

# Escalating Student Suicides

## A Crisis in Indian Education

Despite lofty promises of building a strong, vibrant New India, the alarming rise in student suicides is a grim reminder of the dark underbelly of our education system. While the implementation of the New Education Policy 2020 is underway with a focus on fostering positive attitudes towards education, the harsh reality is that the number of student suicides in India is surging. In 2020, over 12,500 students took their own lives, and this tragic trend continued in 2021 with 13,000 more succumbing to despair, according

to data from the National Crime Records Bureau.

The recent suicides of two students in Kota, Rajasthan, bring the city's tally to 23 for the year, emphasizing the gravity of the issue. This "education city" is now tragically becoming a hub of student suicides, with nine occurring in just the past two months. The question looms large: Is this a result of government negligence, administrative failure, the coaching institute system, or a more complex issue?

The ironies surrounding education in India are stark. Education, often hailed as the weapon to transform individuals, society, and the nation, is paradoxically driving students to despair. The root

causes of this disturbing trend are multifaceted. The commercialization of education has led to unethical practices, putting immense pressure on students to achieve exceptional exam results and fostering cutthroat competition. Parents, driven by unfulfilled dreams, also burden their children with unrealistic expectations, leading to further stress.

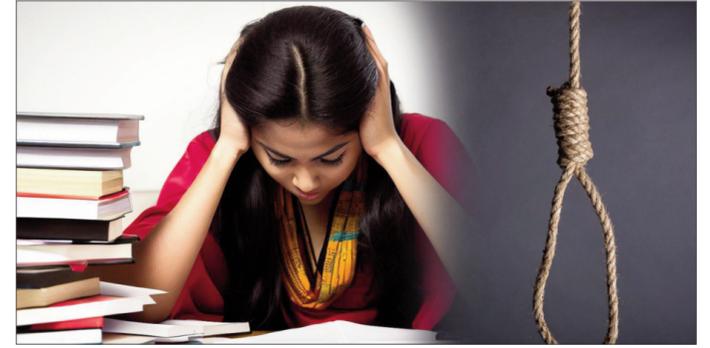
The success of an education system should be measured by accessibility and support, not cutthroat competition. Instead, students are often pushed to the brink by the relentless pressure of entrance exams. The educational mafia compounds this pressure, labeling exams like JEE and NEET as the toughest global-

ly.

To curb the rising tide of student suicides, we must prioritize effective counseling for both students and parents. Coaching institutes, along with the administration, must step up and provide support for students with low scores and those missing classes. The coaching industry is immensely wealthy, estimated to be worth over Rs 58,000 crore by the end of this year. It has the resources to address mental health concerns. Moreover, student suicides are not confined to coaching institutes; even premier institutions like IITs, NITs, IISERs, IIMs, PMT, and Central Universities are grappling with this issue. It raises questions about the quality of

education and the environment in these institutes, as they should nurture high-caliber citizens, not push students toward self-destruction.

Guidelines, such as those implemented by IIT Bombay to discourage discussions on ranks and scores, need to be adopted across the board. Additionally, parents must be educated about their children's true potential, and a collaborative effort between parents, coaching institutes, and the government is crucial to address the crisis in Kota and beyond. The rising student suicide rate is a complex problem requiring a comprehensive solution. It's not just about the pressure of exams but also encompasses poverty, famil-



ial expectations, and societal factors. The administration needs to hold coaching institutes accountable for their actions and implement strict measures against the educa-

tional mafia. In conclusion, the escalating number of student suicides in India is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention and collective action. It is

a stark reminder that our education system, despite its aspirations for excellence, is failing to safeguard the well-being of our youth.

- Lalit Garg

## Sindhi Community Celebrates and Honors 325 Promising Youth

**Udaipur:** In a heartwarming gesture of community pride and support, the Sindhi community came together to honor 325 young boys and girls at Sindhu Mahal in Jawahar Nagar. This grand celebration was organized jointly by two prominent panchayats of the Sindhi community, namely the Respected Jacobabad Sindhi Panchayat and Respected Sindhi Sahitya Panchayat.

Distinguished Guests: The event was graced by esteemed guests, including former President of Rajasthan Sindhi Academy and former Minister, Harish Rajani. Among the notable guests were IAS Officer and Commissioner of the Devasthan Department, Pragma Kewalramani; RAS Officer and Assistant Secretary of the Education Department,



Jyoti Kakwani; RJS Justice Meenakshi Bilochi; and Regional Officer of CBSE, Dr. Manish Chugh. Additionally, social worker Mohan Makhija and Mohan Keswani were present to celebrate this significant occasion.

