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सचिव

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सत्यमेव जयते



आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Education  
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग

Department of Higher Education  
127 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001  
127 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

D.O. No. M-11014/02/2023-CDN

Dated 13.03.2023

Dear Sir / Madam,

National Education Policy 2020, recognises that vibrant campus life is essential for high-quality teaching-learning processes. Towards this end, students will be given plenty of opportunities for participation in sports, culture/arts clubs, eco-clubs, activity clubs, community service projects, etc. Each institution will be committed to the holistic development of students and create strong internal systems for supporting diverse student cohorts in academic and social domains both inside and outside formal academic interactions in the classroom.

2. Crosswords have a proven track record of being an excellent learning tool and at the same time providing a fun-filled pastime. It is one exercise which comes with multiple benefits. Keeping this in mind, it has been decided to bring about the crossword-solving culture in the institutes of higher education through a '**National Inter-College Crossword Expedition (NICE)**' a contest involving solving of cryptic crossword clues. It is scheduled to be held between **March-August, 2023** for which registration has started. It will be conducted through both online (initial rounds) and offline modes (zonal and national rounds). In this regard AICTE has issued detailed guidelines dated 06.03.2023 for NICE – 2023, a copy of which is **attached** for reference.

3. I would request you to widely disseminate about NICE 2023 and also encourage your students to participate in the initiatives by AICTE.

With regards.

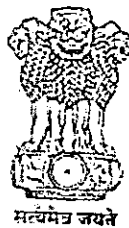
Yours sincerely

  
(K. Sanjay Murthy)

All Director, IITs, NITs, IIITs, IISERs, CFIs  
All VCs of Central Universities



All India Council for Technical Education



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National Institute of Industrial  
Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai

File No. STDC/AKAM/523/2022-23

Date: 06-03-2023

## Circular

### National Inter-College Crossword Expedition 2023 (NICE-23)

*"Knowledge can only be got in one way, the way of experience; there is no other way to know."*

*-- Swami Vivekananda*

1. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has set the bar high for higher education institutes in the country. It envisages nurturing a vibrant campus life, incorporating a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach to imparting education with the objective of developing a work force which is creative and multi-talented. This calls for a holistic educational ecosystem which goes much beyond the traditional curricula teaching. A focused pursuit of co-curricular activities, therefore, would be a key to achieving the NEP 2020 goal.
2. Crosswords have a proven track record of being an excellent learning tool and at the same time providing a fun-filled pastime. It is one exercise which comes with multiple benefits.
  - Enhances Logical Reasoning
  - Strengthens Memory
  - Stimulates Problem-Solving Skills
  - Sharpens Focus and Concentration
  - Enhances Lateral Thinking and Creativity
  - Ensures a Decision-Making Bent of Mind
  - Provides a Sense of Accomplishment
  - Builds Confidence
  - Enables You to Take Challenges
  - Provides You with a Functional Vocabulary
3. At a time when the job market is getting increasingly competitive, all the above together are a sine qua non of building a bright career. Introduced in India in 2013 in competitive formats across different levels, solving cryptic crosswords has become not only a popular pastime but also a mental training aid for thousands of students, professionals and even empty nesters.
4. Keeping the above in mind, it has been decided to bring about the crossword-solving culture in the institutes of higher education through a **National Inter-College Crossword Expedition (NICE)**, a contest involving solving of cryptic crossword clues. It is scheduled

to be held between **March-August 2023** and registration has started, will be conducted through both online (initial rounds) and offline modes (zonal and national rounds).

## **5. GUIDELINES/FORMAT FOR NICE 2023**

### **5.1 Registrations:**

- 5.1.1 Students of all recognized colleges/universities of India are eligible to participate in NICE 23.
- 5.1.2 Eligible students may Register for the contest on [www.crypticsingh.com](http://www.crypticsingh.com) Those students who had registered for NICE 22 and are still studying, don't need to register afresh. While their username would remain the same, they would be allotted fresh password for 2023.
- 5.1.3 Username and password will appear on the screen after successful registration and will be sent via email. The log-in credentials sent may be used for all the online rounds.
- 5.1.4 Colleges/universities with over 100 registrants for NICE 23 till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 will get a 'NICE Roll of Honour' certificate and 10 crossword books from the organizers.
- 5.1.5 The institutions with the highest registrations, as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, in each of the five zones will receive a 'NICE Institution' plaque, a certificate and 100 crossword books.

