted requests pertaining to over 3.8 lakh answer books, reflecting the extensive utilisation of the services by the candidates," the CBSE said.

The board said the system remained under "continuous monitoring" by cybersecurity teams

throughout the operational period to prevent malicious traffic and cyber threats.

It also said CBSE teams provided support to students through its helpdesk and grievance redressal channels. The clarification came amid certain media reports and social media posts regarding the functioning of the Post-Result Services Portal.

Addressing concerns raised by some students and parents, CBSE said the message "Roll Number Not Found" was displayed only when a candidate had not successfully applied during the first phase of the post-result services process – the Answer Books Photocopy Application Window.

"CBSE has taken note of certain media reports and social media posts regarding the functioning of the Post-Result Services Portal," the board said. "To clarify doubts of some of these students and parents, it is informed that the message 'Roll Number Not Found' is displayed when a

candidate had not successfully applied during the first phase of the Post-Result Services process, namely the Answer Books Photocopy Application Window."

"As clearly outlined earlier, only those candidates who had applied for their scanned answer books during the preceding stage (Answer Books Photocopy) were eligible to avail the subsequent stage of Verification of Issues Observed and Re-evaluation of Answers," CBSE said.

The CBSE has been embroiled in controversy after some Class 12 students claimed that scanned copies of their answer sheets uploaded by the board did not match their handwriting, raising concerns about potential mismatches in the OSM system.

An IIT panel, responsible for the security audit of the CBSE post-result ecosystem, granted full security clearance to a new examiner-facing portal, paving the way for the re-evaluation of answer sheets for thousands of students.

The new portal was developed after CBSE decided not to use the portal developed by Coempt EduTeck, which was found to have multiple security weaknesses.

CBSE must...

In its response, the CBSE disclosed certain specifications of the answer books, stating that the paper used ranged from 60 GSM to 120 GSM, answer books contained 8, 20, 32, 40 or 48 pages and were available in sizes of 22 x 28 cm and 37.5 x 54.5 cm.

The board also said records regarding the weight of individual answer books were not maintained. However, information relating to the purchase cost of answer books, the number purchased and total expenditure incurred on procurement was denied under Section 8(1) (e) of the RTI Act.

On queries regarding the tender process, names of participating firms, rates quoted and vendor

selection, the CBSE said the matter was related to "confidential" and "sensitive" activities of board examinations and claimed exemption under sections 8(1)(d), 8(1)(e) and 8(1) (g) of the Act.

The board also stated that expenditure data for examination fees was maintained on a financial year basis instead of academic sessions and declined to provide specific expenditure details. It also informed the applicant that expenditure on practical examinations was booked under a broader expenditure head and could not be segregated separately.

The appellant challenged the response before the CIC, arguing that larger public interest and transparency warranted disclosure of the information.

Information Commissioner Sudha Rani Relangi observed that the core issue in the appeal was the denial of information related to the "tender process for purchase of answer sheet and other related stationary materials" despite the appellant's contention that larger public interest justified disclosure

New MSc...

Dr V. Venkatramanan and Prof Shachi Shah. Students who successfully complete the first year will have the option of receiving a Post Graduate Diploma in Climate Change (PGDCCC).

According to IGNOU, the programme is designed to develop professionals capable of contributing to climate resilience and sustainability initiatives through science-based approaches.

CBSE students...

had earlier said orally, asking the counsel for CBSE to take instructions on the issue.

Patel, in his plea, highlighted that he is a bona fide student who appeared as a Private Candidate in the CBSE Class XII Improvement Examination, 2026 from Al Jubail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, English, Mathematics and Computer Science. During the examination period, due to extraordinary war related tensions and security concerns prevailing in the Gulf Region, CBSE cancelled examinations of several subjects, including Mathematics, English and Computer Science.

He further stated that recognizing the hardship faced by students in West Asian countries, CBSE issued an Assessment Scheme on March 27 providing for declaration of results based on Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Pre-Board Examination performance and also contemplated conduct of Special Examinations wherever necessary.

Despite the said scheme, the result of the petitioner (Patel) was not declared when CBSE announced the Class XII results on May 13 and his status was shown as RL (Result Later).

The petitioner, Patel, repeatedly approached the Respondents, Union of India and other authorities, through representations on May 17, 21 and 30 requesting declaration of his result either by applying the Assessment Scheme or by permitting him to appear in a Special requesting declaration of his result either by applying the Assessment Scheme or by permitting him to appear in a Special Examination. However, no response has been received and the result continues to remain withheld.

