



EDUCATION SCHEMES 2026 PRELIMS

The Ministry of Education received approximately ₹1,28,650 crore for FY 2025-26, a 6.2% increase from the previous year, with a focus on both school and higher education. The Department of School Education & Literacy received its highest-ever allocation of ₹78,572 crore.

1. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is an overarching **umbrella scheme** and a **flagship initiative** of the Government of India designed to treat school education as a "continuum" from pre-school to Class 12.

Key Administrative Details (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#) (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development).
- **Implementing Agency:** At the central level, the **Department of School Education and Literacy**; at the state level, it is implemented through a single **State Implementation Society (SIS)**.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- **Funding Pattern:** The cost is shared between the Centre and States in a **60:40** ratio for most states, **90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan states, and **100%** central funding for Union Territories without a legislature.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim is to ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education** at all levels.

- **NEP 2020 Alignment:** Support states in implementing the recommendations of the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- **RTE Support:** Assist in the implementation of the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**.
- **Holistic Learning:** Focus on foundational literacy and numeracy (**NIPUN Bharat**) and bridging social and gender gaps in school education.
- **Digital & Vocational:** Promote digital initiatives (the "two Ts" – Teachers and Technology) and strengthen vocational education.

Major Features



- **Integrated Framework:** Subsumes three previous schemes: **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**, and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- **School as a Continuum:** Treats the school system as a single unit from pre-school to senior secondary level.
- **Quality Interventions:** Includes composite school grants, library grants, and annual grants for sports equipment.
- **Focus on Girls:** Upgrades **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)** and provides self-defence training.

2026 Updates

- **Extended Tenure:** The current phase (Samagra Shiksha 2.0) was initially approved until **March 31, 2026**.
- **Transition to 3.0:** As of early 2026, the government has initiated nationwide consultations to roll out **Samagra Shiksha 3.0** for the 2026–27 academic cycle, aiming for deeper alignment with NEP 2020 goals.
- **FLN Targets:** A critical milestone for **2026-27** is ensuring every child attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3

Samagra Shiksha 2.0 is an integrated **centrally sponsored flagship umbrella scheme** for school education, revamped to align with the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#). It covers the entire educational continuum from **pre-school to Class 12**.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is to ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education** at all levels of schooling.

- **NEP 2020 Alignment:** Support States and UTs in implementing NEP recommendations.
- **Universal Access:** Achieve universal access and retention in school education.
- **Learning Outcomes:** Focus on improving quality and learning achievements.
- **Bridging Gaps:** Eliminate social and gender disparities in schooling.
- **Teacher Training:** Strengthen SCERTs and DIETs as nodal agencies for teacher education.

Funding Mechanism

As a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**, funding is shared between the Centre and States:

- **Standard States/UTs with Legislature:** 60:40 (Centre:State).
- **North-Eastern and Himalayan States:** 90:10 ratio.



- **UTs without Legislature:** 100% funded by the Central Government.

Key Features (Revamped 2.0)

- **Holistic Approach:** Integrates pre-school into the formal schooling framework.
- **NIPUN Bharat:** A national mission for **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** for children aged 3–9.
- **Digital Push:** Support for ICT labs, smart classrooms, and the [DIKSHA](#) platform.
- **Vocational Education:** Exposure to vocational skills starting from **Class 6**.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Providing entitlements like textbooks and uniforms directly to students through IT platforms.
- **Holistic Progress Card (HPC):** A 360-degree, multi-dimensional report on student progress.

Administration & Agencies

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#) (Department of School Education and Literacy).
- **National Level:** Governed by a **Council** (headed by the Union Education Minister) and a **Project Approval Board (PAB)**.
- **Implementing Agency:** At the state level, it is executed through a single **State Implementation Society (SIS)**.

2026 Update

- **Timeline:** The current phase (Samagra Shiksha 2.0) was extended to continue until **March 31, 2026**.
- **Budget 2026-27:** In February 2026, the government allocated **₹42,100 crore** to the scheme for the 2026-27 financial year, an 11% increase over the previous year's revised estimates.
- **Conditional Funding:** As of April 2026, the Centre has mandated that States must provide "in-principle" approval for **NEP 2020** to receive full funding allocations

2. PM-SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India):

As of **May 2026**, **PM-SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India)** remains a **centrally sponsored flagship scheme** under the **Ministry of Education**. It is currently in its final year of initial implementation (2022–23 to 2026–27).

Core Details



- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#) (Department of School Education and Literacy).
- **Implementing Agencies:** [Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan \(KVS\)](#), [Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti \(NVS\)](#), and State/UT Education Departments.
- **Scheme Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
 - **Funding Ratio:** 60:40 (Centre:State) for general states; 90:10 for North-Eastern/Himalayan states; 100% for UTs without legislature.
- **Status: Flagship Scheme** intended to showcase the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim is to develop over **14,500 schools** into "exemplar" institutions that lead and mentor other schools in their regions.

- **NEP 2020 Showcase:** To act as a lab for full implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.
- **Holistic Development:** Moving beyond rote learning to focus on cognitive development and 21st-century skills.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Providing high-quality education in a safe, welcoming, and stimulating environment for students of all backgrounds.

Key Features

- **Green Schools:** Infrastructure includes solar panels, LED lighting, nutrition gardens, and waste management.
- **Modern Pedagogy:** Experiential, inquiry-driven, and learner-centered teaching methods.
- **Advanced Infrastructure:** Smart classrooms, ICT labs, Science labs, and Atal Tinkering Labs.
- **Challenge Mode Selection:** Schools are selected through a transparent, three-stage competitive process based on specific quality benchmarks.
- **Skill Integration:** Every secondary student is expected to graduate with at least one vocational skill.

2026 Update

The scheme's active central funding cycle is scheduled to conclude in **March 2027**. By this time, more than **12,000 schools** have already been selected across 33 States and UTs. Moving forward, states and UTs are



expected to maintain these benchmarks using their own resources while the schools continue to serve as regional hubs of excellence

3. PM POSHAN (formerly Mid-Day Meal):

PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman), formerly known as the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**, is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that provides one hot cooked meal per school day to children in government and government-aided schools.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Implemented by the **Ministry of Education** (specifically the Department of School Education and Literacy).
- **Implementing Agency: State Governments and UT Administrations** are the primary agencies responsible for ground-level delivery. They often partner with School Management Committees (SMCs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and local NGOs.
- **Type of Scheme:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (not a central sector scheme).
- **Scheme Category:** It is a **flagship scheme** that also operates under the **umbrella** of the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** / Mission Poshan 2.0 framework for broader nutritional synergy.

Aims and Objectives

The scheme addresses two primary challenges: **hunger** and **education**.

- **Improve Nutritional Status:** Enhance the nutritional levels of children to support healthy physical and cognitive growth.
- **Boost Enrollment & Retention:** Encourage children from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend school regularly and stay enrolled.
- **Enhance Learning Outcomes:** Help children concentrate better by addressing classroom hunger.
- **Promote Social Equity:** Encourage children of all castes and backgrounds to sit and eat together, fostering social harmony.

Vajiram & Ravi +3

Funding Mechanism



Funding is shared between the Centre and States/UTs as follows:

- **General States/UTs with Legislature: 60:40** (Centre:State).
- **Northeastern & Himalayan States: 90:10** (Centre:State).
- **UTs without Legislature: 100%** funded by the Central Government.
- **Total Budget (2021-2026):** Approximately **₹1,30,795 crore**, with the Central Government bearing the major share including food grain costs.

Key Features

- **Expanded Coverage:** Now includes children in **Balvatika** (pre-primary) in addition to Classes 1 to 8.
- **Nutritional Norms:**
 - **Primary (1-5):** 450 calories and 12g protein.
 - **Upper Primary (6-8):** 700 calories and 20g protein.
- **Tithi Bhojan:** Encourages community participation where local citizens provide special meals on festivals or occasions.
- **School Nutrition Gardens:** Encourages schools to grow their own vegetables to supplement meals with micronutrients.
- **Social Audit:** Mandatory social auditing in all districts to ensure transparency and quality.
- **Supplementary Nutrition:** Special provisions for extra nutrition in **Aspirational Districts** and areas with high anemia prevalence.

Update as of May 2026

- **Current Cycle:** The current approved cycle of the scheme runs until **September 2026** (an interim extension from the original March 2026 end-date) pending approval for the next five-year cycle (2026-27 to 2030-31) under the 16th Finance Commission.
- **Proposed Reforms:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended expanding the scheme to **Class 10** immediately and eventually up to **Class 12**, as well as introducing a **light breakfast** alongside the midday meal.
- **Budget (2025-26):** The total projected allocation for FY 2025-26 is over **₹30,000 crore**, covering roughly 11 crore children daily.



4. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL):

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) is a flagship sub-mission under the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, which is an umbrella initiative aimed at fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

Overview and Governance (Update 2026)

- **Ministry:** It operates under the **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India), rather than a traditional line ministry.
- **Implementing Agency:** **NITI Aayog** through the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is the primary implementing body.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded and implemented by the Central Government.
- **Classification:** It is considered a **flagship initiative** of the government and falls under the **umbrella** of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

Aims and Objectives

- **Foster Curiosity:** To nurture curiosity, creativity, and imagination in students from Grade 6 to 12.
- **Inculcate 21st Century Skills:** Focus on developing a design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, and physical computing.
- **STEM Promotion:** To provide hands-on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through a "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) approach.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Grant:** Eligible schools receive a total grant-in-aid of **₹20 Lakh** over a maximum period of 5 years.
- **Breakdown:**
 - **Establishment Cost:** A one-time grant of **₹10 Lakh** for capital expenses (setting up the lab and equipment).
 - **Operational Expenses:** **₹10 Lakh** (up to ₹2 Lakh per year) for operational and maintenance costs over 5 years.

Key Features



State-of-the-Art Tools: Labs are equipped with 3D printers, robotics kits, IoT devices, sensors, and miniaturised electronics.

