

# DNYANA GANGA

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### About this e-bulletin

It is a compilation of information from different sources which would be of interest to professionals, academicians and students. While adequate care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of links provided, we do not accept any liability. If you have any interesting information to share or to provide feedback, pl. write to [dmclibrarian@rediffmail.com](mailto:dmclibrarian@rediffmail.com)

## NUMBER THAT MATTERS

- 14% of the world's food gets wasted during transit from the farm to retail level.

**Source: The State of Food and Agriculture, 2019**

- 164 land and environmental activists were killed in 2018 across the world, which averages to over three every week.

**Source: Enemies of the State? 2019 by Global Witness**

- Worst Hit: Just 10 states account for nearly 65% of India's total area under desertification starting from Jharkhand with 69%, followed by Rajasthan , Delhi Gujarat, Goa (Goa Digging itself into a hole), Nagaland, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka with 36%.

**Source: The State of Food and Agriculture, 2019**

## KNOW YOUR HEALTH / DID YOU KNOW

- Parents and toddlers are more engaged with each other and have a more shared experience when reading from a print book. But an e-book tends to create conflict because both parents and kids try to control the tablet.

**Source: JAMA Pediatrics**

- A diet rich in plant-based food is associated with a reduced risk of prostate cancer, while a high consumption of dairy products is associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer.

**Source: Journal of American Osteopathic Association.**

## OVER 2 LAKH INDIAN STUDENTS WENT TO US FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2018-19: REPORT

- India sent 202,014 students in 2018-19, which is the second largest number of foreign students sent by any country to the US, the report says
- The number of foreign students in the US set an all-time high in the 2018-19 academic year, with more than one million international students, says the report

**NEW DELHI :** More than 200,000 Indian students travelled to the US for higher education in 2018-19, the second largest after China, a US report released on Monday said.

The '2019 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange' said the number of foreign students in the US set an all-time high in the 2018-19 academic year, with more than one million international students. This comes despite reports of the US tightening entry norms for foreign nationals under the Trump administration.

The data from the US Department of Commerce stated that international students contributed \$44.7 billion to the US economy in 2018, an increase of 5.5% from the previous year. China remained the largest source of international students in the US in 2018-19 with 369,548 students. This was a 1.7% increase from 2017-18. This is the 10th straight year that China has retained its position as the largest source of foreign students in the US, the report said.

India sent 202,014 students in 2018-19, which is the second largest number of foreign students sent by any country to the US, the report said. This was an increase of 2.9% over the numbers recorded for 2017-18.

The total number of international students in the US in 2018-19 was 1,095,299, a 0.05% increase over the previous year, it said, adding that international students make up 5.5% of the total US higher education population.

Students from India and China account for more than 50 % of all international students arriving in the US in 2018-19, the report released by Institute of International Education (IIE) and US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs said.

"We are happy to see the continued growth in the number of international students in the United States and US students studying abroad," a US statement quoted Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs as saying.

"Promoting international student mobility remains a top priority for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and we want even more students in the future to see the United States as the best destination to earn their degrees," she said.

Besides China and India, South Korea sent 52,250 students, Saudi Arabia 37,080 and Canada 26,122 – to round off the top five countries sending the most numbers of students to the US, the report said.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics attracted more than 51.6 % of international students in the US in 2018-19, the report said. For US students travelling abroad for studies, Europe remained the most popular destination with 54.9% travelling to the continent in 2017-18. Britain, Italy, Spain, France, and Germany hosted the most US study abroad students, the report said.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/education/news/over-2-lakh-indian-students-went-to-us-for-higher-education-in-2018-19-report-11574084967916.html>

# HOW CHINA MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR A GERMAN TO STUDY ANCIENT INDIAN MATH IN ITS UNIVERSITY

China has wisely and energetically created new universities with a high standard of faculty recruitment at a global level in the past three decades of economic growth. China's universities are doing transformative research work today. But this change didn't occur overnight. Soon after its economic transformation took off, China had the foresight to recognise that to sustain long-term economic growth, it needed to build a knowledge economy.

