



Circular

National Inter-college Crossword Expedition 2022 (NICE-22)

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”

-- Benjamin Franklin

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.

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

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.

Keeping the above in mind, it has been decided to introduce 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 2022** and registration starts on **15th March 2022**. will be conducted through both online (initial rounds) and offline modes (zonal and final rounds).

I. Student/Institutional Round

1. This round will be in the online mode. The purpose of this round is to form institutions' teams and shortlist them for the Zonal Rounds. A set of 10 clues will be posted every Sunday for 4 weekly contests at 10.30 am on crypticsingh.com, starting from 3rd April 2022 and ending on 24th April.

The top two performers will constitute two-member teams that will represent the institutions in the next level of the championship.

A practice online round will be held initially at 10.30 am on 2nd April on <https://nice.crypticsingh.com> to familiarise the students before the actual contest.

II. Zonal Rounds

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).

The proposed number of zones is five: **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.

III. National Round

The final round will be held initially on a Round-Robin pattern so that teams get more than one chance to compete on stage. The Quarter Final, Semi-Final and the Final would be held subsequently. Teams will qualify for QF on the basis of the Round-Robin league scores. QF and SF would be on the knock-out basis.

The National Round would be designed to make it telecast-compatible.

PRIZES & CERTIFICATES

The winning team of the National Round will receive a cash prize of Rs 25,000. Team members will also receive certificates and trophies.

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.

The 2nd Runner-up team of the National Round will receive a cash prize of Rs 15,000. Team members will also receive certificates and trophies.

The winning team members of the Zonal Finals will receive trophies and certificates.

All participants will receive certificates of participation.

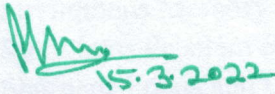
OTHER INFORMATION

The whole exercise, right from registration of participants and execution of the three rounds is to be anchored through Extra-C and its official website <https://nice.crypticsingh.com>

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.

The crossword clues will be primarily India themed and built upon Amrit Bharat to sensitise the youth of India's heritage and development. In the true spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, students will get to know the culture, traditions, clothing, food, festivals, geography, resources, etc, of different parts of India. It will create a spirit of oneness and will get the concept of unity in diversity embedded in their mind.

The participating students/institutes will be apprised of a team from Extra-C, which will be organising the contest, that can be reached for seeking any clarifications at extracindia@gmail.com regarding the modus operandi of the whole exercise.



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