DU HOSTS WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONG OCT.14-20

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

The Delhi University is hosting the 19th International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) World Anthropology Congress 2023 in India from October 14 to October 20. The World Anthropology Congress is being held in the country after 45 years. While addressing the inauguration ceremony held on Sunday here, varsity vice-chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh emphasised the significance of anthropology not just as a field of study but also in terms of its relevance to life in general. Professor Junji Koizumi, the president of IUAES mentioned that the first congress was held in London in 1934 and subsequently in various regions worldwide including Asia, with India hosting the event in 1978 led by professor L.P. Vidyarthi. Professor Soumendra M. Patnaik, the conference chair and the head of the department of anthropology at DU, said that the event is being held on the campus itself, showcasing the institution's advanced infrastructure and the capability to host a conference of this magnitude. According to a release by the university, the event promises to be a week of intense intellectual exchange fostering global connections and the pursuit of knowledge in the field of anthropology. It features an extensive roster of events, with 165 technical sessions, 10 plenary sessions, 160 panels, 15 round tables, 10 workshops, screening of 16 ethnographic films.

IIM-Mumbai fee at Rs 21 lakh, highest in new-gen institutes

PALLAVI SMART
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 16

THE NEWEST Indian Institute of Management (IIM) of India – IIM Mumbai that received its IIM status only in August this year, has fixed its fee-structure at Rs 21 lakh for two-year courses commencing from the academic year 2024-25. The fee-structure is only less than IIMs Ahmedabad (31.5), Calcutta (31) and Bangalore (24.5); whereas among the highest in new generation IIMs.

Earlier this year, the city's National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) was given the status of IIM, following approval to the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill 2023. After having acquired the new title of IIM Mumbai, the institute held its first board meeting on Monday which included fixing of the fee-structure among other details, as the institute plans to admit students for the new MBA courses from the upcoming academic year.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Board of Governors, Shashi Kiran Shetty, other Board Members and Director of IIM Mumbai, Prof. Manoj Kumar Tiwari. The IIM Mumbai will offer three courses – MBA (general), MBA in Sustainability and Management and MBA in Operations and Supply chain Management. The fee-structure will be the same for all three and admission will be via Common Admission Test (CAT), as per other IIMs.

While students coming from all backgrounds will be eligible to take admission to the first two courses, for MBA in operations and Management, candidates are required to have engineering degree. Students coming from statistics and mathematics backgrounds too will be considered for the course, as per the changes in the eligibility criteria implemented last year.

A senior official from the IIM Mumbai, said, "Apart from fee-structure for the courses the board meeting also finalised on syllabus and curriculum along with infrastructural development plan. The infrastructure augmentation will be a phase-wise project focusing on different areas of the campus and requirements. Apart from setting-up of classrooms, hostels and staff-quarters, it will also include the formation of research centres, fintech study models among all."

In August this year, NITIE was officially named as IIM Mumbai and became the 21st IIM of India.

TO COVER 11 MILLION SCHOOL STUDENTS

First State Education Achievement Survey to be conducted on Nov 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The first State Education Achievement Survey will be conducted on November 3 by the national assessment regulator PARAKH and will cover 11 million students across the country, according to officials.

The survey aimed at identifying areas requiring improvement in learning

will be held across states, targeting school students up to the block level. It will be a precursor to the Education Ministry's annual National Achievement Survey (NAS), which is conducted at the district level.

Officials familiar with the development said that it will be the first survey conducted by

FILE PHOTO

the Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), an organisation under the NCERT.

It is tasked with bringing the school boards across the states and the Union territories on a common platform.

Scheduled for November 3, SEAS (State Education Achievement Survey) 2023 has been designed to enhance the

learning standards for students in Classes 3, 6 and 9. Operating at the block level, this survey encompasses a comprehensive range of competencies, spanning the foundational, preparatory, and middle stages of education.

"At the heart of this endeavour is the belief that every child deserves a well-rounded education. Our competency-based assessment system aims to

Highlights

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» Tasked to bring the school boards across the states and the Union territories on a common platform

» SEAS 2023 has been designed to enhance the learning standards for students in Classes 3, 6 and 9

assess not just what students know but also how well they can apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios," head and CEO of PARAKH Indrani Bha-

duri said.

The ETS, which conducts key tests such as TOEFL and GRE, was chosen by the National Council for Education Research (NCERT) for setting up the regulatory platform.

Sachin Jain, country manager of ETS India and South Asia, said, "By joining forces with the NCERT, we are committed to fortifying the assessment process, ensuring its robustness, and elevating the quality of large-scale surveys in the educational sector."