A few years ago, I saw an example of this measured and sound policy-making progress in higher education in China. I was delivering a public lecture on the history of Indian mathematics at the Fudan University in Shanghai, and I came across a young German national in the audience. He was a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics at the Fudan University and an acknowledged expert on the history of Indian mathematics. I was truly surprised to learn from his researches that many ancient temples of South India had used, in their architectural design, mathematical ideas derived from calculus that existed long before the time of Isaac Newton.

What is very surprising is that China had paid for the time and wisdom of this German national to delve into India's scientific history and figure out the mathematics behind the architecture. I have not yet met anyone in India who knows this facet of our architectural history. A German national researching on ancient Indian mathematics in a Chinese university is far from accidental. In the realm of higher education, China has played its cards very wisely; almost like a sage. This has been the hallmark of a sound, long-term policy that China has pursued to raise its standards of higher education.

About ten years ago, I was attending a mathematics conference with a distinguished mathematician of Chinese origin, serving at Harvard University. One of the most striking features of our extended interaction had centered around discussing the manner in which he was aiding the officially mandated Chinese effort to raise the standards of mathematical research and teaching in China. This endeavour was facilitated by state support and was a direct consequence

of a centralised policy to encourage and recruit young mathematicians from the western world, not necessarily of Chinese origin, to work in China on fairly generous terms.

Source: <https://theprint.in/opinion/how-china-makes-it-possible-for-a-german-to-study-ancient-indian-math-in-its-university/321970/>

## **VARITIES SHOULD ENSURE JOB-ORIENTED EDUCATION TO STUDENTS**

Lt-Governor (L-G) of Jammu and Kashmir, Girish Chandra Murmu today said the higher education institutions must introspect to bring reforms in their curriculum to enable graduates to acquire competencies required by employers or the skills required to be self-employed.

The L-G said it was the duty of the universities to ensure job-oriented higher education to the students to make them future ready and called for paradigm shift from theoretical education to job-oriented higher education.

Murmu was speaking after inaugurating the North Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet-2019-20 organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) under the auspices of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) at SMVDU, Kakryal, here. The L-G, who is the Chancellor of the SMVDU, outlined that the overall aim should be to improve universities through discussion to improve the quality of higher education and research.

He hoped that meetings like this would create a dialogue among the stakeholders which would be helpful not only for increasing employability, but also in achieving the goal of \$5 trillion economy for India.

He congratulated Prof Ravinder Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVD University, and Dr Pankaj Mittal, secretary general, AIU, for organising the meet on the important theme 'Developing employability and entrepreneurship as cornerstones in higher education'.

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/varsities-should-ensure-job-oriented-education-to-students-murmu/861734.html>

## **GOVT MAY PHASE OUT SINGLE-STREAM COLLEGES**

New Delhi: Single-stream colleges could soon be phased out, with the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry seeking to address what the latest draft of the New Education Policy terms “the fragmented nature of the higher education sector”, officials familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

An exception would be for “the state-of-the-art institutions” which have set high standards or are engaged in the areas of study of national importance, the officials added. The reference is to specialised schools which may come up in the future in an area which is considered a national need or priority. (The officials, however, did not provide any specific names.)

The plan is primarily to close down institutions of poor quality and improve the standard of education across India, the officials said. “For instance, if a college teaches engineering or agriculture, the attempt is to bring in more disciplines that are taught there. Similarly, if there is an institution that teaches humanities, the idea is to bring science courses. The aim is not to close institutions but to upgrade them. The recommendations would apply to all institutions at the graduate as well as the post graduate level,” said one of the senior HRD officials.

One of the officials cited above said that colleges that, for instance, offer only the Bachelor of Education course will definitely be on the top of the list of institutions that will be phased out.

According to an HRD ministry official, there are hundreds of colleges across the country offering courses in only one stream -- such as one specific subject in arts, science or engineering -- but added that an exact number is not available. The data will have to be collected from the states, the official said.

Education is a concurrent subject and NEP will be along the lines of a model law. “The NEP is a set of policy guidelines while an implementation plan will also be finalised along with it,” said one of the officials.

