

# Hiring Outlook for June Qtr Brightest in India: Manpower

Country's net employment outlook at 36% against global average of only 22%, says survey

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**Bengaluru:** India Inc's hiring sentiment for the April-June quarter is the highest across 42 countries covered in a global survey by workforce solutions company ManpowerGroup. The net employment outlook — seen as a bellwether of labour market trends — in India for the next quarter at 36% is 14 percentage points higher than the global average of only 22% amid geopolitical and economic uncertainties, shows the latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey shared exclusively with ET.

Hiring sentiment in the country are also stronger by six percentage points compared to April-June 2023, but one percentage point down from the January-March quarter.

"The continued resilience of the Indian economy, a promising outlook, and political stability are the key factors behind India's positive hiring outlook," said Sachchidanand Shukla, group chief economist at Larsen & Toubro.

"The economy registered robust growth of 8.4% in the third quarter of FY24, making it three consecutive quarters of 8% plus growth, in a shock-prone world. More importantly, India is likely to remain the fastest-growing among G20 economies over the medium term according to most forecasters," he added. About 50% of 3,150 Indian employers covered in the survey said they would hire more people in the June quarter, while 14% expected a decrease in hiring intent or had no plans to backfill.

This puts the net employment outlook — the difference between companies looking

## Job Talk

► **India's hiring** intentions for April-June 2024 quarter highest across 42 countries

**Net employment outlook at 36% compared to 37% in March 2024 quarter but up 6 percentage points from April-June 2023**

to hire and those expecting a fall in headcount or hiring numbers — at 36%. About 33% of the Indian participants planned to keep workforce levels steady and 3% were unsure about hiring intentions.

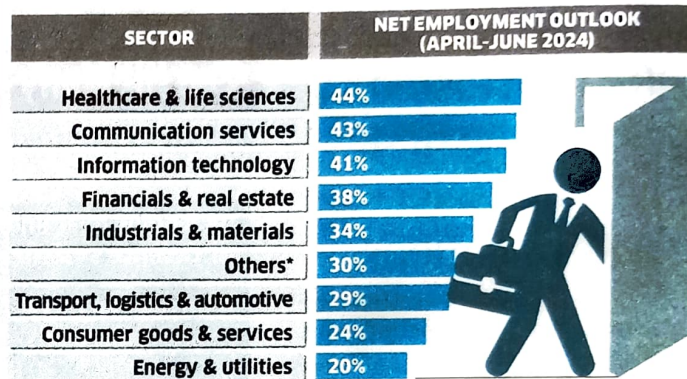
Shukla attributed the slight sequential slowdown in hiring outlook in the country to "global negatives and looming uncertainties such as the Red Sea trade disruption, tighter money policies and hawkish commentary from large central banks".

The impending election announcements — that normally lead to India Inc pushing larger decisions to the time when the new government is firmly in the saddle post elections — have also contributed, he added.

The latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey was conducted in 42 countries including the US (in second place with NEP of 34%), China (32%), Singapore (24%), UK (23%), Germany (17%) and Japan (11%).

As per the survey, the most optimistic outlook in India is reported by employers in healthcare and life sciences, at 44%, and communication services, at 43%. Information technology comes in at third place with a net employment outlook of 41%. The least optimistic outlook for the June quarter is in the energy and utilities sector at 20%, the survey found.

"As a country, we have been consistent in



\*Others include government, public service, not-for-profits, NGOs, charity, etc.  
Source: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey

SANJEEV RAJ JAIN

demonstrating our capabilities and leveraging our demographic dividend," said Sandeep Gulati, managing director of ManpowerGroup, India and Middle East. "Industries in healthcare, life sciences and renewable energy are seeing rapid growth rates with the aid and support of government initiatives," he said.

Employers in all four regions in the country expect to grow payrolls during April-June. The hiring pace is most robust in the North with a net employment outlook of 40%, up 2 percentage points from the current quarter, followed by the West and the South with outlook of 35% (down 4 percentage points sequentially) and 33% (down 2 percentage points), respectively. The East has a net employment outlook of 30% for the June quarter, down 2% from the March quarter. Outlook in these four regions have risen by 7%, 1%, 6% and 10%, respectively, year on year.

Small organisations with 10-49 employees are the most cautious about hiring with a net employment outlook of 23%. Very large organisations with 1,000-4,999 employees are most positive, with an outlook of 44%, followed by those with 250-999 employees that have an outlook of 43%. Organisations with 5,000-plus employees have an outlook of 40%, the survey found.

