

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1167
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026

Higher education infrastructure in Kushinagar

1167 **Shri Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh:**

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

- (a) the total financial outlays sanctioned for expanding higher education infrastructure within Kushinagar district;
- (b) the progress of integrating local State-run degree colleges with the National Digital University portal;
- (c) the number of academic research grants awarded to scholars studying Buddhist history in eastern Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) the specialized vocational courses introduced at the undergraduate level to boost regional youth employability; and
- (e) the institutional measures taken to provide free Wi-Fi connectivity and digital libraries in remote rural colleges?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USA), including the committed liabilities of the earlier phases of RUSA, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh, under various phases of the scheme, a total of 204 units amounting to Rs. 1,942.27 crore have been approved, including establishment of a New Model Degree College (NMDC), in Kushinagar district for a total amount of Rs. 12 crore under the NMDC component of RUSA 1.0 and the project is completed and functional.

(b): The Government of India has framed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with a vision to strengthen learner-centric and technology- enabled education. In

alignment with this vision, the Government has envisaged the establishment of a Digital University platform to provide flexible and multidisciplinary learning.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has launched “NIELIT Digital University (NDU) Platform” in October 2025. NDU is a digital learning platform to deliver online and blended skill-based courses in emerging technology sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing and other frontier domains. The courses on this digital platform are aligned to National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) with credits to be transferred in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) after successful completion. As on date, the NDU Platform host more than 100 courses, with over 2.70 Lakhs registration.

(c): University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing various scholarship schemes to encourage higher education/research programmes by providing financial support to pan India basis. In FY 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 471.71 crore and Rs. 2.29 crore have been disbursed to the State of Uttar Pradesh, under University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test and Junior Research Fellowship (UGC NET-JRF) and Savitibai Jyotirao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship, respectively.

UGC has developed the following 4 Courses under Buddhist studies & culture namely History of Indian Buddhism, Abhidhamma (Pali), Buddhist Philosophy and Buddhist Tourism, and these are being offered on Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) (<https://swayam.gov.in/>) Platform.

In addition to the above, Institutions under the Ministry of Culture contribute significantly to the academic development of Buddhist Studies, such as, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar; Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi; Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Arunachal Pradesh and Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh, Ladakh.

(d): The Government of India has set up the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) as an overarching regulator for establishing regulations and standards to ensure quality in Vocational Education Training & Skilling vide notification No. SD17/113/2017-E&PW dated 5th December 2018. One of the major mandates of NCVET is National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) alignment and approval of skill-based qualifications being implemented in both short term and long-term training ecosystem. The NSQF is anchored in NCVET and is implemented through, inter-alia, the National Skills Qualification Committee (NSQC).

The Ministry of Education constituted Sector Specific Groups (SSGs) in the 8 different fields each lead by an IIT/IIM/IISc to assess the “Future of Work” Job requirements and identify a list of courses which need to be curated for future ready workforce. Sectors covered by the SSGs are AgriTech (IIT Ropar), Healthcare and Bio-Electronics (IIT Madras), Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) (IIM Bangalore), Energy (IIT Delhi), Logistics (IIM Mumbai), Digital and Creative Economy (IIT Bombay), AI in Engineering (IISc Bangalore) & Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 (IIT Madras). IIT Delhi has already launched courses in Energy Education under this initiative.

Furthermore, UGC had facilitated Higher Education Institutions across the country to provide skill-based education under the National Skill Qualification Framework in Colleges and Universities through its scheme of Community Colleges, B.Voc Degree Programmes and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Centres for Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood.

(e): The Government of India is implementing the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020. The scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT, in all processes of education.

The National Knowledge Network (NKN) is a secure and high-speed digital backbone for connectivity. Under the NMEICT scheme funds are released to provide 1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to various Higher Education Institution across India. So far, more than 370 Higher Education institutions have been provided connectivity under this component.

Furthermore, under the NMEICT umbrella, National Digital Library of India (NDLI), has been launched to provide free access to a vast online repository of educational resources, including textbooks, research papers, journals, and multimedia content, etc to all learners including in rural areas. The platform has more than 14 crore resources and more than 1 Crore registered users.
