

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2927
ANSWERED ON- 26/03/2025

New Universities

2927 Shri Harbhajan Singh:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that 2,500 new Universities are needed to boost country's student enrolment to 50 percent;
- (b) if so, whether any step has been taken in this regard;
- (c) the details thereof; and
- (d) the details regarding recent steps to boost digital infrastructure in higher educational institutions in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy, 2020 lays greater emphasis on progressively increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50% by 2035 and calls for strategic measures in this regard. Accordingly, the Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include Opening of more HEIs; introduction and implementation of various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students; HEIs offering full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes; Multiple entry and exit options in the Higher Education system; two Academic Programmes simultaneously; anytime, anywhere learning opportunities through SWAYAM platform etc.

(d): The following initiatives have been taken to increase GER, to improve access to higher education, and to boost digital infrastructure in higher educational institutions in the country.

(i) SWAYAM: is an indigenous platform of the Government of India launched in 2017 to provide the best teaching and learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. The platform hosts MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) courses to enable students, lifelong learners, teachers, and researchers to virtually attend the courses taught by the faculty; access high-quality

reading resources, participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn certificates/credits.

(ii) UGC has notified (the Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 on 25th March 2021. These regulations facilitate an institution to allow up to 40% (forty percent) of the total courses being offered in a particular programme in a semester through the online learning courses offered through the SWAYAM Platform.

(iii) SWAYAM Plus has been launched on 27th Feb 2024, in collaboration with industry partners. This portal is base of Digital University which aims to enhance skill and up skilling, reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sector. 320 courses have been developed and offered on emerging areas such as AI, Data Analyst etc. Since its launch in February 2024, more than 1,53,000 students/students registered on the platform. SWAYAM Plus has 57 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Industry Partners covering emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Manufacturing, and Healthcare etc. Further, more than 11,500 Internships have been Soffered on the platform in collaboration with Internshala.

(iv) E-PG Pathshala: Approximately 23000 Plus Post Graduate e-content is available at e-PG Pathshala (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>) and freely accessible at one place to students/faculty/ academic fraternity.

(v) UGC E-Resources: UGC has translated SWAYAM Non-Technology PG MOOCs in 8 regional languages including Hindi. The translated courses will address language barriers and promote Indian languages while also providing flexibility of learning in the mother tongue to the learners. Anyone desirous of learning can access and benefit from these Open Educational Resources (OER). Also, Universities may utilize these OER for flipped classroom learning and blended mode of learning.

(vi) Further, for last mile accessibility (ensuring that no learner is left behind) UGC has integrated its e-content (23000+ PG text+ videos)/ SWAYAM MOOC (137 courses in emerging areas) & Non-technology SWAYAM Courses (27 courses) in 8 Regional Languages with digitalseva.csc.gov.in, a portal of Common Service Centres (CSCs)/ Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in rural India. All this content can be accessed at the UGC portal www.ugceresources.in/.

(vii) SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Exams) is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur to provide equal access to quality education for competitive entrance exams like JEE and NEET. SATHEE is an online platform to facilitate students /learners who aims to prepare for competitive examination such as engineering, medical etc. It leverages Web Platform, Mobile Application, YouTube live sessions & DTH channels for delivery. More than 10,000 Hours of Learning Content is available across topics and subjects for the learners. As of now, more than 10.70 lakh learners enrolled across the nation on the SATHEE platform show an overwhelming response.
