

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development**

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Initiatives and Achievements of Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Year End Review
2016**

In pursuance to Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for 'Transforming India', [Ministry of Human Resource Development](#) took a leap forward in transforming education sector with the motto of “सबको शिक्षा, अच्छी शिक्षा ” (Education for All, Quality Education).

Year 2016 has been a yet another landmark year in the field of education as 'Education For All & Quality Education' guided policy actions and decisions enabling transformation, that emphasized upon making education Available, Accessible, Affordable and Accountable.

While '**Education for All**' has driven the expansion in education with new institutes of School ([KVS](#), [NVS](#)) & Higher Education ([IITs](#), IIMs, IIITs, IISER) and Institutional capacity building initiatives like, [SWAYAM PRABHA](#) - 32 DTH channels on 24X7 basis for educational programmes, restructuring of IIT fees to make more inclusive, Amendments in [UGC Act](#) to make more [gender sensitive](#), [SWAYAM - MOOCs](#), [Swachh Vidyalaya](#) and e-governance initiatives like ShaGun Portal, [e-Pathshala](#), [Shaala Siddhi](#) etc.



On the other hand '**Quality Education**' has been emphasized with the thrust on promoting research & innovation, and initiatives like Impacting Research Innovation and Technology ([IMPRINT](#)), Global Initiative of Academic Network ([GIAN](#)), National Institutional Ranking Framework ([NIRF](#)), Higher Educational Financing Agency ([HEFA](#)), [Digital ISBN](#), [National Academic Depository](#) ([NAD](#)), Seema Darshan, [Kala Utsav](#), [Prashikshak](#) Portal etc.

Reaching out to all stakeholders including academicians & industry with the student-centric approach, leveraging technology as important catalyst in transforming education and focusing on improvement of learning outcomes, the developmental initiatives have been essentially layered in matrix of 4 'A's in response to ensure 'Quality Education'.

Department of School Education & Literacy

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with State Governments for universalizing elementary education across the country. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children.

SSA provides for a variety of interventions, including inter alia, opening of new schools, construction of schools and additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water, provisioning for teachers, periodic teacher training and academic resource

support, textbooks and support for learning achievement. These provisions are made in accordance with norms and standards and free entitlements as mandated by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

The releases to States and UTs under SSA have gone up from Rs. 19594.07 Crores in 2010-11 to Rs.21590.14 Crores in 2015-16. Against the BE 2016-17 of Rs.22500 Crores an amount of Rs.18995.58 Crores (84.42%) has been released to States/UTs in 2016-17 so far.

Improvement in Educational Indicators

- The census 2011 estimated 20.78 crore children in the 6-13 age group.
- As per UDISE 2015-16, enrolment in elementary schools was 19.67 crore children in 14.49 lakh elementary schools.
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of out of school children in the 6-14 years age group, from 134.6 lakh in 2005 to 81 lakh in 2009 and further to 61 lakh in 2014.
- The annual average dropout rate at primary level has come down from 9.11% in 2009-10 to 4.13% in 2015-16.
- The transition rate from primary to upper primary has gone up from 83.53% in 2009-10 to 90.14% in 2015-16.
- The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has improved from 32 in 2009-10 to 24 in 2015-16.

Focus on Quality of Education

SSA has made significant progress in achieving near universal access and equity. However, imparting quality education to children at elementary level is the major challenge and therefore, reorienting the SSA programme towards quality is the main emphasis of the Department.

- During the **64th meeting of the Central Advisory Board for Education (CABE)** held on 25.10.2016, the key issues affecting the quality of school education in States and UTs were discussed and specific action points were identified including the rationalization of teacher deployment, mechanisms to ensure teacher accountability, consolidation of low enrolment schools and use of technology for effective monitoring among others.



Right to Education was discussed with specific reference to untrained teachers and No Detention Policy. It was an issue of concern that learning outcomes are deteriorating. Therefore:

- (i) It was agreed that learning outcomes should be codified and be made a part of rules of RTE.
 - (ii) It was also agreed that there has to be accountability of all stakeholders for improving learning outcomes.
 - (iii) It was further agreed that Central Government may bring in suitable amendment which will give States freedom to review “No Detention Policy.”
 - (iv) The task of completing the training of untrained teachers should be completed within the next 5 years.
- Department of School Education and Niti Aayog are jointly developing a **School Education Quality Index (SEQI)** in consultation with all States and UTs. This index aims to institutionalize a focus on improving education outcomes (learning, access, equity) as the principle aim of school education policy in India. This is expected to launch by January 2017.
 - **Shagun portal – an Initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA**

ShaGun a web portal (from the words Shaala and Gunvatta) is being developed by Ministry of HRD. It has two components i.e. one is a **Repository of best practices**, photographs, videos, studies, newspaper articles etc on elementary education, State /UT wise. These would be in the public domain with the purpose to provide a platform for all stakeholders to learn from success stories of each other. This would also instill a positive competitive spirit among all the States and UTs.

