

Class XII Results Out: Steering Towards a Smarter, Flexible Future in Higher Education



As students prepare to step into higher education under the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, they stand at critical crossroads. **Bidyut Majumdar, Deputy Director, JIS Group**, decodes the key shifts in the evolving education landscape and offers practical counsel on making informed choices in this new era of flexible, skill-oriented and multidisciplinary learning.

ity in the curriculum. It aims to dismantle the harmful silos between academic streams, enabling students to pursue multidisciplinary studies. This allows learners to combine traditional disciplines with contemporary subjects and integrate vocational education seamlessly.

A key highlight is the multiple entry and exit system in higher education. Undergraduate students can now take academic breaks without losing progress and return later. Under this system, students can exit with a certificate after one year, a diploma after two years, and a regular or honours degree after three or four years.

The policy places universal access and inclusion at the core of the education system. It prioritises targeted financial support to bridge educational gaps for women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and other socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

In essence, NEP 2020 aims to prepare college and university students to emerge as competent professionals — whether in employment or research — ready to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

Choosing Wisely: What to Take Care of

Yet, a large section of students and parents often lose their way at this critical juncture. For many, the means overtake the end. Without properly assessing their true interests or capabilities, they rush into popular subjects and colleges, only to regret their choices later.

This is why mental and emotional preparation must receive the highest priority. Students' genuine aspirations — nurtured carefully through their school years — deserve utmost respect. Nothing should be imposed

upon them against their will.

Students are urged to resist social hype and peer pressure. Subject and college selection must be guided by a realistic alignment between their personal strengths, interests, and long-term goals.

Beyond Conventional Choices

The belief that everyone is pursuing engineering or medicine, so "I don't need to" is as flawed as the notion that "everyone is doing it, so I must too." There are numerous emerging and exciting fields beyond these traditional streams — biotechnology, microbiology, genetics, and others.

NEP 2020 promotes flexible, skill-based education, encouraging students to choose careers aligned with interests, abilities and future industry demands.

Careers in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Electronics, Telecommunications, Mechanical, and Mechatronics demand strong proficiency in mathematics and data interpretation. Similarly, pursuing medicine requires not just academic excellence but also patience, a professional attitude, and strong teamwork skills.

The field of law has also become remarkably diverse. Apart from general legal practice, there is rising demand for expertise in corporate law, criminal law, cyber law, and startup regulations — a trend expected

to grow further. Students from any academic background can pursue legal education, which offers a wide array of opportunities.

In the Humanities stream, promising careers are emerging in corporate psychology and clinical psychology, both of which are witnessing increased demand.

With the explosion of information technology, computer science, and the internet, the need for skilled content developers is surging. Literature students, in particular, have immense opportunities here. However, content development extends far beyond writing — it involves compelling storytelling and the ability to engage audiences meaningfully, creating a lasting connection between

creator and viewer.

Selecting the Right College

When choosing colleges, students and parents should look beyond mere reputation. Infrastructure, green campuses, laboratories, workshops, NSS units, various clubs, gymnasiums, yoga facilities, placement grooming cells, and language laboratories are all important considerations.

Equally crucial is the institution's NAAC accreditation and NIRF ranking. These four years of college life are immensely significant — they shape the trajectory of a student's future. A thoughtful, well-informed choice at this stage can make all the difference.



Flexibility and Multidisciplinary Approach

The NEP 2020 also seeks to replace rigid institutional structures with greater flexibil-