

LEAD STORY

Telangana Closes Village Schools, Opens Mega Public Campuses: Reform or Contradiction?

By Mohammed Ismail, Chief Editor

The Telangana government's decision to consolidate thousands of under-enrolled government schools while simultaneously launching modern Telangana Public Schools has triggered one of the most important education debates in the state.

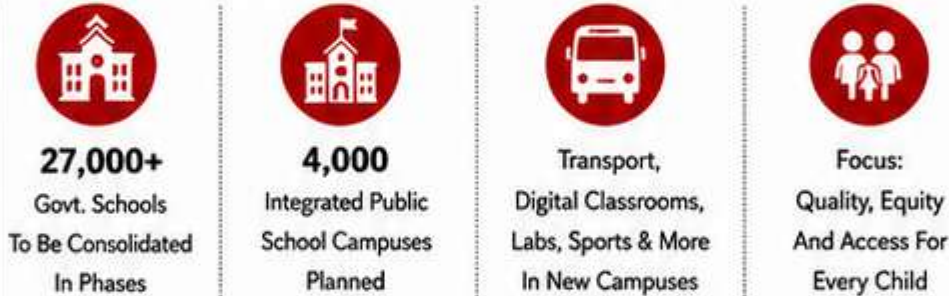
Supporters describe the move as a necessary modernization effort. Critics argue that closing neighbourhood schools risks excluding rural children, particularly girls and economically vulnerable students.

The central question is no longer whether infrastructure should improve. The real question is whether educational access can be preserved while pursuing institutional excellence.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 02



THE TRANSFORMATION IN NUMBERS



TELANGANA SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

When a Village Loses Its School, It Loses More Than a Building



A government school is often the first public institution a child encounters. In many villages, schools function as learning centres, social spaces, nutrition hubs and symbols of opportunity. When schools disappear, communities often lose confidence in the future.

▶ READ MORE ON PAGE 03

NATIONAL EDUCATION WATCH

Odisha Expands Free Education Framework From School To Higher Education



Odisha's evolving education model is drawing national attention for reducing financial barriers and encouraging broader participation in higher education. The initiative reflects a growing trend among states that view education as a long-term investment.

▶ READ MORE ON PAGE 04

KARNATAKA STUDENT MOBILITY POLICY

Free Student Transport Signals New Thinking In Educational Access



Karnataka's student transportation initiatives demonstrate how mobility can influence attendance, retention and participation in education. The challenge is no longer only building institutions. It is helping students reach them.

▶ READ MORE ON PAGE 04

AT A GLANCE

- Telangana Public Schools Launched

Integrated campuses with modern facilities.
- School Consolidation Debate

Access, distance and rural impact in focus.
- Odisha Expands Free Education Model

From school to higher education.
- Karnataka Student Transport Reforms

Free travel to improve access and attendance.
- Admissions & Counselling Season Active

Colleges across India begin process.
- Digital Ethics Becoming Mainstream Discussion

Integrity, privacy and responsibility.
- Research Universities Attract Record Interest

PhD enrolments and innovation rising.
- Skill-Based Learning Gaining Momentum

Future-ready skills take centre stage.

REPUBLIC STUDENT EXCLUSIVE

The Future Of Education Will Be Decided Outside The Classroom



Technology is changing education. Artificial intelligence is changing learning. But the future may ultimately depend on three questions:

- Can students think independently?
- Can they act ethically?
- Can they solve real problems?

Schools that answer these questions will lead the next generation.

▶ READ MORE ON PAGE 05

POLICY & ANALYSIS

Education Is Becoming A Competition Between States

Across India, states are experimenting with different models. The winners will not be governments. The winners will be students.



REPUBLIC STUDENT EDITORIAL

Time To Put Students At The Centre Of Every Decision

Policies change. Governments change. But the impact lasts for generations.

Let every decision in education be measured by one question: Will it create more opportunities for the child?



QUOTE OF THE DAY

The quality of a nation will not be determined by how many schools it opens or closes, but by whether every child can reach opportunity.

— Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor
Republic Student

01 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TELANGANA'S SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION PLAN:
Will Better Buildings
Compensate for
Longer Distances?By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

The debate is not infrastructure versus tradition.
The real issue is access versus concentration.

When schools move farther away:

- Attendance may decline
- Girls may face mobility challenges
- Transportation dependency increases
- Parent engagement weakens
- Dropout risks may rise

The success of this reform will not be judged
by the number of campuses built.

It will be judged by a simpler question:

Did every child gain better access to learning,
or did some children lose access altogether?



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Modernisation is necessary. But
modernisation without accessibility
can unintentionally create inequality.
The future belongs to states that ensure
every child can reach quality learning.



THE CHALLENGE IS NOT BUILDINGS.
THE CHALLENGE IS ACCESS WITH QUALITY.