The former chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation, K Kasturirangan, led the panel that submitted the draft NEP to HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal in May. The HRD ministry is giving final touches to the draft which has recommended many measures to improve the standard of education -- from the primary-level to the higher education-level. The draft is likely to be sent to the Union Cabinet for approval soon.

The official cited above said that “a far-reaching impact” of NEP could also be a decrease in the number of institutions. The ones that will remain will have more students and higher standards, the official added. Most single-stream colleges are of “low quality” and “crassly commercial” and could be phased out, the official said.

“There are over 50,000 higher education institutions [across the country] ... a large proportion of them offer a single programme. Many of these have less than 100 students. Many of these [institutes] are commercial enterprises where little or no education takes place. The policy aims to correct this situation and the solution is consolidation,” the official explained.

The draft NEP has suggested the transformation of higher education institutions into multidisciplinary universities and education clusters with each having over 3,000 students. The objective is to boost quality while ensuring the education remains accessible, the official said.

“The average enrolment in these colleges and universities would be much larger than the average enrolment today. Significantly, the policy aims at a Gross Enrolment Ratio [GER] of 50%... for this the capacity of existing institutions needs to be increased,” the official said.

**The current GER is around 26.**

GER refers to the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same



level of education, according to the Unesco. Officials said that new single-stream institutions will also be discouraged except in areas of national importance.

“There is a thinking that even agricultural universities or other niche institutions should also diversify. Even premier engineering colleges like the IITs [Indian Institutes of Technology] could teach more courses related to humanities... colleges which traditionally do not teach sciences courses could also move in this direction,” the official said.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-may-phase-out-single-stream-colleges/story-EV8AY5y2tex7iGV3bov7lJ.html>

## **PUNJAB STUDENT GETS Rs 1.17 CR SCHOLARSHIP TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA**

*Union Ministry of Social Justice and Employment awarded the scholarship of Rs. 1.17 cr to Surinder Pal. Union Ministry of Social Justice and Employment has awarded a scholarship of over Rs 1.17 crore to a student in Punjab's Gurdaspur for completing his PhD in Australia under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme.*

"Heartiest Congratulations to Surinder Pal, son of Jaspal, from Punjab for securing scholarship of Rs1,17,56,352 to pursue PhD from Australia under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC by Ministry of Social Justice and employment. Wish you all the best!" Union Minister ThawarchandGehlot has tweeted.

### **Surinder Pal is a gold medalist in MTech**

Surinder Pal, who belongs to a poor family, is a gold medalist in M Tech. Pal said that he wanted to pursue higher education but could not do so due to his poor financial condition.

"I came to know via the internet that I have been awarded a scholarship. Now that I have received a scholarship, I can finally go abroad to pursue higher education," said Pal.

He said that he had applied for a scholarship in the year 2017, but had not received any response. Pal's family has also expressed happiness and gratitude to the Central government.

"Our son is very hardworking and smart. He had applied for a government scholarship several times. Finally, he has been selected for a scholarship," Pal's mother, Sunita Devi said.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/punjab-student-gets-rs-1-17-cr-scholarship-to-pursue-higher-education-in-australia-1619762-2019-11-17>

## **BANGLADESHI WOMEN STEAL A MARCH OVER PAKISTANIS, AND INDIANS TOO!**

Bangladesh has registered an increase of 75.1 per cent in HDI value from 1990 to 2017, while it was 50 per cent for India. In the UNDP's human development indicators (HDI), 2018, India is ahead at the 130th position in the overall ranking, while Bangladesh is at 136 and Pakistan at 150, among the 189 countries evaluated. But, in several key dimensions of human well-being, Bangladesh has shown better outcomes than India and of course, Pakistan, the country of its immediate origin.

Bangladesh has registered an increase of 75.1 per cent in HDI value from 1990 to 2017, while it was 50 per cent for India and 39 per cent for Pakistan during the same period. Even the loss in HDI value due to existing inequalities is lesser for Bangladesh, which is about 24.1 per cent, while it is 26.8 per cent for India, and 31 per cent for Pakistan, which is higher than the South Asian average of 26.1 per cent.

