



Date: May 18, 2026

BSE Limited

Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers,
Dalal Street,
Mumbai – 400 001 India

Scrip Code: 543529

National Stock Exchange of India

Limited Exchange Plaza, C-1, Block G,
Bandra Kurla Complex,
Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400
051, India

Symbol: DELHIVERY

Sub: Newspaper Publication of Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2026 (“Financial Results”)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we hereby enclose the copies of newspaper clippings containing the publication of the Financial Results of the Company. The Financial Results were duly approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

The details of the newspaper publications are as follows:

1. The Economic Times (All India editions in English language) - published on May 18, 2026; and
2. Navbharat Times (Delhi edition in Hindi (vernacular) language) - published on May 18, 2026.

This disclosure will also be hosted on the website of the Company at www.delhivery.com.

Please take the above information on your record.

Thank you.

**Yours sincerely,
For Delhivery Limited**

Madhulika Rawat
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Membership No: F8765

Encl.: As above

'The Way India is Growing, Steel Supply is Going to Lag Demand'

ET Q&A JSW Steel expects minimal need for external capital to support its capacity-doubling plans, joint managing director Jayant Acharya told ET's Nikita Periwal in an interview. This expansion, he said, is essential for the company to maintain its market share in the rapidly growing domestic steel market. Edited excerpts:



Jayant Acharya

What is giving you confidence to double capacity, given geopolitical disruptions and the cyclical nature of steel?

Over the last six years, through wars and Covid, the demand for steel in India went from around 100 million tonnes to about 160 million tonnes last year, despite all the turbulence. What matters is separating short-term noise from medium- to long-term trends, which tend to smooth out the bumps. The fundamental story of India hasn't changed. To produce another 50 million tonnes, we need 60-65 million tonnes of capacity, adding at least 10-20 million tonnes per year. The way India is growing today, supply is going to lag demand.

So this pace of capacity addition is essential?

JSW Steel's share of hot-rolled flat capacity in India is about 40%. If flat steel demand grows by 50 million tonnes by 2032, and I want to maintain my 40% share, I will have to add at least 20 million tonnes. And that it just to maintain market share. If we don't do it, or Tata Steel, SAIL or Jindal Steel don't do it, then we will be lagging much more than anticipated.

For this pace of capex, do you need another aberration year like 2022—a super year for steel—to fund it?

No. What Covid taught all of us is to become more structurally cautious. We have focused on cost, production and efficiencies that will stand the test of time. In December last year—one of the lowest steel price periods in six years—our EBITDA per tonne was still around ₹9,000. Earlier, in crisis, it had gone

to ₹5,000. That ₹5,000 floor has structurally shifted to ₹9,000. Additionally, my capacity has grown and so has my ability to generate cash.

By the middle of next year, we'll be at 37 million tonnes. The journey from 37 to 60 is all brownfield. One of the biggest advantages we have is faster execution. The second is our incremental capex is in the range of 500-550 dollars a tonne which, internationally, is today a billion dollar-plus for a million tonne.

What is the long-term plan for funding, considering the recent debt reduction?

Our net debt-to-EBITDA comfort level has been raised. Between the base cash generation, new capacities and the structural improvement in our EBITDA floor—we're very comfortable that we will not touch 3x, while our comfort level is to stay below 2.5 times. We're currently at 1.8x and the room between 1.8x and 2.5x, on a much larger base, gives us enormous headroom to fund the capex largely through internal cash generation. At 37 million tonnes, at even ₹10,000 EBITDA per tonne, we generate ₹37,000 crore of EBITDA. Total interest plus tax plus dividend doesn't exceed ₹12-13,000 crore. That leaves ₹22-24,000 crore for capex—without any additional debt.

Even with such a huge capacity addition, green steel at Salav is only 4 million tonnes. Why is that?

Green steel—defined as less than 0.4 tonnes of carbon per tonne of steel—requires hydrogen produced from renewable power. No one globally has reached economic viability yet. Our Salav route

uses natural gas, DRI-based charging and entirely renewable power, taking us to 0.7-0.8 tonnes of carbon. The challenge is gas-price volatility; without long-term supply security, the business case doesn't hold. Green steel is a priority, but we won't build a model dependent solely on premium pricing assumptions.