An Auspicious Beginning: The program commenced with the lighting of lamps, symbolizing blessings from Lord Jhulelal and Saraswati Mata, by the honored guests and

community officials.

Education, A Priority: Prataprai Chugh, the head of the Sindhi community, emphasized the paramount importance of education and expressed immense joy at the dedication of the youth within the community towards their studies. Words of Encouragement: The esteemed guests, in their addresses, highlighted the significance of recognizing and

encouraging the youth. Pragma Kewalramani emphasized that such recognition fuels the enthusiasm of young minds, and Jyoti Kakwani commended the Udaipur Sindhi society for supporting middle-class students through scholarships. Building a Brighter Future: Justice Meenakshi Bilochi encouraged the youth to consider administrative services as a career path, recognizing the potential for Sindhi youth to excel in various fields. Manish Chugh pledged to send an education-focused team from Jaipur to share information about government education policies and programs with the community.

Special Recognition: The event also recognized Kamlesh Sen of Champion and Nisha Linjra, who offered

free beauty parlor courses to 140 girls in the Sindhi community. Yug Chellani and Kritika Dhamani, who earned five gold medals for India, were honored for their achievements in swimming. Kamlesh Ahuja suggested organizing workshops for the benefit of the community.

Gratitude and Acknowledgment: The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Om Prakash Ahuja of Pujya Sahiti Panchayat, expressing gratitude to the guests and everyone who participated in the event. Archana Chawla skillfully moderated the stage throughout the program.

Acknowledging the Team: The successful execution of the event was made possible through the efforts of the coor-

dinator, Ashok Chadwani, and the dedicated contributions of Nanak Ram Kasturi, Umesh Nara, Ashok Gera, Umesh Manwani, Sukhram Balchandani, Bharat Khatri, Kamlesh Rajani, Kailash Nebani, Suresh Kapoor, Suresh Chawla, Bhagwan Chhabra, Deepesh Hemnani, Vijay Ahuja, Hemant Gakhre, Kishan Wadhvani, Ashok Pahuja, Vasdev Rajani, Mukesh Khilwani, Kamal Pahuja, Aman Asnani, Kishore Jhabani, Rajesh Chugh, Sunil Khatri, Kishore Sadhwani, and Laxman Das Bajaj.

This event not only celebrated the achievements of the youth but also highlighted the collective spirit and dedication of the Sindhi community in promoting education and success among its members.

## Kaviraj Laik: A Rising Star in the World of Youth Theater

In the realm of youth theater, Kaviraj Laik's name shines brightly as he receives the prestigious award for Best Youth Theater Director of 2022-23 from Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot, personally presented him with this esteemed recognition during the inauguration of the newly renovated Jai Narayan Vyas Town Hall in Jodhpur on September 3, 2023.



**A Theatrical Prodigy:** Kaviraj Laik's journey into the world of theater commenced at an incredibly young age. Under the guidance of his parents, Anukampa and Dr. Laeque Hussain, he began his theatrical education at just one and a half years old. His dedication to the craft led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in drama from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University in Baroda, followed by a post-graduate degree from the renowned National School of Drama in New Delhi.

**Early Recognition:** At the tender age of 18, Kaviraj garnered nationwide acclaim for directing the intricate play "Meeta Ki Kahani," earning him the prestigious "Pyare Mohan Sahai" award from "Prangan" Patna for Best Youth Theater Director in 2017. His exceptional talents shone even brighter when his play was featured at the world's "8th" and India's first "Theatre Olympics" in 2018.

**A Trail of Accolades:** Kaviraj Laik's excellence in theater hasn't gone unnoticed. In recent times, he received honors from 'Navkriti Sanstha' Udaipur on August 14, 2023, and a day later, on August 15, 2023, from the Divisional Commissioner. His adaptation of Dr. Alamshah Khan Saheb's story "Maut Ka Mazhab" at Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal in Udaipur has earned praise not only in Rajasthan but also across the nation.

**Conclusion:** Kaviraj Laik's journey from a young theater enthusiast to a celebrated Youth Theater Director is a testament to his unwavering dedication and extraordinary talent. His recent recognition by the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi and other esteemed institutions serves as a reminder of the bright future that lies ahead for this rising star in the world of theatre.

