



Project aims to stay relevant even as capabilities advance in future

Experts ready queries to test AI limits

San Francisco, Sept. 17: A team of technology experts issued a global call seeking the toughest questions to pose to artificial intelligence (AI) systems, which increasingly have handled popular benchmark tests like child's play.

Dubbed "Humanity's Last Exam," the project seeks to determine when expert-level AI has arrived. It aims to stay relevant even as capabilities advance in future years, according to the organisers, a non-profit called the Center for AI Safety

(CAIS) and the start-up Scale AI.

The call comes days after the maker of ChatGPT previewed a new model, known as OpenAI o1, which destroyed the most popular reasoning benchmarks, said Dan Hendrycks, executive director of CAIS and an advisor to Elon Musk's xAI start-up.

Hendrycks co-authored two 2021 papers that proposed tests of AI systems that are now widely used, one quizzing them on undergraduate-level knowledge of topics like US history, the other prob-



● **THE CALL** comes days after the maker of ChatGPT previewed a new model, known as OpenAI o1, which destroyed the most popular reasoning benchmarks.

ing models' ability to reason through competition-level math. At the time of those papers, AI was giving almost random answers to questions on the exams. "They're now crushed," Hendrycks said.

AI has appeared to score poorly on lesser-used tests involving plan formulation and visual pattern-recognition puzzles, according to Stanford University's AI index report from April. OpenAI

o1 scored around 21 per cent on one version of the pattern-recognition ARC-AGI test, for instance, the ARC organisers said.

Some AI researchers argue that results like this show planning and abstract reasoning to be better measures of intelligence, though Hendrycks said the visual aspect of ARC makes it less suited to assessing language models. Answers from common benchmarks may also have ended up in data used to train AI systems, industry observers have said.

— Reuters

ISB Goes IIM Way, Offers 20-month Mgmt Course

Saumya Bhattacharya

New Delhi: More than two decades after starting operations with a one-year MBA course, the Indian School of Business (ISB) is reshaping its management education strategy. The institute is poised to introduce a 20-month programme on the lines of two-year management courses at IIMs, specifically designed for recent graduates or individuals with up to two years of work experience.

The Post Graduate Programme in Management for Young Leaders—ISB's new offering—will be rolled out in July next year. The programme fee for the first academic year 2025-27 is pegged at ₹21.65 lakh plus GST along with an accommodation fee of ₹3.95 lakh. At a GST rate of 18%, the programme will cost more than ₹29 lakh, according to the institute. This makes it one of the most expensive two-year management programmes in India.



At ₹29 lakh, it will be one of the most expensive two-year management programmes in the country

ISB currently offers a 12-month postgraduate programme in management for early career professionals with over two years of experience at its campuses in Hyderabad and Mohali.

The new programme is part of ISB's periodic review of its portfolio to address market needs and business changes, dean Madan Pillutla told ET. "It is designed to be responsive to the modern business landscape, including foundational business knowledge, technology, data analytics, and experiential learning."

While MBA of any duration has seen stable interest from candidates over the past five years, in the GMAC (Graduate Management Admission Council) Prospective Students Survey Report 2024, the two-year full-time MBA returned to the top spot as prospective students' most preferred degree type. In the previous year's report, the one-year MBA was cited as the most preferred.

Explaining the rationale, Pillutla said that over the past 20 years, ISB has continuously evolved its portfolio to address India's capacity-building needs. By periodically reviewing its programmes, the business school adapts to market shifts, adding or retiring courses as necessary.

HP to restructure SCERT, DIETs for quality education, says CM

The state govt will also send meritorious students who excel in academics, sports and other fields to foreign visits so that they could gain from these visits: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 17 SEPTEMBER

To improve the functioning of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), the Himachal Pradesh government intends to re-structure both the organizations.

While presiding over a meeting of the Education Department here on Tuesday, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that this measure is intended to strengthen the quality education and training to the students across the state.

He said that the wrong policies of the previous BJP Government had led to decline in Himachal Pradesh's ranking to 21st place nationally in terms of quality education and the current state government is working meticulously to offer quality education in the government educational institutions.

He further said that surplus Mid-Day-Meal workers, result-



ing from merger of schools, would be adjusted suitably in the nearby schools and their services would not be terminated.

"The state government was revolutionizing the current education system with numerous initiatives and the merger of schools is one of the key initiatives aiming to provide quality education in the government educational institutions," said Sukhu.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has introduced foreign exposure visits to the teachers, enabling them to adopt best teaching practices, ultimately benefiting the stu-

dents. He said that the state government would also send meritorious students who excel in academics, sports and other fields to such visits, so that they could get gainful from these visits.

