



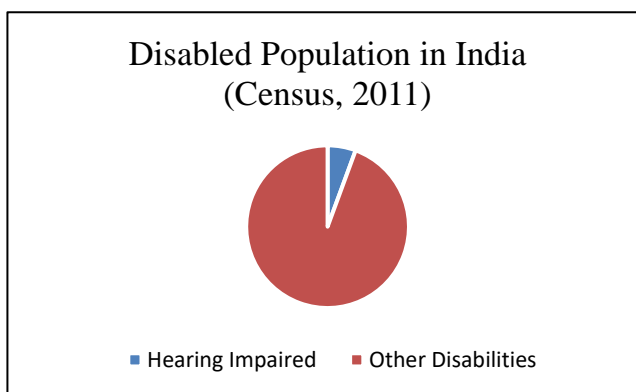
PM e-Vidya DTH Channel for Indian Sign Language

The government's effort towards a holistic learning experience for Hearing Impaired (HI) students

December 6, 2024

Introduction

According to the Census 2011, a total of 2.68 crore persons in India were reported as having disabilities out of which 19% have hearing disabilities. In 2023, WHO estimates that in India, approximately 63 million people suffer from significant auditory impairment.



To address the needs of citizens with hearing impairment, on 6 December 2024, the Government of India launched Channel 31 on DTH, dedicated to Indian Sign Language (ISL) training for hearing-impaired students, special educators, interpreters, and relevant organizations. The channel was inaugurated by Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Education, Shri Jayant Chaudhary. This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which calls for promoting and standardising ISL across India to create a more inclusive educational environment. NEP also emphasizes the respect and inclusion of local sign languages.

Incorporating Indian Sign Language (ISL) into Indian Education System

Indian Sign Language (ISL) is a well-structured language that serves as the primary means of communication for hearing-impaired individuals. In 2020, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) signed an MoU with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to translate textbooks for classes I–XII and other teaching materials into ISL. This process is expected to be completed by 2026. Along with on-air television training modules for students and educators, the government is working to

integrate ISL into the Indian education system, fostering greater inclusion.

PM e-Vidya: A Comprehensive Digital Education Initiative

PM e-Vidya was launched as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education on 17th May 2020. The initiative aims to provide multi-mode access to education through digital, online, and on-air platforms to minimise learning losses, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It supports the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, ensuring equitable and quality education across the country. The initiative leverages technology to make education accessible to all students, including those in rural and remote areas, by providing a wide range of digital resources, courses, and interactive content.




Key Components of PM e-Vidya:

Component	Details
DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for School Education)	A national digital platform providing high-quality e-content, including QR-coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform). It has recorded over 5.58 crore learning sessions, and 3.17 lakh pieces of e-content.
PM e-Vidya DTH TV Channels	Initially 12 DTH channels, now expanded to 200 channels, providing supplementary education in multiple Indian languages for classes 1-12 across States/UTs.
SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)	A national MOOC platform offering higher education courses with credit transfer provisions. It also offers school courses (9th–12th) via NIOS and NCERT. Currently, over 10,000 courses are available, with 4.1 lakh students enrolled for NCERT courses.
Radio, Community Radio & CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani	These platforms are used to broadcast educational content to a wider audience, especially in areas with limited internet access.
Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY)	E-content designed specifically for visually and hearing-impaired students, including audiobooks, sign language videos, and talking books, available on the NIOS website and YouTube.


Component	Details
Virtual Labs & Skilling e-labs	750 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics (Classes 6–12) and 75 Skilling e-labs for simulated learning environments, enhancing critical thinking and creativity. The Virtual Labs are accessible on the DIKSHA platform.
e-Content for Teachers	Various e-courses and digital resources for school and teacher education include interactive videos, audiobooks, and digital events like quizzes for teachers and students.

PM e-Vidya is aimed at bridging the digital divide and ensuring inclusive, quality education for all learners across the nation. Through its diverse components, it provides the necessary tools for both students and educators to adapt to a digital learning environment.



PM e-VIDYA


A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA is launched which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. This will benefit nearly 25 crore school going children across the country.



Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) portal and mobile app created by MHRD, Govt. of India is a store house of large number of eBooks and e-Contents created by States/UTs and National level organizations.


[Know more](#)



Swayam Portal

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality.


[Know more](#)



Swayam Prabha TV Channels

SWAYAM PRABHA DTH channels. These channels can be accessed through DD, Dish TV and Jio TV app. It is proposed to have 12 Dedicated TV channels one each from Class 1 to 12.


[Know more](#)



Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts

Radio will be used specially for those children in remote areas and who are not online (specially for classes 1 to 5). Activity based learning will be very effective for radio channels.


[Know more](#)



Special e-Content for CWSN

Content for Children with Special Needs especially for the Visually and Hearing impaired learners.

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Online Coaching for Competitive Exams

Department of Higher-education has made arrangements for online learning for competitive exams - IITPAL and E-Abhyas. IITPal or IIT Professor Assisted Learning is a series of lectures prepared by IIT Professors to help students prepare for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and NEET

[Know more](#)

PM e-Vidya Wins UNESCO Recognition

PM e-Vidya, an initiative by the Department of School Education, Ministry of Education, leveraging ICT, was

recognized by UNESCO in 2022 for its impactful use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), part of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), received the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education for 2021. This prestigious award acknowledges innovative technological approaches to expand educational opportunities for all, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 4 on Education.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the launch of the PM e-Vidya DTH Channel 31 dedicated to Indian Sign Language (ISL) marks a significant step towards an inclusive and accessible education system for hearing-impaired students in India. With its broad reach and integration into the PM e-Vidya framework, the ISL DTH channel has the potential to create a more equitable educational environment, where every learner, regardless of their hearing abilities, can access quality education. Ultimately, this initiative paves the way for a more inclusive future, where education transcends barriers and fosters opportunities for all.

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