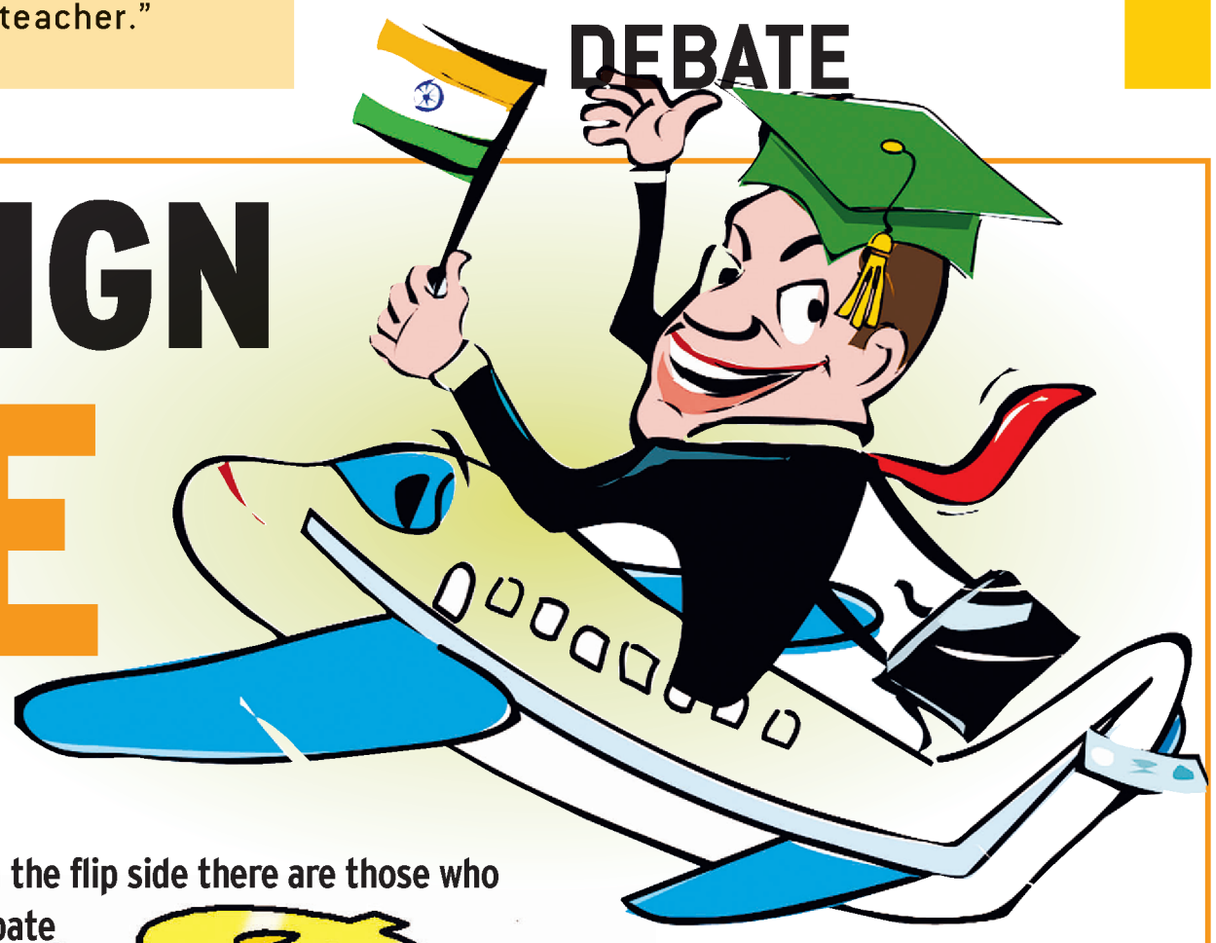
"Do not believe what your teacher tells you merely out of respect for the teacher."
Gautama Buddha

DOES A FOREIGN DEGREE MATTER?



Many students are opting to study abroad for an 'international experience'. On the flip side there are those who believe a foreign degree cannot guarantee a good job. GenNow and experts debate

FOR

■ A foreign degree or a stint at a student exchange programme adds weight to a student's resume. The exchange programme give a student exposure to facets of education that are not available in our country. Most teaching methods abroad take a practical approach, giving students a chance to explore their own understanding of a subject. In terms of personality development, these experiences are a big plus.
SHAVIKA KAPOOR, class IX, Delhi Public School, Hyderabad

■ Many companies look for international experience in their employees as they expand overseas. A foreign degree/ exchange programme in your resume will make you look independent, self-reliant, adaptable, open minded and patient.
SANJULA GUPTA, class XI, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh

■ Considering the large population, it is too competitive for students in India. Moreover, the talented lot is highly dissatisfied with their jobs here. An internationally recognised degree along with ample exposure is a great combo for a good job. Needless to say, it will spells success in future too.
DIVYA VENKATTU, class XI, St.Columban's A.I.H.S.School, Chennai

