



TOP LEAD STORY

Can Better Nutrition Improve Learning Outcomes?

Telangana Pushes to Expand Breakfast & Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Government Junior Colleges

A proposal to extend Telangana's breakfast and mid-day meal programme to Government Junior Colleges has reopened an important policy debate: should nutrition support stop after school education, or continue through the intermediate level where many students from economically weaker families remain vulnerable? The demand places student welfare, educational equity and learning outcomes at the centre of higher secondary education policy.



Nutritious meals can improve attendance, concentration and academic performance.

1 THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Can access to nutritious meals improve academic performance, reduce dropouts and strengthen higher secondary education in Telangana?

That question is at the heart of a fresh proposal submitted by the Telangana Gazetted Junior Lecturers Association, which has urged the State Government to extend the existing breakfast and mid-day meal programme to all Government Junior Colleges.

The request reflects a growing view among educators that student welfare should not end when learners complete secondary school.



2 WHY HAS THIS DEMAND EMERGED NOW?

Government Junior Colleges serve a large number of first-generation learners, rural students and young people from low-income households.

For many families, the transition from Class X to Intermediate brings increased educational expenses while financial assistance often remains limited.

Lecturers contend that although students are expected to handle more demanding academic workloads during intermediate education, institutional nutrition support is comparatively limited.

The proposal also aligns with broader national discussions on strengthening equitable access to education through integrated student welfare measures.



3 BEYOND WELFARE: AN EDUCATION POLICY QUESTION

The proposal is not being presented solely as a welfare initiative. Instead, it raises a broader policy question about whether nutrition should be viewed as an investment in educational outcomes.

Educational research conducted over several decades has consistently shown that adequate nutrition is associated with improved concentration, classroom participation and attendance.

Supporters of the proposal argue that extending meal programmes may also help improve student retention in Government Junior Colleges, particularly among learners from disadvantaged communities.



4 WHAT COULD BE THE IMPACT?

If implemented across Telangana, the proposal could influence several aspects of intermediate education:

- Improved student attendance through better daily nutritional support.
- Reduced barriers for economically disadvantaged learners.
- Better classroom engagement during extended academic sessions.
- Stronger retention of students in Government Junior Colleges.
- Reinforcement of the State's student welfare initiatives within higher secondary education.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The proposal has been submitted for the State Government's consideration. Any decision to expand the programme would require policy approval, financial assessment and operational planning before implementation.

In the coming weeks, stakeholders will be watching for official responses regarding the feasibility of extending nutritional support to Government Junior Colleges and how such a move could fit within Telangana's broader education and student welfare strategy.

LEAD STORY – CONCLUSION

Can Better Nutrition Improve Learning Outcomes?

Telangana Pushes to Expand Breakfast & Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Government Junior Colleges

FROM PAGE 1

What the Data Suggests

Several studies in India have shown a positive link between school meal programmes and improved attendance, cognitive performance and retention rates. While research specific to intermediate education is limited, early adolescence is widely recognised as a critical period where nutrition has a direct impact on concentration, energy levels and overall well-being.

Education experts note that supporting nutrition during intermediate years can help create an enabling learning environment, especially for students preparing for high-stakes examinations.

Voices from the Field

Lecturers and college administrators across the State have welcomed the proposal and highlighted recurring challenges faced by students.

“Many students travel long distances and come to college without breakfast. By afternoon, fatigue impacts their ability to focus,” — said a lecturer from a government junior college in Mahabubnagar.

Possible Implementation Models

Policy experts suggest a phased approach to ensure sustainability and efficiency.

- Phase 1: Pilot implementation in select districts with high student need.
- Phase 2: Expansion to all rural government junior colleges.
- Phase 3: Statewide rollout with strengthened infrastructure and digital monitoring.
- Integration with existing welfare schemes for cost efficiency.

Infrastructure & Capacity Needs

To implement the programme effectively, government will need to focus on:

- Adequate kitchen spaces, storage and hygienic cooking facilities.
- Trained staff and clear operational guidelines.
- Regular quality checks and third-party monitoring.
- Timely supply of ration and nutrition standards.

