GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1296
ANSWERED ON-11/02/2026

Higher education expansion and internationalization

1296 **# Shri Brij Lal:**
Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah:
Smt. Sangeeta Yadav:
Shri Madan Rathore:
Shri Subhash Barala:
Smt. Rekha Sharma:
Smt. Kiran Choudhry:
Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:
Shri Chunnilal Garasiya:

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

(a) the growth in the number of higher education institutions, including Universities, colleges, IITs, IIMs and AIIMS, reported as of 2025 and the additional capacity created;

(b) the steps taken to establish or expand Indian higher education presence abroad, such as foreign IIT/IIM campuses and to attract foreign institutions and students to India;

(c) the impact of Government scholarship programmes in reducing financial barriers for higher education aspirants; and

(d) the outcomes of international collaborations, student/faculty exchange programmes and global rankings improvements as indicators of India's rising education excellence?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2022-23(Provisional), the number of registered Universities/University like Institutions (including Institutes of National importance like

IITs, IIMs, AIIMS etc.) rose to 1,213, number of colleges rose to 46,624 and stand-alone institutions rose to 12,543.

Since 2014, 16 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), 8 Central Universities (CUs), 8 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 2 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), 1 National Institute of Technology (NIT) and 12 new AIIMS have been established. Further, in pursuance of the Budget announcement 2025-26, Government has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which have 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, which would facilitate education for additional 6,500 students.

(b) Government has facilitated Indian HEIs to set up campuses abroad which includes IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania; IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi; and IIM Ahmedabad campus in Dubai. To attract foreign institutions, Government has enabled the setting up of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) in India under University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023. University of Southampton (UK), Gurugram Campus has commenced its academic operations for the session 2025- 26 after grant of Letter of Intent (LoI) as well as Letter of Approval (LoA). 13 Letters of Intent have been issued to FHEIs from Australia, Italy, United Kingdom and USA to set up their campuses at various places in India including Bengaluru (Karnataka), Delhi NCR, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu). Under International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Regulations 2022, approvals have been accorded to 5 universities from UK, Australia and Northern Ireland for operating offshore branch campuses in GIFT City SEZ, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Among these 5 universities, Deakin University, Australia and University of Wollongong, Australia commenced its courses.

To attract international students to India, the Ministry of Education launched the 'Study in India' scheme in 2018 with the aim of promoting India as a global study destination providing world-class education at affordable costs. An integral part of the programme is the Study in India (SII) portal, a one-stop destination for admission and visa applications for all incoming foreign students and acts as a gateway to the Indian higher education eco-system.

To create a favourable environment for attracting international students to Indian higher education system, 'Guidelines for Admission and Supernumerary seats of International Students in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Program in HEIs in India' was issued by University Grants Commission (UGC) in September 2022. UGC has also issued "UGC (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2021", which allows students to do parts of their

programmes from both Indian and foreign universities leading to academic and research excellence, as well as mobility of students and faculty.

(c) Education is in the concurrent list and both the central government and State Governments work together for its improvement. The Government is implementing various scholarship schemes for students, including those belonging to marginalized sections. The details of these schemes including the number of slots, assistance offered and eligibility criteria are available in the following websites:

S.No	Ministry/Department	Website Links
1	Department of Higher Education	https://www.education.gov.in/en/scholarships-education-loan-0
2	Department of School Education & Literacy	https://dsel.education.gov.in/en/scheme/nmmss
3	University Grants Commission	https://www.ugc.gov.in/Home/student_Corner
4	All India Council for Technical Education	https://www.aicte.gov.in/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes
5	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes
6	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx
7	Ministry of Minority Affairs	https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=2&ls_id=661&lid=823
8	Department of Science and Technology	https://dst.gov.in/inspire-scheme-innovation-science-pursuit-inspired-research

The scholarship schemes are spread across the country for all students, so that the students can avail benefits of the scheme as per schematic norms, thereby reduce financial barriers for higher education aspirants. In the year 2024-25, more than 95 lakhs students pursuing post-matric and higher education have received scholarships, amounting to nearly ₹ 10,913 crores. These schemes envisage that no deserving and meritorious student is denied the opportunity to pursue education because of financial constraints. As a result, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased to 29.5 in 2022-23 (provisional) compared to 23.7 in 2014-15.

(d) The Government is implementing several initiatives like Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Study in India etc. to facilitate the enrolment of foreign students, faculty exchange program, to improve the research ecosystem of India's Higher Education Institutions, and to further improve India's global ranking. National Education Policy (NEP) guided initiatives by Government of

India have led to significant improvements in the performance of Indian HEIs in international rankings, including the QS World University Rankings (QS WUR). 54 Indian Institutions have been ranked in the QS WUR 2026. The number of Indian HEIs featuring in the QS World University Rankings has doubled in the past five years, rising from 27 in QS WUR 2021 to 54 in QS WUR 2026, thus underscoring sustained policy initiatives, strengthened research and innovation capacity, and the steadily rising global profile of India's higher education system. In QS World University Rankings, Asia 2026 India has second most representation, with 294 universities, up from 163 in 2025 and 7 institutions in the top 100. The QS Subject Rankings for 2025 included 79 Indian HEIs, an increase of 10 from the previous year's 69. India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) has also propelled from 48 in 2020 and currently being ranked at 38th place in 2025.

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