"The government is also making earnest efforts to improve the sports infrastructure in the educational institutions. Students from 6 to 14 years will participate in under 14-Tournaments and in under-14 tournament separate sports events will be held for students in the 6 to 11 years age group to provide an apt platform for the students of primary schools," he said. "Furthermore, to pro-

mote sports activities and support athletes, the state government has increased the diet money for the sports persons," he said, adding that the allowance has been raised from Rs 240 to Rs 400 for state level championship, Rs 300 for district level and Rs 240 for block level events. For sports persons competing outside the state, diet money has been enhanced to Rs 500," he said.

The state government has also enhanced travel facilities for the sports persons attending outside the state events, he added.

The Chief Minister said that the state government was promoting sports activities in educational institutions to ensure holistic development of the students and keep them away from drug abuse.

"Sports play an important part of life as they keep individuals mentally and physically fit. The government had already issued instructions to dedicate at least 15 minutes each day for physical exercise in all the schools," he said.

Transformation that has targeted India's youth

KRIKA PADODE BHANDARI

Like many youngsters of the time and armed with a degree from a prestigious institution, I always had a penchant to serve society and the larger cause of national development. Being in the higher education space gave me a chance to travel the length and breadth of the country, meeting students from all strata of society, and truly experience the grassroots transformation taking place in far flung corners of this country.

The changes that I witnessed and the experiences narrated by the youth I interacted with forced me to delve deeper into the phenomenon that was taking the country by storm - Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His commitment to make youth the drivers of Viksit Bharat inspired me to volunteer for his campaign and take his vision across the country to make it a people-powered movement. Through innovative measures spanning more than a decade, the Prime Minister has 'reformed' our youth, by giving them ample platforms to 'perform'. This has led to the 'transformation' of the youngest nation of the world.

From the very first speech that Prime Minister Modi delivered from the ramparts of the Red Fort after assuming charge, his intention was clear - to enable the youth. He acknowledged the contribution of youth in nation-building and proposed a two-pronged vision for the youth in the coming years - to become job creators or to be skillfully-abled to add value in the growing economy.

The real magic created by the government along with the announcement of these novel innovative schemes/policies is the holistic approach adopted which is reflective of the farsightedness of the Prime

Minister. If one were to closely analyse the various measures undertaken to empower the 'Y'outh in GYAN in the last decade, one can see a well-balanced strategy at play to create both demand and quality supply.

While on the one side, the government has increased demand by making India the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world, a global manufacturing hub through the 'Make in India' initiative, and transformed the country's digital economy through 'Digital India', on the other hand through various innovative measures like skilling, equitable access to quality education, and increased employment opportunities, it has created an effective supply chain.

'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' is now a movement synonymous with our Prime Minister. This all-inclusive approach is evident in the various measures introduced by this Government to not only enable a section of the youth but to provide specialised measures to cater to different demographics of the youth of the country. To build an effective supply there seems to be a short term as well as a long-term strategy at work.

The introduction of the National Education Policy will help revolutionise the Indian education system and strengthen the tertiary education sector of the country. In the long-term, the NEP will help create professionals who will benefit from the liberal education model and a work force with the requisite knowledge+skills+ attitude along with being nationally inclined. This long term measure is also supported by increased establishment of public institutions like IITs, IIITs, IIMs, NLU, AIIMS, PM Shri Schools etc. along with increased access to education loans for greater access to quality education.



Immediate measures have also been deployed in abundance for employment generation for the youth. To start with the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, initiated in 2015, has helped skill more than 10 million youth and has given a huge jump to vocational education in India. In fact skilling was also given centre stage in this year's Union Budget with a target of 20 lakh youth being taken for skilling over the course of the next five years.

Special schemes like the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana were introduced in 2014 to skill rural youth at the bottom of the pyramid and the PM Vishwakarma Yojana was launched to skill youth from families of Vishwakarmas.

Over the years, tremendous work has been done to improve employment and bolster short-term supply measures.

The Prime Minister launched India's largest employment platform,

National Career Services (NCS), in 2015. Currently, NCS has 3600+ career options and 53 industry sectors for the youth to find suitable employment opportunities.

The government through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) introduced in 2016 and the New Internship Policy proposed in this budget has created effective mechanisms to bridge the transition of students from universities to the professional world while financially supporting them. These measures have also helped enhance the employability of our youth.

