



## UNESCO recognizes ICT usage in Indian schools

**For Prelims:** UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize, PM eVIDYA, CIET, SDG, DIKSHA, ePathshala, NISHTHA, school MOOCs on SWAYAM

**For Mains:** National Education Policy, Education Related Policies of Government

### Why in News?

**Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)** wins **UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize** for the year 2021.

- CIET is a constituent unit of **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** under Department of School Education & Literacy.
- CIET has been awarded by **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** for use of ICT in Education under a comprehensive initiative called **PM eVIDYA**.

### What is PM eVIDYA?

- The **PM eVIDYA** has been initiated as part of [Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan](#) by the Ministry of Education on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
- It **unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education** to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimise learning losses.

### What is UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize?

- **About:**
  - It is **established in 2005** with the support of the **Kingdom of Bahrain**.
  - This award **"recognizes innovative approaches** in leveraging new technologies to **expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all**, in line with the 2030 Agenda for [Sustainable Development](#) and its **Goal 4 on Education**.
  - The Prize rewards individuals and organizations that are implementing outstanding projects and promoting the creative use of technologies to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance in the digital age.
- **Awards:**
  - An international jury selects two best projects annually.
  - Each prizewinner receives **USD 25,000, a medal and a diploma** during the ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

### What are the Efforts done by Ministry of Education through CIET, NCERT?

- Keeping in view the recommendations of [NEP-2020](#), Ministry of Education through CIET, NCERT

has been working tirelessly and meticulously in designing, developing and disseminating

- A large number of **eBooks, eContent** - audios, videos, interactives, augmented reality contents, Indian Sign Language (ISL) videos, audiobooks, talking books, etc.,
- A variety of **eCourses for school and teacher education**,
- Organizing digital events like online quizzes primarily for students and teachers through leveraging Online/Offline, On-Air technology One Class-One Channel, **DIKSHA**, [ePathshala](#), **NISHTHA**, **school MOOCs on SWAYAM**, etc.

▪ **Launch of PM eVidya:**

- To further the objectives of NEP & **Samagra Shiksha** and address the aforementioned pillars, PM eVidya was launched in May 2020.

▪ **Learning to Doorsteps:**

- The CIET was proactive in taking learning to the doorsteps of the children through the **extensive, resilient, ethical, and coherent use of 12 PM eVidya DTH TV channels** and **nearly 397 radio stations**, including community radio stations under PM eVidya program.
- These efforts were especially helpful in pandemic situations, when schools were closed, in reaching out to students.
- These efforts helped in arresting the learning hiatus to a large extent.

## What are the other Initiatives related to Education?

- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#)
- [Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan \(RUSA\)](#)
- [Prime Minister's Research Fellowship \(PMRF\)](#)
- [Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration \(SPARC\)](#)
- [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#)
- [NEAT](#)
- [PRAGYATA](#)
- [Mid Day Meal Scheme](#)
- [Right To Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#)
- [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

### Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- The academic authority notified by the Central Government, under **the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act 2009**, has laid down **the minimum educational and professional qualifications for a person to be eligible for an appointment as a teacher for classes I-VIII**, which are applicable to all schools imparting elementary education,

including the schools **under the State Governments. They have to clear a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) in order to be eligible for being appointed as a teacher.** Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Teacher **Eligibility Test (TET) is conducted by** the appropriate Government in accordance with the guidelines **framed by the National Council of Teacher Education.** Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The 2012 Verma Commission on Teacher education in its report pointed out that **90% of teacher education bodies were private.** Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

**Source: PIB**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/unesco-recognizes-ict-usage-in-indian-schools>