Broader Benefits Beyond Nutrition

A well-implemented meal programme in junior colleges can contribute to:

- Higher attendance and lower dropout rates.
- Improved academic performance and examination readiness.
- Better gender equity by reducing financial pressure on families.
- Stronger social inclusion for students from disadvantaged communities.
- Development of healthy eating habits among adolescents.

What Happens Next?

The proposal has been submitted for the consideration of the State Government. Education officials indicate that a feasibility assessment may be undertaken, taking into account financial implications, infrastructure readiness and operational planning.

A decision on the expansion of the meal programme will depend on a comprehensive review and phased implementation strategy.

Conclusion

Nutrition is not just a welfare measure—it is an investment in the future of Telangana's youth. Extending breakfast and mid-day meals to Government Junior Colleges can strengthen learning outcomes, reduce inequalities and support students during one of the most crucial transitions in their academic journey.

With thoughtful planning, adequate resources and strong monitoring, Telangana can set a national example in integrating nutrition support into higher secondary education.

“Well-nourished students learn better, dream bigger and build a stronger Telangana.”

02 TELANGANA EDUCATION

State Launches Learning Recovery Programme for Foundational Skills

The School Education Department has launched a comprehensive learning recovery programme to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills among students in Classes 1 to 5.

The initiative includes baseline assessments, teacher training, remedial learning modules and activity-based resources. It will be rolled out in a phased manner across all districts.

Officials said the programme aims to ensure that every child develops strong basics, which are essential for higher learning and long-term academic success.

03 TELANGANA EDUCATION

Telangana Students Win Top Honours at National Robotics Challenge

Students from government and private schools across Telangana showcased excellence at the National Robotics Challenge 2026, held in Pune.

Teams from Hyderabad, Warangal and Karimnagar won top awards in innovation, design and problem-solving categories. Their projects focused on automation, assistive technology and sustainable solutions.

Education leaders congratulated the students and said such achievements reflect the growing interest in STEM learning across the State.

04 TELANGANA EDUCATION

Colleges Directed to Strengthen Anti-Ragging Mechanisms Ahead of Admissions

The Higher Education Department has issued instructions to all degree and professional colleges to strengthen anti-ragging systems before the start of the academic year.

Institutions must conduct awareness programmes, display helpline numbers, form vigilance committees and ensure strict action against violations.

Officials emphasised that creating a safe, inclusive and respectful campus environment is essential for student well-being.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCERT Releases New Teacher Training Calendar

The State Council of Educational Research and Training has released the annual calendar for teacher training programmes, including online and in-person modules for school and college educators.

Digital Libraries Expanded in Government Schools

The government is expanding digital libraries in schools to provide students access to e-books, reference materials and interactive learning content in regional languages.

Fee Reimbursement Portal Sees Increased Registrations

More students have registered on the fee reimbursement portal as the department streamlines verification and processing for the academic year.

Are Telangana Universities Ready for the AI Economy?

Institutions accelerate curriculum reforms as industry demand shifts towards Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Data Science.

BY STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD: The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related technologies is reshaping the global economy. In Telangana, universities are under pressure to equip students with the knowledge, skills and mindset required to thrive in an AI-driven future.

Over the past two years, most public and private universities in the State have announced new programmes in AI, Data Science, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity and emerging areas such as Natural Language Processing and Computer Vision.

Vice-Chancellors and academic leaders say the shift is essential, but caution that curriculum reform alone will not be enough unless faculty capacity, infrastructure and industry collaboration evolve at the same pace.

CURRICULUM REFORMS GAIN MOMENTUM

Osmania University, JNTUH, University of Hyderabad and several private universities have introduced specialised AI and Data Science courses in collaboration with leading tech companies.

Short-term certification courses, minors in AI, and interdisciplinary programmes combining computer science with domains such as healthcare, agriculture and business analytics are attracting strong student interest.

Universities are also integrating AI tools in teaching and research to improve learning outcomes and encourage innovation.

INDUSTRY DEMAND OUTPACES SUPPLY

Employers across IT services, product development, fintech, manufacturing and research organisations say demand for AI-skilled graduates far exceeds the current supply.

Roles in data engineering, AI model development, cybersecurity analysis and automation are among the fastest growing.

