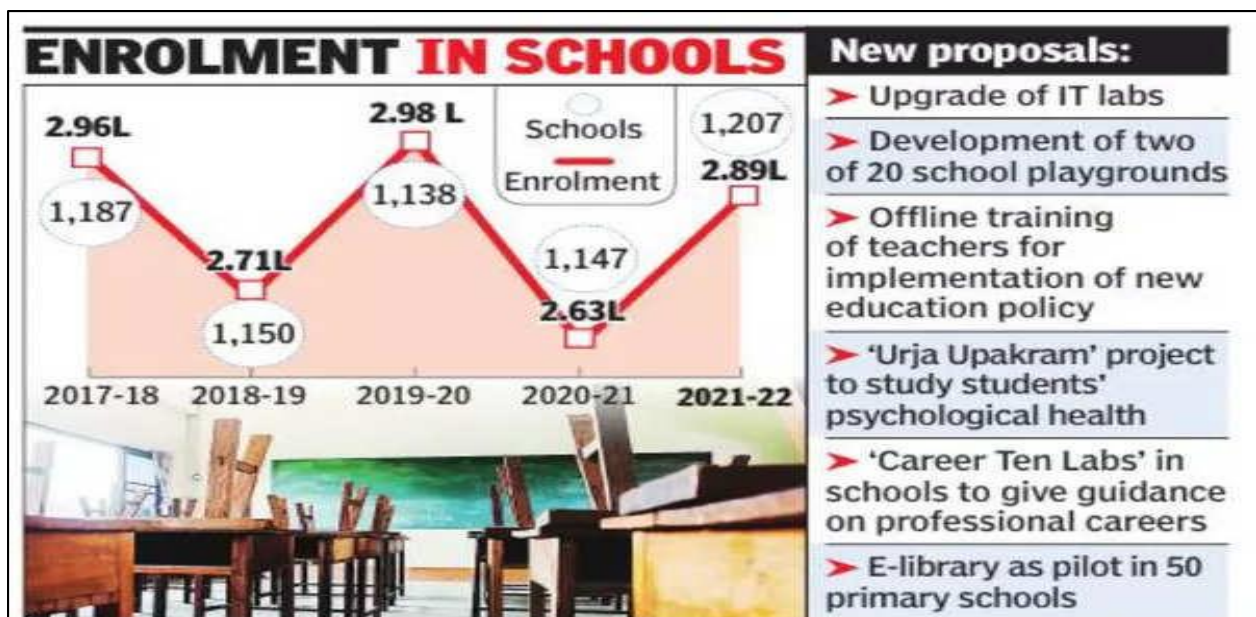


Chunk of education outlay for introducing IB, IGCSE curricula, skill development labs in Mumbai



MUMBAI: As civic schools this year saw an over 26,000 rise in student enrolment, the BMC's education Budget estimate for the financial year 2022-23 increased by 14% to Rs 3,370 crore from last year's Rs 2,946 crore.

For the coming financial year, under new initiatives, the largest proportion of funds of Rs 15 crore has been allocated to introduction of the IB and IGCSE curricula, followed by skill development laboratories (Rs 1 crore), in which 50% students will get training by 2025.



A capital expenditure budget of Rs 419 crore has been estimated for civic school repairs. BMC has 467 school buildings. Major repairs are underway in 68 and 27 works will be completed by March and the rest in 2022-23, said the Budget statement.

Another first is the setting up of 25 astronomy laboratories, for which Rs 75 lakh has been earmarked. A Rs 50 lakh budget has been created for 'Talking Walls', for children to pick up good values through paintings.

Preservation of school leaving and age certificate registration books in the digital format will be taken up for Rs 40 lakh.

With a focus on the younger generation in a year that will see civic polls, 24 secondary schools were extended to Class X in 2021-22 to encourage higher education. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been earmarked for uniforms and stationery, Rs 7 crore for tablets for Class X and Rs 28 lakh for financial assistance (Rs 25,000 each) to 25 merit rankers of civic SSC students.

Digitisation will continue. Free bus service for municipal students to travel to schools will continue with a Rs 4 crore provision. Attendance allowance for girls (Rs 7 crore) and disabled children (Rs 2 crore) in civic schools will continue. In 2021-22, 15,352 girls of Class 8 received Rs 5,000 each fixed deposits, the Budget statement said.

Milind Mhaske of NGO Praja Foundation said, "In terms of outcome, our study shows the BMC's outcomes are better than those of the Delhi government." Uma Kogekar, CEO of Centre for Equity and Quality In Universal Education that works with BMC schools, said the launch of 40 education YouTube channels is laudable.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/chunk-of-edu-outlay-for-introducing-ib-igcse-curricula-skill-devpt-labs/articleshow/89334640.cms>