



International Column'



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## India's student suicide rate has surpassed overall trend: Report



■ EJ News - Agency

Incidents of student suicides in India have grown at an alarming annual rate, surpassing the population growth rate and overall suicide trends, according to a new report.

Based on the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the "Student suicides: An epidemic sweeping India" report was launched on Wednesday at the Annual IC3 Conference and Expo 2024.

The report pointed out that while the overall suicide numbers increased by 2 percent annually, student suicides cases surged by 4 percent, despite a likely "under reporting" of student suicide cases. "Over the past two decades, student suicides have grown at an alarming annual rate of 4 per cent, double the national average. In 2022, male students constituted 53 pc (percent) of the total student suicides. Between 2021 and 2022, male student suicides decreased by 6 percent while fe-

male student suicides increased by 7 percent," noted the report compiled by IC3 Institute.

"The incidence of student suicides continues to surpass both population growth rates and overall suicide trends. Over the last decade, while the population of 0-24-year-olds reduced from 582 million to 581 million, the number of student suicides increased from 6,654 to 13,044," it added.

The IC3 Institute is a volunteer-based organization that provides support to high schools around the world through guidance and training resources for their administrators, teachers and counselors to help establish and maintain robust career and college counselling departments.

According to the report, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh are identified as the states with the highest number

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## Protests at Andhra College as cameras found in girls' washroom



■ EJ News - Krishna

Massive protests erupted after a disturbing incident came to light at SR Gudlavalluru Engineering College in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, where a hidden camera was discovered in the women's hostel washroom. The camera had been secretly recording videos of the students, which were later allegedly leaked and sold to some students.

Scores of girl students at the hostel shouted slogans, demanding the authorities to take action against the accused, and assuring their safety on campus.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has ordered an enquiry over the allegations.

Hundreds of students have been protesting at S R Gudlavalluru

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# Bullying – No violence



Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior in which someone intentionally and repeatedly causes another person injury or discomfort. Bullying can take the form of physical contact words, or more subtle actions. Bullying is the force, coercion, hurtful teasing or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. The behavior is often repeated and habitual; Bullying is a subcategory of aggressive behavior characterized by hostile intent, imbalance of power and repetition over a period of time.

A bullying culture can develop in any context in which humans interact which each other. This may include school, family,

the workplace, the home and neighborhood.

## What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting, problems. There are two types of bullying: direct and hidden, direct bullying openly insults the child. Covert bullying aggression is not expressed openly, but no one answers the child, they do not greet him, they do not allow him to participate in the game. Only the direct expression of aggression is not

considered an expression of bullying. Witnesses can aggravate and suppress bullying; Parent should tell their children to report incidents of bullying to adults. To be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

### An imbalance of power

- ♦ Repetition
- ♦ Verbal bullying
- ♦ Social bullying
- ♦ Physical bullying.

### Where and when bullying happens

Bullying can occur during or after school hours, while most reported bullying happens in the school building, a significant percentage also happens in places like on the

playground or the bus. It can also happen traveling to or from school, in the youth's neighborhood, or on the internet.

### Bullying: What is it and how to stop it?

Watching your child experience the physical and emotional pain of bullying or cyber bullying is heartbreaking. Some parents are unsure where to begin to help protect their children from bullying and violence. Others may not know if their children are victims, bystanders or even perpetrators or harmful behaviors. There are some tips for bullying.

1. Educate your children about bullying.
2. Talk openly and frequently to your children.
3. Be a role model
4. Be part of their online experience
5. Help your child be a positive role model
6. Help build your child self-confidence.

Bullying and violence have a bully and victim, in my opinion, both are victims. The first is because he can commit unacceptable behaviors for the society and the second is because he is victimized. I want to emphasize that the victims and the perpetrator both need the help of adults. In school, cases of bullying are rarely talked about and it is called childish teasing. In reality, bullying is a serious issue and it has a negative impact on the psycho-emotional development of children.



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**Research results:** The last national survey on violence in Georgian schools was conducted a few years ago. The results of the study are as follows: 47,1% suffer from physical violence, 47,5% suffer from psychological violence. The United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF published a study where 80% of the interviewed children were at least were at least once a victim of physical or psychological violence by their peers.

