

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2089**

**ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

**Robust Ecosystem for Scientific Inquiry and Technological Advancement**

**2089 SHRI S JAGATHRATCHAKAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is committed to nurturing a robust ecosystem for scientific inquiry and technological advancement in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R**

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

(a) to (c): Science, technology and integrated research form the core of a quality education ecosystem that produces globally competent and locally relevant graduates. NEP 2020 envisions a discovery-based style of learning with focus on research and innovation by setting up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research.

Establishment of IITs, IISERs, IIITs, IIMs, Centres of Excellence and Research Parks in focus areas is greatly helping to foster scientific and technological advancement in the country with emphasis to promote innovation, research and development. Ministry of Education has launched schemes to promote research and development in the HEIs of the country which includes Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme (PMRFs), Uchhatar Avishkar Yojna (UAY), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Scheme for promotion of Research and Academic Collaboration (SPARC), Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS), etc.

Further, “Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023” was notified to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation. Anusandhan National Research Foundation, an apex body has been envisaged to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. It also seeks to promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences. Total estimated cost of Anusandhan National Research Foundation for five years is Rs. 50,000 crores.

India’s technological advancement has received recognition at world level, during the past decade which is visible through its global position in various scientific parameters. India has witnessed a massive jump in its Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking from 66<sup>th</sup> position in 2013 to 40<sup>th</sup> in 2023 among 132 economies of the world. India is at 6<sup>th</sup> position (in 2022) in number of patent applications, as per WIPO’s World Intellectual Property Indicators. India also occupies 3rd rank in terms of number of Ph.Ds awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) as per ‘Research and Development statistics at a glance 2022-23’ published by Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology. India ranked 3rd in 2022, in terms of total number of Science and Engineering publications as per the National Science Foundation (NSF) database of the United States.

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