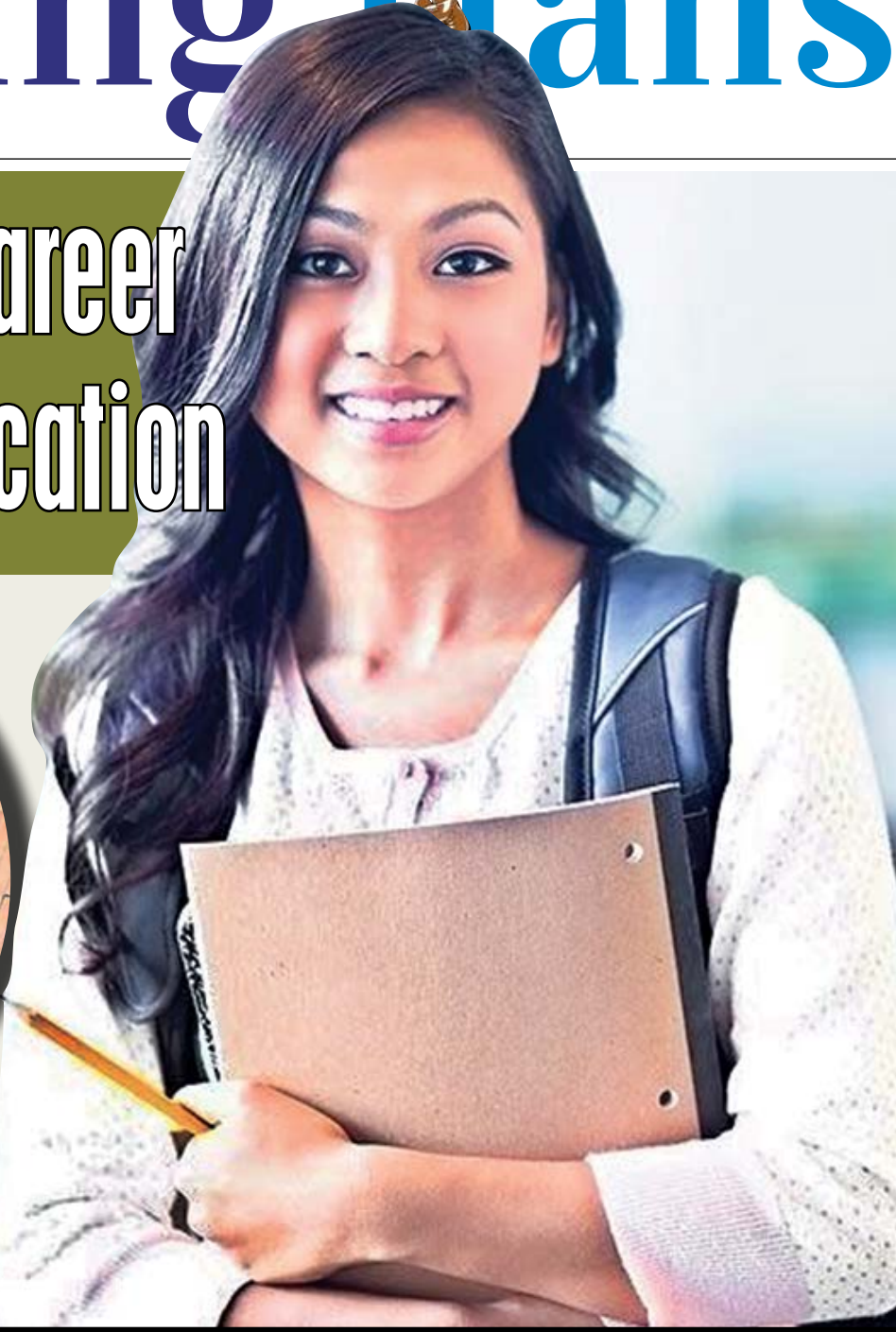


Bridging academic learning and career readiness through professional education



With B.Com continuing to attract thousands of students, commerce education is increasingly being viewed as a pathway to careers in finance, banking and business. As employers place greater emphasis on practical skills, communication and problem-solving, students are looking beyond classroom learning. Industry exposure, internships, mentorship and professional qualifications can help bridge the gap between academic knowledge and workplace expectations, particularly in emerging areas such as FinTech, financial analytics and wealth management

