

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 947
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

Promotion of Research Culture

947. Shri Tharaniventhan M S:
Smt. Kriti Devi Debbarman:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is proposing to promote research culture across the country;
- (b) if so, the specific measures being planned to support research innovation in universities, research institutions and among young researchers;
- (c) the details of funds estimated for such research culture; and
- (d) the details on the expected timeline for the scheme's implementation, the targeted beneficiaries and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure its success in promoting a sustainable research ecosystem?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Education Policy, 2020 envisions outstanding research as a corequisite for outstanding education and development. Accordingly, several initiatives have been undertaken for the promotion of Research Culture in the country.

The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell promotes technological innovation for social good across educational institutions. By fostering an environment that encourages creativity and entrepreneurship, the Cell facilitates the development of sustainable commercial models. Through initiatives such as the Smart India Hackathon (SIH), Institution's Innovation Councils (IIC), KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness), Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp and AICTE MoE Investor Network, it strives to integrate innovation into the core of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). The Innovation Cell collaborates with various Ministries and Government departments, ensuring that these innovations contribute to societal progress while also addressing real-world challenges.

Twenty three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been set up in the country which are premier institutions recognized globally for excellence in technical education, research, and innovation. The Budget 2025-26 further envisions creation of additional

infrastructure in the five IITs started after 2014 to facilitate education for 6,500 more students.

Further, in pursuance to Para 60 of the Budget Announcement 2023-24 regarding "Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence", the Government has approved establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI); one each in the areas of health, sustainable cities and agriculture; with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. The fourth Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education has also been announced in Budget 2025-26.

Seven Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) also carry out research in frontier areas of science to provide quality science education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is a premier Institute of higher learning and research.

The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) scheme, announced in the Budget 2018-19, has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country. By providing financial support, recognition, and an enriching research environment, the scheme seeks to foster innovation, encourage interdisciplinary research, and enhance the quality of Ph.D. programs. As of now 3688 research scholars have been admitted under PMRF scheme in various PMRF granting institutions in the country. Rs. 1067 cr. has been released under the scheme till 31.01.2025.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) nurtures the social science research ecosystem in India by funding research of the faculties/scholars working in universities, research institutes, institutes of national importance and colleges. ICSSR has several programmes and schemes to support young researchers and research culture and innovation in universities and research institutions which inter-alia include Research Fellowships (Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Senior), Research Programmes (Interdisciplinary/ multidisciplinary/ Inter-institutional), Research Projects and International Collaboration for activities like joint research projects, seminars/ workshops, publications etc. During 2024, the ICSSR awarded 483 Doctoral and 273 Post-Doctoral Fellowships and 33 Senior Fellowships. Further, through its flagship Major and Minor Research Projects, ICSSR provides scholars with opportunities to conduct research that contributes to real-world policy and societal challenges. 250 Major Research Projects and 250 Minor Research Projects have been allocated for the financial year 2024-25.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has developed "Guidelines for establishment of Research & Development Cells in Higher Education Institutions" for setting up a robust mechanism for developing and strengthening the research ecosystem within the HEIs. So far, 1716 HEIs have established Research & Development Cells, as per the UGC guidelines. The UGC is also implementing the UGC NET- Junior Research Fellowship scheme to provide an opportunity to the scholars to undertake advanced studies and research. During 2023-24 funds amounting to Rs.1640.84 crores have been disbursed by UGC under this scheme to 36050 beneficiaries.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) also addresses national needs through its innovative research, strong fundamental science, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, translation research, capacity building, and policy making. Under the Capacity Building, CSIR has implemented various sub-programmes like Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships, Extramural Research Scheme and Emeritus Scientist Scheme.

For strengthening the research ecosystem across India, the Department of Science and Technology is also implementing the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) programme and the Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) scheme.

Further, the “Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023” has been notified to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation 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.
