



# DU to start Science of Happiness course in 5 women college

New Delhi, March 7: The Delhi University has decided to introduce a course on 'Science of Happiness' in the curriculum of its various programmes offered in five women colleges and varsity departments from the next academic session, an official statement said on Thursday. The university, along with five of its women colleges, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Rekhi Foundation for Happiness to offer the course and set up a Centre of Excellence for Science of Happiness in these colleges.

According to the statement, the curriculum of the course will be developed and shared by the founda-

tion. The Delhi University may modify this curriculum to match the needs of students and credit structure.

"Happiness is most important in life. Understanding the idea and need of science of happiness, DU has decided to include the course on Science of Happiness in the curriculum of the programmes running in its departments and colleges," vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh said.

Once the curriculum is finalised, DU will notify the same and its colleges may make necessary arrangements for offering the course on Science of Happiness.

AA



# Job Gains

India registered significant improvements in employment parameters for women last year, according to official data. However, getting to the top remained an uphill task. **Ishaan Gera** takes a look:

## JOB CONDITIONS IMPROVE FOR WOMEN

Unemployment rate declines to its lowest level of **3%**

Labour force participation crosses **40%** for first time

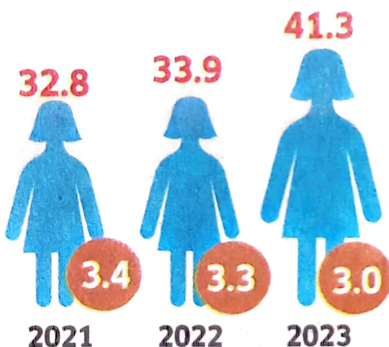
## WOMEN AGED 15 YEARS AND ABOVE (%)



Labour force participation rate



Unemployment rate



## MORE FIND JOBS IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORK

Proportion rises to near **50%** in professional and technical jobs

More women with **advanced degrees** find employment

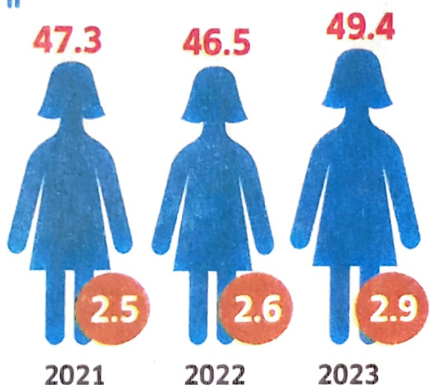
## RATIO OF FEMALE WORKERS TO MALE WORKERS (%)



Professionals and technical workers



Women with advanced degrees



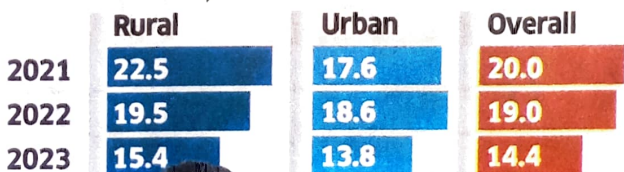
\* % of females employed with advanced degrees among the total employed

## BUT FEWER WOMEN IN SENIOR ROLES

Proportion of women in **senior positions** lowest in 3 yrs

Decline higher in **urban** areas than rural

## PROPORTION OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS (%)



Source: MoSPI





# Global Patent Filings: India Shines

International patent filings declined last year for the first time in 14 years, with India among the few countries bucking the trend, a WIPO release said. WIPO's complex system of registering international patents involves multiple categories, including global trademarks and design filing systems. In the main category, the PCT\*, China continued to top the rankings, but filings were down from 2022. India posted the biggest growth, with filings surging 44.6%. WIPO said that followed a 25.9% hike a year earlier...



## International patent applications by origin (PCT System)

Top 15	2023 Estimate	% change
China	69,610	-0.6
US	55,678	-5.3
Japan	48,879	-2.9
S Korea	22,288	1.2
Germany	16,916	-3.2
France	7,916	2.0
UK	5,586	-2.3
Switzerland	5,382	-1.2
Sweden	4,323	-3.5
Netherlands	4,258	5.8
India	3,791	44.6
Italy	3,102	-6.5
Canada	2,390	-7.3
Türkiye	1,921	8.5
Israel	1,908	-3.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>272,600</b>	<b>-1.80</b>

WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organisation; \*The Patent Cooperation Treaty has 157 signatory states

Source: WIPO, AFP, Reuters

# Board exams for classes 5, 8 and 9 can be conducted: Karnataka HC

**The Hindu Bureau**


BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday gave green signal to the State government to conduct board exams for the summative assessment of students of classes 5, 8, and 9 as per the schedule, beginning from March 11.

The Bench comprising Justice K. Somashekar and Justice Rajesh Rai K. passed the interim order by staying the March 6 judgment of a single judge on an appeal filed by the State government questioning the correctness of the single judge's verdict.

Noticing that there was no interim order restraining the authorities from holding proposed exams during the pendency of petitions before the single judge, the Bench said: "In such circumstances, if the order is not stayed, the same would prolong the present situation of uncertainty, which is extremely detrimental to the student community."

The Bench also noted that the proposed assessment has already been conducted for class 11, and the competent authorities have undertaken all the preparatory activities towards the conduct of the assessment for classes 5, 8, and 9.

The single judge had quashed the State government's decision to hold board exams for classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 from 2023-24. 



# Bengal to introduce centralised system for college admissions



Students on the Jadavpur University campus. FILE PHOTO

## **Bishwanath Ghosh**

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government is set to introduce a centralised online admission system for colleges which is expected to be both time-saving and transparent.

Initially introduced in April 2023, plans for rolling out the new system were dropped given that they had been introduced far too close to the admission cycle to implement effectively. This year, however, colleges have been asked as early as February to submit information on their intake capacity, subject combinations and fee structure to the Directorate of Public Instruction. IT companies will now begin developing the centralised portal.

Both parents and students have welcomed the move.


### **Issues in current system**

Last year, when this system was about to be introduced, Shyamalendu Chatterjee, general secretary of All Bengal Principals' Council, had explained to *The Hindu* how it would

benefit students and colleges alike.

"There are about 458 colleges in Bengal. Let's say a student applies for B.Com (Honours) in five colleges: Umesh Chandra College, City College, Goenka College, Jai-puria College, and Chittaranjan College. The student's name figures on the first list of Chittaranjan College and he takes admission there," Dr. Chatterjee had explained.

"After 15 days, his name comes on the list of Umesh Chandra College. The boy cancels his admission in Chittaranjan College and takes admission in Umesh Chandra College. This process could go on and on. Finally, 70% of the students in the first list of Chittaranjan College cancel their admission and eventually 50% of the seats remain vacant, causing an acute crisis in the lower-ranking colleges.

Centralised admission will take care of this problem and also minimise corruption. Many students are deprived from getting admission in their preferred college despite having the requisite marks," he had said. 

# Governor Khan sacks V-Cs of two universities in Kerala

The V-Cs have 10 days to challenge the orders in Kerala High Court; Raj Bhavan directs them to vacate the positions saying their appointments are found to be 'not in terms with UGC regulations'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**K**erala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Chancellor of universities on Thursday invalidated the appointments of the Vice-Chancellors of Calicut University and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit M.K. Jayaraj and M.V. Narayanan respectively.

