

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2738
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

Skill development and vocational education

2738 # Shri Mahendra Bhatt:

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

- (a) the schemes being implemented by Government to promote skill-based education, innovation, start-ups and entrepreneurship in schools and higher educational institutions with the aim of connecting the youth of Uttarakhand to local employment and job opportunities; and
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the State of Uttarakhand during the last five years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a): The Government has taken various measures to promote skill-based education, innovation, start-ups, entrepreneurship and industry linkage among students, with a view to enhancing their employability and facilitating access to local employment and self-employment opportunities. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, skill education is integrated with mainstream education in schools from Classes IX to XII through National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)-aligned skill courses. In Uttarakhand, 876 Government/Government-aided schools have been approved up to FY 2025-26 for skill education, of which skill laboratories have been established in 378 schools and skill courses are operational in 358 schools, covering 27,510 students. Further, skill education is being promoted under the PM SHRI Scheme, wherein 181 out of 207 sanctioned PM SHRI schools in Uttarakhand have functional skill laboratories. Students in Classes VI–VIII are also provided exposure to local skills through NCERT's Kaushal Bodh activity books and experiential learning through 10 Bagless Days, including exposure to local artisans and experts. These initiatives, inter alia, facilitate skill development and exposure to sectors relevant to local economic opportunities, including eco-tourism, organic agriculture, AYUSH/herbal products, food processing and IT-ITeS.

In higher education, skill-based education is supported through Community Colleges, B.Voc. Degree Programmes and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Centres for Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood (DDU-KAUSHAL). The Academic

Bank of Credits (ABC) facilitate credit mobility between general and skill education. Institutional Innovation Councils (IICs), Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) and IDEA Labs promote experiential learning, innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up culture. Industry-institute linkages through internships, industrial training, project work, MoUs and apprenticeship opportunities provide students with exposure to industry and employment opportunities.

The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) bridges the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by providing structured apprenticeship training, on-the-job training and industry exposure to graduates and diploma holders. During the last five years, 29,195 apprentices from Uttarakhand have undergone apprenticeship training under NATS. UGC and AICTE have also issued Guidelines for Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP), 2025.

The National Initiative for Design Innovation (NIDI) scheme is implemented across higher educational institutions to promote design-driven innovation, skill-based education, and entrepreneurship. Under this national framework, the Design Innovation Centre (DIC) 'Navaashay' has been established as a Centre of Excellence at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kashipur, operating on a Hub-and-Spoke model with DIC IIT Roorkee as the nodal hub. To connect the youth of Uttarakhand to local employment and self-employment opportunities, the Centre conducts specialized training programs and workshops for school and college students, focusing on human-centered design thinking and startup incubation tailored to the socio-economic context of the Himalayan region. These include: Himalayan Education Learning Program (HELP), Himalayan Upliftment Movement (HUM) and Himalayan Innovation of Land to Laboratory (HILL).

(b): Financial assistance is provided annually to the State of Uttarakhand under the Skill Education component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, based on the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB). The assistance includes support for establishment of skill laboratories/equipment and recurring support for skill trainers, raw materials, hands-on training and curriculum-related activities. The year-wise approved outlay/sanctioned allocation under skill education component during the last five years is as follows:

Financial Year	Approved Outlay/Sanctioned Allocation (₹ in Lakhs)
2022-23	₹2,286.57
2023-24	₹3,250.09
2024-25	₹6,069.62
2025-26	₹5,927.49
2026-27	₹4,603.10