02 POLICY WATCH

Reviving Government Education
Requires More Than
New Buildings

Across India, governments are investing in
infrastructure, digital classrooms and modern
facilities. These steps are welcome.

But history shows that educational
transformation rarely succeeds
through construction alone.

Students learn because:



Teachers are motivated



Leadership is accountable



Attendance is consistent



Parents are engaged



Learning gaps are identified early

Infrastructure can support learning.
It cannot replace educational culture.

The challenge before policymakers
is institutional renewal.

REPUBLIC STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Education reforms fail when they focus
on assets. They succeed when they
focus on outcomes.

03 NATIONAL EDUCATION DESK

Odisha's Free Education Model
Is Asking a Bigger Question

Odisha's decision to expand free education from KG to PG
challenges the belief that quality education must be expensive.
The initiative can reduce financial barriers and open doors for
thousands of deserving students.

Yet free education alone does not guarantee quality.
Access and excellence must advance together.

A poor child deserves free education.
That child also deserves world-class education.



REPUBLIC STUDENT OBSERVATION

The strongest education systems do not force
students to choose between affordability and
quality. They provide both.

04 STUDENT MOBILITY

Sometimes The Biggest
Education Reform Is a Bus

Educational access begins long before a student
enters a classroom. It begins when a student leaves home.

Transportation influences:



Attendance Safety Retention Participation Continuity
of learning

For many rural students, transportation determines
whether education remains possible.

Mobility is not a transport issue.
It is an education issue.



REPUBLIC STUDENT VIEW

Education policy must include transportation
policy. Opportunity must travel to students.

05 EXPERT COLUMN

Why Legal Awareness Is No Longer
Optional for Students

Understanding BNS, Rights, Responsibilities and
the Laws That Shape Everyday Life

By Farhanaaz Sulthana
Advocate



The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 has been
replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
(BNS), 2023 to modernise criminal law and
address contemporary forms of crime.

Legal awareness empowers individuals to understand their
rights, responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.

EVERY STUDENT SHOULD KNOW

- Basics of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
- Cyber Safety and Digital Fraud Laws
- Digital Privacy and Data Protection
- Women's Safety Laws
- Child Protection Laws

- Consumer Rights
- Traffic and Road Safety Rules
- Rights and Duties of Citizens
- Legal Consequences of Fake News & Misinformation
- Social Media Accountability



EXPERT INSIGHT

A legally aware student becomes a responsible citizen.
A responsible citizen strengthens the nation.

STUDENT FACT OF THE DAY



Research shows that school accessibility,
transportation availability and parental
engagement significantly influence student
retention, attendance and academic
continuity, especially in rural communities.

Source: Various education studies in India

QUOTE OF THE DAY



The purpose of educational reform is
not to move students closer to buildings.
It is to move opportunities
closer to students.

— Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

PAGE 2 TAKEAWAY



Before Closing A School, Ask Three Questions:

- 1 Will learning quality improve?
- 2 Will accessibility improve?
- 3 Will every child benefit equally?

If the answer to all three is yes, reform succeeds.
If not, reform requires reconsideration.



REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL.
SHARE YOUR VOICE.

FOLLOW & CONNECT WITH US



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READ. SHARE.
LEARN. GROW.

01 LEAD STORY

OSMANIA UNIVERSITY'S MARKS CONTROVERSY RAISES BIGGER QUESTIONS ON EXAMINATION REFORMS

Republic Student Higher Education Bureau

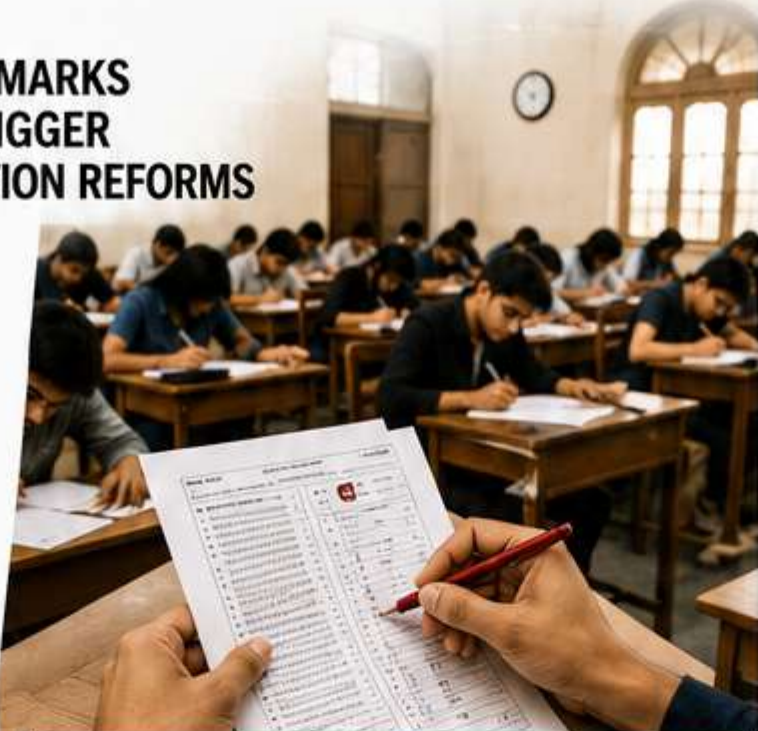
Recent concerns over significant mark variations after reevaluation in Osmania University's law examinations have triggered a wider debate on the reliability of university assessment systems.

