

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1620
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2025**

Promotion of Digital Literacy under PM eVidya Scheme

1620. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe:
Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh:
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Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of initiatives undertaken by the Government to promote digital literacy among students under PM eVidya scheme;
- (b) the number of students from the State of Maharashtra benefitted from the Government's digital education initiatives and the measures taken by the Government to expand these benefits in remote areas;
- (c) the budget allocated by the Government for digital infrastructure development in schools for the current fiscal year;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide digital devices to students from economically weaker sections to ensure equitable access to PM eVidya resources, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of number of schools that have been provided internet connectivity and other digital resources under PM eVidya Scheme;
- (f) the details of the Government's plan to connect remaining schools with the scheme; and
- (g) the mechanisms put in place to evaluate the impact of PM eVidya Scheme on student learning outcomes, particularly in digital literacy ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)**

(a) to (b) National Education Policy (NEP) (para 4.23) mentions that certain subjects, skills, and capacities should be learned by all students including digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking which are promoted through various digital initiatives.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVidya** was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The PM eVidya initiative is supported

through budget allocated under Samagra Shiksha scheme and implemented with the support of NCERT. The components of these initiatives are available to all the students across all the States/UTs free of cost. Since education is in the concurrent list, States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilize, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT provides regular feedback on quality of these initiatives.

The key components of PM eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and includes:

- **DTH TV Channels:** These channels were launched on 9th March 2024 by Hon'ble Education Minister. As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages including for classes 1-12. The channels have been allocated to the States/UTs and Autonomous Bodies under an MoU with NCERT and are operational.

Also On 6th December 2024, in consonance with the NEP 2020 recommendation for promotion of Indian Sign Language and to ensure extensive reach of the teaching learning material in ISL to a wider audience, Hon'ble Minister of Education launched a dedicated initiative promoting inclusive education through accessible learning resources for the hearing-impaired community through a dedicated PM eVidya DTH Channel (Channel no. 31). Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NCERT/NIOS website and YouTube channels.

One hour of content on Digital Literacy is broadcasted by NCERT daily on DTH Channels and YouTube to enhance the digital literacy of students and teachers in rural areas.

- **DIKSHA** the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**One Nation, One Digital platform**). Overall 560.09 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. Further, the courses on Computer Sciences on DIKSHA platform for Class XIth and Class XIIth include Digital Literacy components.

NCERT has been offering NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) courses through the DIKSHA platform with one of the objectives to empower the teachers and school heads with the digital skills that can be further used to enhance digital literacy of students. NISHTHA (Elementary, Secondary, FLN and ECCE) covers various courses in Indian languages. Under this, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence is one of the courses covered. It is to be mentioned that all the NISHTHA integrated Teacher Training Programmes have dedicated course modules on use and integration of technology in school education – teaching learning and assessment. More than 63 Lakh teachers have completed NISHTHA Trainings.

To promote crucial critical thinking skill and to give space for creativity, a vertical on Virtual Labs has been created on DIKSHA platform. Training on Virtual labs has been conducted through PM eVidya DTH TV channels for teachers and teacher educators across the country.

Under PM eVidya, Five DTH channels have been assigned to Maharashtra State that are successfully running content in Marathi language. Also, 20 Master Trainers from Maharashtra were trained through various orientation programmes organised in phases for PM eVidya 200 DTH channels. About 1,08,995 registered users (students) are consuming the content and 22,641 resources are uploaded on DIKSHA by Govt. of Maharashtra. 4,53,220 Teachers of Maharashtra are trained on various ICT components including e-content development under DIKSHA.

c) Under Samagra Shiksha, for the financial year 2024-25, Rs.62,581.60 lakh under ICT Labs and Rs.60,385.2 Lakh under Smart Classrooms have been allocated to States/UTs. Rs. 33,760 lakh has been allocated to NCERT by MoE under Digital Education component.

d) The Government does not provide digital devices to students under Samagra Shiksha. However, the Government provides digital devices to teachers based on proposal from the States/UTs. As on date, digital device as teaching resource package has been given to 15.72 lakh teachers.

e) As per UDISE+ 2023-24 data, out of 65,064 Government and local body schools 35,349 schools have internet facility available. Out of 1,08,195 schools, ICT Labs are available in **10,463** Schools, Smartclasses are available in **3,292** Schools and **18,436** Schools have DTH connectivity.

f) The Union Budget 2025 includes a provision under the Bharatnet project to extend Broadband connectivity to Government secondary schools and primary health centres in rural areas in a phased manner.

g) As such, no study has been conducted to evaluate the impact of PM eVidya Scheme on student learning outcomes including digital literacy as PM eVidya is a supplementary mechanism to School teaching. However, evaluation of students learning outcome is being done on a periodic basis. The recent survey was done on 4th December 2024 by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development). The survey is a baseline study to understand the achievement of the stage specific competencies at the end of foundation, preparatory and middle stages as per NEP 2020. It covers the entire spectrum of schools across the country.
