

# USTM Social Work Excellence Award-2024 conferred

## *Learn Culture, Love Animals: Padma Shri Parbati Baruah at USTM*



which is marked by the consumerist hunger to get everything quickly. One should not forget the Indian value system of respecting elders by the young generation, he added. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Pradeep Ramavath, Associate Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Guwahati on the theme “Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change”. He said that Buen Vivir talks about harmony between human beings, and also between human beings and nature, the idea of civilization being very close to nature. Earlier, the welcome address was made by Prof GD Sharma, VC, USTM. The event was an enriching experience, as the students of the Social Work department of USTM enacted a skit titled “Threads of Change” enthralling the audience. The Wall Magazine of the department was also inaugurated during the event, adding another dimension to the celebration. The event ended with a beautiful cultural evening showcasing the talents of the students of the Social Work department.

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, March 19 :** Like every year, this year too, the Department of Social Work at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) celebrated World Social Work Day by awarding a noted social worker and organizing a talk, a play, and cultural presentations. This year’s Social Work Excellence Award was presented to the renowned animal activist, politician, and India’s first female mahout Padma Shri Parbati Baruah. The award was handed over by Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS(Retd), State Chief Information Commissioner Assam in the presence of Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor USTM, Dr Pradeep

Ramavath, Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Guwahati among others. Receiving the award, Padma Shri Smt Parbati Baruah said, “I am delighted to receive this recognition from USTM, and my gratitude to everyone for this respect”. She said that culture is a very important aspect of life. “To learn culture, we are not required to be literate. The forest is a constant attraction for me. I learned languages wherever I went to work because language brings us close to each other and makes my task easier”, she added. Smt Barua was introduced to the world by British writer Mark Shand. In 1995, he met her at an elephant camp in North Bengal and wrote a book on her terming her as

“Queen of the Elephants”. He also took mahout training from her dedicatedly for three months. Parbati Baruah, who is also known as Hasti Kanya, is India’s first female elephant mahout who started taming the wild tuskers at the age of 14 and received Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Animal Welfare) in 2024. Baruah has gained valuable expertise as an elephant mahout and has dedicated herself to mitigating human-elephant conflict. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS(Retd), State Chief Information Commissioner addressed the gathering as the Chief Guest. He said that the Social Work discipline instills a sense of service to society, a sense of value system in today’s competitive world

# Only 7% of Colleges Achieve Full Campus Placement

## Our Bureau

**Bengaluru:** Amid concerns around the job market and layoffs, as many as three out of five college students said they prefer job security over pay hikes, revealed a survey by talent discovery hiring platform Unstop.

The Unstop 2024 Talent Report, which covered more than 11,000 students, university partners and HR professionals, also showed that a mere 7% of Indian colleges achieve a 100% placement record.

Among the surveyed students, 53% said their biggest fear was the inability to find a job in their preferred field.

The annual report also found that the gender pay disparity is alive and kicking: while the most common offer for men in Arts, Science and Commerce streams was ₹6-10 lakh, it was ₹2-5 lakh for women.

While average salary was nearly the same for men and women in engineering colleges, in B-Schools, 55% of men received a job offer above ₹16 lakh as against 45% of women.

The report shared insights and trends about the hiring and talent scenario in India, revealing that 81% of HR professionals agreed that their organisations are actively hiring. Among HR practitioners, 88% expressed a strong preference for skill-

based hiring, prioritising candidates' abilities over other factors such as experience, academics, references, internships and projects.

# 53%

**STUDENTS FEAR  
THEY WON'T  
GET A JOB IN  
THEIR FIELD**

firms. In comparison, 52% of engineering students expressed openness to working with any company. Marketing emerged as the top preferred do-

main for B-school students, while Finance and Analytics topped the list for Arts and Science students.

While 91% of the surveyed students said their college curricula offer an adequate level of preparedness for a job, 66% of recruiters and 42% of university partners felt that skill gap and lack of preparation are major challenges in campus recruitment.

Unstop founder & CEO Ankit Aggarwal said, "By highlighting the preferences and concerns of students and HR professionals, we aim to bridge the gap between talent supply and demand, enabling more informed decision-making and fostering a more efficient and effective hiring process."