While authorities have indicated that investigations will be conducted where necessary, the larger issue extends beyond a single examination cycle.

Students across India increasingly question whether traditional evaluation systems are keeping pace with the scale and complexity of modern higher education.

Republic Student believes the discussion should not be limited to identifying mistakes. Universities must embrace digital evaluation tools, double-blind assessment models, AI-assisted moderation systems and transparent answer-script access mechanisms.

In an era where careers, scholarships and competitive opportunities depend heavily on academic performance, even minor inconsistencies can have life-changing consequences.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The future of university examinations will depend on three pillars:

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN ASSESSMENT

Students deserve certainty, not surprises.

02 CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

₹1000 CRORE FOR OSMANIA UNIVERSITY: CAN INFRASTRUCTURE REVIVE A HISTORIC CAMPUS?

Hyderabad Bureau

Osmania University remains one of India's most influential public universities. Discussions around large-scale campus modernisation and infrastructure investments continue to generate attention.

The university has recently issued multiple academic notifications including PhD admissions, specialised programmes and updated academic calendars, signalling an active expansion phase.

However, students frequently highlight concerns that physical infrastructure alone cannot transform educational outcomes.

TRUE MEASURE OF PROGRESS LIES IN:

Research output

Industry partnerships

International collaborations

Faculty development

Student employability



A modern campus without modern academic culture risks becoming an expensive symbol rather than a transformative institution.

03 OPEN LEARNING DESK

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY IS QUIETLY EXPANDING EDUCATION ACCESS

Open Education Correspondent

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University has expanded examination services, academic support systems and programme accessibility for working professionals, women returning to education, rural learners and first-generation graduates.

For many learners, higher education is not delayed because of lack of talent. It is delayed because of:

- Family responsibilities
- Employment obligations
- Financial constraints
- Geographic barriers



REPUBLIC STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The future of Indian education will not be built only through prestigious universities. It will also be built through institutions that make education accessible to those whom traditional systems leave behind.

04 RESEARCH & INNOVATION

WHY INDIAN UNIVERSITIES MUST REWARD RESEARCH, NOT JUST PUBLICATIONS

Education Research Desk

Across Indian universities, academic success is often measured by the number of papers published rather than the real-world impact of research.

Students entering research programmes increasingly seek opportunities to solve practical challenges.

- Climate resilience
- Healthcare innovation
- Urban mobility
- Artificial Intelligence
- Agricultural technology
- Public policy



The next decade will belong to institutions that convert laboratories into startups, patents and societal impact.

05 STUDENT LEADERSHIP

THE RETURN OF STUDENT VOICES ON CAMPUS

Campus Democracy Column

A healthy university is not measured solely by classrooms and rankings. It is measured by conversation.

Students are increasingly demanding participation in decisions affecting:

- Curriculum design
- Campus infrastructure
- Mental health services
- Placement systems
- Academic schedules



When students are treated as stakeholders rather than beneficiaries, campuses become stronger learning communities.

CAMPUS INTELLIGENCE

FIVE SKILLS EVERY UNIVERSITY STUDENT SHOULD DEVELOP BEFORE GRADUATION

1 Communication Skills

2 Financial Literacy

3 Digital Ethics

4 Critical Thinking

5 Problem Solving

Degrees may open doors. Skills determine how far students go after entering them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A university is not a collection of buildings. It is a collection of possibilities.

– Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student



PAGE 3 TAKEAWAY

THE NEXT GENERATION UNIVERSITY MUST DELIVER:

- Academic Integrity
- Employability
- Research Excellence
- Accessibility
- Student Participation



A university that cannot prepare students for the future will eventually become a museum of the past.

01 LEAD ANALYSIS

THE GREAT SCHOOL
CONSOLIDATION DEBATE:Are We Solving Educational Problems
or Relocating Them?

By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

The Telangana Government's decision to merge and consolidate schools has generated one of the most important education debates in recent years.

Supporters argue that thousands of small schools lack sufficient teachers, laboratories, digital infrastructure and academic support systems.

Critics argue that children should not be forced to travel farther simply because governments failed to strengthen neighbourhood schools.

