



## NEW APPROUCH & INITIATIVES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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### Abstract

*The Indian Higher Education System, which includes Technical Education, is one of the largest of the world , just after the United States and China. Higher Education is the most powerful tool to build a knowledge-based society for the future. Higher Education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. It contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. Being at the apex of the educational pyramid, it plays a key role in producing quality teachers for the country's education. The National Policy on Education-1986, revised in 1992 (NPE) states that in Higher Education in general and Technical Education in particular, steps will be taken to facilitate inter-regional mobility by providing equal access to every Indian of requisite merit regardless of his origins. The future belongs to India-the largest vibrant democracy in the world, teeming with opportunities. With hope in their eyes and a yearning to learn, the youth of this great nation awaits a new paradigm of education that fosters knowledge with analytical skills, logical reasoning and the ability to imagine beyond the given; that aims at transforming lives by instilling 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and stimulating lifelong learning. The commitment of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for the future and its steps, so far, are in this direction. Education for any person is not only a tool to enhance his understanding and knowledge of everything present and happening around him but is also an avenue for ensuring an all-round growth and development of his or her personality in all respects.*

**Keyword:** GER, SSC, SAMVAY, PMMMMNTT, GIAN, LPR, SAKSHAM, ISHAN, UDAY



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### Introduction:

The universal character of Universities and other Institutions of Higher Education is to be underscored. In the areas of research and development, and science and technology, special measures will be taken to establish network arrangements between different Institutions in the Country to pool their resources in such a way that participation in projects of national importance could be made accessible.

**Table-1**

<i>Name of Institutions</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013 (Provisional)</i>
No. Universities	of	621	642	665
No. Colleges Alone	of	32974	34852	35829
No. Institutions	of	11095	11126	11443
Enrolment Lakh	in	275.00	291.84	296.29
Enrolment Distance Mode in Lakh		33.14	34.15	35.25

**HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM- A LIGHT of STATISTICS**

The above statistics shows that there is good growth in Universities, Colleges and Stand Alone Institutions. The enrolment between 2011-12 and 2012-13 (P) Indicates that Higher Education System is on right track. There is phenomenal growth of 977 colleges during the period of 2011-12 and 2012-13 (P). At the same time enrolment figures also show positive picture of Higher Education.

Gross Enrolment Ratio :

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has increased to 21.10 in 2012 -2013 (P) from 19.40 in 2010-2011

**Table-2**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Year 2010-2011</b>	<b>Year 2012-2013 (P)</b>
Male	20.80	22.30
Female	17.90	19.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.70</b>	<b>42.10</b>

showing growth of 8.76 percentage point during that period. It may be seen that GER for male population is marginally higher which clearly indicates that women is also pursuing Higher Education and posing a challenge to male dominated society which is overall a healthy sign for Indian society.

Sector Skills Council :

The first ever Sector Skills Council (SSC) in the Education Sector has been set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development(MHRD).

Skill Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth :

Skill Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY) A credit framework is now in place which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education systems. The thrust is on integrating

mental and physical development by incorporating learning by doing, learning by observation and experiential learning.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching :**

An umbrella scheme (PMMMNTT) which will create synergies among the various ongoing initiatives on Teachers and Teaching launched. The Mission will address all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum design.

**Global Initiative of Academic Networks :**

Aims of Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.

**Legislative & Policy Reform :**

To meet the present challenge and restructure the Higher Education System, various legislative & policy reform (LPR) are being taken which include-

- (i) **IIT Bill, 2014** – to grant statutory status to the four existing Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IITs) at Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram and bring them under a single umbrella as in case of IITs, NITs and IISERs (All governed by an Act of Parliament), for uniformity in governance structure, administrative and financial management.
- (ii) **School of Planning and Architecture Bill**- The Act seeks to confer the status of *Institution of National Importance* to all the three Schools of Planning and Architecture at New Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada; thereby enabling them to emerge as *Centres of Excellence* with the objective of meeting the national and international standards of planners and architects in an ever increasing environment of urbanization and industrialization.
- (iii) **The Higher Education and Research Bill**- The Higher Education and Research Bill to provide inter-alia for the establishment of an over-arching authority called *National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER)* for determination, maintenance and coordination of standards in higher education.
- (iv) **Regulator Review** – University Grants Commission's entire functioning continues to be oriented more towards grant giving rather than regulation and enforcement of

minimum standards. The Central Government, therefore recognizing the need for restructuring the University Grants Commission has constituted a UGC Review Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. Thus the MHRD, recognizing the need for restructuring and strengthening the All India Council for Technical Education to address imperatives and challenges in the Technical Education Sector for fullest realization of the higher /technical learning and research potential in the Country, has constituted the AICTE Review Committee.

Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds :

Under this ( SWAYAM) programme, professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, Centrally universities will offer online courses to citizens of our country. All courses will be made available free of cost for learning. In case the learner requires a Verified Certificate, a small fee will be applicable.

**Know Your College :**

Know Your College is a portal developed for helping a prospective student makes a valued judgment for selection of college providing the necessary information about the college.

**SAKSHAM :**

Saksham Scheme of AICTE aims at providing encouragement and support to Differently Abled children to pursue Technical Education. Scholarships as tuition fees and incidentals are to be provided to needy and meritorious students for pursuing technical education at AICTE approved institutions, aiding them to achieve their college goals, despite learning issues , environmental challenges or medical bills.

**ISHAN UDAY :**

The UGC has launched a Special Scholarship Scheme for students of North East Region. The Scheme envisages grant of 10,000 scholarships to students whose parental income is below Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum and would be provided scholarship ranging from Rs. 3,500 to 5,000 per month for studying at under graduate level in colleges/ Universities of the country.

**ISHAN VIKAS :**

Ishan Vikas a comprehensive plan to bring selected school children and Engineering Colleges students from the North-Eastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods.

### **APEX LEVEL BODIES:**

There are eight Apex Level Bodies under the Department of Higher Education which are responsible for higher education in India. These bodies can be broadly divided into two categories-

1. Regulatory Bodies.
2. Research Councils.

### **REGULATORY BODIES:**

**University Grants Commission (UGC):** UGC is a statutory organisation established by an Act of Parliament in 1956 for the promotion and coordination of University Education and for the determination of teaching, examination, research and extension in Universities and maintenance of standards. Apart from providing grants to universities and colleges, the Commission also advises the Central and State Governments on the measures necessary for development of higher education. It functions from New Delhi as well as through its six Regional Offices located in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhopal and Pune.

**Performance of various Schemes/Programme of UGC :** Plan grant is given for the development of 39 Central Universities including Medical Colleges and the Hospitals attached to them. The objective of development assistance is not only to improve and consolidate the existing infrastructure in the university but also to develop excellence in certain identified areas. During the XII Plan, General Development Assistance to universities is being provided in the form of Plan Block Grant. For universities, it will include construction/renovation of building (including renovation of heritage buildings), campus development, staff, books & journals, laboratory, equipment and infrastructure, annual maintenance contract, innovative research activities, university industry linkages, extension activities, cultural activities, development of ICT, health care, student amenities including hostels, Non-NET Fellowships to students, Travel Grant, Conferences / Seminars / Symposia / Workshops, Publication Grant, Appointment of Visiting Professor / Visiting Fellow and Establishment of Career & Counselling Cell, Day Care Centres, basic facilities for women and Faculty Development Programme, etc.

**Meta University Concept:** During the XII Plan, UGC initiated a concept of Meta University: The main purpose of the Meta University is to share learning resources by different Universities by using latest technologies available in order to enable students to benefit from learning resources available in different institutions. Meta Universities represent 2

Generation universities, free from physical boundary conditions and able to operate in virtual space, taking advantage of the innovation and flexibility possible in such domains.

**Academic Reforms during 2014-15 :** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken various measures towards improving quality of higher education and Academic Reforms such as the introduction of semester system, the regular updating of curricula and introduction of Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS), etc. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities. UGC has also issued the "Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions, Regulations, 2012" whereby all eligible higher educational institutions are required to get themselves accredited. In order to improve quality of teachers and teaching, National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Level Eligibility test (SLET) have been made compulsory requirements, only exception being those

who have completed Ph.D in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the UGC, accredits universities and colleges on various parameters of quality. UGC also implements various schemes aimed at improving the quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Centre with Potential for Excellence and a Particular Area (CPEPA) Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Basic Scientific Research (BSR) etc.

**(ii) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE):** AICTE was set up in 1945 as an advisory body and later on in 1987 given the statutory status by an Act of Parliament. The AICTE grants approval for starting new technical institutions, for introduction of new courses and for variation in intake capacity in technical institutions. The AICTE has delegated to the concerned state governments powers to process and grant approval of new institutions, starting new courses and variations in the intake capacity for diploma level technical institutions. It also lays down norms and standards for such institutions. It also ensures quality development of technical education through accreditation of technical institutions or programmes. In addition to its regulatory role, the AICTE also has a promotional role which it implements through schemes for promoting technical education for women, handicapped and weaker section of the society promoting innovations, faculty,

research and development, giving grants to technical institutions. The technical institutions under the AICTE include post-graduate, under-graduate and diploma in the whole spectrum of technical education covering engineering/technology, pharmacy, architecture, hotel management and catering technology, management studies computer applications and applied arts and crafts.

