

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2367
ANSWERED ON-04/08/2025**

National Research Foundation

**†2367. Shri Bajrang Manohar Sonwane:
Shri Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne:
Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure:
Smt. Bharti Pardhi:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of setting up and operationalizing the National Research Foundation (NRF);
- (b) the specific steps being undertaken to achieve the targeted funding of Rs. 50,000 crores during the last five years and the current year, with particular focus on attracting the projected 72% contribution from the Private Sector;
- (c) the manner by which NRF is likely to promote research culture across all the disciplines and types of institutions including State Universities; and
- (d) the initiatives being taken to promote the internationalization of Indian Higher Education and attracting the foreign students by facilitating international collaborations and encouraging Indian Institutions to achieve higher global rankings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established by the ANRF Act 2023 in February, 2024. The Executive Council (EC) and Governing Board of the ANRF have been established to oversee the implementation of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

ANRF has initiated effective strategy to achieve the targeted funding which includes Partnership with philanthropic organizations, Industry contributions to mission-mode programs (cash/kind) under the Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA). Public-private funding model in the Prime Minister's Fellowship for Doctoral Research wherein 50% of the fellowship support is provided by the participating industry.

ANRF has launched PAIR (Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research) program, which is designed to boost the research capability of those institutions including State Universities, in a mentorship mode by pairing them with well-established top-tier research institutions in a hub and spoke framework.

ANRF has also launched several broad-based programs/schemes such as Advanced Research Grant (ARG), Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) etc. providing financial assistance to young researchers and scientists in academic institutions in order to create supportive environment for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering all across the country.

Further, ANRF has also launched National Post Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF) program to support young researchers after finishing Ph.D. which is effective to retain them in the country, National Science Chair, J. C. Bose Grant and Prime Minister Professorship programs to recognise eminent senior scientists for their outstanding contributions at both national and international levels. These initiatives also aim to leverage the expertise of scientists and faculty from reputed academic institutions, research laboratories and industry.

In alignment with the vision of NEP 2020, University Grants Commission (UGC) 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 regulation, till date, 12 foreign universities have been issued letter of Intent (LoI) by the UGC for establishing their campuses in India. University of Southampton has started its Gurugram campus. University Grants Commission has also issued Regulations on Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign HEIs to offer Twinning, Joint Degree, and Dual Degree Programmes.

Moreover, the ‘Study in India’ program promotes Indian education globally to attract more international students. Additionally, the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) scheme has been realigned to strengthen research by fostering academic collaborations between top Indian institutions and leading universities from 28 selected countries, enhancing India's global academic presence and research capacity.