In terms of life expectancy at birth, a crucial indicator of overall health status, it was 74.6 years for females and 71.2 years for males in Bangladesh in 2017, and it had surpassed the South Asian average of 70.9 years for females and 67.8 years for males. Both India and Pakistan remain below the South Asian average with 70.4 years for females and 67.3 years for males and 67.7 years for females and 65.6 years for males respectively. Bangladesh has also gained longevity nearly by 14.4 years, India by 11 years, and Pakistan 6.5 years during the last three decades. A newborn in Bangladesh is more likely to see her fifth birthday than her Indian or Pakistani counterparts. In under-five mortality rates, India, now matches the global average of 39

deaths per 1,000 live births, and also could reduce the gender gap in mortality by 2.5 per cent, but Bangladesh has already gone much ahead by reducing the death rates to 32 per 1,000 live births, while Pakistan is lagging behind with 61.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Today Bangladesh's school-age children can expect to stay in school 5.8 years longer, while, it is 4.7 years in India, and in Pakistan 4 years. However, in case of girl children, the expected years of schooling in India is slightly better, which is 12.9 years for girls and 11.9 years for boys, while it is 11.7 years for girls and 11.3 years for boys in Bangladesh. In Pakistan, for a girl, it is 7.8 years and 9.3 years for a boy. In women's education at the secondary level, Bangladesh has the highest performance of 44 per cent in South Asia, and both India and Pakistan with 39 per cent and 27 per cent respectively remain below the South Asian average of 39.8 per cent.

Notwithstanding India's whooping jump of 266.6 per cent in Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (between 1990-2017), there is a huge gender gap in India in per capita income, which is `2,722 for a female and `9,729 for a male. The gap is further wide in Pakistan with `1,642 for a female and `8,786 for a male. But Bangladesh could narrow down the gap considerably, having GNI per capita at `2,041 for females and `5,285 for males.

Women in the political sphere, both in Bangladesh and Pakistan, however, have gone ahead with higher representation in Parliament, with 20.7 per cent and 20.2 per cent respectively, and India could improve its tally only marginally to 14.36 per cent in the 2019 election from 11.6 per cent in 2014.

In the Gender Development Index or GDI, 2017, a "gender-sensitive extension of the HDI", Bangladesh achieved a higher GDI value of 0.881, while it is 0.841 for India and 0.750 for Pakistan. It also managed well with regard to women's participation in labour, accounting for 33 per cent, which is 27.2 per cent for India and 24.9 per cent for Pakistan as per the UNDP report, 2018. In case of India, what is worrying is that the recent NSSO-conducted periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data indicated that the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has fallen to a historic low of 23.3 per cent in 2017-18, possibly due to the rise in the rates of higher education enrolment. In case of Pakistan, a 2016 Asian Development Bank (ADB) report said

that “low female participation in formal employment is due to several restrictions on physical mobility due to the factors of safety and crime, availability of transport, etc, apart from other socio-cultural and religious norms...”.

Bangladesh, for the third consecutive year, remained at the 47th rank among 144 nations as per the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI), 2017, and topped the South Asian countries in gender equality, while India’s position nosedived from 87th to 108th, and Pakistan figured at the 143rd position, being the last, but one country.

Former Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, P.K. Chakravarty, while commenting on women’s better performance in Bangladesh, said that “large scale women’s employment in the readymade garment sector led to their emancipation from patriarchal social practices and also contributions of thousands of NGOS helped in achieving better health and education and financial inclusion at the grassroots, apart from the government incentives to girl child education”. Commenting on Pakistan’s lopsided gender representation, Sushant Sareen, senior fellow, Observer Research Foundation, said that “it is the deeply-rooted patriarchy that hindered the progress of ordinary women, and only a few elite-class women could make some headway...”.

Now, India has remained for years a top performing country in South Asia in terms of annual GDP growth and also is aspiring to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, yet in terms of gender parity, it has miles to go, while a comparatively young nation like Bangladesh has fuelled its economic growth on the strength of human resources, women in particular.

Source: <https://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/181119/bangladeshi-women-steal-a-march-over-pakistanis-and-indians-too.html>

# THE END