



Beyond the Numbers: Decoding India's School Education Progress

UDISE+ 2025–26 Report (NEP Structure)

17 August 2026

*The UDISE+ Report 2025–26 presents a comprehensive assessment of school education in India, covering **14.67 lakh schools**, **1.03 crore teachers**, and **24.72 crore students**. It highlights improvements in enrolment, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), teacher availability, pupil–teacher ratios, retention and transition rates, alongside reduced dropout rates. The report also records progress in digital and physical infrastructure, greater participation of women teachers, and continued advances in gender equity, social inclusion, and accessible education, reinforcing evidence-based planning under NEP 2020.*

Data-Driven Governance in Education: Insights from UDISE+

The **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** is a digital platform developed by the **Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L)** to collect and manage comprehensive school education data across India. Since its launch in 2018–19, UDISE+ has facilitated evidence-based planning, policymaking, and monitoring of educational progress. It also serves as a key data repository for tracking the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which seeks to ensure universal access, equity, quality learning, and improved student retention.

School Education Landscape

The UDISE+ 2025–26 report reflects a strengthening Indian school education system that comprises nearly **14.67 lakh schools**, **1.03 crore teachers**, and **over 24.72 crore enrolled students**. This sustained enrolment and improved teacher availability translates to an average of **seven teachers and 169 students per school**. Consequently, the system maintains a highly favourable overall **Pupil–Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 24:1**, sitting comfortably well within the NEP 2020-recommended **benchmark of 30:1**.

UDISE+ 2025-26: Key Highlights



Total Number
of Schools
14.67 lakh



Pupil Teacher
Ratio
24:1



Enrolments
24.72 crore



Average Teachers
per School
7



Teachers
1.03 crore



Average Enrolments
per School
169

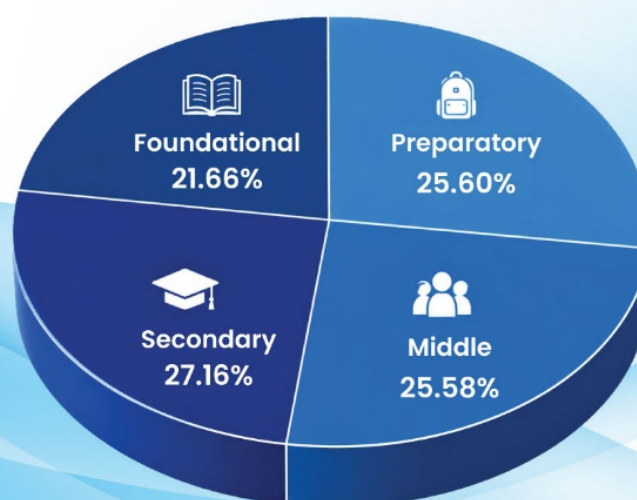


Source: UDISE+ 2025-26

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): Expanding Access to School Education

The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** at the **Secondary stage** improved to **71.7%**, while the Middle stage GER stood at a consistently high 89.6%. Enrolment remained well distributed across all stages of school education, with the **Secondary stage** accounting for **27.16%** of total enrolment, followed by the **Preparatory stage (25.60%)**, **Middle stage (25.58%)**, and **Foundational stage (21.66%)**. Together, this balanced distribution and

