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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3888
ANSWERED ON – 16/03/2026

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

3888. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocation and expenditure during the last three years under Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI Schools, PM e-VIDYA, SWAYAM, National Digital University and Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) and the manner in which these initiatives have strengthened access, quality and digital infrastructure in school and higher education;

(b) the details of progress achieved in implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 reforms in Odisha, including curriculum transformation, skill integration, teacher training and institutional development;

(c) the details of measurable improvements in Gross Enrolment Ratio, reduction in dropout rates and expansion of digital access, particularly in tribal and aspirational districts; and

(d) the details of steps taken to expand higher education and research capacity in eastern part of the country, including proposals for new institutions or expansion of existing ones?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): The details of central allocation and expenditure (central share released) during the last three years under Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI School is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of Scheme	**2022-23**		**2023-24**		**2024-25**	
	Central Allocation	**Central Share Released**	**Central Allocation**	**Central Share Released**	**Central Allocation**	**Central Share Released**
Samagra Shiksha	44493.94	32151.94	45647.55	32382.79	47475.67	34458.21
PM-SHRI	-	-	2520.34	1216.68	5808.72	3571.08

Source: PAB Minutes / PFMS / PRABANDH Portal

As per UDISE+ 2024-25 data, 5,93,615 Government Schools are equipped with internet connection. Additionally, 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 to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas by BSNL in a phased manner.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country under the aegis of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements in mother tongue/local/regional languages. PM eVidya includes 200 DTH TV Channels allotted to States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies (ABs)/Other Ministries in Government of India and 400 Radio channels to enable them to provide supplementary education as per their requirement in various Indian languages for classes 1-12.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. As a participant in DIKSHA, States/UTs/ABs have generated and contributed over 3.7 lakh content in mother tongue/ local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Overall, 565.28 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders have access to more than 450 Virtual Labs and 100 Virtual skill labs (50 each in Hindi and English) on DIKSHA.

Under Samagra Shiksha, teacher capacity building for digital education is being supported through the DIKSHA platform. The Department has also implemented NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) as an integrated teacher training programme on DIKSHA, covering modules on digital pedagogy, use of ICT tools and technology-enabled learning. Further, NCERT, SCERTs, DIETs, BRCs and CRCs undertake development of resource material, digital content, training programmes and workshops to strengthen teachers' preparedness for digital education.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for reducing dropout rate, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system.

Further, under the student-oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Department of Higher Education is implementing the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020. The scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT, in all processes of education. Under the NMEICT scheme Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform hosts content curated by premier institutions and is available free of cost with the approach of "Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime" Learning. As on date, more than 4400 unique courses have been offered through SWAYAM. These courses have witnessed cumulative enrolments of more than 6 Crores. The details of funds released under the NMEICT Scheme, which includes SWAYAM component, during the last three financial years is as follows:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25**
395.02	395.82	625.58

Further, Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Madras, has launched the SWAYAM Plus platform in February 2024. The platform offers high-quality industry relevant courses in collaboration with industry partners to learners, helping them reskill, upskill, and become employment-ready. As on date, Swayam Plus has signed more than 89 MoUs with the leading industry partners. more than 504 Courses in 15 different sectors are available on the platform, and more than 4.84 lakh learners have enrolled for their Skill augmentation.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) an Autonomous Scientific Society under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has launched "NIELIT Digital University (NDU) Platform" in October 2025. "NIELIT Digital University Platform" is a digital learning platform to deliver online and blended skill-based courses in emerging technology sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing etc. The platform also has Built-in Virtual labs for real-time experimentation in Semiconductor Design, Cyber Security, Cyber Forensics, Industry 4.0 and other emerging domains. The courses on this digital platform are aligned to National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) with credits to be transferred in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) after successful completion.

As on date, more than 100 courses available on NDU Platform. The current set of offerings includes short-term, modular, and specialization courses, delivered through NIELIT's existing network of 56 centres across the nation.

The budget allocation for the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) Scheme in the last three years is Rs. 1 Lakh. The budget allocation to HEFA scheme was for Capital contribution. HEFA is a non- profit company under Section-8 of Companies Act 2013 and registered as Non-Banking Finance company (NBFC) with RBI. Being a financial institution, HEFA provides loans for creation of physical infrastructures, research laboratories and equipments etc. to all the Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs) in order to ensure the top-quality learning environment, improved research and infrastructure facilities for all the students.