A reform outlined in the new National Education Policy (NEP), PARAKH will set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove disparities in scores of students enrolled with different state boards.

IIT-M researchers develop solar-thermal steam based medical equipment steriliser

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed a solar-thermal steam-based system that can help sterilise medical equipment in remote and rural areas, where access to electricity and water could be an issue.

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology, the project uses portable steam cylinders charged by renewable energy-based stations (like solar energy) that are placed strategically in rural areas for power generation, steam generation and other uses. The team also designed special sterilisation chambers to utilise such portably stored steam and effectively sterilise the tools.

A portable steam storage canister can be a great contribution by facilitating minor medical interventions in the developing world by sterilising surgical instruments and combating infections in rural areas, said Prof. Sathyan Subbiah, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, in a statement.

The portable canister is developed with multi-layer insulation, which can retain useful heat of steam, generated via solar plants for longer duration thus making it a viable option to sterilise equipment in remote areas.

The steam that is produced in the solar plant or any other means can be stored in the portable canister which can be transported to remote locations to carry out the sterilisation activities, he added.

Safe sterilisation of surgical instruments and other medical tools are important aspects in the health care sector.

It involves cleaning and disinfecting the previously-used contaminated surgical tools before subsequent use. Steam sterilisation is one of the best disinfecting methods.

IIT (BHU) organises campus dialogue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An engaging 'Campus Dialogue' with Students' was organised by the Research Cell of IT (BHU) on Monday with Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri Prof Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bangalore. The talk was titled 'Reflections on Science in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic'.

He spoke about the history of science and how we advanced from primal beings to using microscopes and telescopes to understand different worlds. He reiterated and explained Dr Richard Feynmann's atomic hypothesis that in the event of a cataclysm where all knowledge were to be destroyed, humans should start their research with the fact that 'all things are made of matter'. The evolution of the pandemic was also talked about where he stressed on the importance of biotechnology in today's world. He considered the research on cells as the greatest feat of biological engineering and also that biology unifies all sectors of science. During his talk, Prof Balaram also discussed the interdisciplinary nature of science and the contributions of various scientists like Erwin Schrödinger, Richard Feynman, Lynn Sagan and many more.

The session was organised in the Annie Besant Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of

Padma Bhushan Prof P Balaram at 'campus dialogue with students' programme at IIT (BHU) in Varanasi on Monday.

300, brimming with students, research scholars, PhD applicants and professors. The audience was so pumped up that many students and the faculty stayed back even after the session ended and kept discussing the realms of science with Prof Balaram who kept answering their questions with utmost energy and excitement.

The programme began with a warm welcome of Prof P Balaram by the Dean (Research & Development), IIT (BHU), Prof Vikash Kumar Dubey and the Head of the Biomedical Engineering Department, IIT (BHU) Prof Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, with bouquet and shawl. The event proceeded with Prof Balaram's excellent and informative talk
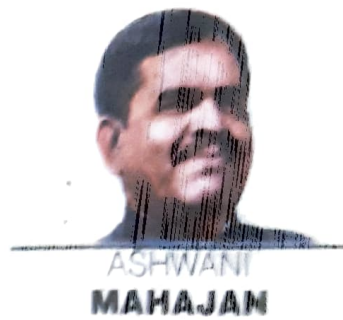
on advancing science and research post-pandemic. Afterwards, the curious audience and the speaker had an engaging question and answer session. The questions were interesting, and the answers were vividly descriptive and inspiring.

Post the question-answer session, the eminent scholar was given a memento as a token of respect and appreciation. Assistant professor Aditya Kumar Padhi from the School of Biochemical Engineering concluded the talk with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the guest. The session was hosted by Muskan Gupta, Sophomitra head of the Research Cell, IIT (BHU) and third-year undergraduate student of the

Chemical Engineering department. Deans, senior faculty members, and a staggering strength of over 300 students brimming with curiosity and passion attended the talk.

A renowned scientist and a prolific author, Professor Balaram boasts an impressive career with nearly 1,000 publications and 25,000 citations spanning over five decades. After completing his postdoctoral training at Harvard under the Nobel Laureate Robert Burns Woodward at just 24, he later served as the Director of IISc, Bangalore, for over 10 years. Prof Balaram's legacy shines brightly, symbolising unparalleled dedication and scholarly brilliance in the scientific community.
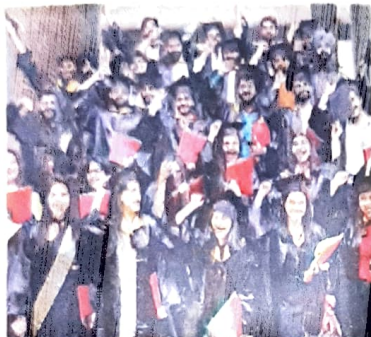
Is it worth going to study in a foreign university?

ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Most students fall for the smart marketing tactics and the lure of getting good employment overseas, realising little that the jobs are scarce there

For the past few years, the craze for people from India to go abroad to gain admission to foreign colleges and settle there has been on the increase. According to the government, between 2016 and 2021, 26.44 lakh Indian students went abroad to study. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) estimates show that in the year 2020, 4.5 lakh Indian students went abroad for education and they spent $ 13.5 billion in this process. In the year 2022, this expenditure was 24 billion dollars that is, about 2 lakh crore rupees. According to the report of Redseer Strategy Consultant, by 2024 this expenditure may reach US$ 80 billion, that is, 7 lakh crore rupees, when an estimated 20 lakh Indian students will go abroad to study. If we make a state-wise analysis, till the year 2021, among the students going to study abroad, 12 per cent were from Punjab and Andhra Pradesh each; and 8 per cent were from Gujarat. If seen in proportion to the total number of youth, then 7 out of every thousand youth from Punjab, 4 out of every thousand youth from Andhra Pradesh and at least 2 out of every thousand youth from Gujarat are going to study abroad every year. If we take the cumulative numbers from 2016 to 2022, the situation looks quite alarming. This number is 50 per thousand in Punjab, 30 per thousand in Andhra Pradesh and 14 per thousand in Gujarat. The exponential increase in the number of students going abroad to study is a matter of concern for many reasons. The biggest concern is that these youth are migrating to foreign countries in search of education and employment and this migration is causing a shortage of labour for the economic activities in the country. There has been huge progress in the field of education in the country. If we look at the admission of students in higher education, then in 1990-91, only 49.2 lakh students took admission in higher educational institutions; but this number reached 414 lakh in the year 2020-21. Broadly speaking, the number of students taking admission to higher education has increased more than 10 times in the last 30 years. If we talk about higher education institutions, we see that in the year 2021, there were 1113 universities and equivalent institutions, 43796 colleges and 11296 standalone educational institutions in the country. As far as the fee for admission into educational institutions is concerned, in most of the Indian educational institutions it's much lower than the fees in foreign institutions and most of the foreign institutions in which Indian youth are taking admission are of very low standard. So, the question arises why do Indian youth spend huge amounts of money and get admission to foreign educational institutions? The simple answer is that most of the students who go abroad to pursue higher education, actually don't go to get a higher degree. The real intent of Indian students going to other countries including Australia, Canada, and European countries including the United Kingdom, is not too keen to get an education. Their real objective is to get employment there. But Indian youth fail to realise that there is a huge shortage of employment in these countries also. In many countries, incidents of violence by local people, against Indians and youth coming from other countries, generally from South Asia, are also being witnessed. Most of the young students leaving the country fail to get employment there and have to return home, due to which they are also facing frustration.

The students are not able to realise that today in Canada, Australia and European countries, where they are taking admission to educational institutions, those educational institutions are giving easy admission to Indian students in their institutions, for profit.

(The writer is a professor, at PGDAV college, University of Delhi, views are personal)

Developing argumentative skills with Moot Courts

In a bid to improve the argumentative skills of budding lawyers, law colleges and schools across India are choosing 'Moot Court' competitions

KUMAR **CHELLAPPAN**

(The writer is a special correspondent at The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

The syllabus of the law universities features 'Moot Court' as a compulsory topic, the marks scored in it playing a crucial role in determining the grade with which the students pass out of the LLB degree examination. Persons outside the legal fraternity or law colleges may stare back when they are asked about Moot Court. "Though Moot Courts are as important and interesting as Mathematics Olympiad, they are yet to get the public recognition. For those interested in legal affairs, this is an event equal in status to the Mathematics Olympiad," said Prof V R Jayadevan, principal, of Government Law College, Thrissur, who successfully conducted an all-India Moot Court event in his college in the last week of September. Though planned as a low-profile event the Thrissur Moot Court Competition drew 36 teams from all over India. The winners walked away with the Justice T Ramachandran Memorial Trophy. The event saw intense competition as participating undergraduates switched over from one section of the law to another section with elan and poise.

If you ask a person without a legal background what moot court is about, chances are that you will get a grumpy look. No one can blame him/her because persons without knowledge of legal education are not at all familiar with the term. Moot Courts are simulated lessons held in law schools to make budding lawyers ready to face real-life battles in courtrooms. It is an intellectual bout conceived to test the prowess of law students in their academic pursuits.

