

Karnataka's 'Nirantara' School Facial-Recognition Attendance Plan — Announced, Contested and Shelved

AI in Education · Good practice · India

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Karnataka announced AI facial-recognition attendance for 52,686 schools and ~5.2m students under 'Nirantara' in June 2025. After educators, activists and Privacy International warned of biometric-data risks and child misidentification, the state shelved it within weeks.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	1/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[Karnataka Department of School Education and Literacy / Government of Karnataka](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[EducationWorld](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[Careers360](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[Privacy International](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

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