# US Universities can now validate TOEFL scores via Indian study-abroad partners



*Saves time on verification, leading to faster rollout of admission offers*

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**E**ducational Testing Service (ETS), the world's largest private non-profit educational testing and assessment organisation, has recently announced a strategic collaboration with Career Mosaic, South Asia's largest student recruiter for US universities. As part of this collaboration, ETS will verify TOEFL scores of test takers applying to US universities through Career Mosaic. US universities will have access to validated scores, significantly enhancing the credibility of student profiles shared with them.

Blerina Polovina, Director of International Admissions and Business Development - Webster University USA said, "By having validated scores, universities will save the effort of English proficiency score verification, ultimately fostering a more seamless and reliable admissions experience for both students and universities alike."

Manisha Zaveri, Joint Managing Director, Career Mosaic, said, "This association will reinforce the integ-

For the third consecutive year, Indian students represent over a quarter of the total international student population in the USA, surpassing one million

rity of the TOEFL test score and will benefit both universities and the growing number of Indian students seeking higher education opportunities in the USA."

This move is expected to enhance the confidence of the US universities seeking to expand their reach in the Indian market. For the third consecutive year, Indian students represent over a quarter of the total international student population in the USA, surpassing one million. This marks a significant 35 percent increase from the previous year, reaching a record high of 268,923 Indian students pursuing higher education in the academic year 2022-23, according to the usembassy.gov.

# Af's school year starts without more than 1 mn girls barred from education by Taliban

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The school year in Afghanistan started Wednesday but without girls whom the Taliban barred from attending classes beyond the sixth grade, making it the only country with restrictions on female education.

The U.N. children's agency says more than 1 million girls are affected by the ban. It also estimates 5 million were out of school before the Taliban takeover due to a lack of facilities and other reasons.

The Taliban's education ministry marked the start of the new academic year with a ceremony that female journalists were not allowed to attend. The invitations sent out to reporters

said: "Due to the lack of a suitable place for the sisters, we apologize to female reporters." During a ceremony, the Taliban's education minister, Habibullah Agha, said that the ministry is trying "to increase the quality of education of religious and modern sciences as much as possible."

The Taliban have been prioritizing Islamic knowledge over basic literacy and numeracy with their shift toward madrasas, or religious schools.

The minister also called on students to avoid wearing clothes that contradict Islamic and Afghan principles.

Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Taliban's deputy prime minister, said they were trying to expand education in "all remote

areas in the country."

The Taliban previously said girls continuing their education went against their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, and that certain conditions were needed for their return to school.

However, they made no progress in creating said conditions.

When they ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s, they also banned girls' education.

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule, the group has also barred women from higher education, public spaces like parks, and most jobs as part of harsh measures imposed after they took over following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from the

country in 2021.

The ban on girls' education remains the Taliban's biggest obstacle to gaining recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

Although Afghan boys have access to education, Human Rights Watch has criticized the Taliban, saying their "abusive" educational policies are harming boys as well as girls. The group, in a report published in December, said there has been less attention to the deep harm inflicted on boys' education as qualified teachers — including women — left, and inclusion of regressive curriculum changes as well as an increase in corporal punishment have led to falling attendance. rio

# DoE warns pvt schools over EWS complaints

**Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com**

**New Delhi:** The department of education on Wednesday in a notice reminded private unaided recognised schools about their "obligation" to allot 22% of their declared strength in entry-level classes for children belonging to economical weaker sections (EWS), disadvantage groups (DG) and 3% for children with special needs (CWSN) in the neighbourhood and provide them free education till its completion.

The department was inundated with complaints from parents of students belonging to these sections who were in private, unaided, recognised schools. The parents alleged that after Class VIII, the children were coerced into paying fees and were told that if they didn't, they should obtain transfer certificates to leave the school by the next session.

Referring to the RTE Act, the department's notice said: "The schools... shall continue to fulfil their obligation of providing free education beyond elementary education and till completion of secondary/senior secondary education, as the case may be."

The department said that

schools providing free and compulsory education were eligible for a reimbursement of the cost incurred, either up to the per-child expenditure or the actual amount, whichever is lesser.

However, schools obligated to provide free education after receiving land, building or other facilities from the govt were not entitled to the reimbursement.

The department mentioned a notification, on Nov 23, 2011, with prior approval from the Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi, which spoke about the obligations.