- **Workspaces:** Dedicated spaces (typically 1,500 sq. ft.) where students can work outside the regular curriculum.
- **Community Hubs:** ATLs are encouraged to engage nearby community students to spread the culture of innovation beyond their own school.
- **National Challenges:** Regular participation in initiatives like the **ATL Marathon** (innovation challenge) and **Tinkerpreneur** (entrepreneurship bootcamp).

Status Update as of 2026

- **Scale:** As of early 2026, over **10,000 ATLs** are operational across India, engaging more than **1.1 Crore students**.
- **Expansion:** Under **AIM 2.0**, the government has set a target to roll out an additional **50,000 ATLs** during the 2025–2026 period, with a special focus on underserved regions like Jammu & Kashmir, the North East, and Aspirational Districts.
- **Strategic Focus:** Increased emphasis on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** through the **AI Tinkerpreneur** showcase and integration of **AIoT** (Artificial Intelligence of Things) into the school curriculum

5. PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme:

The **PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme**, approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024, is a **Central Sector Scheme** designed to ensure that no meritorious student is denied higher education due to financial constraints. It provides a holistic financial support system, including collateral-free loans and interest subventions, for students admitted to India's top-ranked institutions.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Under the [Ministry of Education](#) (Department of Higher Education).
- **Implementing Agency:** The [Department of Higher Education](#) in coordination with **Canara Bank** (the nodal bank) and the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** for credit guarantees.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government).



- **Status:** It acts as a **flagship initiative** stemming from the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and supplements the existing PM-USP (Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan) umbrella.

Aims and Objectives

- **Universal Access:** To make quality higher education accessible and affordable for all talented youth in India.
- **Financial Barrier Removal:** To provide **collateral-free and guarantor-free** loans to students admitted on merit.
- **Incentivise Lending:** To encourage banks to lend by providing government-backed **credit guarantees**.

Key Features (Updated 2026)

- **Coverage:** Available to students in **860–902 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs)**, including all government and private HEIs in the top 100 NIRF rankings and state HEIs ranked 101–200.
- **Loan Amount:** There is **no upper limit** on the loan amount, which covers full tuition fees, hostel, books, and even laptops.
- **Interest Subvention:**
 - **3% subsidy** on loans up to ₹10 lakh for students with an annual family income of up to **₹8 lakh**.
 - Full interest subvention remains available for students with family income up to **₹4.5 lakh** under the parallel PM-USP CSIS scheme.
- **Credit Guarantee:** The government provides a **75% credit guarantee** for loan amounts up to **₹7.5 lakh**.
- **Digital Ecosystem:** Managed through the [PM-Vidyalaxmi Portal](#), with interest subvention payments made via **CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency)** wallets on the [PM-Vidyalaxmi Digital Rupee App](#).

Funding Mechanism

- **Outlay:** The government has allocated **₹3,600 crore** for the period from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- **Benefit Distribution:** It aims to support **7 lakh fresh students** with interest subvention and potentially benefit over **22 lakh students** annually through the loan facility.

6. One Nation One Subscription:

The **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** under the **Ministry of Education** that provides nationwide digital access to high-impact scholarly journals for researchers and students across India.



Core Details (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education).
- **Implementing Agency:** INFLIBNET Centre, an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- **Scheme Type:** Central Sector Scheme (fully funded by the Central Government).
- **Classification:** It is considered a **flagship initiative** under the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047* and aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Democratize Knowledge:** Provide equitable access to global research resources for nearly **1.8 crore** students, faculty, and researchers, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Centralize the procurement of journals to eliminate overlapping institutional costs and save approximately **18%** on subscription expenses.
- **Strengthen R&D:** Foster a vibrant research culture and support the goals of the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** ₹6,000 crore for three calendar years (2025, 2026, and 2027).
- **National Subscription:** Subscription charges for journals from **30 major international publishers** are paid centrally by INFLIBNET.
- **Open Access Support:** An additional fund of ₹150 crore per year is allocated to support Article Processing Charges (APCs) for Indian authors publishing in high-quality open-access journals.

Key Features

- **Unified Access:** Accessible through a single [ONOS Portal](#).
- **Wide Coverage:** Includes over **13,000 e-journals** from top publishers like Elsevier, Springer-Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley.
- **Institutional Scope:** Benefits over **6,300 institutions**, including all central/state government universities, colleges, and central R&D laboratories.



- **Knowledge Finder:** A powerful discovery service built on the VuFind framework to help users navigate resources easily.

2026 Status Update

As of May 2026, Phase I is fully operational. Access has been enabled for all participating institutions via campus IP and remote authentication (INFED). The government is conducting proactive outreach, including webinars and campaigns, to maximize usage among students and faculty.

7. Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme:

The **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme (BBPS)**, also known as the *Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Pariyojana*, was introduced in the **Union Budget 2025–26** as a transformative initiative to democratise education through linguistic inclusivity.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim is to provide high-quality **digital textbooks** and study materials in regional Indian languages for school and higher education.

- **Linguistic Empowerment:** Facilitate learning in native languages to improve retention and comprehension, particularly in **STEM**, commerce, and social sciences.
- **Multilingualism:** Align with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** to promote mother-tongue-based education and reduce rural dropout rates.
- **Democratisation of Technical Knowledge:** Make specialised fields like engineering, medicine, and law accessible to non-English backgrounds.
- **Content Development:** Bridge the resource gap by creating 2.43 lakh textbooks over a three-year period (2025–2028) through original writing and translation.

Key Features

- **Targeted Languages:** Initially focuses on the **22 Scheduled Indian languages**.
- **Digital Integration:** Content is hosted on government platforms like **DIKSHA**, e-PG Pathshala, and the National Digital Library of India.



- **AI-Enabled Learning:** Uses advanced AI tools (e.g., *Anuvadini*, *Bhashini*) for voice-assisted learning and high-speed translation.
- **Collaborative Ecosystem:** Complements the **ASMITA** initiative, which aims to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages over five years.

Administration and Implementation

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Implementing Agencies:** A collaborative effort coordinated by the **Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti** and implemented by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, **AICTE**, and 23 identified **nodal universities**.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Announced with an estimated budget of **₹5,100 crore** for the period 2025–2028.
- **Scheme Category:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** as it is fully funded and managed by the Central Government via its statutory bodies (UGC, AICTE).
- **Nature:** It is a **flagship initiative** under the broader vision of NEP 2020 and the Digital India mission.

Update as of 2026

As of early 2026, the scheme has moved from the proposal stage into active production.

- **Implementation Progress:** Over **1,089 authors** have been identified by 23 nodal universities to prepare undergraduate textbooks in all 22 languages.
- **Infrastructure:** A **comprehensive Digital Dashboard** has been launched to monitor the progress of book development, translation status, and distribution across the nation.
- **Expanded Reach:** Translation of professional courses is ongoing, with engineering books already available in 12 languages and MBBS programs increasingly adopting Hindi-medium tracks in several states.

8. PM Research Fellowship (PMRF):

The **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)** is a prestigious scheme launched by the Government of India to improve the quality of research in higher educational institutions.

PMRF Scheme +1

Aims and Objectives



- **Attract Top Talent:** To draw the best Indian minds into doctoral research in frontier areas of science and technology.
- **Innovation & Development:** To realise the vision of "Development through Innovation" by focusing on national priorities and cutting-edge science.
- **Reduce Brain Drain:** To encourage high-potential researchers to pursue R&D within India rather than moving abroad.
- **Academia-Industry Linkage:** To foster collaboration between research institutions and the industrial sector.

Update as of 2026: PMRF 2.0

In the 2025–26 budget, the government announced **PMRF 2.0** to scale the initiative:

- **Increased Capacity:** Aims to award **10,000 fellowships** over the next five years.
- **Budgetary Outlay:** Allocated **₹8,313 crore** for the expanded program.
- **Operational Integration:** Enhanced alignment with the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** to centralise and democratize research funding.

Scheme Classification

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#) (formerly MHRD).
- **Implementing Agency:** IIT Madras is currently the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the 2022–2028 period.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded and implemented directly by the Central Government.
- **Category:** It is considered a **Flagship Scheme** of the Ministry of Education for promoting high-end research.

Funding Mechanism & Features

Feature	Details
Duration	Up to 5 years.



Fellowship Amount	Year 1 & 2: ₹70,000/month; Year 3: ₹75,000/month; Year 4 & 5: ₹80,000/month.
Research Grant	₹2 Lakh per year (Total ₹10 Lakh over 5 years) for contingency expenses.
Entry Channels	Direct Entry (for new PhD admits) and Lateral Entry (for existing PhD students).
Teaching Obligation	Every fellow must complete at least 1 hour of teaching per week at a nearby institute (ITI/Polytechnic/School).
Eligibility	Indian nationals from IITs, IISc, NITs, IISERs, and other recognized universities with minimum 8.0 CGPA .

9. MERITE (Multidisciplinary Education & Research Improvement in Technical Education):

The **Multidisciplinary Education & Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE)** scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2025 as a transformative initiative to revamp India's technical education landscape. Aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, it aims to enhance the quality, equity, and governance of technical institutions across all States and Union Territories.

Key Details (as of 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Department of Higher Education (DHE)**, Ministry of Education, through a **Central Nodal Agency**. It involves collaboration with premier bodies like the [AICTE](#), [NBA](#), IITs, and IIMs.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government and external assistance).
- **Classification:** It is a major **flagship** initiative specifically targeting the technical education sector to implement NEP 2020 reforms.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is to make technical education more future-ready, inclusive, and innovation-driven.



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- **Improve Quality and Governance:** Strengthening institutional leadership and ensuring better accreditation levels.
- **Enhance Equity:** Increasing access for women and Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).
- **Promote Research:** Boosting research productivity and innovation linkages with industry.
- **Employability:** Updating curricula to align with labor market needs and providing internship opportunities.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** ₹4,200 crore for the period 2025–26 to 2029–30.
- **External Assistance:** ₹2,100 crore (50%) is provided as a loan from the [World Bank](#).
- **Direct Fund Transfer:** Funds are transferred from the Central Government directly to participating entities through a Central Nodal Agency.

