

Balance Sheet of a Decade!



Education Report Card 2014-24

The essence of democracy requires that we hold governments to account vis-a-vis their claims and promises. But one of the biggest casualties of the recent years has been the idea of accountability. The divisive and jingoist hyperboles in the media facilitate a collective amnesia. This report card (though not conclusive) is part of a series, by the Financial Accountability Network India, that attempts to glance through and highlight a few of the claims and reality of the government's performance across various sectors from a financial and economic lens.



CLAIMS



BJP believes that education is the most **powerful tool** for the advancement of the nation and the most potent weapon to fight poverty.



Every effort shall be made to ensure '**equality of opportunity** in access and success' to all learners; creating a harmonious, and cohesive egalitarian society that practices democratic values. This would be possible only when Education accords due to emphasis on national integration, social cohesion, religious amity, national identity and patriotism.



Highest priority would be given to address the acute shortage of teachers and researchers, quality of education and research, and also the employability factor associated with most of the courses.

Public spending on education would be raised to **6% of the GDP**, and involving the private sector would further enhance this.



Girls shall be provided with all possible help to continue and complete school education. The digital divide shall not be allowed to create further divisions in the learning situations of children. Special pedagogy would be developed for differently-abled students.





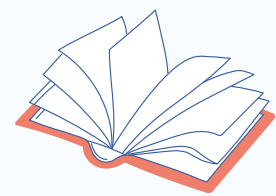
Access to School Education

📍 Between 2018-19 and 2021-22, the total number of schools in India **decreased by 61,885**, dropping from 15,51,000 to 14,89,115. The most significant decline was observed in Central and State Government schools, accounting for 61,361 closures.

Decline in Government School, Increase in Private Schools

	Government Managed Schools	Government Aided Schools	Private Schools
2014-2015	11,07,118	83,042	2,88,164
2021-2022	10,22,386	82,480	3,35,844
	▼ 84,732	▼ 562	47,680 ▲

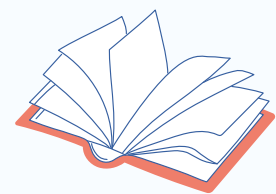




Social and Physical Infrastructure in School Education

- 🎓 **Continuing vacancies** in the education sector impact both access and quality of education. The Parliamentary Standing Committee Report on Education found that **close to 10 lakh out of the sanctioned 62.71 lakh positions are vacant** at the state level.
- 🎓 The UDISE+ Report 2021-22 shows that private schools fare better than public schools for health and sanitation facilities.
 - 13.4% of schools lack functional **electricity**. Private schools fare better with 91.7% having functional electricity, while government schools have slightly lower coverage at 85.4%.
 - Only 25.7% of schools had **functional bathroom** provisions for children with disabilities.
 - 23% of schools lack **playgrounds**
 - 52.5% of schools lack any **computer** facilities, while only 33.9% have an internet connection

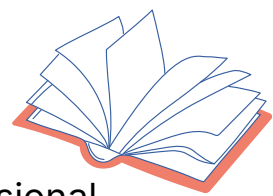




Access to Senior Secondary and Higher Education

- 🎓 **Enrollment in higher education declines** across all social categories, with the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) decreasing from 103.39 at the primary level to 57.56 at the higher secondary level.
- 🎓 For **Scheduled Castes**, the GER decreases from 113.1 at the primary level, 84.91 at the secondary level and 61.49 at the higher secondary level.
- 🎓 For **Scheduled Tribes** the GER is lower, with 106.5 at the primary level to 78.06 at the secondary level and a mere 52.02 at the higher secondary level.
- 🎓 In 2022, the **pre-matric scholarships for Classes 1-8 for STs, SCs, OBCs and religious minorities were discontinued** for the academic year 2022-23.



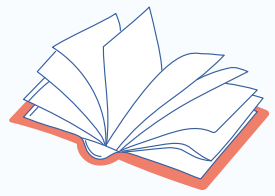


- Allocation for the **Merit-cum-means scholarship** for professional and technical courses of undergraduate and postgraduate level **decreased from 243 crore in 2013-14 to 33.80 crore in 2024-25**
- In 2022, the BJP Government **discontinued the Maulana Azad National Fellowship** which provides financial aid to minority students pursuing their MPhils and PhDs.
- As per reply in the Lok Sabha, nearly **33% of all teaching positions are vacant across 45 Central Universities**, i.e, 6,180 posts out of 18, 956 posts are currently vacant.
- Out of the total authorised positions of 2,284 for SCs across all three categories of professors, associate professors, and assistant professors, **908** positions remain unfilled and among 1,142 sanctioned positions for STs, **544** positions are currently vacant.
- Among positions reserved for OBCs, **1,559** out of 3,451 are unfilled.
- 40% of teaching positions remain vacant** in the Indian Institutes of Technology and 31.6% across the Indian Institutes of Management.