The second part is regarding the **online monitoring of the SSA implemented by States and UTs** and will be accessed by Government Officers at all levels using their specific passwords. It comprises questionnaires, related to various interventions under SSA and the performance of the State, which will be filled in by the States and UTs. There are 122 Reports which will be automatically generated from the data filled in the questionnaires. These Reports, along with the success stories in the Repository, will create an online platform which can be viewed by officers in the Department, PMO, Niti Aayog etc., to see the status of implementation of the SSA and the elementary education in all States and UTs.

Sub-Programmes under SSA

In addition to these, the Department is supporting States and UTs to implement national level initiatives to improve the quality of education. These include;

(i) **The 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB)**

a sub-programme of the SSA, in classes I and II focusing on foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and Mathematics. States and UTs have been implementing specific interventions like ABL in Tamil Nadu, Nalli Kali in Karnataka, Pragya in Gujarat; steps have been taken to develop specific teacher training modules for teachers teaching students in classes 1 and 2. Punjab, Meghalaya, Delhi have introduced programmes for strengthening teaching of maths in classes 1 and 2; in Sikkim schools have set up reading corners for children in the foundational classes through support from community members

(ii) **The Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA)**

It is also under the SSA, was launched by Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. This aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in Science, Mathematics and Technology by observation, experimentation, inference drawing and model building, through both inside and outside classroom activities. Schools have been adopted for mentoring by Institutions of Higher Education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's. In some States students have been taken for exposure visits to factories, research hubs; science and mathematics clubs are being formed at the school levels, students are participating in competitions and exhibitions to showcase their innovations in Maths, Science and Technology.

(iii) **Vidyanjali**

This is sub-programme under SSA launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country under the overall aegis of the SSA. The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers. So far 3306 Volunteers registered for the programme creating 10443 activities to be conducted in schools, 841 Volunteers have gone to schools and conducted activities.

• **Some Recent Initiatives taken by the Department for Improving Quality of Elementary Education as follows:**

- i. Grade-wise learning goals from Class I-VIII are being framed and will be displayed on the notice board of all schools. These will also be incorporated in the Central Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Rules as a guideline for States and UTs to ensure that **all children acquire appropriate learning levels.**

- ii. **National Achievement Survey will be conducted annually from 2017** instead of once in every 3 years, as per current practice. This will enable regular assessment of learning levels of the children and help to give an insight into the pedagogical and policy changes required to improve these learning levels further.
- iii. Emphasis is being laid on **effective implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)** of students in all government and aided schools.
- iv. Grade-wise weak students have been identified for **remedial classes**, to ensure that all students acquire grade-appropriate learning levels.
- v. All school going children in the age group of 5 to 18 years in the country is being covered under Aadhar. This would help in tracking of children so that they do not dropout from school and also for **monitoring their academic progress** and for ensuring benefits to be disbursed to them in cash or kind under various schemes. Currently, 23.24 crore children in this age group have already been covered under Aadhar against the total enrolment of 26.07 crore children in the same age group.
- vi. States and UTs are taking steps to provide all teachers with Aadhar Card to prevent bogus teachers in the system. So far data of 16.10 lakh teachers is available. Also, Grade-wise photos of teachers are being displayed on the school notice board in all government and aided schools. This would enable all students and their parents to know the regular teachers in that school and will **discourage the practice of 'proxy' teachers**.
- vii. The Department is preparing guidelines for rationalizing and positive consolidation of small schools, especially with zero or very low enrolment, in States. This would help the States in effectively running their schools with viable strength of both students and teachers.
- viii. The Department has framed guidelines for **“Partnership between Schools” Programme**, which aims to link schools located in rural areas with private, aided, or government schools in urban or semi urban areas. All States and UTs have been requested to take necessary action in this direction and design the modalities of the programme within the broad guidelines issued by the Department.

The objectives of the initiative include (i) bring all students to one common platform, (ii) to share experiences and learn from each other, (iii) provide opportunities to the teaching fraternity to adopt better and more effective practices and (iv) to instill a spirit of sharing, caring and togetherness.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has reported that 25 Kendriya Vidyalayas have partnered with 25 State Government Schools for this programme. Central Board of Secondary Education has informed that 147 well functioning schools affiliated to the Board have partnered with Government run schools in rural areas.

