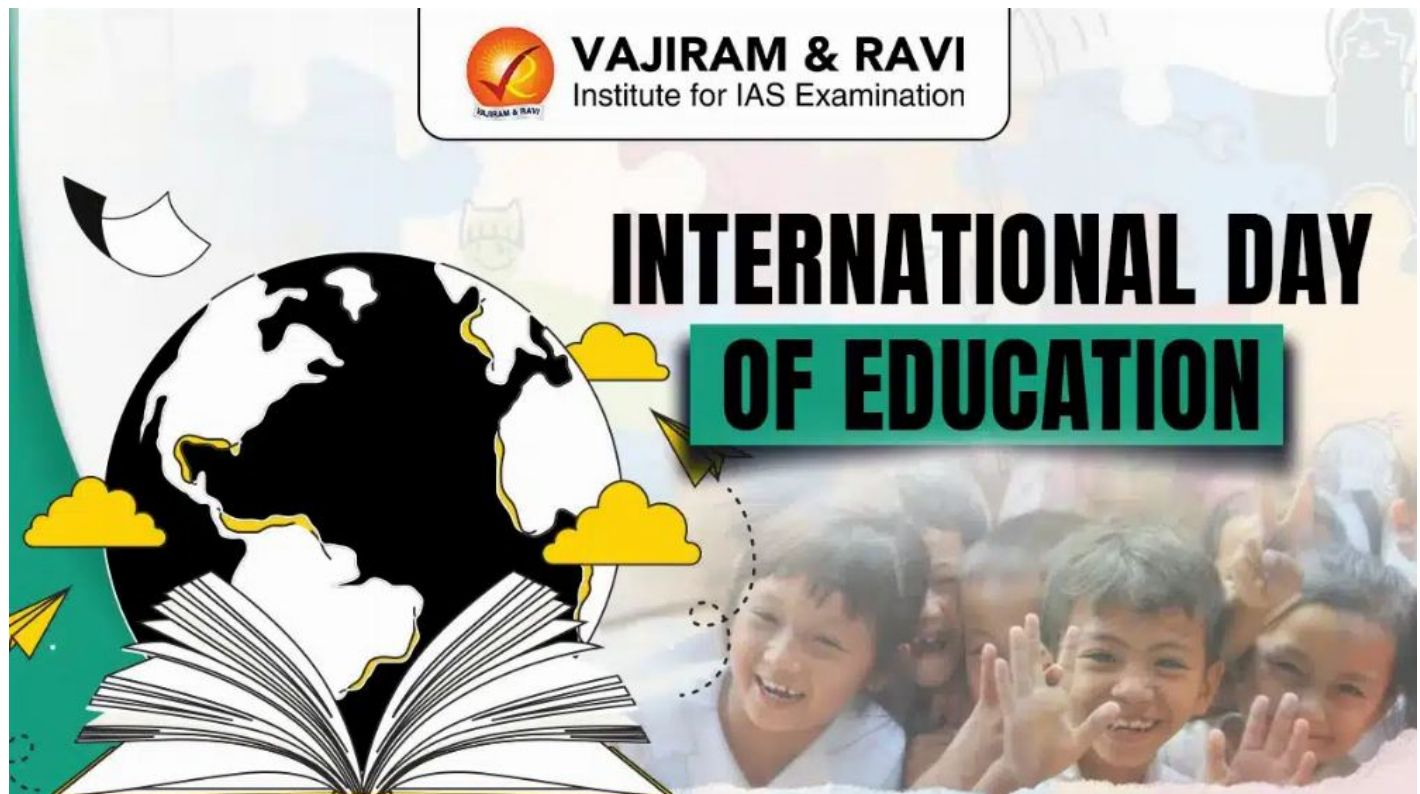


International Day of Education 2026, Theme, Objectives, Significance

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International Day of Education is a United Nations recognized global observance celebrated annually on 24 January to highlight education's role in peace, development and human dignity. It was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018 to reaffirm education as a fundamental human right, a public good and a shared global responsibility essential for sustainable development and social progress worldwide.

International Day of Education 2026

International Day of Education 2026 will be observed on 24 January under the leadership of the United Nations and UNESCO, focusing on youth participation in shaping education systems. A hybrid global event will be organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 23 January 2026, bringing together students, youth leaders, policymakers and international institutions to discuss education reforms in a rapidly transforming world. The day is celebrated along with various activities across the world.

International Day of Education Objectives

The International Day of Education aims to mobilize global attention, political commitment and resources towards strengthening education systems worldwide.

- Recognizing education as a Human Right: Education is affirmed as a basic right under Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Promoting Inclusive Education: The observance highlights the need for equitable access to quality education for all populations.
- Supporting Sustainable Development: Education is recognized as essential for achieving all 17 **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- Addressing Global Education Gaps: The day draws attention to millions denied education due to poverty, conflict and inequality.
- Strengthening Lifelong Learning: Emphasis is placed on continuous learning opportunities beyond formal schooling.

International Day of Education 2026 Theme

The 2026 theme emphasizes youth as active contributors in designing education systems for future social and technological transformations. The theme for 2026 International Day of Education as announced is- ***“The power of youth in co-creating education.”*** The theme highlights:

- People under 30 represent more than half of the global population.
- Young people are direct recipients of education policies shaping their future opportunities.
- Youth drives innovation, digital adaptation and social change across education systems.
- The theme reflects the need to rethink teaching methods amid rapid technological transformation.
- The theme stresses involving youth in education planning, legislation and policymaking processes.
- Aligning the theme, a Youth focused hybrid and online events will be organized on 23 January 2026.

International Day of Education Significance

International Day of Education 2026 highlights education’s central role in human development, peacebuilding and social justice worldwide. The importance of International Day of Education lies in:

- Addressing global exclusion: Around 250 million children and youth worldwide remain out of school.
- Tackling adult illiteracy: Nearly 763 million adults globally still lack basic literacy skills.
- Learning crisis reality: About 617 million children cannot read or perform basic mathematics.
- Gender inequality in education: Less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary education.
- Education for refugees: Approximately four million refugee children and youth remain excluded from schooling.
- Breaking poverty cycles: Education is identified as the most effective tool for escaping intergenerational poverty.
- Supporting gender equality: Inclusive education is essential for achieving equal opportunities for women and girls.

- Peace and social cohesion: Education promotes tolerance, understanding and peaceful coexistence in diverse societies.
- SDG alignment: The observance reinforces Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education by 2030.
- Global accountability: The day serves as an annual checkpoint to assess education progress and gaps.
- Progress in literacy outcomes: National literacy improved from 74% in 2011 to 80.9% in 2023-24, indicating steady educational expansion.
- NEP 2020: **National Education Policy 2020** restructures curricula, governance and pedagogy to meet twenty first century learning needs in India.
- School education transformation: PM SHRI, Samagra Shiksha, NIPUN Bharat and Vidya Pravesh strengthen foundational, inclusive and quality schooling across India.

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