## Child protection and child rights issues and challenges

The Pacific School of Law, Pacific University, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee of Udaipur, organized a two-day international conference and panel discussion on child protection and child rights issues and challenges. On the first day of the conference, more than 84 research papers were presented by scholars from various countries, including Abu Dhabi, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, etc. The inaugural event featured a lecture by Dr. Rajkumar Yadav from Central University Punjab, who spoke on the relevant subject.

The program's second day included a panel discussion on 'Protecting Children from Sexual Offenses.' The keynote speaker was Honorable Justice Ramchandra Singh Jhala, and he highlighted the rising incidents of sexual offenses against children and the significant decisions made by the Supreme Court in this regard. The social implications of this issue were also addressed.

Professor B.P. Sharma, Group President of the Pacific Group of Universities, was the main speaker of the program. He discussed the process of building character and values in children in the context of today's society and the importance of Indian culture. Rahul Agrawal and Sharad Kothari conveyed special messages. The event was presided over by Professor K.K. Dave, President of Pacific University.

Distinguished guest Mahendra Kumar Dave, a commercial court judge, suggested formulating special laws for socially marginalized children. The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Rajshree Choudhary, Dean of Mohanlal Sukhadia University Law College. Various experts shared insights on children's crimes, laws, rights, and issues. They discussed serious matters related to child safety and provided appropriate suggestions. The discussions highlighted the urgency of addressing the alarming issue of child sexual abuse within families.

Dr. Surendra Singh Bhati managed the conference. The conference committee members, including Dr. Subhash Sharma, Dr. Pushpa Mehdu, Dr. Ratna Sisodia, Dr. Bindu Loda, Dr. Shweta Oudichya, Dr. Puja Sisodia, and Ram Chandra Paliwal, contributed to the event's success.

## Brainstorming with youth on Rajasthan Mission-2030

**Udaipur:** On the initiative of the head of the state government, Shri Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan-Mission 2030 campaign was launched to prepare the 'Developed Rajasthan 2030' document with the aim of making Rajasthan a leading state of the country by the year 2030 with the aim of all-round development of the state and providing prosperity and social security to the people of the state. In this, suggestions are being received by communicating with various stakeholders. In this series, on Saturday, under the direction of District Collector Arvind Poswal, a counseling program was organized for the youth who wanted to apply for recruitment in various services of the state government, in the Deendayal Auditorium of the Municipal Corporation, in the presence of Additional District Collector City Rajeev Dwivedi.

First of all, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad and District Nodal Officer, Rajasthan Mission 2030 Vinay Pathak and CPO and Assistant Nodal Officer Puneet Sharma gave information about the steps and innovations taken by the state government regarding recruitment. Documentary regarding Rajasthan Mission 2030 was shown. After this, suggestions were invited from all the youth. The youth openly expressed their views and shared suggestions on recruitment process, coaching, reservation related issues etc.

**Important contribution of youth in building developed Rajasthan:** Addressing the meeting, ADM City Dwivedi described the youth and their suggestions as important to realize the dream of developed Rajasthan. Welcoming all the suggestions, he assured to convey the suggestions received from the present youth power to the government. NCC, NSS cadets including officers-employees and a large number of youth were present in the programme.

**These suggestions:** In the programme, the youth expressed their views on completion of recruitments on time, issuing calendar of state recruitments on the lines of Union Public Service Commission, prompt disposal of disputes arising in recruitment examinations and recruitment cases pending in the court and for this a special Suggested the formation of a court. Similarly, examination centers should be kept near the residence of the candidates, arrangements for free transportation to and from the examination centers, women and girl students should be allotted examination centers in their home district as far as possible, all recruitment examinations should be conducted to avoid paper leaks. To be conducted online, the government should make arrangements for free coaching to bright students for the preparation of recruitment examinations, priority should be given to economic reservation instead of caste reservation in recruitment examinations and 10 percent EWS reservation should be increased, agriculture in rural areas should be given priority. Providing maximum employment opportunities related to recruitment, establishment of library at Panchayat level, development of mobile application for information and application of recruitment examinations so that candidates can get all the information related to recruitment on their mobile, inclusion of moral education in recruitment examinations. Suggestions were also received for increasing the reservation of sports quota, making provision for monitoring and strict law and order according to high security standards, from preparing examination papers in view of paper leak cases in various recruitment examinations to declaring the results of the examination, etc.

## PFC Education Celebrates Teacher Honor Ceremony with a Unique Twist



**Udaipur:** PFC Education took a distinctive approach to honor teachers today by organizing a special teacher felicitation ceremony. The highlight of the event was an offline chat GPT session designed

for both teachers and students, drawing active participation from numerous members of the PFC community.