The organisers take out subjects of national and international events, put them as a legal issue and ask the students to argue for and against the topic. Classrooms in law schools are converted into real-life courtrooms with all resplendent ambience. These bouts turn out future Jethmalanis, Servais, Narimans and Sorabjees!

Those familiar with the nuances of law and legal codes are sure to take a liking to the event. "I always feel that Moot Courts resemble Kathakali, a pantomime of Kerala, which could be enjoyed only by the connoisseurs of art. For those who are uninitiated about Kathakali, watching it is a futile exercise. There is a saying in Malayalam that watching the art form without knowing the story is a waste of time," said Parvathi Sreejith Valliathan, Assistant Professor, SRM Law School, Chennai. The Thrissur event was the 12th edition of the annual Moot Court competition held by the College. "This year we selected a topic right out of a real-life event. Dharmanchal, a State in the Union of India, enacted Dharmanchal Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 2001. The preamble of the Act states that it was expedient to constitute a fund for investment in infrastructure projects in the State. The Act was similar to the provisions of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 1999," explained Prof Sonia K Das, the livewire of the event.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India took strong objections to the way the KIIFB was functioning and the availing of loans beyond the repaying capacity of the State. The Articles concerning the federal structure and the freedom of the States were used as weapons by the participants in simulated courtrooms which were presided over by judges who needled the counsels appearing for the petitioners and respondents with questions that went deep into the subject. The expressions on the faces of the audience spoke a lot. They too were taken to t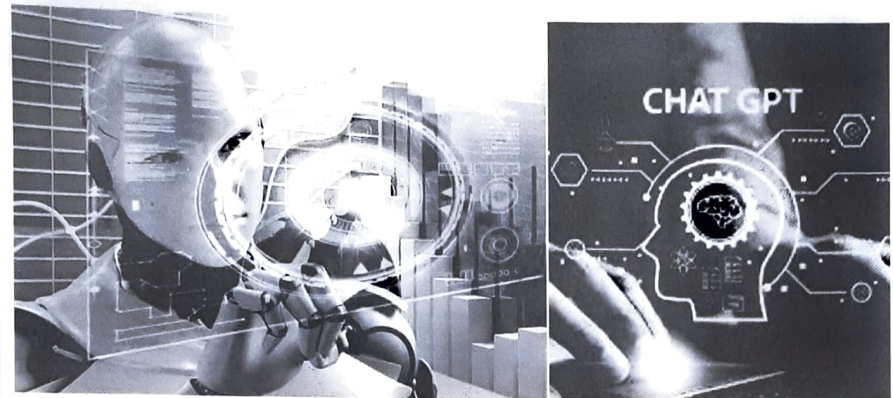he hitherto undebated issues in the Indian Constitution. "Our intention is to tone up the skills of advocacy," said Prof Jayadevan. The competition witnessed high-pitch arguments and counter-arguments. "Besides arguments, Moot Courts are the path for law students to have practical knowledge in drafting, pleading and conveyancing. The Moot Courts will intellectually stimulate students to develop skills that will be of great importance in future The participants (addressed as Mooters) should possess sharp analytical skills to dissect complex legal issues, identify key arguments and develop logical frameworks," said Parvathy Kumar, who has more than a dozen Moot Court events to her credit.

Moot Court also have a number of participants performing various tasks like researching and drafting which are put to the Court for approval/consideration. The participants are hopeful that one day they will be able to compete in the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court hosted in Washington DC. Considering the fact that there is no empowered body to ask the global community of nations to follow the diktat of the International Court of Justice, it is for the Gen Next to come up with ideas and solutions that make the States obey the orders issued by it. The progress made in science and technology has brought together warring nations of Europe is a hopeful signature. Let the Moot Courts flourish in India.

The AI Wars

The obvious danger being overlooked is that self-learning AI systems might turn hostile to the human species and threaten our existence or make humans redundant. With some of the world's largest corporations, Google, Microsoft and Tesla trying to win the AI race it is only a question of time before robots, having almost human intelligence, come into existence. Unfortunately, these humanoids will not have our morals, discretion or aesthetics, and the tale of Frankenstein's monster that killed its creator, could well come true in our lifetime.

This April, more than 9,000 Hollywood screen-writers, meeting under the banner of the Writers Guild of America, authorised a strike with ninety-eight percent of the vote. One of the major issues in dispute was the demand of screenwriters that Artificial Intelligence (AI) be used only for the purpose of research or ideation, and not as a means to replace them. The strike which started on 2 May ended only on 27 September i.e., after 148 days, with the acceptance of the strikers' aforesaid demand.