Who is responsible for the safety of students at school class teacher, teacher, school administration, parent. Everybody know, bullying does not need a serious reason. It can happen to any child who is different from others, for example: children of the risk group, children of a different minority, skin color etc. We know bullying causes fear, stress and insomnia in teenagers, In adolescence, it can cause mental and physical problems, failure in school and suicide attempts. It has very neg-

ative effects a person's emotional state and damages his reputation.

Last year, I implemented a project on bullying. The students got involved in his work with great interest. We made booklets, a poster, a presentation on this issue. We also had a representative of a non-governmental organization invited, who conducted training for the students. After the end of the project, we invited teachers and students. The students spoke about their experience and gave them information about bullying. The students were very active. In my opinion, bullying is a problem that should be eliminated as soon as it is detected. We should pay more attention to students so that they do not grow up to be bullies. As we know Bullying is an action that is very serious and can be very hurtful. Bullying can happen at any age, anywhere. Bullying is not a joke and it should always be taken seriously. Bullying causes a lot of fair amount of problems that are in the world today and matters just seem to get worse. It needs to be brought to the world's attention the truths about a bully's mind, types of people that are bullied and who is the one at fault. In my mind, being bullied makes young people incredibly insecure: When you are being bullied, you can feel constantly insecure and on guard. Even if you are not actively being bullied, you are aware it could start anytime. It has a big mental and emotional impact- you feel unaccepted, isolated, angry, and withdrawn.

# Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Business Education in India



The MBA programs have become the most preferable among Indian students as they increasingly seek graduate-level education. However, the quality and relevance of education continue to be a question mark despite this demand and surge in business schools. Although employability rate of India's business administration graduates improved from 47% in 2021 to 71% in 2024, experts warn that many graduates do not possess the skills and knowledge required by employers.

A problem is with theoretical approach used by most institutions that ignores practical learning and industry exposure. Business schools focus more on technical competences like financial analysis, neglecting interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence with just 27% having courses on leadership development. This is a challenge since leadership as well as soft skills are pivotal for

success in today's competitive business world. Therefore, Indian business education must undergo massive overhaul. With emphasis on hands-on experience, problem-solving capabilities, and industry interface, business schools can adequately prepare students for upcoming industrial requirements.

### The following are important areas to focus:

**Curriculum:** Frequent updates are important to ensure conformity with the latest industry trends and global business practices. Let there be regular consultations with experts from the industry where their inputs make the syllabus relevant and futuristic.

**Faculty:** Faculty excellence is essential; this can be achieved through a combination of academicians and industrialists to offer enrichment in the teaching process. Regular professional development for lecturers will also keep them updated on current trends and practices within the industry.

**Infrastructure:** A perfect learning environment is made available by state-of-the-art

infrastructure. Therefore, they could receive accreditation from national as well as international bodies or get listed in reputable rankings as quality benchmarks.

**Teaching Methodology:** Practical approach of learning is a must in order to create holistic professionals. Synthesizing case studies, simulations, real life projects help bridge theory into practice.

**Tech-driven:** Competency in high-end technologies is not an option. This means that they ought to equip students with skills on software used by businesses which include SAP, GitHub, Advanced Excel, SPSS, QuickBooks, CRM, ERP among others. Business schools must integrate training on industry-standard software and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data.

**Industrial Relations:** For the students to be well versed with practical aspects of business, they must have a strong industry interface. Industrial talks, guest lectures and workshops in these fields acquaint students with recent business trends. Frequent visits to industries, industrial tours and personal interactions with the experts in industry are some of the ways through which students are exposed to real life ex-



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perience in the corporate world. This ensures that there are internships and placements for the student after completion of their course.

**Soft Skills:** Career success largely depends on professional etiquette. A good curriculum should include communication skills, presentation techniques, and negotiation abilities. Business schools should teach their students about professional ethics, business etiquette, leadership qualities as well as team management. Personality development workshops aid in developing interpersonal skills which improves efficiency when dealing with others professionally.

