



The message from U.S. campuses, protesting students

In 1985, when American campuses were roiling with protests against apartheid South Africa, the legendary African-American feminist poet and philosopher, Audre Lorde, reflected that America was “the most powerful country in the world” but also “a country which stands upon the wrong side of every liberation struggle on earth”. Lorde noted that this filled her with both a sense of dread and a sense of urgency. Dread and urgency, once again, have driven students across campuses in the United States to protest against the catastrophe in Gaza. During the anti-apartheid protests calling for divestment at campuses in the late-1980s – when we ourselves were students – university administrators were embarrassed about aligning with the White apartheid state of South Africa. Today, with Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism so normalised in the U.S., university administrators are proudly aligning with this genocidal war. Armed police guard our libraries, check-points have been placed across our campus and we are learning that a police siege of our campuses is the new normal in the modern U.S. university.

Students are educating each other

Across the country, student protesters have a unified set of demands: Disclosure and divestment in corporations complicit in weapons manufacturing and the Israeli occupation of Palestine; “Cops off Campus”; and protecting pro-Palestinian speech and activism across the university. The call for divestment can be traced to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement beginning in 2008 that was inspired by the anti-racist, anti-apartheid student movement that Audre Lorde was addressing. The call for “cops off campus” can be explained by the abolitionist critiques of the police as a racist institution amplified in the wake of the George Floyd protests of 2020, along with the fact that this generation in universities today were mobilised into activism against the gun violence that has plagued them in schools since childhood. Finally, the call for the protection of pro-Palestine speech and activism is a reflection of the history of university administrators’ complicity in the “Palestine exception” to academic freedom made especially evident since October 2023.

In New York University (NYU), our students, whose leadership includes African-American, Arab-American, South Asian and anti-Zionist Jewish students among a multi-racial coalition, are educating each other on the history of the Levant and its diverse peoples and traditions in the region and the diaspora. They are convening teach-ins on the legacies of colonialism and racial violence and the fraught complexities of historic Palestine, post-Balfour, post-holocaust, post-Nakba, post-Oslo. They are studying apartheid as a technology of governance from



Paula Chakravartty

is James Weldon Johnson Associate Professor of Media Studies at New York University (NYU)



Vasuki Nesiah

is Professor of Practice in Human Rights and International Law at New York University (NYU)

Inspired and informed, students are forging solidarities to disrupt the ideological and economic ties that bind the American university to the forces of genocide

native reservations, to apartheid South Africa to Jim Crow America, to settler colonial rule from Palestine to Kashmir. They are analysing the necessary distinctions between Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism, between criticism of racism against Jewish people and criticism of the ethno-state of Israel. They are also learning about the history of Palestinian resistance – of political campaigns such as BDS and the Great March of Return, of the poetry of dissent by Mahmoud Darwish and Mosab Abu Toha, from the theatre of the oppressed to the Freedom Theatre from the Jenin Refugee Camp, of the meaning of terms that have been demonised by the U.S. and western media, such as intifada and ‘from the river to the sea’. They are studying the political economy of occupation and the money trail from Washington to Tel Aviv to Riyadh, from corporations’ profits from Israeli settlements to our university donors and trustees, from the university investments to the war that is being waged on the other side of the globe. The teach-ins and ‘people’s universities’ are about students taking back their right to education, speech and dissent from a history of repression of Palestine solidarity in the U.S., including, and perhaps especially, in our classrooms and campuses.

University clampdowns

From the beginning of the war, many university administrators began instituting disciplinary procedures against expressions of pro-Palestine solidarity and activism directed against the state of Israel, while banning local chapters of national organisations such as the anti-Zionist Jewish group, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). As the war escalated, student protests proliferated, and university surveillance and crackdown of protests became ever more punitive. Meanwhile the Joe Biden administration doubled down on support for Israel’s war effort and right-wing politicians convened congressional hearings with university presidents to interrogate them on campus political culture. It is in this context, six months after the war began and even as the number of dead in that period had climbed to over 33,000, that students, feeling unheard and muzzled, channelled their protest into peaceful encampments in their universities. Even as the repression intensified, these de-occupation encampments spread to campuses across the country.