Will there be any business impact from the European carbon border mechanisms?

No. About 90% of our sales is in India, and this ratio isn't going to change much—incremental Indian demand keeps absorbing the capacity. Europe will become increasingly irrelevant as an export market for us. It is going through a structural decline—non-competitive industry, ageing population, high pension liabilities, energy prices through the roof. Our total cost base—including labour, which is below 2% of revenues versus Europe's 15-20%—is fundamentally different. The CBAM is more about protecting European manufacturers than any genuine environmental concern.

China remains the original joker for steel pricing. Does risk reduce for you with the increased scale?

Chinese production is moderating each year, and I expect exports to moderate as well. Combined with safeguard duties in India and rising duties globally, protection is increasing. India's 12% safeguard, stepping down to 11.5%, is balanced, not excessive. We just need to ensure India isn't used as a dumping ground.

Is the investment by the private sector actually picking up or is the narrative misleading?

After GST and other structural reforms, capacity utilisation has steadily increased. At around 77% manufacturing utilisation, companies have the confidence to expand. Renewable energy investments are accelerating due to the energy crisis. Corporates strengthened their balance sheets during Covid, and private equity is entering sectors that earlier never attracted such capital.

CIDCO Invites Bids for Navi Mumbai Logistics Park

Kailash Babar
Mumbai: CIDCO, Maharashtra's town planning and infrastructure development authority, has invited bids for the first phase of its proposed integrated logistics park (ILP) spread across 925 acres at Pushpak Node in Navi Mumbai, marking one of the largest planned logistics infrastructure developments in the Mumbai Metro-

politan Region (MMR). The authority has floated an expression of interest (EOI) to lease about 174 acres comprising 12 plots in Phase 1 of the project, which forms part of a larger logistics park planned near Chirle village. The project is aimed at supporting large-scale warehousing, cargo handling, distribution and logistics operations amid rising demand from e-commerce, manufacturing and port-led

trade activities. The proposed logistics park is located near key infrastructure projects including Jawaharlal Nehru Port, the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) and major highway corridors, positioning it as a multimodal logistics hub. "With JNPT, Navi Mumbai airport, MTHL and key highway corridors converging around it, CIDCO's pro-

posed logistics park reflects how Navi Mumbai is fast evolving from a satellite city into one of India's most strategic logistics and warehousing hubs," Vijay Singhal, VC & MD at CIDCO, told ET. "The scale of participation from global and domestic players also underlines rising investor appetite for industrial and logistics assets as infrastructure-led growth reshapes the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's real estate landscape."

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Extract of the Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2026 (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
1	Total Income for the period	11,954.70	12,482.39	46,995.88	46,325.32	11,970.69	12,590.80	47,684.43	47,459.38
2	Profit before Tax and Regulatory Deferral Account Balances	3,773.74	5,091.87	16,759.10	18,338.81	3,918.32	5,011.30	17,321.03	19,017.89
3	Net Profit after Tax for the period	4,552.80	4,336.17	15,921.00	15,353.57	4,546.33	4,142.87	15,927.95	15,521.44
4	Total Comprehensive Income comprising Net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	4,547.17	4,254.45	16,066.78	15,114.24	4,597.65	4,065.38	16,193.78	15,285.16
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share : ₹10/- each)	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60	9,300.60
6	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance sheet	90,628.01	82,915.05	90,628.01	82,915.05	91,193.43	83,362.21	91,193.43	83,362.21
7	Securities Premium Account	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28	5,509.28
8	Net worth	99,928.61	92,215.65	99,928.61	92,215.65	1,00,494.03	92,662.81	1,00,494.03	92,662.81
9	Total Borrowings	1,48,009.01	1,30,964.96	1,48,009.01	1,30,964.96	1,48,009.01	1,30,964.96	1,48,009.01	1,30,964.96
10	Debt Equity Ratio	1.48	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.47	1.41	1.47	1.41
11	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹) *	4.90	4.66	17.12	16.51	4.89	4.46	17.13	16.69
12	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹) *	9.00	4.61	20.15	16.21	8.94	4.40	20.11	16.39
13	Bonds Redemption Reserve	2,721.31	3,193.24	2,721.31	3,193.24	2,721.31	3,193.24	2,721.31	3,193.24
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.11	1.55	1.54	1.48	2.25	1.57	1.61	1.53
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	4.13	3.83	3.93	3.94	4.85	4.16	4.57	4.28