Key Features

- **Broad Coverage:** Targets **275 institutions** nationwide, including 175 engineering colleges and 100 polytechnics.
- **Infrastructure & Innovation:** Establishes **Maker Labs**, skill hubs, incubation centers, and language workshops.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Develops guidelines for multidisciplinary programs in technical courses to break down academic silos.
- **Focus on Women:** Special emphasis on developing future academic leaders and administrators, particularly women faculty.
- **Digitalization:** Supports States/UTs in creating digitalization strategies for their technical education ecosystems

- **10. Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Education:**

The **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI for Education** was established following an announcement in the **Union Budget 2025-26**. It serves as a national hub to integrate artificial intelligence into the learning ecosystem, focusing on higher education and workforce readiness.



Key Details & 2026 Updates

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#) (Department of Higher Education).
- **Implementing Agency:** IIT Madras was designated as the lead institution for the CoE in Education.
- **Funding:** A dedicated budgetary allocation of ₹500 crore.
- **Scheme Type:** This is a **Central Sector Scheme**, as it is 100% funded and implemented directly by the Central Government through premier national institutions.
- **Status:** It is a **flagship initiative** under the broader "Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India" vision.

Aims and Objectives

The primary mission is to leverage AI for a "future-ready" India through:

- **Personalised Learning:** Developing AI-driven platforms and adaptive curricula to bridge learning gaps.
- **Skill Development:** Creating a future-ready workforce for emerging roles like AI Data Engineers and Machine Learning Engineers.
- **Interdisciplinary Research:** Fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and startups to solve complex educational challenges.
- **Language Inclusivity:** Using AI to promote education in Indian languages and develop scalable, context-sensitive solutions.

Core Features

- **Consortium Model:** Led by a hub institution (IIT Madras) in collaboration with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), industry partners, and startups.
- **AI Learning Labs:** Establishment of regional experimental labs within various HEIs across the country.
- **AI Fellows Program:** Selection of students as "AI Fellows" who receive stipends and mentorship from global experts to lead research and outreach.
- **Institutional Upgrades:** Complemented by the upgrade of 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to integrate practical AI skills.

Context: The Three Original AI-CoEs

The CoE for Education builds on the foundation of **three sectoral CoEs** announced in the 2023-24 Budget with an outlay of ₹990 crore (FY 2023-24 to 2027-28):



- **Agriculture:** Led by IIT Ropar.
- **Healthcare:** Led by IIT Delhi and AIIMS.
- **Sustainable Cities:** Led by IIT Kanpur.

11. SWAYAM Plus (Launched February 2024):

SWAYAM Plus, an advanced extension of the original SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform, was launched on **February 27, 2024**, to bridge the gap between academic education and industry-specific employability.

Aims and Objectives

The primary mission of SWAYAM Plus is to transform professional development journeys and produce a high-quality talent pipeline for future needs.

- **Enhance Employability:** To provide job-centric, industry-fit courses that include practical, hands-on learning.
- **Access and Equity:** Reach a broad learner base, particularly in tier 2 and 3 towns and rural areas.
- **Industry-Academia Integration:** Build an ecosystem where industry leaders and academic institutions collaborate on course development and certification.
- **Upskilling & Reskilling:** Provide lifelong learning opportunities for both traditional students and working professionals.

Administrative & Funding Framework

- **Ministry:** It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India.
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** is the nodal agency for operating and managing the platform.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, as it is 100% funded and implemented directly by the Central Government through the Ministry of Education.
- **Status:** It functions as a **flagship digital education initiative** under the broader umbrella of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Digital India mission.



Key Features

- **Industry Partnerships:** Courses are developed in collaboration with giants like **L&T, Microsoft, CISCO, and TCS**.
- **Credit Recognition:** Courses are aligned with the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)**, allowing learners to earn credits towards their degree requirements.
- **Advanced Tech:** Includes an **AI-enabled chatbot** for course selection and multilingual support in up to **12 major Indian languages**.
- **Hybrid Models:** While 97% of courses are online, the platform also supports hybrid and offline learning modes.
- **Diverse Sectors:** Programs cover Manufacturing, Energy, BFSI, Healthcare, Management, and Indian Knowledge Systems.

2026 Update Summary

As of May 2026, SWAYAM Plus has significantly expanded its impact:

- **Course Catalog:** Now hosts over **510 online courses** across 15+ sectors.
- **User Base:** Reached over **5,50,000 registered learners**.
- **Strategic Growth:** Over **66 industry partners** and 55 signed MoUs to ensure courses stay aligned with market demands.
- **New Initiatives:** Launched specialized campaigns like '**AI for All**' and the '**B-SkillFull Campaign**' for commerce students.
- **Internships:** Successfully facilitated over **11,000 internships** through the portal.

12. Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (Launched October 2024):

The **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** to provide one crore internship opportunities to Indian youth over five years.

As of **2026**, the scheme has been updated with an **increased monthly stipend of ₹9,000** and expanded eligibility to include **final-year students**.

Core Details & 2026 Updates



- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Corporate Affairs](#) (MCA).
- **Implementing Agency:** MCA, managed by a dedicated **PMIS Cell** and officers from the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS).
- **Scheme Classification:**
 - **Central Sector Scheme:** 100% funded by the Central Government.
 - **Flagship Scheme:** It is a high-priority national initiative aimed at bridging the gap between education and employability.
- **Implementing Platform:** The Official PM Internship Portal.

Aims and Objectives

- **Bridge the Gap:** Align academic learning with practical industry requirements.
- **Employability:** Enhance the job-readiness of youth by providing 12 months (or revised 6-9 months) of real-world corporate exposure.
- **Hands-on Experience:** Ensure at least 50% of the duration is spent in an actual working environment.

Funding Mechanism

Funding is a public-private collaboration involving government grants and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** funds:

- **Government Contribution:** Directly transfers the majority of the monthly stipend (e.g., ₹8,100 of the ₹9,000 in 2026) via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- **Corporate Contribution:** Companies pay a portion of the stipend (e.g., ₹900) and cover training costs from their mandatory CSR funds.

Key Features (Updated for 2026)

- **Increased Financial Support:** Total monthly stipend of **₹9,000** (up from ₹5,000 in previous phases) and a **one-time grant of ₹6,000** upon joining.
- **Expanded Eligibility:** Open to youth aged **18–25 years** (previously 21–24). Candidates must have passed Class 10/12, hold an ITI/diploma, or be a graduate.
- **Final-Year Inclusion:** Students in their **final year of graduation or post-graduation** are now eligible to apply (with a No Objection Certificate).



- **Broad Sectoral Reach:** Opportunities across **20+ sectors** in the top 500 companies by CSR spend.
- **Insurance:** Automated coverage under **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** and **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana**.

13. NIPUN Bharat (Target 2026–27):

NIPUN Bharat (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) is a national mission launched on **July 5, 2021**, with the primary goal of ensuring every child in India attains **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** by the end of Grade 3.

As of **2026**, the mission is entering its final critical phase to meet the universal target deadline of **2026–27**.

Key Administrative Details

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)** at the national level, supported by a **five-tier implementation mechanism** (National, State, District, Block, and School).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, functioning under the aegis of the [Samagra Shiksha](#) programme.
- **Flagship/Umbrella Status:** It is a **flagship mission** under the umbrella of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).

Aims and Objectives

- **Universal FLN Achievement:** Ensure every child can read with comprehension and perform basic mathematical operations by Grade 3 by **2026–27**.
- **Reducing Dropouts:** Improve foundational learning levels to increase retention and transition rates from primary to higher grades.
- **Enabling Environment:** Use play-based and activity-oriented pedagogies to make learning joyful and engaging.
- **Inclusive Education:** Provide high-quality teaching materials in the **mother tongue/local language** to ensure equity for children from diverse backgrounds.

Funding Mechanism



- **Integrated Funding:** No separate budget is allocated specifically for NIPUN Bharat; it is funded through the [Samagra Shiksha](#) scheme.
- **Financial Norms:** Funds are provided for interventions like **Teaching Learning Material (TLM)** (up to ₹500/child), **Teacher Resource Material** (up to ₹150/teacher), and setting up **Project Monitoring Units (PMUs)**.
- **Initial Approval:** In 2021-22, approximately **₹2,688.18 crore** was approved under Samagra Shiksha for FLN interventions.

Features & 2026 Update

- **Lakshya Soochi (Targets):** Clearly defined proficiency targets (e.g., Grade 3 students should read at least **60 words per minute** correctly).
- **Capacity Building:** Large-scale teacher training under the **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement)** special FLN package.
- **Digital Monitoring (2026 Update):** Implementation is now tracked via a real-time **tech-based dashboard** hosted at www.nipunbharateducation.gov.in, replacing manual tracking with quarterly data points from States/UTs.
- **Foundational Learning Study (FLS):** Regular large-scale studies are being conducted by **NCERT** to assess national learning gaps and refine pedagogical strategies for the final push toward the 2027 deadline.

14. ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (2022–2027):

ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) - **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Education**. It is a **flagship initiative** designed to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on "Education for All" (formerly adult education) for the period **FY 2022-2027**.

Aims and Objectives

The primary vision is to make Bharat '**Jan Jan Saakshar**' (Literacy for every person).

- **Target Group:** Non-literate individuals aged **15 years and above**.
- **Foundational Skills:** Imparting Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).



- **Critical Life Skills:** Providing knowledge on financial literacy, digital literacy, legal literacy, healthcare, and family welfare.
- **Mainstreaming:** Integrating adults into society and the workforce through basic and vocational education.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** ₹1,037.90 crore for the period 2022–2027.
- **Cost Sharing:** As a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the cost is shared between the Centre and States.
 - **Central Share:** ₹700 crore.
 - **State Share:** ₹337.90 crore.

