



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Government of India

## Measuring the Pulse of Indian Education

### Union Budget 2025-26 Unveils Transformative Initiatives

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*“Education is not only the foundation upon which our civilization has been built, but it is also the architect of humanity's future.”*

*~Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi*

Education has always been a key priority for the government and with the vision to make India a global education hub, the Union Budget 2025-26 introduces innovative initiatives. Focused on expanding medical seats, enhancing skilling infrastructure and growing IITs, these measures aim to provide more opportunities and equip youth with essential skills for the future.



### Announcements for a Smarter, Inclusive India

- ❖ **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme:** To provide digital-form Indian language books for school and higher education. This aims to help students understand their subjects better.
- ❖ **National Centres of Excellence for Skilling:** Building on the July 2024 Budget, five National Centres of Excellence for skilling will be established with global partnerships to equip

youth with skills. These centres will focus on curriculum design, trainer training, skills certification, and regular reviews.

- ❖ **Expansion of Capacity in IITs:** Additional infrastructure will be created in the 5 IITs started after 2014 to facilitate education for 6,500 more students. Hostel and other infrastructure capacity at IIT, Patna will also be expanded. Total number of students in 23 IITs has increased 100 per cent from 65,000 to 1.35 lakh in the past 10 years.
- ❖ **Centre of Excellence in AI for Education:** A Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education will be set up with a total outlay of 500 crore.
- ❖ **Expansion of Medical Education:** The government had added almost 1.1 lakh UG and PG medical education seats in ten years, an increase of 130 per cent. In the next year, 10,000 additional seats will be added in medical colleges and hospitals, towards the goal of adding 75,000 seats in the next 5 years.

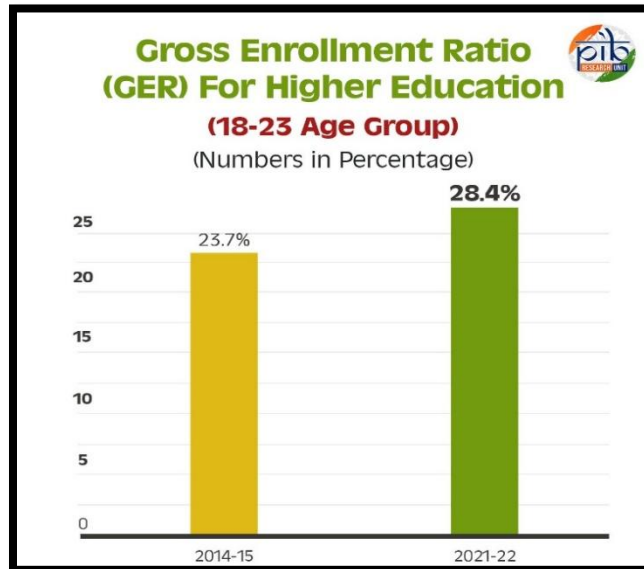
### Inside India's Education System

The Indian education system has undergone significant transformation over the years. **Serving 24.8 crore students across 14.72 lakh schools**, it is supported by a dedicated workforce of 98 lakh teachers, as reported by the UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus 2023-24). Government schools form the backbone of the system, comprising 69% of the total, enrolling 50% of students and employing 51% of teachers. On the other hand, private schools make up 22.5% of institutions, catering to 32.6% of students and employing 38% of teachers. This growing structure reflects the dynamic changes in the Indian education landscape, paving the way for continuous improvements in enrollment and access over the years.

