

Vishakhapatnam leading way to 'Future classrooms'

These hi-tech classrooms are turning traditional classrooms into a state-of-the-art learning destination

As part of the smart city vision, Vishakhapatnam has taken a lead in rolling out 'Future classrooms', developed by Google in collaboration with the district administration, with 31 public schools actively using ICT (Information Communication Technology) pedagogy to transform education.

"Future classroom is a solution that has introduced G Suite for education. This is a set of applications, including Gmail, docs, drive, calendar, hangouts, classroom and more that helps in collaborative and interactive learning," says Bani Dhawan, head of education, Google India. The pilot project of 'Future classrooms' was started in four states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. "The project based on student centred learning had positive outcomes in short span of time," says Bani.

School labs are connected to Google Future classrooms and students access the G



School labs are connected to Google Future classrooms and students access the G Suite through their chrome books

Suite through their chrome books, to learn English, Hindi, Science, Maths, History through an internet enabled environment. The students can work on their school projects, and group assignments in real time. The educational content, which has been created by teachers and local school partners, has then been mapped to the system. "We have trained around 500 teachers to use this technology. In Vishakhapatnam, the Google programme managers are stationed in the schools to assist the teachers," said Bani. The perception is that government school teachers are not receptive to advanced digital teaching methods. "But the teachers we trained picked up the technology effortlessly and are now spending more time teaching and less time in checking notebooks."