

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1940
ANSWERED ON - 05/08/2026

University Townships and Academic-to-Employment integration

1940 # **Shri Mithlesh Kumar:**

Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala:

Shri Rajesh Parmanand Shukla:

Shri Brij Lal:

Shri Samik Bhattacharya:

Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:

Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:

Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:

Shri Subhash Barala:

Shri Sanjay Bhatia:

Shri Rajinder Gupta:

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

- (a) the current status of implementation regarding the five University Townships envisioned in the Union Budget 2026-27 near prominent industrial and logistics hubs;
- (b) the framework through which these hubs seek to integrate academic institutions, research facilities and centres for skill development to enhance industry-academia synergy;
- (c) the current status of the constitution of the High-Powered Standing Committee on Education to Employment and Enterprise and its core mandates;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the strategic initiatives undertaken to synchronise higher education to align with labour-market needs and improve the industry-readiness of graduates?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Government of India has framed and approved the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to transform the education landscape into a multidisciplinary, inclusive, and learner-centric ecosystem. It accords high priority to enhancing access, equity, and quality of education for everyone. It promotes provision of physical infrastructure, digital tools & connectivity, and greater industry-academic linkages.

In line with the vision of NEP 2020, it has been announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 that the Union Government aims to support States through challenge route, in creating 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors. Department of Higher Education has initiated consultation process with relevant stakeholders such as State Governments, Academia, Industry representatives etc.

To make India a global leader in services, and to optimise the potential for growth, employment and exports, assessing the impact of emerging technologies, including AI, on jobs and skill requirements and propose measures thereof, Union Budget 2026-27 has also announced setting up of a High-Powered 'Education to Employment and Enterprise' Standing Committee to recommend measures that focus on the Services Sector as a core driver of Viksit Bharat. Composition of the Committee is at **Annexure**.

To enhance employability of the students and achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, the National Credit Framework (NCrF) has been issued, enabling integration of skill education into academia. The NCrF has a provision for the accumulation of a maximum of 50% of the total credit required through skill-based courses. Further, the University Grants Commission has issued "Guidelines on Sustainable and Vibrant University-Industry Linkage System for Indian Universities" to promote Research & Development and develop the skill sets amongst the learners and make them industry ready. Further, AICTE's Approval Process Handbook 2024-25 to 2026-27 has "Essential and Desirable Requirements for Technical Institutions", which include Institute-Industry Cell, establishment of Institution's Innovation Council and compulsory internship for final year students as essential requirements for approval.

Additionally, UGC has introduced "Guidelines for Internship/Research Internship for Under Graduate Students", with an aim to improve employability, develop interest for research and provide exposure to emerging technologies. Further, UGC has also formulated the "UGC Guidelines for Higher Educational Institutions to Offer Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP)" to embed the competencies required by the industry in the university curriculum.

The Ministry of Education implements the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) to provide industry relevant skills to fresh graduates, diploma holders and Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) students of any educational background, by providing them on-the-job training in the form of apprenticeships, thereby bridging the skill gap.

Further, to strengthen industry-academia linkages and enhance learners' employability, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with eminent industry partners, has also launched the SWAYAM Plus platform. The platform offers more than 500 employability-focused courses. These courses have been curated from more than 80 industry partners across 15 sectors, including Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductor Manufacturing, and Advanced Manufacturing etc. More than 06 lakh learners have enrolled on SWAYAM Plus platform for their Skill augmentation.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1940 ASKED BY SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR, SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA, SHRI RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA, SHRI BRIJ LAL, SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA, SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI, DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI, DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH, SHRI SUBHASH BARALA, SHRI SANJAY BHATIA, SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, ON THE SUBJECT 'UNIVERSITY TOWNSHIPS AND ACADEMIC-TO-EMPLOYMENT INTEGRATION', ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

Composition of High-Powered 'Education to Employment and Enterprise' Standing Committee

S. No.	Name and Designation	Role
1.	CEO, NITI Aayog	Chairperson
2.	Secretary, Department of Commerce	Member
3.	Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs	Member
4.	Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT	Member
5.	Secretary, Department of Higher Education	Member
6.	Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment	Member
7.	Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	Member
8.	Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy	Member
9.	Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation	Member
10.	Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh	Member
11.	Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar	Member
12.	Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra	Member
13.	Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh	Member
14.	DG, CII	Member
15.	DG, FICCI	Member
16.	SG, FISME	Member
17.	President, NASSCOM	Member
18.	DG, SEPC	Member
19.	Dr A. Sakthivel, Founder-President of the Tiruppur Exporters' Association	Member
20.	Dr Chandan Chowdhury, Professor, ISB	Member
21.	Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University	Member
22.	Programme Director (Services), NITI Aayog	Member Convenor