These protests can be situated in the specifics of the current historical conjuncture, but the use of the term “de-occupy” also speaks to a larger analysis of the university’s role in colonial, imperial and corporate extractivism. Thus, it invokes the histories and geographies of American military occupation from the American Indian Wars, to the occupation of Hawaii, Puerto

Rico, the Philippines, to U.S. meddling in Haiti and across the Americas to the wars of Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. In New York, this movement echoes the Occupy Wall Street Movement of 2011 against the grotesque inequality of U.S. society. These students know there is a bloody connective tissue between the economic and the military, between the war and the siege, between the bombs and the famine. But this is not just a New York moment. From the University of Florida, to the University of Texas, from Emory University in Atlanta to Cal State Sacramento, the students chanting for divestment and against Israel Defense Forces abuses come to those demonstrations with deep knowledge about the history of racialised police brutality. Across the country, it is a movement that has been shaped fundamentally by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movements that seek to dismantle the U.S. policing apparatus that disproportionately surveils, arrests and jails Black and Brown communities. Similarly, the Standing Rock movement against the Dakota Access oil pipeline that travelled through first nations territory, was crucial in raising generational awareness about settler colonialism and the links between the U.S. and Israel as settler colonial states, and the links between occupation and dispossession. Social media savvy and alert to the narrative wars, these students are raising the alarm, refusing big media spin and forging solidarities from Georgia to Gaza, Harlem to Hebron.

Radical futures

We write this in the wake of the NYU administration calling on the New York Police Department to arrest NYU students in a violent invocation of the strong arm of the law as the partner to the McCarthyite surveillance and stifling of campus speech. Rather than shedding light on this repression, the conservative and liberal media have together platformed university administrators overseeing the corporatisation and militarisation of higher education. From coast to coast, our students have risked and endured suspensions and arrests in resolute solidarity with the people of Gaza. They have used their privilege as students in the heart of empire to expose and disrupt the ideological and economic ties that bind the American university to the forces of genocide. In turn they have been inspired by struggles in historic Palestine and the Palestinian diaspora, those who studied and taught in all the bombed out schools and universities of Gaza that exist today only in peoples’ memories and their visions for a future in a free Palestine. In this they have joined Audre Lorde’s radically hopeful vision in that same piece that we cited at the beginning: “We can join together to effect a future the world has not yet conceived, let alone seen.”

Mir Umar

On a scorching Sunday morning, Mohammad Sabir (53) sets up his stall of books in Mahila Haat, an open sky market near Delhi Gate, that attracts a huge crowd every Sunday. As he leans back waiting for customers, people start trooping in, making their way through stalls put up by 70 other booksellers.

Sabir has been a part of Delhi's famed book bazaar for 30 years. "I work solely with books, and it is my only way of living," he says wiping the dust off the books lying in a pile in front of him.

Inside the Mahila Haat compound on Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, the booksellers have put up tarpaulin sheets over their stalls to protect themselves from the blazing heat and to offer some shade to customers.

Inside the world of books

Walk into the bazaar to find a diverse collection of books in multiple languages including English, Hindi and Urdu; from popular romances to classics, besides stationery, posters and maps, everything at pocket-friendly rates. Visitors pause to browse through books, hop stalls and move around in search of the titles they have in mind. At the end of the day, many leave with bundled stacks of books.

The city's Sunday book bazaar has had a long history of locations and re-locations. It came into existence sporadically, first behind the Jama Masjid near Kasturba Gandhi Hospital and then shifted to Asaf Ali Road in Daryaganj. "It's a historic 70-year-old bazaar that has survived our fathers and forefathers," says Kamar Syed (60), president of the

Home is where the book is

The Sunday Book Bazaar at Mahila Haat brings people of all ages from different cities together

Daryaganj Patri Sunday Book Bazaar Welfare Association, selling books for 48 years.

There have been few disruptions too. In 2010, when India hosted the Commonwealth Games, the pavements were cleared of the booksellers. In 2019, the Traffic Police and Municipal Corporation of Delhi got the entire Daryaganj pavement vacated, following which a case was filed in the Delhi High Court and the new space at Mahila Haat was allotted.



