Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1161
ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

Higher education enrollment and implementation of NEP 2020

1161 **Shri Kapil Sibal:**

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

(a) the enrollment ratio in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for the academic year 2025-26, as compared to 2024-25;
(b) the number of new seats created under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in multidisciplinary education and research Universities during 2025; and
(c) the measures being taken to address the digital divide in rural areas for online learning access?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Education is implementing Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges to improve their quality by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards. Under the Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) component of PM-USHA, 35 universities have been approved for an amount of Rs. 100 Crore each.

MERU funding is provided to Universities for undertaking 44 mandatory activities aimed at enhancing access, equity and excellence in education including academic and research collaboration between Indian and foreign HEIs; establishing research and development cells; setting up of office of international affairs as one-stop-office for all activities related to international mobility; implementing the National Credit Framework (NCrF) and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) with an elective course system; adopting the Academic Bank of Credits; promoting Online Distance Learning (ODL) and online programs such as SWAYAM/MOOCs; offering courses in Indian languages; embedding Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into curricula; and training to develop 21st-century skills, etc.

Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education.

According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education is reported as 27.3% in 2020-21, 28.4% in 2021-22, and 29.5% in 2022-23 (Provisional). AISHE 2022–23 (provisional) reports rise in number of

University / University Level Institutions and Colleges from 760 to 1213 and from 38498 to 46624 respectively, as compared to AISHE 2014-15. Further, Central Universities including IGNOU, have increased from 40 to 48, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) from 16 to 23, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) from 13 to 21, Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) from 9 to 25 in 2022-23 as compared to 2014-15.

Enrolment in higher education has risen from 3.42 crore in 2014-15 to 4.46 crore in 2022-23, with female enrolment from 1.57 crore to 2.18 crore. The enrolment of SC students is 69.13 Lakh in 2022-23 as compared to 46.07 Lakh in 2014.15. The enrolment of ST students has increased to 28.72 Lakh in 2022-23 from 16.41 Lakh in 2014-15. In the Budget speech 2025-26, it has been announced to create additional infrastructure in the five IITs, which were started after 2014 to facilitate education for additional 6,500 students. Accordingly, Union Cabinet in its meeting held in May, 2025 has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which had been established in the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) with a total outlay of Rs. 11,828.79 crore.

To address the digital divide in rural areas and improve access to online learning, several measures have been undertaken. The UGC has translated 27 SWAYAM Non-Technology PG MOOCs into regional languages, viz. Hindi, Marathi, Bangla, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu etc. to promote multilingual education. The translated content is available at http://www.ugceresources.in. The UGC e-resource portal, e-content from the e-PG Pathshala and UGC MOOC Portal have been integrated with digitalseva.csc.gov.in, a platform operated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for rural outreach via Common Service Centres (CSCs).

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