



■ Science textbooks in Hindi & English in all govt-run schools

Bilingual books for students in Uttarakhand

PRITHVIRAJ SINGH
DEHRADUN, MAY 30

In a first of its kind in the country, the Uttarakhand government will provide bilingual textbooks for science to its students from this academic session.

The books, available in English and Hindi, have been delivered to all state-run schools before the commencement of the academic year, officials said.

According to officials of

the state education department, all science textbooks from Classes 6 to 12 have been published in two languages. Interestingly, these books are not published separately in Hindi or English. Every page of a textbook will have one of the languages on one page and its translation on the other,

“This will be the first of its kind module of textbooks prepared by any state government in the country. While there will

be a single bilingual science textbook for Classes 6 to 8, senior secondary classes will have three separate books for physics, chemistry and biology. The books have been printed and sent to the schools for the academic year 2024-25,” director of general education Bansidhar Tiwari said.

“This is in sync with the state government's earlier decision to provide the state education board students books in both the languages as many public



schools in the state are affiliated to the state education board,” Mr Tiwari said.

Mr Tiwari also added that select 800 government schools will soon have two smart classes each. All 1,600 smart classes will be interconnected through wire. Schools will be equipped with hi-tech digital equipment, including big screens, online 3D education modules, high-speed Internet services and a host of other techniques and gazettes. AA

Asia's Labour Force Participation

Despite raising retirement ages, total labour force participation in the Asia-Pacific region fell from 67% in 1991 to about 61% in 2023, according to a report by ILO. It's projected to fall to 55% by 2050. A snapshot...

Asia-Pacific labour force participation rate* by sex, 1993 & 2023 (%)

	MEN		WOMEN		TOTAL	
	1993	2023	1993	2023	2023	1993
East Asia	83	72	69	60	76	66
South-East Asia	81	78	57	55	69	66
South Asia	79	77	26	31	53	54
Pacific	74	68	54	59	64	63
Asia and Pacific	81	75	51	47	67	61

*A measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work

Source: Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2024



An old-world library at the heart of the AI boom

OpenAI is changing the way the world interacts with language. But in the company's California office, there is an old-fashioned homage to the written word

The two-storyed library in San Francisco has Oriental rugs, shaded lamps and rows of hardbacks lining its walls. It is the architectural centerpiece of the offices of OpenAI, the startup whose online chatbot ChatGPT revolutionised the world of AI.

In its past life, the building used to be a mayonnaise factory. Today it looks like a typical tech office, with communal work spaces, well-stocked micro kitchens and private nap rooms. But it also has the library, with the ambience of a Victorian era reading room. Its shelves offer everything from Homer's *The Iliad* to David Deutsch's *The Beginning of Infinity*, said to be a favourite of CEO Sam Altman's.

Built on Altman's request and stocked with titles suggested by his staff, the OpenAI library is an apt metaphor for the world's hottest tech company whose success is fuelled by language. OpenAI's chatbot was not built like the average internet app: ChatGPT learned its skills by analysing huge amounts of text that was written, edited and curated by humans,

including encyclopedia posts, news articles, poetry and books.

But the library also represents the paradox at the heart of OpenAI's technology. Several authors and publishers have sued the company, saying it illegally used their copyrighted technology to build its systems, while authors also fear the technology may take away their livelihood.

Through these debates and more, the library has continued to serve as a constant reminder of human creativity, says Shannon Gaffney, co-founder, SkB Architects, the firm that renovated OpenAI's headquarters and designed its library.

Famous examples

When OpenAI hired Gaffney's firm in 2019, Altman said he wanted a library with an academic aura.

He wanted it to be a reminder of the Green Library, a Romanesque library at Stanford University, where he was a student for two years before

The library has speakers, with music choices including the soundtrack to the 1979 science-fiction movie *Alien*



The library was built on Sam Altman's request with titles suggested by staff

PICS: NYT, GETTY IMAGES

dropping out to build a social media app; the Rose Reading Room, a Beaux-Arts study hall on the top floor of the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan; and the library-like bar inside the now-defunct Nomad Hotel, 15 blocks south of the Rose.

