# EDUCATIONPIUS

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Aruna Sankaranarayanan

hat a number of excellent Liberal Arts colleges have mushroomed in different parts of the country signifies that the need for a rounded education is finally being recognised and met within India.

However, both students and parents remain diffident about career options. Unlike professional courses with reasonably predictable career trajectories, the future prospects of Liberal Arts students seem nebulous.

So I spoke to educationists at two wellknown universities on this topic and found that the field is wide open for those who opt for a liberal arts education.

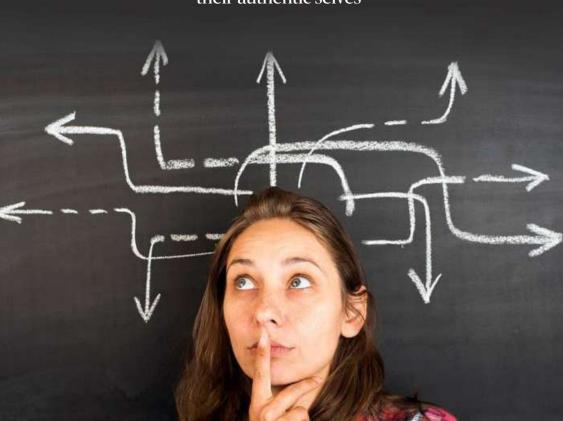
#### Breadth and depth

Rajagopal C.V., who heads outreach at Azim Premji University, avers that the flexibility and rigour of Liberal Arts programmes equip students for a range of careers. Based on students' proclivities and how they navigate their collegiate experience, students may choose different paths.

At the university, for example, all students have to take foundational courses, following a common curriculum, which furnish students with "transferable skills" like "critical thinking and analytical capabilities", while also making them discerning readers and



With Teachers' Day round the corner, educationists explain how a Liberal Arts education allows students to chart personally meaningful paths that resonates with their authentic selves



persuasive writers. Additionally, each student picks a major, in which they gain deep knowledge of a particular subject, and a minor, of their

Likewise, Nirmala Rao, Vice-Chancellor of KREA University emphasises that a Liberal Arts education equips you with both "breadth and depth". Students gain a motley of

intangible, yet invaluable, skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, reasoning, sensemaking, cross-cultural communication,

pathy and leadership that

are applicable to a range of careers.

As these skills enhance a person's productivity and creativity, they are sought after employers.

**Self-directed learning** Because Liberal Arts students are encouraged to independently, they are more likely to grow into self-directed learners. To survive, let alone thrive, in today's fast paced work environment, being able to learn and upskill yourself time again is prerequisite.

According to Rajagopal, students who major in the same subject may pick vastly different trajectories based on their interests and predilections. He cites the example of three Biology macharted three distinct paths.

One who was deeply interested in Biology pursued a doctoral programme in Integrative Biology. Another who was also interested in data analytics opted for a **Masters in Bioinformatics** and is currently working in the pharmaceutical industry.

A third with a penchant for the social sector worked in the field of Science and Language education. Thus, a Liberal Arts major allows you to craft a career path that resonates with your unique constellation of skill talents sets. interests.

Rao asserts that a Liberal Arts programme prepares you for the rigours and demands of higher education because you are trained to think analytically, creatively and laterally. The interdisciplinarity also enables you

to pursue a diverse range of careers that includes graphic design, human resources, public relations, mediation, technical writing, education, business and jobs that are yet to be envisioned. Instead of following a linear preset path, a Liberal Arts programme opens up possibilities. It is up to each student to map their own journeys.

Another unique facet is the flexibility and freedom afforded to students. As they have to pick their own majors, minors and electives from a cornucopia of offerings, students have to engage in self-reflection.

What courses do I want to pursue next semester? Which courses excited and energised me last semester? What questions do I find compelling? Do I see myself growing more curious in this field?

By introspecting and making these choices for themselves every semester, students are more likely to chalk a personally meaningful path that resonates with their authentic selves.

Rather than pick a field that is highly remunerative or prestigious from a social standpoint, Liberal Arts students have the opportunity to find and define themselves while garnering skills and knowledge leading to a fulfilling career.

The writer is the author of Zero Limits: Things Every 20-Something Should Know.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Rolls-Royce Wings4Her Scholarship for Women Engineering Students** An initiative from Rolls-Royce India.

Eligibility: Girls from India enrolled in an Engineering degree (in the first, second or third year) in an AICTE-approved institution and have scored more than 60% in their Class 10 and 12 board exams. Annual family income must not exceed ₹4 lakhs per annum.