The scale of the PM's vision lies in the fact that he is thinking beyond creating a generation of job seekers and creating a generation of job creators. Implementation of schemes like Start Up India and Stand Up India have helped create more than 13,00,000 direct jobs.

India's Gross Enrolment Ratio has climbed from 23.7 in 2014-15 to 28.4 in 2021-22, but there is still a long way to go. Nonetheless the Prime Minister has introduced the Agnipath scheme to allow the youth to serve the nation by joining the services on a short tenure basis, which has given access to employment opportunities to those who may not have availed formal higher education.

Options beyond the conventional have also been given adequate importance. These include opening up opportunities in sunrise sectors, space industry and new emerging sectors. With the strong emphasis on Khelo India and TOPs, there has been a huge difference in facilities, training and support available to budding athletes.

(The writer is a lawyer and Trustee, IFIM Institutions and Vijaybhoomi University.)

Gang planned to expand fake NEET racket: Cops

Devanshi.Mehta
@timesofindia.com

SCAM MODEL

- Scammers target NEET aspirants with low ranks or those who fail to clear entrance 
- They promise admission in top govt medical colleges for ₹30-40 lakh 
- Victims are introduced to fake agents from bogus education agencies

- Advance payment of ₹7.5 lakh is demanded
- Fake college options are provided 
- Admission is assured in third-round or mop-up rounds
- After receiving money, scammers stop answering calls, texts and disappear 

New Delhi: A day after TOI reported on police busting an alleged fake MBBS admission racket, police said they had issued notices to the alleged masterminds, asking them to join the investigation.

Their placement agency offices were raided in Lucknow and Noida, but they were missing, police said. The agency operated from a professional office space at a mall in Lucknow, where they conducted “interviews”.

According to police, the gang allegedly duped NEET aspirants on the pretext of admissions to top medical colleges for a price. The identity of the alleged masterminds, one of them a woman, came to the fore during the interrogation of a suspect, Kumar Gaurav.

During the raids, carried out by a team led by ACP Anil Samota and station house officer Sanjeev Kumar, in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, the cops uncovered a plethora of evidence regarding a sophisticated scam, including elaborate schemes such as franchising, fabricated interviews, and highly educated individuals operating from

multiple offices.

The gang used to interview NEET aspirants who had either scored low marks or failed in the entrance. They also ran a backend office in Noida, where one of the masterminds and Gaurav used to meet candidates and collected their documents such as 10+2 school marksheets, NEET registration numbers, etc.

Gaurav (35) is a civil engineer who turned to crime after being laid off from his high-paying job during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. He allegedly shifted to fraudulent activities after gaining insights into medical exams from his wife, a dentist, and relatives in the medical field.

Police said Gaurav told interrogators that the master-

minds wanted to expand their fraudulent operations by taking more space on rent in Delhi-NCR. They planned to scale up by interviewing dozens of women for roles in human resources at their Noida office to trap more desperate students.

The probe started after a 21-year-old aspirant approached police on Sept 6 regarding the racket. He said he was contacted by a woman on Aug 27, claiming she could secure his admission to a govt medical college for Rs 35 lakh. She introduced him to Gaurav, who posed as an agent and demanded Rs 7.5 lakh as advance, promising admission in the third or mop-up round. But the aspirant became suspicious and went to police.

मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय ने देश में दी दस्तक, खोला ग्लोबल सेंटर

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : दुनिया के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों में शामिल आस्ट्रेलिया के प्रसिद्ध मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय ने भी अब देश में दस्तक दे दी है। विश्वविद्यालय ने मंगलवार को नई दिल्ली में अपने पहले ग्लोबल सेंटर का शुभारंभ किया है। यह सेंटर फिलहाल जेएनयू, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय व आइआइटी सहित देश के शीर्ष शैक्षणिक-शोध संस्थानों के साथ साझा कार्यक्रम शुरू करेगा। इसका फोकस छात्रों की रुचि को ध्यान में होगा।

इस मौके पर विश्वविद्यालय के उप कुलपति प्रोफेसर माइकल वेस्ले ने ग्लोबल सेंटर की उपयोगिता गिनाने के साथ यह भी साफ किया कि यह कोई कैंपस नहीं होगा। यह केंद्र भारत के छात्रों और शैक्षणिक जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए काम



मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय ● फाइल फोटो

- नई दिल्ली में पहला केंद्र, साझा शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रमों पर फोकस
- जेएनयू, डीयू सहित दूसरे विवि के साथ मिलकर करेगा काम

करने में सहयोग देगा। यह सेंटर भारत के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ साझा कार्यक्रम शुरू करने की पहल करेगा। कोर्स के एक हिस्से की पढ़ाई भारतीय शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को करानी होगी, बाकी मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से कराई जाएगी।