I have bought rare and good titles at the Sunday book bazaar, like Amrita Pritam's collection

KANUPRIYA DHINGRA



Many booksellers are unhappy in the new address as they feel there is not enough space to move around freely or accommodate more stalls. The book sellers buy the books from *kabadiwallahs* and also generous people who donate their books. "This unique bazaar has many rare titles given at throwaway prices. From senior citizens to young children, everybody comes here to celebrate their love for books," says Kamar.

In the trade for more than four decades, Mahesh Kumar (60) talks about how technology and the internet has affected the book business over the years. "My livelihood is dependent on this bazaar. I have invested lot of my time, money and energy into this. But it is becoming hard to survive as the new generation prefers to read on mobile phones now," he rues and recalls old times when Khushwant Singh used to be among his regular customers, besides few other known writers and poets.

"I have been coming to

the book bazaar for years because I like to spend my time here, it is a wonderful space," says Utpal (69) as he stops by to flip through the pages of a history book. "I found many books on the freedom struggle and Indian history here after searching for them elsewhere, such as *Hindustan Ki Kahani* by Nehru in Hindi," he recalls.

The bazaar attracts people from Delhi and neighbouring States too. Ravi Kumar (21) and Aditya Singh (22) have come from Jaipur to the book bazaar for the first time, after learning about the place through Instagram reels. "We got many books for UPSC exam and a kilo of novels for just ₹20," they say.

A PhD from SOAS, University of London, Kanupriya Dhingra did her research on the history of the bazaar and as an alternate space for book lovers. She spent nine months during her research understanding the organic growth of the place. "I have bought rare and good titles here, like an out-of-print copy of Arun Kolatkar's first collection of poems titled *Jejuri* which won him the 1977 Commonwealth Poetry Prize, Amrita Pritam's collection in Hindi and poetry titles of Eunice Dsouza, Vivek Narayanan and Vijay Seshadri," she says.

For over a quarter century A L Verma has been selling books for children. "The bazaar has aged with me. We have to protect this bazaar because people benefit hugely," says the 65-year-old, as he packs up for the day. The sun sets and the crowd begins to recede and the day's noisy bazaar retreats into silence. "I will be back next Sunday," smiles Verma.

(Mahila Haat is 400 metres away from Delhi Gate Metro Station; From 8am to 7pm)



BIJU
DHARMAPALAN

Enigma of copyright in the digital world

Policymakers face the formidable challenge of revising copyright laws effectively to tackle the complexities presented by AI

People often say that in this digital world, nothing remains secret. Even personal details can be accessed through the Internet. The quantum of information on the Internet is so vast that, despite the security measures, it is not cent per cent foolproof. In such a scenario, one must critically examine copyright's relevance in the digital world. Copyright rules and laws traditionally protect every creation or innovation, so the original creator retains credit for their work and is aptly rewarded through monetary benefits.

When an author creates a book, they automatically own the copyright. This gives them the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, perform, and display the book and create derivative works based on it. In most countries, copyright protection for a book typically lasts for the author's lifetime plus 50-70 years. During this time, others generally cannot reproduce or distribute the book without the author's permission unless their use falls under a specific exception, such as fair use or fair dealing. Within the realm of music,



this signifies that the individual responsible for creating a song, the writer of the lyrics, the composer, or the performer, possesses the sole entitlement to utilise, disseminate, and capitalise on that song. In India, organisations such as the Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) administer the rights of copyright owners and collect royalties on their behalf for the public performance and broadcast of songs. Copyright also extends to research works, protecting and monetising one's creations through patents.

Unfortunately, journal publishers own the copyright for research publications. The publishers amass massive amounts through subscriptions and advertisements without providing any monetary benefit to the authors. Most of the reputed journals

do peer reviews free of cost, take processing charges from authors, and get subscription fees and advertisements as revenue. What does the poor researcher get? A mental satisfaction of getting published in a high-impact journal? In a way, it's not fair. A few magazines, of course, practice giving honorariums to the authors.

Despite having stringent copyright rules and regulations, its efficacy is questionable in the rapidly evolving digital age landscape. The widespread availability of digital content and the simplicity of sharing information on the Internet have presented unprecedented difficulties and intricacies for existing copyright rules. Today, one can easily copy content from online resources without crediting the original creator. Content available on social media sites, including photographs, is widely reproduced. Identifying the original content creator, be it literary or artistic works, is often difficult. Even stringent protective measures like user authentication mechanisms such as passwords, multi-factor authentication (MFA),

and role-based access controls (RBAC) to restrict access to authorised individuals or groups and watermarking techniques often fail to prevent the infringement of copyrights.