- ix. **School Location Mapping:** A [website](#) has been enabled which shows the location of all the schools on a map of India. The schools can be searched by name, location, UDISE code etc. The school report card has been integrated with the coordinates of the schools. 18 States have achieved more than 95% coverage of their schools and against a total of 15,22,925 schools (as per UDISE 2015-16), 11,96,117 schools (78.54%) have been mapped.
- x. A concept paper on carrying out **student evaluation of teacher performance** in government and government-aided schools is being developed by NCERT.
- xi. A State-wise training calendar for **head master training** has been prepared by NUEPA to ensure capacity building of all headmasters and head teachers.

- xii. All States and UTs have been advised to enhance the **use of e-governance in school management** to facilitate faster and efficient decision making. For this, software developed by the State of Gujarat has been shared by the Department.
- xiii. Guidelines are being prepared for **creation of a separate cadre of school headmaster/principal** in States and UTs. This would equip the schools with an effective leader and improve their management.
- xiv. A study has been initiated in the States of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Karnataka and Odisha to assess the **time spent by teachers in non-teaching related activities** and its adverse impact on education.
- xv. An advisory for drafting a suitable Teacher Tenure Policy has been issued to States and UTs to **fix a minimum tenure for teachers in rural areas**.
- xvi. A study has been initiated to **standardize all data definitions**, methodology of collecting each data and identifying critical data gaps.
- xvii. A plan is being finalized by NCERT, in consultation with Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), Bhopal, for extending the scheme for **vocationalisation at upper primary level**. Some pilots will be conducted from next Academic session in some classes of upper primary level.

- **Regular Communication and Interaction with States and UTs**

To further highlight the need and importance of devising a strategy for enhancing the quality of education, the Department has communicated frequently with States and UTs, as under:

- i. Secretary (School Education and Literacy) has written (letter dated September 17, 2016) to Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs sharing a national level reform agenda to improving quality of school education and requesting every State and UT to prepare their reform agenda.
- ii. Secretary (School Education and Literacy) has written to Chief Secretaries (letter dated 30th September 2016) of all States and UTs highlighting the performance of students in the Class 5, National Achievement Survey (cycle 4) conducted by NCERT during 2014. States and UTs have been asked to prepare a roadmap to improve the learning levels of their students and to intimate this to the Ministry.

Teacher Education (TE):

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, 2014- Norms and Standards: The NCTE was established by an Act (No.73 of 1993) of Parliament with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinate development of the teacher education system throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system, and for matters connected therewith. NCTE revised Regulations was notified in November 2014.

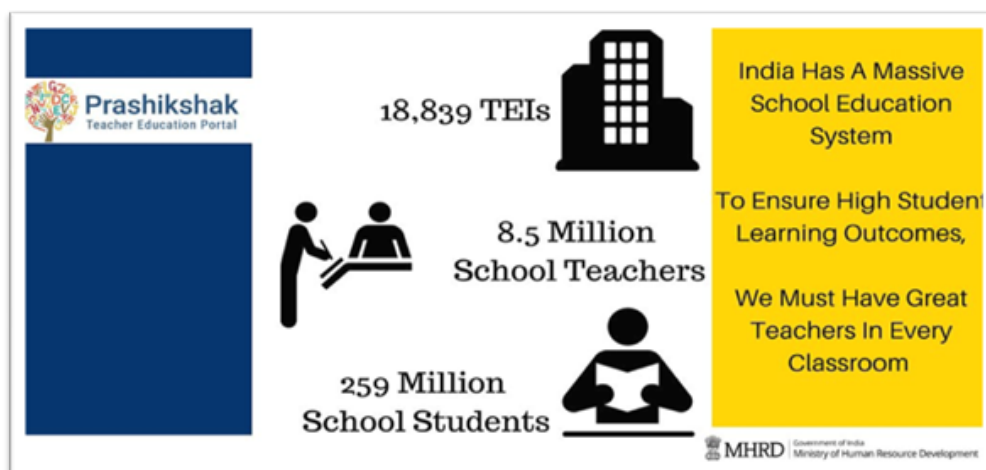
1. TESS-India programme for Teacher Educators with collaboration between Department for International Development (DfID) and MHRD with UK's Open University as the implementing agency. The duration of the first phase of the project was June, 2012 to May, 2015 and the project aims towards development of Teacher Developmental Units (TDUs) for 7 States (U.P, Bihar, M.P, Odisha, Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka) in Mathematics, Science, English, Social Science and Leadership. The TESS-India project duration has been extended upto March, 2017.