■ A degree from any reputed foreign university is important for a good job. A foreign degree is just like a star on your resume. So if you aspire to be part of big companies, remember, they prefer trained and well-informed candidates, who can confront any situation. Recruiters are aware that while studying abroad the aspirant has learnt to cope in an alien environment.
NIHAL JANI, class IX, Sakar School, Ahmedabad

AGAINST

■ Today recruiters look for the 'right' attitude while hiring an employee and a resume is just a document with degree being a small aspect of it. When compared to the struggle and pain involved in aquiring a foreign degree, the results are not that rewarding. Besides, a person has the added burden of paying back a huge educational loan. Statistics prove that only a few make it big after studying abroad, the rest come home and have to adjust to a changed working environment.
NASHI SADASIVAN, class X, The Delta Study, Ernakulam

■ If you can speak and write in English and have the desired set of skills, you will succeed in any field. For instance, for success in the hotel industry, you need to possess culinary skills and a good management aptitude. So a foreign degree can help, but it does not guarantee job.
ANANYA KASHYAP, class IX, SOS Wanadongri, Nagpur

■ It is not the degree, but the ability to adapt to an ever changing work environment that matters to recruiters when they are hiring. Also, studying abroad typesets an individual and his productivity diminishes. Indian employers are not prepared to deal with such employees.
NAMITA BHATNAGAR, class XII, DPS, Ahmedabad

WHY STUDENTS WANT TO STUDY ABROAD

■ Our system does not give us the freedom to choose subjects across fields, for eg, if someone is pursuing medical sciences, he/she does not have the choice of studying history or philosophy or art along with it.

■ We have even divided our sciences into rigid medical and non-medical streams. This flexibility in choosing subjects of one's interest is one factor that attracts our students to move to foreign lands.

■ The West promises a glitzy life and also satisfies our quest for knowledge. It is high time our policy makers changed their approach and did something to make children have faith in the education system.

■ An overhaul of the curriculum and employment opportunities will possibly help Indian education to stand out once again as a beacon of hope.

■ In humanities, there is dearth of quality institutes and well-informed faculty.

■ Overseas programmes have far better facilities, laboratories and a more conducive culture for research.

Inputs by RAMNEEK KAUR MALHOTRA, teacher, Learning Paths School, MOHALI & SANGEETA BASUROY, vice-principal, Army Public School, Barrackpore, West Bengal

FOREIGN DEGREE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

■ The only reason why foreign-educated candidates do well is because of the added knowledge they have seemingly acquired. But for that they should be able to prove that they have an edge over Indian candidates.
AMIT SAWANT, HR expert, Mumbai

■ That a foreign degree has more weightage than an Indian degree during the process of recruitment is a perception based on facts. It is not only the added expertise that matters, but also new perspectives acquired by the person while staying in a foreign land. Candidates who have studied abroad are more independent and open to learning.
SUNILA SHAH, HR manager, Ahmedabad

PAIN OF BRAIN DRAIN

■ Employers here are at a loss when brain drain occurs because Indian candidates contribute to the development of the country in which they have studied, not India. The only way to reverse the ongoing brain-drain is by creating world class opportunities in India. Right from providing good infrastructure, to state-of-the-art research and development opportunities, to making salaries commensurate with the talents that you have acquired – everything counts. All this has to be done on a war footing. If you start thinking, you will realise that brain drain is actually contributing to India's debacle.
JAYRAJ SALGAOKAR, social observer, Mumbai

Compiled by Ragini Bharadwaj with inputs from team NIE

Human activities damaging World HERITAGE SITES

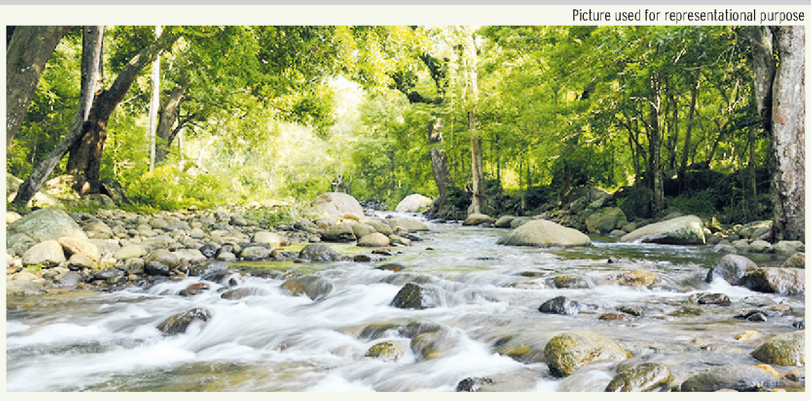
Man's greed

Most of the over 100 natural World Heritage sites that are being severely damaged by expanding human infrastructure and land use are in Asia, a new study has warned. India's Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Nepal's Chitwan National Park are among the most impacted Natural World Heritage Sites (NWHS), the study, published in the journal Biological Conservation, identified.