**Entrepreneurship courses:** Even those who want to work for big corporations should learn about entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial mindset is created by programs such as innovation courses design thinking or business model development. Accessing innovation labs and business incubators give chances for theoretical experience on starting

and running businesses. These include mentoring and funding of student startups plus competitions hacks both on

**Placement:** It is a must that a separate body for placement with high reputation exists. Career advising sessions that are conducted regularly guide the students on how to go about with job seeking. A broad base of alumni serves as a source for job placements and also mentors, which greatly increases the chances of securing jobs. High placement ratios in good companies reflect the quality education provided by this business school.

**Diversity:** As globalization continues, being capable of working with different cultural groups is crucial. Globalizing businesses have their students engaged in markets outside their countries and develop cultural intelligence within them through multicultural student bodies. Inclusion of global business perspectives into course work content through curriculum and exchange programs with foreign universities foster cross-cultural understanding.

**Community service:** Community-based learning projects integrated into the syllabus help to nurture these humane sides while also enhancing organizational skills amongst them (students). Joint work with NGOs and community organizations to implement social projects makes it possible to instill social responsibility. The involvement in social entrepreneurship enhances leadership qualities thereby encouraging societal change towards betterment.

By focusing on these areas, business schools can better prepare students for the evolving demands of the business world. A comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to education will not only enhance employability but also ensure graduates are equipped to succeed in a competitive, rapidly changing global market.

## India's student.

of student suicides, together accounting for one-third of the national total.

Southern states and union territories collectively contribute 29 per cent of these cases, while Rajasthan, known for its high-stakes academic environment, ranks 10th, highlighting the intense pressure associated with coaching hubs like Kota.

"The data compiled by the NCRB is based on police-recorded first information reports (FIRs). However, it is important to acknowledge that the actual number of student suicides is likely underreported. This underreporting can be attributed to several factors, including the social stigma surrounding suicide and the criminalization of attempted and assisted suicide under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code.

Although the 2017 Mental Healthcare Act decriminalizes suicide attempts for individuals with mental illness, the legacy of criminalization continues to impact reporting practices, it said.

"Moreover, there are significant data discrepancies due to the lack of a robust data collection system, particularly in rural areas, where reporting is less consistent compared to urban regions," it said.

Ganesh Kohli, the Founder of the IC3 Movement, said the report serves as a reminder of the urgent need to address mental health challenges within our learning institutions.

"Our educational focus must shift to fostering the competencies of our learners such that it supports their overall well-being, versus pushing them to compete amongst each other.

"It is imperative that we build a systematic, comprehensive, and robust career and college counselling system within each institution, while seamlessly integrating the same within the learning curriculum," he said.



# JSS University Orientation and Induction Program, 2024-25



■ EJ News - Noida

The Induction & Orientation Program for the 1st Year B.Tech, MCA & Pharmacy students of JSS University, Noida for the session 2024-25 is organized from 21st -28th August 2024. The week-long program was inaugurated on the 21st of August 2024 at 10 AM. This mega program was attended by close to 400 students, 800 parents and 50 staff members. This program was inaugurated by Dr.C.G.Betsurmath, Executive Secretary, JSS Mahavidyapeetha. Dr. Betsurmath spoke of the Journey of Suttur Math & JSS. He touched on the Transformation in Education and highlighted the core values of JSS Mahavidyapeetha and the its mission of Education for all.

The origin of JSS Mahavidyapeetha (JSSMVP), a formidable educational movement, can be traced to the establishment of a small hostel in 1928 to cater to the accommodation needs of students pursuing higher studies in Mysore.

His Holiness Jagadguru Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswami established the Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreshwara Mahavidyapeetha (JSSMVP) in 1954 which was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1960.

Dr. Suresh B, Pro Chancellor JSS University, Noida & Director Technical Education, JSSMVP, then addressed the gathering and spoke of the impact made by JSS in Higher Education. In his address he shared his experience of building the other universities under the JSS umbrella to the stature it is today and highlighted the opportunities that lay before the future professionals at JSS University, Noida. He shared the Vision of JSS University, Noida and the commitment of each and everyone to achieve this vision.

Dr.H.R. Mahadevaswamy, Vice Chancellor, JSS University Noida then addressed the gathering and further stressed on the Opportunities, Options &

Preparation required of students, parents and JSS University Team to meet the expectation of the professional world of today. He also added that to grow into a successful professional, an individual needs to have good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, stress bearing capacity, innovative ideas, self-confidence, involvement and complete commitment.