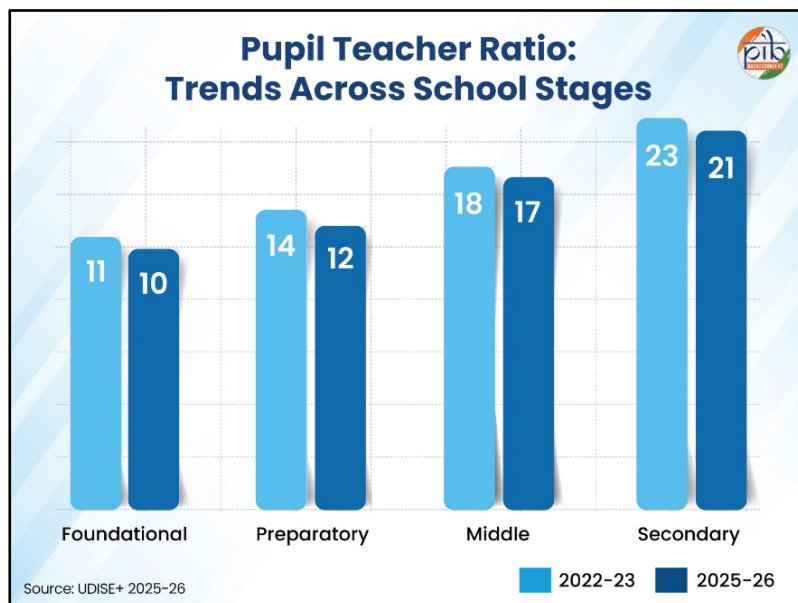
Percentage Share of School Enrolment at Each Level



Source: UDISE+ 2025-26

the rising secondary GER reflect India's continued progress in expanding educational access and sustaining student participation throughout the schooling continuum.

Favourable Pupil-Teacher Ratio: Improving Learning Outcomes



In 2025–26, the PTR across all stages of school education reflected continued improvements in teacher availability. The stage-wise PTR stood at **10:1** at the Foundational stage, **12:1** at the Preparatory stage, **17:1** at the Middle stage, and **21:1** at the Secondary stage.

These highly favourable ratios enable greater individual attention, foster effective classroom engagement, and

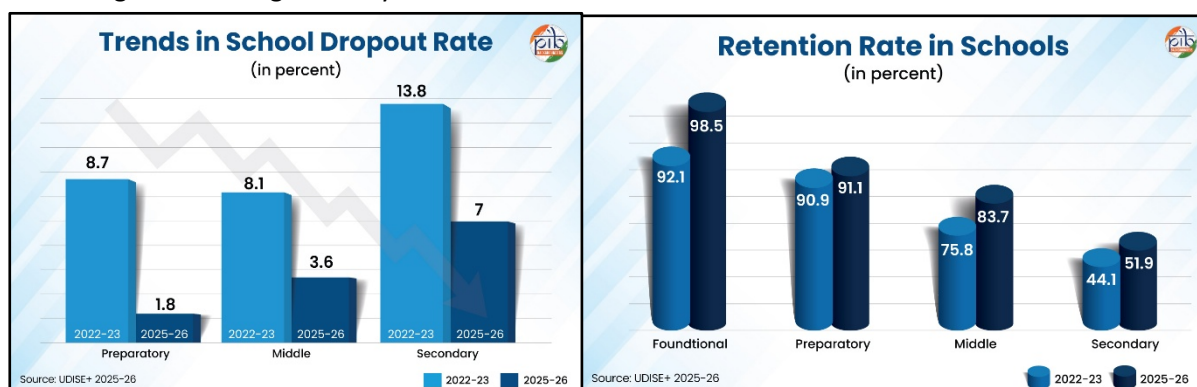
create an optimal environment for improved learning outcomes.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The **pupil–teacher ratio (PTR)** measures the number of students per teacher at a specific level of education. For example, a PTR of 10:1 means, on average, one teacher is available for 10 students at a particular stage. A **lower PTR** enables teachers to provide greater individual attention, develop stronger teacher–student interactions, and improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Improved Student Retention and Lower Dropout Rates

The UDISE+ 2025–26 report highlights sustained progress in keeping children within the Indian school system. The dropout rate notably declined to **1.8% at the Preparatory stage** and **7.0% at the Secondary stage**. While the Middle stage saw a marginal increase to 3.6%, dropout rates across all three stages remain significantly lower than in 2022–23.

