

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5784**  
ANSWERED ON - 30/03/2026

**Mainstreaming of Buddhist Studies in Universities**

5784. Shri Jagdambika Pal:

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant of the academic, cultural and diplomatic significance of mainstreaming Buddhist Studies as a formal discipline at undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. levels across universities in the country under the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, in view of India being the birthplace of Buddhism and home to major Buddhist heritage sites, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to develop a standardized curriculum for Buddhist Studies covering areas such as Pali language, Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan studies, archaeology, Buddhist art, heritage conservation and ethics along with provisions for dedicated faculty positions, research fellowships and accreditation frameworks across Central and State universities, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has established or proposes to establish a Centre of Excellence, Buddhist Studies Chairs or inter-university consortium in the Siddharthnagar-Kapilvastu-Shravasti-Kushinagar belt and in Dharamshala, residence of Holiness of 14th Dalai Lama to integrate academic research with the Buddhist Circuit initiative and leveraging institutions like the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives to advance Buddhist diplomacy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the initiatives undertaken by the Government for faculty development, language training, international collaboration with Buddhist Nations such as Sri Lanka, Japan, Thailand, Bhutan and Myanmar?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): The Government of India has framed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with an aim to promote a holistic and multidisciplinary education systems, focussing on the integration and promotion of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). The Policy provides for the inclusion of Indian traditions and practices in the curriculum, promoting a multidisciplinary approach in higher education ecosystem, thereby enabling universities to offer a diverse range of subjects at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels across the country. Further, as “Education” subject falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, establishment and management of educational institutions is undertaken by both the Central and the State Governments.

In alignment with the objectives of NEP 2020, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes (CCF-UG) and issued guidelines for incorporating Indian Knowledge Systems into higher education curricula.

Further, several central universities such as University of Delhi, Banaras Hindu University, Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim University, have departments of Buddhist Studies and offer various UG, PG and Research Programs in Buddhist Studies.

In addition to the above, Institutions under the Ministry of Culture contribute significantly to the academic development of Buddhist Studies, such as, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar; Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi; Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Arunachal Pradesh and Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh, Ladakh.

i. Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, offers programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. levels in Buddhist Studies, Pali, Sanskrit and related disciplines, including specialised courses in Buddhist philosophy and Buddhist tourism management.

ii. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi, a Deemed-to-be university offers structured programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels based on the Nalanda tradition. The curriculum infrastructure of the Institute includes faculty of Buddhists philosophy encompassing India Buddhist philosophy along with the major tradition of Tibetan traditions such as Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, Gelug and Bon.

iii. Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Arunachal Pradesh, also offers programmes in Buddhist and Himalayan Studies, with structured curricula covering Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan studies and cultural traditions.

iv. Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh, Ladakh promotes study in Buddhist philosophy, logic, and culture, along with the teaching of classical languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, and Bhoti.

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education also implements the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020. The scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT, in all processes of education providing learning resources through digital platforms. Under the NMEICT scheme, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform hosts content curated by premier institutions and is available free of cost with the approach of “Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime” Learning. Under this platform four courses have been offered for Buddhist studies namely *History of Indian Buddhism*, *Abhidhamma (Pali)*, *Buddhist Philosophy* and *Buddhist Tourism*, with more than 30,000 enrolments received since 2023.

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