**Rewards:** ₹35,000 plus exclusive mentorship sessions, webinars and workshops from experts at Rolls-Royce

**Application:** Online **Deadline:** September 5 www.b4s.in/edge/UNSC3

**Aspire Scholarship Programme** A CSR initiative of SWAYAM Charitable

Trust. **Eligibility:** Students joining the first-year of B.Tech. courses at specified institutions. Annual family income should not exceed ₹6 lakhs. Rewards: Scholarship based on the actual fee structure

**Application:** Online **Deadline:** September 10 www.b4s.in/edge/ASPI2

**Infosys Foundation STEM Stars Scholarship** 

An initiative by Infosys Foundation. Eligibility: Girls who are Indian citizens and in the first year of a four-year STEM course (including engineering and medicine) in NIRFaccredited institutions. Annual family income should be less than ₹8 lakhs. **Rewards:** Up to ₹1 lakh per annum. **Application:** Online Deadline: September 15

> from girls and boys. "Through this pro-

gramme, we have also

witnessed a drastic

change in the way digital literacy is per-

ceived," she says, ad-

ding that, apart from

tions like browsing the

Internet and using

emails, students have

degun to secure jobs

that require digital

skills or even manage

19-vear-old Mahek Mal-

viya from Bhopal. The

B.Com. Taxation stu-

dent enrolled in the

gramme to expand her

horizons and found a

job as a tele-caller in

HDFC Bank's credit

card department. The

course, she says,

helped enhance her

digital skills and hold

her position in the

The initiative has so

Digital

one-month

Awareness

bank.

An example of this is

existing businesses.

fundamental

www.b4s.in/edge/ISTS2

Courtesy: buddy4study.com



Nandini Raman I worked for eight months after a

**Master's in Bioprocess Engineering and joined an** interdisciplinary Ph.D. programme (in a topic out of my core domain) at a university in India but this area is not what I want to work on. I have applied for another Ph.D. abroad (in my field) and am waiting for the result. Should I politely explain my inability to continue to my current supervisors or wait till I know about the other application? I am very stressed about this, as there is no guarantee of foreign admission. Shakuntala

Dear Shakuntala,

It might help to have an open conversation with your supervisor about your interest in pursuing your Ph.D. overseas but be careful about saying anything that is premature and may jeopardise your employment. Talk about your feelings, concerns and motivations with regard to the current programme and your long-term interests, aspirations, goals, and preferences. Explain your situation and seek their understanding, support, and guidance to make an informed decision. Also evaluate the potential benefits and risks of waiting for the results before you decide to quit. Speak to a therapist if the uncertainty, stress and anxiety get the better of you.

I am doing a B.A. (Hons) in Social Science with a major in **Economics from Amritsar. I want** to prepare for the UPSC but am confused about my backup option. Is LLB a good choice or should I do a Master's in Political Science from IGNOU? Also is it better to move to Delhi or **Chandigarh for UPSC** preparation? What are my other career options? Jatinder

Dear Jatinder,

Evaluate and consider the opportunities, and pathways that align with your core interests, aspirations, goals, and personal circumstances to make an informed decision. Get help to identify your

### Reflect on your interests

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

in the civil services, law, political science, economics, business, finance, and other fields to explore and identify potential career paths and options that offer growth and fulfilment to you. Evaluate the potential benefits and advantages of pursuing an LLB. What are the benefits of pursuing a Master's in Political Science from IGNOU? Make a comparative analysis and assess the benefits, challenges, and opportunities. On the UPSC preparation, evaluate the potential benefits, challenges, and opportunities in Delhi and Chandigarh. Which city has reputed coaching institutes, study centres. libraries, communities, seminars, workshops, and other resources you will find useful. Consider living expenses, accommodation, support system, family and friends network and other relevant factors before deciding to move. Consult qualified career counsellors, advisors, mentors and professionals who can offer insights, advice, recommendations, and connections to help you.

I finished my M.Sc. **Environmental Science in 2024. I** want a government job in a related field for financial security. Are there any environment-related jobs in the private sector? Shweta

Please research government job portals and websites to look for vacancies and job notifications related to your field. Monitor the listings, the positions, eligibility criteria, application process, and deadlines, and apply for opportunities that align with your interests, qualifications, and goals. If there are entrance exams, you will need to prepare well. Consult qualified career counsellors, mentors, and professionals who can offer insights to help you explore, identify, and evaluate suitable government jobs.

