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India's examination crisis: Why CCTV and tougher laws won't stop paper leaks

India's recurring examination controversies—paper leaks, cancellations, litigation, and protests—reflect more than security failures; they reveal a deeper crisis of trust. As seen during the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, even limited evidence of leaks was enough to undermine confidence in the entire system. In complex societies, institutional trust is essential, and once weakened, even valid outcomes become suspect.

Successive reforms have focused on tighter security, surveillance, and legal measures, yet leaks persist. Scholars such as Donald Schön and Peter Senge argue that policymakers often address symptoms rather than underlying causes. As security improves in one area, vulnerabilities shift elsewhere, leaving the fundamental incentives intact.

India's examination system offers enormous rewards: admission, employment, and social mobility often depend on a single exam. As Gary Becker's economic theory suggests, misconduct persists when rewards outweigh risks. Fragmented accountability among agencies, officials, vendors, and administrators further weakens oversight.

The problem is also social and structural. Examinations serve as gateways to status and opportunity, intensifying competition. Limited educational and employment opportunities raise the stakes, making leaks predictable outcomes rather than isolated incidents.

Long-term reforms must go beyond surveillance. Greater accountability, diversified assessments, multi-stage evaluations, and expanded educational and employment opportunities can reduce dependence on single high-stakes exams. Ultimately, India's examination crisis is a challenge of trust, governance, incentives, and opportunity—not merely security.

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Editor

Abridged from an article that appeared in The Financial Express on June 15, 2026. The same can be accessed at: <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/indias-examination-crisis-why-cctv-and-tougher-laws-wont-stop-paper-leaks/4267328/>

Message for our Readers

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India US Trade Deal Gains Momentum

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) said India-US bilateral trade agreement negotiations have gained momentum following a closed-door roundtable with US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer in Washington. Coming after Greer's India visit, discussions covered a balanced trade pact, an interim deal, enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, and reducing non-tariff barriers.



India Launches First Wind Supply Chain Portal



India launched WT-MARUT, its first dedicated Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal, to strengthen domestic manufacturing and supply chain transparency. The initiative supports the nation's ambitious goal to scale installed wind energy capacity to 155 GW by 2035, with an interim target of 100 GW by 2030.

- [Adani Power to Invest over ₹2tn in 5 Years](#)
Business Standard, June 24 2026
 - [Tharoor Criticises Rahul Gandhi](#)
Times Now Digital, June 20, 2026
 - [Quote of the day by Rahul Bajaj: 'Our nation is growing not because of...'](#)
Business Today Desk, June 12, 2026
 - [India Must Reshape the WTO's Future](#)
Shishir Priyadarshi, The Print, June 05, 2026
 - [PM Modi Calls for Sustainable Growth](#)
Business Standard, June 05, 2026
 - [India's Green Transformation: 12 Years of Progress](#)
PIB, June 04, 2026
 - [India, Myanmar Deepen Trade and Connectivity Ties](#)
The Economic Times, June 01, 2026
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Apple says India 'Copy-Pasted' Rivals' Antitrust Claims

Apple has accused Indian antitrust investigators of "copy-pasting" allegations from its rivals instead of conducting an independent probe into alleged competition law violations. In regulatory filings reviewed by Reuters, the iPhone maker argued the investigation was flawed, lacked due process, and urged authorities to quash the findings against the company.



TRAI Proposes Stricter Telecom Complaint Rules



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed new rules to strengthen telecom customer complaint redressal, including penalties of up to Rs 50 lakh per quarter for non-compliant operators. The draft mandates easy complaint registration through websites, apps and chatbots, along with regular updates to consumers on complaint status and action taken.

- [Govt Revises Women's Quota Law](#)
Pioneer News Service, June 30, 2026
- [Big Four India Outpace Global Slowdown](#)
The Economic Times, June 22, 2026
- [Reliance Unveils AI-First Roadmap](#)
The Indian Express, June 20, 2026
- [Grid Backs Green Power Push](#)
The Economic Times, June 16, 2026
- [Anthropic's Fable 5 Pullback Hits Indian AI Startups](#)
Mint, June 15, 2026
- [Bank Panel to Review Consolidation, FDI Cap](#)
The Financial Express, June 02, 2026



Delhi Roads to Get QR Codes for Instant Damage Reporting

Delhi's Public Works Department is launching **'Know Your Road'**, enabling residents to report road problems by scanning QR codes with their smartphones. Nearly 2,500 QR codes will be installed on PWD-managed roads within 60 days, providing access to maintenance records, contractor details and complaint tracking, while improving transparency, accountability and public participation in road monitoring.



Women Entrepreneurs Transform Rural Livelihoods



Across rural India, women entrepreneurs are transforming local resources into sustainable businesses that strengthen village economies. From the Thar Desert to Kerala, they are creating value from camel milk, waste milk, coconut shells, indigenous spices and traditional crafts. Their enterprises are connecting rural products with global markets while generating livelihoods for farmers, artisans and pastoral communities.

- [Eight Lessons to Achieve the UN SDGs](#)
Mint, June 29, 2026
- [Rajasthan to Set Up Road Safety Clubs in All Schools](#)
Patrika Desk, June 29, 2026
- [India's Ethanol Push Faces Water Challenge](#)
Mint, June 20, 2026
- [Health Ministry Bans 16 Combination Drugs Nationwide](#)
NDTV, June 20, 2026
- ['DigiDukaan' to Digitise 1.4 crore Kirana Stores](#)
Sheenu Sharma, Financial Express, June 13, 2026

Articles

- [A case for judicial reforms](#)
Financial Express, June 25, 2026
- [The Digital Road Ahead: Why Smart Infrastructure is Critical for Safer Mobility](#)
Simi TB, Motor India, June 22, 2026
- [The Hormuz wake-up call: Why India must secure its aluminium supply chain now?](#)
Pradeep S Mehta & Sohom Banerjee, The Week, June 16, 2026
- [Manufactured monopoly: How industrial policy is structuring monopolies in India](#)
The Economic Times, June 03, 2026