The move comes around two weeks after Mr. Khan conducted hearings for four Vice-Chancellors, including the duo who have been removed from their positions.

Suspense continues over the fate of Saji Gopinath,



Arif Mohammed Khan

Vice-Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, and P.M. Mubarak Pasha of Sree Narayanan Guru Open University, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) seeking two weeks to provide a clarification on "the application of regulations on the appointment of the first Vice-Chan-

cellors and the point of time from which they would apply".

The Chancellor has not accepted a resignation letter submitted by Prof. Pasha thus far.

Citing a Supreme Court order that had set aside the appointment of former Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University M.S. Rajasree, Raj Bhavan directed Prof. Jayaraj and Prof. Narayanan to vacate the positions citing that their appointments were found to be "not in terms with UGC regulations".

"Therefore, it (the appointments) has to be treated as void ab initio in

light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court," the order read.

Mr. Khan found Prof. Narayanan to have been the sole name to have been proposed by the search-cum-selection committee for appointment as Vice-Chancellor. This contravened the requirement for a panel of short-listed candidates.

In the case of Prof. Jayaraj, the selection panel included the then Chief Secretary and thereby, violated the UGC regulations.

The two academics will have 10 days to challenge the orders in the Kerala High Court.



# The determinant in 'more women in the job market'

**T**here is growing demand from social scientists, governments and international organisations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that women's participation in the economy/labour market should increase to promote economic growth of India. It is believed that when women's participation rate, which is one of the lowest in Asia, increases, it will bring prosperity to the Indian economy.

## Key factor of patriarchy

Why is women's participation in the labour market in India so low?

Though there are various explanations such as low human capital, and even discrimination against women, the root cause is patriarchy, which is a social system marked by the supremacy of the father/man in the family, community and society. As Marina Watanabe says, patriarchy is "a social structural phenomenon in which males have the privilege of dominance over females". This supremacy is manifested: in values, attitudes, and customs in the society; in ownership of assets, incomes and wealth; and in institutes and organisations that govern our society and economy. With economic growth and increasing education, the strength of patriarchy has perhaps declined in some ways. However, the overall culture of male dominance over women has not changed much in our traditional society.

Under patriarchy, men are considered to be the breadwinners and women are expected to be the homemakers. That is, women are responsible for household upkeep, and for providing care to the child and those who are old, sick and the disabled in the family. Even when there is hired help, it is the woman who is responsible for household upkeep and care.

Though performed with love, this work of women is inferior work for several reasons. This work is unpaid and invisible as time use data are not available on a regular basis in India, and, therefore, not covered under national policies. It is repetitive (performed every day) and boring. There is no upward mobility, and, therefore, a dead-end job. There is no retirement and no



**Indira Hirway**

is Professor of Economics, Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad

India raising the participation rate of well-educated women in the labour market could also lead to a huge army of exploited domestic workers

pension. This implies that a significant part of the total labour force available to the economy is locked up in low productivity and inferior kind of work, which is performed mainly by women. Women perform this work not necessarily by free choice or by any particular efficiency in this work but because it is largely imposed on women as a social construct. As this work is outside the purview of economic policies, the drudgery of work, the time stress, technology and low productivity of this type of work and working conditions of workers are outside the purview of policy making. This is unjust, unfair, and unacceptable.

As a result, many women do not enter the labour market due to their high domestic responsibilities. When the others enter the labour market, they enter with domestic responsibilities on their shoulders, implying that there is no level playing field for them from the beginning. Again, they usually have lower human capital (thanks to social norms); restricted mobility due to their domestic responsibilities.

Therefore, their choice is gendered in the labour market. They tend to prefer work that is close to home, part time or flexible work, and which has a safe work environment. Consequently, they overcrowd in stereotyped low productivity jobs and lag behind men in all average labour market outcomes such as participation, wages, and diversification of work. This is clearly not the optimum use of women labour power in the economy. Therefore, women's participation in the labour market must be raised.

## Greater participation, but also exploitation

As women with higher education and professional qualifications in India tend to participate more in the labour market, it is argued by experts that greater women's education will raise their participation rate in the labour market.

However, this is only half truth, as this increase in participation is backed by an army of domestic workers, who are known to be highly exploited in the Indian economy.

Women's participation in the labour market

can increase at all levels mainly by reducing their burden of unpaid domestic work and care by reducing the drudgery/strain of work or improving productivity of women's work (for example, providing fuel-efficient stoves in cooking in place of primitive stoves that use fuel wood); by providing infrastructural support to reduce the burden of their work (for example, water supply at the doorstep); by shifting a part of unpaid work to the mainstream economy (for example, child care, disabled care, care of the old can be provided by the government, the market or by civil society organisations to the mainstream economy).

The burden of unpaid domestic work on women can also be reduced by redistributing this work to other household members, mainly men. These steps will release women from the burden of unpaid work to a significant extent and give them free time to acquire higher education and new skills, or to participate in productive work in the labour market.

## Address the issue of subordination

If we want not only women's participation but also gender equality in the labour market, households will have to provide equal opportunities to men and women within the household, i.e., by sharing the "inferior work", or unpaid domestic work and care by men and women. However, irrespective of sharing, what is critical is removing the subordination of women in the household by sharing the responsibility of unpaid household work by men and women.

On hired domestic workers, there is an International Labour Organization Convention that provides minimum basic rights to domestic workers in the world. These include a weekly day off, limited hours of work, overtime compensation, minimum wages and minimum social security. It is unfortunate that India has not even ratified this Convention. If India raises the participation rate of (well-educated) women in the labour market along with a rapid increase in the size of domestic workers, the gains in terms of economic growth will be lost as it will create a huge army of highly exploited domestic workers also.



# Bridging the gender gap in health research

By prioritising women's health, we can create a future where health equity is a reality

**Preetha Reddy**

**A**s of 2023, there were 4 billion women in the world, accounting for approximately 49.75% of the population. Despite this, it is unfortunate that our approach to health and well-being has been shadowed by a deep-seated gender bias. For far too long, women's health has been confined to gynaecological and reproductive issues.

Moreover, the historical bias in medical research, favouring the male body as the standard, has resulted in dire consequences. Women face disproportionate risks in various health domains, from disability and obesity to cardiovascular health. Additionally, systemic biases in data collection perpetuate these disparities, leading to misdiagnoses, ineffective treatments, and unnecessary suffering. On this International Women's Day, we must scrutinise the path towards gender parity, especially within healthcare.

The recently released World Economic Forum's report, 'Closing the Women's Health Gap', underscored the profound disparity between men's and women's health worldwide. It elucidated historical neglect in women's health research, funding, and policymaking, and highlighted the need for a global effort to address the women's health gap by urging governments, the private sector, and civil society to realign their strategies with a gender-sensitive approach. A definitive, oft-reiterated point is that by prioritising women's health, we can create a future where health equity is a reality. Likewise, in India, several research studies have observed that many Indians have genetic variations that make them more susceptible to certain diseases. For example, Indians have higher levels of insulin resistance than Caucasians, which is a major reason for the increased prevalence of type 2 diabetes in this population.