"The non-declaration of the Petitioner's result has seriously prejudiced his academic career. He (Patel) has already applied for admission to Dhirubhai Ambani University and has paid the requisite registration fee. The University required the Petitioner to update his result status by June 01. Due to the failure of the Respondents to declare the result, the Petitioner has been deprived of the opportunity to complete the admission process and is also unable to apply to other institutions," Patel said.

NTA releases...

complete or incorrect particulars, including invalid account numbers and other discrepancies.

NTA had received requests from candidates who wanted to rectify their bank account details, it said. "In the interest of the candidates and to ensure that the refund amount reaches the correct beneficiary, NTA has decided to open a Bank Account Re-confirmation/Correction Window."

As an additional security measure and to protect the candidate's account, access to the facility will be permitted only after completion of an OTP-based two-factor authentication sent to the candidate's registered mobile number.

"Only upon successful authentication shall the candidate be allowed to view, verify, update or confirm the bank account details," the notice added.

AI in Education...

skills, and creativity? Gradually, this may lead to adults who find it difficult to adjust to demanding and complex work conditions. In this sense, AI may not only change and reshape education, but also redefine the caliber of labor in the future.

Although Artificial Intelligence offers many opportunities regarding educational innovation, its effects on students should not be disregarded. Depending on AI tools might progressively erode critical abilities and change how students think, learn, and connect. To ensure that future generations are not just knowledgeable but also capable, adaptable, and ready for the challenges of the modern world, it is crucial to strike a balance between the development of autonomous thought and technological support as education continues to change.

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Trump's \$100,000 H-1B fee ruled unlawful



■ EJ - Agency

A federal judge has ruled Donald Trump's \$100,000 H-1B visa fee unlawful, handing a legal victory to 20 states led by California, suing the President on grounds that the charge damaged their ability to hire workers at public institutions.

US district judge Leo Sorokin said the President had "no power or delegated authority to impose a tax on H-1B petitions", concluding the fee violated the separation of powers and throwing the policy out in its entirety.

The decision has been hailed a victory for the democratic state attorneys general that filed the suit, as well as tech companies and other US businesses that use the visa to hire skilled international workers and who were rocked by Trump's dramatic fee hike in September 2025.

Though the administration subsequently said international students transitioning from F-1 to H-1B visas would be exempt from the fee, the eye-watering cost – over 20 times what employers previously paid – has burdened companies, colleges, schools and hospitals with huge additional hiring fees.

The Obama appointee's 42-page decision ruled in favour of the plaintiffs on all four counts, concluding the fee was operating as an "unlawful tax" implemented without congressional approval.

While marking the most recent setback for the administration's economic agenda as it seeks to overhaul work and immigration pathways to the US, much remains uncertain and the White House has said it will appeal the decision.

"President Trump has clear legal authority to restrict entry of any class of aliens he determines is not in America's best interests, and that is exactly what he did," Taylor Rogers, White House spokesperson, says.

"The H-1B program has been abused for decades, and President Trump finally took action to fix it."

"A federal judge in Washington

already upheld a nearly identical order, and the administration is confident this order will be reversed on appeal," she said.

Rogers' comments refer to a separate court in Washington DC upholding the fee in January this year, as the judge rejected arguments brought by the Chamber of Commerce that the proclamation exceeded Trump's statutory authority.

"We continue to surf the waves of what's coming our way," said Fragomen immigration partner Eddie Raleigh, highlighting the difficult decision now facing employers about whether to continue paying the fee based on so many unknowns.

Raleigh explained the fee could come back if the district court, the first circuit, or the supreme court suspends the Massachusetts decision while the appeal is pending, or if the decision is later reversed following the appeal.

He said the DC ruling made an appeal more likely, giving "the government a ready argument that another federal judge looked at the same fee and upheld it".

And yet, lawyers have highlighted the recent supreme court tariff decision rejecting a broad claim of presidential authority that lacked clear statutory authorisation, supporting the Massachusetts court reasoning that the President cannot impose a \$100,000 charge without clear congressional authorisation.

What's more, Raleigh said the decision gave employers who paid the \$100,000 fee a strong argument that the money was collected under an unlawful policy, but the court did not order refunds or create a process for granting them, leaving the issue "unresolved".