Implementing Agency

- **National Level:** Jointly coordinated by the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)** and the **National Centre for Literacy (NCL)** at NCERT.
- **State/Local Level:** Implemented by **State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs)**, District Literacy Mission Authorities, and local schools (the primary units).

Key Features

- **Volunteer-Based (Kartavya Bodh):** Driven entirely by volunteerism, involving students, housewives, and community members.
- **Hybrid Learning:** Content is delivered through both offline and online modes using the **ULLAS Mobile App** and the **DIKSHA Portal**.
- **Incentives for Students:** Student volunteers can earn **credits** in school or university for their participation.
- **Assessment:** Knowledge is verified via the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**, conducted twice a year (typically March and September).

Update as of 2026

- **National Literacy Milestones:** Several regions reached "Full Functional Literacy" (95% or higher) by 2025–2026, including **Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- **Participation Data:** As of early 2026, the programme has reached millions, with significant nationwide tests like the **FLNAT** conducted on **March 15, 2026**.



- **Digital Reach:** The [ULLAS app](#) now supports primers in over **26–27 regional languages**

15. National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS):

The **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2008 by the **Ministry of Education**. It is designed to provide financial support to talented students from economically weaker sections to ensure they continue their education beyond the elementary level.

Aims and Objectives

- **Prevent Dropouts:** The primary goal is to arrest the dropout rate of meritorious students after Class VIII.
- **Encourage Secondary Education:** It motivates students from low-income families to complete their secondary (Class IX-X) and higher secondary (Class XI-XII) education.
- **Economic Support:** Provides direct financial relief to gifted students whose families cannot afford continued schooling.

Update as of 2026

- **Continuation:** The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme's continuation through the **15th Finance Commission cycle**, covering the period from **FY 2021-22 up to FY 2025-26**, with a total financial outlay of **₹1,827 crore**.
- **New Application Cycle:** For the 2025-26 academic year, the **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)** opened for fresh and renewal applications in June 2025, with state-level examinations scheduled between **November 2025 and January 2026**. Results for the 2026 award cycle were released by various states (like Kerala, Karnataka, and UP) in early 2026.

Key Features & Funding

- **Scholarship Amount:** Selected students receive **₹12,000 per annum** (₹1,000 per month) from Class IX to XII.
- **Total Awards:** Every year, **1,00,000 fresh scholarships** are awarded across India based on state-wise quotas.
- **Parental Income Limit:** The annual family income from all sources must not exceed **₹3,50,000**.



- **Academic Eligibility:** Students must have at least **55% marks in Class VII** (50% for SC/ST) to appear for the selection test.
- **Exclusions:** Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVS), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVS), and private schools are **not eligible**.

Administration and Implementation

- **Ministry:** Department of School Education & Literacy, **Ministry of Education**.
- **Implementing Agency:** While the Central Government provides 100% of the funding, the **State/UT Education Departments (SCERTs)** are responsible for conducting the selection tests (MAT and SAT).
- **Funding Mechanism:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is **100% funded by the Central Government**. Funds are disbursed via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** through the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#) and PFMS.
- **Scheme Type:** It is often categorized as a **flagship scheme** for secondary education under the Ministry of Education's scholarship portfolio

16. PM-JANMAN (Tribal Initiative):

M-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) is a major mission launched on **November 15, 2023**, to uplift 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (**PVTGs**) who remain on the margins of development.

1. Aims & Objectives

- **Socio-Economic Upliftment:** Enhance the quality of life for PVTGs by bridging gaps in health, education, and livelihoods.
- **Saturation of Services:** Achieve **100% saturation** of basic facilities in PVTG habitations within a three-year timeframe (2023-24 to 2025-26).
- **Last-Mile Delivery:** Provide essential services—like permanent housing and clean water—directly to the most remote tribal households.

2. Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** ₹24,104 crore.
- **Share Split:** The cost is shared between the Centre and States:
 - **Central Share:** ₹15,336 crore.



- o **State Share:** ₹8,768 crore.

3. Key Features & Interventions

The mission focuses on **11 critical interventions** through a convergence of existing schemes:

myScheme +1

- **Infrastructure:** 8,000 km of all-weather roads and over 4.9 lakh pucca houses under [PMAY-G](#).
- **Utilities:** Piped water supply via [Jal Jeevan Mission](#) and solar power for off-grid households.
- **Connectivity:** Installation of mobile towers for 4G/5G in remote areas.
- **Social Services:** Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), school hostels, and Anganwadi centers.
- **Livelihood:** Setting up Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) for trading forest produce.

4. Administrative Details

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
- **Implementing Agencies:** It is a collaborative effort involving **9 line Ministries** and respective State Governments. Specific components are handled by specialized bodies like TRIFED for livelihoods and [NIESBUD/IIIE](#) for skilling.
- **Scheme Type:** It is an **umbrella scheme** comprising both **Central Sector** and **Centrally Sponsored** components.

5. Update as of 2026

As the mission enters its final scheduled year (2025-26), major milestones reported include:

- **Target Saturation:** Over 38,000 VDVK members have been trained, and 489 centers are operational as of February 2026.
- **Revised Health Targets:** The target for Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) was adjusted to **750 units** to better match regional needs.
- **Successor Mission:** The success of PM-JANMAN led to the launch of the [Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan](#) in late 2024, which builds on this model to cover a broader range of tribal villages with a larger budget of ₹79,156 crore



17. PARAKH:

PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is India's first **national assessment regulator**. Established in 2023, it serves as a constituent unit of the **NCERT** to standardise school board assessments and shift the focus from rote learning to competency-based evaluation.

Aims and Objectives

- **Uniform Standards:** Establish norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment across all recognised school boards in India.
- **Competency-Based Learning:** Encourage boards to adopt assessment patterns that meet 21st-century skill requirements and reduce the emphasis on rote memorisation.
- **Board Equivalence:** Bring central and state boards to a common platform to remove disparities in college admissions and ensure credit-point equivalence.
- **System Health Monitoring:** Conduct large-scale surveys like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys (SAS) to monitor learning outcomes.

Features

- **Three Pillars:** Focuses on large-scale assessments, school-based assessments, and examination reforms.
- **Holistic Progress Card (HPC):** Developed a 360-degree multidimensional progress card for foundational, preparatory, and middle stages.
- **International Participation:** Manages India's participation in international assessments like **PISA** (Programme for International Student Assessment).
- **Digital Integration:** Uses innovative OMR technology and portals for data-driven educational transformation.

Governance and Implementation

- **Ministry:** Functionally under the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India.
- **Implementing Agency:** The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.
- **Scheme Type:** It is an initiative under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. While it functions as a central unit within NCERT (supported by Central funding), its large-scale surveys (like NAS/Rashtriya Sarvekshan) are implemented in collaboration with States and UTs.



- **Classification:** It is considered a **flagship initiative** of the NEP 2020 rather than a standalone "umbrella scheme".

Status Update (as of May 2026)

- **PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024:** The massive baseline survey (formerly NAS) was conducted in December 2024, assessing ~2.3 million students across Grades 3, 6, and 9 in 23 languages.
- **Results & Reforms (2025-26):** Detailed reports at the national, state, and district levels were updated by July 2025, revealing significant learning deficits and driving targeted foundational learning reforms under **NIPUN Bharat**.
- **2026 Focus:** Current efforts include the **Foundational Learning Study (FLS) 2025-26** to apprise states of new assessment methodologies and the completion of **Holistic Progress Cards** for the secondary school stage.

18. BharatNet Broadband:

As of **May 2026**, BharatNet remains one of the world's largest rural broadband projects, transitioning into its most ambitious phase yet: the **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)**.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).
- **Scheme Type:** **Central Sector Scheme**, entirely funded by the Central Government.
- **Category:** It is a **flagship scheme** under the Digital India vision.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL):** The primary Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), now merged with/under BSNL.
 - **BSNL:** Designated as the single **Project Management Agency (PMA)** for operation and maintenance under the amended program.
 - **State-led Models:** Some states (e.g., Tamil Nadu via **TANFINET**) implement the project through their own SPVs.

Aims and Objectives



- **Connectivity:** Provide high-speed broadband to all ~2.64 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and nearly 6.5 lakh villages.
- **Service Delivery:** Enable e-governance, e-health, e-education, and e-banking in rural India.
- **Non-Discriminatory Access:** Provide open-access infrastructure to all service providers (ISPs, mobile operators).

Funding Mechanism

- **Source:** Primarily funded by **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**, which replaced the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in 2024.
- **Total Outlay:** The Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) alone has a massive approved budget of **₹1.39 lakh crore** (~\$17 billion).

Key Features (Updated 2026)

- **Network Upgrade:** Transitioning from linear to **Ring Topology** for 100% redundancy and minimal service disruption.
- **Technology Modernization:** Shifting to **MPLS technology** with routers at both Blocks and GPs.
- **BharatNet Udyami (BNU):** A new entrepreneurship model involving village-level entrepreneurs to manage last-mile fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) connections.
- **Performance:** Targeting 1.5 crore FTTH connections and minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps at each GP.

Latest Progress Update (As of early 2026)

- **Service Readiness:** Approximately **2.18 lakh Gram Panchayats** have been made service-ready.
- **Infrastructure:** Over **7 lakh km** of optical fiber cable (OFC) has been laid nationwide.
- **Utilization:** Roughly **14 lakh FTTH connections** have been commissioned out of a total target of 1.5 crore.
- **Phase III:** Currently ongoing, focusing on **5G integration** and "demand-based" connectivity for non-GP villages

19. STARS Project:

The **STARS Project** (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) is an initiative aimed at improving the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. As of **May 2026**, the project remains a key



component of India's education reform, though its initial primary five-year phase was originally scheduled to conclude in FY 2024-25.