RAMESH VISHWANATHAN

One of the most popular academic programs for students who want to work in business and finance is the commerce program. According to Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST), 42,000 undergraduate students have confirmed admission to the B.Com programme. Due to its increasing popularity relative to traditional streams, commerce has consistently accounted for 37% to 40% of admissions. Nearly 44.08 lakh students are enrolled in undergraduate commerce programs nationwide, with male students accounting for 52.8% of enrolment and female students 47.2%, according

to the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). These numbers show that young Indians are more interested in pursuing jobs in business, finance, and related fields.

These figures reflect the growing interest among young Indians in pursuing careers in business, finance and related sectors. However, in an increasingly competitive job market, a degree alone is no longer enough. Employers today are looking for graduates who can apply their academic knowledge to solve real-world problems and adapt to evolving industry requirements.

The degree-to-career gap
A degree remains an



important starting point, but employment standards have changed over time. Today, recruiters are considering someone with more than just degree achievements: someone who can communicate effectively, solve problems, and apply their knowledge in real-world situations. This is particularly relevant for graduates in commerce. Careers in banking, wealth management, financial planning, FinTech, financial analytics, and corporate finance require specialised skills that go beyond classroom learning, even if their education gives them a strong foundation. This is where industry exposure becomes valuable. Internships, mentorship programmes and live projects help students understand workplace expectations,

develop practical skills and make more informed career choices. These experiences enable graduates to transition more confidently from the classroom to the workplace.

Professional Education as a Bridge to Industry

The financial services sector provides a good example of how professional education enhances academic learning. As household finances become more complex, financial decisions today extend beyond savings and investments to include retirement planning, insurance, tax planning, children's education and long-term wealth creation. This has increased the need for professionals who can take a holistic view of an individual's financial situation and provide in-

formed guidance.

This is where professional qualification becomes increasingly valuable. They help students apply what they learn in college while developing practical skills, ethical values and the ability to understand clients' financial needs. One such pathway is CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification, which provides specialised education in financial planning and helps learners develop the practical skills needed in the profession. It can prepare graduates for roles in areas such as financial planning, wealth management and investment advisory, while also strengthening their ability to make ethical, client-focused financial decisions. Professional qualifications

like these help students connect classroom learning with the practical demands of the workplace.

Preparing for a changing workplace

The transition from education to employment is becoming increasingly dynamic. Technology is reshaping financial services; new roles are emerging, and the skills required across professions are evolving.

This makes continuous learning increasingly important. Educational institutions can provide the academic foundation, while

industry exposure and professional development can help students understand changing workplace expectations and adapt to them.

For commerce students, the breadth of their education offers the flexibility to explore different career paths. The focus now should be on helping them make informed choices and develop the capabilities needed to grow within those careers.

Ultimately, academic and professional education work hand in hand. While professional learning provides practical

skills, ethical awareness and industry readiness, a university degree provides the theoretical foundation. Together, they prepare graduates not only to secure meaningful employment but also to adapt, grow and contribute confidently in an increasingly dynamic and competitive economy. As India continues to build a future-ready workforce, creating a strong bridge between classrooms and careers will be key to unlocking the full potential of India's youth.

(The author is CEO, FPSB India)

Student leaders take charge at Nasr school ceremony

Nasr School conducted its 61st Investiture Ceremony, formally marking the assumption of leadership responsibilities by the newly appointed student leaders for the academic year 2026–27. The ceremony was attended by chief guest Brigadier Manoj Kumar Sharma, along with Nawab Mir Khutubuddin Khan, Chairman, Nasr Education Society; Begum Salwa Khan, Director, Nasr Education Society; Mir Hafeezuddin Ahmed, CEO, Nasr Education Society and Principal, Nasr Boys School; Mir Jamaluddin Hammad, Executive Director—Finance, Nasr Education Society, and members of the school community. The programme began with the NCC Guard of Honour and a prayer by the school choir. The newly appointed student leaders took the oath, formally



accepting their responsibilities for the academic year. A ceremonial salute and March Past by the five Houses—Amethyst, Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz—highlighted the importance of discipline, coordination and teamwork. The proceedings also included the presentation

of saplings to dignitaries, reflecting the school's emphasis on environmental responsibility.