(*) Figures for the quarters have not been annualized

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Complete Financial Results are available on the Investors section of our website <https://www.powergrid.in> and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> and <https://www.nseindia.com> respectively. These can also be accessed by scanning Quick Response Code:
2. Previous periods figures have been rearranged/reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For and on behalf of **POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.**
Sd/-
G Ravisankar, Director (Finance)
DIN: 08816101

Place: Gurugram
Date: 15th May, 2026

पावरग्रिड
POWERGRID

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. - 2, Sector - 29, Gurugram - 122 001(Haryana), Tel.: 0124-2571700-719
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110016, Tel: 011-26560112, 26560121. CIN : L40101DL1989G01038121

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DELIVERY
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Statement of Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2026

India's largest integrated logistics company

Market leader in e-commerce logistics with 105 Crore shipments delivered in FY26

Fastest growing PTL company in India, carrying 20 Lakh tonnes of B2B freight in FY26

2.3 Crore sqft of transportation & warehousing infrastructure across India

Rs.10,508 Crore	FY26 Revenue
Rs.640 Crore	FY26 EBITDA
Rs.153 Crore	FY26 PAT
Rs.9,687 Crore	Mar'26 Net Worth

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended	
		31-Mar-26	31-Dec-25	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	31-Mar-25
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Revenue from Operations	2,850	2,805	2,192	10,508	8,932
2	Total Income	2,909	2,882	2,303	10,867	9,372
3	EBITDA	214	209	119	640	376
4	Net Profit before Tax and exceptional items	66	64	72	166	162
5	Net Profit before Tax (after exceptional items)	67	37	72	140	157
6	Net Profit after Tax and exceptional items	72	40	73	153	162
7	Total Comprehensive Income	83	41	73	171	167
8	Equity Share Capital				75	75
9	Other Equity				9,612	9,358
10	Profit per equity share (Rs.)*					
	Basic	0.97	0.53	0.97	2.04	2.19
	Diluted	0.95	0.52	0.96	2.00	2.14

*Earnings per share is not annualised for the quarter end.

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2026, filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the websites of BSE Ltd. (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.delhivery.com).
2. The Financial Results as reviewed by the Audit Committee, have been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on May 16, 2026. The statutory auditors have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **Delhivery Limited**
Sd/-
Sahil Barua
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
DIN: 05131571
May 16, 2026
Gurugram, Haryana

Delhivery Limited
CIN: L63090DL2011PLC221234
Registered Office: N24-N34, S 24-S 34, Air Cargo Logistics Centre-II, Opposite Gate 6 Cargo Terminal, IGI Airport, New Delhi - 110037
Corporate Office: Plot No. 5, Sector-44, Gurugram, Haryana - 122002
Website: www.delhivery.com, Email: corporateaffairs@delhivery.com, Tel. No.: +91 124 6225602

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शाहबाद दौलतपुर। रमेश नगर। लक्ष्मी नगर। लाजवंती गार्डन। जहांगीरपुरी। वसंत कुंज। वजीराबाद। परिचम विहार। कीर्ति नगर। सफदरजंग एनक्लेव। महरोली। मायापुरी। शक्ति नगर। राजेंद्र नगर। पहाड़गंज। नारायणा। मौजपुर। मियांवली। कालकाजी। नागल राया। सरिता विहार। प्रीत विहार। वसंत विहार।

