

Transforming Education through Smart Classrooms in SC-Dominated Villages: A Digital Learning Initiative in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir

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Under the **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)**, District Kathua has taken significant strides towards bridging the digital divide in rural and border areas by establishing Smart Classrooms in Government Schools located in SC-dominated villages.

During the year 2022-23, a total of 07 Smart Classrooms were established under the PM-AJAY component in different Government Schools of SC-dominated villages. Notably, these included Chack Chabba and Chack Nathal, villages located near the International Border, and Village Sandhi, situated in the remotest sub-division of Bani. Each Smart Classroom included installation of Interactive Touch Panels, procurement of student furniture, and execution of essential civil works such as child-friendly wall paintings and electrification.



Building upon this success, 04 additional Smart Classrooms were established during 2023-24 under the same component. Further, in 2025-26, 03 more Smart Classrooms were added, thereby expanding the outreach of digital education in the district.

The establishment of Smart Classrooms has significantly enhanced the overall learning experience of students in rural and far-flung areas. Access to modern teaching tools, audio-visual content, and interactive learning—once limited to expensive private schools—has now reached Government Schools in remote

villages with limited exposure to the outside world. For many students, modern digital education, once a distant dream, has become a reality, leading to improved classroom engagement, conceptual clarity, and academic outcomes.

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