Core Overview of STARS

- **Ministry:** Under the [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#) (formerly MHRD), specifically the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL).
- **Implementing Agency:**
 - **National Level:** DoSEL, MoE.
 - **State Level:** Integrated **State Implementation Societies (SIS)** for [Samagra Shiksha](#).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Umbrella/Flagship Status:** It is **carved out of Samagra Shiksha**, which is the overarching umbrella scheme for school education in India. STARS acts as a specific, results-based sub-component aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Aims and Objectives

The main goal is to boost education quality and governance in six states via **outcome-based funding** linked to Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs). Key targets include improved learning outcomes, strengthened teacher training, and better school-to-work transitions.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** Approximately ₹5,718 crore, funded via a \$500M World Bank loan combined with state contributions.
- **Model:** Operates on a "**Program for Results**" (PforR) basis, with funds released upon meeting verified performance benchmarks.

20. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA):

As of 2026, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** no longer exists as an independent entity; it was subsumed into the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** umbrella scheme in 2018. Samagra Shiksha has been approved to continue until **31 March 2026**.

Overview of RMSA (Merged into Samagra Shiksha)



- **Aims and Objectives:** Originally launched in 2009, its primary goal was to universalise access to and improve the quality of secondary education (Classes IX–X).
 - Targeted a **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** of 75% for classes IX–X.
 - Aimed to provide a secondary school within **5 km** and a higher secondary school within **7 km** of any habitation.
 - Focused on removing gender, socio-economic, and disability barriers.
- **Under which Ministry:** Managed by the **Ministry of Education** (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development) through the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- **Implementing Agency:** **State Implementation Societies (SIS)** established at the state level are the primary bodies for execution.
- **Funding Mechanism:** It operates on a **cost-sharing model** between the Central and State governments.
 - **General Category States:** 60:40 ratio.
 - **North-Eastern and Himalayan States:** 90:10 ratio.
 - **Union Territories (without Legislature):** 100% funded by the Centre.
- **Scheme Classification:**
 - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** It is a CSS, not a Central Sector Scheme, meaning the states share the financial burden and lead implementation.
 - **Flagship/Umbrella Status:** It was a **flagship program** until 2018. Post-2018, it became a component of the **Samagra Shiksha umbrella scheme**, which also integrated Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

Key Features

- **Infrastructure:** Construction of classrooms, science labs, libraries, and separate toilets for boys and girls.
- **Quality Improvement:** Appointment of additional teachers to maintain a **30:1** Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) and regular in-service teacher training.
- **Equity:** Special focus on SC/ST/OBC and minority-concentrated areas, and inclusive education for children with special needs (CWSN).
- **Vocationalization:** Integration of vocational subjects to improve student employability.



2026 Update

The Cabinet has extended the integrated **Samagra Shiksha scheme** until **March 31, 2026**. This current iteration emphasises **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** under the NIPUN Bharat program and the alignment of school structures with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

21. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV):

The **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV)** are residential schools established to provide quality education to girls from disadvantaged sections of society in **Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs)**.

As of **2026**, the scheme remains a critical pillar for achieving 100% girl-child enrolment, with recent updates focusing on full saturation of digital infrastructure and upgraded senior secondary levels.

Key Scheme Details (Updated 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education](#) (formerly HRD).
- **Implementing Agency:** [Samagra Shiksha](#) State Implementation Societies (SIS) at the state level. In some states, NGOs and Mahila Samakhya also manage operations.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Classification:** It is a **Flagship Program** of the Government of India. Following the 2018-19 integration, it is now a sub-component under the **Umbrella Scheme of Samagra Shiksha**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Bridging Gaps:** Reduce gender and social category gaps in literacy and enrolment.
- **Access & Quality:** Ensure access to residential schools for girls in remote, scattered habitations.
- **Targeted Support:** Specifically serve girls from **SC, ST, OBC, Minority** communities, and families **Below Poverty Line (BPL)**.
- **Smooth Transition:** Facilitate transition from elementary to secondary and senior secondary education (up to Class XII).

Features and Funding

- **Reservation Policy:** Minimum **75%** of seats are reserved for SC, ST, OBC, or Minority girls; the remaining **25%** are for BPL families.



- **Residential Facility:** Provides free boarding, lodging, uniforms, and study materials.
- **Coverage Levels:**
 - **Type-I:** Classes VI to VIII.
 - **Type-II:** Classes VI to X.
 - **Type-III:** Classes VI to XII.
 - **Type-IV:** Girls' Hostels for classes IX to XII.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Funds are shared between the Centre and States in a **60:40** ratio (90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan states). Central funds are released in a lump sum to the State Implementation Society.

2026 Updates and Status

- **Digital Saturation:** As of FY 2024-25 and moving into 2026, the government is working to saturate all functional KGBVs with **ICT Labs** and **Smart Classrooms**.
- **Upgradation:** Ongoing efforts have seen over **400 KGBVs** upgraded to Intermediate level (Class XII) by 2026 to prevent dropouts after Class VIII.
- **Warden Training:** For the first time, a dedicated training program and handbook for KGBV Wardens have been launched in collaboration with [NIEPA](#).
- **Enrollment Focus:** Government directives in early 2026 have prioritised achieving **100% enrollment** across all states, addressing previous gaps where enrollment hovered around 83%

22. Vocationalisation of School Education initiative

As of 2026, **Vocational Education** in India is primarily delivered through the **Vocationalisation of School Education** initiative, which is a key component of the **Samagra Shiksha**. This integrated scheme aligns with the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry-ready skills.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is to prepare an employable and competitive workforce for the global market by:

- **Integrating Skilling with Academics:** Mainstreaming vocational courses alongside general education from Class 9 to 12.



- **Enhancing Employability:** Providing competency-based training aligned with the [National Skill Qualification Framework \(NSQF\)](#).
- **Aptitude-Based Choice:** Generating awareness of career options to help students choose paths based on their interests and abilities.
- **Reducing Dropouts:** Providing "Second Chance Education" pathways for out-of-school youth.

Key Features

- **NSQF Compliance:** Offers 138 job roles across 20+ sectors.
- **Curriculum Structure:**
 - **Class 9 & 10:** Offered as an additional subject.
 - **Class 11 & 12:** Offered as a compulsory elective subject.
- **Hub and Spoke Model:** Centrally located schools (Hubs) share their vocational labs and infrastructure with nearby schools (Spokes) to maximize resource utility.
- **Hands-on Training:** Includes mandatory internships, field visits, and "bagless days" for practical exposure.
- **Employability Skills:** Mandatory modules covering communication, ICT, entrepreneurship, and green skills.

Administrative Structure (2026 Update)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education (specifically the Department of School Education and Literacy).
- **Implementing Agency:** State Implementation Societies (SIS) at the state level. Coordination is supported by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Scheme Status:** It is an Umbrella Scheme component (under Samagra Shiksha). Samagra Shiksha itself is often referred to as a Flagship Programme for universal school education.

Funding Mechanism

Funding is shared between the Centre and the States based on a pre-defined ratio:

- **General Category States:** 60 (Centre) : 40 (State).
- **North Eastern & Himalayan States:** 90 (Centre) : 10 (State).
- **UTs without Legislature:** 100% Central funding.



- **Total Outlay:** For the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, the approved financial outlay for Samagra Shiksha is ₹2,94,283.04 crore. The **Union Budget 2026-27** further increased the education allocation to ₹1.39 lakh crore.

2026 Status & Updates

- **PM-SETU Launch:** In late 2025, the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** was launched as a major ₹60,000 crore initiative to modernize vocational infrastructure.
- **India Skills Accelerator:** A 2026 partnership with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** aims to identify and scale innovative TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) solutions.
- **Expansion:** As of March 2026, over **29,000 schools** have been approved for integrating skilling with formal education, reaching over 31 lakh students.

23. ICT and Digital Initiatives

As of **2026**, "ICT and Digital Initiatives" primarily refers to a key component within the **Samagra Shiksha** scheme, which was extended through **March 31, 2026**. It operates as a vital part of India's broader [Digital India](#) mission.

Core Overview: ICT under Samagra Shiksha (2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** **State/UT Governments** in partnership with central bodies like [NCERT](#) and [NIELIT](#).
- **Scheme Type:** **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Classification:** It is a component of an **Umbrella Scheme** (Samagra Shiksha).

Aims and Objectives

- **Digital Integration:** To integrate technology into the teaching and learning process in all government and government-aided schools (Classes VI to XII).
- **Equity and Access:** To bridge the digital divide by providing quality digital education to children in rural and underserved areas.
- **Capacity Building:** To enhance the digital literacy of both students and teachers.
- **NEP 2020 Alignment:** Supporting the National Education Policy 2020 goals for online and digital learning.

Funding Mechanism



- **Sharing Pattern:** Costs are shared between the Centre and States in a **60:40** ratio for most states, **90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan States, and **100% Central funding** for UTs without legislatures.

- **Grant Structure (as of 2026 update):**

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24. Smart Classrooms:

As of 2026, the primary vehicle for implementing Smart Classrooms is the **ICT and Digital Initiatives** component of the [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan](#)—India's overarching umbrella scheme for school education.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** At the national level, the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**; at the state level, it is implemented through a [State Implementation Society \(SIS\)](#).
- **Scheme Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).** Funds are shared between the Centre and States rather than being 100% centrally funded.
- **Scheme Status:** It is an **Umbrella Scheme** (Samagra Shiksha) that subsumes erstwhile programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

2026 Aims and Objectives

The focus has shifted from mere hardware installation to **AI-integrated learning** and **competency-based outcomes**.

The Better India

- **Bridge the Digital Divide:** Provide equitable access to technology-enabled education for students in rural and underserved areas.
- **Enhance Learning Outcomes:** Use digital resources to make abstract concepts easier to understand and improve student retention.
- **Skill Development:** Prepare students for the [21st-century "orange economy"](#) (AVGC, gaming, and digital creation).