“Students must go beyond theory. They need practical exposure, real-world projects and the ability to solve industry problems,” said an HR director of a global tech company based in Hyderabad.

FACULTY & INFRASTRUCTURE REMAIN KEY CHALLENGES

Experts point out that many universities face a shortage of faculty with advanced expertise in AI and data sciences.

High-performance computing systems, AI labs, updated software platforms and access to quality datasets are still limited in several institutions.

Continuous faculty training, academic partnerships and investment in campus infrastructure are seen as critical.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The coming years will be crucial. Universities that build strong academic–industry linkages, update curricula regularly and foster research innovation will be better positioned to prepare students for the AI economy.

Leaders believe Telangana has the potential to become a hub for AI education and research — if institutions act with speed and focus.

ADMISSIONS WATCH

TG PGECET Counselling Begins: What M.Tech and M.Pharm Aspirants Need to Know Before Exercising Web Options

The Telangana Council of Higher Education has started the counselling process for PGECET-2026. Candidates must be careful while entering web options to avoid losing seats during allotment.

- **Understand seat allotment:** Seats are allotted based on rank, reservation, category, options and seat availability.
- **Fill maximum choices:** Enter as many preferred colleges and courses as possible.
- **Know freeze and upgrade rules:** Candidates can freeze, float or slide based on the allotment.
- **Keep documents ready:** All certificates, rank card, ID proof and educational documents must be ready for verification.
- **Deadlines matter:** Missing a deadline can result in cancellation of candidature.

Officials advise candidates to rely on official notifications and avoid last-minute changes.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Research Funding Emerges as the Next Challenge for Telangana Universities

University leaders say that research output is increasing, but funding and infrastructure support continue to be limited.

- **Grants are competitive:** State and national research grants remain difficult to secure.
- **Labs need modernisation:** Many departments require upgraded equipment and digital tools.
- **Doctoral research needs strengthening:** Scholars need better mentorship, fellowships and global exposure.
- **Industry partnerships can help:** Collaborations can bring applied research, innovation and technology transfer.
- **Global collaboration is key:** Universities are exploring MoUs with global institutions for joint research and exchange programmes.

Experts say a structured research funding ecosystem is essential to position Telangana as a knowledge and innovation hub.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Osmania University: The university released the academic calendar for the 2026–27 session. Classes will begin on July 15. Revaluation applications for April–May exams are open.

JNTUH: Supplementary examination notification for B.Tech II–II and III–II semesters issued. Exams scheduled from July 20.

Kakatiya University: Online admissions for PG programmes continue. Last date for fee payment extended to July 5.

University of Hyderabad: Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences announced a summer research internship for PG students.

Placement Drive: Mahindra Tech and Capgemini will hold campus placements at JNTUH on July 10 and 11.

Seminar Series: Nizam College is hosting a national seminar on “AI Ethics and Society” on July 3.

CAMPUS INNOVATION

Campus Innovation: Universities Expand Incubation Centres to Support Student Start-ups

Universities across Telangana are strengthening incubation centres to encourage student entrepreneurship and innovation.

- Over 40 incubation centres are active in engineering, management and science institutions.
 - Start-ups are receiving mentorship, seed funding support and access to laboratories.
 - Students are working on solutions in health-tech, agri-tech, ed-tech and sustainability.
 - Patent filings by student innovators have increased in the last two years.
- Experts believe that a strong innovation ecosystem on campus will help build the next generation of entrepreneurs and job creators.

FOCUS INSTITUTION

University of Hyderabad

Established	: 1974
Type	: Central University
Accreditation	: NAAC A++ Grade
Students	: Over 10,000
Faculties	: 600+
Schools	: 9
Strengths	: Research, Interdisciplinary Education, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Technology
Recent Update	: Introduced new programmes in AI, Data Science and Sustainability Studies under NEP framework.

The University of Hyderabad continues to be a leading centre for research and higher education in the country. The university is expanding digital infrastructure, strengthening industry partnerships and encouraging interdisciplinary learning to improve employability and innovation.

Are Traditional Examinations Still Measuring Real Learning?

Schools and universities reassess assessment models as competency-based education expands across India.

By Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: For decades, examinations in India have been the primary yardstick for academic success. But with the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, educators across the country are rethinking whether traditional tests truly measure what students know — and more importantly, what they can do.

