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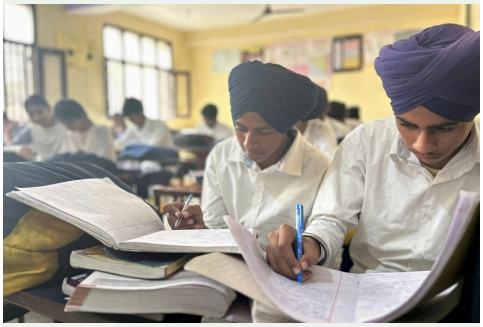
REPORT BRIEF
900034 · November 2023

Education · From the reporting archive

Punjab Schools Teach IELTS as Students Weigh Migration

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Punjab's government schools were teaching an IELTS-style English module while college expansion was being proposed. This November 2023 ground report follows students weighing migration costs, language barriers and careers in India, showing that better English need not mean a ticket abroad.



Students at the school taking the class.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Weekly classes used audio-visual tools to build listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, giving government-school students structured practice in English.
- Punjab's NRI Affairs Minister recommended adding IELTS to state-run college curricula in May 2023; the report did not establish that colleges had implemented it.
- The school programme briefly lost the IELTS name amid criticism, but regained it after the alternative name failed to attract students.
- The report ends with a student seeking stronger English for professional opportunities within India, demonstrating a purpose beyond overseas migration.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in November 2023. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.