

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026**

Implementation of NEP

2762 Shri Sanjay Seth:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the milestone achievements in implementing the National Education Policy across Central institutions over three academic cycles;
- (b) the steps taken to integrate vocational training and coding skillsets into the middle school curriculum;
- (c) whether the Ministry has launched targeted scholarships to elevate the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls in STEM fields;
- (d) the research funding grants disbursed under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship scheme; and
- (e) the measures adopted to establish standard digital architectures for hybrid learning?

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.

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.

(b): As envisioned in NEP 2020, the Union Government has integrated skill and vocational education into the school curriculum to promote employability, dignity of labour, and the development of work-related skills and competencies from the foundational stage.

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), aligned with NEP 2020, institutionalizes skill education by integrating it directly into the middle and secondary stages to ensure parity with academic subjects. Adequate learning hours have been allocated for engaging the students with vocational crafts to build foundational skills and practical awareness and to develop grade appropriate skill competencies.

In pursuance of NEP 2020, the Government has introduced the concept of 10 bagless days during Grades 6 to 8 to promote experiential learning through practical activities. A skill subject has been introduced in the Middle stage (Grades 6 to 8) to provide practical work experience through a project-based learning approach and ensure integration of skill education into the curriculum. As a follow up to the NCF-SE, NCERT has developed textbooks for skill education (Kaushal Bodh) for classes VI to VIII. Schools are promoting local knowledge and practical skills through “Lok Vidya” by exposing learners to the practical as well as theoretical aspects related to art, handicrafts, natural farming, tourism, etc.

At the secondary level (grades 9 to 12), the NCERT has developed curriculum and textbooks for employability skills, which are embedded across all skill courses. The skill curricula and textbooks developed by NCERT are based on the job roles in various sectors, under the National Skill Qualifications Framework (NSQF), which is a quality assurance framework.

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. Skill/Vocational Education is also one of the components under Samagra Shiksha scheme. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for implementation of these initiatives. The scheme inter-alia provides support to States/UTs for giving exposure to Skill Education to students of Grades 6 to 8 and introduction of Skill courses from Grades 9 to 12, which are aligned with NSQF. At the Secondary level i.e., Grade 9 and 10, skill modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At Sr. Secondary level, i.e., Grade 11 and 12, skill courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject.

Regular teacher training programmes for skill teachers/trainers are being organized to enhance their practical teaching and training skills in their domain. They also gain industry experience and exposure to the latest technologies and practices.

Digital resources for skill-based education have been created for combining online theoretical learning with offline practical sessions to ensure comprehensive skill-based education through the integration of general education with skill education.

The NCERT has developed e-learning materials, videos, and virtual skill labs (VSLs) to expand access to skill education, especially where physical resources are limited, ensuring that all students can develop practical, job-ready skills alongside academic learning.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) offers 22 skill subjects in classes 9-10 and 43 in classes 11-12 to upgrade the skills and proficiency of the young generation and explore the various career options available.

NCERT in collaboration with CBSE has introduced a dedicated Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence Curriculum for Classes III to VIII from the academic year 2026-27. Also, three new AI courses in partnership with IIT Madras have also been launched on SWAYAM Plus platform. These courses aim to make cutting-edge digital skills accessible to a global audience with requiring prior coding experience.

(c): Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The Centre and States together endeavour to increase the enrolment of students including girls, especially in the under-served areas and the disadvantaged communities. NEP 2020 aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes, including providing greater access to women.

The Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia includes implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students for pursuing higher education, subject to extant scheme guidelines. Department of Higher Education implements the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana under which students pursuing higher education in India, including SC, ST, OBC and minority students get scholarships as per Scheme guidelines. In addition, the Government of India has launched the PM-Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme in November 2024 to facilitate access to collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans for meritorious students pursuing higher education.

University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing Savitribai Jyoti Rao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is committed to increase

participation of students, including girls in STEM fields through scholarships like AICTE Pragati Scholarship Scheme for Women (Degree & Diploma); AICTE Sarswati Scholarship Scheme for Girl Students (BBA, BCA & BMS Degree); AICTE PG scholarship Scheme; AICTE Saksham Scholarship Scheme (Degree & Diploma); AICTE Swanath Scholarship Scheme (Degree & Diploma); AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF); AICTE Yashasvi (Young Achievers' Scholarship and Holistic Academic Skills Venture Initiative) Scheme 2024 and AICTE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF).

These initiatives aim to reduce financial barriers and encourage continued participation and career progression in STEM disciplines. In addition, enabling provisions such as hostel accommodation, career counselling, maternity benefits, structured mentoring, exposure visits, and interactions with role models have been incorporated to facilitate continuity in women's education and research, minimize attrition, and promote sustained engagement in STEM careers.

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.

With a view to improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), supernumerary seats were created which increased the female enrolment.

As a result of these initiatives, 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.

(d): The Government launched the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme in 2018-19 to strengthen India's research ecosystem and attract outstanding minds to pursue high-quality research in premier academic institutions. As on date, a total of 3,688 scholars have been admitted and Rs. 1,416 crore has been released under PMRF 1.0.

(e): NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on improving school infrastructure to strengthen learning, enable blended modes of instruction and expand digital access across the country. 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. Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) using the ABC platform facilitates creation of digital architecture which tracks the educational journey of a student and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education.

For higher education, digital platforms such as SWAYAM, SWAYAM Prabha, e-PG Pathshala and the UGC e-resource portal provide students with access to quality academic content. The integration of the UGC e-resource portal with the Digital Seva Portal has further expanded access through Common Service Centres, particularly in rural areas, while also making selected content available in regional languages.