It also cited a judgment, dated Nov 24, 2014, by Delhi High Court in the case Justice for All Vs GNCT of Delhi & Anr. "The judgment directs the DoE to ensure yearly compliance from all schools... and to notify the DDA of any breaches for lease cancellation."

It said that "schools cannot force the students/parents to apply for school leaving certificates or pay fees." The department told district deputy directors of education to ensure that schools with land obligation refrain from coercive action against freeship students. **TBI**

# HDFC sells co that spawned edu loan biz

## Bank Raises ₹9,552Cr From Credila's Merger Rule-Mandated Sale To PE Funds

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank on Wednesday said it has sold its education loan arm, HDFC Credila, for Rs 9,552 crore to investors led by Baring Private Equity Asia and ChrysCapital, valuing the company at Rs 10,350 crore. The sale was necessitated by a regulation that barred the bank from owning its inherited education loan company after last year's merger with its parent company HDFC.

HDFC invested in the education loan company in phases from 2009, which proved profitable for HDFC Bank. The company has a loan book of Rs 25,237 crore and a 9-month net profit of Rs 379 crore with less than 0.1% bad loans.

### Bohora Bros Founded Co In 2006, HDFC Backed It In 2009

➤ HDFC Credila, the country's largest education loan co, was founded by brothers **Ajay (R) & Anil Bohora** in 2006. HDFC invested in it in phases from 2009

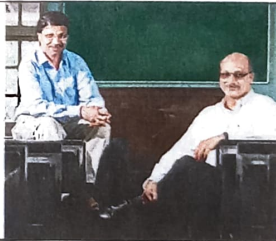


➤ Credila's success spawned a **₹1L cr industry** with many of its employees either

setting up own cos or heading the vertical for other lenders

➤ It has a loan book of ₹25,237cr with less than **0.1% bad loans**

➤ Ajay Bohora attributes the low defaults to their identification process. He says those who are sincere in their studies are also **diligent in loan repayments**



Founded by brothers Ajay and Anil Bohora in 2006, HDFC Credila is the country's largest education loan company. In an interview with **TOI**, the Bohora brothers said that the sale validated that education loans can be a successful business and that the NBFC structure can work for such loans.

Credila's success has spawned a Rs 1-lakh-crore industry with many employees of the company either setting up education loan businesses on their own or heading education loan verticals for other lenders.

Prashant Bhonsle, part of the startup team, founded Kahoo, a platform for education

loans. "The vision was to pioneer the private education loan industry in India & then have HDFC Credila alumni run the private education loan industry," said Ajay Bohora.

The brothers got the idea of setting up a startup to finance education from their own experiences while raising funds for their overseas

education. Anil has an MS from the US, while Ajay earned his MBA in New York after completing an engineering degree at VJTI.

Ajay attributes the low defaults to their meticulous identification process, which assesses individuals' willingness and ability to repay. According to Ajay, those who are sincere in their studies are also diligent in loan repayment. What was needed was frequent updates to ensure that all contact details were available and the borrowers had easy access to repayment wherever they were.

Ajay suggests that the significance of US education will persist due to the billions of dollars of endowments with the universities.

# ‘इंजीनियरिंग सहित 16 विषयों के आनलाइन कोर्स में न लें दाखिला’

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिले की दौड़ शुरू होते ही विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) ने छात्रों और अभिभावकों को आनलाइन या ओपन माध्यम से संचालित कोर्स को लेकर सतर्क किया है। खासकर इंजीनियरिंग, मेडिकल, फार्मेसी, नर्सिंग, एग्रीकल्चरल जैसे करीब 16 विषयों से जुड़े आनलाइन कोर्सों में भूलकर भी दाखिला नहीं लेने की सलाह दी है। साथ ही बताया कि इन विषयों के आनलाइन और ओपन माध्यम से किसी भी तरह के कोर्स को शुरू करने की अनुमति नहीं है।

यूजीसी ने इसके साथ ही छात्रों को दूसरे विषयों से जुड़े आनलाइन या ओपन कोर्सों को लेकर भी सतर्क किया है। इसमें छात्रों को जांच-परख कर ही दाखिला लेने को कहा है। आयोग ने छात्रों की सुविधा के लिए आनलाइन कोर्सों को संचालित करने वाले मान्य उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों की एक सूची भी वेबसाइट पर अपलोड की है। इसमें संस्थानों के मान्य आनलाइन कोर्सों का पूरा ब्योरा है।