**(iii) Council of Architecture (COA):** COA has been constituted by the Government of India under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972, enacted by Parliament, which came into force on September 1, 1972. The Act provides for registration of Architects and matters connected therewith. The COA, besides maintaining a Register of Architects, oversees the maintenance of standards, periodically of recognized qualifications under the Act by way of conducting inspection through Committees of Experts. Based on the inspections, the COA can make

representation to appropriate Governments with regard to inadequacy of standards maintained by the institutions. The Central Government after further inquiry as deemed fit and keeping in view the comments of the appropriate Governments and the architecture institutions is required to take decision regarding notifying de-recognition of the architectural qualification. The recommendations of the COA are taken before any architectural qualification is notified

as recognized under the Act by the Central Government.

**(B) RESEARCH COUNCILS:**

**(i) Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi :**

Government of India established the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) as an autonomous organisation. The ICSSR has a network of 25 Research Institutes and Six Regional Centres situated across length and breadth of the country. The MHRD has sanctioned the budgetary allocations of releases by 31.12.2015 Rs. 12,25 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 7.235.32 lakhs under Non-Plan for the year 2014-15 It has the following programmes/ schemes to meet its objectives: Under its 'International Collaboration Programme' the ICSSR has instituted bilateral collaboration and research networking in the field of social sciences with a number of countries under the framework of Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP)/ Educational Exchange

Programmes (EEP)/ Bi lateral/ Multi lateral Programmes. Besides, it is associated with several

International Agencies – International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO), Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC), International Social Science Council (ISSC), Science Council of Asia (SCA), UNESCO, etc. EU-India Platform on Social Sciences and Humanities has been launched in which ICSSR is the nodal agency from India. The ICSSR provides financial assistance to organize International & National Seminars/

Conferences in India in order to promote social sciences research. The ICSSR provides grant to the faculty members belonging to Social Sciences departments of universities, P.G. colleges and Research Institutes for organizing 'Research Methodology Course' for Ph.D. Students, and also, 'Capacity Building Programme' for young social science faculty to develop their research

capabilities. The ICSSR awards a number of Doctoral, Post-doctoral, Senior and National Fellowships each year to eminent social scientists who have made outstanding contribution to research in their respective fields. The Council provides research grants to individual scholars to conduct research in the field of their interest in social sciences. Under the Research Survey and Publication Programme, the ICSSR has been conducting surveys of research in different

disciplines of social science since 1970. The ICSSR provides maintenance and development grant to 25 Research Institutes. Sponsoring of research institutes outside the scope of the University Grants Commission has been one of the major programmes of the Council.

**(ii) Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), NEW DELHI :**

The Indian Council of Philosophical Research was set up by the Government of India, as a registered society in March 1977 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. However, it actually started functioning in July 1981. The Council was set up with the following main aims

and objectives such as: (i) to review the progress of research in Philosophy from time to time; (ii) to sponsor or assist projects or programmes of research in Philosophy; (iii) to give financial support to institutions and organizations engaged in the conduct of research in Philosophy; (iv) to provide technical assistance or guidance for the formulation of research projects and programmes in Philosophy, by individuals or institutions, and/or organize and support institutional or other arrangements for training in research methodology; and (v) to indicate



periodically areas in and topics on which research in Philosophy should be promoted and to adopt special measures for the development of research in neglected or developing areas in Philosophy. Budget Estimates Released by 31.12.2015 and main objectives in the year 2014-15.

**(iii) Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) :**

Indian Council of Historical Research is an autonomous organization which was established under Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) in 1972. The prime objectives of the Council are to give a proper direction to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history. The broad aims of the Council are to bring historians together, provide a forum for exchange of views between them, give a national direction to an

objective and rational presentation interpretation of history, to sponsor historical research programmes and projects and to assist institutions and organizations engaged in historical research. It has a broad view of history so as to include in its fold the history of Science and Technology, Economy, Art, Literature, Philosophy, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Archaeology, Socio-Economic formation processes and allied subjects containing strong historical bias and contents.