Education Budget

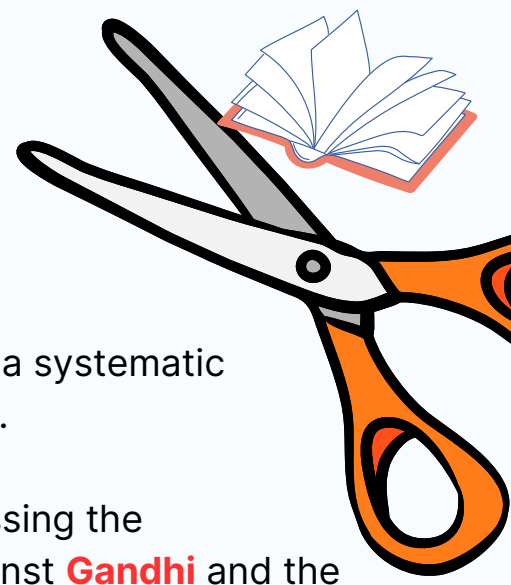


- 📍 The allocation for the Department of School Education and Literacy as a share of the total budget outlay was **reduced** from 3.16% in 2013-14 to just 1.53% in 2024-25.
- 📍 The allocations for the Department of Higher Education as a share of overall budget outlay **decreased** from 1.6% in 2013-14 to 1% in 2024-25



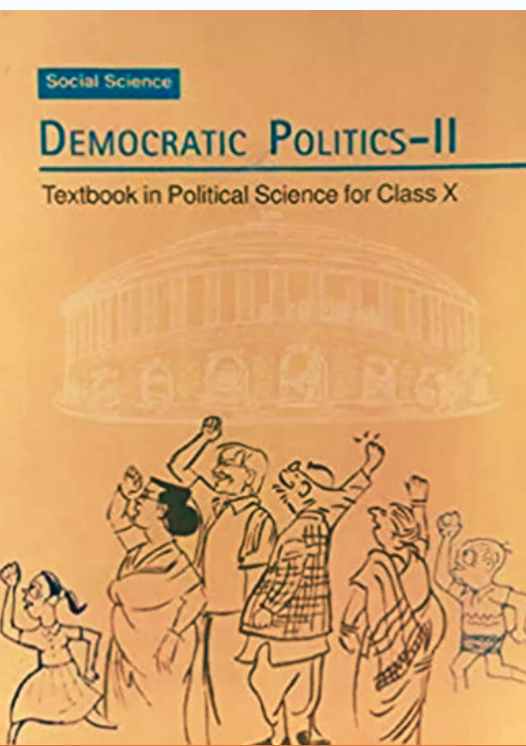


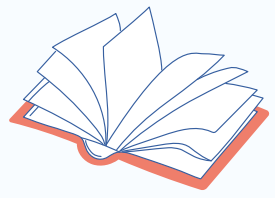
Saffronisation of Education



Since the BJP has come into power, there has been a systematic attempt to manipulate and saffronize the curriculum.

- This includes the **omission** of paragraphs discussing the assassination attempts by Hindu extremists against **Gandhi** and the subsequent ban imposed on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). References to the 2002 Gujarat riots are absent from all NCERT social science textbooks.
- Content related to the Mughal era and previous **Muslim rulers** of India has been significantly **reduced**.
- Three chapters outlining protests evolving into social movements in contemporary India including the **Narmada Bachao Andolan** have been **removed** from political science textbooks from 6 to 12.
- Passages on **caste discrimination**, writings by Dalit activists and poets, and topics pertaining to religious harmony were **removed**.





HIGHLIGHTS

- In accordance with the **National Education Policy** (NEP) 2020, the consolidation of government schools has surged in recent years. In 2023 alone, over 4000 schools were merged nationwide, affecting numerous children. Maharashtra announced the merger of schools, impacting around 2 lakh children, while Odisha shut down 7,478 schools. Additionally, Madhya Pradesh proposed merging 35,000 schools into 16,000 establishments. These actions, particularly in remote areas, raise concerns about education access and compliance with the Right to Education Act.



- The allocations for scholarships for religious minorities have seen a continuous decline under the BJP tenure. The budget for post-matrix scholarships for minorities has declined from 0.03% of the total budget outlay in 2013-14 to 0.024% in 2024-25. The **Hijab controversy** was also raked to keep Muslim girls away from education.



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