The advent of AI in digital platforms has complicated the situation. As AI systems become more sophisticated, their ability to create, replicate, and modify content raises intricate legal questions regarding ownership and authorship. Though AI can do any role, it lacks the human touch in its creation that connects human minds. While individuals are accountable for creating and instructing these algorithms, the AI system autonomously produces the outcome, erasing the distinction between human and machine authorship. The current necessity lies in incorporating ethical, cultural, and economic considerations while crafting a new policy that effectively balances the rights of creators and AI developers.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)

90/6

Ministry of Education holds meet on early childhood care strategy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 9 MAY

Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Sanjay Kumar, chaired a meeting to discuss on strategy to achieve the broader objectives of Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE), at Ambedkar International Centre in the national capital on Thursday.

Representatives of the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD), states, and autonomous bodies of the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L) attended the meeting.

As envisioned under the National Curriculum Framework-Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) a continuum of pre-school education and School education is required for seamless transition and quality ECCE.

Speaking on this occasion, Sanjay Kumar set the context of the meeting and highlighted the importance of every stakeholder in quality ECCE. Kumar reiterated that it was heartening to see various initiatives taken by MoWCD and various states/UTs.

The need to have three Balvatikas for 3 to 6-year-olds for pre-primary in all CBSE and Kendriya Vidyalayas having Class 1 was emphasised dur-



ing the meeting. Co-locating Anganwadis with primary schools in villages was recommended in coordination with WCD, in a decentralised manner to get a proper pre-school education and smooth transition to Grade 1.

It was also suggested that Jaadui Pitara should be used at government schools with pre-primary classes for a well-rounded learning experience. It was suggested that the NCERT can work with state officials to assess existing learning toys, ensuring alignment with NCF-FS goals.

It was also suggested that MoE and WCD should collaborate to link Poshan Tracker and UDISE+ data to track pre-primary to Class 1 transitions. States can define parameters and use Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Jaadui

Pitara materials to ensure transparency and efficiency in procurement.

Discussions were also held on the standardisation of branding for programmes such as NIPUN Bharat, Jaadui Pitara, e Jaadui Pitara and Vidya Praveshh across states to enhance visibility and recognition.

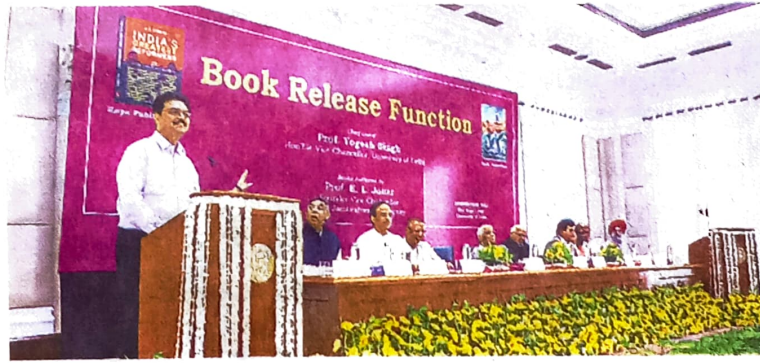
It was suggested that the adopted and adapted version of Jaadui Pitara should correspond with the prescribed learning outcomes curated by NCERT for Jaadui Pitara. The NCERT should support SCERTs in following the designated Learning Outcomes.

The need for proper training of preschool teachers and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) was also discussed at length during the meeting.