For opportunities in the private sector, look for companies and

career goal. Consider your interests organisations that operate in the field of environment science, ecology, conservation, forestry, climate change, sustainability and so on. Identify potential employers and positions or projects that align with your interests and goals. Network with professionals and other relevant groups in field to gain insights. Upgrade your knowledge and skills to enhance your professional development and

> I have taken various government exams since 2021 but have not cleared any. I am 24 and have a Bachelor's in Sociology. What other options do I have? Shruti

Dear Shruti,

stay updated.

What are your interests, passion, strengths, weaknesses, skills, and personal circumstances? Consider your interests in Sociology, Social Sciences, and Humanities to consider potential career paths in research and analysis, data interpretation, communication, advocacy, education, training, human resources management, social work, community development, policy making in public service and non-profit organisations. Look at alternate career options and track job postings and notifications, on job portals and recruitment agencies. Apply to those that align with your interests, qualifications, skills, and career goals.

If you are still confused, consult a qualified career counsellor who can help you find alternative paths based on your interests. Join online groups, communities, and organisations in your field to gain insights, information, advice, recommendations and support to pursue suitable job opportunities in the private sector.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

**Archana Subramanian** archana subramanian@ thehindu.co.in

four-person team who provide hands-on training and a curated programme in digital and financial literacy, IT skills, and entrepreneurship to around 48,700 young adults and kids across villages in India: this is the Digital Bus initiative, a joint venture between the National Digital India Mission and the NI-IT Foundation. Begun in 2017, the programme aims not just to take technology to remote areas but also to foster innovation and offer new opportunities and ensure that every community was able to thrive in the digital age.

**Focus on girls** 

Explaining the reason for launching this programme, Sapna Moudgil, CEO, NIIT Foundation, points out that, despite the availability of several schemes and initiatives to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural populations, the lack of awareness of and limited access to resources posed a challenge. Additionally, the constraints placed on women and girls further widened the gap. Thus was born the Digital



Students working inside the bus. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Knowledge on wheels

A joint venture between the National Digital India Mission and the NIIT Foundation, the Digital Bus initiative has helped youngsters in rural areas stand on their own feet

Bus. These solar-powered, 5G-enabled buses are fully furnished classrooms with computers, Internet, and camera/video capabilities, preinstalled e-courses. all available free of cost. These courses focus on fundamental functions like using email, the Internet, and applications like MS

Office. "While our programme ensures improving digital literacy for all, we aim to focus on women and girls," says Moudgil. "We also deliver programmes like Financial Literacy and Cyber Security. The programmes align with the NEP 2020 and aim to provide a practihands-on approach that allows beneficiaries to develop critical thinking in reallife situations."

Career programme The Digital Bus also offers a career programme to help the beneficiary look for a job in the nearest city of town. Moudgil emphasises that the foun-

encourages egual participation

far impacted over three lakh beneficiaries, spread across several states including Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. "With 12 Digital Buses in active operation currently, we aim to add another eight in the next three months to reach out to more people," says Sapna.

### SAVE THE DATE

Admissions Registrations for the Symbiosis Law Admission Test (SLAT) 2025 conducted by Symbiosis International Deemed University (SIU) has begun. The computer-based test will

be conducted on

December 13 and 15 and

the best score from the

two will be considered.

Deadline: November 22 https://www.slattest.org/

**HSBC India invites** applications for the  $11^{\text{th}}$ edition of the India **Business Case Programme: Empowering youth.** Eligibility: All UG students in their penultimate or final year from any stream. https://tinyurl.com/

3i8se6k9

**Education New Zealand** Manapou ki te Ao (ENZ) invites students from Classes 9 to 12 to participate in a digital poster design competition on Innovating for a Sustainable Future. Deadline:October 6. https://tinyurl.com/ 3ver3k97

The University of Sheffield, the U.K. invites applications for its Engineering M.Eng. course starting in September 2025. Eligibility: Between 80% and 90% depending on the Indian board of education. IELTS score of 6.5 with minimum 6.0 in each component. https://tinyurl.com/

four-year Civil

Amazon invites applications for the **Amazon Future** 

yc84u8n8

Engineer Scholarship, which aims to support young women in India to pursue careers in

technology. Eligibility: Female

2s3duruw

students pursuing an undergraduate degree in **Computer Science** Engineering or a related field; academic excellence and leadership potential; financial need. Deadline: October 31 https://tinyurl.com/

### Soma Basu

very morning, a group of children school uniforms of different colours walk through the mohallas of Jharkand's Simdega district. What makes this different from others? The fact that the group is blowing hard on an ordinary plastic whistle. Like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, the whistle blowers are followed by their classmates as they march to their respective schools, chatting and singing,

"These are the children who are otherwise unwilling to go to school; do not enjoy attending classes; are compelled to stay back to help their parents on the farmland," says Badal Raj, the Sub-Divisional Education Officer of Simdega district. The whistle, he adds, is also a reminder to the parents that schools are open for their children and that it is important to send them there.