2. **Monitoring through Joint Review Mission:** The Centrally sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education puts emphasis on monitoring of the process and outcome parameters in respect of each level of institution. Joint Review Missions is a part of a comprehensive monitoring mechanism of Teachers' Education scheme. Joint Review Mission consisting of experts in Teacher Education has been sent to 30 States from the year 2012-13 till 2016-17 for ensuring effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education (CSSTE).

3. **National and Regional workshop under TE-Scheme:** Various National and Regional Workshops (1 National Workshop and 1 Regional Workshop- North Eastern Region) have been conducted under CSSTE to review the effective implementation of the Teacher Education Scheme and to envisage future roadmap and initiatives. The main objective of these Regional workshops was to review the implementation of Teacher education Scheme, preparing the comprehensive Annual Work Plan & Budget proposal for the year 2016-17, Challenges in preparing the AWP, Key activities under CSSTE, Priorities areas under CSSTE and Status of Revision of Curriculum and other aspects as per NCTE Regulations 2014.

New Activities/Initiatives under CSSTE Scheme

- **Prashikshak Teacher Education Portal:** Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched Prashikshak, a teacher education portal on 30.06.2016 for a strong monitoring mechanism, which would contain a database of all 588 DIETs in the country with all relevant information about the institutes including performance indicators.



The objective of Prashikshak is to help DIETs make informed decisions about their institutes, compare the performance of their institute against other DIETs in the state/country as well as help aspiring teachers make informed decisions about which institute to join. The major stakeholders and users of the portal are: Teacher Educators; DIET principals and faculty; Policy makers at District, State Government and National Level; Student Teachers; In-service trainer teachers; and the General public.

- **Enhanced use of E-Governance** in Teacher Education by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for better regulation of the sector.

- **Accreditation for Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)** by National Council for Teacher Education for better management and improved quality of teacher education.

- **Mapping of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)** for providing comprehensive status of 18,000+ recognised TEIs spread across the country in the public domain, a Geographical Information System (GIS) has been introduced online for mapping the TEIs. GIS mapping of more than 7000 institutions have been undertaken.
- **NCTE has also undertaken a demand and supply gap** for 2015-16 to 2025-26 to ascertain teacher demand and supply up to district level and subject-teacher level at all levels of schooling.
- **Ranking for NCTE affiliated Institutes** on 10th March 2016, a committee has been constituted to develop accreditation/grading framework for of the Teacher Education Institutions.
- **Four Year Integrated B.Ed. Programme by 2017-18** So far, 198 institutions have been granted recognition by NCTE.

Mid-Day Meal (MDM)

Mid Day Meal is a centrally sponsored programme designed with a view to enhancing enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children. [Mid Day Meal Rules, 2015](#) notified on 30th September 2015 to ensure quality nutrition and effective monitoring. Also, two recent interventions viz Tithi Bhojan and Social Audit are designed to attract community participation and channelize it for enrichment of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

The Central Government has requested the States to consider the concept of **Tithi Bhojan** for mid day meals in a suitable manner, to encourage local community participation the programme. **Social Audit**, another intervention under this Scheme means is a process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of the Scheme. It is viewed as an ongoing process of public vigilance.

Union Budgetary Allocation:

Year Wise Outlay under Mid Day Meal Scheme (Rs. in Crore)			
Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Releases
2016-17	9700.00	-----	5471.99 <i>(as on 26-09-2016)</i>
2015-16	9236.40	9236.40	9151.55

Community Participation: Mothers are encouraged to take turns to oversee the feeding of the children, thus ensuring quality and regularity of the meal. For this, they need to devote only a couple of hours once or twice in a month. This simple intervention of ‘mothers watch’, gives them a voice and a role and greater ownership of the programme.

Reports from Chattisgarh’s Baster district indicate that the involvement of mothers “MITANIN” has not only led to a significant improvement in cooking and hygiene but also a change in attitude on the part of the teachers with the decline in

absenteeism. In Himachal Pradesh, mothers have been involved for supervision and duty rosters are being maintained. Similar rosters have been introduced in Madhya Pradesh. In Uttarakhand mothers are appointed as Bhojan Mata and Sahayika in all primary school.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that envisages inter-alia provision of a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary level by making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers etc. In 2013, secondary education the schemes of ICT, vocational education, Girls Hostel and IEDSS were subsumed under the umbrella of RMSA.