आयोग ने यह कदम छात्रों को फर्जी तरीके से संचालित हो रहे आनलाइन या ओपन कोर्सों के जाल से बचाने के लिए उठाया, जो दाखिले का सीजन शुरू होते ही छात्रों को ठगते हैं। इससे छात्रों का

- यूजीसी ने छात्रों को किया सतर्क, कहा-आनलाइन या ओपन कोर्स में जांच कर लें दाखिला
- अयोग्य संस्थानों की सूची में एनएमआइएमएस, पेरियार व श्रीवेंकटेश्वर विश्वविद्यालय शामिल

## इनके लिए किया सतर्क

यूजीसी ने छात्रों को उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में जिन 16 विषयों से जुड़े आनलाइन कोर्सों में दाखिला नहीं लेने को कहा, उनमें इंजीनियरिंग, मेडिकल, फीजियोथेरेपी, अकुपेशनल थैरेपी, फार्मेसी, नर्सिंग, डेंटल, एग्रीकल्चर, कानून, आर्किटेक्चर, हार्टिकल्चर, होटल मैनेजमेंट, क्यूलनेरी साइंस, कैटरिंग टेक्नोलॉजी, एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटीनेंस, विजुअल आर्ट व स्पोर्ट और एविएशन शामिल हैं।

न सिर्फ करियर खराब होता है, उन्हें आर्थिक नुकसान भी उठाना पड़ता है। आयोग के इसके साथ नर्सों मोंजी इंस्टीट्यूट आफ मैनेजमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (एनएमआइएमएस) महाराष्ट्र, श्री वेंकटेश्वर विश्वविद्यालय आंध्र प्रदेश व पेरियार विश्वविद्यालय में संचालित आनलाइन कोर्सों पर रोक लगाते हुए उसमें दाखिला नहीं लेने की सलाह दी है।

# सुभारती के एनएसएस का ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

## युरेशिया संवाददाता

मेरठ स्वामी विवेकानंद सुभारती विश्वविद्यालय मेरठ की राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना (एनएसएस) की विभिन्न इकाइयों द्वारा मेरठ के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सात दिवसीय विशेष शिविरों का आयोजन किया गया है जिसके अंतर्गत विश्वविद्यालय के चुनिंदा स्वयंसेवक गांवों में लोगों को विकास संबंधी योजनाओं और मतदाता जागरूकता का प्रचार-प्रसार कर रहे हैं। साथ ही ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सफाई अभियान, स्वच्छ पर्यावरण, जस संरक्षण, डिजिटल लिटरेसी, निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य जांच शिविर और सामुदायिक विकास के कार्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे हैं। एनएसएस की इकाई-1 का सात दिवसीय विशेष शिविर मेरठ विकास खंड के गुमी-जुरानपुर गांव में एनएसएस के कार्यक्रम अधिकारी राम प्रकाश तिवारी के निर्देशन में चलाया जा रहा है। 50 स्वयंसेवकों के दल ने शिविर के पांचवें दिन गुमी ग्राम में



विशेष सफाई अभियान चलाया जिसमें ग्रामीणों ने भी बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लिया। इस दौरान स्थानीय समाजसेवी प्रवेश गुर्जर उपस्थित रहे उन्होंने स्वच्छता अभियान की शुरुआत करते हुए कहा कि स्वामी विवेकानंद सुभारती विश्वविद्यालय की इकाई 1 के द्वारा हमारे गांव में जो यह स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया जा रहा है इससे ग्रामीणों के मध्य स्वच्छता को लेकर जागरूकता पनपेगी। इसी तरह इकाई 3 के द्वारा गांव खजूरी, विकासखंड परीक्षितगढ़ में विशेष शिविर के छठवें दिन निशुल्क स्वास्थ्य शिविर का

आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें सामुदायिक चिकित्सा विभाग के डॉ. पवन व डॉ. छवि ने ग्रामीणों का चिकित्सकीय परीक्षण किया। इस शिविर में मरीजों को निःशुल्क दवाई भी वितरित की गई। यह विशेष शिविर कार्यक्रम अधिकारी शिवानी भदौरिया की देखरेख में चल रहा है। वहीं जानी खुर्द विकासखंड के गांव टिकरी में एनएसएस की इकाई 2 के द्वारा आज स्थानीय ग्रामीणों के सहयोग से स्वच्छ पेयजल की जागरूकता हेतु कार्यक्रम चलाया गया और नशा व धूम्रपान निषेध के बारे में जागरूकता फैलायी

गई। यह शिविर कार्यक्रम अधिकारी धर्मेन्द्र सिंह के अधीन चल रहा है। एनएसएस के विश्वविद्यालय कार्यक्रम समन्वयक डॉ. एस. सी. थलेड़ी ने बताया कि इकाई 3 का विशेष शिविर ग्राम खजूरी में 21 मार्च को समाप्त हो जाएगा तथा टिकरी और गुमी-जुरानपुर गांव में 22 मार्च को विशेष शिविरों का समापन किया जाएगा। इसके पश्चात इन शिविरों में भाग लेने वाले स्वयंसेवकों को 120 घंटे कार्य करने का प्रमाण पत्र निर्गत किया जाएगा जोकि छात्रों के करियर के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा।



# ऑनलाइन एडमिशन से पहले यूनिवर्सिटी की करें जांच: UGC

Bhupender.Sharma

@timesgroup.com



समझिए खबरों के  
अंदर की बात

## छात्रों के लिए कितनी कारगर यह सलाह?

UGC हर साल फर्जी यूनिवर्सिटी की लिस्ट जारी करती है। कई ऐसे संस्थान भी हैं, जिन्हें ऑनलाइन कोर्स की अनुमति नहीं है। UGC को पब्लिक नोटिस जारी करना पड़ा है ताकि छात्र न तो फर्जी यूनिवर्सिटी के जाल में फंसे और न ही ऐसे ऑनलाइन कोर्स में दाखिला लें, जिनकी UGC से मान्यता ही नहीं है। कई संस्थान ऑनलाइन कोर्सेज को लेकर बड़े-बड़े दावे करते हैं, लेकिन छात्रों को दाखिला लेने से पहले मान्यता का प्रूफ जरूर देखना चाहिए। अभी ऑनलाइन माध्यम में बीए, बीकॉम, एमकॉम, बीसीए, एमसीए, एमबीए, बीबीए समेत कई कोर्सेज को मान्यता दी गई है।

■ नई दिल्ली: नया शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25 शुरू होने से पहले यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट कमिशन (UGC) ने छात्रों को आगाह करते हुए कहा है कि जिस यूनिवर्सिटी के ओपन एंड डिस्टेंस लर्निंग और ऑनलाइन लर्निंग मोड में चलने वाले कोर्सेज में दाखिला लेने जा रहे हैं, उसकी अच्छी तरह से जांच-पड़ताल कर लें। यूजीसी की वेबसाइट <https://deb.ugc.ac.in> पर जाकर जरूर चेक करें कि जिस यूनिवर्सिटी के ऑनलाइन कोर्स में दाखिला लेने जा रहे हैं, वह UGC से मान्यता प्राप्त है या नहीं? इसके अलावा यूनिवर्सिटी की वेबसाइट पर भी चेक करें।

यूजीसी ने छात्रों को कहा है कि रेगुलेशंस के तहत जिन ऑनलाइन कोर्सेज को शुरू करने की मंजूरी दी गई है, उनकी वैल्यू उतनी ही है, जितनी दूसरे रेगुलर कोर्सेज की होती है। इसके अलावा यूजीसी ने पब्लिक नोटिस में ऐसे प्रोग्राम की लिस्ट जारी की है, जो ऑनलाइन मोड में नहीं चलाए जा सकते हैं।

इन कोर्सेज को इजाजत नहीं: यूजीसी ने मेडिकल, इंजिनियरिंग, नर्सिंग, फॉर्मैसी, लॉ, डेटल, आर्किटेक्चर, फिजियोथैरेपी, विजुअल आर्ट एंड

स्पोर्ट्स, एयरक्रॉफ्ट मैटिनेंस, होटल मैनेजमेंट समेत 18 कोर्सेज को ऑनलाइन सिस्टम में चलाने की इजाजत नहीं दी है।

NBT