Shoulder responsibility

"It is time for the global community to stand up and hold governments to account so that they take the conservation of natural World Heritage sites seriously," said lead author James Allan from University of Queensland in Australia. "We urge the World Heritage Committee to immediately assess the highly threatened sites we have identified. Urgent intervention is clearly needed to save these places and their outstanding natural universal values," Allan added.

Picture used for representational purpose



Check human footprints

The authors looked at human pressure over time using the updated global Human Footprint criteria, which includes roads, agriculture, urbanisation and industrial infrastructure, along with forest loss. They found that the Human Footprint has increased in 63 per cent of Natural World Heritage Sites (NWHS) across all continents except Europe over the past two decades. Even celebrated sites like Yellowstone National Park in the US were impacted, losing six per cent of its forests.

WHEN A SITE IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN DANGER

TAKING STOCK

The property is faced with major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threats are:

■ Modification of the legal protective status of the area

■ Planned resettlement or development projects within the property or so situated that the impacts threaten the property

■ Outbreak or threat of armed conflict

■ The management plan or management system is lacking or inadequate, or not fully implemented

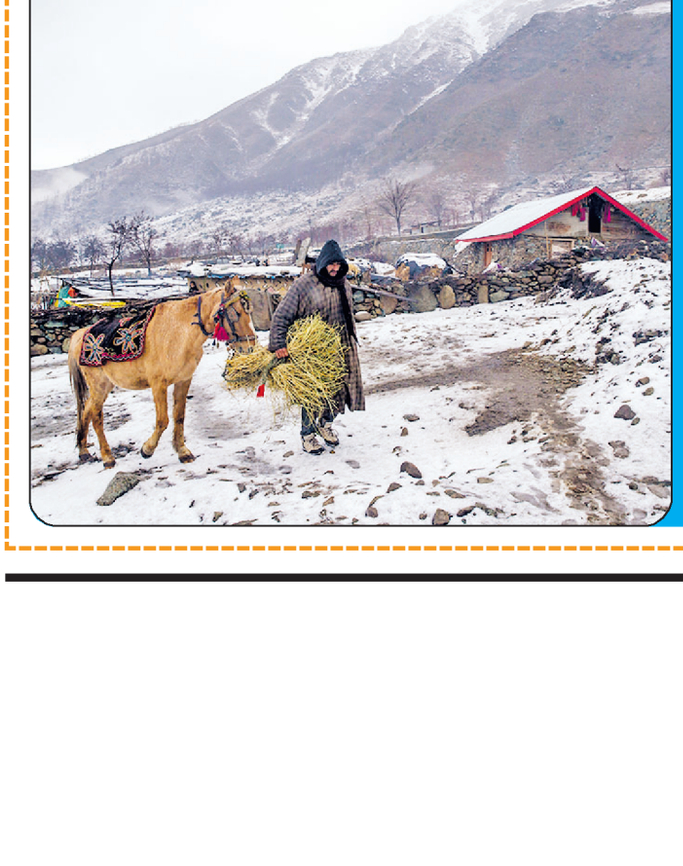
■ Threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

ROVING EYE

A look at the current issues of national and international significance, as well as unique activities happening around the world, through pictures...

Photo: AP

INDIA



WHITE BLANKET: A Kashmiri villager walks his horse through a snow covered field as it rains after fresh snowfall on the outskirts of Srinagar. Authorities have issued avalanche warnings.

Photo: AFP

USA

TIME TO PROTEST: A dog is seen in a carrier with protest signs near a monument during a protest against Donald Trump in Washington, DC.

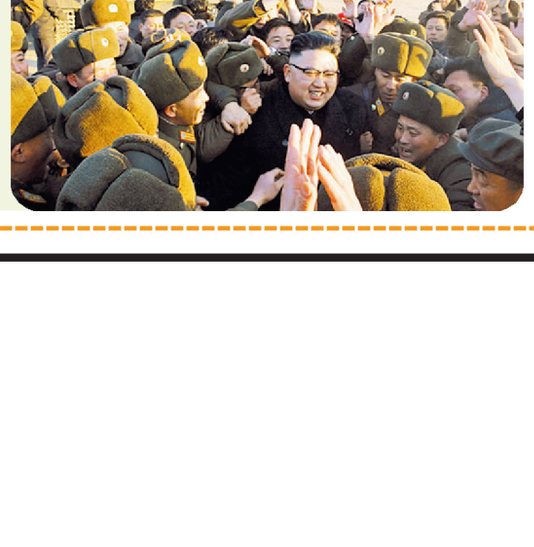
Photo: Getty Images

TURKEY

HORSING AROUND: Georgian dancers perform during the Cildir Lake Golden Horse Festival that brings together horsemen from the region to compete in horse-based events.

Photo: AP

NORTH KOREA



TRIED AND TESTED: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guides the test-fire of Pukguksong-2 on the spot. The launch marks the first test of Donald Trump's vow to get tough on N Korea.

CHINA

ALL GEARED UP: Vendors pack a bunch of red roses for upcoming Valentine's Day at a flower market in Beijing. South American roses are selling for 2,000 yuan ($291) a dozen.