Under RMSA the status of the physical achievement:-

1. New schools

Year	No. of new schools Approved	Functional
Since inception to till date	12394	10924
2016-17	1073	463

2. Strengthening of existing Secondary schools

Year	Additional Class Rooms	Science Labs	Computer Rooms	Library	Art/craft/culture rooms	Drinking Water facility	Toilet block
Since inception to till date	52083	25865	20625	25964	29960	11848	20271
2016-17	3620	1932	1365	2186	2545	470	1347

3. Expansion of coverage of VE: Under the scheme number of vocational trades have also expanded from initial 4 trades to 16 vocational trades till date including Automobile, Agriculture, Beauty & Wellness, Health Care, IT & ITeS, Media & Entertainment, Physical Education & Sports, Retail, Security, Telecommunication, Rubber and Travel & Tourism.

Year wise Approval and progress is as under:

Year	No. of schools Approved	Functional
Total	7448	3792
2016-17	3667	

4. Under Girls Hostel Year-wise Approval and functional Status is as follows:

Year	No. of Girls Hostel Approved	Functional
Total	2483	985
2016-17	450	

5. Year-wise Approval under ICT is as follows:

Year	No. of schools Approved	Functional
Total	88078	57007
2016-17	4475	

6. Year wise Financial Progress is as follows:

Rs. in Crore

Year	Allocation	GOI Releases
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2016-17	3700.00	2786.56 (as on 14.12.2016)
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7. Some of the significant initiatives, under RMSA for improving quality of education are as below: -

(i) **Shaala Siddhi**

School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal were launched on 7th November 2015. It is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement. Developed by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), it aims to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and facilitate them to make professional judgments for improvement. The objective is to establish an agreed set of standards and benchmarks for each school, by focusing on key performance domains and their core standards. The web portal for the framework will enable all schools to engage in self-evaluation in the 7 key domains under the Framework. The results of the evaluations will be available on a public platform along with the School Report card.

In the Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting to consider the Annual Work Plan & Budget of the States/UTs for the year 2016-17, States and UTs have been advised to implement Shaala Siddhi programme for all schools. 25 States/UTs covering nearly 9000 schools have implemented Shaala Siddhi so far.

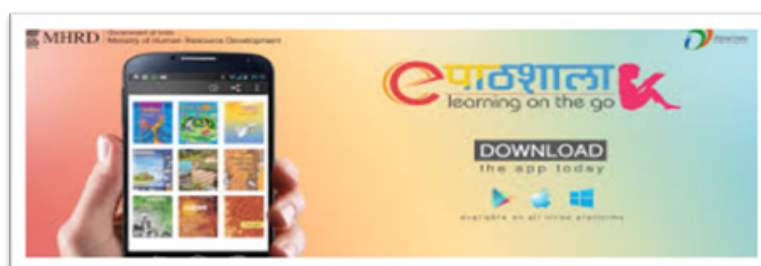
ii) **Shaala Darpan:**

The “Shaala Darpan Project” to cover all the 1099 Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched on 05.06.2015. The objective of this project is to provide services based on School Management Systems to Students, Parents and Communities. Under School Information Services, the following list of services will be enabled i.e., School Profile Management, Student Profile Management, Employee Information, Student Attendance, Leave Management, Report Cards, Curriculum Tracking Custom, SMS Alerts for Parents / Administrators on student & teacher attendance.

During the current financial year 2016-17, 3224 schools have been approved for implementing School Management Project on pilot basis in States/UTs with total outlay of Rs. 393.445 lakh. This will help in ensuring better and transparent administration in the schools.

(iii) **e- PATHSHALA**

It is a single point repository of e-resources containing, NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) developed for showcasing and disseminating all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and a variety of other print and non-print materials.



Students, Teachers, Educators and Parents can access e-Books through multiple technology platforms i.e. mobile phones and tablets (as e-pub) and from the web through laptops and desktops (as Flipbook). e-Pathshala also allows user to carry as many books as their device supports. Features of these books allow users to pinch, select, bookmark, highlight, navigate, share and make notes digitally.