"My dining room and living room are inside a library — floor-to-ceiling books all the way around," Altman had

There is something about sitting in the middle of knowledge on the shelves at vast scale that I find interesting,

— SAM ALTMAN

once said. "There is something about sitting in the middle of knowledge on the shelves at vast scale that I find interesting."

Titles like *English Masterpieces, 700-1900*, *Ideas and Images in World Art*

seem like the weighty hardbacks that professional decorators place strategically inside hotel lobbies because they look the part. But at OpenAI, the library is a reflection of the organisation that built it.

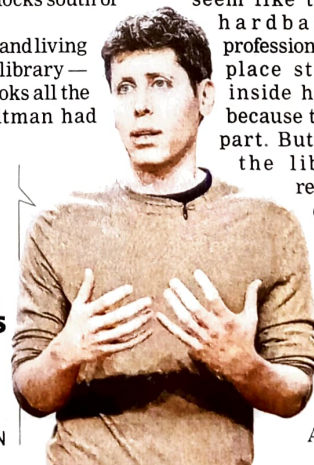
Some employees see the library as a quiet place to work. Long Ouyang, an AI researcher,

keeps a rolling desk against the wall. Others see it as an unusually elegant break room. Some visit on weekends to unwind and play music through audio speakers tucked among the hardbacks. And other employees find it far more inspiring than the cubicles they are assigned.

Recently, Ryan Greene, a researcher at OpenAI, began feeding lists of his favourite books into ChatGPT and asking for new recommendations. At one point the chatbot recommended *The Book of Disquiet*, a posthumously published autobiography of the Portuguese writer Fernando Pessoa. A friend, who knew his tastes well, had recommended that he read the same book.

Gaffney argued that this blend of the human and the machine will continue. Then she paused, before adding: "That, at least, is what I hope and feel."

— The New York Times





Delhi student gets Chicago Booth Impact Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An alumnus of Netaji Subash University of Technology, Delhi, Luv Aggarwal has received the prestigious Chicago Booth Impact Award at a ceremony on May 11. The Dean of the University of Chicago presented the award, acknowledging Aggarwal's significant contributions to the entrepreneurial and tech communities.

Also an alumnus of Columbia University New York and the University of Chicago, Aggarwal has an extraordinary career, having worked at Google and currently working with a high-impact startup.

His leadership and innovation in the tech industry have set him apart as a notable figure.

Beyond his professional achievements, Aggarwal is a mentor to many aspiring entrepreneurs. He has guided numerous startups in various fields, including Information Technology, Health Tech, Online Retailing, and Insurance Tech. His dedication towards promoting new talent has made a significant impact on the startup ecosystem.

The Chicago Booth Impact Award highlights Aggarwal's influence and his commitment to encourage positive change in the business and technology sectors. His achievements serve as an inspiration to many in the entrepreneurial community.

Creating jobs will have to be a priority

KASHIF ISLAM

Economic distress and inflation were among the main concerns of the Indian electorate in the on-going national elections. Even those holding favourable views of the government believed it hadn't done enough on the jobs front.

It is interesting how the major political parties have positioned their campaigns in the elections, now drawing to an end. Under the slogan "Choose jobs, not hate", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi promised to fill more than 3 million vacant government posts if elected to power. The party manifesto included a commitment to the right to apprenticeship for all graduates, a guaranteed programme of urban employment, and time-bound recruitment of candidates appearing for the government exams, some of which drag on for years.

The ruling BJP's manifesto also includes similar promises of jobs and empowerment. Yet, many of the party's ads focus on welfare schemes, such as the pay-outs to farmers and cooking cylinders to low-income families, rather than the jobs. Also, economic performance has not been the primary focus of the party's campaign. It is almost exclusively focused on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Instead, the party has chosen the well-trodden path of communal polarisation, with the Prime Minister repeatedly bringing up allegations of the opposition favouring the minorities.

Unlike Western countries, where formal, stable employment is the norm, a defining characteristic of a developing economy like India is that many young



people are forced to work in low-skill professions, join family businesses, or get self-employed in low-paying occupations. The Indian economy has grown steadily over the past many years but has failed to add quality employment in line with its growing youth population.