This instance is proof of the power of AI-powered language models which entered the public domain late last year; the most popular AI-powered language model, Chat GPT, amassed one hundred million users within two months of its release, and had one billion visitors in the first four months of its existence. The popularity of Chat GPT can be easily understood; it is free, easily accessible, capable of self-supervised learning on large data sets, that enables it to write essays, search answers to questions, create computer applications, write computer code, build a resume, write Excel formula, summarize content, write cover letters etc.

Such enormous capabilities of AI-powered language models have led to concerns ranging from intrusion in the privacy of netizens, providing misleading answers that appear to be correct, but mainly for its potential of replacing humans in hundreds of millions of jobs. Such fears have led to a number of educational and other institutions banning Chat GPT, and similar Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chatbots.

Already experts are predicting that AI Chatbots could be the nemesis of analytical and writing skills just as pocket calculators (later mobile phones) killed arithmetical ability in children. More dangerously, AI chatbots could disincentivise learning. Which student would willingly spend hours reading bulky tomes or trawling the internet to identify relevant content, another few hours in summarising the content, some more hours in writing a worthwhile essay or paper, when all these tasks could be accomplished in less than a minute by giving some simple commands to Chat GPT?

Even highly specialised business reports, that would readily pass muster with higher-ups can be generated by Chat GPT in seconds. No wonder, there is a move to ban AI chatbots in renowned academic institutions. According to the Cambridge University Rule Book: "Content produced by AI platforms, such as Chat GPT, does not represent the student's own original work so would be considered a form of academic misconduct to be dealt with under the University's disciplinary procedures."

Associated Press which describes itself as 'independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting' recently trained AI software to automatically write short news stories. This initiative produced twelve times more stories and also freed reporters to write more in-depth pieces. Newsquest, one of the biggest publishers of regional newspapers in England is recruiting an "AI-powered reporter" who would use artificial intelligence to "create national, local, and hyper-local content." A company called Real Fast Reports, with at least a thousand subscribers, uses AI to create end of the year reports for students, at £10 a year. Teachers have only to provide some basic details of the pupil, and Real Fast Reports compiles the report, in seconds, in perfect prose.

On the downside, the rise and rise of AI, which has opened up such immense possibilities for the human race, poses an existential threat for the human race because hypothetically, artificial-intelligence systems might in due course, replace human intelligence, and develop their own goals and intentions, making humans irrelevant or even extinct. This is not a doomsday prediction but a real possibility, which should worry governments the world over.

Exactly a year ago, US White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released a "Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights" which begins by highlighting the dangers of AI: "Among the great challenges posed to democracy today is the use of technology, data, and automated systems in ways that threaten the rights of the American public. Too often, these tools are used to limit our opportunities and prevent our access to critical resources or services... Unchecked social media data collection has been used to threaten people's opportunities, undermine their privacy, or pervasively track their activity - often without their knowledge or consent."

Approximately sixty countries now have national AI strategies creating policies which dis-allow irresponsible use of artificial intelligence. UNICEF has released a paper "Artificial Intelligence and Children's Rights" to help stakeholders better understand and lay down policies, and to address the potential impact of artificial intelligence on children.

Contrarily, the ultimate goal of the large corporations behind the development of AI platforms is building machines that can operate like humans in physical spaces, such as factories and offices - far beyond the capabilities of the current AI chatbots.

Yet, with the world's biggest corporations pouring in billions of dollars in research, this goal may be reached sooner rather than later. This conclusion follows from the superfast development of AI-powered machines that were in the concept stage ten years ago to their present-day sophistication.

The history of AI-powered chatbots is quite interesting. Demis Hassabis, a video-game designer and artificial-intelligence researcher co-founded a company named DeepMind in 2010, that sought to design computers that could learn how to think like humans. Google purchased DeepMind in 2014, making available billions of dollars for AI research to the founders of DeepMind that culminated in DeepMind-Google releasing Bard, as a rival to ChatGPT in 2023.

At the same time, Elon Musk of Tesla fame, and Sam Altman, a software entrepreneur, co-founded, OpenAI, a non-profit artificial-intelligence-research lab, to stymie the development of thinking computers and develop open-source AI software to match Google's growing dominance of the AI field. Such were Musk's fears of unregulated AI that he even tried to persuade US President Barack Obama to regulate the development of AI. Somewhere along the line, Microsoft invested heavily in OpenAI, prompting OpenAI to transform itself into a for profit corporation, which led Musk to withdraw from OpenAI. Thereafter, there was no holding back, and OpenAI released ChatGPT on 30 November 2022.

