

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 406**

ANSWERED ON 23/07/2025

Status of digital education infrastructure in schools

406 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools equipped with digital classrooms and internet connectivity across the States;
- (b) the challenges faced in implementing online and hybrid learning models;
- (c) the steps taken to bridge the digital divide, especially in rural and tribal areas; and
- (d) the plans to provide teacher training and support for effective use of digital tools in education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)

(a) To (d): The number of schools equipped with digital classrooms and internet connectivity across the States/UTs has been placed as Annexure A.

Education is part of Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government schools are under the administration of the State Government and its bodies. Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning in Government schools across the country. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes. Under the scheme, funds are provided for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms according to the requirement of State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) through two options:

1. **Option I:** Schools without prior ICT facilities can choose ICT labs or smart classrooms. Schools with over 700 students may get an additional ICT lab. States/UTs can procure hardware, software, tablets, laptops, and training resources, supporting digital boards, virtual classrooms, and DTH channels.
2. **Option II:** Schools with existing ICT facilities can access smart classrooms or tablets under the scheme norms.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVidya** was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country. The PM eVidya initiative is supported

through budget allocated under Samagra Shiksha scheme and implemented with the support of NCERT. The components of these initiatives are available to all the students across all the States/UTs free of cost. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT also provides regular guidance/feedback to States/UTs on quality of these initiatives.

The key components of PM eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include:

- **200 DTH TV Channels:** These channels were launched on 9th March 2024 by Hon'ble Education Minister. As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels and 400 Radio channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages including for classes 1-12. The channels have been allocated to the States/UTs and Autonomous Bodies under an MoU with NCERT and are operational.

Further on 6th December, 2024, in consonance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommendation for promotion of Indian Sign Language (ISL) and to ensure extensive reach of the learning-teaching material in ISL to a wider audience, Hon'ble Minister of Education launched a dedicated initiative promoting inclusive education through accessible learning resources for the hearing-impaired community through a dedicated PM eVidya DTH Channel (Ch. No. 31). Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NCERT/NIOS website and YouTube channels.

One hour of content on Digital Literacy is broadcasted by NCERT daily on DTH Channels and YouTube to enhance the digital literacy of students and teachers in rural areas.

DIKSHA: Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) the Nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades (**One Nation, One Digital platform**). Overall, 564.05 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. Further, the courses on Computer Sciences on DIKSHA platform for Class XI and Class XII include Digital Literacy components.

An advisory was issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy to all the States & UTs to enter into an MoU/ Agreement with BSNL and provide FTTH Internet connection to all the Government Schools which have computing devices. States/UTs have been advised that the Internet Charges can be met from recurring charges being released for ICT Labs/Smart Classrooms under Samagra Shiksha or from Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MMER) funds being released under Samagra Shiksha or can be met from any other State/UT Government funds.

Additionally, the Government of India, as part of the Budget 2025, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government secondary schools in rural areas under BharatNet project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas.

To promote crucial critical thinking skill and to give space for creativity, more than 300 Virtual Labs have been created and made available on DIKSHA platform.

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement on 21st August, 2019. Around 17 Lakh teachers and teacher educators were trained in face-to-face mode. In view of the COVID pandemic, NISHTHA Elementary was launched on 06th October, 2020 and the remaining training of NISHTHA at elementary level was conducted online by the NCERT on the DIKSHA platform using high quality professionally made eContent. In continuation, NISHTHA was also launched for Secondary, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

NISHTHA Secondary was launched in 33 States/ UTs and 8 autonomous organisations under Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in 10 languages - Hindi, English, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi and Odia covering nearly 7 lakh teachers and school heads. NISHTHA Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as per the objectives of NIPUN Bharat Mission was initiated by 33 States/UTs and 5 autonomous organisation under MoE (KVS, CBSE, CISCE, AEES, CTSA) in 11 languages - Hindi, English, Urdu, Gujarati, Telugu, Kannada, Odia, Marathi, Tamil, Punjabi and Assamese, covering nearly 13,73,446 teachers. NISHTHA ECCE has been initiated by 30 States/UTs in 2 languages – Hindi and English, covering more than 1,68,031 teachers. NISHTHA Inclusive piloted in face-to-face mode during 2023-24 in 33 States/ UTs in 02 languages - English & Hindi, covering 339 teachers. NISHTHA Educational Technology Level 1 piloted in face-to-face mode during 2023-24 in 2 languages – Hindi and English, covering 189 teachers and school heads from 32 States/ UTs and 6 Autonomous Organizations under MoE, MoD and MoTA. During 2024-25, in NISHTHA Educational Technology (ET) Level-2 piloted in face-to-face mode in 2 languages – Hindi and English, covering 222 teachers and school heads from 36 States/ UTs and 9 Autonomous Organizations. NISHTHA ET Level 1 and NISHTHA Kaushal were launched on 16th December 2024.

Annexure A

State/UTs Name	Government Schools (Grade VI and above) with ICT, Smart Classroom and Internet Facilities - 2023-24			
	Total Number of Schools	Schools with Internet	Schools With ICT Lab	Schools with Smart Classroom
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	158	140	133	137
ANDHRA PRADESH	11302	10739	2005	7688
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1309	430	159	475
ASSAM	11068	6403	4591	4655
BIHAR	37839	6080	2597	7424
CHANDIGARH	115	115	111	114
CHHATTISGARH	18094	11167	2171	5200
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU	214	212	128	194
DELHI	1142	1142	997	917
GOA	134	126	54	71
GUJARAT	22242	21245	10900	17635
HARYANA	5694	3978	2831	3907
HIMACHAL PRADESH	4850	3142	2695	2514
JAMMU & KASHMIR	9820	3893	2335	2284
JHARKHAND	14521	7763	2921	3176
KARNATAKA	28627	11213	3579	7684
KERALA	2425	2248	1569	1950
LADAKH	507	221	137	240
LAKSHADWEEP	22	22	10	15
MADHYA PRADESH	34161	11951	2137	8993
MAHARASHTRA	22565	12771	1957	17779
MANIPUR	980	327	338	126
MEGHALAYA	2354	694	138	91
MIZORAM	1313	347	201	196
NAGALAND	926	457	167	614
ODISHA	21711	18409	6888	9548
PUDUCHERRY	187	187	176	155
PUNJAB	6423	6310	4678	6165
RAJASTHAN	37635	26799	12562	12289
SIKKIM	392	226	236	337
TAMILNADU	13655	13636	5831	273
TELANGANA	10288	3740	4759	4226
TRIPURA	2144	940	659	654
UTTAR PRADESH	49325	13162	1077	8642
UTTARAKHAND	4929	3158	901	2114
WEST BENGAL	15563	9501	8661	2444
Total	394634	212894	91289	140926

Source: UDISE+ 2023-24