(iv) **GIS MAPPING:**

To ensure universal access to schools including secondary schools within a reasonable distance of any habitation and without any discrimination, the Geographic coordinates of school along with the school information available in UDISE is being uploaded on the school GIS Web enabled platform i.e. <http://schoolgis.nic.in>. All

states have conducted GIS mapping and shared geographical coordinates of schools with the NIC except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This mapping is linked to the UDISE database to ensure that every school is mapped and is backed by a detailed school report card based on UDISE information. This effort of developing web enabled platform about school information (Spatial and Non Spatial data) will add to the quality of planning and better utilization of resources available under SSA and RMSA. **As on 30.11.2016, against the total of 15,22,925 schools (as per UDISE 2015-16), 11,96,117 (78.54%) schools have been mapped on GIS portal.**

(v) National Achievement Survey for Class X

The National Achievement Survey for Class X has been undertaken for the first time by MHRD. A summary report on the National Achievement Survey (NAS) Class X was submitted by NCERT to the Ministry on 4th January, 2016. The survey investigates student achievement in five subjects: English, Mathematics, Social Science, Science and Modern Indian Language. The test has been administered in 33 States and Union Territories after a scientific and robust process of sample design, test development and translation, with rigorous adherence to technical procedures.

The achievement of a child is dependent on various background factors, which have been collected in detail under the survey. Accordingly, teachers training (pre-service and in-service) programmes will be designed on the basis of NAS findings to improve pedagogical aspects in relation to different subjects. It will also help States to revisit curriculum expectations and initiate curriculum reforms. The State Report Card has also been forwarded to the States/UTs.

(vi) Kala Utsav:

Kala Utsav is an initiative of MHRD to promote Arts (Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts and Crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at secondary stage in the country, and it is also a platform to bring arts to the centre stage in an inclusive environment.



As part of Kala Utsav, Competitions in the four themes of Music, Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts were held at District and State levels and the winning teams thereafter participated at the National level Kala Utsav 2016 which was held at New Delhi from 15-18th November, 2016. Nearly 1700 Students from all 36 States/UTs, KVS and NVS participated in the event.

(vii) Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan

Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan was launched on 9th July 2015 to focus on Science and Mathematics. Under this, training of 1.04 lakh Science and Mathematics teacher, Math and Science Kit, excursion trip to science centers and Museum for students, special teaching on science and mathematics, science exhibition at district level, teaching of Vedic mathematics etc has been included under RMSA. **During the current financial year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 157.31 crore has been approved for the RAA Project on Science & Mathematics.**

(viii) National Award for Teachers: Using ICT for Innovation in Education

Under the ICT in Schools, to promote computer enabled learning and usage of ICT in teaching in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools has provision for instituting the National Award for innovative use of ICT to motivate the Teachers and Teacher Educators for innovative use of ICT in teaching-learning.

The National Award for Teachers using ICT for innovation in education for the 2015 was given away to the 11 teachers along with the National Teacher Award on Teachers Day, 2016.

(ix) Data base of Students and Teachers:

As on 30.11.2016, 24,49,20,190 (approx 70%) **children in the age group of 5 to 18 years** have been enrolled under Aadhar, as against 20,94,34,376 Children (59.8 %) at the end of December, 2015.

Data of 50,77,029 **teachers** was captured including Aadhar of 16,10,487, email of 20,20,687 and mobile number of 37,59,705 teachers, and uploaded on **e-Sampark portal**. NUEPA has incorporated the aforesaid details in its Data Capture Format (DCF) for UDISE, which will ensure its periodic updation.

(x) Seema Darshan

It is an initiative to provide an opportunity for the children to experience the border environment and to foster patriotism among the students. Ministry of HRD in collaboration with Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has organized “Seema Darshan” for students from Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas during 22nd-26th January, 2016 during which students visited **Akhnoor** and **Attari** Borders. The Phase-II of Seema Darshan was organized in the month of June 2016 during which two batches of students visited **Dharchula** between 14th-21st June 2016 and **Nathu-La** during 14th-19th June 2016.



The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Shri Upendra Kushwaha addressing at the inauguration of the Festival-cum-Exhibition “Azadi 70 Saal - Yaad Karo Kurbani, Mera Desh Mera Gaurav”, in New Delhi on September 02, 2016.

Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative

The Swachh Vidyalaya initiative was a collaborative effort of all the Central Government which provided funding through Centrally sponsored schemes of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Kosh, and the States and Union Territories in partnership with 64 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and 11 Private Corporate.

At the time of launch of the initiative, the gap in availability of functional toilets in all government schools was assessed and interventions were planned based on the assessment to ensure that every child had access to a gender segregated toilet facility. 4,17,796 toilets were constructed/made functional in 2,61,400 schools in a period of one year up to 15th August, 2015.

