

News > Business News > Industry > [Exclusive] Banning online classes is unfair to children: Rohini Nilekani

# [Exclusive] Banning online classes is unfair to children: Rohini Nilekani

Industry



**Chandra R Srikanth** | Senior Editor

Updated Jun 22, 2020 | 22:02 IST

AD

Author and philanthropist Rohini Nilekani made a strong case for online classes and virtual learning in an exclusive interview to ET NOW. She said a total could end up increasing the digital divide.

Rohini Nilekani | Photo Credit: BCCL



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

We have to equip children to become digital citizens: Rohini Nilekani

Bans are very easy to do for states: Rohini Nilekani



**Mumbai:** Author and philanthropist Rohini Nilekani made a strong case for online classes and virtual learning in an exclusive interview to ET NOW, stating that banning this altogether is very unfair to children.

Rohini Nilekani has been working in the education, water and sanitation space closely over the last couple of decades and founded Pratham books, Akshara Foundation and Arghyam. She is also the co-founder of EkStep Foundation, a collaborative learning platform. The other co-founders of EkStep are Infosys co-founder and Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani and Shankar Maruwada.

"I have been working in the early childhood and childhood learning sector for 21 years now. The focus has been on how to enable India's young children to have better opportunities to learn., I feel genuinely hopeful for the first time that we have an opportunity to re-imagine learning for every single child. Digital and online is a critical component but not the whole,obviously.. You need children to be surrounded by caring adults physically , nothing should take away from that. But we must learn to accept the digital classroom, embrace it a little more," she said.

The last few weeks have been a chaotic and anxious time for parents and students because of frequently changing rules on classes and exams in the new academic year. While each state has created its own rules, the Union HRD Ministry is working on rules for online classes.

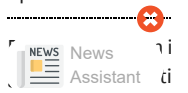


## Live TV

- Bank Holidays
- NPS
- ITR Filing
- Economy News

## VIDEOS

- How the Nifty pict
- New income tax ru April 1





MobiKwik data bre  
leak allegations

West Bengal polls:  
of voting

**You May Like**

**Reading will neve  
kid. Get Free Dem**  
Vedantu SuperReaders | C

**Two-year-old girl  
balcony, hero deli**  
**[WATCH]**

**Going Bald? This 's  
Oil can Help You!**  
10 Days Hair Oil

**Minor girl from Ri  
for months, assau**

AD

**The man who bat**  
TheHindu.com

**'Biwi ho toh aisi':  
husband during Z**  
**viral - WATCH**

**Become A Data Sc  
Background Requ**  
Great Learning

**[EXCLUSIVE] Nia s  
with Ravi Dubey:  
uncomfortable'**

**JUST IN**

CLSA & Goldman S  
stance on GAIL

2021 Volkswagen T  
revealed in India

Man-animal confl  
145 lives in 4 yrs

TDP accuses YSRCI  
from Tirumala

New Ducati Multist

AD



00:36 / 26:07

"There is no perfection, we will make mistakes. but if we don't experiment,we will be very unfair to children whose future is digital... we have to equip them to become digital citizens.. no one is going back on digital.. This is not the last health situation that is coming our way..We have to have a plan B that can become plan A in the future.. keep the virtual going.. learn what works well for children, parents and then for the teachers.," Nilekani said.

**RELATED NEWS**



[Exclusive] Have doubled my philanthropy target this year, says Rohini Nilekani



Covid-19: Back to school won't be as easy

Maharashtra has banned online teaching till class 2 but has allowed recorded content via TV and radio. The SOP states 1 hour of online teaching for classes 3-5, 2 hours for classes 6-8 and 3 hours from class 9.. Karnataka Govt has banned online teaching till Standard 5 and has also asked schools not to collect fee from parents.. Kerala has been imparting classes using its Kite Victers channel, which has seen huge success... Delhi on the other hand claims 9 lakh students from Govt schools attended its online classes during the lockdown.

"I think bans are very easy to do for states, they have a monopoly on bans. But thinking through the problem and evolving sary in the interest of the children," she said.

**Two-year-old girl falls from 12th floor balcony, hero delivery driver catches her [WATCH]**

N  
t  
C  
she said.

[Read Next Story >](#)

and not experimenting could end up deepening the divide between y worry about the digital divide and we should not increase it. Elite ll be left behind? So at least allow experimentation but don't ban,"

Architects of India's future will define the agenda for growth in this Golden Decade, at the Times Network India Economic Conclave - 25, 26 March | New Delhi. Watch LIVE coverage from the ground on Times Network News channels and [www.indiaeconomicconclave.com](http://www.indiaeconomicconclave.com). For all latest [Business News](#), [Market News](#), [Income Tax News](#), Share Market, Sensex Today live updates follow Times Now

**Term Life Insurance - 1 Cr Life Cover @ 490/month\*. Get Free Quote!**

Term Plans -Compare & Buy Now! | Sponsored

**Without Your Help They Could Starve Through This Pandemic**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation | Sponsored

**This Game is So Beautiful it's Worth Installing Just to See**

Raid: Shadow Legends | Free Download | Sponsored

**Reading will never be so exciting for your kid. Get Free Demo Class!**

Vedantu SuperReaders | Online | Sponsored