# CENTRE LAUNCHES CURRICULUM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE, EDUCATION

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** The ministry of women and child development on Monday launched the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children between the ages of three and six, as well as a National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for children up to three years. The policies are linked with the government's New Education Policy (NEP) and recognise the pivotal role of early years in development.

"Under the leadership of PM @narendramodi, India is committed to prioritising the well-being and holistic development of our youngest citizens. With over 13.9 lakh [1.39 million] Anganwadi Centres across the country, reaching more than 8 crore [80 million] children. These initiatives will be seamlessly integrated into the Poshan Tracker for effective implementation," said minister of women and child development Smriti Irani in a post on X.

The framework will provide for a combination of activities, including in-centre and at-home, indoor and outdoor, child-led and educator-led, and for robust assessment tools. Also, special attention has been given to the screening and inclusion of Divyang [specially abled] children.

# IIT-Delhi launches MA programme in culture, society and thought

*'A first-of-its-kind course among technology and engineering colleges in the country'*

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has launched a master in arts programme in culture, society and thought, a first-of-its-kind course among technology and engineering colleges in the country, according to officials.

The programme will train students in a variety of fields, including research, academia, social work, media and policy-making, in government and non-governmental organisations, research institutes and social entrepreneurship organisations among others. The course has been envisaged as a two-year full-time programme that focuses on the thematic of culture and society, and thought through the core disciplines of sociology, literature and philosophy.

The application process for admissions to the newly launched programme begins on March 20 for the academic year starting from July. The last date to apply for the programme is April 4. "The new



MA programme explores aspects of contemporaneity and interdisciplinarity across disciplines in humanities and social sciences. Its location at IIT-Delhi gives it a unique vantage point to generate a new corpus of knowledge, populate new kinds of archives, and develop critical methodologies to give new directions to humanities and social science research from the Global South," Head

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT-Delhi Farhana Ibrahim said.

"The programme offers a unique opportunity for students to explore courses across traditional disciplines, and to forge new synergies across existing master's programmes offered by the department -- cognitive science and economics," he added. Interested candidates with a bachelor's degree in

## Highlights

- » The programme will train students in a variety of fields, including research, academia, social work, media and policy-making, in government and non-governmental organisations, research institutes and social entrepreneurship organisations among others
- » The course has been envisaged as a two-year full-time programme that focuses on the thematic of culture and society, and thought through the core disciplines of sociology, literature and philosophy
- » 'The programme offers a unique opportunity for students to explore courses across traditional disciplines'

any discipline -- with a minimum 55 per cent or equivalent Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) in BA and first division for all other degrees -- can apply for the MA course. The admission procedure includes shortlisting through an entrance examination or GATE-2024 score followed by an interview of the shortlisted candidates in May.

Graduates from the MA programme will also be eli-

gible to join the doctoral programmes offered by the department of humanities and social sciences at the IIT-Delhi, or other international doctoral programmes.

"An open house will be conducted on March 15 for interested candidates to learn more about the programme's structure and its fees, faculty members, scholarships, accommodation, academic and career prospects among others," Ibrahim said. AGENCIES

# Educational traditions for future preparedness



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Traditional systems, like the Gurukul method, stand juxtaposed against modern approaches, typified by the English education system

Everyone tries to prepare for the future. Most futures are difficult to foresee and preparing for them can only be based on some assumptions. The veracity of such assumptions is always open to doubt. Hence, preparing for the future, by definition, becomes one of the most conjectural efforts, several of whose assumptions need to be first checked out.

Yet, this cannot become an argument for not preparing for the future. It requires, therefore, foreseeing the future as a factor of continuing the present state of affairs in their logical linear sequence. It is another matter that the linearity of any process, be it technological, or even contextual, may be in doubt. Yet, this approach stands in its own right. Thus, it is that school curriculum is preparation for the future because it teaches you the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, all of which will, in some manner, help you cope with the future. As one grows, maybe through the curriculum system of schools, college or university, there are assumptions and there are logical flows. The logic of these sequential learning processes can be open to serious questions, and sometimes it becomes counter-productive by being out of sync with the requirements of the times.

That is a risk one has to take. Preparing for the future, therefore, can have its own hazards. Within the framework of the hazards, some assumptions could hold some truth. One of the assumptions is the need and the ability for strategic thinking. One also needs the skills to cope with an evolving environment and meet the requirement to achieve what one may set as one's goals be they financial or professional.