This is the Seeti Bajao School Bulao initiative launched in Jharkand's

Tangrain, East Singbhum district in January 2023. In 2022, a survey by the Jharkhand Education Project Council revealed declining attendance in government schools after the pandemic: less than 60% in middle and high school and 68% at primary level from an average of 80-85% in before COVID-19 across 758 state-run schools in 24 districts. Given Jharkhand's high tribal population, the State also had a high drop-out rate. According to data from 2017-18 from the United District Information System for Education, only 30 out of 100 students finished school in Jharkhand.

#### Showing the way

Following the launch in Tangrain, the campaign moved to Simdega, one of the most backward and least populated districts, in a few months. Here, it was tweaked to be called Seeti Bajao, Upasthithi Badhao and involved the students in an attempt to boost attendance in schools. The Sikariyatanr Uchch Vidyalaya, a government co-ed





# At the call of a whistle

The Seeti Bajao campaign in Jharkhand has helped bring children back to school in a state plagued by absenteeism and low attendance rates

higher secondary school with lowest attendance in the district, was chosen for the pilot project in June 2023. With the results being encouraging in the ensuing months, the State Department of School Education and Literacy decided to replicate the model across the state. Simdega had shown the way and the Seeti Bajao project was

implemented in 16 government schools, seven Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalavas and two Iharkhand Balia Awasiya Vidyalayas.

Sandra V. And Ananya Iyengar, two students who are part of Transform Rural India's (TRI) Public Policy in Action (PPIA) initiative, have been documenting the change. While Ananya holds a Mas-

ter's degree in Forensic Science from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Sandra holds a Master's in Social Work from Pondicherry University. Their work entails designing solutions to address challenges faced by the rural communities and their journey in the last 18 months in Simdega is

about making significant

impacts population.

A simple and strategic tool, the whistle has helped condition both students and parents and improved attendance rates. By appointing student representatives and leveraging a collective effort to prioritise education and foster a conducive environment, the intervention has garnered recognition for its effectiveness, they say.

"Earlier, many children would tell their parents that the school was closed," recalls Ananya. "Now the Seeti Bajao initiative curtails them from doing so."
"We have identified

house captains and class monitors to blow the whistles to motivate and mentor the children in their villages and hamlets to get ready for school," says Sandra. Each 'mentor' is required to bring at least 25 children to school and they are excited about their unusual daily task.

"Not only do they find the job fun but have also acquired leadership skills. It is also introducing punctuality and discipline among the students. The majority now show an interest in studying and there is a clamour to become the class leader now," adds Ananya.

Badal Raj says the young whistle blowers, who are selected from all age groups and classes, have

Further, there needs to be

an active effort to incorporate

been the harbingers of change in the district. The overall attendance in Simdega schools has increased to 92% in the last 15 months and is now the highest in Jharkhand. Teachers are also now motivated to tweak their teaching skills as they enjoy taking full-house classes.

He also points to another change: in 2022-23, after the Class 10 Board results were announced Simdega was in the 23rd position. This year, it moved to ninth with a pass percentage of 91%. In the Class 12 Board results in 2023-24, the district moved to third position in the Commerce stream from the earlier 16th and to first in Humanities.

Not only this but the near-zero-cost best practice has also seen students who had earlier dropped out and gone to the big cities to work as house help returning to school. "The change in attitude to education and developing a sense of responsibility and leadership is a giant leap for us," he says.

### Make it focussed

While interdisciplinary learning offers a multidimensional view, specialisation equips one to solve industry-specific challenges



Kadambari Rana

hile the topic of leadership has existed since ancient times, the more modern theories based on traits, behaviour and contingency - are equally important. Leadership is not limited to the ability to drive material progress. Today the unique set of challenges has led to the leader's character being integrated with their work and working environment. In such a situation, the youth want to tap into their inner potential, attain tools that give them an edge, have an overview of life, and become specialists. This has led to a trend towards interdisciplinary studies at the undergraduate level and specialisations at the postgrad-

Both are steps in the right direction. In interdisciplinary studies, academic pursuits go beyond traditional boundaries to include a multidimensional or a multidisciplinary view by combining two or more academic disciplines or schools of thought to understand and address an issue. A clear shift towards specialisation can be observed during the PG. This equips students to solve industry-specific challenges and gives them a competitive edge in the job market.