Therefore, regarding health research, to effect meaningful change, we must undertake concrete actions. First, we need to champion the analysis of gender differences in clinical trials. Going forward, it is imperative that all clinical trials diligently analyse and report gender-specific findings to tailor treatments effectively.

Second, we must advocate for including gender differences on drug labels, including information on safe use during pregnancy. Empowering healthcare providers and patients with this information enhances treatment decisions and fosters a more inclusive healthcare landscape. Third, we must prioritise the recruitment of women in clinical trials. Ensuring adequate representation is not just a matter of fairness but a necessity to understand treatment efficacy across diverse populations. Fourth, it is imperative that we delve into data with a gender lens. By dissecting data through the prism of gender, we uncover nuances crucial for refining healthcare strategies. This could be different patterns of disease, divergent responses to treatment, and different safety profiles. Finally, it is important to embrace precise terminology on sex and gender. Clear and accurate language fosters understanding and inclusivity, laying the foundation for more effective healthcare communication.

It's equally crucial to encourage the participation of more women in the research and scientific arenas. The unique insights and experiences women bring can enrich our understanding and approach to health challenges, fostering a more inclusive, women-centric perspective in research. Women's inclusion is essential in dismantling the one-size-fits-all approach that has dominated medical research, allowing for the development of more nuanced, effective healthcare solutions that benefit everyone.

Above all, it is vital to note that these actions are not just about ticking boxes; they're about building a future where healthcare truly serves everyone with compassion, insight, and equity.

Good health is a fundamental human right. It is time to dismantle the invisible barriers hindering equitable healthcare access. By bridging the gender gap in health research and practice, we pave the way for a future founded on equality and fairness. This issue transcends gender – it is about reshaping healthcare systems to serve everyone equitably and effectively.

Preetha Reddy is Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo  
Hospitals Group



# Small steps towards a gender-equal world

**T**he fight for women's rights over the past 50 years is a story of progress. Women and girls have demolished barriers, dismantled stereotypes and driven progress towards a more just and equal world. Women's rights were finally recognised as fundamental human rights. Millions more girls are in classrooms around the world. And pioneering leaders have smashed glass ceilings across the globe.

But the progress is under threat. And full equality remains light years away.

Billions of women and girls face marginalisation, injustice and discrimination, as millennia of male domination continue to shape societies. The persistent epidemic of gender-based violence disgraces humanity. Over four million girls are estimated to be at risk of female genital mutilation each year. Discrimination against women and girls remains perfectly legal in much of the world. In some places, that makes it difficult for women to own property, in others, it allows men to rape their wives with impunity.

Meanwhile, global crises are hitting women and girls hardest. Wherever there's conflict, climate disaster, or poverty, women and girls suffer the most. In every region of the world, more women than men go hungry. In both developed and developing countries, a backlash against women's rights is stalling and even reversing progress.

New technologies — which have such potential to dismantle inequalities — too often make matters worse. That can be because of unequal access, algorithms with baked-in bias, or misogynistic violence — from deep fakes to targeted harassment of specific women. At our current speed, full legal equality for women is some 300 years away; so is the end of child marriage. This rate of change is frankly insulting. Half of humanity can't wait centuries for their rights. We need equality now. That means accelerating the pace of progress. And that relies on political ambition, and investment — the theme of this year's International Women's Day.

We need public and private investment in programmes to end violence against women, ensure decent work, and drive women's leadership in digital technologies, peacebuilding, and across all sectors of the economy. We must also urgently support women's rights organisations fighting against stereotypes, battling to make women's and girls' voices heard, and

challenging cultural norms. Currently, they receive a paltry 0.1% of international development spending. That must change.

Investment may sound far removed from women's everyday lives. But it takes investment to give schoolgirls the same opportunities as schoolboys. It takes investment to provide digital education and develop skills. It takes investment to provide the childcare that enables caregivers, who are mainly mothers, to do paid work outside the home. And it takes investment to build inclusive communities with the full participation of women and girls of all backgrounds. Putting money behind equality is the right thing to do, but it also makes financial sense. Supporting women to enter formal labour markets grows economies, boosts tax revenues and expands opportunities for all.

Securing the investment we need in women and girls requires three things. First, increasing the availability of long-term finance for sustainable development, and tackling the debt crisis strangling many developing economies. Otherwise, countries simply won't have the funds to invest in women and girls. We need immediate action to provide breathing space for countries with unbearable debt repayments looming, and to encourage multilateral development banks to leverage far more private finance. Over the long term, we must reform the global financial architecture and make it more responsive to the needs of developing countries.

Second, countries must recognise that equality is not only a matter of rights but the bedrock of peaceful, prosperous societies. That means governments actively addressing discrimination, spending on programmes to support women and girls, and ensuring investments respond to their needs.

Third, we need to increase the number of women in leadership positions. Having women in positions of power can help to drive investment in policies and programmes that respond to the realities of women and girls. I am particularly proud that since early in my tenure — and for the first time in history — we have equal numbers of women and men in senior management across the entire United Nations system. Equality is overdue. Ending the patriarchy requires money on the table — it's time to cough up.



António Guterres

António Guterres is secretary-general, the United Nations. The views expressed are personal

# International patent filings fall, India bucks trend

AFP

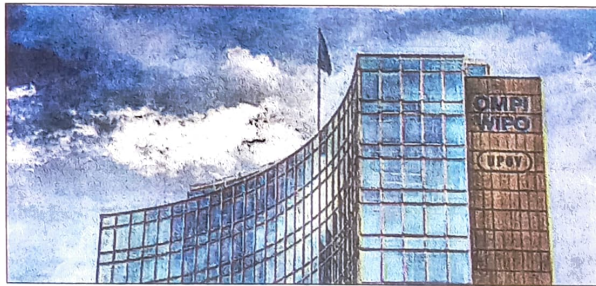
feedback@livemint.com

**GENEVA:** International patent filings declined last year for the first time in 14 years due to higher interest rates and economic uncertainty, the UN said Thursday, with India among the few countries bucking the trend.

A total of 272,600 international patents were filed in 2023, marking a 1.8% decline from a year earlier, the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) said in its annual overview.

"We believe that this reflects the currently adverse environment for innovation and entrepreneurial activity," WIPO's chief economist Carsten Fink told reporters in Geneva.

Economic uncertainties and



**India posted the biggest growth, with its international patent filings surging 44.6% to 3,791.**

especially higher interest rates last year were seen as key reasons for the decline.

However, Fink stressed, the decline should be seen as "a cyclical phenomenon".

"We think that IP filings will pick up again once the external environment improves."

WIPO Director-General

Daren Tang agreed, noting that likely declining inflation rates could provide more business confidence and innovation investments, "setting the stage for a recovery in international IP filings later this year".

"Despite these shorter-term dips, longer-term trends show IP use rising steadily in an

increasingly global, digitalised economy and spreading across the globe as economies around the world develop," he said in a statement.