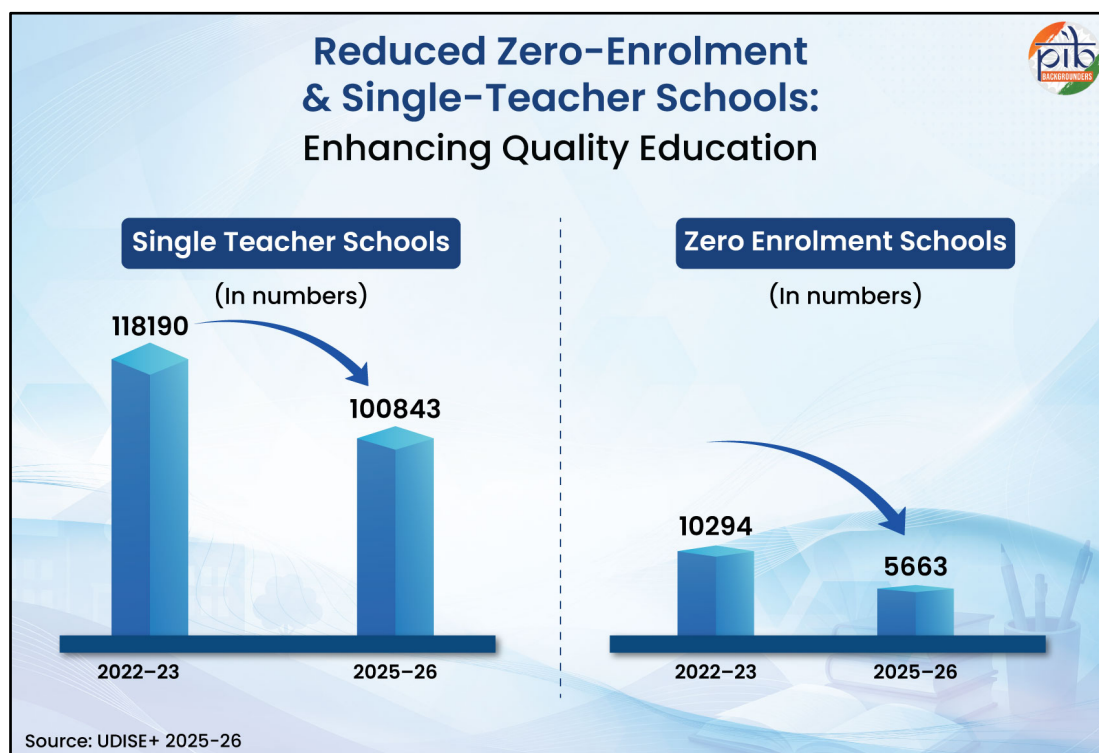


This positive trend is mirrored by strong student retention rates, which stood at **98.5% (Foundational)**, **91.1% (Preparatory)**, **83.7% (Middle)**, and **51.9% (Secondary)**. Furthermore, transition rates between successive stages remained robust—with **99.2%** of students progressing from the Foundational to the

Preparatory stage, **93.8%** moving to the Middle stage, and **88.3%** advancing to the Secondary stage. Together, these metrics underscore a clear and improving continuum of educational access and student progression.

