

EDUCATIONTODAY

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

BENGALURU 360°

BENGALURU SCHOOLCHILDREN DEMAND SAFER ROADS IN CARMELARAM



Bengaluru, August 25, 2025: Fed up with daily commutes on pothole-ridden, half-constructed roads, schoolchildren from Carmelaram and Chikkabellandur have appealed to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for urgent road repairs. The students highlighted the unsafe conditions of key stretches such as Gear School Road, Varthur Main Road, Carmelaram Railway Station Road, and the incomplete 100ft Road through handwritten letters and posters.

The children also drew attention to the long-stalled Carmelaram railway overbridge project, which has worsened congestion and heightened commuter risks. On a postcard, a Class 3 student wrote: “Every day, we are scared to travel on these roads. Sometimes, we get hurt on the bus. Please fix them before more accidents happen.”

Roads That Endanger Daily Life

Residents said that despite Carmelaram merging with the BBMP in 2008, the area still lacks basic infrastructure like proper roads, drains, and traffic systems. The 5-km stretch from Outer Ring Road (ORR) to Carmelaram, which should take minutes, often takes up to 1.5 hours due to craters, narrow lanes, and waterlogging.

The situation worsens during the monsoon. Tech professional Preethi Aswani, 45, described spending ₹200–₹250 on cabs for short distances as autos refuse to ply while her elderly parents struggle to commute. She recalled fatal accidents in the area and criticized officials for relying on caution boards instead of permanent solutions.

Voices from the Community

Citizen activist Jose Thazhathuveetil of Carmelaram Unite blamed unchecked urban growth without infrastructure planning. “Despite being under the BBMP for over 15 years, roads remain incomplete. Authorities must prioritise CDP roads to ease congestion and improve safety,” he said.

Students also shared vivid experiences:

- “The 100ft road has been incomplete for three years, causing accidents.” — Ezzah C.T., Class 10
- “Our bus hit a pothole, and my friend was badly hurt.” — Ojas Haswani, Class 3
- “Our buses shake so much that students fall.” — Catherine Antony, Class 7
- “I got hurt when the bus braked suddenly on potholes.” — Nirvi Gehlot, Class 3

Call for Immediate Action

Parents and residents warn that the issue concerns not just inconvenience but also safety, health, and quality of life. The children’s campaign has injected fresh urgency into long-standing demands, and citizens now await whether civic authorities will act.

For Carmelaram, better roads could mean safer travel, reduced congestion, and restored dignity for thousands of daily commuters.

KARNATAKA’S MORAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM TO COVER 10 CORE VALUES IN STATE SCHOOLS

Bengaluru | August 28, 2025
In a significant move towards holistic education, the Karnataka state government is all set to roll out a new moral and value education curriculum across its government schools, covering critical issues ranging from cyberbullying and digital safety to climate consciousness and gender equality.



The initiative, first announced during the Belagavi Assembly session in December 2024 by School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, will officially launch in the 2025-26 academic year. Speaking in the legislature last week, the minister confirmed that the value education books for Grades 1 to 4 are nearly ready.

10 Core Values for a Holistic Future

The curriculum is built around 10 core values, which will be introduced progressively through age-appropriate stories and activities. While the primary themes remain consistent across grades, the depth and context will vary based on the students’ maturity.

Some of the key themes include:

- EMPATHY AND COMPASSION
- EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
- DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL SAFETY
- CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY
- GENDER UNDERSTANDING AND EQUALITY
- DISABILITY INCLUSION
- CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY
- HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
- SCIENTIFIC TEMPER AND INNOVATION
- READING HABITS AND CRITICAL THINKING

Similarly, emotional intelligence will be introduced early through lessons on self-awareness and identifying emotions, and will expand into emotional regulation—such as handling anger, fear, and sadness—in higher classes.

A Modern Approach to Moral Science

This marks a significant update to the traditional “moral science” classes, aligning them with contemporary social challenges and global citizenship values. Topics like cyberbullying prevention, gender-based violence, and climate change awareness are key highlights of the revamped syllabus.

The curriculum also encourages volunteering, community involvement, and respect for public property, reinforcing the importance of civic duty and social responsibility among students.

Massive Rollout Across the State

With over 49,000 government schools and more than 49 lakh students, the Department of School Education and Literacy is preparing for a large-scale implementation. Officials hope that the programme will not only instill moral values but also equip students with life skills essential for a rapidly changing world.



Funorama

Entertainment Is for Everyone: Bengaluru’s Cubbon Park Sets a Benchmark in Inclusive Play

Entertainment and play are not luxuries—they are essential parts of childhood. For too long, children with disabilities have been excluded from public recreational spaces, not by design, but by the lack of it. Recognizing this gap, Bengaluru has taken a bold and compassionate step by creating a special park within Cubbon Park that is thoughtfully designed for children with disabilities.

Inaugurated in 2022 by Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot, this inclusive park was developed by Mindtree in collaboration with Bal Bhavan and the Smart City initiative. Built under the expert guidance of child development professionals and healthcare specialists, and designed by an award-winning design firm, this park is more than just a play space—it’s a message.

The park, shaped like a turtle, symbolizes protection, patience, and strength. Its unique design is not just aesthetic; it serves a deeper purpose. The space is equipped with accessible ramps, sensory play features, tactile paths, auditory elements, and adaptive play equipment that ensure children with physical, sensory, and cognitive challenges can play freely and safely.