WIPO's complex system of registering international patents involves multiple categories, including global trademarks and design filing systems.

In the main category, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), China continued to top the rankings, with 69,610 filings, slipping 0.6% from 2022.

That marked the first year-on-year decrease from China since 2002, WIPO said.

The United States meanwhile remained in second place in 2023, with 55,678 filings, marking a far steeper decline of 5.3% from a year earlier.

China and the United States were followed by Japan, South

Korea and Germany, with South Korea the only country in the top five whose patent applications inched up last year, rising 1.2% at 22,288 filings.

India posted the biggest growth, with its international patent filings surging 44.6% to 3,791.

WIPO said that followed a 25.9% hike a year earlier.

And the upward trend is likely to continue.

Fink said that in a country of nearly 1.5 billion people, "there is of course still tremendous growth opportunity" in India.

Among the few other countries that showed growth was Turkey, enjoying an 8.5% increase, the Netherlands was up 5.8% and France was up two percent. WIPO's report showed Asia represented 55.7% of all filings last year, up from just over 40% a decade earlier.



# Nuh: Staff denies mass cheating charge, students call it 'routine'

**AISWARYA RAJ**

TAURU, MARCH 7

NOTHING SEEMED out of the ordinary at Chandravati Senior Secondary School in Nuh's Tauru on Thursday — the gate sported a white hoarding announcing that CrPC Section 144 was in effect; teachers sealed the answer-sheets as police asked students to leave the centre; and the crowd dispersed by 3.30 pm, half an hour after their Class 10 English board exam got over.

However, on the backside of the school lies a vacant compound with torn papers and garbage and ropes hanging from the window grilles.

The staff at the school, a centre for Class 10 Haryana government board exams where 600 students of three government schools are taking exams, said no cheating took place.

Refuting the video from Tuesday, the staff said they were strict and students would never get a chance to cheat. The video, meanwhile, purportedly showed several men scaling the walls of the school and a few on the terrace, peeping into the classrooms as exams took place. "The men were creating chaos outside the school and no cheating took place inside. Though



**Students leave after exam at Chandravati Senior Secondary School in Tauru, Mewat, Haryana on Thursday.** *Tashi Tobgyal*

they were trying to call out to the students inside, we made sure nothing untoward happened," said the staff, including the superintendent of the school.

Kurda Ram, an official of Haryana School Education Board, sent as an invigilator to the Tauru school on Thursday, said: "I have been to various districts in Haryana and have not come across such activities. In Nuh, many people accompany students to the centre and it gets difficult to control the crowd. They flout restrictions and throng the premises," he said.

Nidhi Rohilla, principal of the primary section of the school, maintained the pandemonium was only on the outside and that exams were conducted peace-

fully. "Our school does not face any problem, all the disruptions are by those outside. We don't even allow anyone except students to enter the premises. No cheating takes place and students take their exams properly. Police patrol the area, and officers are stationed in different corners of the campus...", she said.

"This is a routine activity. Friends of the students throw cheating material through window grilles to help students taking exams. Most teachers don't protest," said Javed Khan, a Class 10 student at the same centre.

Sheeshpal Malik, a former student, said: "This is an annual affair, and I have been witnessing it regularly. Though police pay visits, it is a formality." *IE*



# NMC to launch portal for colleges to upload data on infra, faculty

---

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

---

THE NATIONAL Medical Commission Thursday said it will soon launch a portal for medical colleges to annually update information regarding availability of beds, infrastructure, faculty, as well as patients to evaluate whether minimum standards are followed. While it is already mandatory for colleges to provide Aadhaar-based biometric attendance for faculty members, it will also be started for students.

Colleges will be encouraged to implement a patient information system linked with ABHA id — the government's unique ID linked health record account.

These are all steps towards continuous monitoring of medical colleges instead of physical inspections now carried out for continued recognition of colleges. Officials said inspections don't always give a true picture of what happens in the colleges through the year.

Dr. Vijayendra Kumar, a member of the UG board, said colleges can attract fines of up to ₹1 crore under the new norms for providing wrong information. The information submitted on the portal will also be made public, he said.

There has been a rapid increase in the number of MBBS seats over the last decade, crossing the 1 lakh mark, and now, the government intends to increase the number of PG seats to match.



# Opening doors

Services exports give India the legitimacy to anchor an orderly guest worker programme that will raise global prosperity



MANISH SABHARWAL AND CHINMAY TUMBE

IN 1937, THE American book reviewer of *Migrant Asia* disagreed with its author, Lucknow University professor Radhakamal Mukerjee's advocacy of higher migration to rich countries, suggesting "its objectivity is marred by a too evident anxiety" and "free migration is even less feasible than free trade". Donald Trump may ensure political rhetoric remains unchanged 87 years later, but we believe that the needs of rich countries will eventually trump fear and India must take the lead in a thoughtfully designed guest worker programme that addresses the concerns of rich country voters. This programme could raise our annual inward remittances from \$120 billion to \$300 billion, giving millions of skilled Indians higher wages temporarily, and résumé signalling permanently.

The current political weather around migration is brutal. Trump's Make America Great Again campaign is a thinly gift-wrapped "Make America White Again", and he believes immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country". Germany's AfD party suggests remigration of asylum seekers and foreign-born citizens to their homeland "is not a secret plan but a promise". Britain's Conservative Party proposes to send asylum seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda. But we also know that the sale of adult diapers now exceeds baby diapers in Japan, UK hospitals are turning away patients due to staff shortages, OECD countries need 14 million more care workers by 2040, and customers struggle to get help from a real person in many American stores and hotels.

According to Oxford Professor Lant Pritchett, rich-country migration political rhetoric — and therefore policy — is overweight on three issues. Economic pressures drive the "global war for talent" for technology professionals, moral imperatives drive the "movers of distress" refugee problem, and rule-of-law and political imperatives drive the "illegal immigration" challenge. These obstruct a legal solution for the diminished supply but increased demand for essential, manual, non-routine, low but not unskilled workers in rich countries. Automation or offshoring are false gods in the political reconciliation of borders with ageing because they can't do jobs like lab technicians, nursing assistants, home health aides, paramedics, truck drivers, food preparation, machine maintenance, security, cleaning and janitorial work, servers, chefs, and much else.

An exciting organisation and potential ally, LAMP (Labour Mobility Partnerships), believes it's impractical to expect wealthy countries' trucking, healthcare and hospitality industries to manage the international labour movement for their needs. It's time to put some Indian diplomatic heft behind demonstrating the benefits to hosts, senders and workers of guest workers. In parallel, a professionalised, private-sector labour mobility industry could address the concerns of wealthy-country voters, including domestic worker impact, social tensions, or-

derly movement, timely return without visa overstays, social security benefits without paying costs, skill certification with worker-employer fit, worker exploitation, and security background checks. Immense risks of abuse mean this industry must be carefully regulated and monitored, and LAMP believes an ethical global mobility service could be a force for good while being a \$30 billion industry.