Miffed at the failure of his plans, Musk launched xAI, a company to challenge DeepMind-Google and OpenAI-Microsoft. Musk has brought his tremendous financial and technological capabilities to the table; in addition to AI-powered Tesla self-driving cars, Musk owns Neuralink, which aims to plant microchips in human brains; Optimus, a human-like robot; and Dojo, a super-computer that can use millions of videos to train an artificial neural network to simulate the human brain.

Musk's plan is to train xAI on X (Twitter)'s more than a trillion tweets, that encompass all kinds of conversations, arguments, news, and interests. Simultaneously, Musk has restricted the number of tweets a viewer could see per day, which denied access to Google and Microsoft to the X database.
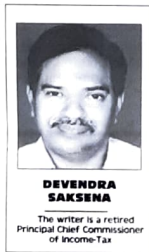
xAI also has access to Tesla's 160 billion frames of video, that it receives and processes daily, from the cameras mounted on Tesla's cars. This video data of humans navigating in real-world situations is far more advanced than the text-based documents that chatbots like ChatGPT access. Such data could create AI for physical robots, like the robot Optimus being developed by Tesla - which would be humanoid - far more sophisticated than text-generating chatbots.

The obvious danger being overlooked is that self-learning AI systems might turn hostile to the human species and threaten our existence or make humans redundant.

With some of the world's largest corporations, Google, Microsoft and Tesla trying to win the AI race it is only a question of time before robots, having almost human intelligence, come into existence. Unfortunately, these humanoids will not have our morals, discretion or aesthetics, and the tale of Frankenstein's monster that killed its creator, could well come true in our lifetime.

Overawed by money power, national Governments take no action to regulate the development of AI, rather Governments have themselves joined the fray; US National Security Commission on AI asked for $40 billion to "expand and democratise federal AI research and development," while the British Government, has made a commitment of £1 billion and Baidu, a forty-eight billion dollar Chinese corporate, has joined the AI race.

We should, perhaps, heed the warning of Nobel Laureate Stephen Hawking: "The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race...It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded."

DEVENDRA SAKSENA

The writer is a retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax

Andhra govt's school students visit United Nations

ANINDITA CHOWDHURY

A lifetime opportunity to speak at the United Nations has transformed the lives and goals of the members of a student delegation from government schools of Andhra Pradesh who overcame their humble origins to represent the state at a global platform.

The 10 students, mostly studying at intermediate level are children of blue collar workers like lorry drivers, mechanics, cable operators and the visit to the US opened up a new horizon for them. Since quality education is one of the key sustainable development goals identified by the United

Nations, the students from AP spoke on the state government's initiatives such as Mana Badi Nadu Nedu at the Sustainable Development Goal Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 18 and 19 September. The students who were chosen after a rigorous selection process and past academic achievements showcased before an international audience the state's government's pioneering initiatives to improve schooling and provide quality education not only through better physical infrastructure but also by overhauling the entire curriculum and introduction of bilingual textbooks, tablets, digital classrooms with English as the medium of instruction.

B Srinivas Rao, the state project director of Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA) said,"These students were toppers of the SSC examinations. First we had shortlisted 30 toppers but after conducting oral interview we selected nine of them and another girl of class IX who had performed exceedingly well in the presence of the chief minister."

The students also visited Columbia University, International Youth Festival, White House and Niagara Falls and the Statue of Liberty and met Gita Gopinath, deputy managing director of International Monetary Fund and Krishnamurthy Subramanian executive director (India) at IMF.

Y Yogeshwar who hails from Tirupati and the son of a cable operator recalls the words of Subramanian who told them to "serve India wherever you are." Aspiring to be the CEO of a software company Yogeshwar is now determined to serve India wherever he ends up.

There were enough life skill lessons for the students who were for the first time exposed to a different country and its culture. C Rajeswari, the daughter of lorry drive and a homemaker, remembers their guide Wanda who accompanied them to a tour of the Statue of Liberty carrying her two-month old infant along with her. "She is a strong woman who is trying to make the best out of it despite her difficult circumstances," said Rajeswari who spoke at the International Youth Conference on the role of government on women empowerment and had cited the example of Draupadi Murmu the tribal woman who went on to become the president of world's largest democracy. She aspires to be an IAS officer. The US trip also changed their goals.

"Now, I want to do my Master's degree in the US," said A Reshetha Reddy from Vizianagaram, the daughter of a mechanic and a homemaker. Chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has promised them that if they secure a seat in the top 350 universities in the world his government will reimburse up to Rs1.25 crore under Jagananna Videshi Vidya Deevana.