समाज सुधारकों से सभी लें प्रेरणा : प्रो. योगेश सिंह

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: भारत पहले स्लेव इंडिया था, फिर हुआ फ्री इंडिया और अब न्यू इंडिया है। इन स्थितियों में बदलाव के लिए समाज सुधारक चाहिए थे। देश में ऐसे लोग आए और उन्होंने बदलाव लाया। अगर उन लोगों से सीखकर अपने मन में हम राष्ट्रप्रेम का भाव नहीं ला पाते हैं, तो यह हमारी सबसे बड़ी कमी है। यह बात दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. योगेश सिंह ने कही। वे डीयू के कन्वेंशन हाल में एक पुस्तक विमोचन समारोह में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि संबोधित कर रहे थे।

समारोह में गुरु जंभेश्वर विश्वविद्यालय के पूर्व कुलपति



डीयू के कन्वेंशन हाल में विचार रखते कुलपति प्रो. योगेश सिंह • सौजन्य: डीयू

डा. केएल जौहर की दो पुस्तकों 'इंडियाज ग्रेटेस्ट रिफार्मर्स - 51 एक्स्ट्राआर्डिनरी स्टोरीज' और 'श्री स्टैलर रिवाल्यूशनरीज हू रैटल्ड ब्रिटिश इंडिया' का लोकार्पण किया गया। इस मौके पर प्रो. योगेश सिंह

ने कहा, अक्षर कभी क्षर नहीं होते, जो पुस्तकें लिखी जाती हैं वे अमर होती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ये पुस्तकें भी हमारी प्रेरणा का स्रोत बनेंगी। कार्यक्रम के आरंभ में केएल विक्रम जौहर ने अतिथियों का स्वागत किया

और समापन पर विवेक जौहर ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया। इस अवसर कई शिक्षाविदों भी को सम्मानित किया गया। समारोह में हरियाणा केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय महेन्द्रगढ़ के कुलपति प्रो. टंकेश्वर कुमार और आइपी विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली के कुलपति प्रो. महेश वर्मा व शहीद भगत सिंह के भतीजे किरणजीत सिंह ने भी अपने-अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए। समारोह के दौरान मंच संचालन शहीद भगत सिंह के भानजे प्रो. जगमोहन सिंह की ओर से किया गया। इस दौरान डा. बीआर अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय की कुलपति प्रो. अनु सिंह लाठर समेत अन्य शिक्षाविद मौजूद रहे।

CUET-UG: 95% स्टूडेंट्स को पसंद का मिलेगा एग्जाम सेंटर करीब 2400 सेंटर होंगे, इनमें से करीब 90 फीसदी स्कूलों में ही बनाए जाएंगे

Bhupender.Sharma @timesgroup.com

K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
(Recognized by UGC & Member of AIU)

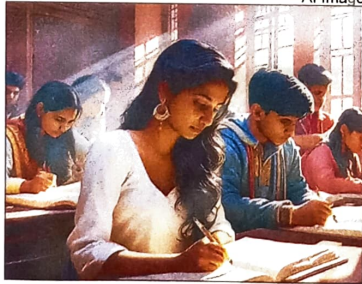
Thanks
for making us the...

6 LAKH+
REGISTRATIONS
for UG & PG Programmes
as per CUET 2023 & 2024

MOST PREFERRED UNIVERSITY

K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
DESTINATION SUCCESS

AI Image



जाएंगे। ऑफलाइन एग्जाम 15, 16, 17, 18 मई को होना है और इसके लिए स्कूलों में सेंटर होंगे। यहां ध्यान रखा जाएगा कि छात्र ने जो चॉइस दी है,

नई दिल्ली: कॉमन यूनिवर्सिटी एंट्रेस टेस्ट (CUET-UG) का काउंटडाउन शुरू हो गया है। 15 मई से शुरू होने वाले टेस्ट में शामिल होने जा रहे छात्रों के लिए बड़ी राहत की बात यह है कि उनको अपनी पहली चॉइस के आधार पर ही एग्जाम सेंटर अलॉट किए जाएंगे। सूत्रों का कहना है कि नेशनल टेस्टिंग एजेंसी (एनटीए) की तो कोशिश यही है कि 2024 के एग्जाम में सभी छात्रों को उनकी पहली चॉइस को देखते हुए ही शहर में सेंटर दिया जाए। एनटीए ने एग्जाम सिटी स्लिप तो जारी कर दी है और बताया जा रहा है कि 95 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा छात्रों की पहली चॉइस को ही ध्यान में रखते हुए सेंटर दिए जाएंगे। 2023 में जहां छात्रों ने बहुत दूर-दूर सेंटर होने की शिकायतें की थी, जिसके बाद एनटीए ने 2024 की परीक्षा में बड़े बदलाव किए हैं। सीयूईटी यूजी एग्जाम 380 शहरों