The shift towards competency-based education is encouraging schools and universities to move away from rote memorisation and focus instead on critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and real-world problem solving.

“Assessment should support learning, not just certify it,” says Dr. Manjula Reddy, professor of education at Osmania University. “We need assessments that develop, not just rank, students.”

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Traditional exams largely test recall, while 21st-century challenges require application, analysis and innovation.

NEP 2020 recommends reducing high-stakes exams and promoting formative assessment, portfolios, projects and multidisciplinary learning.

Countries such as Finland, Singapore and Canada have moved towards continuous assessment models that evaluate understanding rather than memory.

WHAT IS COMPETENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT?

It evaluates a student's ability to apply knowledge in real-life contexts.

Key elements include:

- Higher-order thinking skills
- Application-based questions
- Projects and practical tasks
- Peer and self-assessment
- Feedback for improvement

This approach helps students become independent learners and better problem solvers.

REFORMS UNDERWAY

The CBSE has introduced competency-based questions in board exams.

Universities are adopting Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Credit-Based Semester Systems.

State boards in Telangana are exploring digital assessment tools and reduced emphasis on lengthy written exams.

Teacher training and assessment literacy are being prioritised under Samagra Shiksha.

CHALLENGES REMAIN

Experts caution that reforms face hurdles.

Large class sizes, rigid curricula, limited teacher training and parental pressure for marks continue to slow progress.

There is also a need for robust digital infrastructure and reliable evaluation systems.

“Reform is not just about new formats, but about a mindset shift across the ecosystem,” says education consultant K. Srinivas.

CBSE Expands Competency-Based Question Papers: What Students Should Expect

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is strengthening competency-based assessments across classes. Students will encounter more questions that test application, analysis and problem-solving abilities.

What's New?

- More case-study and source-based questions.
- Scenario-based items linked to real-life situations.
- Emphasis on conceptual understanding over rote learning.
- Use of Bloom's Taxonomy to design questions.
- Internal assessments to carry greater weight.

How Students Can Prepare

- Practice application-based questions and sample papers.
- Improve reading comprehension and reasoning skills.
- Focus on understanding concepts, not memorising.
- Manage time and attempt multiple formats.

Teachers say the shift will help students become confident thinkers prepared for higher education and future careers.

Cambridge and International Curricula Gain Ground as Families Seek Flexible Learning

More schools in India, including several in Telangana, are adopting Cambridge and other international curricula to offer global learning standards and greater flexibility.

- The curriculum encourages inquiry, research and critical analysis.
- Students can choose subjects based on interest and career goals.
- Universities worldwide recognise Cambridge qualifications.
- Schools say it enhances communication, creativity and independent learning.

However, experts note challenges including higher fees, teacher training needs and infrastructure requirements.

Parents say the focus on skills and international exposure makes the curriculum attractive for future-ready education.

Artificial Intelligence Enters the Classroom: Opportunity or Academic Risk?

AI tools are transforming how students learn and teachers assess. But concerns around academic integrity and over-reliance remain.

- AI can personalise learning and provide instant feedback.
- Teachers are redesigning assignments to promote critical thinking.
- Institutions are framing AI-use guidelines and honour codes.
- Students need digital literacy and ethical awareness.
- Plagiarism detection tools are being upgraded.

Educationists believe AI should be used as a learning ally — not a shortcut. Responsible use will prepare students for an AI-driven world.

ACADEMIC BRIEFS

National Science Olympiad Registrations Open

The National Science Olympiad (NSO) registrations for the 2026 cycle have begun. Students from Classes 1 to 12 can participate. The exam will be conducted in November.

Teacher Development Workshops Announced

Samagra Shiksha, Telangana, announces a series of professional development workshops on assessment literacy and classroom innovation starting next month.

Digital Assessment Initiatives Expand

A new digital assessment platform is being piloted in select government and aided schools to streamline evaluation and feedback.

Universities Explore Interdisciplinary Models

Several universities are introducing interdisciplinary minors and flexible credit systems to promote holistic academic learning.

Student Innovation Competitions in July

State and national-level innovation challenges and hackathons will be held in July, focusing on sustainability, health-tech and social innovation.