One thing which cuts across all variations is the need to be a constantly evolving and growing person. Data and information are one of the coping stones of this learning process. Hence, it follows that one of the basic skills a person requires is identification of data and understanding of what constitutes information. This may require some rethinking on the elements and the



parameters of formal education at the school level. One is fortunate if one is mentored properly during this phase, and this is where the Gurukul system, which India practiced till not so long ago, had at its core the mentorship of a wise, knowledgeable, and learned person who could impart only information but insights. The difference between what is now popularly termed as "English education" and the Gurukul system has become so wide that it is difficult to find distinguished learning institutions in sufficient numbers of the Gurukul tradition.

In an era of job markets and benchmarking of skills, the certification process which the so-called English education system follows comes in very handy. Hence, its relevance remains in the job market, and many jobs are open only to certain qualifications such as secondary certificate, bachelor certificates or the master certificate of the so-called university system. The parallel Indian system also has certain benchmarks such as a person could be a Kavya Teerth. This means that the person with the title of Kavya Teerth had proficiency in poetry and poetics. This would entitle him to be ranked as a person who has achieved excellence of a proficiency

equivalent to a Teerth. The concern is that the job market does not often advertise for a person with the proficiency of a Teerth qualification in poetry and poetics.

Thus, the issue arises of calibrating the job qualifications requirements to a degree or the proficiency certificates being awarded by educational institutions. Unless this issue is addressed with a single-minded devotion of finding solutions, the present contradictions between the English system of education and the Gurukul system of education will continue to be loaded in favour of the University or the English system of education. By all estimates, the Gurukul system of education was never loaded in favour of numbers, and as such, institutionalization of the Gurukul system seldom, if ever took place on the scale at which the English or the university system operated.

Further, the Gurukul system of education seldom had the kind of timetable which the English or the university system thrives on. Be it at the school level or the higher education level, in the English/University system of education a six-day week always had variations of subjects and inputs.

As compared to this, a Gurukul system of education may expect six months of intensive training, learning, and more in one subject, say geography, mathematics or whatever. It is easy to talk of "Indianness" and easier to sloganise it. The need, however, is to develop intensive educational insights which enable a person to understand which philosophy of education and which method of learning produces better preparation for the future.

To sum it all up, preparing for the future, in part, involves knowing methods of creating competencies for the unknown. It also requires creating some applicable assumptions. Whether the English or the university system of education can do it better, or can the Gurukul system do better, is a consideration which requires a lot more thinking and analysis than what it has merited so far. Mercifully, the National Education Policy has already planted the seeds by talking of "Indian educational system". The seed has to sprout, be nurtured and allowed to grow before the fruits start coming in.

*(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)*



DEVELOP INTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS WHICH ENABLE A PERSON TO UNDERSTAND WHICH PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AND WHICH METHOD OF LEARNING PRODUCES BETTER PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

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# Assam govt's nod for inclusion of Meitei script in schools of state

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
GUWAHATI, 11 MARCH



The Assam government has green-lit the inclusion of Meitei script in educational institutions of the state, a move intended to preserve and promote the linguistic heritage of the Manipuri community residing in the state.

This initiative will allow interested students to delve into Manipuri literature and pursue higher education in the language using the Meitei/Mayek script. Moreover, it aims to aid individuals from Assam seeking employment in Manipur, where proficiency in the Meitei/Mayek script is mandatory for certain roles.

This decision was made during the cabinet meeting held on Sunday where several significant resolutions were reached.

Notably, the government has allocated Rs 131 crore for the restoration of the historic Rang Ghar in Sivasagar, with plans to develop a site at

Rupohi Pathar covering an area of 83 bighas 2 Katha.

Furthermore, the Assam government has extended various incentives to TATA's semiconductor facility following the approval of a semiconductor unit in Assam by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India. The Industries, Commerce, and Public Enterprises Department have been tasked with disbursing payments as per the outlined eligibility criteria.

In a move to bolster the sports sector, Rs 380.66 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of an open stadium at the Amingaon Sports Complex in Kamrup. This

stadium will boast a modern cricket facility with seating for 20,000 spectators, as well as accommodation for international and national coaches, along with separate hostels for male and female players. Additionally, the cabinet has approved the draft Assam State Prosecution Service (Amendment) Rules, 2024, which entail amendments aimed at ensuring the efficient conduct of proficiency-cum-skill tests for direct recruitment in various posts. These amendments will streamline the process by allowing multiple boards to conduct tests seamlessly, considering the high volume of applications received for such positions.

