APPENDIX A: OPEN FLAGS FOR THE AUTHOR, THE EDITOR AND THE COPY DESK

#	Flag	Owner	Status
1	Author approval of the whole text, the Our View box and the call. First-person lines ("a Bench that I headed") must be confirmed by him.	Editor / author	Open
2	Optional: a short personal observation from the author's years on the Bench or at the NHRC would strengthen the opening. None has been invented here.	Author	Open
3	Interests declaration (Voices rule).	Author	Open
4	AISHE figures come from news and exam-prep summaries of the 8 July 2026 release. Fetch the report from education.gov.in. Total enrolment differs by outlet (4.50 crore vs 4.46 crore); the text uses only growth rates and ratios.	Research desk	Open
5	Secondary dropout: 11.5% (UDISE+ 2024-25, classes 9-10, per Prof Arun C Mehta's analysis) conflicts with 8.2% in one news summary. UDISE+ 2025-26 is out on a new structure and is not strictly comparable. Confirm in the 2024-25 tables and state the definition.	Research desk	Open
6	ASER 2024 "about half of Class 5 read Class 2 text" is from secondary summaries. Confirm the exact figure in ASER Centre's national findings. ASER covers rural India only (text says so).	Research desk	Open
7	Article 21A and the RTE Act date (1 April 2010) are stated from established knowledge, not fetched. Verify on India Code.	Research desk	Open
8	NEP 2020 target of 50% GER by 2035: fetch from the NEP text.	Research desk	Open
9	Reservation sentence is kept to the judgment's holding. Copy desk to confirm wording against the Supreme Court judgment, (2008) 6 SCC 1.	Copy desk	Open
10a	Correction made: one summary gave a male ratio of 30.0, which is inconsistent with the overall 30.0, female 31.2 and parity index 1.08. The text now uses the overall figure and the index. Confirm male and female ratios in the AISHE report.	Research desk	Done, confirm
10	Pre-freeze refresh: recheck Budget figures and whether a newer ASER or AISHE round has appeared.	Research desk	Open

APPENDIX B: SOURCE LOG

#	Claim	Source	Tier	Status
1	Higher education GER 30.0 (2023-24) vs 23.7 (2014-15); female 31.2; gender parity index 1.08; women enrolled 1.57 crore to 2.24 crore	Ministry of Education AISHE 2023-24, released 8 July 2026; via Careers360, Vision IAS, Free Press Journal	2	Attribute; fetch primary
2	Enrolment growth since 2014-15: ST +75.7%, OBC +60.2%, SC +51.4%, total +31.5% (3.42 to 4.50 crore)	Same; via Vision IAS, Vajiram, Ease My Prep	2/3	Attribute; fetch primary. Total differs by outlet
3	Dropout 2024-25: primary 0.3%, secondary 11.5%	UDISE+ 2024-25 as analysed by Arun C Mehta (educationforallinindia.com)	2	Conflicting (8.2% in Careers360); verify

#	Claim	Source	Tier	Status
4	About half of Class 5 children (rural) read Class 2 text	ASER 2024, ASER Centre/Pratham; via summaries	3	Trace to ASER national findings
5	Ministry of Education 2026-27 BE Rs 1,39,289.48 crore, +8.27% over 2025-26 BE	Ministry of Education, Yuva Shakti Driven Budget 2026-27 note	1	Verified (as reported on the Ministry document)
6	Centre and states together spend about 4% of GDP on education vs 6% recommended	PRS Legislative Research, Demand for Grants 2026-27, 11 Feb 2026	2	Attribute to PRS; Ministry reported 4.64% for 2020-21, so state the year and coverage
7	Samagra Shiksha utilisation averages 86% of allocation	PRS, same note	2	Attribute
8	Girls' hostel in every district announced in Budget 2026-27	Rajya Sabha unstarred question 1335, answered 11 Feb 2026	1	Verified
9	Ashoka Kumar Thakur v Union of India, 10 April 2008: five-judge bench headed by CJI K G Balakrishnan upheld 27% OBC quota in central institutions, creamy layer excluded	Supreme Court judgment (2008) 6 SCC 1; NDL, iPleaders, secondary summaries	1/2	Confirm text on sci.gov.in
10	NEP 2020 aim: 50% GER by 2035	Exam-prep summary	3	Unverified; fetch NEP
11	Pace arithmetic: (30.0 - 23.7) / 9 years = 0.7 points a year; (50 - 30.0) / about 11 years = about 1.8 points a year	Our calculation	n/a	Illustrative; recompute if a new AISHE round appears
12	Bio dates: CJI 14 Jan 2007 to 12 May 2010; NHRC Chairperson 7 June 2010 to 11 May 2015	NALSA; NHRC	1	Verified

APPENDIX C: COPY-DESK CLEARANCE REPORT

Verdict: cleared with changes. Hold for the items in Appendix A before layout.

Item	Issue	Fix	Status
Authorship	Ghost-drafted under a named public figure	Author reads and approves every line before print	Open
Political and sensitive content	Reservation is a contested topic	Kept to the judgment's holding and reported figures; no campaign messaging	Done
Quotation and copyright	All source wording paraphrased; no direct quotes	None needed	Done
Defamation and fairness	No allegations about any person or body	None needed	Done
Forecast and call	Author's call with confidence and falsifier	Author sign-off	Open
Related-party content	None detected; author to declare interests	Disclosure line placed	Open
Fiscal periods	FY not used; academic-year data labelled 2023-24 and 2024-25	None	Done
Length	About 800 words in the body; Voices format is 700 to 800	Trim one beat if the layout runs long	Done

APPENDIX D: CANVA DESIGN BRIEF (A4, 210 x 297 mm, 3 mm bleed)

Page	Layout	Depth element and graphic
65	Voices opener. Ivory page; headline in navy serif; author portrait in a navy duotone card at the top right (author to supply; credit and licence logged); byline and bio under the headline; body in two columns.	Overlapping card with the opening statistic: “75.7%” (ST higher-education enrolment growth) against “31.5%” (total), in large numerals with captions and source line.
66	Standard Voices page, two columns. The “pace” paragraph sits beside a small chart card.	Chart card (asset studio, flat SVG): bars for pace achieved, 0.7 points a year (2014-15 to 2023-24), and pace needed for 50% by 2035, about 1.8 points a year. Source line: AISHE; our arithmetic. Our View box as a ruled card with an amber bar.

Rules: charts placed as SVG, not recoloured. Interests line and “personal views” line at the foot of p 66. No glow or concentric circles.