

High-speed internet, open online courses on govt's plan

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JAIPUR : The state higher education department has outlined an information and communication technology (ICT) strategy to achieve reforms goals for its Vision 2020.

The vision plan, with objective of making the state's colleges future-ready, has been approved by the government, a plan document released by the government, said.

Under the ICT strategy, the department has outlined projects to introduce e-governance in colleges, high-speed internet connectivity of 4mbps and a large number of open online courses among others and aims to implement them before the end of the academic year.

Creating of a single database of students and faculties, single gateway for issuing of documents and certificates, and *availability of digital contents* and curriculum are some the

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projects included under the plan.

The students and faculty will have access of 4mbps internet lease line in government colleges. "This will enhance the e-learning habits in the students and option to opt for massive open online courses (MOOC) will be given to students," the plan document said.

The MOOCs are online courses open aimed at large participation. This apart, smart classrooms and ICT labs will be developed in colleges under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

Besides, digital classrooms will be developed in 44 government girls' colleges with the help of corporate social responsibility

projects.

Government colleges will also be registered with the National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content and will have access to more than 97,000 e-books and 8,000 e-journals.

Besides, the plan document states that smart science labs will be set up at seven selected government colleges at divisional headquarters.

The colleges shall serve as centres of educational excellence, models for further replication and nodal centres for other government colleges in the division for sharing and disseminating knowledge.

The state government has sanctioned ₹2.5 crore in the 2017-17 budget for implementing the vision plan.

Organising of big data challenge and hackathon, promoting innovations and entrepreneurship, and introducing data and image analytics are some of the other projects planned.