

EDUCATIONTODAY

SMART READS, HAPPY FEEDS –BENGALURU’S WEEK IN A PEEK!

BENGALURU 360°

KARNATAKA’S TOP BUREAUCRAT TO INDUSTRY: *🗣️*
“LET’S TEAM UP TO FUTURE-PROOF OUR YOUTH”

Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has challenged the state’s business leaders to work hand-in-hand with academia to ensure students are ready for the jobs of tomorrow — not the jobs of yesterday.

Speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Southern Regional Council Meeting in Bengaluru, Rajneesh urged a total mindset shift in how the state prepares its youth for the fast-changing world of work.

“Education and industry need to move in sync — and fast. We must co-create innovative skilling models if we want resilient and equitable growth,” she said, stressing Karnataka’s commitment to industry-friendly policies, youth empowerment, and future-ready talent.

Bridging the Skills Gap — With Speed and Precision

Rajneesh pointed out that while Karnataka is already home to India’s tech capital and a thriving innovation ecosystem, the real competitive edge will come from closing the gap between what students learn and what industries actually need.

She spotlighted the Yuva Nidhi scheme — which offers direct financial aid to unemployed youth — but added that funding alone isn’t enough. “We need industry to step up as partners, not just recruiters,” she told the gathering, encouraging companies to help design skill programs that mirror real-world job roles.

Women in the Workforce: Untapped Power

The Chief Secretary also strongly advocated increasing women’s participation in the workforce, calling it “both an economic necessity and a growth multiplier.” She said targeted skilling, entrepreneurship support, and workplace inclusion policies will be central to Karnataka’s inclusive growth strategy.

Showcasing Karnataka’s Innovation Playbook

The meeting also saw the launch of ‘Karnataka Innovation & Startup Ecosystem’ — a handbook that maps the state’s emerging sectors, from AI and clean energy to biotech and deep tech. The publication outlines how the state plans to cement its position as a global innovation hub.

Why This Matters Now

As industries face rapid transformations driven by AI, automation, and sustainability demands, Karnataka’s leadership is making it clear: the next phase of growth will depend on how quickly academia and business can innovate together.

Rajneesh’s call to action was unambiguous — and for companies that answer it, the reward could be a steady pipeline of job-ready talent and a stronger, more adaptable economy.



KARNATAKA MBBS CUTOFFS JUMP BY 9,000 RANKS IN FIRST ROUND OF COUNSELLING

If you were hoping for easier entry into Karnataka’s MBBS colleges this year, think again. The first round of state counselling has seen cutoffs shoot up by nearly 9,000 ranks compared to last year, leaving many medical aspirants stunned and strategising for the rounds ahead. In 2024, the last general merit rank to secure an MBBS seat in the first round was 69,117. This year, it’s tightened to 60,728. The SC category also saw a jump — from 2,23,564 last year to 2,11,587 this year.

Why the Spike?

Experts point to a mix of factors. The All India Quota (AIQ) seat allotment results from the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), expected on August 6, are yet to be released. Many of Karnataka’s top-ranked students have locked in seats in state colleges for now, but are likely to shift to AIQ seats once the national results are out — freeing up prime spots for others.

“The competition this year is intense,” said Raghavendra Hegde, an MBBS admission counsellor. “The exam was tough, and many assumed cutoffs would drop to around 80,000. But the opposite happened. Karnataka’s topper count is higher than last year, and with MCC counselling pending, these students are temporarily holding state seats.”

Adding to the squeeze, the National Medical Commission did not approve any new medical colleges or seats this year. In fact, Karnataka lost seats after Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belagavi, failed to get NMC approval.

KEA’s Race Against Time

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) released the first-round results on Saturday and has laid out a tight admission schedule for all professional courses. To meet deadlines, KEA has directed colleges to treat Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays as working days during the counselling period.

Admission Calendar Highlights:

- Engineering — Choice entry began Aug 2; admission order download till Aug 8; report by Aug 9
- Agricultural science, veterinary science, BPharma, Pharma-D — Choice entry from Aug 4; report by Aug 9
- Yoga & naturopathy, BPT, BPO, allied health sciences, architecture — Choice entry from Aug 5; report by Aug 12

- BSc Nursing — Choice entry from Aug 6; report by Aug 12
- Medical, dental, homeopathy — Choice entry from Aug 7; report by Aug 12

What’s Next?

All eyes are now on the MCC’s AIQ results on August 6, which could dramatically alter the seat landscape in Karnataka’s second round. For many aspirants, patience — and a well-timed choice entry — could still turn the tide.