Both sides present valid concerns.

The real question is not whether schools should be consolidated.

The real question is:

Will every child receive a better education after consolidation?

If the answer is yes, the policy succeeds.

If the answer is no, then administrative efficiency will have been achieved at the cost of educational access.

Historically, education reforms often focus on physical infrastructure while overlooking learning outcomes.

Students do not learn because buildings become larger.

Students learn because:

- Good teachers stay in classrooms.
- Parents remain engaged.
- Transportation is reliable.
- Attendance improves.
- Learning gaps are addressed early.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Republic Student believes the next three years will determine whether Telangana's school restructuring becomes a national model or a cautionary lesson.

02 POLICY WATCH

INDIA'S RESEARCH REVOLUTION:
Can Universities Become Innovation
Engines Instead of Degree Factories?

India's higher education ecosystem is increasingly shifting attention toward research, innovation and global competitiveness. Recent national initiatives such as the Prime Minister Research Chair Scheme aim to attract global Indian researchers and strengthen research ecosystems in higher education institutions.

The opportunity is significant.

However, India's challenge is not merely funding research.

The challenge is building a culture where research solves real-world problems.

Questions universities must answer:

- How many student startups emerge from campuses?
- How many patents reach industry?
- How many research papers improve public policy?
- How many innovations solve local challenges?

Research must move from publication to application.



REPUBLIC STUDENT VIEW

The future belongs to universities that create solutions, not merely certificates.

03 NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY DESK

THE EQUITY QUESTION:
Are Indian Universities
Becoming More Inclusive?

The University Grants Commission has introduced regulations aimed at promoting equity and equal opportunity across higher education institutions. These measures focus on creating safer, more inclusive and accessible campuses.

Yet inclusion remains more than policy.

Students from rural communities, low-income families and first-generation learner backgrounds continue to face challenges related to affordability, language, mentorship and confidence.

True inclusion begins when every student believes they belong.

A university that admits students but fails to support them is not inclusive.



REPUBLIC STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Inclusion is not an admission number. It is an everyday experience.

04 STUDENT REALITY CHECK

UGC NET 2026:
What the Examination
Really Represents

As UGC NET approaches later this month, thousands of postgraduate students are preparing for one of India's most significant academic qualifying examinations.

But the examination represents something larger.

For many candidates:

- It is a pathway to research.
- It is a gateway to academia.
- It is a chance to become a teacher.
- It is an opportunity to influence future generations.



REPUBLIC STUDENT MESSAGE

View the examination not merely as a test but as a professional commitment to lifelong learning.

05 GLOBAL EDUCATION VIEW

WHY THE WORLD'S BEST UNIVERSITIES
INVEST IN STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Global rankings often focus on research, reputation and faculty quality. Yet the most successful universities invest heavily in:

- Student wellbeing
- Career support
- Entrepreneurship
- Leadership development
- Industry immersion

Students do not remember only lectures. They remember experiences.

India's universities must increasingly compete not only academically but also in student experience.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

The campus experience must prepare students for life, not just for exams.

06 DATA STORY

THE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

India's higher education ecosystem has expanded substantially over the last decade, with the number of institutions increasing significantly and enrolment continuing to grow.

TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

39,931
(2014-15)

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO (GER)
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

23.7%
(2014-15)



Source: Ministry of Education, Government of India (AISHE Reports 2014-15 & 2024-25)

However, expansion alone is not success.

The next phase of reform must focus on:

- Graduate employability
- Research impact
- Student wellbeing
- Innovation outcomes
- Global competitiveness

07 REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

THE TRANSPORT QUESTION
NO ONE IS ASKING

Page 1 highlighted Telangana's consolidation strategy. Page 4 asks the next question.

If students must travel farther to reach better schools:

- Who pays?
- Who monitors safety?
- Who ensures girls continue attending?
- Who responds during emergencies?

Educational reform without transportation reform remains incomplete. The success of consolidation may ultimately depend not on school buildings, but on school journeys.



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

Policy must travel with students. Otherwise, access will remain unequal.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The strongest education systems are not the ones that build the most schools. They are the ones that ensure every child can reach opportunity.”

– Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student



PAGE 4 TAKEAWAY

BEFORE MEASURING INFRASTRUCTURE, MEASURE IMPACT

- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Parent Trust
- ✓ Teacher Quality
- ✓ Student Safety
- ✓ Future Readiness

Education policy succeeds only when children's lives improve—not when reports look better.





LEAD STORY

THE DEATH OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL

How Education Reform Is Quietly Reshaping Communities

By Mohammed Ismail | Chief Editor, Republic Student

For generations, the neighbourhood school was more than an institution. It was a community landmark, a meeting point for families, a place that connected citizens to the state.