15 मई को दूसरी शिफ्ट में इंग्लिश और जनरल टेस्ट की परीक्षा, इसमें सबसे ज्यादा रजिस्ट्रेशन 26 विदेशी शहर) में हो रहा है और इसके लिए करीब 2400 सेंटर बनाए जाएंगे। ज्यादातर सेंटर स्कूलों में बनाए जा रहे हैं। मेडिकल एग्जाम के सेंटर भी ज्यादातर स्कूलों में ही थे। 90 परसेंट सेंटर सरकारी और प्राइवेट दोनों तरह के स्कूलों में बनाए



समझिए खबरों के अंदर की बात

NTA का कितना बड़ा मास्टरस्ट्रोक?

2022 और 2023 में एनटीए ने सीयूईटी के सभी विषयों की परीक्षा कंप्यूटर बेस्ड टेस्ट (CBT) में की थी। करीब 14 लाख छात्रों के लिए टेस्ट सेंटर जुटाना मुश्किलों भरा सफर रहा। कहीं तकनीकी दिक्कतें आईं तो कहीं सर्वर डाउन हो गया। 2024 में एनटीए ने ऑफलाइन मोड यानी पेन और पेपर पैटर्न को उन विषयों के लिए चुना, जिनमें सबसे ज्यादा आवेदन आए। यही एनटीए का मास्टर स्ट्रोक रहा है। इस तरह से केवल चार दिन में ही सारे बड़े एग्जाम खत्म हो जाएंगे। उसके बाद तीन दिन कंप्यूटर बेस्ड टेस्ट के लिए रखे गए हैं। अब छात्र यह शिकायत भी नहीं करेंगे कि उनका पेपर मुश्किल और दूसरे का आसान था। सभी छात्रों को बराबरी का मौका मिलेगा। रिजल्ट भी पहले आ सकेगा और यूनिवर्सिटी एडमिशन भी जल्द शुरू हो सकेंगे। 2023 में एक महीने से भी ज्यादा तक एग्जाम चला था।

उसी के मुताबिक सेंटर दिए जाएं। इन चार दिनों में 90 फीसदी छात्र एग्जाम में बैठ चुके होंगे।

उसके बाद 21, 22 और 24 मई को कंप्यूटर बेस्ड टेस्ट होगा, जिसके लिए भी छात्रों को वे सेंटर दिए जाएंगे, जो उनके घरों से ज्यादा दूर न हों। एनटीए ने एग्जाम के लिए 15 से 24 मई की विंडो तय की है, इस विंडो में सात दिन पेपर होंगे और 16 शिफ्ट में सभी 63 विषयों की परीक्षा पूरी हो जाएगी। 12 मई के आसपास जारी होंगे एडमिट कार्ड एनटीए ने ऑफलाइन एग्जाम देने वाले (चार दिनों के लिए) छात्रों के लिए एग्जाम सिटी स्लिप जारी कर दी है और उन्हें पता चल गया है कि उनका एग्जाम कौन से शहर में है। बताया जा रहा है कि

12 मई के आसपास एडमिट कार्ड भी जारी हो जाएंगे, जिसमें सेंटर की डिटेल्स होंगी। एडमिट कार्ड के जरिए ही एग्जामिनेशन सेंटर में एंट्री होगी। एनटीए सूत्रों का कहना है कि हर सेंटर की कड़ी निगरानी के इंतजाम किए जा रहे हैं और नकल में शामिल होने वालों पर कड़ी कार्रवाई होगी। 15 मई को सबसे ज्यादा छात्र एग्जाम देंगे। इस दिन शिफ्ट 2ए में इंग्लिश का पेपर होगा, जिसमें 1007336 छात्रों ने आवेदन किया है। वहीं इसी दिन शाम को शिफ्ट 2बी में जनरल टेस्ट होगा, जिसमें 834207 छात्रों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन किया है। इस बार 13.48 लाख यूनीक रजिस्ट्रेशन है और एक छात्र अधिकतम 6 विषयों की परीक्षा दे सकता है।

NBT