Funding Mechanism (Update 2026)

The funding follows a defined Centre-State sharing pattern:



- **General States/UTs with Legislature:** 60:40 (Centre:State).
- **Northeastern & Himalayan States/J&K:** 90:10.
- **UTs without Legislature:** 100% Central funding.
- **Grants:** Schools typically receive a **non-recurring grant of ₹2.40 lakh** (for two smart classrooms) and a **recurring grant of ₹38,000 per year** for five years to cover e-content and electricity.

Key Features (2026 Standards)

- **Hardware:** Interactive Digital Boards, specialized AI-enabled displays (replacing traditional projectors), and integrated audio systems.
- **AI Integration:** Implementation of [AI-assisted teaching aids](#) and automated progress monitoring.
- **Content:** Access to digital repositories like DIKSHA and e-content mapped to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Infrastructure:** Solar power hybrid systems are encouraged to ensure connectivity in areas with unreliable electricity.

Major 2026 Updates

- **PM SHRI Integration:** Over 14,500 schools are being saturated with smart classrooms under the [PM SHRI scheme](#) (ending in 2026-27), serving as mentors to nearby local schools.
- **Budget 2026 Push:** The Union Budget 2026 introduced **Content Creator Labs** in 15,000 schools to teach digital storytelling and media skills.
- **Saturating Rural Areas:** A target of [1.46 lakh smart classrooms](#) was approved for saturation across secondary schools

25. Teacher Tablets:

The **Teacher Tablets** initiative is a key component of India's digital education strategy, primarily functioning under the **ICT and Digital Initiatives** of the [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan \(SSA\)](#).

1. Core Details (as of 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Education \(MoE\)](#), Government of India.



- **Implementing Agency:** At the national level, the **Project Approval Board (PAB)**; at the state level, the **State Implementation Society (SIS)**.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Scheme Status:** It is part of the **Samagra Shiksha [umbrella scheme](#)**, which is the government's flagship programme for school education.

2. Aims and Objectives

- **Digital Empowerment:** Equipping teachers with modern tools to integrate digital content into classroom teaching.
- **Efficient Management:** Replacing physical registers with digital systems for attendance, Mid-Day Meal tracking, and academic planning.
- **Professional Development:** Enabling easy access to training modules (e.g., [DIKSHA app](#)) and curriculum-aligned resources.
- **Real-time Assessment:** Facilitating instant student evaluation and data collection for state-level monitoring.

3. Funding Mechanism

- **Cost-Sharing:** Funding is typically shared between the Centre and States in a **60:40** ratio (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States).
- **Recent Update (2025-26):** For the academic year 2025-26, the Ministry of Education increased financial assistance from ₹10,000 to **₹18,000 per tablet** to ensure higher quality devices and preloaded content.

4. Key Features

- **Preloaded Content:** Devices come with curriculum-aligned videos, worksheets, and quizzes based on [NCF 2022](#).
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** Includes [Personalized Adaptive Learning \(PAL\)](#) to help teachers manage diverse student needs.
- **Offline Functionality:** Resources are often accessible without constant internet, which is critical for rural areas.
- **Security & Monitoring:** Integrated **Mobile Device Management (MDM)** to monitor usage and secure data.



5. Update as of 2026

- **Phased Expansion:** Many states (e.g., [Uttar Pradesh](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), and Haryana) have transitioned into full-scale implementation, targeting primary and secondary teachers.
- **Alignment with NIPUN Bharat:** Tablets are now heavily focused on achieving **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** goals by 2026-27.
- **Enhanced Budget:** The revised ₹18,000 per unit cap

26. Operation Digital Board

Operation Digital Board (ODB) is a strategic initiative launched in **February 2019** to modernize Indian education by replacing traditional blackboards with interactive digital boards. As of **May 2026**, it continues to be a central pillar of India's digital education framework, integrated into the broader **Samagra Shiksha** and **PM eVidya** schemes.

Aims and Objectives

- **Quality Boost:** To leverage technology to improve the quality of education nationwide.
- **Interactive Learning:** To transition from "chalk-and-talk" to interactive, multimedia-based "flipped learning".
- **Equity:** To bridge the digital divide between rural and urban schools by providing uniform high-quality e-resources.
- **Future Readiness:** To prepare students for the 21st century by exposing them to technologies like AI, Machine Learning, and Data Analytics through personalized adaptive learning.

Funding Mechanism

- **Higher Education:** Funded as a **Central Scheme** through loans from the **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**.
- **School Education:** Funded via the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**, where costs are shared between the Central and State Governments (typically in a **60:40** or **75:25** ratio, depending on the state category).

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi +3

Key Features



- **Coverage:** Targets classes **IX (9th) onwards** in government and government-aided schools, and all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- **Target Scale:** Aims to digitize approximately **7 lakh classrooms** (5 lakh in schools and 2 lakh in HEIs).
- **E-Content:** Integration with platforms like **DIKSHA** and **e-Pathshala** to provide 24/7 access to high-quality educational content.
- **Technology:** Uses Smart Boards, interactive panels, and AI-powered tutoring systems.

Administrative Framework

- **Ministry:** **Ministry of Education** (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development).
- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - **Higher Education:** **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
 - **Schools:** Respective **State/UT Governments** under the Samagra Shiksha framework.

Scheme Classification

- **Scheme Type:** It is primarily a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for schools (as it is part of Samagra Shiksha) and a **Central Sector Scheme** (loan-based) for higher education.
- **Flagship/Umbrella Status:** It is a **flagship project** that now operates under the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** umbrella scheme.

Status Update (May 2026)

- **NEP 2020 Alignment:** ODB is now fully aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, emphasizing experiential and visual learning.
- **Integration with PM eVidya:** All digital efforts, including ODB, are now unified under the **PM eVidya** program to provide multi-mode access to education.
- **Progress:** By 2026, the government has significantly increased the density of smart classrooms, with a renewed focus on **Teacher Training** to ensure the hardware is effectively utilized.
- **AI Integration:** New updates include the use of AI/ML for **personalized career guidance** and "Smart Class" content usage monitoring to track learning outcomes



27. PM eVidya

PM eVidya is a comprehensive **umbrella initiative** that unifies all efforts related to digital, online, and on-air education in India. Launched in May 2020 as part of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan**, it aims to enable multi-mode access to education for nearly 25 crore school-going children.

Aims and Objectives

- **Continuity of Learning:** To protect the education sector from disruptions, such as those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Equity and Access:** To provide high-quality educational resources to students in remote and rural areas through non-internet modes like TV and radio.
- **Digital Integration:** To unify existing digital assets into a single framework, supporting the vision of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Governance and Implementation

- **Ministry:** Under the **Ministry of Education** (formerly MHRD).
- **Implementing Agencies:** The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** and the **Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)** are the primary bodies for content creation and implementation.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is fully funded and implemented by the Central Government.

Key Features and Components (Updated 2026)

- **DIKSHA (One Nation, One Digital Platform):** India's flagship portal for school education with over **2 crore registered users** as of March 2026.
- **PM eVidya TV Channels (One Class, One Channel):** Originally started with 12 channels, the program has expanded to **200 dedicated DTH channels** broadcasting curriculum-aligned content in multiple regional languages.
- **SWAYAM & SWAYAM Prabha:** A massive open online course (MOOC) platform with over **5.80 crore enrolments** by early 2026. SWAYAM Prabha currently operates **48 DTH channels** for higher education.



- **SATHEE Portal:** Launched in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, it provides free AI-driven coaching and test preparation for exams like JEE and NEET.
- **Inclusive Education:** Specialized e-content for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), including **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** videos and DAISY format materials.
- **On-Air Education:** Extensive use of radio, community radio, and podcasts (e.g., CBSE's **Shiksha Vani**) for students without digital access.

Funding Mechanism

As a Central Sector initiative, it is funded directly through the **Union Budget** under the Ministry of Education. Resources from other schemes like **Samagra Shiksha** and **Digital India** are also integrated to support its infrastructure.

28. DIKSHA Platform

DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national-level platform for school education launched in September 2017 to provide a comprehensive digital infrastructure for teachers, students, and parents.

Aims and Objectives

- **National Infrastructure:** To serve as the "One Nation, One Digital Platform" under the **PM e-Vidya** initiative.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** To support teacher training and professional development through specialized modules like **NISHTHA**.
- **Quality Content:** To host a vast repository of curriculum-linked e-content, including videos, interactive lessons, and practice questions.
- **Inclusivity:** To provide learning resources in multiple Indian languages and cater to **Children With Special Needs (CWSN)** with audiobooks and sign language videos.

Administrative & Funding Framework

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).



- **Scheme Categorisation:** It is a key component of the **PM e-Vidya** programme. It operates as a **central sector initiative** in terms of its digital infrastructure ownership and maintenance, though it is often funded and implemented through the broader **Samagra Shiksha** scheme, which is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- **Flagship/Umbrella:** It is considered a **flagship initiative** under the umbrella of **PM e-Vidya** and is a critical part of the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat** programme.

Key Features

- **Energized Textbooks:** QR codes in physical textbooks allow students to instantly access digital content on their devices.
- **Open Source Technology:** Built using the **Sunbird** open-source framework, allowing for scalability and adaptability across different states.
- **Federated Architecture:** Allows each State and UT to maintain its own dedicated "vertical" with customized content while sharing the national infrastructure.
- **Support for 36 Languages:** As of 2026, the platform supports a wide range of Indian languages to ensure regional accessibility.

Updates (as of May 2026)

- **User Base:** The platform has exceeded **2.00 crore registered users** as of March 2026.
- **AI Integration:** The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is currently integrating **Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL)**, a software approach designed to offer students individualized learning experiences based on their specific needs.
- **Digital Content:** The repository now hosts over **2.91 lakh pieces of e-content** and thousands of QR-coded textbooks.
- **Technical Support:** A dedicated [DIKSHA Support Portal](#) is active for resolving user technical issues.

