

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1953
ANSWERED ON-05/08/2026

GER in higher education

1953 # **Shri Upendra Kushwaha:**

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

- (a) the comparative details of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education across various States in the country, including the State of Bihar; and
- (b) the measures being taken by Government to enable the States having a GER below the national average to achieve the national average?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2023-24 States/UTs-wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) including the State of Bihar is given in the Annexure-I.
- (b): Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The Centre and States together endeavour to increase the enrolment of students, especially in the under-served areas and the disadvantaged communities. Some of the initiatives of Central Government are as under:

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) envisages increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50 by 2035 and the Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include:

- i) Opening of more HEIs - Since 2014-15, 8 Central Universities, 7 IITs, 8 IIMs, 16 IIITs, 2 IISERs, 1 NIT and 12 AIIMS have been newly established.
- ii) Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions.
- iii) 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.
- iv) Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.
- v) Allow pursuing two Academic Programmes simultaneously.
- vi) Permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year.
- vii) 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.

- viii) Permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform.
- ix) Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The Department of Higher Education 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-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. The scheme has been further extended till 31st March, 2028.

Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc.

Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education. Furthermore, under PM-USHA, States/ UTs and Universities/ Colleges can undertake various activities aimed at enhancing access, equity and excellence in education, including promoting Online Distance Learning (ODL) and online programs such as SWAYAM/ MOOCs; construction of smart classrooms/ computer labs/ research laboratories/ digital libraries with subscriptions to reputed journals; and training to develop 21st-century skills, etc.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), also strive towards enhancing access and equity to higher education through distance mode. It pays special attention to disadvantaged sections of the society and regions by establishing study centres in the backward areas and districts.

The Government has notified the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, wherein reservation of seats in Central Educational Institutions is implemented, which is 15%, 7.5% and 27% of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) respectively.

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.

Union Budget 2026-27 has announced setting up of 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors and 1 girls' hostel in every district through Viability Gap Funding /capital support to encourage enrolment of girls in STEM institutes/ courses.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1953 ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION” ASKED BY HON’BLE MP SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

States/UTs wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education (18-23 Years)

State/ UTs	GER (2023-24)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.5
Andhra Pradesh	35.5
Arunachal Pradesh	34.3
Assam	19.8
Bihar	17.7
Chandigarh	58.5
Chhattisgarh	24.8
Delhi	53.0
Goa	33.9
Gujarat	26.3
Haryana	35.1
Himachal Pradesh	46.4
Jammu and Kashmir	21.5
Jharkhand	19.4
Karnataka	41.9
Kerala	41.2
Ladakh	11.9
Lakshadweep	7.1
Madhya Pradesh	29.0
Maharashtra	36.4
Manipur	30.7
Meghalaya	29.1
Mizoram	31.5
Nagaland	18.4
Odisha	24.9
Puducherry	72.3
Punjab	30.8
Rajasthan	29.5
Sikkim	42.5
Tamil Nadu	52.3
Telangana	46.6
The Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	10.5
Tripura	22.9
Uttar Pradesh	26.0
Uttarakhand	48.5
West Bengal	24.6
All-India	30.0

Source: AISHE Report, 2023-24.