Across several Indian states, school consolidation policies are bringing students from smaller schools into larger campuses. Governments argue that thousands of under-enrolled schools are financially inefficient and academically limiting.

Larger schools can deliver better infrastructure, stronger academic support and more efficient teacher deployment.

But when a neighbourhood school closes, a village loses a social institution. Parents lose daily engagement with teachers. Younger children face longer commutes. Local events and interactions gradually disappear.

For many rural families, especially girls, distance remains a critical factor influencing attendance.

The challenge for policymakers is therefore not choosing between access and quality. The challenge is delivering both.

The future of education should be judged by the number of children whose futures improve.

PARENT LENS

THE ₹50,000 CHILDHOOD

Why Middle-Class Families Are Paying More Than Ever for Education

EDUCATION EXPENSES	
School Fees	₹22,000
Tuition Charges	₹15,000
Transport	₹4,300
Books & Supplies	₹2,300
Activities	₹6,400
TOTAL	₹50,000

Coaching, transport, digital subscriptions, activities and skill programmes are making education expensive long before college begins.

The average annual additional educational expenditure for school students in urban India now ranges between ₹35,000 and ₹70,000.*

This growing burden risks turning opportunity into privilege, not merit.

Quality education must not depend on the thickness of a wallet.

*Source: LocalCircles Education Survey 2025

DIGITAL SAFETY

ARE OUR CHILDREN REALLY SAFE ONLINE?

The New Risks Facing the Digital Generation



Cyberbullying, online grooming, scams and misinformation are everyday threats for students.

India reported over 1.73 lakh cybercrime complaints in 2024 — a 31% increase from the previous year.**

Digital literacy must include privacy awareness, cybersecurity basics, fact-checking and responsible behaviour.

Knowing technology is not enough. Using it wisely is the real skill.

**Source: NCRB Cyber Crime Report 2024

CIVIC INTELLIGENCE

WHY PLAYGROUNDS ARE DISAPPEARING FROM INDIAN CITIES

The Silent Crisis No Education Policy Is Discussing



72% of urban children in India do not have easy access to safe outdoor play spaces, says a 2024 survey by the Centre for Science and Environment.

Lack of play contributes to rising obesity, anxiety, lower attention span and social withdrawal.

Playgrounds are not a luxury. They are foundational to learning, health and human development.

Every city master plan must treat play spaces as educational infrastructure.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS STOP READING NEWSPAPERS?

The Hidden Cost of Living Only Through Algorithms



REPUBLIC STUDENT ANALYSIS

The problem is not the quantity of information. The problem is the quality of attention.

Algorithms prioritise engagement, not understanding. They show users more of what they already like, limiting exposure to diverse ideas and perspectives.

Students who skip credible journalism become more vulnerable to misinformation, manipulated narratives and superficial opinions.

Democracy depends on informed citizens. Informed citizens depend on responsible journalism.

“In a world overflowing with information, discernment becomes the most valuable skill of all.”

YOUTH & CITIZENSHIP

WHY VOLUNTEERING SHOULD COUNT IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Building Citizens, Not Just Applicants



Volunteering builds:

- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Responsibility
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Social awareness

Many global universities evaluate community engagement because future leaders need both intellect and social capability. India must move in that direction.

FUTURE SOCIETY

THE GENERATION THAT WILL NEVER KNOW A WORLD WITHOUT AI

How Artificial Intelligence Is Reshaping Childhood



AI will influence learning methods, careers, creativity, communication and decision-making.

The future belongs not to those who compete against AI, but to those who learn to work alongside it responsibly.

Machines may generate answers. Humans must still determine which answers matter.

REPUBLIC STUDENT INVESTIGATION

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION?

The Question India Continues to Avoid

By Mohammed Ismail | Chief Editor, Republic Student

When outcomes decline, blame follows quickly. Government blames institutions. Institutions blame teachers. Teachers blame parents. Parents blame technology. Students blame pressure. Everyone finds a reason. Few accept responsibility.



GOVERNMENT
Builds the system and creates the framework.



SCHOOL
Provides environment, resources and structure.



TEACHER
Inspires, teaches and develops potential.



PARENT
Provides values, support and encouragement.



STUDENT
Takes responsibility and puts in the effort.

The question should not be "Who is responsible?"

The question should be "How can all stakeholders become accountable together?"

The future of Indian education depends on the answer.

RESEARCH • DATA • FUTURE OF EDUCATION • DIGITAL ETHICS

LEAD STORY

INDIA'S HIDDEN EDUCATION CRISIS:
Students Are Spending More Years in School,
But Learning Less

By Republic Student Research Desk

For decades, education policy has been measured through enrollment numbers. Governments proudly announce higher admission rates, more schools, larger budgets and increasing literacy percentages.

Yet a difficult question remains unanswered: Are students actually learning more?

