

UPSC SHOTS

DATAS ABOUT EDUCATION THAT CAN BE USED IN GS PAPERS

A Thematic Compilation of the Most Relevant and Recent Facts & Statistics for UPSC CSE Mains 2025 – Curated from News, Reports & Government Sources

This document presents updated, mains-focused data on EDUCATION across all General Studies papers (GS-I to GS-III). Backed by credible sources from 2024–25, each fact is crafted to help you substantiate your answers with precision and relevance in UPSC CSE Mains 2025.

GS-I: Society & Education

(Literacy & Learning Outcomes)

- **PLFS-2023-24:** Overall literacy (age 7+) at 80.9%, urban at 88.9%, rural at 77.5%; male 87.2%, female 74.6% [The Outpost](#).
- **ASER 2024 (rural govt schools):** Class 3 reading competence improved to 23.4%, yet over 76% of Class 3 students still struggle with Class 2 text. Among Class 5, 55.2% cannot do basic arithmetic [India Today](#).

GS-II: Governance, Policy & Infrastructure

1. Public Spending

- **Education budget BE 2025-26:** ₹1.28 lakh crore; ₹50,078 crore (41%) for higher education, ₹78,572 crore (59%) for school education [Fortune India+1](#) [Telegraph India+1](#).

- **Total public spending on education:** still under 3% of GDP, well short of NEP's 6% goal [The Wall Street Journal](#).

2. Infrastructure & Digital Access

- **Expanded infrastructure** in five newer IITs to accommodate 6,500 additional students; 10,000 new medical seats to be added in 2025 toward a 75,000-seat target over five years ([The Times of India+8India Today+8Lurnable+8](#)).
- **Nationwide broadband connectivity** to all government secondary schools (under BharatNet) and primary health centres [The Times of India+8India Today+8Fortune India+8](#).
- 50,000 **Atal Tinkering Labs** to be set up in govt schools over the next five years; already 10,000 established across 35 states as of 2025
- **UDISE data shows digital-infra gaps persist**—for example, in Madhya Pradesh fewer than 1% schools have digital libraries, vs national average of 6.1%; only 11.6% have smart classrooms vs 21.2% nationally [The Times of India](#).

GS-III: Economy, Skilling & Startups

3. Skilling & Vocational Training

- **Five National Centres** of Excellence for Skilling to be established in partnership with global players; focus areas include manufacturing, hospitality, shipbuilding, etc.
- A ₹ **60,000 crore** scheme approved to upgrade up to 1,000 ITIs and train over 20 lakh youth over five years via new NSTIs in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Ludhiana
- Only ~3.8% of workforce has formal vocational training; graduates from polytechnic/ITI institutes continue to face employability issues [The Wall Street Journal](#).

4. AI-Driven Education & School Skilling

- ₹ 500 crore allocated for a Centre of **Excellence in AI for Education** to drive AI adoption in pedagogy and administration [The Economic Times+11www.ndtv.com+11Higher Education Plus+11](#).

- **SOAR (Skilling for AI Readiness)** launched by Ministry of Skills on July 22, 2025: 15-hour AI modules for students (Class 6-12) and educator training to build foundational AI literacy [The Economic Times+1The Times of India+1](#).

5. Startup & Entrepreneurship Boost

- A new Fund of Funds worth ₹10,000 crore to support early-stage and deeptech startups, doubling previous allocation [Fortune India+5Lurnable+5Reddit+5](#).
- Additional measures: extension of tax exemptions for startups until April 2030, removal of angel tax, loans up to ₹2 crore to first-time entrepreneurs from SC/ST and women communities [Reddit+1Lurnable+1](#).
- **Delhi's NEEEV programme** integrates entrepreneurship into classes VII–XII in government schools, offering experiential startup training and competitions; SOAR and innovation-labs part of push to build early entrepreneurial mindset [The Times of India+1The Times of India+1](#).

6. Learning & Skill Deficits – Ground Reports

- **ASER 2024: India's Foundational Learning Crisis**
Reading Skills
 - 76.6% of Class 3 students cannot read a Class 2-level text
 - 55.2% of Class 5 students also struggle with Class 2 reading material
- Foundational Numeracy (Ages 14–18)
 - Over 50% of adolescents cannot solve basic division problems
- Arithmetic Proficiency (Classroom-Level)
 - 66.3% of Class 3 students and 70% of Class 5 students cannot perform simple arithmetic
 - Only 33.7% of Class 3 students can correctly do basic subtraction

7. Universities and Colleges – Key Data

- **Total Institutions (AISHE Report)**
 - **1,168** Universities
 - **45,473** Colleges
 - **12,002** Stand-alone Institutions
- **Accreditation Status**
 - Only **37%** of Universities are accredited
- **Growth in the Last Decade (Ministry of Education)**

- Universities: **60% increase**
- Colleges: **21% increase**
- **Rural Penetration**
 - **43%** of Universities
 - **61.4%** of Colleges

are located in **Rural Areas**
- **Institutes of National Importance (INIs)**
 - **Total: 171** (as of June 2024)
- **Medical Colleges**
 - **102% increase:** from **387** (pre-2014) to **780** (in 2024)
 - **MBBS Seats: 130% rise** in capacity
- **IIMs:** 21
- **IITs:** 23

OTHER ESSAY & ETHICS FACTS

- **RTE Act:** current coverage is 6–14 years; draft NEP suggests extension to 3–18 years (still pending)
- **Teacher shortages** impact both foundational learning and infrastructure, especially in rural areas (visible in ASER and PLFS gaps)
- **Equity concerns:** while enrollment rises, digital access, learning quality, and skilling outcomes remain uneven across states and socio-economic groups
- **EdTech & Investment:** Private edtech sees turbulence—Eruditus raised \$150 million (valuation \$3 billion) in 2024, but overall funding fell from \$5.4 b in 2021 to ~\$0.42 b in 2024