

Lissy Koshi

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has launched an Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), a flagship programme under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This four-year dual-major undergraduate degree offers B.A. B.Ed./ B. Sc. B. Ed. and B.Com. B.Ed. to prepare teachers for the four stages of the new school structure: Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary (5+3+3+4). Admissions will be made through a National Common Entrance Test (NCET), conducted by the National Testing Agency. The test will comprise four sections: Languages, Domain-specific subjects, a General Test and Teaching Aptitude. The programme is already in pilot mode from the last academic session in 42 central and state universities across the country.

The ITEP is in line with the NEP 2020 and the NCTE curriculum and syllabus resonates this. Students who have passed school with a 10+2 or an equivalent stage (pre-un-

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# Teacher as learner

While the Integrated Teacher Education Programme has certain benefits, there are issues to be addressed



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iversity, intermediate and so on) with a minimum aggregate of 50% from a recognised board of education can take the NCET. On completion of the ITEP, they will be awarded a dual degree – one in education and one in their specialised subject – after four years.

**Challenges**  
The ITEP provides hands-on experience through

classroom activities, field placements and internships. The ongoing pilot study allows real learning and further modifications and improvements. However there are some inherent systemic issues related to management, administration and implementation. The stringent rules and regulations framed by the NCTE will result in the closure of many teacher education institutions,

which will be a serious setback for the management, staff and students. In remote areas of the country, this will lead to limiting opportunities and access to education.

Another issue is the fee structure. In the institutes that have already implemented the programme, the fee is at least ₹5,00,000, which makes it difficult for students from economically challenged

sections. All this is contrary to the concept of equity and inclusion.

Capacity building measures will be required to foster a smooth interplay of the various ecosystems to implement the policy objectives. The NCTE's curriculum framework suggests that each semester will consist of 15-16 weeks (40 hours per week), totalling a minimum of 96 working days, excluding end-

semester exams. On the contrary, Clause 2.2 of the gazette notification states that each semester will be comprise 25 weeks of a five-day working week or 20 weeks of six-day working week (125 days). However, the UGC suggests 90 working days for a semester. This mismatch will need to be sorted out because Teacher Education colleges have to abide by the rules of both bodies whereas Arts and Science colleges have to follow only the UGC guidelines. This will lead to a disparity in the functioning of Teacher Education institutes and other multidisciplinary colleges functioning under the same university.

Yet another problem is the calculation and working of the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), which lacks clarity. If a student drops out of the ITEP in the first, second or the third year, his/her eligibility for further placements is not clear.

Such a revamp must be substantiated with extensive research on different perspectives of the one-year and two-year B.Ed. programmes, and the four-year ITEP being offered by NCERT's Regional Institutes of Education for many years.

Hopefully, the pilot study will result in feasible systemic alterations rendering sustainability, equity and accessibility to all aspirants.

The writer is an M.Ed. faculty in St. John The Baptist's College of Education, Nemkumnam, Kottayam, Kerala.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### TOEFL India Championship

An initiative from ETS India Private Limited.  
**Eligibility:** Students in the third or fourth year of undergraduate studies at an accredited Indian institution or those who have completed their degree in India and are seeking higher education abroad.  
**Rewards:** ₹15 lakhs totally  
**Application:** Online  
**Deadline:** May 15  
www.b4s.in/edge/TOIC1

### Life's Good Scholarship Programme (Phase 1)

An initiative from LG Electronics India.  
**Eligibility:** Those in any year of UG/ PG courses from select institutes across India; first-year students must have scored 60% minimum in Class 12 while those in second, third, or fourth years must have 60%

minimum in the previous academic year. Preference will be given to meritorious students, female students, and those with an annual family income of not more than ₹8 lakhs.

**Rewards:** Up to ₹100,000 for one year  
**Application:** Online  
**Deadline:** May 23  
www.b4s.in/edge/LGIGSI

### Omron Healthcare Scholarship

An initiative from OMRON Healthcare India.  
**Eligibility:** Girls from Classes 9 to 12, at any school in India who have received a minimum of 75% in the previous academic year. Annual family income should be less than ₹ 8 lakhs.