# IIT Kharagpur's innovation for weld defect analysis

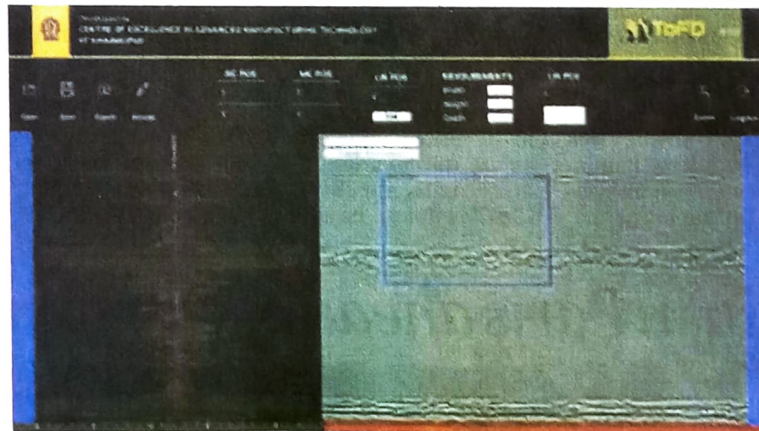
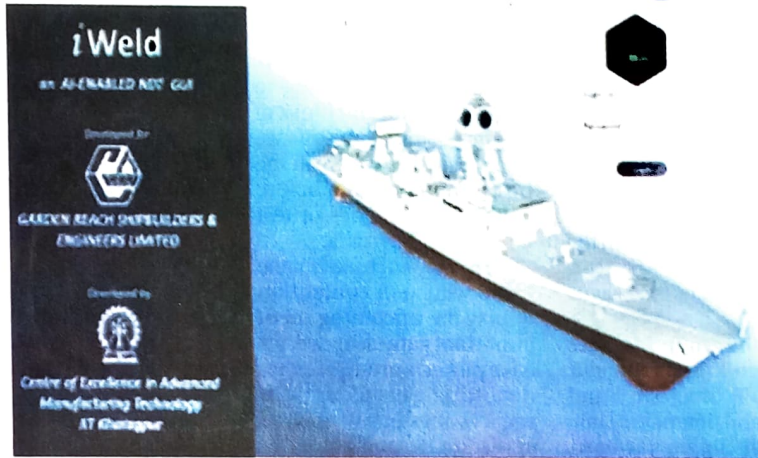
**Biswabrata Goswami**

In a prominent display of innovation and technological prowess, IIT Kharagpur has once again solidified its position as a frontrunner in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in the domain of non-destructive testing (NDT) for weld defect analysis. Led by Professor Surjya K Pal, chairperson of the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CoEAMT), IIT Kharagpur, the institute has unveiled two groundbreaking projects that have caught the attention of industry giants like Tata Steel.

The first of these projects, named "iWeld, an AI-enabled NDT," represents a significant leap in the realm of weld defect analysis. Developed in collaboration with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata, ministry of defence, iWeld is designed to identify, localize, and classify various types of weld defects with exceptional accuracy. These defects include blowhole, wormhole, porosity, lack of fusion and inclusion, among others. What sets iWeld apart is its ability to analyze radiography images with a precision comparable to human inspectors. Notably, the Indian Register of Shipping has certified the performance of iWeld, underscoring its reliability and effectiveness.

Moreover, iWeld's success story extends beyond its technical capabilities. Jointly copyrighted with GRSE, the software is now poised for commercialization, marking a significant milestone in the collaboration between CoEAMT and GRSE. Avishek Mukherjee, a dedicated doctoral scholar at the Advanced Technology Development Centre, played a pivotal role in bringing iWeld to fruition, showcasing the talent and commitment of IIT Kharagpur's research community.

The recognition for iWeld didn't stop there. It was one of the select innovations from IIT Kharagpur showcased at "Inventiv 2024," a prestigious R&D fair that brought



together top institutions across the country. Its inclusion in such a prestigious event highlights its significance in addressing real-world industrial challenges.

The second project, "iToFD," funded by the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) of IIT Kharagpur, represents another milestone in weld defect detection. Utilizing ultrasonic time-of-flight diffraction (ToFD) data, iToFD leverages advanced signal processing and AI algorithms to revolutionize defect localization and measurement. Notably, this automated solution, recently patented, boasts a remarkable speed advantage over traditional manual inspections, being nearly 15 times faster.

