

INDIA VISION 2047

# Education in Dharma Rajya

A Targeted Plan to Realize NEP 2020

Dharma Rajya Education Framework | March 2026

## Executive Summary

India's education system holds a central role in realizing Dharma Rajya — a vision of society founded on harmony, creativity, and inclusive leadership. While literacy has risen to 77% (NSO 2023), learning outcomes remain deeply concerning: fewer than half of Grade 5 students can read Grade 2-level texts (ASER 2023), and India ranked 72nd of 74 nations in PISA 2009 with no recent international benchmarking.

This policy brief presents a targeted, evidence-backed strategy for transforming India's education landscape through the lens of NEP 2020 — moving from rote learning to creative, competency-based education that produces confident, inclusive, and purpose-driven leaders by 2035.

### Core Premise

At just ₹200–400 additional investment per student annually, India can unlock transformative educational outcomes across 130 million secondary students — a fraction of the ₹65,000 already spent per student each year.

## Systemic Challenges

Three structural barriers prevent India from converting its demographic dividend into educational excellence:

- **Rote Learning Culture:** The colonial-era legacy of memorization over meaning suppresses critical and creative thinking essential for the 21st-century economy.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Approximately 30% of rural schools lack basic amenities such as electricity or clean water (UDISE 2023), disproportionately affecting marginalized communities.

- **Regional Disparities:** Varied curricula and unequal resources across states inhibit cohesive national progress. Spending varies dramatically — Telangana invests ₹1,08,000 per student versus a national average of ₹65,000.

### India's Untapped Potential

India's talent is globally proven — from Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai to thousands of scientists, entrepreneurs, and leaders. The challenge is not capability; it is systemic. Targeted reform can unlock this potential at scale.

## A Six-Step Transformation Framework

India's path to educational excellence follows a structured, sequenced progression — each stage building naturally on the last:

**01**

### Rote Learning → Creative Learning

Children's natural curiosity is the seed of creativity. Competency-based assessments replace memorization with exploration. Targeted remediation empowers students to advance 1–2 cognitive levels and develop genuine understanding.

**02**

### Creative Learning → Creative Thinking

When students learn at their own pace (competing with themselves, not peers), they engage more deeply. Reduced academic stress, experiential learning, and adaptive digital tools accelerate the shift to genuine innovative thinking.

**03**

### Creative Thinking → Confidence

Iterative problem-solving and regular reflection build self-assurance. As students overcome increasingly complex challenges, they internalize capability and develop authentic confidence.

**04**

### Confidence → Inclusivity

Self-assured learners are more open to peers from diverse backgrounds. Collaborative projects and shared learning experiences cultivate mutual respect and inclusive classrooms.

**05 Inklusivity → Leadership**  
 Teamwork, mentorship, and community-based initiatives develop the capacity to guide and inspire. Skilled mentors and structured programs translate inclusivity into active leadership.

**06 Leadership → Harmonious Communities**  
 Capable leaders align personal goals with societal needs — building communities grounded in cultural unity, cooperation, and technological advancement. This is Dharma Rajya in action.

## A Cost-Effective Financial Framework

The five-pronged investment model delivers disproportionate returns at minimal additional cost:

<b>Competency-Based Assessments</b>	Regular evaluations linked to Bloom's taxonomy to foster critical thinking and measurable skill progression.
<b>Targeted Remediation</b>	Individual gap analysis enabling each child to advance 1–2 cognitive levels in foundational literacy and numeracy.
<b>Experiential Learning</b>	Project-based activities and digital learning tools driving deep engagement and self-directed improvement.
<b>Adaptive Technology</b>	AI-personalized challenges calibrated to each student's ability — enabling gradual, sustained progression.
<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	Real-time performance data used to continuously refine teaching methods and curriculum design.

**Funding Model**  
 A ₹200-400 per student annual investment across 130 million secondary students (Grades 6–12) is viable under a 75:25 government-private partnership — leveraging CSR funding, HNIs, and foundations. Real-time digital governance ensures accountability and outcome-driven allocation.

## Immediate Path Forward

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- **Universal Creative Learning:** Roll out competency-based learning frameworks across all primary (grades 3-5, if feasible) and secondary schools.
- **Leadership Development:** Focus on 5% of students to create a school-wide ripple effect — investing in future leaders is high-leverage.
- **Teacher Upskilling:** Expand NISHTHA to train 2.5 million teachers by 2027, closing the 40% gap in adequately trained educators (UDISE 2023).
- **Community Involvement:** Schools operate as resource-sharing hubs, actively engaging parents and community stakeholders.
- **Technology at Scale:** Expand DIKSHA, SWAYAM, and NDLI platforms toward national digital parity by 2028; boost rural connectivity through Bharat Net.
- **Pilot Programs:** Roll out the six-step framework in 100 districts by 2026, using PARAKH and Vidya Samiksha Kendra for national digital monitoring.

## Higher Education: The Path to 2035

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NEP 2020 targets an increase in Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) from 28.4% (2021–22) to 50% by 2035. The pathway requires six concurrent reforms as envisioned by NEP 2020:

- **Unified Regulation:** Launch the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) by 2026 to standardize quality and streamline funding.
- **Flexible Degrees:** Four-year undergraduate programs with multiple entry and exit points and seamless credit transfer.
- **Internationalization:** Attract leading foreign universities; expand IITs globally; guarantee scholarships for marginalized groups.
- **Regional Access:** Establish at least one quality higher education institution per district by 2030, with instruction in regional languages.
- **Vocational Integration:** Embed vocational training into 50% of all curricula by 2025, backed by structured internships.
- **Research Excellence:** Strengthen the National Research Foundation to fund, mentor, and elevate India's research standing globally.

## Conclusion

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Transformative education is the foundation of Dharma Rajya. With a focused six-step progression, affordable and targeted investments, and systemic higher education reform, India is positioned to foster a generation rooted in creativity, confidence, and inclusivity — a generation that bridges divides, honours its heritage, and leads the world.

The opportunity is real, the infrastructure is partially in place, and the investment required is modest. What is needed now is coordinated action, innovative financing, and robust oversight.

**A Creative India is a Confident India.**  
**A Confident India is a Leader of the World.**