

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1138
ANSWERED ON-10/12/2025**

Promotion of digital education

1138 Shri R. Girirajan:

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

- (a) the effective steps taken by Government to popularise digital education through websites like SWAYAM, SWAYAM Plus, SWAYAM Prabha, NPTEL NDLI and Coursera;
- (b) whether Government has more such websites to bridge the urban and rural digital divide as well as to provide level playing field for the rural poor students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to popularise science and technology and to preserve the linguistic diversity in the country, if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same in the last five years, year-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (c): The Government of India has framed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with an aim to provide holistic, multidisciplinary and student-centric education. The policy promotes the integration of technology in education and advocates for use of platforms such as SWAYAM, SWAYAMPRAHBA, digital repositories, virtual labs and elibraries to deliver high-quality education to every learner with special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).

Ministry of Education administers the umbrella scheme “National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT)”. The phase-III of the scheme (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26) is being implemented in alignment with the vision of NEP. The scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching, learning and all other processes of education of learners in Higher Education Institutions. It aims to

provide high-quality educational content, improve accessibility, and foster equity by bridging the digital divide, especially in remote areas.

Under the NMEICT scheme Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), has been launched in collaboration with IIT Madras. The platform hosts content curated by premier institutions and is available free of cost with the approach of “Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime” Learning. As on date, more than 4400 unique courses have been delivered. These courses have witnessed cumulative enrolments of more than 5.64 Crores.

SWAYAM Prabha is an initiative that provides high-quality educational content through a network of 48 DTH television channels, aimed at ensuring uninterrupted learning for students across the country, particularly those in remote and rural areas. As on date, educational video lectures with a total time more than 94,000 hours is on the web platform.

Further, Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Madras, has launched the SWAYAM Plus platform in February 2024. The platform offers high-quality industry relevant courses in partnership with leading industry partners to students/ learners, helping them reskill, upskill, and become employment-ready. As on date, Swayam Plus has signed more than 75 MoUs with the leading industry partners. more than 480 Courses in 17 different sectors are available on the platform, and more than 4.60 lakh learners have enrolled for their Skill augmentation.

National Digital Library of India (NDLI) has been launched in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP). NDLI provides free access to a vast online repository of educational resources, including textbooks, research papers, journals, archived newspapers and multimedia content, etc to all learners across the nation including in rural areas. The platform has more than 13 crore e-resources and more than 99 lakh registered users.

Additionally, in order to provide equal opportunities for exam preparation to students from rural and urban areas, including those from economically weaker sections, the Ministry of Education has launched the SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for

Entrance Exams) initiative in collaboration with IIT Kanpur in November 2023. SATHEE provides high-quality free learning and assessment resources for national level competitive examinations. As on date, the platform has witnessed more than 17 lakh enrolments.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 also emphasises the promotion of Indian languages. To promote and preserve all Indian languages and the linguistic diversity in the country, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) has undertaken various initiatives:-

- CIIL implements Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL) to document the language & culture of the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 speakers by developing primers, bi/trilingual dictionaries (electronic and print formats), grammatical sketches, pictorial glossaries and ethnolinguistic profile of the community. The Institute has identified 117 languages to work upon in a phased manner.
- Further, Bhasha Sanchika, the digital language repository of the CIIL, where language preservation, dissemination, and technological advancement converge in a pioneering initiative. The primary objectives of the portal is to provide Indian linguistic resources in diverse formats such as text, image, audio, and video. Additionally, CIIL has developed the Bhasha Sagar app, as a cornerstone for the vision of a Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB) where Indian languages communicate with one another without the reliance on an intermediary language. It supports all 22 scheduled languages of India.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) aims to popularise science and technology among school students to inculcate scientific temper and introduce them to methods of research and innovation through its flagship programs, viz., National Children Science Congress (NCSC) and Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM (IRIS). Further, DST organises National Science Day and National Mathematics Day every year on 28 February and 22 December to celebrate scientific achievements and to promote science and technology among students. In order to empower students and public STEM activities like Science on wheels, Folk media and mobile Science exhibition/labs are

taken to rural areas to empower communities with scientific principles in local languages all across the country. The funds allocated to these activities during the last five year (2020-21 to 2024-25) are given below:-

| Financial Year | Budget Expenditure in Rs Cr. |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 2020-21 | 38.68 |
| 2021-22 | 52.60 |
| 2022-23 | 86.54 |
| 2023-24 | 52.63 |
| 2024-25 | 35.64 |