The dedication and ingenuity of the team behind these projects, comprising undergraduate and doctoral scholars, exemplify the

collaborative spirit and innovative mindset fostered at IIT Kharagpur. Professor Pal, expressing his delight at the students' passion and proficiency, emphasized the institute's commitment to tackling industrial challenges through the deployment of AI and Industry 4.0 concepts.

In essence, IIT Kharagpur's triumph in AI-enabled NDT for weld defect analysis not only underscores its commitment to innovation but also highlights its pivotal role in driving technological advancements that promise to reshape industries and enhance productivity on a global scale. As these projects progress towards commercialization, they pave the way for a future where AI and advanced manufacturing converge to solve complex industrial problems with unparalleled efficiency and accuracy.

**THE FIRST OF THESE PROJECTS, NAMED "IWELD, AN AI-ENABLED NDT," REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT LEAP IN THE REALM OF WELD DEFECT ANALYSIS. DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH GARDEN REACH SHIPBUILDERS & ENGINEERS (GRSE) KOLKATA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, IWELD IS DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY, LOCALIZE, AND CLASSIFY VARIOUS TYPES OF WELD DEFECTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL ACCURACY. THESE DEFECTS INCLUDE BLOWHOLE, WORMHOLE, POROSITY, LACK OF FUSION AND INCLUSION, AMONG OTHERS. WHAT SETS IWELD APART IS ITS ABILITY TO ANALYZE RADIOGRAPHY IMAGES WITH A PRECISION COMPARABLE TO HUMAN INSPECTORS.**

Steel

# NEET-UG sees a record 22.8L apply, 5 days still to go

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**New Delhi:** National Testing Agency has extended the deadline for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) (NEET-UG) 2024 registration to March 16. Already close to 22.8 lakh aspirants have registered, surpassing last year's record registration of 20.9 lakh. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan have the maximum number of candidates this year as well.

The original deadline was March 9 which was extended by a week. One of the reasons for the extension was that some candidates were failing to link their Aadhaar during the on-line application process, while a few faced payment issues.

"There was a massive rush in the last few days of the application. We have received requests from candidates not being able to link their Aadhaar for various reasons. This includes some candidates who were waiting for an update of Aadhaar as well. Therefore, we have extended the deadline for a week so that the aspirants can register," said Subodh Kumar Singh, director general, NTA.

Some candidates on one particular date within the application window also faced payment issues which were resolved the very same day, as per NTA officials and all the payments were successful thereafter.

With registration for Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate 2024 also underway, Singh advised aspirants not to wait for the last date to apply. "An advisory to the students is that they should not wait for the last date to apply. In case they realise there was any error in the application, they can always rectify it in the correction window," said Singh. The last date for application for CUET-UG is March 26, 2024.

As per March 9 data, according to Singh the total registration for the NEET-UG is 22.79 lakh, up from 20.87 lakh in 2023 and 18.72 lakh in 2022. UP with 3.2 lakh is the top choice among states, followed by Maharashtra with close to 2.7 lakh, Rajasthan with 1.9 lakh, Karnataka with almost 1.5 lakh and Tamil Nadu with 1.4 lakh candidates.

Delhi with 65,809 candidates is the top choice as city of examination, followed by Patna (48,595) and Jaipur (46,190).

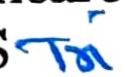
Number of female candidates crossed 12 lakh for the first time, while the number of male candidates too crossed the 10 lakh mark.

# Biometric attendance in medical colleges soon

NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

In what comes as a boost to digitisation, the National Medical Commission (NMC) would introduce the Aadhar-enabled biometric attendance system in medical colleges, thereby eliminating the need for physical inspection of faculty attendance.

According to NMC, each faculty in a medical college should have at least 75 per cent atten-

dance. The biometric attendance system would remove the possibility of duplication of faculties. NMC is also mulling the idea of mandatorily linking hospitals with the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) of all patients. ABHA is a unique 14-digit identifier, which allows individuals to create a personal health record and access healthcare services digitally. — TNS 



# Fostering innovation, entrepreneurship in varsity ecosystem: UGC Chairman

**AKSHEEV THAKUR**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI MARCH 11**

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar, in a special interaction with *The Tribune*, announced that the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be conducted in a hybrid mode. Candidates will now be allowed to choose six subjects instead of the previous 10.