Guest of Honor Dr. Azadar Khan, Sr. Vice President (Corporate Relations & CSR) Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd. then addressed the gathering speaking of Healthcare Transformation in India through Technology and Strategic Alliances. With his rich industry experience he highlighted that the world today is that of collaboration.

The program concluded with Dr. Mamatha TG, Registrar, JSS University, proposing the vote of thanks. Dr. Anandita De, Asst Prof, Pharmacy anchored the program.

# Class 12 board results must include Classes 9-11 marks: NCERT



■ EJ - New Delhi

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has suggested a new evaluation model, proposing that students' performance in Classes 9, 10, and 11 should contribute to their Class 12 board results.

The suggestions were made in the report titled 'Establishing Equivalence across Education Boards' (released in the month of July). The report suggested a progressive assessment framework for Classes 10 and 12. The new framework divides the academic year into two terms. The report also recommended that Class 12 board results to now include marks from Classes 9, 10, and 11.

The report mentioned, "The weight age of formative and summative marks will be adjusted progressively from class 9 to

class 12, increasing the emphasis on summative assessment as learners advance in grades. Specifically, class 9 features a 7 per cent formative and 30 per cent summative split, class 10 an equal 50% formative and summative division, class 11 a 40 per cent formative and 60 per cent summative distribution, and class 12 a 30 per cent formative and 70 per cent summative ratio."

"Consequently, the cumulative marks at the end of the secondary stage are 15 percent for class 9, 20 percent for class 10, 25 percent for class 11, and 40 percent for class 12," the report mentioned. This means that students' performance over the years will play a significant role in their final scores.

The suggested assessment framework for learners in classes 9 through 12 will employ a comprehensive approach that balance

es both, formative (ongoing) and summative (end-term) assessment methods to provide a holistic view of learners' progress. For classes 10 and 12, the assessment framework will be divided into two terms, the report suggests.

"Terms will feature Classroom Assessments through HPCs, involving Portfolio Assessment, Self Assessment, Peer Assessment, Teacher Observation, Group Work, and Laboratory activities," it mentions. The report also proposed the End Term Assessment will continue with

**The suggestions were made in the report titled 'Establishing Equivalence across Education Boards' released in the month of July**

competency-based assessments using ITMS, with teachers selecting from the question bank. Term II will introduce formative assessment with additional components such as Project Work, Paper Presentations with viva voice, and Group Discussions.

"The summative assessment will consist of a common paper consisting of Long Answers, Short Answers, Very Short Answers, and Multiple Choice Questions linking with the Learning Outcomes, based on the question paper design and blueprint," the report mentions.

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## Centre allows UPSC to perform Aadhaar-based authentication for candidates' verifications



■ EJ - New Delhi

The central government has allowed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to conduct Aadhaar-based verification to verify the identity of candidates at the time of registration and at various stages of examination and recruitment on voluntary basis.

The move assumes significance as the commission last month cancelled the provisional candidature of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar and debarred her from all future examinations for fraudulently availing attempts in the civil services examination beyond eligibility.

Khedkar has also been accused of misusing disability and Other Backward Classes or OBC quotas, among others.

In a notification, the personnel ministry said the UPSC "is al-

lowed to perform Aadhaar authentication, on voluntary basis, for verification of identity of candidates at the time of registration on 'One Time Registration' portal and various stages of examination/recruitment test, using Yes/No or/and e-KYC authentication facility".

The commission shall adhere to all provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, "the rules and regulations made thereunder" and directions issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India, the notification added.

Aadhaar is a 12-digit number issued by the UIDAI to all eligible citizens on the basis of biometric and demographic data.

The UPSC had, in July, initiated a series of actions against Khedkar, including the registration of a forgery case against her for availing attempts in the civil

services exam by faking identity. Subsequently, the Delhi Police registered a case and started its probe.

Khedkar, who was provisionally allotted the Indian Administrative Service, was accused of misusing power and privileges during her training in Pune.

In June, the UPSC also decided to use facial recognition and artificial intelligence-based CCTV surveillance systems to prevent cheating and impersonation in its various tests.

Through a tender document, it invited bids from experienced public sector undertakings to devise two tech solutions "Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication and facial recognition of candidates and QR code scanning of e-admit cards" and "Live AI-based CCTV surveillance service" to be used during the examination process.