The Application Trends Survey conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) provides some insights. Based on responses from 900 graduate business school programmes globally, the 2023 report states that the applications to general programmes have declined and selective programmes have grown. Some popular MBA specialisations according to The Princeton Review are in International Management, Strategy, Consulting, Finance Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Operations Management, and IT and Technology. It states, "A specialised MBA can give you a more targeted Management experience and head start. Since the expertise you will acquire will be limited to one area, it is important to be sure about your professional ambitions before you commit to a specialised MBA."

To lead a long and meaningful life it is important to find your Ikigai. Drawn from Japanese, this concept translates to 'reason for being'. Finding purpose in what you do induces quality, perfection, and consistency without feeling burnt out. This approach blends work with leisure. Specialisation, with a sense of Ikigai, leaves the individual striving for more and better, to harness their unique calling in life with steadfastness and rigour.

While it is important to have an integrated understanding of the world, it is equally vital become specialist contributors towards the betterment of man-Over the years, generalisations vs. specialisations has been an area of debate. Though education journeys and careers often begin on a path of generalisations, the move should eventually be towards specialisa-

After understanding the macro dynamics of the world around them, an individual's focus needs to shift towards on micro contributions. In an increasingly global environment, one must find creative ways of living together: specialisation is one practical way to achieve that.

### Choosing your specialisation

The right approach to finding the ideal specialisation in one that overlaps with what you love doing the most, are good at, what the world needs and what you can be paid for. What you love doing is anything that blurs the boundaries between work and leisure. What you are good at is something that you have an aptitude for and is effortless and instinctive. To consider what the world needs now and in the future is also important because it is a basic human need to feel valued and make a mark in the community. Remuneration also has to be considered as your passion and hard word should translate into material wealth to empower you to live a quality life and support yourself and others.

The writer is an educator, consultant and columnist who advocates and practises principles of integral education.

### Ashwin Mishra

he legal profession in India has evolved significantly in the recent past. The COVID-19 pandemic initially exposed the limitations of legal infrastructure, especially at the lower levels of the judiciary, due to the slow adaptation of the digital revolution and highlighted the need to develop mechanisms to ensure that justice delivery is not hindered by such disadvantages in the future. This has led to a steady growth in the incorporation of technology to offer enhanced accessibility to justice in a post-pandemic India. India's growing digital net-

work and acceptance of virtual technology have presented the legal profession with an opportunity to explore the possibilities thrown up by the entry of foreign legal practitioners. In 2022, the Bar Council of India introduced its Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India. However, there is a significant lack of clarity on the logistical considerations. The promise of reciprocal treatment of Indian lawyers in foreign jurisdictions has



### Justice rewired

The transformation of the legal profession is not only redefining career opportunities but also influencing how legal education is perceived and delivered

been largely unexplored until now. In a globalised world where the relevance of hard boundaries is diminishing, Indian lawyers stand to gain access to a whole new paradigm of practice, if they seize the moment.

### Changes required

legal landscape in India needs certain systemic changes. At the most funda-

mental level, centres for legal education need to consider a more flexible approach towards their curriculum development process. While the foundational courses prescribed by the Bar Council must be imparted, the pedagogical process needs revision, with the historically dogmatic approach being replaced by a more inclusive methodology catering to a more global approach.

technology into the curriculum. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, the nature of the opportunities for employment are changing rapidly. The next generation of legal professionals needs to be prepared to integrate its understanding of law with the prevailing technology of the day. Not adapting to the evolving landscape would render a lawyer effectively incapable of competing with their peers in the job market. There is also a need to

create awareness about the various options that law graduates have in terms of careers. Gone are the days when a law student's aspirations were limited to firms, chambers, companies and the services. Today's lawyer can link any interest with law to build a career and secure gainful employment in that realm. An example is the emergence of areas such as sports law, and music and copyright law. While these existed earlier, their inclusion nals a change in the mentality with which individuals are approaching the practice of law today.

### **Upskilling**

Unlike many other sectors where the demand for specialists and generalists increases and decreases, the legal sector has always had a demand for both. The challenge then lies in identifying if one wishes to be a specialist or a generalist followed by an investment of time and effort in skill-building. This must be a continuous endeavour both during law school through internships and, after graduation, by gaining industry experience and practical knowledge.