“We are implementing two significant changes for CUET 2024. Firstly, CUET-UG will be conducted in a hybrid examination mode. Papers with large registrations will utilise the OMR paper and pen mode, while others will use the computer-based test mode. This approach allows us to utilise schools and colleges as CUET centres, reducing the need for students to travel long distances. They can now appear at their nearest centres, saving time and effort. UGC and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are collaborating to expand the available examination cen-

## INTEGRATING SKILL LEARNING INTO EDUCATION

“Providing skill development opportunities to students while they pursue their courses is a priority for us. Encouraging students to engage in internships and apprenticeships and incorporating these experiences into their academic credits will enable them to better understand the job market. We are actively integrating skill, vocational and experiential learning into general education.” — M Jagadesh Kumar, UGC CHAIRMAN



tres by reaching out to colleges, universities and institutions willing to offer their facilities,” he stated.

Kumar added, “Another change for CUET 2024 is the reduction in the number of subjects. UGC’s analysis revealed that less than 1 per cent of students opted for all 10 available subjects. Most students chose only three or four subjects. Therefore, for CUET 2024, we will offer six subjects instead of 10, streamlining the examination process and reducing the overall duration. Last year’s exam spanned over a month,

causing logistical challenges for both facilitators and students. Our goal is to conclude CUET 2024 within a shorter timeframe. Additionally, we aim to announce the CUET-UG results by the third or fourth week of June 2024, aligning with the academic calendar for the upcoming academic year.”

In 2023, the UGC notified regulations for establishing foreign university campuses in India. Since then, it has been engaged in continuous discussions with various stakeholders, including leading universities from the US,

the UK and Australia.

“One of our major initiatives involves partnering with the National Research Foundation to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the university ecosystem. We are witnessing the growth of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in the Indian space, and as the regulator of higher education, we are keen on exploring their potential inclusion in academia. Furthermore, we are committed to enhancing students’ mental and physical fitness. Equity and inclusivity are the foundational principles of the Indian education system, and the UGC is strengthening them through multiple initiatives aimed at increasing the participation of students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds,” Kumar emphasised.

Additionally, the UGC is focusing on equipping youth with skills while they undergo their courses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Fostering innovation...

“Providing skill development opportunities to students while they pursue their courses is a priority for us. Encouraging students to

engage in internships and apprenticeships and incorporating these experiences into their academic credits will enable them to better understand the job market, particularly in emerging areas. We are actively integrating skill, vocational, and experiential learning into general education. The implementation of the National Credit Framework is instrumental in achieving this vision,” he elaborated.

“Our focus is on facilitating the integration of industry professionals into universities to mentor students, design industry-ready curricula and contribute their practical experience to academia. Initiatives such as the Professor-of-Practice, Research & Development Cells, Industry Relations Cell and Centres

for Collaboration aim to foster partnerships between universities and industries to address societal challenges. Industry-academia collaborations are essential for the future of Indian education,” he concluded.

The UGC recently issued a notification requiring universities to establish a Student Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) and appoint an ombudsperson to address students’ grievances within a specified timeframe.

He stated, “We have identified universities that need to appoint an ombudsperson on their campuses. Additionally, we have mandated that each university and its affiliated colleges prominently display the contact details of the ombudsperson and SGRC on their websites.” *Ta*

# सरकार का खेल संघों में दखल का कोई इरादा नहीं: अनुराग

केंद्रीय खेल और युवा मामलों के मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर ने कहा कि खेलों इंडिया योजना एक व्यापक खेल योजना है जो देश को बेहतर खेल राष्ट्र की ओर लेकर जाएगी। खेल मंत्री ने

**साक्षात्कार**

खेल महासंघों में विवादों से लेकर पूर्व खिलाड़ियों द्वारा एनएसएफ का नेतृत्व करने पर कहा कि वह सभी खेल महासंघों में पारदर्शिता चाहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का खेल संघों में दखल का कोई इरादा नहीं है। अनुराग ठाकुर से अभिषेक त्रिपाठी ने विशेष बातचीत की। पेश हैं प्रमुख अंश :

● खेलों इंडिया कार्यक्रम वर्तमान सरकार ने शुरू किया। क्या यह ही सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता में है? क्या इससे भारत में खेलों का भविष्य बनेगा?