### **5.2 Online Rounds:**

- 5.2.1 There would be one online Practice Round to familiarize the students with the types of the questions/clues and the pattern of the contest.
- 5.2.2. After the Practice Round, there would be four competitive online rounds, christened as N, I, C, E Rounds, respectively.
- 5.2.3. The rounds will involve solving five crossword clues with supplementary hints, which will be posted at 1030 Hours IST on every Sunday on [nice.crypticsingh.com](http://nice.crypticsingh.com) or on android app NICE-22.
- 5.2.4. The solutions will have to be submitted by 1700 Hours IST on the same day.
- 5.2.5. Every Online Round will have two sets of winners, viz., G-20 Summit Winners and NICE Lucky Winners.
- 5.2.6. NICE G-20 Summit Winners would be decided on the basis of the points won by students on the basis of speed and accuracy. The student with the fastest all correct solutions will be awarded 1000 points. The scores will move in a descending order based on the time taken and correctness of the solutions.
- 5.2.7. There would be National and Zonal NICE G-20 Summit Leaderboard for each of the Online Rounds and they shall be posted on [nice.crypticsingh.com](http://nice.crypticsingh.com). A cumulative total score of all the persons for the Online Rounds will be used for the Final Leaderboard after the completion of the Online Rounds.

- 5.2.8. The national winner of any of the Online Rounds will automatically qualify for the National Finals. The zonal winner of any of the Online Rounds, will automatically qualify for the Zonal Finals. The top 3 national and zonal position holders, in each of the rounds will receive the NICE G-20 Summit Star certificates and plaques.
- 5.2.9 Every Online Round will have NICE Lucky Winners from the Top 250 institutions participating in the contest. Only those institutions, which have at least 25 participants, would be eligible for the NICE Lucky prizes. These winners, dubbed as N, I, C, E Lucky winners, would be given NICE Sporting Spirit certificates and gift hampers by the organizers.

### **5.3 Zonal Rounds:**

- 5.3.1. The top two performers from each institution will constitute two-member teams that will represent them in the next level of the championship. They will consist of two rounds for each zone. In the preliminary written round, a maximum of 50 teams from the participating institutions belonging to the zone will compete at a designated host institution. Top six performing teams will compete in the on-stage round (Zonal Finals).
- 5.3.2. There would be five zones, viz., **North, South, West, East and Northeast**. The Zonal Finals will be held offline. The top three teams would qualify from each Zone for the National Finals to be held in Delhi in July-August. The organizers may give wild card entries to some comparable teams, for the purpose of symmetry in the Grand Finale.

### **5.4 National Round**

- 5.4.1. The final round will begin with a Written Prelims and an On-stage G-20 Round where all the qualifying teams will participate. The quarter-finalists would be selected on the basis of the scores of the Written round and the On-stage G-20 round. The Quarter Final, Semi-Final and the Final would be held subsequently. The National Round would be designed to make it telecast-compatible.

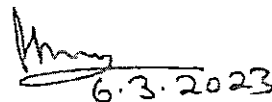
### **5.5 PRIZES & CERTIFICATES**

- 5.5.1. The winning team of the National Round will receive a cash prize of Rs 25,000. Team members will also receive certificates and trophies.
- 5.5.2. The Runner-up team of the National Round will receive a cash prize of Rs 20,000. Team members will also receive certificates and trophies.
- 5.5.3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up team of the National Round will receive a cash prize of Rs 15,000. Team members will also receive certificates and trophies.
- 5.5.4. The winning team members of the Zonal Finals will receive trophies and certificate.

5.5.5. All participants will receive certificates of participation.

## 6 OTHER INFORMATION

- 6.1. The whole exercise, right from registration of participants and execution of the Online rounds, Zonal Rounds and the National Round is to be anchored through Extra-C and its official website <https://nice.crypticsingh.com>.
- 6.2. The site will also help with engaging content like free tutorial videos that contain the basics of solving cryptic crossword clues and also walk the interested participants through solving of actual clues, practice clues, news reports and visuals on the various rounds leading to the Finals.
- 6.3. The crossword clues will be primarily India themed and built upon G-20 to sensitize the youth of India. In the true spirit of Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat, students will get to know the culture, traditions, clothing, food, festivals, geography, resources, etc., of different parts of India, as also other G-20 nations. It will create a spirit of oneness and will get the concept of unity in diversity embedded in their mind.
- 6.4. The participating students/institutes will be apprised of a team from Extra-C, which will be organizing the contest, that can be reached for seeking any clarifications at [extracindia@gmail.com](mailto:extracindia@gmail.com) regarding the modus operandi of the whole exercise.

  
6.3.2023  
(Prof. Rajive Kumar)  
Member Secretary,  
All India Council for  
Technical Education