The UPSC conducts 14 major exams annually, including the prestigious civil services examination to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and Indian Police Service, besides a number of recruitment tests and interviews every year for induction to Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts of the central government. Lakhs of candidates appear in such recruitment conducted across the country.

## Delhi University announces schedule for next UG admission rounds



■ EJ - New Delhi

The Delhi University (DU) on August 30 announced the schedule for forthcoming rounds of allocations-cum-admissions for undergraduate programmes under CSAS (UG) 2024-25.

As per the official schedule, the upgrade window will be open from 5 pm of August 31 till September 1 (5 pm). The declaration of upgraded allocations will be released at 5 pm on September 3, and candidates will have time till September 4 to accept their choices.

In the upgrade window, all admitted candidates of Round I and Round II will be able to opt for upgradation on their higher preferences. Candidate who opts for 'Upgrade' can also reorder the

programme + college combinations that were higher in preference than the allocated one.

Allocation of the candidates in Delhi University who will receive an upgraded seat will be already activated for the direct processing at the level of colleges. Such candidates will have to pay the differential fees, if any. Admission to upgraded seat will be considered complete only after the successful realization of the admission fees.

The mid-entry vacant seats will be displayed on September 7 and candidates will be able to apply till September 9.

Through the provision of mid-entry from 5 pm Saturday, September 7 to 4:59 pm Monday, September 9, the candidates who either failed to apply to CSAS

(UG) 2024 Phase-I or/and could not complete Phase-II, and are desirous of participating in CSAS (UG) 2024 can participate. Such candidates can do so by paying a Mid-Entry fee of Rs 1000 (non-refundable).

Candidates who got rejected in Round-I or/and Round-II due to wrong subject-mapping/non-fulfillment of Program-Specific eligibility will also be able to correct their subject-mapping and edit their preferences through the provision of Mid Entry. Candidates who are not admitted to any programme on the declaration of Mid-Entry will also be able to edit their preferences from 5 pm Saturday, September 7 till 4:59 pm Monday, September 9, 2024.

The candidates desirous of being considered in third round are advised, to check the vacant seat matrix and make their preferences carefully. The preferences submitted at the closure of Mid-Entry window i.e. at 4:59 pm of September 9 will be considered for subsequent allocations. The allocations in third round will be based on the data of the candidates available as on 5 pm of September 9. Thus, it may be noted that the cut-offs and ranks of the third round will have no relationship with those of the earlier round/s.

## CAT 2024: Registration Begins for Common Admission Test

The application process for the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2024 began today, with a deadline set for September 13. Eligible and interested candidates can register by visiting the official website. This year, IIM Calcutta will conduct the exam

on November 24 across 170 cities. Admit cards are scheduled to be released on November 5.

According to the official release, the examination fee has been revised to Rs 2,500 for general category candidates (up from Rs 2,400) and Rs 1,250 for reserved category candidates (up

from Rs 1,200).

For those pursuing an MBA, there are 21 IIMs and over 1,000 other MBA institutions that accept CAT scores. Notable non-IIM B-schools include FMS Delhi, SJMSOM IIT Mumbai, MDI Gurgaon, DoMS IIT Delhi, and SPJIMR Mumbai.

## Ministry of Education directs states, and union territories to enforce new school safety guidelines



■ EJ-News - New-Delhi

The Ministry of Education has directed all states and union territories to enforce comprehensive safety guidelines across educational institutions to address the growing concerns over child safety in schools.

The "Guidelines on School Safety and Security-2021," de-

veloped by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), were initially introduced in response to directives from the Supreme Court of India. These guidelines aim to create a robust framework that ensures the safety of students in both government and private schools. These guidelines cover a wide

array of safety concerns, addressing physical security, socio-emotional well-being, and preparedness for natural disasters. They also emphasise the importance of preventive education, urging schools to actively involve parents, teachers, and students in creating a secure environment.

The Ministry has instructed states and union territories to adapt the guidelines to their specific contexts and to ensure their prompt notification and implementation.

The "Guidelines on School Safety and Security-2021" are publicly available on the Ministry of Education's website.