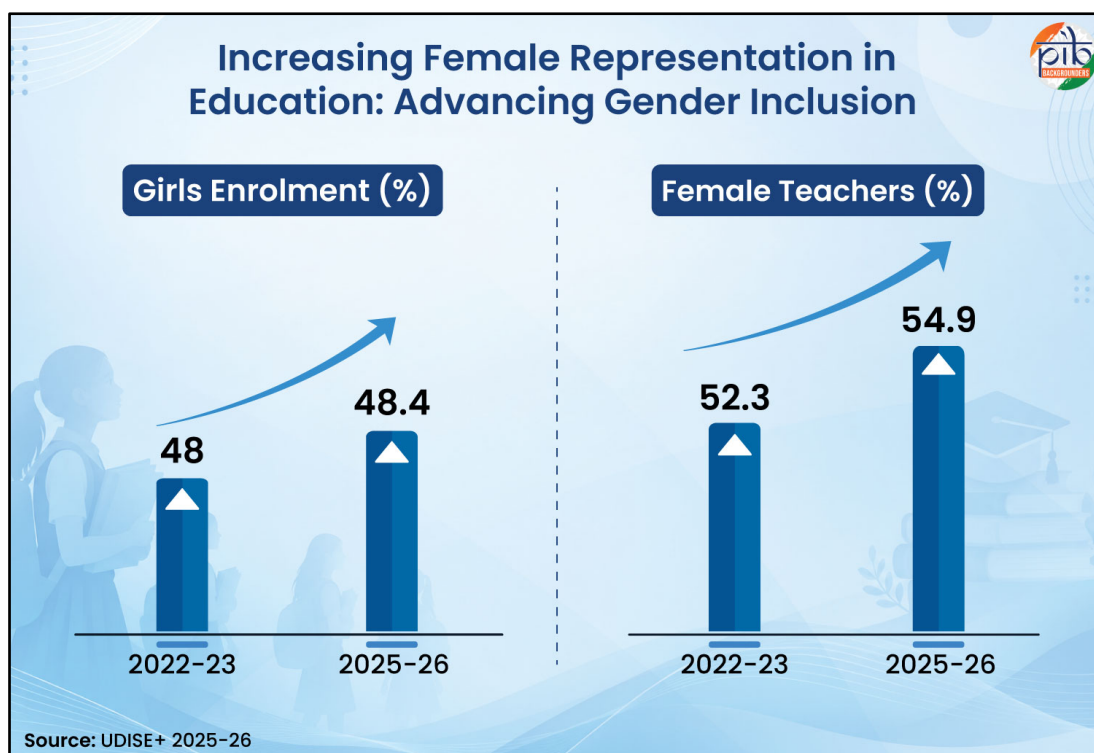
Decline in Single-Teacher and Zero-Enrolment Schools

In 2025–26, the number of schools operating with a single teacher decreased by approximately 3% to 1,00,843, while zero-enrolment schools saw a significant 29% decline compared to the previous year (2024-25), dropping to 5,663. These improvements reflect continued efforts to rationalise teacher allocation, optimise deployment, and ensure that educational resources are more effectively aligned with student needs across the country.