India exported more services than Saudi Arabia did oil in 2021 — few economists believed a poor country could move the global needle on service exports or have services approach manufacturing export earnings. India's diaspora remittances recently crossed an important quantitative milestone of \$120 billion. India's global brand differs from China's; the complexity of software writing and inability to inventory services means higher physical visibility for our export workers. Recent worries that India's accelerating overseas migration replicates our 1970s human capital loss are misplaced; "brain drain" was better than "brain-in-drain". That drain has morphed into brain circulation with upsides in software exports, multinational global capability centres, global CEOs, unicorn board memberships, and venture capital. India has high legitimacy for anchoring a global guest worker programme. Software and services are siblings, more people speak English in India than in America, and democracies are natural friends (even if not allies).

Pritchett suggests higher global migration for skilled workers from developing countries is the most powerful tool for global prosperity but global policy attention to more and better rotational labour mobility has been scandalous. The UN Sustainable Goals have four goals for fish but none for expanding labour mobility. He believes mobility offers considerably higher global outcomes — over \$2 trillion in additional incomes from \$15–30,000 per worker per an-

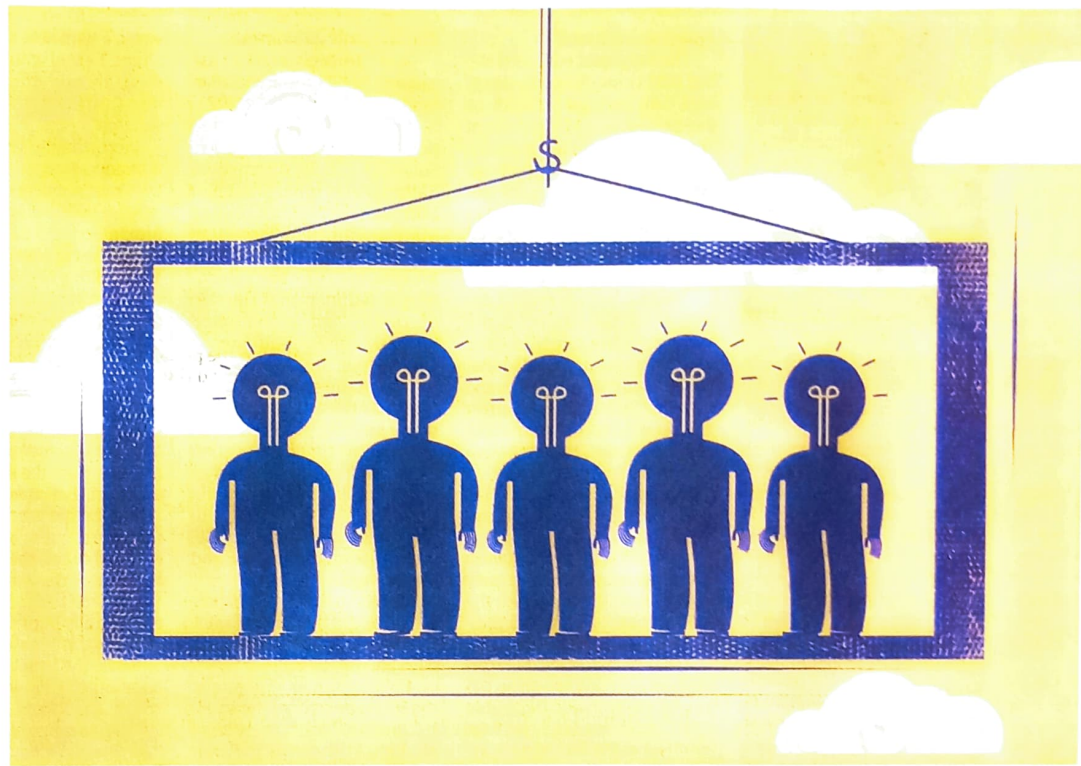
India exported more services than Saudi Arabia did oil in 2021 — few economists believed a poor country could move the global needle on service exports or have services approach manufacturing export earnings. Recent worries that India's accelerating overseas migration replicates our 1970s human capital loss are misplaced; 'brain drain' was better than 'brain-in-drain'. That drain has morphed into brain circulation with upsides in software exports, multinational global capability centres, global CEOs, unicorn board memberships, and venture capital. India has legitimacy for anchoring a global guest worker programme.

num — than the anti-poverty programmes funded by development assistance (\$180 billion) and philanthropy (\$70 billion).

We know that illegal migration is poisoning the politics around global labour mobility. We also understand that politics often doesn't change for a better option but changes when there is no option. Change has begun. Giorgia Meloni, Italy's far-right prime minister, campaigned against migration but recently tripled temporary worker visa numbers because 25 per cent of her country is more than 65 years old. There is something in the cynical suggestion that "the [political] war on migration is meant to be lost", but it is myopic to believe that Meloni and other rich country politicians can avoid some action on the fair and widely held notion among democratic voters that nations can't exist without borders. Trump might pull America out of the refugee convention of 1951. Weak borders weaken support for legal immigration.

Legal migration cannot solve global poverty — every country must create high-wage jobs locally — but it helps by reinforcing that there are no poor people but people in poor places. There are six potentially poor productivity places, three physical and three conceptual: Countries, states, cities, industries, firms and skills. India is reducing poverty by transitioning its citizens to five higher productivity places: North and east to south and west, rural to urban, farm to non-farm, informal to formal firms, and illiterate to skilled. Global labour mobility facilitated by institutional infrastructure isn't an idea whose time has come. But the time for legal and orderly doors in strong and tall walls is coming. India must take the lead because it has the most to gain.

Sabharwal is co-founder of Teamlease Services, and Tumble teaches at IIM Ahmedabad



CR Sasikumar



# Centre to give tribal students training in semiconductor technology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre will provide training to tribal students in semiconductor technology in collaboration with the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science. In partnership with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Tribal Affairs Ministry also plans to use satellite-based technology on a pilot basis to improve mobile and internet connectivity in remote tribal villages.

Officials said there are high prospects of jobs in the semiconductor industry in the coming years against the backdrop of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched by the government.

The ISM is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation that aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.



The tribal affairs ministry, in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), will establish a training fab unit which will offer a course on semiconductor technology to tribal students. An official said, "2100 NSQF-certified level 6.0 and 6.5 trainings in semiconductor technology will be offered over three years."

This will be an advanced job-oriented programme for 200 students with the potential of high-paying placements in the industry. IISc Director G

Rangarajan said the country wants to become self-dependent and self-sufficient in the area of semiconductors, and the institute will provide the best possible training to tribal students.

Launching the initiatives at an event here, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the ministry wants to connect them with the PM-JANMAN scheme.

The PM-JANMAN, with a budget of around Rs 24,000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through nine ministries and is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities.

"When we are moving forward for a Viksit Bharat, it is important that tribals are not left behind," the minister said. Munda also asked officials to give more emphasis on mobile connectivity in

remote tribal areas.

The officials said many tribal villages face inadequate connectivity because of geographical remoteness and terrain difficulties, and the ministry, in partnership with ISRO, plans to use satellite-based technology on a pilot basis to improve the connectivity of such tribal villages.

"V-SAT stations will be established to resolve connectivity issues (community internet, e-governance, societal development) in 80 villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. The project will be extended to other states in the next phase," an official said.

