

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1149
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026**

National Education Policy in Maharashtra

1149 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in Maharashtra;
- (b) the status of reforms introduced in school and higher education institutions in the State;
- (c) the Central financial assistance released during the last three years; and
- (d) the measures taken to improve learning outcomes, digital education and teacher training?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): After announcement of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), a number of transformative initiatives have taken both in school and higher education for its implementation. In School Education, several initiatives have been taken such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education; launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem; implementation of a scheme “New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS” targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out such as National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in conjunction with guidelines / regulations like Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programme; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programme offered by Higher Education Institutions; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Programme simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which will act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; introduction of PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students inter-alia enabling collateral free, guarantor

free loan through a simple, transparent and student-friendly and entirely digital application process; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; re-envisioned Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program to build competencies in faculty for better teaching; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs; Academic collaboration between Indian and Foreign HEIs to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes; Regulation for permitting Foreign HEIs to setup campuses in India; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26, Maharashtra has a strong school education system with 1,08,139 schools, an enrolment of 2.16 crore students and 7.50 lakh teachers. The State has a Pupil-Teacher Ratio of 29:1, with an average of seven teachers per school and 200 students per school. Maharashtra recorded a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 107 at the Preparatory stage, 96.7 at the Middle stage, and 85.0 at the Secondary stage. The State has recorded a substantial reduction in the Secondary stage dropout rate, from 10.9% in 2023-24 to 6.2% in 2025-26. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Maharashtra stood at 1.0 at the Foundational stage, 1.1 at the Preparatory stage, 1.1 at the Middle stage and 1.0 at the Secondary stage, reflecting balanced enrolment of girls and boys. Maharashtra has eliminated zero-enrolment schools and zero-enrolment teachers, while the number of single-teacher schools has been limited to 9,269. These achievements demonstrate Maharashtra's sustained progress towards the objectives of NEP 2020.

According to AISHE 2023-24, India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education increased from 23.7 in 2014–15 to 30 in 2023–24. Female GER rose from 22.9 to 31.2 during the same period. SC GER increased from 18.9 to 27.8, while ST GER increased from 13.5 to 22.8 between 2014–15 and 2023–24. The rise in GER has been accompanied by significant growth in student enrolment, with total higher education enrolment increasing from 3.42 crore in 2014–15 to 4.50 crore in 2023–24, adding more than 1.08 crore students to the higher education system.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the State of Maharashtra increased from 27.9 in 2014–15 to 36.4 in 2023–24. Female GER rose from 25.6 to 36.1 during the same period. SC GER increased from 25.6 to 36.6, while ST GER increased from 12.6 to 19.1 between 2014–15 and 2023–24.

There are 1,289 Universities, 48,246 Colleges and 15,221 Stand-alone institutions in the country, of which 87 Universities, 5,380 Colleges and 2,426 stand-alone institutions are located in Maharashtra. The total student enrolment in higher education is 4.50 crore, including 46.53 lakh students enrolled in institutions in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is among the top seven States in the country in terms of student enrolment in higher education, with approximately 46.53 lakh students. With 5,380 colleges, Maharashtra has the second-highest number of colleges among all States and Union Territories, reflecting its extensive higher education infrastructure. Maharashtra ranks among the top ten States in terms of teaching faculty, accounting for 10.8% of the total number of teachers in higher education across the country.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out in the State of Maharashtra. The State has made significant progress in advancing digital integration and strengthening quality

assurance across the higher education sector. Under the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) initiative, 416 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are actively participating, with 55.75 lakh verified APAAR IDs generated and 1.34 crore student academic credit records successfully mapped. Academic quality has also been strengthened, with 2,361 HEIs, comprising 37 universities and 2,323 colleges, accredited. Digital learning and institutional governance have witnessed steady expansion, with 7,22,924 student enrolments on the SWAYAM platform during the January 2026 session, over 55,000 enrolments on SWAYAM Plus, and 1,652 HEIs onboarded onto the Samarth portal. Further, under the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, financial assistance has been extended to students through the sanction of 2,363 education loan applications, involving a total disbursement of ₹507.54 crore.

(c): Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs to reduce school dropout rates through measures such as opening and strengthening of schools up to senior secondary level; constructing school buildings and additional classrooms; expanding Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas; building hostels under PM Janman and DA-JGUA, and providing free uniforms, textbooks, transport allowance, and stipends for CWSN girls. Enrolment and retention drives, sanitary pad vending machines, and incinerators are also supported through Samagra Shiksha. Special training and residential facilities help bring out-of-school children into formal education. Additionally, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) and APAAR ID enable real-time monitoring of student progress and migration which help taking better measures to reduce dropout rates. Under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, the Central Government has allocated a total of ₹1,39,867.45 crore, out of which ₹85,061.96 crore has been released during the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. For the State of Maharashtra, a total allocation of ₹4,218.43 crore has been made, against which Central assistance amounting to ₹2,666.05 crore has been released during the said period.

The Government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of the earlier phases of RUSA, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. In the State of Maharashtra, under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a total of 144 projects, with an approved amount of Rs. 1431.31 crore (Central share: Rs. 863.37 crore), have been approved under various components of the Scheme. Of this, a total of Rs. 428.59 crore (Central share) have been released so far. During the last three financial years and this year, a total Central share of Rs. 125.66 crore has been released to the State under the Scheme.

(d): The Government has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen digital education, teacher capacity building and online learning in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

- The SWAYAM platform enables students to earn up to 40% of programme credits through online courses. More than 424 universities have adopted SWAYAM, with over 6 crore cumulative enrolments and more than 20,000 course deliveries since its inception. SWAYAM Plus has also been launched for upskilling and reskilling, offering over 500 courses across 17 sectors.

- DIKSHA serves as the national digital education platform with all States/UTs onboarded. It hosts over 3.67 lakh e-content resources, including 7,754 Energized Textbooks (ETBs), supporting technology-enabled teaching and learning.

- Under the PM eVIDYA initiative, 200 DTH TV channels broadcast curriculum-based educational content in 45 languages. More than 1.12 lakh video contents, equivalent to over 32,700 hours of telecast, have been developed to ensure equitable access to quality education.
- Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs) have been established in 35 States/UTs and at NCERT, CBSE and NIOS for data-driven educational governance. Under Samagra Shiksha, 1,30,453 ICT Labs and 1,17,705 Smart Classrooms are functional in Government schools.
- To expand flexible learning opportunities, 126 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) are offering about 802 Online Programmes, while 121 HEIs are offering around 1,699 Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes.
- Teacher capacity building has been strengthened through NISHTHA and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) in school education. DIETs are being developed as centres of excellence in a phased manner for strengthening teacher training. It functions as key district -level institutions for pre-service and in-service training and continuous professional development of elementary and primary school teachers.
- The Department of Higher Education is implementing the Central Sector Scheme, Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP), to strengthen the competencies of higher education faculty in teaching, learning, research, leadership, and institutional development. Under MMTTP, 151 Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centres, including 15 in Maharashtra, have collectively trained more than 4.37 lakh faculty members and institutional leaders across the country, of whom over 56,700 are from Maharashtra. The training programmes cover pedagogy, research, academic leadership, artificial intelligence, cyber security, STEM, mental health, and other emerging areas.