## ICSI CS Dec. 2024 Exam Registration Begins

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) will start accepting online applications for the CS Executive and CS Professional December 2024 exams today. Eligible candidates can register by visiting the official website, [icsi.edu](http://icsi.edu), or through the Smash Portal at [smash.icsi.edu](http://smash.icsi.edu).

The exams for the Professional program (under the 2017 and 2022 syllabi) and the Executive program (under the 2017 and 2022 syllabi) are scheduled between December 21 and 30.

To register, students must provide basic details such as names and qualifications, pay the application fee, and upload necessary documents.

Candidates qualified for the ICSI Foundation, ICAI, or ICMAI final exams are eligible for direct admission to the CS Executive Program. Graduates with at least 50 percent marks and postgraduate students are also eligible for direct admission to the CS Executive Program. Visit the ICSI official website at [icsi.edu](http://icsi.edu).



Navigate to online services and select the CS 2024 registration on the homepage.

Fill in the required details and submit the form.

Complete the payment of the application fee.

Download the application for future reference.

Candidates must upload documents such as proof of date of birth, Class 12 pass certificates, category certificates for fee exemptions, and scanned copies of photographs and signatures.

The examination fee is ₹1500/- per module/ group for executive program, ₹1800/- per module/ group for professional program. The late fee for all stages is ₹250/- and change of centre/ module/ medium and optional subject is ₹250/- each subject. Candidates who want to opt for overseas centres can check the complete details here. For more related details candidates can check the official website of ICSI.

## Andhra College...

Engineering College in Krishna district since Thursday midnight over the incident.

"Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu ordered an enquiry on girl students protesting over hidden cameras in their hostel at Gudlavalluru Engineering College in Krishna district," said an official release.

The CM also directed State Mines Minister K Ravindra, Krishna District collector and superintendent of police to visit

*Many female students are disturbed about the spy camera's presence and the eventual release of private videos*

the college.

Meanwhile, police registered a case over the alleged incident but noted that there were no such hidden cameras in the girl students' washroom.

"No hidden cameras were found in the girls' hostel. No evidence of the allegations was found. There is no need for the girls to worry over this issue," said an official statement, adding that police checked the laptops, mobile phones and other electronic gadgets of the suspects in the presence of students and college staff.

Earlier, Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh also ordered an enquiry over the alleged incident.

The incident at SR Gudlavalluru Engineering College emerged on Friday, along with videos of students protesting for justice late on Thursday, going viral.

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# Australia bans admission of foreign students for 2025, Indians affected



**EJ - Agency**  
Australia has announced that it will be limiting its international student intake to 2.7 lakh in 2025 in a bid to tackle record levels of migration that has led to skyrocketing house rental prices. The limit includes higher education courses as well as vocational education and training courses, Australia's Education Minister Jason Clare said. The move is set to impact Indian students hoping to go abroad for higher education, especially those from Punjab which accounts for a large number of such students. "In June 2022, Australia capped the foreign student intake at 5.10 lakh. This number was reduced to 3.75 lakh in 2023. Now they have reduced the annual planning levels further. These levels are accorded to individual universities for all international students and not just for Indian students. The universities will

distribute the quotas country wise then state wise," Sunil Jaggi, a member of Migration Agents Registration Authority of Australia, said. "The students who were preparing to take admission for the February intake will get affected by this announcement. Students from Punjab will be worst affected," he further said. "This will affect my career. My family is taking loans for my education as the cost of studying in Australia is quite high," a student from Haryana, who wishes to study nursing in Australia, said. "The Indian government must put forward students' point of view to the Australian government," another student said. Notably, the Australian Education Minister on a visit to India last year had signed an agreement to expand in-country access to Australian higher education institutions for Indian students. According to India's Ministry of External Affairs, around 1.22 lakh

students from the country study in Australia. India's Quad partner is the fourth most popular destination for Indian students studying abroad, after Canada, the US and the UK. Australia also increased its non-refundable visa fee for foreign students from AUD 710 to AUD 1,600, another measure that seemingly aims to reduce migration levels. Canada has also announced new restrictions on its temporary foreign workers' program. Starting September 26, businesses will only be allowed to fill up to 10 per cent of their workforce with low-wage foreign workers, down from the previous 20 per cent. The decision to limit the number of low-wage foreign workers comes in response to rising unemployment rates in Canada. The overall unemployment rate has climbed to 6.4 per cent, with the rate for younger workers reaching 14.2 percent.