The Council is also executing various special projects of national and international importance such as (i) Towards Freedom Project; (ii) documents on Economic History of British Rule in India 1858-1947; (iii) Dictionary of Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in India/South Asian Inscription; (iv) 1857 Project and (v) National Register of Martyrs (1857- 947). Out of Rs. 700.00 lakhs under Plan an amount of Rs.539.58 lakhs has been spent and out of Rs. 1057.29

lakhs under Non-Plan an amount of Rs. 800.07 lakhs has been spent.

**(iv) National Council of Rural Institute (NCRI), HYDERABAD :**

The National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) was established by Government of India as per the programme of Action (PoA) on National Policy on Education (NPE)-1986. It came into existence in 1995 as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) with the mandate to promote rural higher education. It has the mandate to:

- ✓ Promote Rural Higher Education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education so as to take up challenges of microplanning for transformation of

rural areas as envisaged in NPE 1986 (as modified in 1992); and as it was suggested by Radhakrishnan Commission (1948).

- ✓ Consolidate network and develop Rural Institutes and endow them for recognition.
- ✓ Develop Rural Institutes into Regional Development Institutes and Rural Universities, which shall function as hubs for knowledge connectivity, and emerge as effective agents for rural transformation in the backward regions, through voluntary initiatives, wherever possible.
- ✓ Regulate the quality of education of rural institutes and educational programmes in the area of rural higher education of all the Universities in India.
- ✓ Design a variety of courses at the tertiary level around emerging rural occupations.
- ✓ strengthen teacher training facilities for Gandhian Basic Education. strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science, technology and management on the one hand and traditional wisdom on the other.
- ✓ Promote vocational training programmes and initiatives for self-reliance.
- ✓ Encourage field-oriented courses of rural institutes.
- ✓ Promote action-research as a tool for social and rural development.
- ✓ Promote extension services to the community through micro-level planning, and
- ✓ Advise Government of India on all such matters pertaining to rural institutes as may be referred to it from time to time.

**(v) Centre for Studies in Civilizations Project of History of Indian Science,**

**Philosophy and Culture (PISHPC) :**

The idea of undertaking a comprehensive research project for inter-disciplinary study of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture was conceived by Professor D.P. Chattopdhyaya, Founder Chairman of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), in early eighties, but the idea could take practical shape only in 1990. As a result of series of discussions, deliberations and consultations amongst eminent scholars of history, science, philosophy and culture, it was decided to undertake inter-disciplinary study, so that interconnection between science, philosophy and culture as they developed in the long history of Indian civilization could be brought out in detail.

**(C) Other Bodies :**

**(i) Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), SHIMLA :**

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study is an advanced residential centre for free and creative enquiry into the fundamental themes and problems of life and thought. It was established in 1964 under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and is housed in Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla. The main aim of the Institute is to promote creative thought in areas which have deep human significance and to provide an environment suitable for academic research and also to undertake, organize, guide and promote advanced research in all areas of Humanities and Social Sciences. Fellows form the core academic community of the IIAS. During the year 2014-15, five National Fellows,

three Tagore Fellows, 23 Fellows and 7 Guest Fellows were at the Institute. Besides, the Institute invites scholars of eminence to deliver lectures at the Institute. In this regard, 5 Visiting Professors and 10 Visiting Scholars visited the Institute during the period under report. The Institute organises a large number of seminars, conferences, study weeks, schools, symposia and round tables on the themes of national and international importance. Out of ` 1700.00 lakhs

under Plan an amount of ` 1160.57 lakhs has been spent.

**(ii) Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi :**

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The objective of AIU is to serve as an interuniversity organization, act as a bureau of information dissemination, facilitate the coordination and mutual consultation among universities, act as representative of the universities and other institutions of higher education in India. As an apex body, it provides a forum to academics and administrators of member Universities/Institutions to exchange views and discuss matters of common concern. The Association also acts as a bureau of information exchange in higher education and brings out a number of publications including the "University Handbook", research papers and a weekly journal titled "Universities News". The present membership of the Association is 536 (including Seven Associate Members viz. Kathmandu University, Kathmandu, Mauritius University, Mauritius, Royal University of Bhutan, Thimpu, Open University Malaysia, Malaysia, Middle East University, UAE, University of Technology, Mauritius and Semey State Medical University, East Kazakhstan). The Association is substantially financed by the annual subscription received from the member Universities, research and other publications and consultancy. The Government of India, Ministry of

Human Resource Development provides grant for meeting a part of the maintenance and development expenditure including research on topical issues relating to Higher Education.

AIU functions through its various Divisions such as

Research Division, Evaluation, Students Information Service, Publication & Sales, Sports, Youth Affairs, Library and Documentation, Finance, Meeting, Administration, Computer, and international Division.

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