Across India, classroom attendance has improved substantially. However, employers, universities and even parents increasingly report gaps in communication skills, problem solving abilities, financial literacy, civic awareness and practical decision-making.

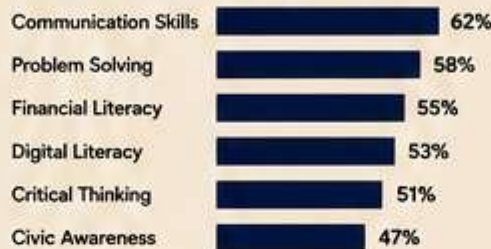
The crisis is not about access anymore. It is about outcomes.

A child can spend fifteen years inside educational institutions and still struggle to write a professional email, understand taxation, evaluate misinformation, communicate confidently in interviews or manage personal finances.

The Republic Student analysis indicates that the next phase of educational reform cannot focus merely on enrollment. It must focus on capability.



LEARNING GAPS IDENTIFIED ACROSS
MULTIPLE WORKFORCE STUDIES



DATA DRIVEN ANALYSIS

THE ₹10 LAKH
DEGREE QUESTION

Is Higher Education Delivering
Return on Investment?

Higher education has become one of the largest financial commitments for middle-class families. Engineering, management, healthcare and professional programs often require investments running into lakhs of rupees.

Rising educational costs are forcing a more difficult question: What happens when degrees become expensive but employability remains uncertain?

AVERAGE COST OF POPULAR DEGREES (INDIA)



EMPLOYABILITY REALITY CHECK



*Source: Multiple Industry-Academia Surveys 2025

KEY OBSERVATION
Parents must begin evaluating educational value rather than educational prestige.

REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

India does not have a schooling crisis.
India has a learning application crisis.

FUTURE OF WORK

WHY THE BEST JOBS
OF 2035 DO NOT EXIST TODAY

Students often prepare for careers that currently exist. However, technological history suggests something different. Many of today's most desirable careers were unknown 20 years ago.

Professions of the Future (2035 and Beyond)

- AI Governance Specialists**
Ensure ethical and responsible use of AI systems.
- Human-AI Collaboration Designers**
Design workflows where humans and AI work together.
- Climate Adaptation Consultants**
Help industries and communities prepare for climate risks.
- Digital Ethics Officers**
Oversee ethical standards in digital organisations.
- Learning Experience Architects**
Design the future of personalised learning ecosystems.
- Cyber Psychology Analysts**
Study human behaviour in digital environments.
- Virtual Economy Managers**
Manage digital assets, virtual marketplaces and metaverses.

The safest career strategy is therefore not specialization alone — it is adaptability.
Students who learn continuously will remain valuable regardless of technological disruption.

INDIA OBSERVATORY

THE RISE OF
SMALL-CITY INNOVATION

For decades, educational and economic opportunity appeared concentrated in metropolitan regions. That pattern is changing.



DIGITAL ETHICS COLUMN

JUST BECAUSE AI CAN DO IT
DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD



- ✓ AI can write your essay, but it cannot build your character.
- ✓ AI can generate answers, but it cannot develop your thinking.
- ✓ AI can solve problems, but it cannot understand your values.
- ✓ AI can create content, but it cannot replace your effort.

If technology begins replacing effort entirely,
education loses its purpose.

ETHICAL USE OF AI: THE NEW LIFE SKILL

- Use AI as a tool, not a shortcut.

Verify information generated by AI.

Respect intellectual property.

Maintain academic integrity.

Think independently. Always.

This generation will be tested not on what it knows,
but on how honestly it uses what technology can provide.

REPUBLIC STUDENT SPECIAL

THE NEXT EDUCATION REVOLUTION WILL NOT HAPPEN INSIDE CLASSROOMS

The most important learning environments of the future may not be schools.

They may be everywhere.

Education is becoming borderless, interdisciplinary and life-connected.

COMMUNITIES

Real-world problems teach more than theoretical concepts.

INTERNSHIPS

Industry exposure builds confidence, clarity and career direction.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Service builds empathy, leadership and deeper social understanding.

DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Online learning breaks geographical barriers and speeds up learning.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION LABS

Research builds curiosity, creativity and the ability to solve complex problems.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Engaging with public systems creates informed and responsible citizens.

The classroom will remain important.
But education itself is becoming borderless.

REPUBLIC STUDENT CONCLUSION

The future belongs to learners, not merely students.
And that distinction may define the next generation of India.

INNOVATION • STARTUPS • AI • YOUNG ACHIEVERS • GLOBAL TRENDS

LEAD STORY

BHARAT INNOVATES 2026:
How Indian Students Are
Entering the Global
Innovation Arena

By Republic Student Innovation Desk

For years, Indian students have excelled in examinations, competitive tests and academic rankings. However, the global economy increasingly rewards innovators rather than test-takers.