"For now, employers that paid should preserve all payment records, and employers deciding whether to pay should assume that any refund path may be slow and contested," he advised.

The H-1B program was established in its current form in 1990 and enables US employers to temporarily hire international workers in "specialty occupations" from healthcare to

computer science and financial analysis, with California's tech industry particularly reliant on the stream.

H-1B visas are capped annually at 85,000 with 20,000 reserved for individuals with advanced degrees, though colleges, universities and non-profits are exempt from the cap.

As this year's H-1B cap filing deadline fast approaches at the end of the month, experts predict many employers will continue paying the fee rather than risk complications and missing the deadline.

India, America's largest source of international students, is also the top country of origin for H-1B visa holders, with Indian nationals making up 73% of new H-1B approvals in 2023.

Amid the uncertainty over the fee, US homeland security secretary Markwayne Mullin said last week at least 200,000 people have opted to pay the \$100,000 H-1B fee to ensure faster processing, while roughly 80,000 applicants seeking an exemption are set to wait in processing queues nearly eight months long.

Trump's overhaul of the visa route has also included replacing the random lottery system with a weighted selection processing favouring higher wage earners.

A third court challenge, Global Nurse Force v. Trump, is still ongoing in the courts, with the plaintiffs arguing the \$100,000 H-1B fee "threatens to choke off the lawful nurse-recruitment pipeline US hospitals depend on".

Commenting on the policy environment and its trickle-down impact on international students coming the US, International House Berkeley executive director Shaun Cullen said global competition for talent was "far more intense than many Americans realise".

"Policies that create uncertainty around visas or long-term opportunity don't happen in a vacuum. Talented people increasingly have other options, and we're seeing that play out across the pipeline – from education through to career choice."

study include climate science, climate risks, adaptation and mitigation strategies, environmental governance, sustainable development, water resources, energy systems, agriculture, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, waste management, circular economy, public health and ecosystem restoration.

The course is coordinated by

>> Contd. p.6...

New MSc course on climate change introduced by IGNOU

■ EJ - New Delhi

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched a Master of Science (MSc) in Climate Change, becoming the first open university in India to offer a postgraduate programme dedicated to the subject.

The two-year programme has

been introduced in response to growing concerns over the impact of climate change on ecosystems, economies and public well-being, and aims to equip learners with the knowledge required to address environmental and sustainability challenges.

Open to graduates from any discipline, the programme carries 80 credits and adopts a multidisciplinary approach. Key areas of

study include climate science, climate risks, adaptation and mitigation strategies, environmental governance, sustainable development, water resources, energy systems, agriculture, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, waste management, circular economy, public health and ecosystem restoration.

The course is coordinated by

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Japan's study abroad landscape shifts as short-term mobility grows



■ EJ - Agency

According to the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), 91,054 Japanese students studied abroad in fiscal 2024, up 1,875 from the previous year but still around 20% below the record 115,146 students recorded in fiscal 2018.

The figures come as inbound mobility continues to rise. According to JASSO, the number of international students in Japan reached a record 408,069 in fiscal 2025, surpassing 400,000 for the first time in the organisation's data.

More than 60% of Japanese students studying abroad in fiscal 2024 participated in programs lasting less than one month, with the number of short-term participants rising by 3,257 year-on-year to 60,301.

Destination preferences are

shifting. The number of Japanese students studying in Asian countries increased by 2,401 to 36,904, while the number heading to North America fell by 1,775 to 19,363.

The JASSO survey linked the continued gap between current outbound numbers and the 2018 peak partly to the weak yen, which has increased overseas tuition and living costs for Japanese students.

Separate findings from the JAOS Study Abroad Research Institute (JSARI) suggest similar trends beyond university-led mobility programs.

According to the survey, 168,931 Japanese nationals participated in overseas educational travel and study abroad programs through 41 JAOS member organisations in 2025, including 138,421 participants in school trips and study

tours and 30,510 students in individual study abroad programs.

Educational travel accounted for 82% of all participants in the survey, highlighting the growing role of short-term and group-based international experiences in Japan's outbound mobility landscape.

The institute noted that a member agency reported additional study tour programs that had not been included in previous years' data. Of these, 117,156 students participated through junior high schools, high schools and local government programs, while a further 21,265 participated through universities and vocational colleges.

The report found that long-term language study of three months or more had fallen to around half of 2019 levels. It attributed

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