During June 2016, DoSEL has instituted Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar to recognize inspire and celebrate excellence in *sanitation & hygiene* practice in Government Schools. Schools will be awarded for undertaking significant steps towards fulfilling the mandate of Swachh Vidyalaya campaign in the following areas:

- Water
- Sanitation
- Hand washing with soap
- Operations & Maintenance
- Behavior change & capacity building.



The Ministry of Human Resource Development also observed Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st September to 15th September, 2016.

Swachhtam Vidyalaya and Harit Vidyalaya

In order to emphasize upon clean and green environment in Kendriya Vidyalayas, 'Swachhtam Vidyalaya' and 'Harit Vidyalaya' Awards have been instituted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan from the session 2016-17 at regional level with running trophies and cash awards.

Other Achievements:

A) National Swachhata Award to KV FRI, Dehradun

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi awarded National Swachhata Award to KV FRI, which was adjudged Cleanest School of India.

B) The Ministry of Human Resource Development [website](#) has been awarded Platinum in the Web-Ratna Category in the recently concluded Digital India awards, 2016. Web-Ratna award felicitates a Ministry or Department of the Government of India which has a comprehensive web presence and display the level of accountability in terms of quantity, quality, spectrum of coverage, and innovation ascertaining user satisfaction. Level of convenience provided to the citizen for availing the services, usability and accessibility are also assessed.

Salient features of the [Website](#):

- The website of the Ministry of HRD conforms to the UUU (usable, user-centric and universally accessible) trilogy.
- Bilingual as per the directions of Parliamentary Committee of official languages
- Accessible to all and special features have also been incorporated in the website for visually challenged users.
- The website complies with the mandatory requirements of Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) and is STQC Certified.
- It connects with social media and is kept updated.

C) Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi awarded **MyGov Prize for "Duties of Citizen Contest"** organized by MyGov to two students of Kendriya Vidyalaya.



Adult Education (AE):

Adult Education Bureau is dealing with two main Plan Schemes namely; Adult Education Skill Development (Saakshar Bharat) and Scheme of Support to NGO/Institutions/SRCs for Adult Education & Development (under which funds are being given to State Resource Centres & Jan Shikshan Sansthan).

Scheme wise details of Fund Allocation for XII Five Year Plan and Expenditure are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Budget Outlay for XII Plan	Expenditure		Expenditure during last two years		Total
			2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
1.	Adult Education Skill Development (Saakshar Bharat)	3000.00	387.33	297.26	358.25	344.09	1386.93
2.	Scheme of Support to NGO/Institutions/SRCs for Adult Education and & Development	600.00	78.96	114.52	61.98	93.64	349.00

Major Achievements under Saakshar Bharat programme

A. Persons made literate:

Saakshar Bharat has set up a target to make 7 Crore adult learners literate by the end of XII Five Year Plan. Till March 2016, Twelve biannual assessment tests were conducted in which around 6.97 Crore learners (Male 2.02 & Female 4.95 Crores) appeared. Out of which, 5.13 Crore (3.65 Crore female and 1.48 Crore male) have successfully passed and declared literate. In addition, one crore learners have reportedly appeared in the assessment test conducted on August 2016. The result of the assessment test is under compilation.

The details of biannual assessment test conducted since 2014-15 on words.

Test Conducted	Appeared	Certified as literate	Rate of Success
August 2014	37.78 lakh	27.97 lakh	74.03%
March 2015	69.10 lakh	51.51 lakh	74.54%
August 2015	110.19 lakh	80.96 lakh	73.47%
March 2016	88.82 lakh	67.14 lakh	75.59%
Total	305.89 lakh	227.58 lakh	74.40%

B. Achievements under Convergence Activities:

National Literacy Mission Authority has undertaken various activities involving convergence and linkages relating to empowerment issues like **Electoral Literacy, Financial Literacy and Legal Literacy** and also taken proactive initiative for

alignment of Saakshar Bharat with Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana in achieving 100% literacy.

- i) A special drive was undertaken by NLMA in 17 Saakshar Bharat States to motivate & mobilize more than one crore Saakshar Bharat beneficiaries to open their Bank Accounts under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY)**.
- ii) NLMA participated in **Suraksha Bandhan Drive** for **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**. State Literacy Mission Authorities, State Resource Centres and Jan Shikshan Sansthan mobilized more than 1.02 crore beneficiaries to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Department of Higher Education

NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)

The Government had initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. The objective of the consultation process was to ensure that an inclusive, participatory and holistic approach is undertaken, which takes into consideration expert opinions, field experiences, empirical research, stakeholder feedback, as well as lessons learned from best practices.