This shift was visible during Bharat Innovates 2026, a national innovation initiative showcasing deep-tech startups, research-led innovation and emerging technologies from Indian institutions before a global audience.

The programme highlights how universities are becoming centres of entrepreneurship and innovation, not merely degree distribution.

The significance of such initiatives extends beyond startups. They redefine how students view education itself.

The traditional model encouraged students to seek jobs after graduation. The innovation economy encourages students to solve problems before graduation.

India's innovation ecosystem is now connecting universities, investors, research institutions and industry partners at an unprecedented scale.

The message is clear:

The next generation must learn not only how to work in the future—but how to create it.



REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

The future belongs to students
who can transform ideas into solutions.

BHARAT INNOVATES
2026
IDEAS • INNOVATION • IMPACT

350+
INSTITUTIONS

1,200+
INNOVATIONS

5,000+
STUDENT INNOVATORS

45+
COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED

YOUNG ACHIEVER

THE 16-YEAR-OLD
WHO BUILT AN
AI COMPANY



Across India, millions of students are being told to wait until graduation before thinking seriously about careers. Some are refusing to wait.

The story of teenage entrepreneur Pranjali Awasthi has attracted attention because it demonstrates a powerful truth: age is no longer a barrier to innovation.

Beginning with coding at a young age and pursuing advanced technology projects early, she built an AI-focused startup that gained significant recognition.

YOUNG INNOVATORS FOCUS ON:



CODING



DESIGN



PROBLEM SOLVING



COMMUNICATION



PRODUCT BUILDING



LEADERSHIP

The lesson is not that every student must start a company.
The lesson is that every student can start learning earlier.

AI & EDUCATION

INDIA'S NEXT LITERACY
MOVEMENT MAY BE
AI LITERACY



In the twentieth century, literacy meant reading and writing. In the twenty-first century, literacy increasingly includes understanding artificial intelligence.

Several government and institutional initiatives are now introducing AI concepts into schools and teacher-training ecosystems. AI learning is gradually becoming part of educational planning rather than a specialised subject reserved for engineers.

AI LITERACY INCLUDES UNDERSTANDING:



HOW AI WORKS



WHERE AI FAILS



ETHICAL LIMITATIONS



DATA PRIVACY



RESPONSIBLE USE

Students who understand AI will not compete against machines.
They will work alongside them.

STARTUP OBSERVATORY

WHY INDIA'S NEXT BIG STARTUPS
MAY COME FROM CAMPUS LABS



For decades, laboratories and classrooms operated separately from entrepreneurship. That wall is beginning to disappear.

Across India's higher education ecosystem, incubators, innovation cells and research parks are encouraging students to build solutions for real-world problems.

University projects are increasingly becoming:



STARTUPS



PATENTS



COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS



RESEARCH VENTURES

The rise of campus entrepreneurship suggests a profound shift:
Universities are evolving from knowledge centres
into innovation ecosystems.
The best student project of today may become tomorrow's industry.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

EARTH OBSERVATION, AI AND
THE NEW SPACE ECONOMY



India's rapidly expanding space-tech ecosystem is creating new opportunities for students interested in technology, climate science, agriculture and data analytics.

Recent investments into AI-powered Earth observation systems demonstrate how satellite data is becoming useful for:



CLIMATE MONITORING



AGRICULTURE PLANNING



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



URBAN DEVELOPMENT



INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

For students, the significance is enormous.
Space is no longer only about astronauts.
It is becoming a major employment sector.

GLOBAL EDUCATION WATCH

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES ARE
COMING TO INDIA.
WHAT CHANGES FOR STUDENTS?



If implemented effectively, students could gain:



INTERNATIONAL CURRICULA



GLOBAL FACULTY EXPOSURE



RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

without leaving the country.

India's higher education landscape is entering a new phase. Several international institutions are exploring or expanding academic operations in India, reflecting growing confidence in the country's education sector.

The debate is no longer whether students should study abroad. The debate is whether global education can increasingly be accessed within India.

DIGITAL ETHICS MINI COLUMN

BUILDING WITH AI IS EASY.
BUILDING RESPONSIBLY IS HARD.



The next generation will not be judged merely by how advanced its technology becomes.
It will be judged by how responsibly that technology is used.



Innovation without ethics creates risk.



Innovation with ethics creates progress.

Students must learn both.

GLOBAL TRENDS SNAPSHOT

WHAT THE WORLD IS WATCHING



AI Regulation Races Ahead
Countries are creating new AI policies to ensure transparency, safety and accountability.



Green Skills Are the New Advantage
Sustainability, climate action and clean technologies are shaping future jobs.



Micro-Credentials Going Mainstream
Short-term, skill-based certifications are becoming widely accepted by employers.



Lifelong Learning Becomes Essential
Rapid change in technology means learning must continue throughout life.



