

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2102
ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026

Funds for research

2102 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

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

- (a) the year-wise and institution-wise details of funds allocated by Government for research and innovation in Higher Education Institutions, including Central Universities, IITs, NITs, IISERs and other centrally funded institutions, during the last five years and the current financial year;
- (b) the discipline-wise breakup of such allocations, indicating major fields of research supported; and
- (c) the extent of utilisation of these funds and whether any assessment has been made of the outcomes or impact of the research funded under the Ministry

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The Gross Expenditure on Research and 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. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 99494.24 crore during the last five years and the current financial year (FY 2020-21 to 2025-26) for premier technical educational institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for teaching, research and innovation. Broadly, research activities in these Higher Education Institutions cover areas such as Healthcare & Medtech; Advanced Computing (Supercomputing, AI, and Quantum Computing); Semiconductor; Advanced Materials; Rare-earth & Critical Minerals; Space & Defence; and Blue Economy, etc, and aim to create a robust ecosystem in preparing students for future roles in engineering, entrepreneurship, research & innovation, product design, industry leadership and advance manufacturing.

In 2018-19, the Government launched Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme to attract the best minds to pursue high - quality research in India's premier academic institutions, with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650 Crores. The scheme was launched to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high – quality research in India's premier academic institutions with

enhanced financial support which includes fellowship and research grant. Under PMRF, 3688 scholars have been admitted. The first phase of PMRF has led to better outcomes of research and thus, 10,000 fellowships have been announced under PMRF in Budget 2025-26 for technological research with enhanced financial support.

Recently, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established by the ANRF Act 2023 in February, 2024 with an outlay of 50,000 crores to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of science and technology with the provision of substantive share of budget contribution from private sector.

The Government has also launched the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme on November 3, 2025, a ₹1-lakh-crore initiative, representing a significant move to strengthen India's research and development landscape.

In view of the various initiatives undertaken by the Government during the past decade, India's research work has received recognition at world level, during the past decade which is visible through its global position in various scientific parameters:

- i. Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking, from 81st place in 2015 to 38th place in 2025.
- ii. Ranked 3rd in 2022 (from 7th in 2010) in terms of total number of Science and Engineering publications as per the National Science Foundation (NSF) database of the United States.
- iii. 6th position (in 2022) in number of patent applications from 8th position (in 2013) as per WIPO
- iv. 3rd rank in terms of number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) as per 'Research and Development' Statistics at a glance 2022-23.