Why Parent Engagement Has Become the Missing Link in Student Success

Stronger partnerships between schools and families improve attendance, learning habits and emotional well-being, say educators and researchers.

By Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: Research and classroom experience point to one clear finding: students do better when parents are meaningful partners in their learning journey. Yet, parent engagement remains inconsistent and uneven across schools.

Studies show that students with engaged families have better attendance, higher achievement and stronger behavioural outcomes. Regular communication, involvement in school activities and support for learning at home make a measurable difference.

However, many parents today struggle to find time, face limited awareness or feel unprepared to support learning. Schools, too, face challenges in engaging families consistently.

COMMUNICATION

Two-way communication builds trust. When parents know what their children are learning and how they are progressing, they can provide the right support.

Digital platforms, regular parent-teacher meetings and feedback systems are helping schools stay connected with families in real time.

However, communication must be clear, respectful and focused on student growth — not just on problems.

LEARNING AT HOME

A quiet study space, reading time and encouragement from parents improve learning habits and concentration.

Small daily routines — like reading together or discussing the day — create long-term academic and emotional benefits.

Parents do not need to be subject experts; their interest and support matter more than perfection.

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Parent involvement is not limited to marks. It includes attitude, discipline, values, creativity and resilience.

Parents who participate in school events, workshops and decision-making help build a stronger school community.

Children feel more confident and motivated when home and school work together towards their growth.

CHALLENGES

Busy schedules, lack of awareness and language barriers often limit parent participation.

Schools must find flexible ways to involve all families, including those from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Training sessions, simple guides and regular updates can help bridge the gap.

THE WAY FORWARD

Experts recommend structured parent engagement plans, awareness programmes and community initiatives.

"Schools and parents are partners in a child's future. When we work together, students thrive," says education consultant Dr. Meena Verma.

Sustained engagement today will shape confident, responsible and lifelong learners tomorrow.

Teachers Are Redesigning Classrooms for the AI Generation

AI tools are changing how students access information, solve problems and express ideas. Teachers say classrooms must now focus more on curiosity, discussion and critical thinking than on rote learning.

Lessons are being redesigned to include real-world problems, collaborative projects and ethical use of technology. Educators believe the goal is not to avoid AI, but to help students use it responsibly and wisely.

Professional development is a top priority. Schools are investing in training for teachers to build digital literacy, redesign assessments and create engaging learning experiences.

"Our role is not to compete with AI, but to help students think better with it," says a teacher trainer from Hyderabad.

Community Partnerships Are Expanding Learning Beyond the Classroom

Schools across Telangana are building strong partnerships with community organisations, industries, libraries and universities to enrich student learning.

From environmental projects and health drives to career awareness and reading initiatives, these collaborations give students real-world exposure.

Local professionals conduct sessions, libraries host reading clubs and NGOs work with schools on life skills and social responsibility.

These partnerships expose students to new experiences, build confidence and help them connect classroom learning with the real world.

School Attendance Is More Than a Number: Building a Culture of Belonging

Experts say attendance improves when students feel safe, respected and connected.

Schools are focusing on student well-being, counselling, peer support and engaging classrooms to reduce absenteeism.

Co-curricular activities, clubs and student leadership programmes help students feel part of the school.

Early identification of issues and supportive communication with families also play a key role.

A positive school climate and strong relationships are the foundation of consistent attendance, educators say.

TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Professional Learning Must Continue Beyond Teacher Training

Classroom challenges evolve every year. Continuous professional learning helps teachers stay effective and confident.

- Peer learning circles encourage idea sharing.
- Classroom observation improves teaching strategies.
- Research-based practices strengthen outcomes.
- Reflecting on lessons helps teachers grow.
- Lifelong learning is now essential for every educator.

"A teacher who keeps learning, keeps inspiring students," says a school principal.

PARENT VOICE

Helping Children Develop Independent Learning Habits at Home

Small habits at home shape a child's ability to learn independently and responsibly.

- Create a consistent study routine.
- Encourage reading beyond textbooks.
- Limit screen time and set digital boundaries.
- Praise effort, not just results.
- Give age-appropriate responsibilities.