# University of Southampton to set up campus in Gurugram



**EJ - New Delhi**  
The UK's University of Southampton has become the first foreign university to set up its offshore campus in India under the new National Education Policy, the Centre announced. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had in 2023 announced Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India Regulations.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar handed over a Letter of Intent (LoI) to university representatives at an event here. According to officials, the University of Southampton submitted a proposal for opening a branch campus in Gurugram that was approved by the UGC standing committee, comprising noted academics from India and abroad, for issuing an LoI as per regulations. "The degrees awarded by the

*The University of Southampton submitted a proposal for opening a branch campus in Gurugram that was approved by the UGC standing committee.*

India campus of the University of Southampton will be the same as in the host university. The programs offered in the branch campus of University of Southampton in India will have the same academic and quality standards," UGC Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar said. "The Indian campus of the University of Southampton is expected to start its academic programs in July 2025. The courses offered will be in subjects focusing on business and management, computing, law, engineering, art and design, biosciences and life sciences," he added.

# UK's Chevening Scholarships applications open till November 5

**EJ - New Delhi**  
The online applications for the Chevening Scholarships for students who wish to study in the UK are open from August 6. The candidates can apply and submit their application forms till November 5, 12 pm (GMT). Interested candidates can apply through the official website - ch-

evening.org. Candidates who are interested to participate must submit their education documents, references, and any one UK university offer to participate according to the schedule given on the website. If selected, the recipient will receive the payment of tuition fees, travel cost of the candidate to and from the home country. An arrival allowance will be granted along

with a departure allowance. A monthly allowance to fulfill living and accommodation expenses. The candidates must remember that before applying for a Chevening Scholarship, they must possess at least two years (2,800 hours) of work experience. This covers full time, part time, voluntary work and paid or unpaid internship.

# Fearing deportation, Indian students protest against Canada govt.



**EJ - Agency**  
Hundreds of Indian student graduates have staged protests against a new federal policy in Canada that puts them at risk of getting deported from the country. Many international students, particularly those from India, dream of moving to the North American country in hopes of building a better life, but the announced immigration policy changes have left the future of more than 70,000 student graduates in uncertainty. Indian students have camped in front of the legislative assembly in Canada's Prince Edward Island province, protesting the sudden policy change for more than three months. Similar demonstrations were also seen in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The new policies are aimed at reducing the number of permanent residency nominations by 25 per cent as well as limiting study permits.

Network warned the graduates are at risk of being deported when their work permits expire at the end of this year. "I spent the most crucial six years of my life taking many risks to come to Canada," says Mehakdeep Singh, a former international student who is facing deportation. "For the past six years, I studied, I worked, I paid taxes, I earned enough CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) points but the government has just taken advantage of us," Mr Singh said. Like many international students, Mr Singh had spent his family's life savings on college tuition fees in the hopes of eventually gaining permanent residency. Amid a local housing and jobs crisis, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is under pressure to reduce the number of temporary residents, which has seen a staggering growth in recent years. Mr Trudeau has been trailing in polls ahead of an election expected next year.

According to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), 183,820 temporary foreign worker permits were granted in 2023, a steep 88 per cent increase from 2019. The ESDC on Monday criticized employers for using the programme to "circumvent hiring talented workers in Canada". Under the new changes, work permits will be denied in regions where the unemployment rate is at or above 6 per cent. The changes will exempt sectors like agriculture, food processing, construction and healthcare. "We're looking at the various streams to make sure that as we move forward, Canada remains a place that is positive in its support for immigration, but also responsible in the way we integrate and make sure there's pathways to success for everyone who comes to Canada," Justin Trudeau told reporters. The government has also promised more measures to reduce the temporary resident population to 5% of Canada's total population in three years.

The change comes as Canada saw rapid population growth over the last few years. Around 97 per cent of last year's population increase in Canada was driven by immigration, according to Federal data. Representatives from student advocacy group Naujawan Support

The Canadian government is also reducing the number of temporary foreign workers it brings in, reversing its decision to expand the programme in 2022. The programme allows immigrants to work in the country on a short-term basis, meant to fill labour shortages.



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