—जी हां, यह निकट भविष्य में भारत को एक बेहतर खेल राष्ट्र बनाने की ओर ले जाएगा। खेलों इंडिया योजना भारत की व्यापक खेल परियोजना है। यह केवल खेलों इंडिया यूथ गेम्स, खेलों इंडिया युनिवर्सिटी गेम्स, खेलों इंडिया विंटर गेम्स और खेलों इंडिया पैरा गेम्स प्रतियोगिताओं के बारे में ही नहीं है बल्कि इसमें इन खेलों के आयोजन के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ शामिल है। खेलों इंडिया योजना का प्रमुख घटक खेल बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना है। मंत्रालय ने देश भर में 331 खेल बुनियादी

ढांचा परियोजनाओं के लिए लगभग 3000 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए हैं। दूसरी तरफ राष्ट्रीय उत्कृष्टता केंद्रों से लेकर साई प्रशिक्षण केंद्रों और खेलों इंडिया राज्य केंद्रों से लेकर देश भर में खेलों इंडिया मान्यता प्राप्त अकादमियों तक प्रशिक्षण केंद्रों की संरचना के माध्यम से प्रतिभा की पहचान और विकास करना है।

● हाल ही में आपने घोषणा की है कि खेलों इंडिया गेम्स में पदक जीतने वाले एथलीट सरकारी नौकरियों के लिए पात्र होंगे। इसको लेकर तेजस्विन शंकर सहित कई एथलीटों के विरोध पर आपके क्या विचार हैं?

—सरकार ने हाल के वर्षों में इन खेलों के बढ़ते महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए ही खेलों इंडिया गेम्स को अंतरराष्ट्रीय और राष्ट्रीय स्तर

की प्रतियोगिताओं में जोड़ने का निर्णय लिया। इसके अलावा, इससे खिलाड़ियों को खेलों इंडिया गेम्स में अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने के लिए अधिक प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।

● आपके कार्यकाल के दौरान कुश्ती महासंघ के विरोध में पहलवानों ने विरोध प्रदर्शन भी किया। तमाम कोशिशों के बावजूद विरोध करने वाले पहलवान अभी भी नाखुश हैं?

—मैं हमेशा राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघों (एनएसएफ) के प्रशासन में पारदर्शिता और निष्पक्ष खेल वाले सुशासन के लिए अडिग रहा हूँ। पुलिस और अदालतें इस मामले पर विचार कर रही हैं और हमारे लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि हम प्रक्रिया पूरी होने का इंतजार करें। आपको पता होगा कि ओलिंपिक में भाग लेने वाले सभी योग्य और फिट पहलवानों का परीक्षण सोनीपत और राष्ट्रीय खेल संस्थान पटियाला में उत्कृष्टता केंद्रों में निष्पक्ष तरीके से आयोजित किया गया है।

● पीटी ऊषा भारतीय ओलिंपिक संघ की प्रमुख हैं, जबकि कल्याण चौबे को अखिल भारतीय फुटबाल महासंघ की जिम्मेदारी मिली है। देवेंद्र झाझरिया भारतीय पैरालिंपिक समिति के अध्यक्ष

वने हैं। क्या सरकार पूर्व एथलीटों को खेल संघों का नेतृत्व करने के लिए सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रही है?

—सरकार इस तथ्य को मानती है कि भारतीय ओलिंपिक संघ और बाकी एनएसएफ स्वायत्तशासी निकाय हैं। यह तय करने में कोई भूमिका नहीं निभाता है कि इन संगठनों की कार्यकारी समितियों के लिए कौन चुना जाता है। ऐसा कहने के बाद, एथलीटों को खेल की सेवा करने की इच्छा के साथ आगे बढ़ते देखा

खुशी की बात है।

● इस वर्ष पेरिस ओलिंपिक और पैरालिंपिक होने हैं। पिछले साल एशियाई खेलों में भारत का प्रदर्शन उल्लेखनीय रहा था। टोक्यो में भारत ने अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया। इस बार एथलीटों से आपकी क्या उम्मीदें हैं? क्या पिछले रिकार्ड टूटेंगे?

—सरकार का मानना है कि भारतीय दल इस तरह की प्रतियोगिता से अब तक के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के साथ लौटने के चलन को जारी रखेगा। हमें विश्वास है कि हमारे एथलीट अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करेंगे। मंत्रालय ने एथलीटों को पेरिस

2024 की तैयारी के लिए अधिकतम समर्थन देने की पेशकश की है।

● देश में ऐसे कई खेल हैं जिनके लिए खेल बुनियादी ढांचा पर्याप्त नहीं है। आज, हमारे खिलाड़ी न केवल क्रिकेट बल्कि एथलेटिक्स, हाकी, फुटबाल और अन्य खेलों में भी उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या योजनाएँ हैं कि खिलाड़ी अन्य खेलों में भी उच्चतम स्तर पर प्रदर्शन कर सकें?