DU: पिछले राउंड में सीटें जितनी भरी नहीं, उससे ज्यादा खाली हो गई

■ विशेष सवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में पिछले राउंड में एडमिशन के बजाय सीट विडडॉल के मामले ज्यादा नजर आए हैं। पिछला राउंड तीसरा राउंड था, जिसके शुरू होने से पहले DU में 74133 एडमिशन हो चुके थे। लेकिन, तीसरे राउंड के बाद का आंकड़ा बढ़ने के बजाय कम हो गया। DU में एडमिशन का आंकड़ा अब 72263 है यानी करीब दो हजार एडमिशन कैसल हुए हैं। तीसरे राउंड से पहले 9700 सीटें खाली थीं और अब भी कम से कम से कम दस हजार सीटें खाली होने की आशंका है।

DU की डीन एडमिशन प्रो हनीत गांधी का कहना है कि असल आंकड़ा अभी सामने नहीं है। हालांकि 9 हजार से ज्यादा सीटें जरूर खाली हैं। उनका कहना है कि अब तक स्टूडेंट्स को 'अपग्रेड' का ऑफ़र दिया जा रहा था, जिसके साथ वे आगे के राउंड में पसंद के कोर्स या कॉलेज के लिए पिछले राउंड में मिली सीट पर एडमिशन को कैसल कर रहे थे। इस वजह से खाली सीटों की संख्या कम नहीं हो रही



थी बल्कि एक कॉलेज से दूसरे कॉलेज शिफ्टिंग हो रही थी। मगर अब स्पॉट राउंड 1 के साथ हमने अपग्रेडेशन, विडडॉल का ऑफ़र बंद कर दिया है। हमें उम्मीद है कि इस राउंड के साथ अब खाली सीटों की संख्या कम हो जाएगी।

डीयू ने इस स्पॉट राउंड को स्पॉट राउंड 1 नाम दिया है, यानी इसके बाद भी दूसरे राउंड की जरूरत पड़ने की उम्मीद है। प्रो हनीत कहती हैं, इस राउंड के रिस्पॉन्स को देखते हुए ही हम दूसरे

74133 एडमिशन हो चुके थे तीसरे राउंड तक, अब यह आंकड़ा 72263 है

स्पॉट राउंड पर फैसला लेंगे। अगर इसी राउंड में सीटें भर गईं, तो दूसरे स्पॉट राउंड की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। DU आज यानी 10 सितंबर को खाली सीटों की लिस्ट जारी करेगा, जिसे स्टूडेंट्स अपने डैशबोर्ड में देख सकेंगे। 18 और 19 सितंबर को स्टूडेंट्स इनके लिए अप्लाई कर सकेंगे। 21 सितंबर को सीटें अलॉट की जाएंगी, जिसके आधार पर 21 से 24 सितंबर तक एडमिशन होगा। स्पॉट राउंड में कई कॉलेजों और कोर्सों में दाखिले का

मौका स्टूडेंट्स को मिलेगा। नॉर्थ कैम्पस के कॉलेज, कई कॉलेजों में कई पॉपुलर कोर्स जनरल कैटेगरी के लिए भर चुके हैं लेकिन कुछ रिजर्व्ड कैटेगरी, सुपरन्यूमेरी सीटों में अब भी कुछ सीटें खाली हैं। यूनिवर्सिटी के 68 कॉलेज में 71600 हजार सीटें हैं और सुपरन्यूमेरी सीटें मिलकर यह आंकड़ा 85 हजार पर पहुंचता है।

यूनिवर्सिटी ने पहले राउंड में 97387 सीटें अलॉट की ताकि दूसरे राउंड में अगर दूसरे कॉलेज या कोर्स की पसंद की खातिर कुछ स्टूडेंट्स सीटें छोड़ते हैं तो DU में सीटें खाली ना रहे। लेकिन, इसका यह फायदा नजर नहीं आया। 29 अगस्त से नया सेशन शुरू हो चुका है। क्लासेस शुरू हो चुकी हैं लेकिन DU का एडमिशन प्रोसेस जारी है, वो भी कई सीटों को भरने के मिशन के साथ।

कॉमन यूनिवर्सिटी एंट्रेंस टेस्ट (CUEET) का रिजल्ट लेट आने की वजह से इस बार DU का सेशन और ज्यादा लेट है। इस वजह से भी कई स्टूडेंट्स ने प्राइवेट कॉलेजों में एडमिशन ले लिया।