**Rewards:** ₹ 20,000 (one time)  
**Application:** Online  
**Deadline:** May 31  
www.b4s.in/edge/OMHSI

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

## Flying high

Boeing announced the winners of the ninth annual Boeing National Aeromodelling Competition. The first prize went to Meghraj M., Sathvik Poojary, and Sanjana S. from Nitte Mahalinga Adyanthaya Memorial Institute of Technology, Karkala, Udupi. Ranjith Bhandary, Gagandeep Kayara and Shreyas

from IIT-Bombay came second. Shishir D., Samruddha S. Aithal, Nishanth Prabhu and Pratheeksha Nayak from IIT Kanpur and N.S.K. Abhiram, Aneesh Prabhu, Nidheesh and Shainil S Shetty from IIT Kharagpur tied for third place.

This year saw participation from 2,350 students from 855 institutions and the finale held in Bengaluru had 44 finalists from 13 teams.

# Be consistent and persistent

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



OFF THE EDGE  
Nandini Raman

I completed B.Tech. Civil Engineering, and M.Tech. Environmental Engineering but worked in a different field because I liked the profile. Now, I want to work in environment but am not getting a role because I lack experience and am not a fresh graduate. What should I do? Hema

Dear Hema,  
Transitioning to a new career field takes time. So, stay persistent and patient and pursue opportunities that align with your aspirations and interests. Refine your skills, network and apply for relevant positions in the field of environment. Emphasise and highlight the transferable skills from your current job and educational background that are relevant to the new role in your resume. Voice your willingness to learn, adapt, and contribute to environmental initiatives. Identify gaps in your expertise and bridge those by taking additional certifications and courses. Network with professionals in the sector through events, LinkedIn, professional associations, and alumni networks to seek advice, mentorship, and potential job leads. Gain practical experience through volunteer work, internships, or short-term projects with environmental organisations, non-profits, research institutions, government agencies, or consulting firms. Stay updated with the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in the environmental engineering

field through conferences, workshops, webinars, and seminars.

**I am a civil servant aspirant and have seen many failures since my college days. I am working hard but feel like giving up due to my past failures. How can I overcome this? Prajakta**

Dear Prajakta,  
Success in this exam requires perseverance, resilience, and a positive mindset. Don't let your failures unnerve you or ruin your motivation. Instead, learn from them and stay focused and, maintain a healthy balance in your life. A vision board to visualise your success will help create a clear mental image of your goal and reinforce your confidence and belief in your abilities. Looking at it physically will also help you stay committed.. Set realistic and SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound) goals. Celebrate small wins. On days when you feel dejected and discouraged, take a break and come back rejuvenated. Consistency and persistence is key! Take care of your physical, mental, emotional and psychological well-being during this time.. Create an exercise schedule that invigorates you and a hobby that gives you joy, get 6-7 hours of restful sleep and identify a support system you can reach out to. Learn the reasons for your setbacks, develop proactive strategies to address them and enhance your preparation and performance.

**I am a third-year Engineering student and am not enjoying my studies. I am considering an MBA after graduating.**

**Do I need work experience? How can I navigate this career transition? Abhigyan**

Dear Abhigyan,  
First, research about the various MBA programmes, the schools, the curriculum, and areas of specialisation that interest you. Look for a course that aligns with your career goals and interests. Learn more about the faculty, alumni network and placement opportunities and check which institutions accept students without prior work experience.

To enter an MBA programmes, you need a valid score in either the CAT, MAT or GMAT. Start preparing by collecting relevant study material, joining coaching classes (if needed) and aim to get a good score to gain a competitive edge.

Then, work on your CV. Highlight your achievements, leadership skills, extracurricular activities, internships and any other relevant competencies or certifications that set you apart from other candidates. Draft a statement of purpose (SOP) on why you would like to do an MBA now and how studying at a particular school align with your larger purpose. Good Letters of Recommendation from professors and mentors will also be very helpful.

Connect with other MBA students in your industry to learn about the application process and career opportunities after the course.

Education fairs will also provide all this information and allow you to network and meet experts from different B-Schools under one roof.

**I am in the third year of BHMS, but I feel this doesn't work and am more interested in scientific**

treatments. But I cannot do an MBBS because of NEET. Is there any other way to learn about allopathy? Name withheld on request

According to the rules and regulations of the Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH), BHMS graduates cannot practice any other system of medicine. To become an allopathic doctor, you need to complete a Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from a recognised medical school, followed by residency training. Many countries offer bridge programmes or accelerated pathways for healthcare professionals trained in alternative medicine to transition into allopathic medicine with additional training and examinations to qualify as a medical doctor.