अलग-अलग जगह में मिले तीन शव, मगर पहचान नहीं

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: राजधानी के अलग-अलग थाना क्षेत्रों में शनिवार को तीन लोगों के शव मिले। तीनों को अब तक पहचान नहीं हो सकी है। पुलिस ने शवों को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए भेज दिया है और हत्या समेत अन्य सभी पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखकर जांच शुरू कर दी है। शवों की पहचान के लिए पुलिस आसपास के थानों के अलावा स्थानीय लोगों से भी पूछताछ कर रही है।

केपन काटजू मार्ग इलाके में शनिवार को हैदरपुर वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट के जाल में एक शव फंसा हुआ मिला। सूचना मिलने के बाद पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को बाहर निकाला। सिविल लाइन इलाके में भी शनिवार को करीब 55 वर्षीय व्यक्ति का शव मिला। पुलिस ने आसपास के लोगों से पूछताछ की, लेकिन मृतक की पहचान नहीं हो सकी। इसके अलावा नरेला इलाके में बवाना नहर के दरियापुर ब्रिज के पास एक अज्ञात व्यक्ति का शव बरामद हुआ। मृतक की उम्र लगभग 30 से 35 वर्ष के बीच बताई जा रही है।

पुरानी रंजिश में युवक की हत्या का आरोप, 3 गिरफ्तार

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: शाहदरा जिले के सीमापुरी इलाके में पुराने विवाद में तीन लड़कों ने मिलकर एक शख्स को चाकू और डंडे से हमला कर गंभीर रूप से घायल कर दिया। घायल को उसके दोस्त ने जीटीबी अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया। जहां डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। पुलिस ने हत्या का मामला दर्ज कर जांच शुरू की। रविवार को पुलिस ने हत्या में शामिल तीनों आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। इनकी पहचान सोनू (20), लक्ष्मी नारायण (32) और

मोहम्मद अमन उर्फ शाहिद (22) के रूप में हुई है। आरोपियों के कब्जे से हत्या में इस्तेमाल किया गया चाकू और डंडा भी बरामद किया है। डीसीपी शाहदरा राजेंद्र प्रसाद मोणा ने बताया कि 16 मई को रात पुलिस को सूचना मिली कि दिलशाद कॉलोनी ट्रेफिक सिग्नल के पास एक शख्स घायल पड़ा है। ट्रेफिक सिग्नल के पास आरोपियों ने पुराने विवाद को लेकर उनसे झगड़ा किया।

नल से पानी भरने गए युवक की करंट लगने से हुई मौत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

पंजाबी बाग में सरकारी नले के पास लगी लोहे की ग्रिल में करंट आने से एक युवक की मौत हो गई। हादसे के बाद इलाके में भारी रोष है। परिजनों का आरोप है कि सुबह से कई लोगों को करंट लग चुका था। इसकी शिकायत मंदिर प्रबंधन और आसपास मौजूद लोगों से की गई थी, लेकिन किसी ने इसे गंभीरता से नहीं लिया। पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए भेज दिया है और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है।



लोहे की ग्रिल में आ रहा था करंट

अचेत अवस्था में एक युवक जमीन पर गिरा हुआ मिला। उसे तुरंत अस्पताल भेजा गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने युवक को मृत घोषित कर दिया। मृतक की पहचान रोहित (25) के रूप में हुई है। वह परिवार के साथ पंजाबी बाग स्थित राजीव गांधी कैम्प में रहते थे। पुलिस

- लोगों का आरोप, सुबह से कई लोगों को लग चुका था करंट
- शिकायत करने के बाद भी मंदिर प्रबंधन ने नहीं दिया ध्यान

अधिकारी का कहना है कि पूरे मामले की जांच की जा रही है। वहीं, रोहित के बड़े भाई शिवम ने बताया कि शनिवार रात करीब 8:30 बजे रोहित पानी भरने गया था। उसने एक हाथ में पानी की केन पकड़ी हुई थी। जैसे ही उसने दूसरा हाथ लोहे की ग्रिल पर लगाया, उसे जोर का करंट लगा और वह वहीं गिर पड़ा। लोगों के मुताबिक, सरकारी नले के पास मंदिर और बड़ा पार्क है, जहां बड़ी संख्या में लोग आते-जाते हैं।