Today's lawyers no longer can claim limitations in terms of choices. But their ability to secure gainful employment is contingent on them making the most of their opportunities. The demands that employers impose are also changing. But, a skilled and competent law graduate, imbued with a sense of purpose and willingness to adapt to and evolve with the technology and the times, will certainly be in demand today as well

## MedEd gets a makeover

By integrating innovative and modern teaching methodologies, medical colleges can prepare the doctors of tomorrow to handle the evolving demands of their profession

Dr. J.S. Bhawalkar

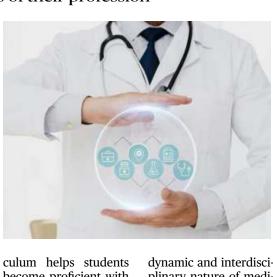
he landscape of medical education is evolving rapidly, with innovative teaching methodologies transforming how future healthcare professionals are trained. As the demand for proficient and adaptable physicians grows, medical colleges must adapt and integrate new techniques to ensure their graduates are well prepared for the challenges of modern medicine. Let's have a look at some of the most innovative teaching methodologies that are shaping the future of medical educa-

### Skill labs

Simulation-based learning is at the forefront of modern medical education. These close-to-reality scenarios allow students to practise and refine their skills in a controlled environment, bridging the gap theoretical between knowledge and realworld application. Highfidelity mannequins, virtual reality and standardised patients provide invaluable hands-on experience. By simulating everything from routine procedures to complex surgeries, students can develop critical thinkdecision-making and procedural skills without the risk of harming actual patients. This approach not only builds confidence but also ensures that graduates are better prepared for the demands of clinical practice. Skill labs, furnished with state-of-the-art simulation technology and virtual patient scenarios help students build their confidence in procedures before undertaking clinical and surgical skills on real patients.

### **Robotic surgery**

Medical students and residents now have the opportunity to learn using advanced robotic systems that offer unparalleled precision and control and allow trainees to practice complex surgical procedures with a level of accuracy that is difficult to achieve with traditional methods. Moreover, the integration of robotic surgery into the medical curri-



become proficient with the technology they will encounter in their professional careers.

#### **Problem-Based** Learning

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is a studentcentred approach that encourages active learning through the exploration of real-life medical cases. Students work in small groups to solve complex clinical problems, fostering collaboration, critical thinking and self-directed learning. This method shifts the focus from passive absorption of information to active problem-

solving, mirroring the

plinary nature of medical practice.

#### Interprofessional **Education**

Interprofessional Education (IPE) is another innovative approach gaining traction. It involves learning alongside students from other healthcare disciplines, such as nursing, pharmacy and physical therapy. This collaborative approach helps future doctors appreciate the roles and expertise of their colleagues, promoting a team-based approach to patient care. By understanding the perspectives and contri-

butions of other health-

students can improve communication, coordination and, ultimately, patient outcomes.

care professionals, med-

### E-Resources E-resources are trans-

forming medical education by enriching the learning experience for students, irrespective of their physical location. They feature a diverse array of digital materials ranging from virtual textbooks to interactive modules and multimedia lectures and provide engaging and immersive learning opportunities that complement traditional lectures and textbooks, offering a more flexible and personalised educational

experience. By embracing these innovative approaches, medical colleges can ensure their graduates are not only knowledgeable but also skilled, adaptable, and ready to provide the highest standard of patient care. It is not just about keeping pace with technological advancements, about enhancing the quality of healthcare by training professionals who are well-equipped to handle the evolving demands profession.

The writer is Dean, Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital and

### ON THE SHELF

#### ■ The Cleopatras: The **Forgotten Queens of** Egypt

A woman immortalized by

the story of how she captivated Julius Caesar and Marc Antony and died in a blaze of glory, with an asp clasped to her breast ... or so the legend tells us. But the real-life story of the historical Cleopatra VII is even more compelling. She was the last of seven Cleopatras who ruled Egypt before it was subsumed into the Roman Empire. The seven Cleopatras were the powerhouses of the Ptolemaic Dynasty, whose ruthless, single-minded, focus on dominance resulted in extraordinary acts of betrayal, violence, and murder in the most malfunctional dynasty in history. Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones offers fresh ainsight into the real story of the Cleopatras, and the tragic legend of the last queen of Egypt. **Author:** Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones **Publisher:** Hachette

Price: ₹999