—किसी भी खेल इकोसिस्टम को रीढ़, सुविधाएँ और मानव संसाधन दोनों ही मामलों में, खेल बुनियादी ढांचा है। यह वह दर्शन है, जिसने 331 परियोजनाओं का नेतृत्व किया है, जिनकी लागत के लिए वर्ष 2014 से 2943.64 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए जा रहे हैं। वर्ष 2010-11 से चार वर्षों में 38 खेल बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं के निर्माण या उन्नयन में औसतन 52 करोड़ रुपये का वार्षिक निवेश किया गया, जो पिछले एक दशक में 331 परियोजनाओं में सालाना 294 करोड़ रुपये की कमाई को कहानी बताता है।

● राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघ कानूनी आरोप लगाए गए हैं कि सरकार पिछले दरवाजे से राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघ पर नियंत्रण बढ़ा रही है? —जैसा कि मैंने पहले भी कहा था

कि सरकार भारतीय ओलिंपिक संघ और एनएसएफ को स्वायत्तशासी निकाय के रूप में मान्यता देता है। मंत्रालय भारतीय राष्ट्रीय खेल विकास संहिता, 2011 के माध्यम से इन निकायों में सुशासन को प्रोत्साहित करता है, लेकिन इन संगठनों को कार्यकारी समितियों में कौन चुना जाता है, यह तय करने में इसकी कोई भूमिका नहीं है। मंत्रालय यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि एथलीटों को उनके प्रशिक्षण और प्रतियोगिता के लिए सभी आवश्यक सहायता मिले।

● क्या कोई ऐसा काय है जिसे आप पूरा करना चाहते थे लेकिन किसी कारणवश नहीं कर सके?

—युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय के रूप में मैं जो भी कर पाया हूँ उससे मैं बहुत खुश हूँ। मैंने 2021 में टोक्यो 2020 ओलिंपिक खेलों से ठीक पहले कार्यभार संभाला और वार्षिक निवेश किया गया, जो पिछले एक दशक में 331 परियोजनाओं में सालाना 294 करोड़ रुपये की कमाई को कहानी बताता है। मुझे खुशी है कि हम खेलों इंडिया आश्मिता महिला लीग, खेलों इंडिया गेम्स खेलों इंडिया विंटर गेम्स और खेलों इंडिया पैरा गेम्स को जोड़ने में सक्षम हुए हैं ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि सभी खेल इसके दायरे में आते हैं।



# संस्कृति, समाज और विचार में शुरू होगा नया कार्यक्रम

## आइआइटी दिल्ली

जासं, नई दिल्ली: आइआइटी दिल्ली का मानविकी और सामाजिक विज्ञान विभाग संस्कृति, समाज और विचार में एक नया शैक्षणिक परास्नातक कार्यक्रम पेश करेगा। डिज़ाइन किए गए अंतः विषय एमए कार्यक्रम के लिए आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि चार अप्रैल है।

अपनी तरह के पहले एमए कार्यक्रम (<https://hss.iitd.ac.in/macst>) की परिकल्पना दो साल के पूर्णकालिक कार्यक्रम के रूप में की गई है, जो समाजशास्त्र, साहित्य, दर्शन विषयों के माध्यम से संस्कृति, समाज और विचार के विषय पर केंद्रित है। जुलाई 2024 से शुरू होने वाले शैक्षणिक वर्ष के लिए

- 20 मार्च से शुरू होंगे परास्नातक कार्यक्रम के लिए प्रवेश
- गेस्ट स्कोर और प्रवेश परीक्षा के माध्यम से मिलेगा प्रवेश

नए लांच किए गए कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया 20 मार्च से शुरू होगी। कार्यक्रम के लिए आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 4 अप्रैल, 2024 है। जिनके स्नातक में 55 प्रतिशत अंक हैं। वे इस कार्यक्रम के लिए आइआइटी दिल्ली के परास्नातक प्रवेश पोर्टल (<https://ecampus.iitd.ac.in/PGADM/login>) के माध्यम से आवेदन कर सकते हैं। प्रवेश गेट 2024 के स्कोर और प्रवेश परीक्षा के आधार पर लिए जाएंगे।