

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1138
ANSWERED ON-30/07/2025

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPANSION AND RESEARCH FUNDING

1138 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) established in the last five years;
- (b) the budget allocation and utilization for research and innovation;
- (c) the steps taken to encourage interdisciplinary research and international collaborations;
and
- (d) the plans to improve faculty recruitment and retention in universities and colleges?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) registered on AISHE has increased to 60,380 in 2022-23(Provisional) from 51,649 in 2018-19.

(b) & (c): University Grants commission (UGC) and All India Council for technical Education (AICTE) are implementing research and fellowship schemes.

The UGC has implemented two fellowship schemes to promote research. These schemes are namely “Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)” and “Savitribai Jyoti Rao Phule Scholarship for Single Girl Child (SJS GC)”. The expenditure details for the last five years are as under:

(Rs.in Crore)

Scheme	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
NETJRF	939.10	1152.78	1207.52	1642.36	1866.39
SJS GC*	-	-	-	86.93	50.98

*The SJS GC scheme was started in 2022-23 and disbursement started from 2023-24.

The Budget allocation and utilization for research Schemes by AICTE are as under: -

F.Y.	Scheme Name	Budget (in Crore)	Total Beneficiary	Total Amount Utilized (In Crore)
2024-25	AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF)	20.00	451	18.57
Budget 2025-26	AICTE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF)	20.81	200	Scheme started in 2024-25
Budget 2025-26	AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF)	93.83	1500	

AICTE has also launched a scheme on January 1, 2021 to establish AICTE-IDEA (Idea Development, Evaluation & Application) Lab in the technical institutions to support the new age learning and 21st century skills and encouraging students for application of science, technologies, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fundamentals towards enhanced hands-on experience, learning by doing and product visualisation. AICTE co-funds the 24x7 IDEA Lab, providing up to 50% of the project cost, not exceeding Rs. 55 lakhs; the remaining amount has to be brought in by the college or from the industry/ any other source.

Total budget allocated and utilized during last 5 years under AICTE IDEA Lab scheme is as follows:

Financial Year	Total beneficiaries	Budget allocated (In Rs. crores)	Total amount disbursed as Instalment (In Rs. Crores)
2021-22	50	32.15	21.57
2022-23	25	08.88	5.78
2023-24	-	-	0.59
2024-25	306	91.80	2.90
2025-26	-	-	30.60

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages the promotion of quality research within the Higher Education system. Research and innovation are important aspects to enhance quality education by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Societal challenges of our country can only be addressed by having a strong and vibrant higher education ecosystem with an emphasis on research, innovation, and technology development.

In pursuance of this, UGC has developed “Guidelines for establishment of Research & Development Cell in Higher Education Institutions” with a vision to put in place a robust mechanism for developing and strengthening the research ecosystem within HEIs, aligned with the provisions of NEP-2020 and with a mission: -

- To create a conducive environment for enhanced research productivity.
- To encourage collaboration across industry, government, community-based organizations, and agencies at the local, national, and international levels.
- To facilitate greater access to research through mobilization of resources and funding.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also promotes interdisciplinary research through various initiatives like the AICTE-Inter-Institutional Biomedical Innovations Programme (IBIP) and the establishment of IDEA Labs, which encourage collaboration between different fields of study. These initiatives aim to foster innovation and address complex challenges by integrating knowledge and expertise from various disciplines.

As a result of above initiatives, India has witnessed a massive jump in its Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking from 66th position in 2013 to 40th in 2023 among 132 economies of the world. India is at 6th position (in 2022) in number of patent applications from 8th position (in 2012) as per WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators. India also occupies 3rd rank in terms of number of Ph.D.'s awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) as per 'Research and Development statistics at a glance 2022-23' published by Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology. The said report also mentions that the Gross Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has more than doubled from Rs. 60,196.75 Crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 127,380.96 Crore in 2020-21. India ranked 3rd in 2022 (from 6th in 2012) in terms of total number of Science and Engineering publications as per the National Science Foundation (NSF) database of the United States.

(d): Occurrence and filling up of vacant posts are a continuous process. The onus of filling up the teaching posts lies on Central Universities, as they are autonomous bodies created under Acts of Parliament. The vacancies arise due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength. However, UGC repeatedly takes up with all the Central Universities, the matter to fill up the vacancies at the earliest. UGC has also launched a unified recruitment portal i.e., CU-Chayan on 02.05.2023 to provide a common platform for listing of vacancies/ advertisements/ jobs across all Central Universities. Under mission mode, in August 2021, the Ministry issued instructions to all Central Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) to fill vacancies especially those reserved for specific categories in a Mission Mode. In September 2022, all CHEIs were once again requested to intensify this Mission Mode drive to fill all remaining vacancies, especially those in reserved categories. Between September 2022 and July, 2025, a total of 16,507 faculty and 11,943 non faculty, totalling upto 28,450 recruitments have been made in the CHEIs under this Mission Mode initiative.