कनाडा भेजने के नाम पर करोड़ों की ठगी, अरेस्ट

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

क्राइम ब्रांच की साइबर सेल ने कनाडा भेजने के नाम पर करोड़ों रुपये की ठगी करने वाले एक इमिग्रेशन कंसल्टेंट को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपी की पहचान पंजाब के डेरा बस्सी निवासी धर्मिंदर शर्मा के रूप में हुई है। आरोपी ने एक महिला को कनाडा में बिजनेस और वर्क परमिट दिलाने का झांसा देकर

करीब 1.83 करोड़ रुपये की ठगी की। इस मामले में क्राइम ब्रांच थाने में केस दर्ज किया गया था। आरोपी एमबीए ग्रेजुएट है। क्राइम ब्रांच ने आरोपी को गिरफ्तार कर उसके कब्जे से एक लैपटॉप बरामद किया है। क्राइम ब्रांच साइबर सेल के डीसीपी आदित्य गौतम ने बताया कि आरोपी के लैपटॉप से ईमेल और इमिग्रेशन दस्तावेज समेत कई अहम डिजिटल सबूत मिले हैं।

शास्त्री पार्क: गोली मारने वाला पकड़ा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: शास्त्री पार्क इलाके में 15 मई को ई-रिक्शा ड्राइवर को गोली मारकर फरार हुए दूसरे आरोपी समीर (21) को भी गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है। उसका एक साथी पहले ही गिरफ्तार किया जा चुका है। पीड़ित एहसान ने दोनों को ई-रिक्शा पर बैठने पर बुरी तरह से डांटा था। इसी वजह से उन्होंने गोली मार दी थी। डीसीपी आशीष मिश्रा ने बताया कि एसएचओ मनजीत तोमर के नेतृत्व में टीम ने गिरफ्तारी की।

DELHIVERY

NSE: DELHIVERY | BSE: DELHIVERY

Statement of Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2026

- India's largest integrated logistics company
- Market leader in e-commerce logistics with 105 Crore shipments delivered in FY26
- Fastest growing PTL company in India, carrying 20 Lakh tonnes of B2B freight in FY26
- 2.3 Crore sqft of transportation & warehousing infrastructure across India

Rs.10,508 Crore	FY26 Revenue
Rs.640 Crore	FY26 EBITDA
Rs.153 Crore	FY26 PAT
Rs.9,687 Crore	Mar'26 Net Worth

		Quarter ended			Year ended	
S. No.	Particulars	31-Mar-26	31-Dec-25	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	31-Mar-25
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Revenue from Operations	2,850	2,805	2,192	10,508	8,932
2	Total Income	2,909	2,882	2,303	10,867	9,372
3	EBITDA	214	209	119	640	376
4	Net Profit before Tax and exceptional items	66	64	72	166	162
5	Net Profit before Tax (after exceptional items)	67	37	72	140	157
6	Net Profit after Tax and exceptional items	72	40	73	153	162
7	Total Comprehensive Income	83	41	73	171	167
8	Equity Share Capital				75	75
9	Other Equity				9,612	9,358
10	Profit per equity share (Rs.)*					
	Basic	0.97	0.53	0.97	2.04	2.19
	Diluted	0.95	0.52	0.96	2.00	2.14

*Earnings per share is not annualised for the quarter end.

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2026, filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the websites of BSE Ltd. (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.delhivery.com).
- The Financial Results as reviewed by the Audit Committee, have been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on May 16, 2026. The statutory auditors have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **Delhivery Limited**
 Sd/- **Sahil Barua**
 Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
 DIN: 05131571
 May 16, 2026
 Gurugram, Haryana

Delhivery Limited
 CIN: L63090DL2011PLC221234
 Registered Office: N24-N34, S 24-S 34, Air Cargo Logistics Centre-II, Opposite Gate 6 Cargo Terminal, IGI Airport, New Delhi - 110037
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SOUTHERN EDUCATION REVIEW

Akshaya.Nath @timesofindia.com

South India's higher education story is not a sudden surge. It is the outcome of decades of steady investment, policy continuity, and a deeply embedded culture that places learning at the centre of social mobility. States and union territories like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are not only outperforming national averages across key indicators but are also quietly defining what a future-ready education system looks like.

