UDISE+ Report, 2025-26

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The Union Education Ministry released the comprehensive report on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for the academic year 2025-26.

- **Purpose** – It is the Ministry of Education's official database that tracks school infrastructure, enrolment, and teacher-related data across the country.
- **Voluntary Updating** – The report is based on data voluntarily uploaded by schools with active UDISE+ codes for the 2025-26 academic year, with March 31, 2026, as the reference date.

Key Findings

- **Gross Enrolment Level Ratio (GER)** – At the secondary level surged to 71.7% from last year's 68.5%.
- **Zero-Enrolment** – 5,663 institutions with zero student enrolment.
- The highest is West Bengal (4,133) & others include Chandigarh, Goa, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Haryana.
- **Girls' Enrolment** – Increased to 48.4% in 2025-26 from 48.3% a year earlier.
- **Infrastructure** – There is a notable improvement across several indicators.
    - **Ramps & handrails** for disability students – Rose to 58.2%, up from 54.9% in 2024-25.
    - **Internet Connectivity** – Saw a sharp rise from 63.5% to 67.4%.
    - **Other basic facilities** – Electricity (95%), toilets for girls and boys 98.5% & 97.2%, respectively, and access to safe drinking water (99.5%).
- **Fall in School Dropout** – India's school dropout rates declined at both the preparatory and secondary levels in 2025–26, continuing the downward trend of the past three years.
- Students in Classes 3 to 5 fell to 1.8%, down from 2.3% & Classes 9 and 10 dropped from 8.2% to 7% in 2024-25.
- **Teacher Workforce** – For the first time, India's teacher workforce crossed 1.02 crore in an academic year, rising steadily since 2022–23 with an overall 8.3% increase over three years.
- **Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTR)** – Across the foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary stages stood at 10, 12, 17 and 21 respectively-well within the *30:1 benchmark set by NEP 2020* for effective classroom interaction.
- Chandigarh and Delhi had the highest number of students per school with PTR figures

within the norms set by the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
- In contrast, Ladakh, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Meghalaya had notably low student numbers per school.
- **Single Teacher School** – 1,00,843 schools across the country were found to be functioning with only a single teacher.
- Andhra Pradesh (16,357), followed by Jharkhand (9,827), Punjab (1,749).

References

1. The Hindu | 55% teachers are women, girl student enrolment up: govt.
2. Indian Express | UDISE+ Report, 2025-26
3. NDTV | UDISE+ Report, 2025-26