Poor quality of technical education is often blamed for the unemployment of young graduates. Yet this misses the fact that if there is substantial availability of well-paid jobs in any sector, skill development follows, as has happened in the IT sector.

Formal unemployment figures are not a reliable way to understand the amplitude of the problem as they do not record many seekers who are not actively seeking work in lower-paid professions or in family businesses. Rather, one must depend on indirect evidence.

For instance, for every government post advertised, there are hundreds of applicants, many of them overqualified. Job aspirants spend years prepar-

ing for government exams because only a limited number can be filled yearly. The number of Indians going abroad for studies or jobs has assumed significant proportions in recent years, pointing to dissatisfaction with the opportunities at hand. Hundreds of technical colleges have shut down in the past decade because their graduates could not find appropriate job opportunities.

The present government has tried various strategies to revitalise the job sector over the years. When Modi entered office in 2014, he promised to create 20 million jobs. Part of his strategy was to revitalise the Indian manufacturing sector. He launched an ambitious programme named "Make in India" aimed at creating 100 million additional manufacturing jobs by 2022. Businesses were encouraged to reduce imports of manufactured goods and offered incentives to produce within the country. India was expected to rival China for its manufacturing capabilities. Ten years later, the results are mixed.

While imports of items such as mobile phones and toys declined and a few big names, such as Apple, started manufacturing in the country, India has yet to become the manufacturing giant as was hoped for. Most manufacturing units in the country remain small-scale, employing less than 50 people and there are fewer people employed in the manufacturing sector than was the case 10 years back. Tellingly PM Modi has not invoked the 'Make in India' programme in his campaigning.

Moreover, a blue-collar manufacturing job may not be the path to prosperity, as was the case in China. There is a distinct trend of contractual employment where even large Indian manufacturers outsource operations or hire temporary staff. These are typically paid less than permanent employees, do not get health or retirement benefits, and remain outside the ambit of labour laws. The government itself makes extensive use of the contractual workforce.

For long, the Information Technology (IT) services sector compensated for the lack of vibrant manufacturing. Thousands of young graduates find work each year in local and multinational companies. Current estimates for the number of people employed by the IT services sector stand at over 5 million. Not only was the IT sector relatively immune from cost competition, unlike manufacturing, but it also paid well.

However, employment in any one sector cannot grow indefinitely. Traditionally, the big IT companies hired fresh graduates in the thousands from college campuses nationwide. While the best campuses still attract recruiters, the numbers have

decreased drastically recently. The industry body NASSCOM reported that aggregate employment in the Indian IT sector dropped for the first time in 20 years. Many of the top Indian IT companies have shrunk their workforce. It needs to be clarified if this is a temporary slowdown after the Covid-era boom in hiring or a more permanent status quo.

Even if it is a temporary downturn tied to global events, there is a new disruptor in Artificial Intelligence, a double-edged sword for the Indian IT industry. While India leads in the number of available AI talent, there are apprehensions that advances in AI will make many traditional IT and back-office roles redundant. It is hard to predict whether the number of jobs that AI replaces turns out to be significantly higher than the ones it creates.

The government, which will form once the results are declared on June 4 will have to contend with this difficult problem. It is easy for the opposition to promise to fill 3 million government jobs, but the fact is that government employment has been declining over the past many years. Employment in manufacturing is unlikely to go up significantly from current levels. Over-reliance on the IT sector must also prove problematic sooner or later. Economists often talk about a 'demographic dividend' for countries with a large youth population, such as India. The ability to create well-paid jobs and broad-based prosperity will determine whether the country's large youth population will turn out to be a dividend or a demographic nightmare.

SIR ASUTOSH MOOKERJEE

SUDDEN DEATH

BRILLIANT MAN OF MANY PARTS AND GREAT EDUCATIONIST

THE sudden death of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, which occurred at Patna, on Sunday, came as a great shock to Bengal. Although he had been unwell for some time, his end was totally unexpected.

Sir Asutosh is the second prominent Bengali ex-judge of the High Court to die during the past few days.