Funorama



Stories Under The Trees: How Bengaluru Kids Are Rediscovering Reading

In the tech-powered lanes of Bengaluru, where screen time often trumps story time, a quiet reading revolution is growing—one page at a time. For many urban families, especially those navigating the digital distractions of city life, nurturing a child’s love for reading can feel like swimming upstream. But in the heart of the city, between tall buildings and buzzing roads, lies a leafy sanctuary where books are once again being embraced with joy: Cubbon Park.

Each weekend, Cubbon Park becomes more than just a green escape—it transforms into a literary haven. Under its sprawling trees, families gather for a different kind of recreation: quiet reading. Leading the charge is Cubbon Reads, a community reading movement that meets every Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM. Children, teens, parents, and grandparents arrive with books in hand, find a shady spot, and simply read—together, yet silently. There’s no agenda, no pressure, and no screens. Just books, mats, snacks, and stories.

Founded in 2023, Cubbon Reads has grown rapidly, bringing together hundreds of readers every weekend. It’s not a traditional book club—there are no discussions or group reads. Instead, it celebrates the act of reading itself, making it feel joyful and social without being competitive. For children especially, it’s a way to associate reading with fun, nature, and community—not just homework.

Alongside this, the Indira Priyadarshini Children’s Library, located within Cubbon Park, has become a hotspot for young readers. Recently renovated, the library now features cozy reading corners, vibrant bookshelves, and a growing collection of children’s literature in multiple languages. It’s a great space for families to borrow books and instill the habit of library visits.

On the last Sunday of every month, Cubbon Book Club also hosts relaxed, open-air discussions, where kids and teens can participate and share their thoughts on stories they’ve loved.

In a city speeding toward the future, these gentle pauses—where children curl up with a book under a tree—remind us of the timeless magic of reading. Bengaluru may be an urban jungle, but in Cubbon Park, kids are finding their wildest adventures in the quietest way: between the pages of a book.



PassionFlive



THEATRE: A MIRROR TO LIFE AND A BRIDGE TO ART



young minds in voice modulation, expression, character development, stage presence, and movement. These camps are not just about performance—they are about helping children become more confident, aware, and expressive. They also provide a space for collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, all in a nurturing environment guided by seasoned theatre professionals.

In a world increasingly driven by screens and instant interactions, theatre offers something irreplaceable—human connection. Encouraging children to step into this world is not just about appreciating art; it is about shaping sensitive, confident, and socially aware individuals.

As Bangalore keeps its cultural heart beating through theatre, it reminds us that the stage is where humanity and art meet—and where children, too, can find their voice.

Let me know if you’d like to highlight the names of specific workshops or include a quote from a Sanchari Theatre instructor for added credibility.



Theatre is more than just performance—it is a living, breathing reflection of the world we inhabit. Often, in the rush of daily life, we overlook subtle emotions, untold stories, and silent struggles that overlooked realities and brings them to light, giving voice to the unheard and form to the invisible. It is a unique blend of storytelling and truth, where realistic affairs, unspoken feelings, and quiet societal issues take centre stage.

What makes theatre exceptional is its ability to bridge the gap between humanity and art. On stage, we don’t just watch actors perform; we witness life unfold in its raw, emotional, and honest form. Theatrical expressions allow audiences to see themselves, their communities, and their world with new clarity. In this way, theatre becomes not only entertainment but also empathy in action.

For children and young adults, theatre as an extracurricular activity holds immense value. It connects different worlds—history with the present, fiction with reality, and people with each other. It enhances emotional intelligence, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Children who participate in theatre learn to understand different perspectives, embody diverse characters, and engage in healthy competition. These are life skills that extend far beyond the stage.

Bangalore, known for its rich cultural landscape, has long been a nurturing ground for theatre. The city’s legacy dates back to the iconic Gubbi Veeranna Nataka Company, one of the strongest institutions that laid the foundation of modern Kannada theatre. Gubbi theatre not only entertained but educated and inspired generations. Today, Ranga Shankara and Sanchari Theatre continue this tradition, serving as vibrant hubs for contemporary theatre lovers and practitioners.

Among them, Sanchari Theatre plays a significant role in introducing theatre to children. Through thoughtfully designed workshops and theatre camps, Sanchari trains

ACADEMIA



URBAN PLANNING EMERGES AS A PROMISING CAREER PATH IN INDIA’S RAPIDLY GROWING CITIES

As Indian cities expand at unprecedented rates, the demand for skilled urban planners is on the rise, opening up new and diverse career opportunities for young professionals. Experts say this is one of the most promising career avenues of the next decade, blending architecture, environmental sustainability, public policy, and social development.

Urban planning involves designing and managing the physical layout of towns and cities—covering everything from housing, transport systems, and green spaces to zoning regulations and infrastructure development. The profession has gained importance in the face of challenges like overpopulation, traffic congestion, pollution, and the urgent need for climate-resilient urban spaces.