Thoroughly research the requirements, accreditation, licensure regulations, and career prospects first. You could do a Master's in Physician Assistant (PA), which typically requires a Bachelor's degree and specific prerequisite coursework, but not necessarily a background in allopathic medicine. Upon completion and passing the licensure examination, you can work in various medical specialties alongside physicians.

Another alternative is to pursue a Master's in Nursing, with a focus on becoming a Nurse Practitioner (NP), who is an advanced practice registered nurse trained to assess, diagnose, and manage patients' healthcare needs, including prescribing medications and treatments. The programme requires a Bachelor's degree in nursing or a related field.

**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

# Beyond the numbers

Look beyond the prestigious name and rank when choosing a college, especially if you are planning to study abroad

Aman Singh

Akaash, an IIT graduate, got admission in an Ivy League university in the U.S. and also landed a high-paying job in New York. But, when his company began downsizing, he lost his job and was saddled with a \$250,000 loan. Eventually, he moved back to India and found another job, but had to repay dollar loans with rupee earnings.

There is a lesson in this story. Choosing a top college in the hopes of getting a lucrative job could land one in a debt trap. Students must understand that rankings is just one of the many factors in choosing a college.

## Understand context

To get a good return on investment (ROI) from one's education, it is important to understand one's context, especially if the student is considering taking a loan to study abroad. The idea of studying "whatever you love" could also land

one in dissatisfying professional contexts, financially penalising careers and personally debilitating situations.

For instance, if you are a single child of ailing parents or have a mental health issue, you may want a more supportive and less cut-throat environment. In a rapidly changing world, employers are no longer keen to pay for pedigree and credentials. They value relevant skills.

Over the last five decades, education has become a product where colleges are brands and students are consumers. While you can change your brand of clothing, you cannot change your degree, reason enough to think rationally and be driven by sound economic principles.

## Ranking systems

The first ranking systems were based on the number of prominent leaders an institution produced. Today, there are many factors that



go into ranking including international students, faculty compensation, institutional income, spending per student, graduation rates, graduate indebtedness, alumni giving. There's a direct correlation with university's wealth and that of its students. It's a mechanism by which older private universities endowed with more money stay on the top reinforcing the status quo. Hardly any ranking covers ROI, as they are often designed to favour the entrenched or vested players. Last year, Yale Law School, decided to withdraw from the U.S. News and World Report Ranking, even though it had consistently been on top. Thirteen other schools followed suit. This shows that not all is well with rankings.

There is another aspect

to understanding one's context: examining future plans. Take the example of Dr. Amita. Despite getting a perfect GRE score and admission to the best ranked university in Public Health, she opted for a programme which was ranked lower but offered 100% fee waiver and allowed her to pursue her interest in Information Technology. Another aspect that influenced her decision was her humble family background and the fact that she had different interests. This helped her avoid a debt trap later.

Thus, choosing a college based on thorough research and personal goals will give real returns. So, let your education be an informed investment and not just a prestigious name on paper.

The writer is co-founder of GradRight

## SAVE THE DATE

### Admissions

**Indian School of Hospitality,** Gurugram, has opened admissions for its four-year B.A. (Hons) Culinary Arts Programme. Students enrolling in this programme have the option of pursuing their fourth academic year at École Ducasse, Paris.  
**Eligibility:** Students from Indian boards of education must have 50% minimum in

Class 12 with English as a subject. IB Diploma students are eligible. For IGCSE students, A level with minimum five subjects in A, B, C grades with English at O level and 2/3 subjects at A level.

**Deadline:** May 31  
https://rb.gy/bjch9f

**Lovely Professional University** has opened admissions for its MBA and Integrated MBA Programmes.  
**Eligibility:** 55% aggregate in Bachelor's degree (any

discipline) and valid score in CAT, MAT, NMAT or CMAT or LPUNEST.  
https://rb.gy/08nkrm

**Institute of Bakery and Culinary Arts (IBCA)** opens admissions for its courses in Culinary Arts and Pastry Arts varying from 18 months to three months.

**Eligibility:** Must have passed or be appearing for the Class 12 board exam from a recognised board  
**Deadline:** May 31  
https://rb.gy/gb5k5o

**JS Institute of Design (JSID)** has opened admissions for its UG and PG programmes in Game Design, UI/UX, and Digital Design, in collaboration with École Intuit Lab. Applicants have to take a creative intelligence test and an interview.

**Eligibility:** For UG programmes, Class 12 or equivalent passed. For PG programmes, a UG degree from any field.  
**Deadline:** May 15  
https://rb.gy/zkyosu

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