SIR ASUTOSH MOOKERJEE was a son of the late Dr. Ganga Prosad Mookerjee of Bhowanipur and was born in 1864. He received his school education in the South Suburban School, and after passing the entrance examination, joined the Presidency College, Calcutta, whence he graduated in 1884 with high honours in mathematics. He passed his M. A. examination in the same subject the following year and secured the first place in order of merit. The next year (1886) he passed the Premchand Roychand Studentship Examination which was then the most difficult and the final examination, and carried off the handsome scholarship attached to it. He passed the B.L. examination from the City College where Mr. S. P. (now Lord) Sinha was one of the lecturers. This practically closed the student life of the great man who played such an important part in connection with the development of higher education in Bengal.

Engaging tools for teachers; but there are anxieties too

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On April 28, World Economic Forum released a report that details its findings on how AI is impacting the teaching profession. Titled 'Shaping the future of learning: The role of AI in education 4.0', the report strengthens the narrative that teachers globally have known for at least a year now – AI tools are incredibly useful in the pedagogical arena and are being widely used by teachers and professors at all levels.

Kavita Arora, a teacher at a school in Mira Road, Thane, says that ever since Gen AI went mainstream, AI tools have become an important support system that has changed the working life of teachers. "We regularly use it to generate topics for extra-curricular activities such as elocutions, debates, and skits. We also use it to generate topics for writing tasks like essays."

These tools are also incredibly helpful, Kavita says, in developing teaching material such as presentations and lesson plans – an onerous task at the best of times.

Abhinanda Sarkar, academic director at Great Learning, says that AI has fundamentally reshaped the way educators approach teaching and that with AI equipped to handle tasks such as research, content curation, data analysis, and automating routine administrative duties, educators have more time to focus on crafting engaging and interactive lessons. "This flexibility enables teachers to customise each student's learning experience, tailoring activities to suit their individual needs." This hyper personalisation of education is frequently touted as one of the biggest advantages of AI tools in the education sector, because we all learn at a different pace and might prefer different learning styles, both of which AI tools are uniquely suited to deliver. It's also a boon for teachers dealing with differently abled students.

“Integrating AI into primary education poses challenges for us as leaders and teachers. These include data privacy concerns, digital literacy gaps amongst faculty members, possible bias in AI algorithms and the trust students (or staff) might give an AI-generated article or output. We look to balance AI-driven personalised learning with the development of social and emotional skills. We imagine this will remain a challenge as we, and other educators, must navigate the potential of AI while safeguarding students' holistic development.”

Peter Spratling | PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL,
STONEHILL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BENGALURU



Teachers are increasingly leveraging AI to enhance learning experiences in schools and universities. AI enables personalised learning by analysing students' learning patterns and academic performance data and adjusts the content and pace accordingly. These AI-based systems also generate real-time feedback, helping students grasp difficult concepts, and track progress. We use AI to help teachers identify classroom-level student learning challenges and enable them to administer personalised remedials for their classes.

Ajay Kashyap |
CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER,
LEAD GROUP



We've been experimenting with using an AI teaching assistant, which students can chat with during the lecture and resolve their queries. Often, students feel shy asking questions in the middle of class. However, we've seen many more students interacting with the chatbot, which is pre-trained on the content and context of the topic being taught in the specific classroom. Building such tools was impossible until just a year back. We already see a big impact on learning outcomes when such techniques are implemented in the student's learning process.

Abhimanyu Saxena |
CO-FOUNDER, SCALER &
INTERVIEWBIT



Vamsi Krishna, CEO & co-founder of Vedantu, says their class teachers are empowered with data insights to tailor classes to individual student needs and that this approach is taking personalised learning to new heights.

Peter Spratling, primary school principal for Stonehill International School in Bengaluru, says Stonehill uses an AI platform called Toddle AI that helps them evaluate and refine their learning experiences to better meet the diverse needs of their students. "By analysing student engagement and performance data, we generate ideas for improvement and differentiate our learning opportunities accordingly."

THE DRAWBACKS

WEF's April report, while upbeat about the potential of AI to enhance learning experiences and outcomes, also flagged concerns about data privacy, equity, and the displacement of traditional teaching roles. These fears are shared by educators as well.