Gender and Social Inclusion

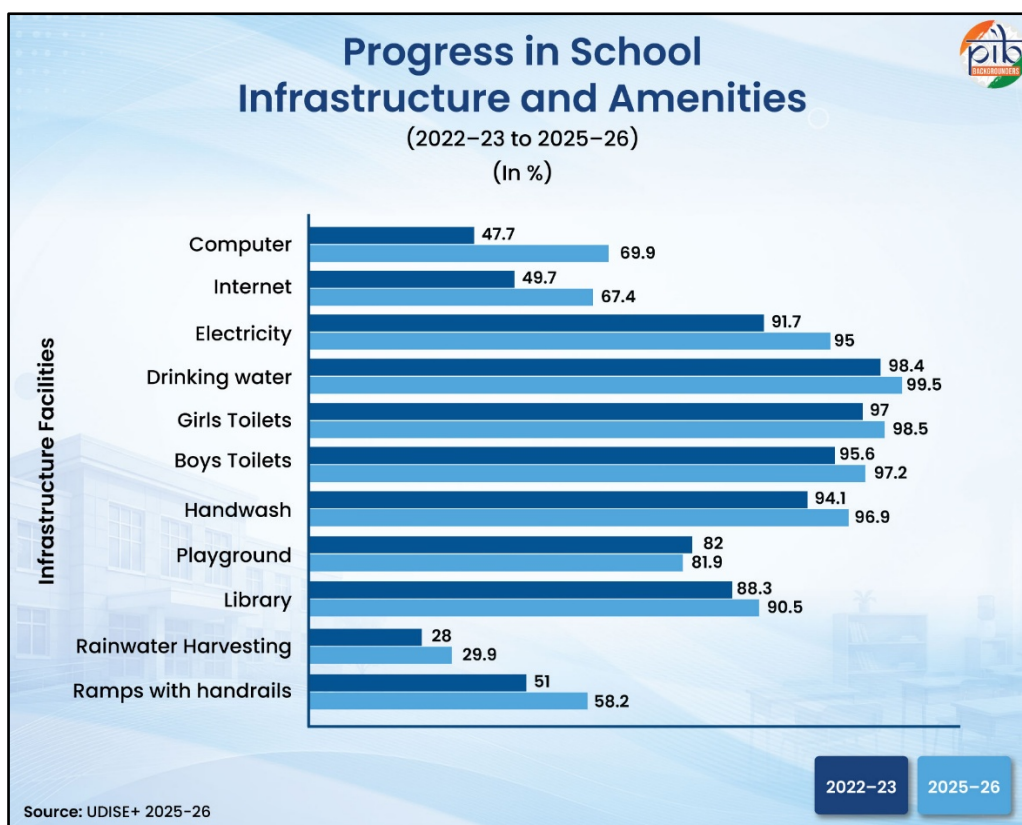
The UDISE+ 2025–26 report reflects continued progress towards a more inclusive school education system. Girls accounted for **48.4%** of total student enrolment, indicating a balanced gender distribution across schools. Women also continued to play a significant role in the teaching workforce, constituting **54.9%** of all teachers.



The social composition of school enrolment remained broad-based and representative. Students from **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** accounted for the largest share at **44.9%** of total enrolment, followed by the **General category (27.5%)**, **Scheduled Castes (17.7%)**, and **Scheduled Tribes (10%)**. Together, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students comprised **27.7%** of total enrolment, reflecting sustained efforts to promote equitable access to school education. This commitment to inclusivity also extends to **Children with Special Needs (CWSN)**, a demographic comprising **57.16% boys and 42.84% girls**. Collectively, this data highlights India's dedication to advancing inclusive education through accessible infrastructure, specialised support services, and equitable learning opportunities for all students.

Infrastructure Development

The **UDISE+ 2025-26** report highlights significant strides in modernising school infrastructure to create a more conducive environment for teaching and learning. On the digital front, the proportion of schools **equipped with computers** increased to **69.9%**, and **internet connectivity** rose to **67.4%**, expanding opportunities for technology-enabled education.



Basic infrastructure in schools also recorded steady gains with the availability of:

- Electricity in **95%** of schools
- Safe drinking water in **99.5%** of schools
- Girls' toilets in **98.5%** of schools
- Boys' toilets in **97.2%** of schools
- Handwashing facilities in **96.9%** of schools
- Libraries in **90.5%** of schools
- Rainwater harvesting in **29.9%** of schools
- Ramps with handrails in **58.2%** of schools.

Together, the expansion of these digital and physical facilities reflects a sustained commitment to improving accessibility, inclusivity, and the overall quality of India's educational landscape.

Decoding Progress: Key Takeaways from UDISE+ 2025–26

The **UDISE+2025–26 report** reflects continued progress in strengthening India's school education system through improved access, equity, quality, and infrastructure. The new report highlights key gains in teacher availability, favourable pupil–teacher ratios, student retention and transition, gender parity, social inclusion, digital readiness, and school infrastructure, underscoring sustained efforts to improve educational outcomes across the country.

As a comprehensive national database, UDISE+ continues to enable evidence-based planning, informed policymaking, and effective monitoring of the school education sector. Its findings reaffirm the steady progress towards the vision of the **NEP 2020** to create an equitable, inclusive, technology-enabled, and learner-centric education system.

References:

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