ISRO chairman S Somanath, in a video message, said V-SAT connectivity will help the ministry handle education and healthcare-related activities. He said that the ministry could leverage satellite-based technology in areas such as agriculture and identifying tribal land going ahead.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In the run-up to International Women's Day, Times Techies organised a programme, called Empower, in IIT Madras that included addresses by leading women professionals, a panel discussion, and a case competition for the women students of the institute. The events saw students participate in big numbers

# More women should do PhDs, demand funding for their ideas

Akhil George  
@timesgroup.com

Women should loudly demand funding and sponsorship for their entrepreneurial ventures, said Ashwini Asokan, CEO & co-founder of Mad Street Den, during a panel discussion at IIT-Madras. Ashwini said that while there are more women founders in founding teams of companies now, overall, only a minuscule amount of funding goes to women.

"You can get mentorship from a blog. People have literally written down what it takes to build a company. You have all these tools available to get started within a matter of months now. But sponsorship in women has not increased at the rate at which women entrepreneurs have increased," she said.

Uma Ratnam Krishnan, MD for India at Optum Global Solutions, said that most women don't get exposed to the concept of leadership early on and are therefore reluctant to take on the role later in their careers. Changing this paradigm will take time, she added. "It doesn't happen overnight. There's a pipeline. If you start now, you'll probably reap the benefits 10 years from now."

She said that Optum India - a global capability centre of UnitedHealth Group (UHG), one of the largest healthcare services providers in the world - has successfully created women leaders by identifying people who they believed could take on leadership roles, and undertaking targeted interven-



## Invest in Women Accelerate Progress



(Top photo, from left) Ashwini Asokan, CEO & co-founder, Mad Street Den, Uma Ratnam Krishnan, MD - India, Optum Global Solutions, and Nandita DasGupta, professor, IIT Madras, at a panel discussion during the Times Techies Empower event in IIT Madras

tions. "For technology specifically, we have something called United Women Leading in Technology. It's a concerted effort to have specific interventions to get women across to a particular line."

Uma also thinks women should grasp the difference between sponsors and mentors. "Mentors are just people who give you a few

inputs. Sponsors, on the other hand, can sit at the right table and tell others that you can

do this job or run this business. It's somebody who bets on you. So actively seek out sponsors," she said.

Academia and research are also areas where women are severely underrepresented, said Nandita DasGupta, professor at IIT Madras. She said the chief culprit behind this is the lack of PhDs among women.

"If you want to go to higher institutions like colleges or universities, a PhD is a must. And research is very different from whatever you have done before PhD because it's a self-driven programme. There is no fixed time. It can take 5-10 years." This time investment, Nandita said, ends up hampering the careers of young, bright women who may have completed their Master's but are unable to pursue higher qualifications due to familial and societal expectations. "Parents think they will find it difficult to find a good match. Would you believe it? I have actually talked to parents and asked them to please allow their daughter to do her PhD."

## NEED ENGRS TO BUILD HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM

Uma Ratnam Krishnan, managing director - India at Optum Global Solutions, said the integration of technology and healthcare is



moving at a very fast pace. "In future, healthcare will be defined by the interplay of technology and people, using applications, tools and

systems. And as engineers, you will be at the forefront of creating that ecosystem, which will then be used to provide a better healthcare experience across our people," she said in her keynote address to students at IIT Madras.

She noted that innovation in healthcare requires a diverse workforce. "If we have diversity, we will understand better the needs of the people we are going to be serving," she said.

## LOT HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS

Ashwini Asokan, CEO & co-founder of Mad Street Den, said the biggest theme in her journey of building her company has been change. Change, she said, has been the only constant.



Specifically as it relates to women, she noted, a lot has changed compared to ten years ago when she was the only woman leading an AI company and raising funding. "I'm not the only woman in the boardroom anymore, I'm not the only woman in a B2B or deep tech company any more, I was not the only woman when sitting in a meeting with the CEO of Microsoft the other day," she said.

# 60 teams vie in case competition at IIT-M

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times Techies conducted its first ever case competition in the lead up to the Times Techies Empower event. The competition was open only to women students of IIT Madras on the problem statement: Technology solutions to make Indian workplaces more diverse. This problem statement stems from the real-world issue of low female labour force participation rate in India, which is just over 30%, compared to more than 50% globally.

With prizes worth Rs 75,000 at stake, the competition drew an enormous response from the students, with over 60 teams registering. The students of IIT Madras, armed with their own perspectives on the challenges that women face at various stages of their education and career, came up with amazing solutions to address the issue.

The teams had to submit a one-page document outlining their ideas, which were evaluated by the Times Techies team. The top 10 teams from the competition were rewarded on stage, and the top 5 teams got to present their ideas to the jury panel of Uma Ratnam Krishnan, Ashwini Asokan and Nandita DasGupta.

The winning team, SheLeads, which included Indukuri Anoushka and Yashita Jain, actively engaged the audience in their presentation. They proposed one tech-based solution each to address three important issues: equal education opportunities for all girls, equal work opportunities for all women, and fair and transparent promotions of women. When jury members asked how their ideas could be funded, the team explained that the education

## WINNING TEAMS

### TOP-5 TEAMS

**SheLeads:** Indukuri Anoushka, Yashita Jain  
**MetamorphERS:** Keerthana C, Krithika Padmanabhan  
**Skaterz:** Ashmitha Jaysi Sivakumar, Kovuri Pooja, Bhavya Namboothiri  
**Winvest:** Anamika G, Sharanya Kannan, Sarangi Jayaram  
**CreepyCrawls:** Ronalyn Sequeira, Sharanya Garg, Kashish Kunj

### OTHERS IN TOP-10

**Da Gals:** Prathistha Gupta, Siddhi Singh, Saiuditi Rout  
**Ladybirds:** Fatema Crockery Wala, Gauri Mishra  
**Pinnacle:** Kimaya Jangraonkar, Monisha Gadu  
**UdyamaUjjwala:** Divya Rathore, Kranti Ingale, Vimala S  
**Women:** Smriti Athiyarath, Simran Yadav



"It was great to have had a platform to engage in interactions involving so-called 'taboo' topics like workplace harassment and menstruation with the distinguished speakers. I was happy to see the great student turnout and the awareness aided by Times Techies and Optum. It's amazing how big an impact a 2-hour event could have on people's perspectives, and I am glad to have had the opportunity to be a part of the organising team of this competition."

Ishwarya Ganesh | STUDENT HEAD, CAREER DEVELOPMENT CELL, IIT MADRAS



aspect could be crowd-funded, while the other two ideas could be for-profit business ventures and therefore, potential startup ideas.

The runners-up, team MetamorphERS, which included Keerthana C and Krithika Padmanabhan, presented interesting ideas on creating a blockchain-based solution to incentivise multiple stakeholders in the career journey of a woman, and

topped it off with very powerful quotes like "Your girl is not a roti maker but a bread winner".

One of the ideas from third-placed team Skaterz was to create a smartphone app and the required ecosystem to help working mothers find child and home care support at affordable prices.