"AI in education offers personalised learning and efficiency, yet grapples with privacy concerns, biases, and the digital divide. Navigating these challenges requires balancing innovation with ethical responsibility and ensuring equitable access for all learners," says Rajeshwari BC, school principal for Embassy Academy in Bengaluru. **TOI**

वेरिफिकेशन के लिए शुल्क न लें यूनिवर्सिटी: UGC

AI Image



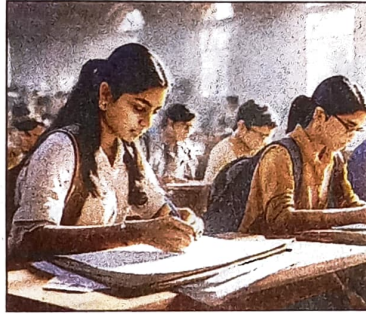
■ विस, नई दिल्ली: UGC ने गुरुवार को सभी यूनिवर्सिटी को निर्देश जारी किया कि सरकारी सेवाओं में जिन कैंडिडेट्स का सेलेक्शन होता है, उनके एजुकेशनल डॉक्युमेंट्स वेरिफिकेशन के लिए भेजे जाएं तो मंत्रालय और विभागों से कोई शुल्क न लें। कई ऐसे मामले आए हैं जिनमें यूनिवर्सिटीज ने वेरिफिकेशन के लिए फीस की मांग की थी। इसके साथ ही यूजीसी ने FSSAI और ICMR के गलत खानपान को लेकर आहार संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश को आधार बनाते हुए सभी यूनिवर्सिटी और कॉलेजों को छात्रों को अच्छे खानपान के बारे में जागरूक करने को कहा है।

NTA तय समय से पहले दे सकता है बड़ी परीक्षाओं के नतीजे, NEET-UG की प्रोविजनल आंसर-Key जारी

Bhupender.Sharma

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AI Image



जाएगी और वे प्रोविजनल आंसर की देखेंगे। अगर छात्र को कोई आपत्ति होगी तो वे तय की गई फीस ऑनलाइन जमा करवाकर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। अगर दावा ठीक पाया जाता है तो आंसर की को रिवाइज किया जाएगा और फाइनल रिजल्ट तैयार होगा।

एनटीए की ओर से छात्रों को उनके रजिस्टर्ड ईमेल एड्रेस पर ओएमआर आंसर शीट की स्कैन इमेज भेजी जाएगी और छात्र अपने आंसर को चेक कर सकेंगे। 31 मई को रात 11.50 मिनट तक

NBT
Lens

समझिए खबरों के
अंदर की बात

एग्जाम बाद समय पर शुरू हो पाएंगे एडमिशन?

एनटीए ने मेडिकल टेस्ट और सीयूईटी में इस बार रेकॉर्ड छात्रों के लिए एग्जाम कंडक्ट किया है और सीयूईटी एग्जाम की अवधि तो 34 दिन से घटाकर 8 दिन कर दी गई है। वही अब एनटीए मिशन रिजल्ट पर तेजी से काम कर रहा है ताकि मेडिकल संस्थानों और यूनिवर्सिटीज में होने वाले दाखिले तय शेड्यूल के मुताबिक ही पूरे हो सकें। पिछले दो वर्षों में यूनिवर्सिटी में एडमिशन शुरू होने में देरी हुई थी क्योंकि एग्जाम ज्यादा दिनों तक चला था। लेकिन इस बार यह स्पष्ट है कि एनटीए ने जो शेड्यूल तय किया है, उससे पहले भी रिजल्ट आ सकता है। रिजल्ट समय पर आने का फायदा छात्रों को मिलेगा क्योंकि इससे उन्हें एक संस्थान चुनने में आसानी होगी और कई संस्थानों में फीस जमा करवाने और बाद में एडमिशन कैसल करवाने के झंझट से भी मुक्ति मिल सकेगी।

वे चैलेंज कर सकते हैं। उसके बाद एनटीए के सब्जेक्ट एक्सपर्ट का पैनल उस चैलेंज की समीक्षा करेगा और तय करेगा कि

दावा ठीक है या नहीं। वेबसाइट <https://exams.nta.ac.in/NEET> के जरिए छात्र अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवा सकते हैं।