Principal Mir Mohiuddin Mohammed said excellence was built through discipline and consistent effort. He emphasised that leadership and responsibility extend beyond achievement and

require individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Brigadier Manoj Kumar Sharma, addressing the students, highlighted the importance of discipline, perseverance, responsibility and service. He encouraged students to approach their responsibilities with commitment and

a sense of purpose.

The ceremony also recognised student achievement through the presentation of cups and shields for excellence in academics, literary and cultural activities, marching and inter-house competitions. Topaz House was named Best House in literary and cultural events and also won the Best House award in the Patriotic Song Singing and Dance Competition.

Emerald House was declared the Best Marching Contingent.

Nawab Mir Khutubuddin Khan urged students to believe in themselves, pursue their aspirations with dedication and uphold values such as integrity, discipline, kindness and respect for diversity. The ceremony concluded with an emphasis on student leadership, responsibility, academic achievement and holistic development.

Today is National Surgical Oncologist Day

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGISTS

Surgical oncologists play a specialised role in cancer care, combining advanced surgical expertise with detailed knowledge of tumour biology and cancer treatment. Their work often involves complex procedures aimed at removing cancerous tissue while preserving as much healthy tissue and normal function as possible. These specialists are involved at several stages of a patient's treatment journey. They may help diagnose certain cancers, assess whether a tumour can be surgically removed, plan treatment with other specialists and perform procedures ranging from biopsies to major cancer surgeries. Their decisions often require careful consideration of the tumour's location, stage and relationship with surrounding organs and tissues.

Modern cancer care increasingly relies on multidisciplinary teams. Surgical oncologists work alongside medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, nurses and other healthcare profes-



sionals to determine appropriate treatment strategies. In many cases, surgery may be combined with chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted treatment or immunotherapy. The field also demands continuous learning as surgical techniques and cancer treatments evolve. Advances in minimally invasive and robotic-assisted procedures, imaging and surgical planning are changing how some complex operations are performed.

IIT Hyderabad centre to advance steel research and innovation

Jindal Steel and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on high-strength, value-added and value-engineered steel products and solutions at the IIT Hyderabad campus.

The Centre will focus on developing and demonstrating advanced steel applications for infrastructure, engineering, construction and strategic industrial sectors. The initiative will bring together IITH's technical and

research capabilities with Jindal Steel's manufacturing, metallurgical and engineering expertise.

The Centre will explore applications of advanced steel grades in buildings and bridges, penstocks and large-diameter pipes, defence, heavy equipment, power plants, refineries, transportation, heavy engineering and other industrial sectors.

A key objective will be to support the wider adoption of high-strength and value-engineered steels by demonstrating their potential to reduce material consumption and structural weight, improve durability,



enable faster project execution and enhance lifecycle economics.

The Centre will serve as a hub for application development, technical demonstrations, training,

industry engagement and knowledge sharing. It will work with designers, consultants, engineers, fabricators, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC)

companies, equipment manufacturers and project developers to identify suitable applications and support the technical evaluation of advanced steel solutions.

Prof. B S Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said the Centre would strengthen the institute's role in promoting advanced steel solutions across India's engineering, infrastructure

and industrial sectors. He added that the initiative would provide faculty and students opportunities to work with industry on real-world applications and explore how advanced steels can contribute to efficiency, performance and sustainability.

V R Sharma, Managing Director, Jindal Steel, said the partnership would help expand the use of high-strength and value-engineered steel across infrastructure and industrial applications. He highlighted the combination of IITH's technical capabilities and Jindal Steel's manufacturing and engineering expertise

as a key element of the initiative. The collaboration will include application development programmes, workshops, symposia, industry-academia training and demonstration projects. It will also provide opportunities for student internships and placements, academic modules and other industry engagement initiatives.

The Centre is expected to engage with industry stakeholders and end users to facilitate technical assessment and support the adoption of advanced steel solutions across various sectors.