GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1144
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

Promotion of research in information technology

1144 **Smt. P. T. Usha:**
Will the Minister of ***Education*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country to embark upon research and innovation in electronics and information technology with special reference to artificial intelligence, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of funds, if any, allocated to the States in this regard by Government; and
(c) whether Government is further encouraging student led start up eco systems to harness their potential in information technology in the country and, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has framed the National Education Policy 2020 which aims to promote research and innovation in higher education. It envisions establishment of a National Research Foundation to catalyse quality academic research. It also envisages that higher education institutions set up incubation centres, technology development centres, and foster strong industry-academia linkages to nurture a vibrant start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem among students.

Several flagship initiatives strengthen this research ecosystem. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023 was notified to establish an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of technology including in electronics, information technology, and artificial intelligence (AI). Total financial outlay of ANRF is Rs. 50,000 crores. ANRF also provides overarching strategic direction to the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme which has a corpus of Rs. One lakh Crore.

The Government has also launched Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme (PMRF), aimed to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high – quality research in India's

premier academic institutions. PMRF has supported 3,688 scholars in its first phase. Additionally 10,000 fellowships have been announced under PMRF in the Budget 2025-26.

Three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Artificial Intelligence have been established, focusing on healthcare, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These CoEs are led by premier institutions: IIT Kanpur, which leads sustainable cities, IIT Ropar, which leads the agriculture sector and IISc Bangalore, which leads healthcare sector. The total budget outlay for these three CoEs is 990 crores. In the Union Budget 2025-26, the Government has also announced a Centre of Excellence in AI for Education with a financial outlay of 500 crores.

To foster a research culture, the Government has established nine Research Parks at premier institutions. These parks provide state-of-the-art infrastructure and collaborative environments, especially in frontier domains like electronics and IT. In addition, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines for all HEIs to set up dedicated Research and Development (R&D) cells. As on date, more than 1722 R&D cells have been established in HEIs.

The Government has also launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges. Under the Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) component of PM-USHA, funding is provided for academia and research collaboration between India and foreign HEIs and establishing research & development cells, among others.

Recognizing the importance of translating research into real-world solutions and entrepreneurship, the Government has also focused on nurturing student-led start-up ecosystems. “Innovation cell” at AICTE has been established with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in HEIs across the country. Over 15,000 innovation councils have been established in HEIs, serving as engines for entrepreneurship and applied research.

As the result of these concerted efforts, India has witnessed a massive jump in its Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking from 66th position in 2013 to 40th in 2023. 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.Ds 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. India also 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.

Further, more than 400 incubators in the HEIs have resulted in more than 10,000 start-ups. India is home to more than 100 indigenous Unicorns and most of them have been associated with HEIs through alumni and faculty.

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