29. Virtual Labs

The **Virtual Labs** project is a mission-mode initiative by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India, launched to provide remote access to laboratory experiments across science and engineering disciplines.

Overview & Status as of 2026



- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education (MoE).
- **Implementing Agency:** It is a **consortium-based activity** involving 12 participating institutes (including various IITs, IIIT Hyderabad, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, etc.), with **IIT Delhi** serving as the central coordinating institute.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the Central Government under the **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)**.
- **Classification:** It operates as an **umbrella scheme** component under NMEICT, which hosts various other digital initiatives like SWAYAM and NPTEL.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Directly funded by the Ministry of Education as part of the NMEICT budgetary allocation.

Aims and Objectives

1. **Remote Access:** Provide simulation-based labs via the internet to students who lack access to physical laboratory infrastructure.
2. **Resource Sharing:** Democratise access by sharing expensive, sophisticated instrumentation and equipment across institutions.
3. **Curiosity & Learning:** Arouse student curiosity and enable self-paced, interactive learning beyond traditional lab hours.
4. **Learning Management:** Build a complete ecosystem including theory, lab manuals, video lectures, and self-evaluation tools around the experiments.
5. **Teacher Training:** Support faculty through outreach programs and workshops to integrate virtual experiments into regular curriculum.

Key Features

- **Extensive Coverage:** Features over **175 virtual labs** with more than **1,600 web-enabled experiments**.
- **No Infrastructure Cost:** Users only need a computer and internet connection; no additional physical setup is required at the user's end.
- **High-Quality Simulations:** Uses sophisticated computer simulations and sometimes **remote-triggered equipment** to mimic real-world environments.



- **Accessible 24/7:** Experiments can be conducted anytime and anywhere, facilitating asynchronous learning.
- **Multidisciplinary:** Covers diverse fields such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Electronics, Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering.

2026 Updates

As of May 2026, the project has evolved beyond simple simulations:

- **Integration with Schools:** Budgetary updates (2026-27) highlight the expansion of laboratory facilities to secondary schools, including **AVGC Content Creator Labs** in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges.
- **AI Enhancement:** Newer platforms are incorporating AI for customized advisory support and improved decision-making in technical experiments.
- **Hybrid Models:** Virtual Labs are increasingly used as "complementary facilities" to augment physical labs, focusing on concept clarification before physical experimentation

30. National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

The **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)** is a central government initiative launched in 2008 to provide financial aid to meritorious students from economically weaker sections. For the 2026 academic cycle, the scheme continues to provide a total of **₹48,000** over four years to selected students.

Key Overview (Updated for 2026)

- **Ministry:** Department of School Education & Literacy, **Ministry of Education**.
- **Implementing Agency:** The scheme is implemented by the **Department of School Education & Literacy** at the central level, while state-level competitive exams are conducted by respective **State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)**.
- **Funding Mechanism:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded by the Government of India. Funds are disbursed via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** into students' bank accounts through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- **Classification:** It is a standalone **Central Sector Scheme** rather than an umbrella scheme, though it is often considered a "flagship" social welfare initiative for secondary education.

Aims and Objectives



- **Arrest Dropouts:** To prevent meritorious students from dropping out of school after Class VIII due to financial constraints.
- **Promote Education:** To encourage talented students to continue their secondary and higher secondary education (Classes IX to XII).

Core Features and Eligibility

- **Scholarship Amount:** ₹12,000 per annum (₹1,000 per month) awarded to one lakh (1,00,000) fresh students each year.
- **Target Group:** Regular students in **Government, Government-aided, and Local Body schools**.
 - *Note: Students of KVS, NVS, and private schools are ineligible.*
- **Income Limit:** Total annual parental income from all sources must not exceed ₹3,50,000.
- **Academic Criteria:**
 - Minimum **55% marks** in Class VII to appear for the selection test (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST).
 - Minimum **60% marks** in Class X for the scholarship to continue at the higher secondary stage.
- **Selection Process:** Candidates must pass two state-level tests: the **Mental Ability Test (MAT)** and the **Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** with a minimum 40% aggregate (32% for SC/ST).

Updates as of 2026

- **Continuation:** The Cabinet has approved the scheme's extension through the 15th Finance Commission cycle until **FY 2025-26**, with a total allocation of **₹1,827 crores**.
- **Mandatory Registration:** Selected students must complete **One-Time Registration (OTR)** on the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#) to receive funds.
- **NPCI Mapping:** For the 2026 cycle, students must ensure their Aadhaar is seeded and mapped with the **NPCI Aadhaar Mapper** to avoid DBT payment failures

31. SHREYAS (Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme):

SHREYAS (Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme) is a **Central Sector Umbrella Scheme** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)**. As of 2026, it continues to provide



financial support to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) for higher education in India and abroad,.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is the **educational empowerment** of students from marginalized communities,.

www.govtschemes.in

- **Quality Education:** To provide financial support for studies beyond the 12th class in top-tier institutions,.
- **Competitive Edge:** To provide high-quality coaching for competitive exams to help students secure government or private sector jobs and admissions to professional courses,.
- **Research and Overseas Study:** To facilitate advanced research (M.Phil/Ph.D.) and higher studies in recognized universities abroad,.

Funding Mechanism

SHREYAS is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded by the Government of India,.

- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Funds are disbursed directly to the student's bank account via the National Scholarship Portal (NSP),.
- **Budget Tracking:** The ministry uses the **Single Nodal Agency (SNA)** and **SNA-SPARSH** fund flow systems to ensure efficient utilization as of 2026,.

Implementing Agencies

Multiple agencies handle different sub-components of the umbrella scheme:

- **UGC (University Grants Commission):** Acts as the nodal agency for **National Fellowships** for SC and OBC students,.
- **DAF (Dr. Ambedkar Foundation):** Implements the **Free Coaching Scheme** through empanelled central universities and private coaching institutes,.
- **Nodal Banks (e.g., Canara Bank):** Manage the **Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans** for overseas studies,.
- **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC):** Also involved in implementing specific SC-focused fellowship components,.

Features and Sub-Schemes

The umbrella scheme consists of several key components:



- **Top Class Education for SCs:** Covers full tuition fees (capped at ₹2.00 lakh for private institutes) and academic/living allowances for students in 274 premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS,.
- **Free Coaching Scheme for SCs & OBCs:** Allots 3,500 slots annually for competitive exam preparation. Slots are distributed in a **70:30 ratio** for SCs and OBCs, with **30% reservation for females**,.
- **National Overseas Scholarship for SCs:** Provides full funding (tuition, living, airfare) for 125 students annually to study at top 500 QS-ranked universities abroad,.
- **National Fellowship for SC/OBC Students:** Provides monthly stipends (e.g., **₹37,000 for JRF** and **₹42,000 for SRF** as of latest 2026 updates) for research,.

2026 Status Update

- **Financial Achievements:** Between 2014 and 2024, the scheme incurred an expenditure of over **₹2,700 crore** for SC beneficiaries and over **₹580 crore** for OBC/EBC beneficiaries,.
- **Institution Expansion:** The list of top-class institutions has expanded to **274** premier national and private entities, including those with NAAC A++ and A+ accreditation,.
- **Application Deadlines:** Most sub-schemes follow the academic cycle with applications typically closing by November/December each year through the NSP Portal

32. Pre-Matric Scholarship Schemes:

As of **2026**, the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme in India operates primarily as a **Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme** aimed at reducing dropout rates and improving the educational participation of students from marginalized communities at the pre-matric level.

Key Details (Update 2026)

Feature	Details
Aims & Objectives	To support parents from marginalized backgrounds in educating their children, minimize dropouts during the transition from primary to secondary stages, and improve participation



at the pre-matric level.

Ministry **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** (for SC and OBC/EBC/DNT categories) and **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** (for ST students).

Implementing Agency Respective **State Governments** and **UT Administrations** are responsible for inviting applications, verifying eligibility, and awarding scholarships.

Funding Mechanism Fixed sharing ratio of **60:40** between the Centre and States. For North Eastern states and specific hilly states (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh), it is **90:10**. For UTs without legislatures, the Centre provides **100%** funding.

Scheme Category It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.

Umbrella Status It is an **Umbrella Scheme**; for example, the **PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award** **Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)** serves as an umbrella for OBC, EBC, and DNT students.

Scheme Components & Features

The scheme is broadly divided into components based on the target category:

- **For Scheduled Castes (SC) & Others:**
 - **Component 1:** For SC students in classes **9 and 10**.
 - **Component 2:** For children of parents engaged in "unclean and hazardous" occupations (e.g., manual scavengers, waste pickers) for classes **1 to 10**.



- **Financial Aid:** Day scholars receive ~₹3,500/year; hostellers receive ₹7,000–₹8,000/year depending on the component.
- **For OBC, EBC, and DNT (PM-YASASVI):**
 - Covers students in classes **9 and 10** studying in government schools.
 - Provides a consolidated academic allowance of ₹4,000 per annum.
- **For Scheduled Tribes (ST):**
 - Covers ST students in classes **9 and 10** with a parental income ceiling of ₹2.50 lakh per annum.
 - Benefits include monthly maintenance allowances (₹225 for day scholars, ₹525 for hostellers) and an ad-hoc grant of ₹750–₹1,000 per year.

Application Process (2026-27)

Applications are primarily processed through the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#). By 2026, the portal mandatorily requires **One Time Registration (OTR)** using Aadhaar or EID for tracking a student's entire academic career. Funds are disbursed directly to students' bank accounts via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

33. SHRESHTA

SHRESHTA (Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) is a **Central Sector Scheme** designed to provide high-quality residential education to meritorious students from **Scheduled Caste (SC)** communities. As of **2026**, it continues to operate under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Quality Education:** Provide meritorious SC students with access to the best private residential schools in India.
- **Gap Bridging:** Fill the educational service gap in SC-dominant areas where quality services are deficient.
- **Socio-Economic Upliftment:** Create an environment that fosters holistic development and academic excellence to break the cycle of poverty.