'You'll earn honour when country achieves greatness'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India should be a developed country by 2047, and a large part of the responsibility for taking the country there rests with its youth, Union education, skill development and entrepreneurship minister Dharmendra Pradhan 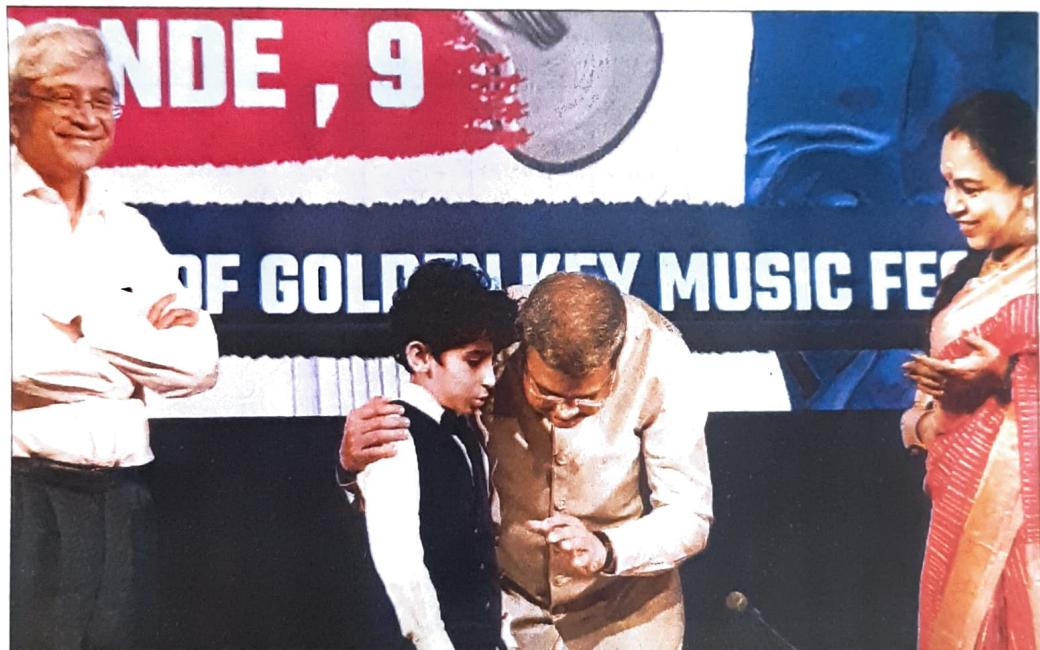told a rapt audience that had turned up in New selves. This was mentioned in Macaulay's Minute on Education in 1835. Now, when India is observing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a man of Indian origin took over as the prime minister of those who ruled us for 250 years. And just a few months ago India surpassed the UK to become the fifth largest economy," Pradhan said.

He said one of the lasting in women's participation. "Previously, out of 100, only 23 were women in the workforce. Today it is 37. This is why we say *hum honge kamyab*. We will show the world, but in our own way – like the way we sent vaccines and food to other countries – that it is the responsibility of India to care for the poor of the world and that is what India's Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is,

BIG TALENT: Ayaan Deshpande on the stage with Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, IISc director professor Govindan Rangarajan (left) and Carnatic musician Sudha Ragunathan

Delhi on Monday to felicitate the #Unstoppable21 – 21 Indian prodigies under 21 who have made their mark on a global scale.

"You will earn your honour when the country achieves greatness and with contributions like this it is on that path," the minister said, recounting some recent 'India moments' – like supplying Covid vaccines to the whole world or landing Chandrayan 3 on the moon's south pole.

"I remember a feudal fascist group who said that the colour of Indians' skin is black and they don't have the mental strength to decide for them-images of the G20 and India's relevance in the global order has been the homage paid to Mahatma Gandhi by the world leaders and the inclusion of African Union as a permanent member. "Earlier, the Indian PM had to wait in a room outside to meet the President of the USA. On the second day of G20, PM (Modi) got all the world leaders to pay their homage at the Samadhi Sthal of Bapuji (Mahatma Gandhi)."

Speaking of 'India Moments', he cited the 7% increase in the workforce aged 15-59 who are participating in the labour market now. And there is a significant increase and this is what we call the 'India Moment'."

Speaking about the demographic dividend, and the 40 crore Indians in the age group of 15 to 29, Pradhan said: "These are the amazing people. Add another six years to this population and this is India's demographic dividend."

And the minister's message to the new generation: "Along with India's achievements, you also have a responsibility today. In the next 24 years, along with AI, which will be at its peak, and Indians' human intelligence and with the 21 Unstoppables, we are sowing the seeds of a new India."

