




EDUCATION PLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us  facebook.com/thehindu  twitter.com/the_hindu  instagram.com/the_hindu

Archana Subramanian
archana.subramanian@thehindu.co.in

When applying to colleges abroad, students are required to submit an English Language Proficiency Test as a part of their application. Language proficiency is commonly defined as a person's ability to speak or perform in an acquired language and the test often assesses if a student can cope with lectures and classes at college. In this free-wheeling interview, Elisabeth Levi, VP of Linguistics, Assessment, and Research at Speaknow, talks about testing innovations, assessment trends and evolution of technology. Excerpts:

Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI is changing the way we learn languages by providing individualised feedback, adapting tasks to the learner's level, allowing freedom from learning in a specific physical place, and allowing more effective assessment of skills. The scoring is less biased than human grading because it has the ability to consider more points of data than a human can. Humans may only attend to a few words the speaker uses or be influenced by pronunciation and accent but AI can look at all words, examine clarity of speech before coming to a conclusion. AI can present a quicker, more comprehensive picture of an individual's grammar patterns and provide a fuller

profile of what a learner can do and what he/she needs to know.

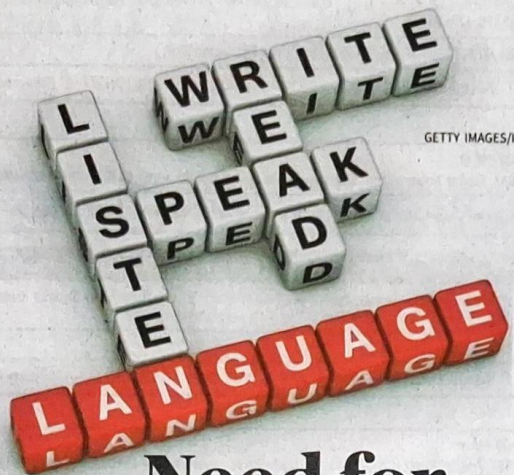
Innovations in testing
Remote proctoring and anti-cheating solutions remove the necessity for a physical testing site, also lowering the cost of taking a test. With English increasingly becomes the language of international business and education, small- and medium-sized businesses need less expensive and more agile ways to test their workers' English proficiency to compete in a global marketplace. Additionally,

with the rise of alternative means of education, such as apps and MOOCs, people need alternative ways to demonstrate their proficiency. Tests need to include evaluation of free, authentic speech, rather than just elicited speech through tasks such as read-alouds and repetition.

Language assessment in India

One major issue is the lack of international standards. Current tests are not aligned to internationally accepted grading scales. This makes it harder for test takers to have their

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



Need for uniformity

There's more to language ability than being grammatically correct, says Elisabeth Levi, Vice-President of Linguistics, Assessment, and Research at Speaknow

ability of scores across exams and across languages.

Technology in language education

Apps and MOOCs have helped to democratise language education. They ensure that learners in the most remote areas have authentic opportunities to communicate with native speakers of various languages. Even media such as video games with chat functions require communication, most often in English. The best technologies offer precise, adaptive feedback, opportunities to practice, and encourage use of authentic speech.

Evolving Constructs of Language Proficiency

In the past, language proficiency was viewed as the ability to translate or produce grammatically correct language. The focus has shifted to the ability to communicate and get things done in another language. This is one of the reasons that the CEFR is so useful. It has broken down the types of activities one might need to do in another language and described how these can be done at various levels of proficiency, from bottom to top. This offers clear targets to achieve levels of proficiency. For example, we know that A2 is the minimum to get around independently in a foreign country. So if someone wants to travel, they can prepare accordingly. B2 is the minimum level to be able to succeed in university. This helps schools build curricula that will enable their students to succeed.

SCHOLARSHIPS

HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECS Scholarship

HDFC Bank aims to support meritorious students from underprivileged sections. **Eligibility:** Students who are Indian nationals and in school (Class 1 to 12) or pursuing diploma, undergraduate or post graduate (professional or non-professional) courses. They must have passed the previous qualifying exam with at least 55% and annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹2.5 lakh. Preference will be given to those facing a personal or family crisis that has occurred during the past three years, due to which they are unable to bear the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out. **Rewards:** Up to ₹75,000

Application: Online
Deadline: October 15
b4s.in/edge/HEC12

Merck India Charitable Trust (MICT) Scholarship Programme

Merck India aims to encourage talented students from financially weaker sections and help them lay a foundation for a secure future. **Eligibility:** Students who have successfully passed Class 10 (SSC) with minimum 80% marks in 2022 and currently residing and studying in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, and Bengaluru. Family income must be less than or equal to ₹20,000 per month. **Rewards:** ₹35,000 per year till graduation
Application: Online

Deadline: October 15
b4s.in/edge/MERCK7

L'Oréal India For Young Women In Science Scholarships

L'Oréal India aims to encourage and empower young women pursue their education and careers in Science. **Eligibility:** Girls who have passed Class 12 with 85% in PCB/PCM/PCMB in the academic year (2021-22) with an annual family income of less than ₹6 Lakhs. **Rewards:** Up to ₹2,50,000 in instalments, towards tuition fees and academic expenses
Application: Online
Deadline: October 16
b4s.in/edge/LIS1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

MBA programme at BITSom

BITS School of Management has opened applications for its two-year full-time MBA programme to commence in July 2023.

Eligibility: Candidates must have a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate degree in any discipline from a recognised Indian or international university, or be in the final year. **Deadline:** November 20
Details: www.bitsom.edu.in

ADMISSIONS OPEN

2 YEAR RESIDENTIAL PGDM-C/PGDM

MICAT 1 ADMISSION TEST FOR 2023-2025

APPLICATION LAST DATE

NOV 19, 2022

MICA PGP Offers Specializations in:

- Advertising & Brand Management
- Digital Communication Management
- Data Science and Business Analytics
- Media & Entertainment Management

Admissions open for MICA's CCC and FPM programmes

MICA, Ahmedabad, India • admissions@micaad.in
T: +91 79 275 55798 • M: 90991 27599 • www.mica.ac.in



SCAN TO REGISTER



WHERE MANAGEMENT MEETS CREATIVITY