(b): The details of progress achieved in implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Odisha is as under:

Sl. No.	Milestones	Status
1.	Age of admission in Grade 1 as 6+	Implemented (from academic year 2025-26)
2.	Vidya Pravesh- 3 months School Preparation Module	Implemented. 4,41,222 students from 44,897 govt. schools participated in FY2025-26.
3.	Setting up of Balvatikas	'Shishu Vatika' introduced: Pre-school class for 5–6-year-olds in 44,875 primary & upper primary schools. An estimated 3.10 Lakh students have enrolled for the 2025-26 academic year
4.	Implementation of Jaadui Pitara	Contextualized version of Jaadui Pitara, Jaadui Pedi is being implemented
5.	Gross Enrolment Ratio	Preparatory level (Grades 3 to 5): 94.6% Middle level (Grades 6 to 8): 95.5% Secondary level (Grades 9 to 12): 72.3%
6.	Reducing dropouts in schools	Child Tracking Survey has been initiated in the state from 30th April to 5th May, 2025 to identify and mainstreaming of out of school children.
7.	Out of School Children	State has constituted a rescue team under Samagra Shiksha for the education and rehabilitation of the children from SEDGs. The process of mapping of SEDGs in each cluster is under process. One round of planning meeting has been conducted at State level.
8.	State Curriculum Framework-Foundational Stage	Adopted NCF-FS with local contextualization
9.	State Curriculum Framework- School Education	Adopted NCF-SE with local contextualization
10.	Recognition of Teachers	Odisha has a State level policy for recognition of teachers/principals- Mukhyamantri Shiksha Puruskar (MSP).
11.	Teacher Training	Prarambha Module focusing on use of FLN materials in classroom transactions and implementation of Vidya Pravesh Prayoga Module focusing on Jaadui Pitara, Classroom transaction in multi grade, multilevel situations in both Literacy and Numeracy. The Khadi Chhuan programme for Sishu Vatika and Pravesh Utsav was conducted in all schools of the state from 2nd to 5th April 2025.
12.	Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK)	VSK established and connected to National VSK through API
13.	DIKSHA	5.90+ lakh registered users as of 9th March 2026, 24.29+ Crores learning sessions and 271.16+ Crores learning minutes has been completed.

14.	Student APAAR ID	52+ lakh generated (64%)
15.	Skill Education	95,479 students enrolled in the 803 Implemented schools under Skill Education covering 12 out of the 25 sectors and 22 job roles out of the 138 job roles available.

(c): As per UDISE report, GER has shown an increase across the country including tribal and aspirational districts from 76.9% in 2018-19 to 78.7% in 2024-25 for Secondary while for higher secondary GER has increased from 50.1% in 2018-19 to 58.4% in 2024-25.

In higher education, GER rose to 29.5% in 2022–23 (provisional) as per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), up from 26.3% in 2018–19, Number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have increased from 51,649 in 2018-19 to 58,643 in 2022-23 (provisional). Number of HEIs offering online education has gone up from 7 in 2020 to 123 in 2025. Further, steps to improve the GER in India include expanding infrastructure by building new institutions and upgrading the existing ones, increasing financial supports through scholarship and funding and leveraging technologies by promoting online platforms like Swayam (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) and NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning).

As per UDISE+ 2024-25 there has been a steady decline in dropout rates. School dropout rates have steadily declined in recent years, standing at 0.3% at the primary level, 3.5% at the upper primary level, and 11.5% at the secondary level. While improving the dropout rates India has made significant strides in digital infrastructure in education. In schools, the percentage with computers rose from 38.5% in 2019–20 to 64.7% in 2024–25, and those with internet access increased from 22.3% to 63.5%.

Unlike school education, in the Higher Education sector, students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, as such there is no concept of Drop Out in Higher education. However, to increase access in Higher Education, the Government has taken various steps like financial assistance and scholarships like Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PMUSP) Scheme, fee waiver/reduction of disadvantaged groups, promote study loans like PM-Vidyalakshmi scheme, establishment of more institutes, student support system like establishment of Counselling Cells, strengthening of Grievance Redressal Mechanism, providing Remedial Coaching, initiatives under online and digital learning (ODL) like SWAYAM, National Digital Library (NDL) and e-PG Pathshala. Further, in light of NEP 2020, a slew of initiatives for academic reforms have been undertaken like Multiple Entry and Exit Options, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) etc, ensuring digital tools strengthen both access and quality of learning.

(d): In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, 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. 12926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of earlier phases of RUSA, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ under served. Under the Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) component of PM-USHA, 35 Universities have been approved for a total amount of Rs. 100 crore each.

Under MERU component, the Universities in respective States/ UTs are expected to undertake various mandatory activities such as (i) implementation of National Credit Framework (NCrF) and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and implementation of elective course system; (ii) adoption of Academic Bank of Credits; (iii) using Online Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Programmes such as SWAYAM/MOOCS; (iv) courses in Indian Languages; (v) embedding Indian knowledge System (IKS) in the Curriculum; (vi) bridge courses for socially and economically disadvantaged students; (vii) Vocational courses for 21st century skills, Internships/Training, etc. towards achieving higher levels of access, equity, and excellence and promoting holistic and multi-disciplinary education.

Ministry of Education is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards.

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Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc. Under the scheme, in the Eastern part of the country, 626 projects amounting to Rs. 4111.82 crore have been approved for the States/ UT of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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