एक करोड़ विद्यार्थियों की परखी जाएगी सीखने की क्षमता

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : आने वाले दिनों में स्कूली शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को सुधारने के लिए देश के प्रत्येक जिले और ब्लाक में जरूरत को देखते अलग-अलग अभियान चलाए जा सकते हैं। फिलहाल शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने इसे लेकर एक अहम पहल की है, जिसमें सबसे पहले देशभर के स्कूलों में तीसरी, छठी और नौवीं में पढ़ने वाले एक

● **पहला सर्वे तीन को, तीसरी, छठी, नौवीं के छात्र होंगे शामिल**

● **किस विषय में बच्चा कमजोर, जानने के बाद किया जाएगा सुधार**

करोड़ से ज्यादा छात्रों के सीखने की क्षमता की परख होगी। इसका जिम्मा एनसीईआरटी से जुड़ी राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एजेंसी 'परख' को सौंपा गया है, जो सभी राज्यों के साथ मिलकर स्टेट एजुकेशन अचीवमेंट सर्वे का आयोजन

करेगी। इसके तहत पहला सर्वे तीन नवंबर को देशभर के स्कूलों में आयोजित होगा। सर्वे के आधार पर देश के किस हिस्से में और किन विषयों में बच्चा कमजोर है, इसकी जानकारी जुटाकर उसमें सुधार का अभियान चलेगा। शिक्षा मंत्रालय

और एनसीईआरटी से जुड़े अधिकारियों के मुताबिक परख की देखरेख में होने वाले सर्वे के आधार पर जहां छात्रों के सीखने की क्षमता की पहचान की जाएगी, वहीं उनकी जरूरत को देखते हुए नए कार्यक्रम तैयार किए जाएंगे। इनमें प्रत्येक ब्लाक के छात्रों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर पूरी योजना तैयार की जाएगी।

स्टूडेंट्स को दूसरी भाषा सिखाए जाने पर ज़ोर

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■ नई दिल्ली: केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने छात्रों को अपनी मातृ भाषा के साथ-साथ दूसरी भाषा भी सिखाने को लेकर यह बड़ी मुहिम शुरू की है। इसका मकसद है कि स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों को अपनी मातृभाषा के साथ-साथ दूसरे राज्यों की कुछ भारतीय भाषाओं के बारे में भी बेसिक जानकारी हो। उत्तर भारत, दक्षिण भारत या देश के अन्य हिस्सों में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों को एक-दूसरे प्रांत की भाषा के अगर 100 वाक्य भी आते होंगे तो इससे उन्हें वहां के रहन-सहन, कल्चर को समझने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होगी। बातचीत में भी आसानी होगी।

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय की भारतीय भाषा समिति के अध्यक्ष चमू कृष्ण शास्त्री का कहना है कि NEP-2020 में शिक्षा में कई भारतीय भाषा को सीखना को बढ़ावा देने की पहल की गई है। पिछले महीने केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने 30 सितंबर को 'भाषाएं अनेक, भाव एक' थीम के साथ 75 दिनों का भारतीय भाषा उत्सव शुरू किया गया है। इसी को आगे बढ़ाते हुए पूरे देश के स्कूलों में 75 भारतीय भाषा उत्वस मना रहे हैं। अलग-अलग शहरों, राज्यों के त्योहारों के नाम सिखाएं जाएंगे। इससे छात्र एक-दूसरे राज्यों के छात्रों के साथ जुड़ेंगे और उनके कल्चर को भी समझेंगे।

NBT Lens

समझिए खबरों के अंदर की बात

दूर होगा कम्युनिकेशन गैप?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय का कहना है कि भारतीय भाषा उत्सव का सबसे बड़ा मकसद दो अलग-अलग राज्यों के छात्रों को बातचीत के माध्यम से ही एक नई भारतीय भाषा सीखने का मौका दिया जाए। इस मुहिम में आसान से वाक्यों के साथ भाषा सीखने की शुरुआत होगी। स्टूडेंट्स को धीरे-धीरे 100 वाक्यों के साथ इतनी समझ हो जाएगी कि वह एक-दूसरे से बातचीत कर सकेंगे। जब यही छात्र उच्च शिक्षा के लिए कॉलेज में जाएंगे तो वहां पर छात्रों के बीच कम्युनिकेशन गैप की समस्या कम होगी। हर स्कूल को दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओं में बात करते हुए छात्रों के विडियो तैयार करने होंगे। जैसे एक साधारण सा वाक्य पूछा जा सकता है कि तुम्हारा नाम क्या है? इसे तरह से दूसरे साधारण रोजाना प्रयोग में आने वाले वाक्य सिखाए जा सकते हैं।