South leads India's education race

With high enrolment and industry-readiness, southern states are driving the future of higher education



- ### WHAT MAKES SOUTH STAND OUT

 - 1. Strong Access:** Higher GERs reflect wider participation
 - 2. Industry Linkages:** Internships and projects embedded in learning
 - 3. Affordability:** Balanced fee structures and scholarships
 - 4. Curriculum Innovation:** Focus on emerging and interdisciplinary fields
 - 5. Cultural Stability:** Disciplined, inclusive campus environments

From higher Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER) to a strong presence in national rankings, the region has emerged as a magnet for students across India, drawn by a combination of quality, affordability, and opportunity.

LEADING THE NUMBERS GAME
 The data tells a compelling story. According to All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, India's GER in higher education stands at 28.4 per cent. In contrast, Puducherry records nearly 62 per cent, Tamil Nadu records nearly 47 per cent, Kerala over 41 per cent, Telangana records 41 per cent and Karnataka above 36 per cent, highlighting a significant regional advantage.

This gap is not incidental; it reflects systemic prioritisation. "South India's leadership in higher education is not by chance; it is by design. The high GERs we see are simply a reflection of a deeper societal belief that education is non-negotiable, that it is a path to dignity, independence and upward mobility," says K R Maalathi, educationist and founder, Auuro Educational Services.

The region's dense network of institutions ranging from public universities to specialised private colleges has made access both widespread and equitable.

THE ECOSYSTEM ADVANTAGE
 "Students are not just looking for degrees. They are looking for an ecosystem that supports learning, innovation, and career readiness. Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai, offers exactly that—with structured governance, strong academic culture, and deep industry connectivity," says Golda Dilip, head of Computer Science and Engineering, SRM Insti-

changed. We see internships, placements and entrepreneurship all built into the system. That is what makes students industry-ready from day one."

LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOMS
 A defining feature of the south model is the seamless transition from classroom learning to real-world exposure.

"In my interactions with students across the country, many who move south say the same thing, 'There are more opportunities. We can focus better and the system works,'" notes Maalathi. "When learning happens in close proximity to industry, outcomes change. Students are not just earning degrees; they are building pathways to employment," she adds.

Cities like Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad have become educational hubs not just because of their institutions, but because of the industries that surround them—IT, healthcare, manufacturing and start-ups. "I chose Chennai because it offers both quality education and exposure," says Siddharth Jain, a second-year biotechnology student.

"We start working on projects early and internships are strongly encouraged. It feels like you're preparing for a career, not just exams."

AFFORDABLE, FLEXIBLE AND FUTURE READY
 Dilip says, "Chennai, for instance, offers a metropolitan advantage without the prohibitive costs seen in some other cities. This accessibility, combined with quality, is a major draw."

Institutions are rapidly updating curricula to align with emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, sustainability, and public policy.

"There is a constant effort to stay aligned with global trends," says Dilip. "Curriculum updates happen every few years, often in consultation with industry. Institutions offer certification programmes in collaboration with major organisations, ensuring students graduate with relevant, market-ready skills."

Twinning programmes, semester-abroad options and interdisciplinary courses are becoming the norm rather than the exception.

CULTURE THAT PROMOTES LEARNING
 Southern campuses are often perceived as disciplined, inclusive, and focused on qualities that contribute to a conducive learning environment.

"Higher education thrives where ecosystems are stable, opportunities are visible and learning is valued," says Maalathi. "Southern India brings all three together—not occasionally, but consistently," she says.

This stability, combined with a cosmopolitan student mix, has made campuses more welcoming for students from across India.

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