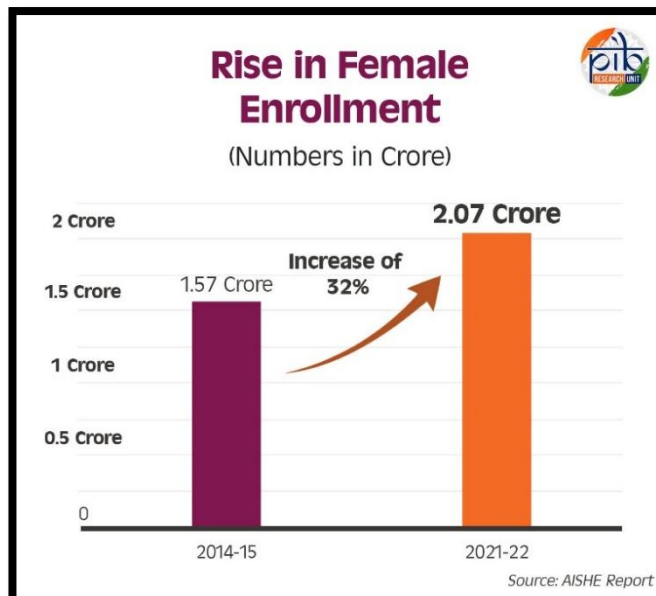
### Enrollment Trends in India

**The NEP 2020 aims for a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2030.** The GER is near universal at the primary (93 %) and the efforts are underway to bridge the gaps at the secondary (77.4 %) and higher secondary level (56.2 %), driving the nation closer to its vision of inclusive and equitable education for all. In the realm of higher education, India has seen a dramatic rise in student enrollment. The total number of students enrolled in higher education reached **4.33 crore**

in 2021-22, a 26.5% increase from 3.42 crore in 2014-15. The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for the 18-23 age group also rose from 23.7% to 28.4% in the same period.

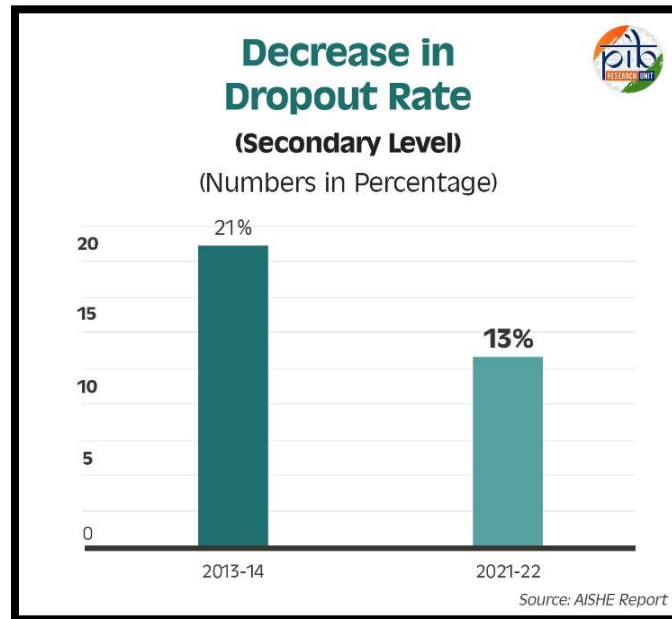


Women's participation in higher education has also witnessed significant growth, with female enrollment rising from 1.57 crore in 2014-15 to 2.07 crore in 2021-22, marking a 32% increase. This progress is especially evident in fields like Medical Science, Social Science, and Arts, where women are now leading the charge in enrollment.



## Decline in Dropout Rate

However, challenges still persist and the dropout rate remains a critical concern. While there has been a steady decline in dropout rates. School dropout rates have steadily declined in recent



years, standing at 1.9 per cent for primary, 5.2 per cent for upper primary and 14.1 per cent for secondary levels. According to AISHE report the dropout rate at the secondary level has also decreased significantly from **21% in 2013-14 to 13% in 2021-22**.