Key Features & Update (2026)

- **Target Group:** Only for **SC students** whose parental annual income is up to **₹2.5 lakh**.



- **Entry Points:** Admissions are granted in **Class 9 and Class 11**.
- **Seat Capacity:** Every year, approximately **3,000 seats** are provided.
- **Bridge Course:** Schools provide a bridge course (10% of annual fee covered by the Ministry) to help students adapt to the new school environment.
- **2026 Session Status:** The **SHRESHTA NETS 2026** exam was conducted on **December 21, 2025**, with results released in early 2026 for the upcoming academic session.

Funding and Agency

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** serves as the nodal agency. The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** is responsible for conducting the entrance exam.
- **Funding Mechanism:** It is **fully funded** by the Central Government. The Ministry directly pays for tuition, hostel, and mess fees, ranging from **₹1,00,000 to ₹1,35,000** per year per student depending on the class.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% centrally funded) and is considered a **flagship initiative** for SC educational empowerment.

Implementation Modes

1. **Mode 1 (SHRESHTA Schools):** Direct admission into reputed private residential schools via the **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)**.
2. **Mode 2 (NGO Operated):** Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations/NGOs running schools or hostels for SC students.

34. AVGC Content Creator Labs

The **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) Content Creator Labs** is a major initiative announced in the **Union Budget 2026-27** to strengthen India's "Orange Economy" (the creative economy).

Overview (As of May 2026)

- **Aims & Objectives:** To bridge the talent gap by preparing a future-ready workforce for the creative industry, which is projected to need **2 million professionals by 2030**. It aims to democratise access to high-end creative tools and encourage "Create in India" for the world.
- **Ministry:** Under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)**.



- **Implementing/Nodal Agency:** The **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai**, which functions from the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) campus.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded and implemented by the Central Government) as it is funded through the MIB's Demands for Grants.
- **Classification:** It serves as a **flagship initiative** within the government's broader strategy to position India as a global content creation hub.

Key Features

- **Scale:** Establishing labs in **15,000 secondary schools** and **500 colleges** nationwide.
- **Funding:** An initial allocation of **₹250 crore** was made in the 2026-27 budget specifically for talent development in the AVGC sector.
- **Infrastructure:** The labs function as advanced creative studios with industry-standard hardware (high-spec GPUs) and software for 3D animation, game design, and VFX.
- **Curriculum:** Aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, focusing on hands-on, project-based learning and digital skill certifications.
- **Inclusivity:** Designed to reach beyond metro cities to Tier-II and Tier-III regions to ensure equitable skill development.

Latest Updates (2026)

- **Implementation Status:** As of March–April 2026, stakeholder consultations for the technology stack and identification of beneficiary institutions are underway.
- **Training:** A "Train the Trainer" programme has already begun through IICT Mumbai to prepare educators for these labs.
- **WAVES 2025:** The initiative follows the successful World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) and the "Create in India Challenge," which highlighted the growth potential of the sector

35. PM-YASASVI



PM-YASASVI (PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India) is an **umbrella scheme** launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to provide financial assistance to students from marginalized communities.

As of **May 2026**, the scheme remains a core initiative for educational empowerment, specifically targeting students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/SNT).

myScheme

Core Identity and Structure

- **Type of Scheme:** It is an **Umbrella Scheme** that consolidates five pre-existing scholarship and hostel programs into a single framework.
- **Sector Status:** It is primarily a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**. However, specific sub-schemes, such as "Top Class Education in Schools/Colleges," operate as **Central Sector components**.
- **Funding Mechanism:**
 - **Umbrella Framework:** Generally funded on a **60:40** sharing basis between the Centre and States (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States).
 - **Central Sector Components:** The "Top Class Education" sub-schemes are **100% funded** by the Central Government.

Aims and Objectives

- **Primary Aim:** To provide premium education and financial support to meritorious students from underprivileged sections, ensuring that financial constraints do not lead to dropouts.
- **Objectives:**
 - Empower OBC, EBC, and DNT students through quality education from Class 9 to graduation.
 - Reduce educational inequities and foster socio-economic mobility.
 - Provide safe and supportive living environments via hostel facilities.

Key Features (Updated for 2026)

- **Sub-Schemes:** Includes Pre-Matric Scholarships, Post-Matric Scholarships, Top Class School Education, Top Class College Education, and Construction of Hostels.



- **Financial Benefits:**

- **Class 9 & 10:** Up to ₹75,000 per annum.
- **Class 11 & 12:** Up to ₹1,25,000 per annum.
- **College/Degree:** Full tuition fee reimbursement (up to ₹2 Lakhs for private institutions; ₹3.72 Lakhs for flying clubs) plus living expenses of ₹3,000/month and laptop support of ₹45,000.
- **Merit-Based Selection:** As of the 2025-26 cycle, the separate entrance test (YET) has been largely discontinued; selections are primarily based on **marks obtained in the previous academic year.**
- **Inclusivity:** 30% of scholarship slots are reserved for **girl students** and 5% for students with disabilities.

Administration and Implementation

- **Nodal Ministry:** [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.](#)
- **Implementing Agency:** The Ministry implements the scheme with assistance from **State Governments** and the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\).](#)
- **Application Portal:** All applications must be submitted online through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).
- **Benefit Disbursal:** Funds are credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).**

Eligibility Criteria (2026)

- **Category:** Must belong to OBC, EBC, or DNT/SNT.
- **Income:** Total annual family income must not exceed ₹2.5 Lakhs.
- **Attendance:** A minimum attendance record (usually 75%) in the previous year is often required

36. PM-USP (Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan)

The **Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana** is an **umbrella scheme** launched by the **Ministry of Education** to provide financial support to meritorious students from economically weaker sections. As of 2026, it continues to serve as the primary framework for central higher education scholarships and interest subsidies.

Core Identity and Classification

- **Ministry:** [Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.](#)



- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded and implemented by the Central Government.
- **Category:** It is an **umbrella scheme** that encompasses several sub-schemes:
 - **PM-USP CSSS:** Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students.
 - **PM-USP Special Scholarship Scheme:** For students of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - **PM-USP CSIS:** Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme for education loans.

Aims and Objectives

- **Financial Ease:** To provide financial assistance to meritorious students from poor families to cover day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies.
- **Merit-cum-Means Support:** To ensure that no student is denied higher education due to financial constraints.
- **Academic Excellence:** To reward students who fall within the **top 20th percentile** of their respective Class 12 board results.

Funding Mechanism

- **100% Central Funding:** As a Central Sector Scheme, the entire financial burden is borne by the Government of India.
- **Disbursement:** Funds are disbursed directly to students' **Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** using the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

Key Features (Updated for 2026)

- **Fresh Scholarship Quota:** Approximately **82,000 fresh scholarships** are awarded annually.
- **Scholarship Rates:**
 - **Undergraduate (UG):** ₹12,000 per annum for the first three years.
 - **Postgraduate (PG):** ₹20,000 per annum.
 - **Professional Courses:** ₹20,000 per annum for the 4th and 5th years.
- **Gender Parity:** **50% of scholarships** are earmarked specifically for girls.
- **Eligibility Threshold:** Gross parental/family income must not exceed **₹4.5 lakh per annum**.

Implementing Agency



- **Nodal Agency:** The **Department of Higher Education** manages the policy, while the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#) serves as the digital implementation platform for applications and verification.
- **Nodal Bank:** **Canara Bank** acts as the nodal bank for the interest subsidy (CSIS) component, facilitating the transfer of interest subvention to individual bank accounts

37. Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST/OBC

The **Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS)** for SC, ST, and OBC students is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** implemented by the Government of India to provide financial aid for studies beyond Class 10.

As of **2026**, the scholarship has been updated with enhanced digital integration and revised funding patterns to ensure timely Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Overview Table: Post-Matric Scholarship (2026)

Feature	SC Students	ST Students	OBC Students
Ministry	Social Justice & Empowerment	Tribal Affairs	Social Justice & Empowerment
Umbrella Scheme	Standalone Centrally Sponsored	Standalone Centrally Sponsored	PM-YASASVI
Funding Ratio (Centre:State)	60:40 (90:10 for NE/Hilly)	Shared (Demand-driven)	Shared (60:40 standard)
Annual Income Limit	₹2.50 Lakh	₹2.50 Lakh	₹2.50 Lakh (Revised)

1. Aims and Objectives



The primary goal is to **increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education for marginalized communities.

- **Financial Inclusion:** Support students from the poorest households to complete post-secondary education.
- **Drop-out Reduction:** Reduce economic barriers to prevent school/college dropouts.
- **Empowerment:** Bridge the educational gap across social groups.

2. Funding Mechanism & Implementation

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** Funds are shared between the Central Government and States/UTs.
- **Implementing Agency:** Respective **State Governments and UT Administrations** are the primary agencies responsible for invitation, verification, and disbursement.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** The Central share (60%) is released directly into the student's **Aadhaar-seeded bank account** after the State verifies the application and pays its share (40%).

3. Key Features (2026 Update)

- **Digital Hub:** Applications are managed through the [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#).
- **Freeship Card:** Issued by some states to allow admission without upfront payment of non-refundable fees.
- **Components Covered:**
 - Reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees.
 - Maintenance allowance for hostellers and day scholars.
 - Additional allowances for **Divyang (Disabled)** students (extra 10%).
- **Renewal:** Beneficiaries must renew their application annually to continue receiving benefits.

4. Status as of 2026

- **Deadlines:** Application windows for the 2025-26 academic year generally run from **October to January**, with some state-specific extensions.
- **Target:** The SC scholarship alone aims to reach approximately **4 crore beneficiaries** by the end of the 2025-26 cycle.
- **Inclusion:** The OBC scheme is now part of the **PM-YASASVI** umbrella, which also covers EBC (Economically Backward Classes) and DNT (De-Notified Tribes).