According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India’s urban population is expected to cross 600 million by 2036, necessitating large-scale investments in smart cities, affordable housing, and sustainable infrastructure. This growth is creating strong demand for planners who can integrate modern technology—like GIS mapping, AI-based traffic management, and smart energy grids—into city designs.

Eligibility and Skills

Students with backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, geography, or environmental science can pursue specialized degrees in urban or regional planning from institutions like the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Delhi, CEPT University Ahmedabad, and IIT Kharagpur. Core skills include spatial analysis, policy interpretation, project management, and stakeholder engagement.

Diverse Career Roles

Urban planners can work with government agencies, real estate firms, environmental consultancies, transport authorities, and international development organizations.

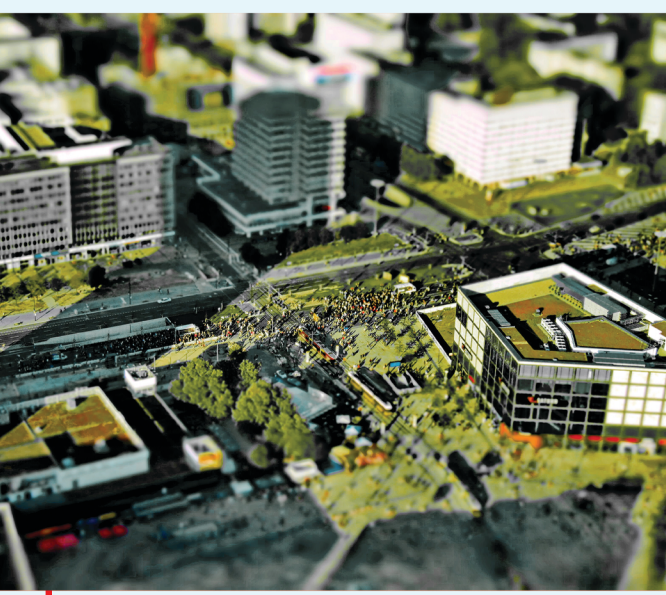
Emerging sectors like smart city development, climate adaptation planning, and heritage conservation also offer niche opportunities.

Lucrative and Impactful

With starting salaries ranging between ₹5 lakh and ₹8 lakh annually, and senior roles often crossing ₹20 lakh, the field offers both financial stability and the chance to shape the future of India’s urban landscape. Beyond pay, industry experts stress the social impact of the role—urban planners directly influence quality of life for millions.

“Urban planning is no longer just about roads and buildings—it’s about creating liveable, equitable, and sustainable spaces,” says Prof. Ananya Mehta from SPA Delhi. “It’s a career where your work is visible in the real world for decades.”

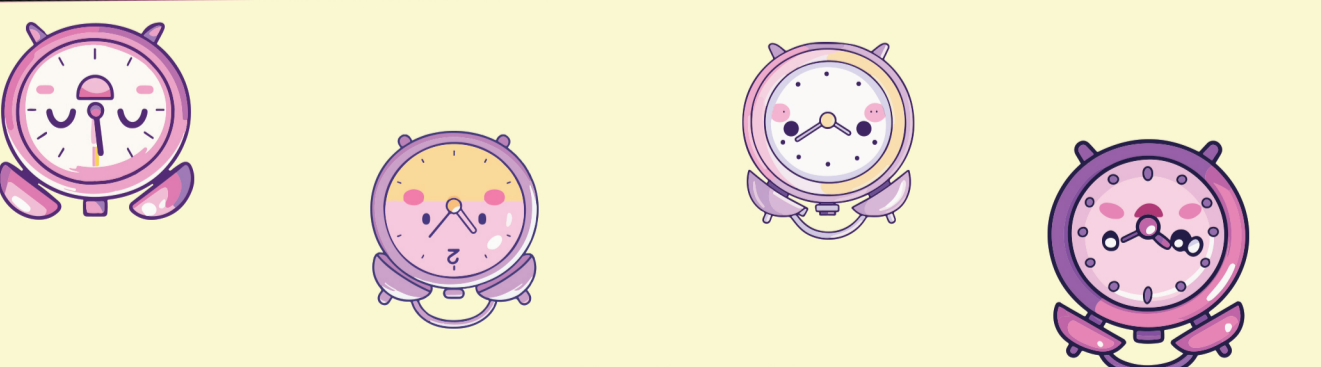
As cities continue to evolve, urban planners will be at the heart of ensuring that growth is not only fast but also smart and inclusive.



Mind Maze?

Discover Bangalore’s beauty, from lakes to parks so grand, Where every corner tells a story across this vibrant land!

- L _ L _ _ H P _ R K Famous botanical garden
- B _ N _ R _ H _ T T _ Famous national park near city
- U _ S _ _ _ L _ K _ Large lake for boating



CLOCK
LAST WEEK’S RIDDLE ANSWER:-