For children, play is not optional—it’s how they learn, grow, and connect with others. Denying this to children with special needs is not just unfair, it’s a failure of society. Cubbon Park’s inclusive play area challenges that norm and proves that when spaces are designed with empathy and intent, every child can belong.

The best part? This entertainment is absolutely free. Open to all, the park sends a powerful message: joy, play, and laughter should not come with barriers—physical, social, or economic. It reflects a city that cares, listens, and acts to include, not exclude.

Families who once struggled to find safe recreational spaces for their children now have a welcoming environment where their kids can thrive. It’s also a space of integration, where children of all abilities can play side by side, learning inclusion not as a concept, but as a lived experience.

In a world where entertainment often comes with a price tag or accessibility challenges, Bengaluru’s Cubbon Park reminds us of a simple truth: every child deserves the right to play.



PassionFlive

GARDENING CLUBS: CULTIVATING RESPONSIBILITY AND GREEN VALUES IN BENGALURU SCHOOLS



Children often miss the simple joy of connecting with nature in today’s fast-paced urban environment. To bridge this gap, many schools in Bengaluru are introducing gardening clubs as a unique extracurricular activity. These clubs allow students to get their hands in the soil and nurture a sense of responsibility along with green values.

Gardening clubs encourage students to learn the basics of plant care—sowing seeds, watering, composting, and understanding seasonal growth. These activities provide children with a hands-on science experience, practically reinforcing classroom lessons about biology, sustainability, and climate consciousness.

What makes gardening particularly impactful is its ability to instill patience and responsibility. Students learn that growth takes time, that plants require consistent care, and that every small effort contributes to a larger result. This experience translates into life lessons about perseverance and accountability.

Several Bengaluru schools have already adopted gardening as part of their extracurricular framework. With ample space in specific campuses and terrace gardens in more compact schools, students are encouraged to grow vegetables, medicinal herbs, and flowering plants. Some schools even integrate gardening with their eco-club initiatives, promoting sustainability and awareness about organic farming.

Gardening also offers therapeutic value. Tending to plants provides a calming and grounding activity for children who feel overwhelmed by academic pressures or screen time. Educators have observed that gardening often improves students’ focus, emotional well-being, and environmental sensitivity.

Moreover, inter-school events and exhibitions are organized where students present their gardening projects, homemade compost, or sustainable innovations. These platforms recognize children for their efforts and encourage them to think creatively about urban greening solutions.



By introducing gardening as an extracurricular activity, Bengaluru schools are nurturing budding gardeners and future citizens who value sustainability and environmental stewardship. Such initiatives are timely and impactful in a city battling rapid urbanization and shrinking green cover. Gardening clubs prove that extracurricular activities need not always revolve around performance or competition. Sometimes, they can be about cultivating patience, curiosity, and care for the planet and oneself.

ACADEMIA

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS: REDEFINING LEARNING BEYOND THE CONVENTIONAL CLASSROOM

In recent years, the concept of alternative schools has gained momentum in India, offering families a refreshing departure from the rigid structures of mainstream education. Unlike conventional schools that follow set syllabi and standardized evaluation systems, alternative schools focus on child-centric learning, experiential education, and holistic development. They often emphasize creativity, critical thinking, and emotional well-being over rote learning and competitive grading.

At the heart of alternative schooling is the belief that education should adapt to the child, not vice versa. These schools encourage learning through exploration, project-based assignments, real-world problem-solving and often incorporate arts, music, theatre, sports, and environmental studies into their curriculum. Many of them are inspired by progressive philosophies such as Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, or indigenous experiential models, prioritizing curiosity and self-discovery.

A key feature of alternative schools is their flexible assessment system. Instead of focusing solely on marks and exams, they evaluate students through continuous observation, peer reviews, and individual progress mapping. This reduces academic pressure and nurtures confidence, self-awareness, and a lifelong love for learning.

Alternative Schools in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, India’s education and innovation hub, has witnessed a steady rise in alternative schools over the last decade. Parents seeking holistic, stress-free education increasingly opt for institutions that follow Montessori methods, open schooling formats, or experiential curricula. Some well-known alternative schools in Bengaluru include:

- Valley School – Inspired by philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti, it focuses on freedom in learning and holistic growth.
- Prakriya Green Wisdom School – Promotes environmental awareness, sustainability, and nature-based education.
- Inventure Academy – Blends international teaching practices with creativity and life skills.
- Snehadhara Foundation – A unique space using arts-based learning, especially inclusive of children with diverse needs.

Additionally, many smaller Montessori houses and community-led learning centers across the city are catering to families who prefer personalized and less-structured education pathways.

The Growing Appeal

With rising concerns about exam stress, peer pressure, and the limitations of conventional schooling, alternative schools in Bengaluru are becoming increasingly attractive. They represent a different model of education and a philosophy of nurturing individuality, creativity, and empathy—qualities vital for thriving in today’s world.



As more parents explore these schools, Bengaluru continues strengthening its reputation as a city that embraces educational innovation and diversity.

Mind Maze?

I have cities but no houses,
Forests but no trees,
And rivers without water.
You can travel across me,
But I’ll never move an inch.

What am I?



KEYBOARD

LAST WEEK’S RIDDLE ANSWER:-