The event concluded with the jury members presenting awards to the top 10 teams.



# Safety first: Irani announces grant from Nirbhaya Fund for women's hostels in DU

**Shreya.Ghosh**

@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Interacting with around 5,000 girl students of Delhi University on the eve of International Women's Day, Union minister for women and child development Smriti Irani acceded to their demand and assured a grant from Nirbhaya Fund for women's hostels in DU.

Irani, who emphasised on "Viksit Bharat, empowered women", was attending a DU event, Viksit Bharat — Nari Shakti Conclave, in the university's Multipurpose Hall on Thursday.

DU had asked its colleges to mandatorily register their woman faculty members on the Narendra Modi (NaMo) app for the event. Some colleges even asked their students to register on the app.

The deputy registrar (colleges) stated in an email on Tuesday, "The principals/di-



Union minister Smriti Irani addresses Nari Shakti Conclave at DU

rectors of the colleges/institutions must mandatorily register all the female faculty of their college/institution on the NaMo app."

Many colleges such as Kirti Mal, Kalindi College and Bhagini Nivedita had asked students to register on the app. Kalindi College principal Meena Charanda said, "The registration was only for the university to make arrange-


ments for the event. It was not compulsory for students to attend the event."

In an open letter on Thursday, the students' union of St Stephens College alleged, "Endorsing the event and using official machinery to incentivise students must be seen as a deliberate move aimed at influencing newly eligible voters."

Some teachers described the event as an overt "election

campaign" and mandatory registration as coercion. "It is a clear violation of the right to privacy as anyone interested in attending the event was not allowed to do so anonymously," a student alleged.

A poster at Kalindi College stated the registration on the app was mandatory and only the students registering on it would get "merchandise, refreshments and certificates".

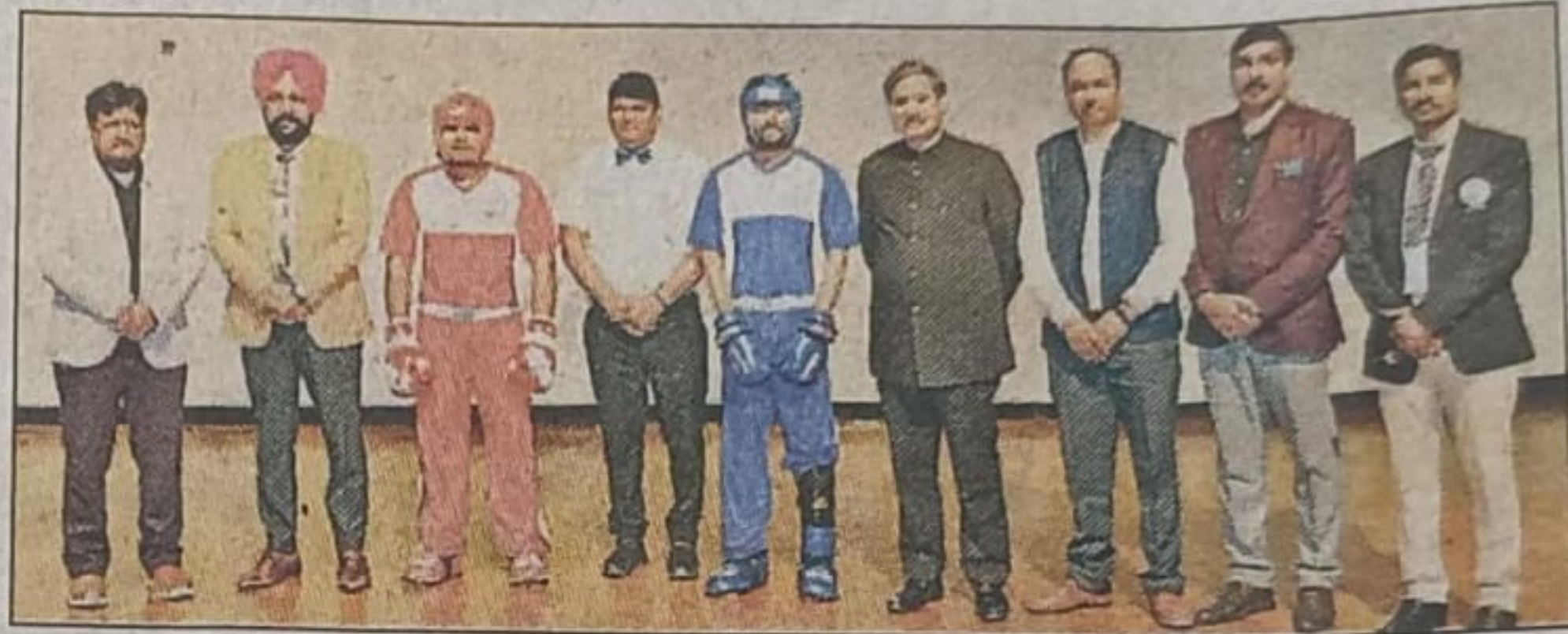
DU registrar Vikas Gupta, however, claimed the attendance was voluntary. "As far as students' registration on the app is concerned, everybody got refreshments regardless of their registration. Besides, NaMo is an important app as Prime Minister Modi ji is open to ideas from students, and through the app, they can indirectly connect with him," Gupta said. The NaMo app keeps people updated about the initiatives and achievements of current central govt. 



# किक बॉक्सिंग चैंपियनशिप शुरू

## सुभारती

मेरठ, प्रमुख संवाददाता। सुभारती विवि में एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियन यूनिवर्सिटीज़ द्वारा ऑल इंडिया इंटर यूनिवर्सिटी किक बॉक्सिंग महिला-पुरुष वर्ग चैंपियनशिप का मंगलवार को आगाज हुआ।



मंगलवार को सुभारती विवि में बॉक्सिंग चैंपियनशिप का शुभारंभ हुआ। • हिन्दुस्तान

## शोभित और निशांत ने दर्ज की जीत

मेरठ। मंगलवार को कैलाश प्रकाश स्पोर्ट्स स्टेडियम में उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य स्तरीय आमंत्रण ओपन बॉक्सिंग का उद्घाटन भाजपा के मंत्री डॉ. चंद्र मोहन ने किया। इसमें विभिन्न मंडलों की 18 टीमों ने भाग ले रही हैं। पहले दिन के मुकाबले में मेरठ के निशांत, शोभित शिवाच और रामजीत ने जीत दर्ज की। 57 किलोग्राम भार वर्ग में पहले मुकाबले में अयोध्या के हर्ष चौरसिया को प्रयागराज के सत्येंद्र कुमार के हाथों हार का सामना करना पड़ा। दूसरे मुकाबले में सहारनपुर के हिमांशु सैनी ने गोरखपुर के विक्कू शर्मा को हराकर जीत दर्ज की।

के हर क्षेत्र में निपुण बना रहा है। शुभारंभ में सुभारती फाइन आर्ट कॉलेज के छात्रों ने शिव तांडव एवं दास्तान-

ए- हिन्द की प्रस्तुति दी। डॉ. संदीप कुमार, डॉ. निशा सिंह, डॉ. सीमा शर्मा, डॉ. मंजू अधिकारी आदि रहे।