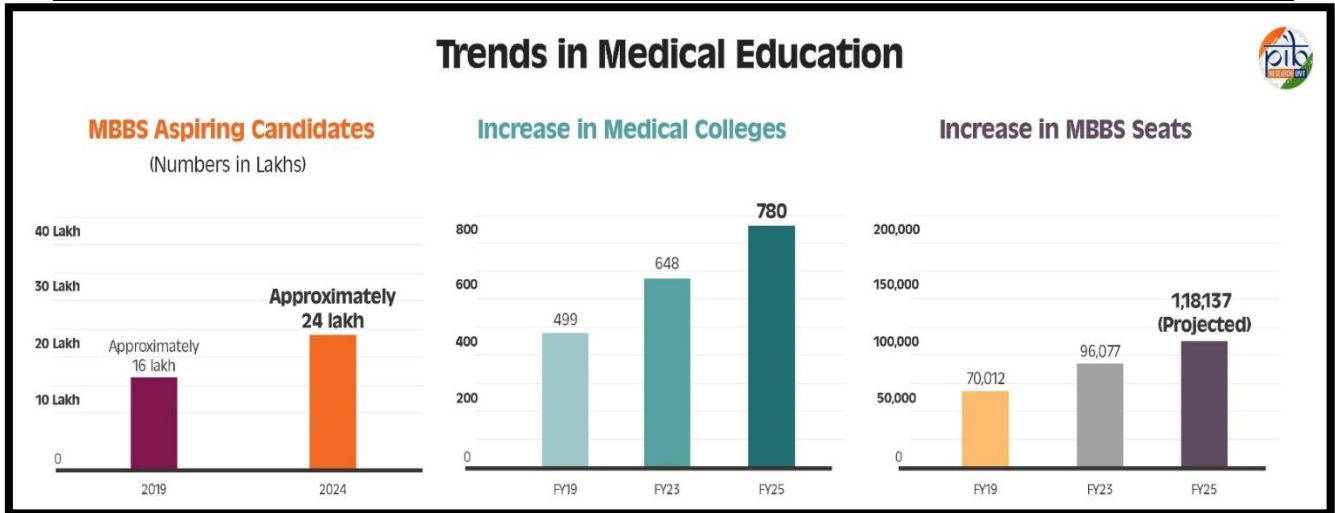
## Transforming India's Education Landscape


Over the years, India has seen a remarkable transformation in its higher education ecosystem. The number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has grown significantly, increasing by **13.8% from 51,534 in 2014-15 to 58,643 in 2022-23**. This expansion reflects the country's commitment to making higher education more accessible and diverse.


**+** **Growth in Medical Education and Workforce:** Medical Colleges grew from 499 in FY19 to 780 in FY25.


- **Candidates aspiring to study MBBS** increased from 16 lakh in 2019 to 24 lakh in 2024.
- **MBBS Seats** increased from 70,012 in FY19 to 1,18,137 in FY25.
- **Postgraduate Medical Seats** grew from 39,583 in FY19 to 73,157 in FY25.

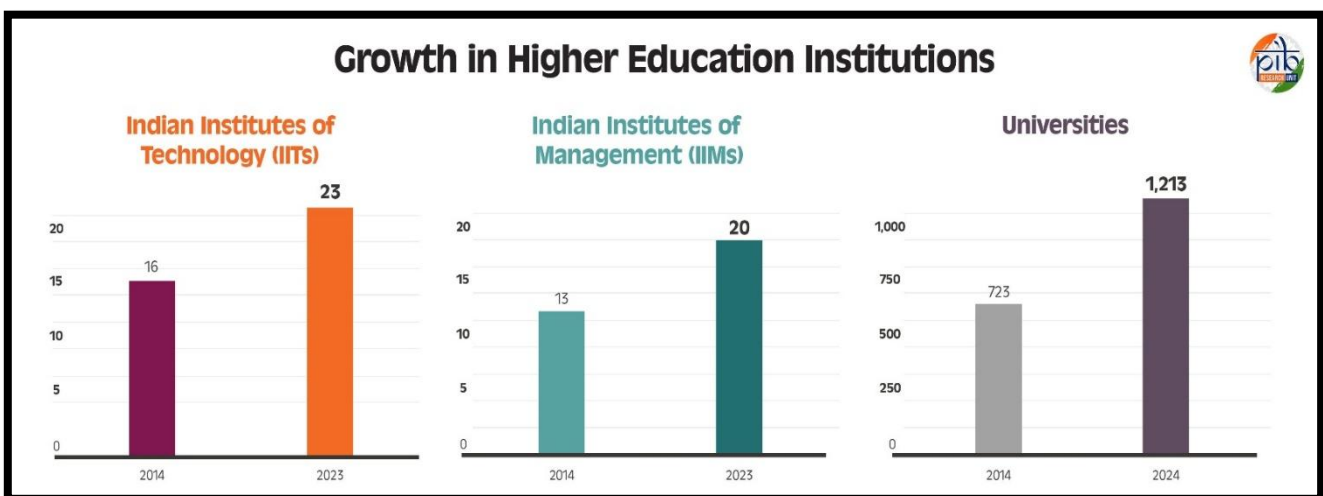
- Doctors Available:** 13.86 lakh registered practitioners as of July 2024, with a current ratio of 1:1263 per person. The WHO norm of 1:1000 could be met by 2030 with an annual increase of 50,000 doctors.