During this enlightening session, PFC's Director, Meenakshi Bherwani, shed light on the manifold advantages of Chat GPT and other AI technologies. She emphasized how these tools can assist in creating subject-specific notes, aiding in exam preparation, and ultimately, enhancing academic performance. Chat GPT and similar AI solutions empower individuals to achieve better results in less time.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge, led by Meenakshi Bherwani and the esteemed teachers. As a token of appreciation, Director Meenakshi Bherwani presented certificates and mementos to all the teachers.

In a heartwarming conclusion, the attendees expressed their gratitude to Meenakshi with exuberance, and everyone looked forward to the prospect of organizing more innovative programs like this in the future.

## Conservation of Lakes: A Collective Responsibility, Emphasizes Collector

**Udaipur:** District Collector Arvind Poswal convened a meeting on Saturday with prominent hotel operators and management in the Collectorate Auditorium to discuss and draft a policy for boat operations aimed at preserving the environmental balance of the city's lakes, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Lake Conservation Authority. During the discussion, he provided crucial instructions and guidance.



Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mayank Manish briefed attendees on the committee meeting held on July 31, 2023, based on the National Lake Conservation Authority's directives, where it was decided to prepare a draft policy for monitoring boat operations in the lakes.

District Collector Poswal gathered information about the city's major hotels, including details about the number of rooms, guests, the

permissible number of boats, the status of alternative road routes to access the hotels, and whether the engines of boats operated by hotels met the prescribed standards. All hotel operators assured that they would fully adhere to the guidelines. The District Collector also instructed them to obtain a certificate from an authorized agency confirming compliance.

Collector Poswal stressed that lake conservation is a collective responsibility, and everyone must play a significant role in this endeavor. He acknowledged that Udaipur enjoys global recognition due to tourism, and therefore, efforts would be made to formulate guidelines that are acceptable to all stakeholders.

The meeting also addressed several important topics, including the potential purchase of additional dredging machines by the UIT to enhance lake cleaning efforts and the installation of floating fountains to maintain oxygen levels in the lakes. The discussions also touched upon lake and environmental conservation, tourism infrastructure, and beautification initiatives.

Among those present at the meeting were Municipal Corporation Revenue Inspector Vijay Jain, along with hotel operators Ravindra Singh, Bhopal Singh, Surendra Singh, Praveen Singh, Lokesh Jain, Vikram Singh, Balveer Singh Naruka, Chandrabhanu Singh, Vishwaviyay Singh, and others. This collaborative effort aims

to ensure the sustainable preservation of Udaipur's iconic lakes for future generations

## Teachers felicitated

**Udaipur:** Teachers at the residential school for deaf and blind Pragma-sighted children and Narayan Children Academy in Udaipur were honored on Teacher's Day. The celebration took place under the auspices of Narayan Seva Sansthan, and Institute President Prashant Aggarwal was in attendance.

Director Vandana Aggarwal had the privilege of honoring the teachers from Sevathitha and Hiran Magri areas during the event. Prior to this, the students showed their appreciation for their teachers by applying tilak, a traditional mark of respect.

The event was graced by the presence of several dignitaries, including Badi Campus Head Anil Acharya, Theophil Kharadi, and Principal Archana Gowalkar, among others.

## Jyoti Chhatlani recognized with Best Teacher Award

**Udaipur:** Jyoti Chhatlani, a Mathematics teacher at Guru Nanak Public School in Udaipur, has been recognized with the prestigious Best



Teacher Award 2023 by the Brijlok Sahitya Kala Sanskriti Academy in Fatehabad, Agra. This award is a testament to her remarkable dedication and

contributions to education and yoga, which have made her an inspirational figure for her students. The award is specifically presented to individuals who have elevated themselves through their perseverance in the face of adversity and have played a pivotal role in shaping the nation and society in a positive way. Jyoti Chhatlani was acknowledged for her exceptional efforts in promoting Indian culture through education and yoga.

During the online award ceremony, Jyoti expressed her belief in the importance of showcasing India's culture on the global stage through yoga. She emphasized the need for the world to recognize the "Guru" aspect of India as a universal teacher.

Dr. Mukesh Kumar, President of the Academy, and Tiravarnath, the Secretary, presented her with this prestigious honor, recognizing her outstanding contributions to education and yoga, and her role as a source of motivation for her students.