

UTTARAKHAND

at **25**

**A HIMALAYAN STATE WITH
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES**

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Govt. of Uttarakhand



CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (CPPGG)

Department of Planning, Government of Uttarakhand



BISHEN SINGH MAHENDRA PAL SINGH

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At this 25-year milestone, Uttarakhand stands like a youth brimming with energy and purpose — mature, prepared, and full of potential, ready to stride confidently into its next phase of growth as one of India's leading states — strong, prosperous, and self-reliant.

Smt. Droupadi Murmu,
Hon'ble President of India

Address to the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, November 3, 2025



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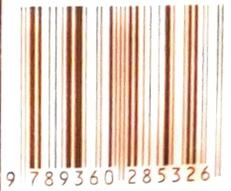
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Uttarakhand's Education Odyssey: Strengthening Foundations and Building a Skilled Future

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Overview

The article provides an overview of Uttarakhand's educational evolution over the past twenty-five years, tracing its progress from expanding access to education toward achieving quality learning and skill-based development. It highlights key achievements in school education, technical and vocational training, and higher education, while reflecting the state's commitment to the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The summary underscores efforts toward digital transformation, research promotion, and industry-linked skill development, as evidenced by improved learning indicators from ASER and PARAKH assessments. It further outlines the state's forward-looking vision for 2030—to establish Uttarakhand as a model hill state where education serves as a catalyst for innovation, inclusive growth, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Evolution of Education in Uttarakhand (2000–2025)

Since the formation of Uttarakhand in 2000, the education system has evolved from a focus on physical access to a more holistic approach aimed at improving learning outcomes and creating meaningful opportunities for young people. Today, **over 95%** of children between 6 and 14 years are enrolled in school. Targeted government programmes—such as school infrastructure development, mid-day meals, transportation support, and scholarships—have encouraged participation, particularly among girls in rural and hilly regions.

Strengthening School Education and Foundational Learning

Recent assessments reflect steady progress in early learning. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 shows that **63.9% of Class V students** can read a Class II-level text (earlier, even this was not possible for the majority of Class V students), while **41.7%** can solve division problems (*ASER: Uttarakhand report and national summary, 2024*). Data from PARAKH 2024 points to Grade 3 language competency at **59%**, mathematics at **40%** by Grade 6, and science at **39%** in Grade 9. These figures show improvements but also highlight areas needing targeted teaching interventions,

especially in mathematics and science. Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) for Primary classes is at 120.5%, which is higher than National GER (*Rashtriya Sarvekshan: Uttarakhand State Report 2024*).

Advancing Technical and Vocational Education

The state has invested strongly in technical education to meet local and national skill demands. A network of 71 government and one government-aided polytechnic institution provides training across all 13 districts, including remote areas such as Pithoragarh, Chamoli, and Uttarkashi. Alongside traditional subjects like engineering, pharmacy, management, and hospitality, polytechnics now offer courses in AI and machine learning, robotics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, aircraft maintenance, and mechatronics. This blend of conventional and emerging fields is intended to prepare students for modern industries.

Industry Linkages and Regional Skill Hubs

Urban centres such as Dehradun, Rudrapur, Kashipur, and Roorkee have become skill and technical education hubs because of their proximity to industrial clusters. These locations have active partnerships with industries, enabling practical training and apprenticeships. At the same time, the government is improving infrastructure in rural institutions to address regional workforce needs in areas like tourism, renewable energy, logistics, and agri-technology (*Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), 2024*).

Growth and Expansion of Higher Education

Higher education has grown rapidly, too—from **64 institutions in 2000 to more than 450 colleges and 38 universities** in 2025(Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand. (2025). Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) for Higher Education is at 41.8%, which is higher than National GER (28.4%). Institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Rishikesh, the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, and the National Institute of Technology Uttarakhand have strengthened the state's research and innovation capacity.

Policy Alignment and Strategic Reforms under NEP 2020

Uttarakhand's education strategy draws from the National Education Policy 2020, focusing on flexible learning, skill integration, and vocationalisation(National Education Policy, 2020). Through scholarship programmes, research grants, and entrepreneurship schemes, the state is encouraging both academic excellence and job creation. Digital classrooms, virtual studios, and blended learning have extended quality teaching to difficult-to-reach schools, though connectivity and infrastructure gaps remain.

Strengthening Foundations for the Future

The state's education vision looks ahead to **2030**, with clear goals: ensuring **foundational literacy and numeracy for all children by 2027**, making all institutions digitally ready, expanding skill pathways linked to industry, and improving teaching quality across districts. By doing so, Uttarakhand aims to become a **model hill state**, where education supports economic development, reduces youth migration, and creates sustainable livelihoods.