Support and guidance at home build confidence and self-discipline that last a lifetime.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

School-Community Reading Campaign Launched
A city-wide reading campaign encourages students and families to read 20 minutes daily. Events will be held in schools and public libraries.

Parent Orientation Programmes Scheduled
Several schools in Hyderabad will conduct orientation sessions for parents on digital safety, mental health and academic support.

Teacher Development Workshop Announced
A two-day workshop on innovative teaching practices will be held next week for government and private school teachers.

Student Volunteer Initiative Begins in Hyderabad
Students will volunteer for cleanliness drives, tree plantation and community support activities throughout July.

Civic Awareness Programme for Schools Planned
An initiative to build awareness on laws, rights and responsibilities will be rolled out in schools across Telangana.



Can Artificial Intelligence Become a Personal Learning Coach Rather Than a Shortcut for Students?

Experts say AI can deepen understanding, personalise learning and strengthen feedback—if used responsibly and with guidance.

By Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: The rapid rise of artificial intelligence in education has sparked both excitement and concern. From instant doubt resolution to personalised study plans, AI tools are reshaping how students learn.

But researchers and educators warn that the real value of AI lies in how students use it.

“AI should act as a coach, not a shortcut,” says Dr. Radhika Menon, education technologist and professor at IIT Hyderabad.

“It can explain concepts, identify weak areas and recommend practice. But learning still requires effort, reflection and independent thinking.”

PERSONALISED LEARNING

AI platforms analyse a student's performance and create customised learning paths. This helps students focus on concepts they find difficult and progress at their own pace.

AI-ASSISTED REVISION

From summarising chapters to generating practice questions, AI can make revision more efficient.

Students say these tools are especially useful before tests and examinations.

RISKS OF OVERDEPENDENCE

Over-reliance on AI can weaken critical thinking and reduce curiosity, experts caution. Students may skip the learning process and focus only on obtaining answers.

Digital distractions, inaccurate outputs and academic dishonesty are other emerging concerns.

SCHOOLS STRENGTHEN POLICY

Several schools in Hyderabad and Telangana are introducing AI-use guidelines.

These include teacher supervision, transparency in assignments and emphasis on original thinking.

BUILDING DIGITAL LITERACY

Educators say students must develop digital judgement—knowing when to use AI, how to question outputs and how to verify information.

Digital literacy is now as important as reading and writing, they add.

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

Teachers remain central to meaningful learning.

AI can support them by providing insights into student progress, but human guidance builds motivation and values.

Experts say classrooms of the future will combine technology with strong teacher leadership.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- AI personalises learning and offers instant support.
- It should enhance learning, not replace thinking.
- Students must use AI responsibly and ethically.
- Schools need clear policies and teacher training.
- Digital literacy is essential for the AI era.

02 Why Sleep Is Emerging as One of the Most Important Factors in Academic Performance

Recent research shows that adequate sleep is directly linked to memory, attention, creativity and emotional regulation. Yet, many students sleep fewer hours during exam periods.

Studies from the National Institute of Mental Health indicate that students who sleep less than 6 hours a night struggle with concentration and problem-solving.

Experts recommend 7–9 hours of sleep for teenagers. Good sleep improves recall, stabilises mood and strengthens the ability to learn.

Simple habits that help:

- Maintain a consistent sleep schedule
- Avoid screens at least 60 minutes before bed
- Take short breaks during long study sessions
- Get morning sunlight and stay physically active

Better sleep is not a luxury—it is a learning necessity.

03 Learning by Retrieval: Why Testing Yourself Works Better Than Re-reading Notes

Cognitive scientists say the most effective learners actively test themselves instead of passively reading materials.

Retrieval practice strengthens memory and helps students remember information for longer periods.

Methods that support retrieval learning:

- Self-quizzing after studying a topic
- Using flashcards to recall key concepts
- Solving past exam questions
- Teaching the concept to someone else

Research from top universities shows that students who use retrieval techniques perform better not just in exams, but also in real-world problem solving.

Test your memory. Strengthen your learning.

04 Managing Examination Stress Without Reducing Academic Ambition

Examination stress is natural, but unmanaged stress can affect health, confidence and performance.

Counsellors recommend a balanced approach that includes planning, self-care and emotional awareness.