Global Collaboration in Education
Universities and researchers are solving global challenges together.

“Innovation is not the privilege
of a few gifted people.
It is the habit of curious minds.”

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Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

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EDITORIAL

THE BIGGEST EDUCATION REFORM INDIA NEEDS IS NOT IN SCHOOLS

By Mohammed Ismail
Chief Editor, Republic Student

India is discussing AI.
India is discussing digital classrooms.
India is discussing international universities.
All of these conversations matter.

But a deeper question remains unanswered.

Why do millions of educated people still struggle with civic responsibility, financial discipline, legal awareness, digital ethics and public behaviour?

The answer is uncomfortable.

Our education system has traditionally focused on information.

Society needs judgment.

Knowledge without responsibility creates professionals.

Knowledge with responsibility creates citizens.

The next educational revolution will not be measured by examination scores.

It will be measured by the quality of citizens we produce.

Republic Student believes the future classroom must teach not only mathematics and science, but also citizenship, accountability, empathy, ethics and public responsibility.

The future of India depends on both.

Information informs.
But values transform.

Let us build an education system that prepares students not only for a career, but for citizenship.

INDIA OBSERVATORY

THE RISE OF TIER-2 AND TIER-3 EDUCATION CITIES

For decades, educational success appeared concentrated in metropolitan centres. That reality is changing rapidly.

Opportunity is no longer limited to metros.

A new education map of India is emerging.



KEY DRIVERS

- Growing universities
- Better infrastructure
- Lower living costs
- Startup ecosystems
- Industry connectivity



REPUBLIC STUDENT INSIGHT

India's next education revolution may not begin in Delhi, Mumbai or Bengaluru. It may begin in cities that were previously overlooked.

CIVIC INTELLIGENCE

WHY EVERY STUDENT SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW A CITY WORKS

A city is not just buildings. It is a system.
And every system needs informed citizens.



When these systems function well, society progresses.
When they fail, everyday life becomes difficult.



A city itself is a classroom.
Understanding it builds awareness.
Awareness builds responsibility.
Responsibility builds better citizens.

DIGITAL SOCIETY

THE ATTENTION ECONOMY IS COMPETING FOR YOUR MIND

Students today face a challenge previous generations never experienced.

Their attention is constantly being purchased.

The issue is no longer access to information.

The issue is control over attention.

DIGITAL LITERACY IN 2026 MUST INCLUDE

- ✓ Information Verification
- ✓ Attention Management
- ✓ Algorithm Awareness
- ✓ Online Safety
- ✓ Mental Wellbeing



The students who learn to manage their attention may gain the greatest competitive advantage of all.

EDUCATION POLICY WATCH

THE OLD MODEL
Measures memory.

REPORT CARD		
SUBJECT	MARKS	GRADE
Mathematics	78	B+
Science	82	A-
English	74	B
Social Studies	69	C+
Total	303	B
AVERAGE		

- ✗ Focus on marks
- ✗ Limited skills measured
- ✗ One-time assessment
- ✗ High stress
- ✗ Rote learning

FROM MARK SHEETS TO LEARNING PROFILES

LEARNING PROFILE



Measures growth.

Student: Ananya R.
Grade: X
School: ABC Public School

Competency Areas

Critical Thinking
Communication
Creativity
Collaboration
Digital Literacy
Citizenship & Ethics



- ✓ Focus on competencies
- ✓ Holistic assessment
- ✓ Continuous evaluation
- ✓ Lower stress
- ✓ Future ready skills

Should education measure memory?

Or should it measure growth?

The future may require both.



The report card of the future may look very different from the report card of the past.

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING SPECIAL

WHY INDIA'S MOST IMPORTANT EDUCATION BATTLE IS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL



- 📖 Reading Foundation
- 🔢 Numeracy Foundation
- 🧑 Socio-Emotional Learning
- 🔍 Curiosity & Confidence

Much public attention focuses on universities, AI and competitive examinations.

Yet experts increasingly emphasize foundational literacy and numeracy as the single most important determinant of long-term educational success.

If foundational learning is weak, every subsequent educational reform becomes harder to implement.



The future of higher education may depend on what happens in Grade 1.

REPUBLIC STUDENT QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT SHOULD EVERY STUDENT LEARN BEFORE AGE 18?

If you could redesign education from scratch, what five skills would you make compulsory?



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Understand money, budgeting, saving and smart decisions.



LEGAL AWARENESS

Know your rights, responsibilities and the law.



DIGITAL ETHICS

Use technology responsibly, safely and ethically.



CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Participate in society and contribute to the public good.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Express ideas clearly, build meaningful relationships and work with others.

Everything else becomes easier when these foundations are strong.

FINAL THOUGHT

“The purpose of education is not merely to help students make a living.
It is to help them build a society worth living in.”

