

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1172
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2026

Expansion of higher education institutions in Tamil Nadu

1172 Shri R. Dharmar:

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

- (a) the present status of expansion of Central higher education institutions in Tamil Nadu, including the establishment of new institutions, infrastructure development and enhancement of academic facilities;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised for Central Universities, IITs, NITs, IISERs and other centrally funded institutions in Tamil Nadu during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish additional Central higher education institutions or upgrade existing facilities in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve access to quality higher education, research opportunities and innovation facilities for students in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) : The Government is committed to strengthening higher education infrastructure across the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu. Central Higher Educational Institutions (CHEIs) in the State, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirappalli, Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Tiruchirappalli, National Institute of Management (IIM) Tiruchirappalli, Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M) Kancheepuram, Central University (CU) Tamil Nadu and NITTTR Chennai, undertake expansion of academic facilities & infrastructure development from time to time based on the requirements and availability of funds.

(b) : Budgetary support is provided to Central Higher Educational Institutions as per approved norms and requirements. Funds are released based on approved plans, utilisation of earlier releases and availability of budgetary provisions. The details of funds allocated, released and utilised by the concerned institutions during the last five years are maintained institution-wise and are given at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d): Setting up of higher education institutions is a continuous and ongoing process. Depending on the need, educational institutions are opened from time to time. National Education Policy 2020 provides to ensure full access, equity, and inclusion. Education being subject matter of concurrent list, it is joint responsibility of Central as well as State Government

to take action for implementation of NEP 2020. The Government is committed to provide quality education to all.

Further, Union Budget 2026-27 has announced setting up of 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors by supporting States, through challenge route. These planned academic zones will host multiple universities, colleges, research institutions, skill centres and residential complexes. The proposed university townships are envisaged to provide world-class academic and research infrastructure including innovation and incubation facilities, industry partnerships and sustainable urban amenities.

In alignment with the vision of NEP 2020, the government has issued “UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023” to facilitate the establishment of branch campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) in India. Under this regulatory framework, UGC has handed over the Letter of Intent to University of Western Australia for opening its branch campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The Government has taken various measures to increase the access in Higher Education, which inter-alia includes, Setting up of more Higher Education Institutions;; Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters; Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well as entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory; Allow pursuing two Academic Programmes simultaneously; Permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year; Providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines; Permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; and Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

In order to provide equity in access for disadvantaged groups, the Central Government implements various scholarship and financial assistance schemes to support students belonging to marginalised sections. Department of Higher Education (DHE) implements the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana under which students pursuing higher education in India, including SC, ST, OBC and minority students get scholarships as per Scheme guidelines. In addition, the Government of India has launched the PM-Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme in November 2024 to facilitate access to collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans for meritorious students pursuing higher education.

To boost research and innovation, the Government has established the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which seeks to harness the research potential of universities and colleges, support academic research, and facilitate translational research in emerging technologies and national priority areas. The ANRF aims to mobilize ₹50,000 crore during 2023–28, including ₹14,000 crore from the Central Government, with the remaining sourced from public sector enterprises, the private sector, philanthropies, and international bodies, through various funds such as the ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, and Science and Engineering Research Fund.

The Government has launched the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme on 3rd November 2025, a Rs. 1-lakh-crore initiative representing a significant move to strengthen India's research and development landscape. The scheme is aimed at catalysing private sector investment in research, development and innovation through long-term, low or nil-interest financing, thereby

complementing the efforts of ANRF and other Ministry of Education schemes in building a robust national research ecosystem.

Other initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF), Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme, Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), IMPRINT, Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) and Institutions of Eminence (IoE) continue to enhance research capacity, innovation and collaboration between academia, industry and international institutions.

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-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of the earlier phases of RUSA, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. RUSA/PM-USHA 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. Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including research facilities, construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories, and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education.

In the State of Tamil Nadu, under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), 100 projects, with a total amount of Rs. 873.95 crore have been approved under various components, including 7 projects with a total amount of Rs. 315 crores under Research Innovation & Quality Improvement (RIQI) component. Furthermore, the State of Tamil Nadu has not signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under PM-USHA.

In the State of Tamil Nadu, more than 1700 Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) have been set up in HEIs to systematically foster the culture of innovation and start-up ecosystem. AICTE establishes national network of Idea Development, Evaluation & Application (IDEA) Labs encouraging students for application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fundamentals towards enhanced hands-on experience learning by doing and product visualization. More than 110 IDEA labs have been set up in HEIs in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The inaugural Bharat Innovates, a flagship global innovation initiative envisioned as the **Global Accelerator for the Indian Higher Education Ecosystem** was organized recently at Nice, France showcasing the strength and diversity of India's deep-tech ecosystem before a global audience. Bharat Innovates demonstrated a new model of innovation diplomacy by leveraging India's higher education ecosystem as a catalyst for international partnerships, technology commercialization and global market access. By connecting India's premier Higher Education Institutions with leading global innovation ecosystems, Bharat Innovates seeks to build a continuous pipeline of globally competitive startups, strengthen the translation of research into societal and economic impact, deepen India's international innovation partnerships, and contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat** through education-led innovation.

Annexure-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1172 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI R. DHARMAR REGARDING EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN TAMIL NADU

Details of funds released for the centrally funded institutions during the last five years

Sl N o.	Institution Name	Year-wise Fund released in Crores				
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	IIT Madras	649.58	673.80	946.83	1119.99	936.08
2.	IIIT Tiruchirap palli	32.50	0	0	0	0
3.	IIITD&M Kanheepur am	29.62	37.98	58.57	65.66	74.53
4.	NIT Tiruchirap palli	192.42	228.87	254.13	275.62	288.66
5.	CU Tamil Nadu	63.19	75.91	83.47	96.73	103.19
6.	NITTTR Chennai	25.50	38.00	24.60	50.17	49.00
7.	IIM Tiruchirap palli	No funds have been allocated and released to IIM Tiruchirappalli during the last five years.				