**Growth of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs):** The number of IITs increased from 16 in 2014 to 23 in 2023.


**Growth of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs):** The number of IIMs grew from 13 in 2014 to 20 in 2023.

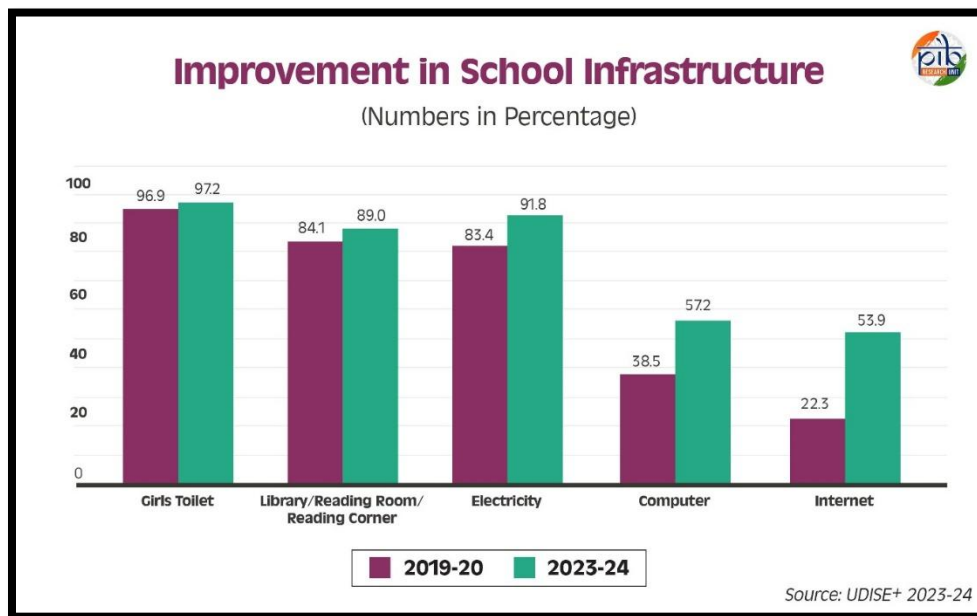

**Expansion of Universities:** The number of Universities grew from 723 in 2014 to 1,213 in 2024, marking a 59.6% increase.



**Increase in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):** Total HEIs increased by 13.8%, from 51,534 in 2014-15 to 58,643 in 2022-23.

### Progress in Basic Facilities

Education infrastructure has significantly improved, with a rise in the number of higher education institutions. Key areas like **medical check-ups, sanitation, and ICT availability** have also seen substantial upgrades, highlighting positive progress in school facilities to enhance the quality of education. **From 2019-20 to 2023-24, there have been notable improvements in school infrastructure.** The percentage of schools with **girls' toilets increased slightly from 96.9% to 97.2%**, while access to libraries/reading rooms rose from 84.1% to 89%. The availability of electricity improved from 83.4% to 91.8%, and computers in schools increased from 38.5% to 57.2%. Additionally, internet access grew significantly from 22.3% to 53.9%, marking a positive shift toward better-equipped schools.



### Conclusion

The education sector in India is being strengthened through various government initiatives aligned with NEP 2020. Programs like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) and PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) are driving improvements in infrastructure, teacher training and learning outcomes. The Economic Survey

highlights the progress and the government's commitment to making education more inclusive and accessible.

#### **References**

- [Union Budget 2025-26 Speech](#)
- [Economic Survey 2024-25](#)
- [ASER Report](#)
- [AISHE Report](#)
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2097864>

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