Strategies that help:

- Create a realistic study plan and follow it
- Break large goals into smaller tasks
- Practise breathing or mindfulness daily
- Stay physically active and eat nutritious food
- Talk to someone you trust

Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength—not weakness.

A calm mind learns better.



The AI Workforce Is Expanding—But Human Skills Are Becoming More Valuable

As artificial intelligence reshapes industries, employers are placing greater emphasis on critical thinking, communication, adaptability and ethical decision-making alongside technical expertise.

By Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: Artificial intelligence is transforming the way organisations hire, train and evaluate talent. While AI tools are automating repetitive tasks, employers say uniquely human competencies are now key differentiators in the workplace.

“Technical knowledge gets you in the door, but human skills help you grow, lead and create impact,” says Rohit Sharma, HR Director at a global technology firm.

A recent survey by NASSCOM shows 69% of Indian employers prefer candidates with strong communication and problem-solving skills over those with only technical proficiency.

WHAT EMPLOYERS EXPECT FROM GRADUATES IN 2026

	Analytical thinking Ability to break down complex problems and find effective solutions
	Clear communication and collaboration Work effectively in diverse teams and express ideas with clarity
	Adaptability and willingness to learn Stay resilient in changing environments and embrace new technologies
	AI literacy and digital confidence Understand and apply digital tools responsibly in daily work
	Ethical judgement and responsibility Make decisions with integrity, fairness and social awareness
	Leadership and initiative Take ownership, show initiative and inspire others to achieve goals

CAREER INSIGHT

Five Habits of Highly Employable Graduates

- 01** Communicate clearly in writing and speech.
- 02** Build a portfolio of real projects.
- 03** Develop AI literacy alongside domain expertise.
- 04** Strengthen teamwork and leadership skills.
- 05** Commit to lifelong learning.

02 Internships Are Becoming a Competitive Advantage Rather Than an Optional Experience

Many employers now view internships, live projects and practical exposure as indicators of workplace readiness. Universities across Telangana are expanding industry collaborations to improve student employability before graduation.

HOW STUDENTS CAN MAXIMISE INTERNSHIPS

- Choose internships aligned with your interests and career goals.
- Ask questions, seek feedback and take initiative.
- Work on meaningful tasks, not just routine assignments.
- Build a strong professional network.
- Document your learnings and showcase them in your portfolio.

03 Skill-Based Hiring Continues to Grow Across Technology and Service Industries

Recruiters increasingly assess demonstrable skills through portfolios, certifications, coding assessments, case studies and project work rather than relying exclusively on academic scores.

KEY TRENDS SHAPING HIRING

- Digital portfolios are becoming essential.
- Micro-credentials and industry certifications boost employability.
- Coding assessments and case studies are widely used.
- Project-based hiring is replacing traditional assessment methods.
- Continuous learning is now a job requirement.

04 Green Jobs and Sustainability Careers Are Emerging Across Multiple Industries

The transition towards sustainability is creating demand for professionals who can drive environmental and social impact alongside economic growth.

EMERGING CAREER ROLES

- Renewable energy engineers
- Climate risk analysts
- Sustainability consultants
- Environmental compliance officers
- Green building and urban planning experts



Universities are introducing specialised courses and certifications to prepare students for green jobs.

INDUSTRY WATCH



Tech Firms Expand Graduate Hiring

Leading technology companies have announced larger graduate hiring batches for 2026 to strengthen future workforce pipelines.



Universities Forge Industry Partnerships

Several universities in Telangana have partnered with global companies for certification programmes and industry-aligned curriculum.



Skill Development Boost in Telangana

Government initiatives and private academies are expanding training programmes in AI, cloud computing, EV technology and digital marketing.



Cybersecurity Talent in High Demand

Organisations across sectors are increasing investments in cybersecurity, creating strong opportunities for skilled graduates.



New Apprenticeship Opportunities

PSUs and private firms have announced new apprenticeship programmes for engineering, IT and management students.



Scholarships Are Expanding Beyond Marks: Why Skills, Research and Leadership Now Matter More

Educational institutions, governments and private foundations are increasingly recognising innovation, leadership, community service and research alongside academic performance when awarding scholarships.

By Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: The scholarship landscape is evolving. While academic merit remains important, many programmes now evaluate leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, research potential, sports, community engagement and financial need.

Students who build portfolios beyond examination scores often become stronger scholarship candidates.

THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP EVALUATION TRENDS

- **Beyond Marks**
Commitment, curiosity and competence now carry equal weight.
- **Leadership and Impact**
Initiatives that create positive change in schools or communities stand out.
- **Research and Innovation**
Original projects, prototypes and publications strengthen applications.
- **Extracurricular Excellence**
Sports, arts, debates and cultural achievements build well-rounded profiles.
- **Financial Need Considered**
Need-based scholarships are expanding to support deserving students.
- **Global Opportunities**
International scholarships look for adaptability, purpose and collaboration.
- **Common Mistakes to Avoid**
Incomplete applications, weak SOPs and missing deadlines reduce chances.

Experts say universities and foundations now seek students who can think independently, solve real-world problems and contribute to society.

"A strong scholarship application tells your story—your goals, your journey and the impact you want to create," says Dr. Meena Venkatesh, Scholarship Advisor.

Students are advised to build a portfolio early, document their work and seek mentors who can guide them.

Planning ahead, staying consistent and demonstrating genuine passion are key to unlocking scholarship opportunities.

02 National and International Competitions Open New Pathways for Student Recognition

Competitions help students showcase talent, build confidence and gain exposure to global ideas and innovation.

KEY AREAS

- STEM Olympiads & Science Fairs
- Hackathons & Coding Challenges
- Debate & Public Speaking
- Research Paper Competitions
- Entrepreneurship Challenges
- Design & Innovation Contests
- International Conferences & Youth Summits

Participation strengthens university applications and prepares students for future leadership roles.

03 Student Achievement: Hyderabad Students Continue to Excel in Innovation, Research and Community Leadership

From robotics and AI innovations to environment projects and social ventures, students are making a difference across disciplines.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- School team develops low-cost water quality testing device.
- College student wins national award for sustainable packaging innovation.
- Hyderabad students bag medals in international math and science olympiads.
- Youth volunteers lead large-scale community clean-up drives.

Excellence has many forms. Every achievement inspires many more.

04 July Opportunity Calendar: Programmes Students Should Not Miss

A quick guide to important opportunities opening in July 2026. Plan early and stay ahead.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Scholarship application windows open for 2026–27
- University summer schools and research internships
- Innovation and entrepreneurship challenges
- Skill certification and short-term professional courses
- Youth leadership and exchange programmes
- Volunteer and community engagement initiatives

Track deadlines, prepare documents and apply on time. Opportunities favour the prepared.

05 Young Voices: What Students Want from Education and Opportunities

We asked students across Telangana about their expectations and dreams.

TOP PRIORITIES

- Practical learning and real-world exposure
- More scholarships for research and innovation
- Mentorship from industry professionals
- Mental health support in educational institutions
- Opportunities to solve local problems through projects

Listening to students helps build better policies, stronger institutions and a brighter future.

OPPORTUNITY TRACKER

PROGRAMME	WHO CAN APPLY	FOCUS AREA	DEADLINE
STEM Innovation Challenge	School & College Students	Science, Technology & Innovation	31 July 2026
Youth Leadership Fellowship	Undergraduate Students	Leadership, Community Impact	31 July 2026
National Debate Competition	Classes IX–XII	Debate, Communication & Critical Thinking	25 July 2026
Student Research Grant	University Students	Research Projects & Publications	20 July 2026
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp	Higher Education Students	Entrepreneurship & Startups	28 July 2026

For details, eligibility and application links, visit the official websites of respective organisations. Verify deadlines and requirements before applying.

INSPIRATION

Success Leaves Clues: Small Daily Habits Build Extraordinary Futures

- Read every day and expand your mind.
- Ask questions and stay curious.
- Build practical skills, not just knowledge.
- Contribute to your community.
- Learn continuously and adapt.
- Stay disciplined and kind.

Your small habits today shape your tomorrow.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Every Opportunity Matters

Education is not only about examinations—it is about expanding opportunity, building character and preparing young people to shape society.

We remain committed to highlighting what matters for students, educators and communities every day.

Educate. Empower. Elevate.