शुभारंभ संघ के संयुक्त सचिव डॉ. बलजीत सिंह सेखो, कुलपति मेजर जनरल डॉ. जीके थपलियाल, वाको किक बॉक्सिंग फेडरेशन इंडिया के अध्यक्ष संतोष अग्रवाल, फिजिकल एजुकेशन फाउंडेशन इंडिया के महासचिव पीयूष जैन, भारतीय विवि संघ के प्रेक्षक डॉ. राजीव चौधरी, प्रतिकुलपति डॉ. अभय शंकरगौड़ा, डॉ. संदीप कुमार, कुलसचिव ग्रुप कैप्टन एम. याकूब ने किया। मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी डॉ. शल्या राज ने कहा कि विवि कौशल विकास से छात्रों को ज्ञान



# कैबिनेट से 'इंडिया AI मिशन' मंजूर, आम लोगों तक पहुंचेगी नई तकनीक अंडर-ग्रेजुएट और PhD लेवल के प्रोग्राम डिवेलप किए जाएंगे

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) के मामले में वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की ताकत बढ़ाने और देश में 'AI को सामान्य व्यक्ति तक पहुंचाने' के लक्ष्य के साथ केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने गुरुवार को इंडिया AI मिशन को मंजूरी दी। इसके लिए 10 हजार 372 करोड़ रुपये का बजट रखा गया है। इससे देश में कंप्यूटिंग क्षमता को बड़े पैमाने पर बढ़ाया जाएगा। कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्टर पीयूष गोयल ने बताया, 'हाई एंड AI इकोसिस्टम बनाने के लिए जिस स्तर की कंप्यूटिंग कैपेसिटी की जरूरत है, उसके लिए लगभग 10000 ग्राफिक्स प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट्स (GPU) पब्लिक प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप के जरिए उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे। इनोवेटर्स, स्टार्टअप्स, विश्वविद्यालयों

और रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट्स के साथ इंडस्ट्री को यह AI सुपर कंप्यूटिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर इस इंडिया AI मिशन के जरिए उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। इसके लिए एक AI मार्केटप्लेस भी डिजाइन किया जाएगा।' इस मिशन के तहत स्किल डिवेलपमेंट पर भी फोकस होगा। अंडर ग्रेजुएट और पीएचडी लेवल तक के प्रोग्राम डिवेलप किए जाएंगे। टियर 2 और 3 शहरों में डेटा और AI लैब्स बनाए जाएंगे ताकि वहां फाउंडेशन कोर्स उपलब्ध कराए जा सकें। स्टार्टअप्स को अर्ली स्टेज फाइनेंसिंग भी इस मिशन के जरिए मिलेगी। गोयल ने कहा कि इस



गोयल ने कहा, AI मार्केटप्लेस होगा

मिशन के तहत AI को जिम्मेदार तरीके से डिवेलप करने और अपनाने पर जोर होगा। एक नैशनल डेटा मैनेजमेंट ऑफिस बनाया जाएगा, जो सरकारी विभागों के साथ मिलकर यह देखेगा कि AI डिवेलपमेंट के लिए नॉन-पर्सनल डेटा किस तरह उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है। गोयल ने बताया, 'पिछले साल दिसंबर में पीएम ने इस मिशन का विजन सामने रखा था। AI के इनोवेटर्स को और सहूलियत देने, AI को बड़े पैमाने पर एडॉप्ट करने और स्किल डिवेलपमेंट के लिए कई पहलुओं को इस मिशन में जोड़ा गया है।'

गोवा में एसटी को लेकर फैसला कैबिनेट ने फैसला किया है कि संसद में एक नया कानून लाया जाएगा जो यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि गोवा में ST वर्ग की आबादी के आधार पर चुनाव आयोग ST

वर्ग को भी गोवा विधानसभा में आरक्षण का लाभ देने का काम करें। जनसंख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए ये सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि कितनी सीटों को ST वर्ग के लिए आरक्षित करना आवश्यक है।

## 5वीं जनरेशन का फाइटर जेट बनेगा

Poonam.Pandey@timesgroup.com

■ नई दिल्ली : पांचवीं जनरेशन के फाइटर जेट बनाने के प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी मिल गई है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक गुरुवार को CCS (कैबिनेट कमिटी ऑन सिक्योरिटी) ने AMCA (अडवांस्ड मिडियम कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट) के प्लान को मंजूरी दे

अब तक अमेरिका, रूस और चीन ने ऐसे एयरक्राफ्ट बनाए हैं।

हिसाब से तकनीक बदलती है और इस तरह अलग-अलग जनरेशन के एयरक्राफ्ट बनते हैं। 1970-80 के बाद जो फाइटर एयरक्राफ्ट बने उन्हें फोर्थ जनरेशन यानी चौथी पीढ़ी कहा गया। साल 2,000 के शुरू में जो एयरक्राफ्ट बने वह पांचवीं जनरेशन के एयरक्राफ्ट हैं। अगर चौथी पीढ़ी के एयरक्राफ्ट में कुछ नई तकनीक डाल उसे मॉडिफाई

वर्ग को भी गोवा विधानसभा में आरक्षण का लाभ देने का काम करें। जनसंख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए ये सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि कितनी सीटों को ST वर्ग के लिए आरक्षित करना आवश्यक है।

कच्चे जूट का MSP बढ़ा सरकार ने वर्ष 2024-25 सत्र के

कर सकते हैं तो यह 4.5 जनरेशन कहलाएगा। अभी वायुसेना के पास फोर्थ जनरेशन और 4.5 जनरेशन के एयरक्राफ्ट हैं। रक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत आने वाली एजेंसी एरोनॉटिकल डिवेलपमेंट एजेंसी (ADA) अडवांस्ड मिडियम कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (AMCA) तैयार कर रही है। यह फाइटर जेट पांचवीं जनरेशन का है और स्वदेशी होगा। यह डबल इंजन का होगा। इसका डिजाइन ऐसा होगा कि दुश्मन की रेडार इसे पकड़ नहीं पाएगी या फिर जब यह दुश्मन के एकदम करीब पहुंचेगा तब उसकी रेडार इसे पकड़ पाएगी। तब तक एयरक्राफ्ट के पास दुश्मन को निशाना बनाने के लिए काफी वक्त मिल जाएगा। इसका डिजाइन तैयार हो चुका है। प्रोजेक्ट के अप्रूवल का इंतजार था। अब जल्द ही इसके डिवेलपमेंट पर काम शुरू होने की उम्मीद की जा सकती है। दो साल के भीतर यह बनकर तैयार हो जाने की उम्मीद है और यह पहली उड़ान उसके एक साल बाद भर सकेगा।

लिए कच्चे जूट का MSP 285 रुपये बढ़ाकर 5,335 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल कर दिया है। इससे खासतौर पर पश्चिम बंगाल के किसानों को काफी फायदा होगा। चालू सत्र 2023-24 में सरकार ने 524.32 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से जूट की रिकॉर्ड खरीद की है।