

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1968
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026**

Digital education and smart classroom

1968 # **Shri Madan Rathore:**

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

- (a) major achievements so far in higher education and school education in Rajasthan under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020;
- (b) amount of assistance that has been provided to Rajasthan in the past three years for the expansion of digital education and smart classrooms;
- (c) steps taken to increase the availability of seats and quality teachers in universities and colleges;
- (d) current status of scholarships and hostel facilities for Scheduled Tribe and rural students; and
- (e) whether Government is bringing any new scheme to further strengthen digital education infrastructure in rural areas?

ANSWER

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

(a): After announcement of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), a number of transformative initiatives have taken for its implementation, which has resulted in considerable improvement in both school and higher education.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26, Rajasthan has a robust school education system with a large network of schools, teachers and students. The State has 1,06,445 schools with an enrolment of 1.60 crore students, including 75.5 lakh girls, supported by 7,93,158 teachers. Of these, 28,452 schools are equipped with functional smart classrooms, including Digital Boards, Smart Boards, Virtual Classrooms and Smart TVs, to support technology-enabled teaching and learning. The State has recorded a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 40.4 at the Foundational Stage, 89.1 at the Preparatory stage, 89.7 at the Middle stage and 75.2 at the Secondary stage. The State has recorded an improvement in student retention from 2023-24 to 2025-26, with dropout rates declining from 3.7% to 3.6% at the Preparatory stage, from 5.2% to 4.6% at the Middle stage, and from 10.9% to 7.5% at the Secondary stage. The Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) stands at 20:1, indicating adequate teacher availability across schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stood at 1.0 across the Foundational stage, Preparatory stage, Middle stage and the Secondary stage, reflecting balanced participation of girls and boys in school education. From 2023-24 to 2025-26, the State witnessed improved transition rates across all stages, rising from 91.1% to 95.7% between the Foundational and Preparatory stages, from 90.7% to 93.1% between the Preparatory and Middle stages, and from 87.6% to 89.9% between the Middle and Secondary stages. These achievements demonstrate Rajasthan'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. 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 Rajasthan increased from 20 in 2014–15 to 29.5 in 2023–24. Female GER rose from 17.9 to 30.3 during the same period.

There are 1,289 Universities, 48,246 Colleges and 15,221 Stand-alone institutions in the country, of which 93 Universities, 4,344 Colleges and 791 stand-alone institutions are located in Rajasthan. The total student enrolment in higher education is 4.50 crore. Rajasthan is among the top seven States in the country in terms of student enrolment in higher education, with approximately 27.37 lakh students. With 4,344 colleges, Rajasthan has the fourth-highest number of colleges among all States and Union Territories, reflecting its extensive higher education infrastructure.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out in the State of Rajasthan. 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, 120 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are actively participating, with 43.3 lakh verified APAAR IDs generated and 41.1 lakh student academic credit records successfully mapped. Academic quality has also been strengthened, with 188 HEIs, comprising 38 universities and 150 colleges, accredited. Digital learning and institutional governance have witnessed steady expansion, with 1,11,891 student enrolments on the SWAYAM platform during the January 2026 session, over 9,792 enrolments on SWAYAM Plus, and 11 HEIs onboarded onto the Samarth portal. Further, under the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, financial assistance has been extended to students through the sanction of 3,150 education loan applications, involving a total disbursement of ₹465.09 crore for FY 2025-26.

(b): Education is subject matter of Concurrent List 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 such as PM eVidya and DIKSHA under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning and strengthen technology enabled teaching in Government schools across the country including the State of Rajasthan. 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 the State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B). To strengthen technology-enabled teaching and learning in Government schools, there are 8,945 ICT Labs and 7,698 Smart Classroom established since the inception of Samagra Shiksha Scheme in the State of Rajasthan.

Under the PM eVIDYA – 200 DTH TV Channels initiative, Rajasthan has been allotted five dedicated PM eVIDYA DTH TV channels to cater to different needs of students from Classes I to XII.

For the period 2023–2026, financial approval of ₹36,188.50 lakh has been accorded to the State of Rajasthan under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for the establishment and strengthening of digital learning infrastructure, including ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms.

The Government of India, in the Budget 2025, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government Secondary schools in rural areas, under the ‘BharatNet’ project by BSNL to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas in a phased manner.

In Higher education 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), 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. The scheme, inter alia, supports establishment of smart classrooms, computer laboratories, campus-wide Wi-Fi, virtual laboratories, digital libraries, online teaching-learning platforms, and capacity building of faculty in the use of ICT for improving the quality of higher education. In the State of Rajasthan, an amount of Rs. 950.40 crore (Central share: Rs. 574.01 crore), have been approved under various components of the Scheme.

(c): The Government has undertaken several measures to enhance access to higher education and improve the quality of teaching which inter-alia includes, setting up of more Higher Education Institutions; strengthening State Higher Educational Institutions under PM-USHA; Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions; Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters; Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well as entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory; Allow pursuing two Academic Programmes simultaneously; Permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year; Providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines; Permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform.

Further, in pursuance of the Budget announcement 2025-26, Government has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which had been established in the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) with a total outlay of Rs. 11,828.79 crore, which would facilitate education for additional 6500 students. Besides the above the Government has approved a total of Rs. 1942 crore for expansion of academic & hostel infrastructure, and development of Research Park for IIT Jodhpur, IIT Patna, IIT Indore through Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA).

IIM Guwahati has been established and is operational as the 22nd IIM of the country, providing modern management education and executive training to students and professionals, including those from the North Eastern Region.

In line with the vision of NEP 2020, it has been announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 that the Union Government aims to support States through challenge route, in creating 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors.

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, have collectively trained more than 4.45 lakh faculty members and institutional leaders across the country. The training programmes cover pedagogy, research, academic leadership, artificial intelligence, cyber security, STEM, mental health, and other emerging areas.

(d): The Central Government implements various scholarship and financial assistance schemes to support students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minority communities, students from rural, remote and socio-economically

disadvantaged backgrounds. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers dedicated schemes for ST students, including the Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship, National Scholarship for Higher Education (Top Class), National Fellowship for Higher Education, and National Overseas Scholarship. These schemes provide financial assistance to support students at different stages of education and facilitate their participation in quality higher education.

In addition, financial assistance is extended through the PM-USP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (PM-USP CSSS), PM-USP Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Ishan Uday Scholarship for students of the North Eastern Region, Financial Support to Students of the North Eastern Region (NER Merit Scholarship), and the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme.

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.

Union Budget 2026-27 has also announced setting up of 1 girls' hostel in every district through Viability Gap Funding /capital support to encourage enrolment of girls in STEM institutes/ courses.

As on date, 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, have been approved to be set up across the country, of which 31 have been approved in the State of Rajasthan.

According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023–24, there are 2,242 hostels in higher educational institutions in the State of Rajasthan, having a total accommodation capacity of 2,79,062 students.

(e): In order to strengthen digital education infrastructure across the school and higher education sectors, the Ministry of Education is implementing several schemes and initiatives. These include PM eVIDYA, DIKSHA, the PM SHRI Scheme, SWAYAM and the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), which, inter alia, support ICT-enabled teaching and learning, digital content, online education, smart classrooms and other digital education interventions.