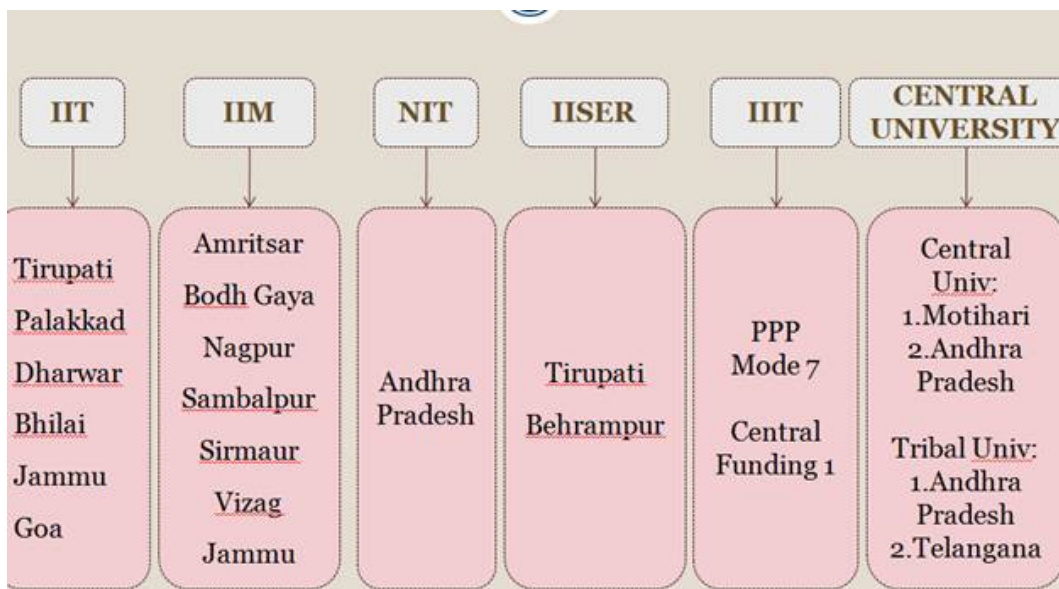
After thematic consultations in the previous year with all institutions and stakeholders under MHRD, six zonal meetings were also held on NEP with the State Education Ministers, State Education Secretaries and other state officials. The Ministry had constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy, which submitted its report in May 2016. Thereafter the Ministry had formulated '[Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016](#)' on which comments/suggestions were invited from the Government of India Ministries, State Government, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other stakeholders up to 30th September 2016.



'Education Dialogue' organized with the Hon'ble MPs of both Houses of the Parliament on 10th November 2016 in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

Several suggestions, views, comments and inputs have been received from different cross-sections of stakeholders. An 'Education Dialogue' was also organized with the Hon'ble MPs to discuss the suggestions and to elicit their views. A Committee under the leadership of an eminent educationist is being contemplated to prepare final draft NEP.

Approval for New Institutes:



- Several new institutions have been started during the year: (6) new IITs, (7) new IIMs, (1) new NIT, (2) new IISERs, (8) new IIITs are all fully operationalised. The (4) Central Universities would start functioning shortly.
- A scheme to establish twenty new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), on a Not-for-profit Public Private Partnership (N-PPP) basis has been approved by the Cabinet on 07.12.2016. The Ministry had already approved 19 out of 20 IIITs. Approval for setting up of a new IIIT in PPP mode in the state of Bihar has been given on 11th November 2016.
- The Cabinet approved setting up and operationalisation of IIM Jammu from its temporary campus on 13th October 2016. A total of Rs. 61.90 crore has been allocated for IIM Jammu for an initial period of 4 years.

Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

GIAN is aimed 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.

Under the scheme of Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education so far, (780) courses have been approved, of which (503) courses have been completed. This is the biggest ever collaboration with the foreign academics in the Country in a period of one year.

Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India

IMPRINT INDIA is a Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India. IMPRINT INDIA aims at direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance.



Under this, 10 domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas: (1) Health care technology, (2) Energy security, (3) Rural urban housing design, (4) Nano technology, (5) Water/river system, (6) Advanced materials, (7) Computer science and ICT, (8) Manufacturing technology, (9) Advanced security and (10) Environment/climate change.

The research in each of these areas is being coordinated by one IIT. More than 2600 research proposals have been submitted by scientists in the the priority area of these domains. These have been examined by eminent scientists and 892 proposals

have been shortlisted for consideration. <http://imprint-india.org/> and 259 proposals for Rs. 595.89 Cr have been approved for implementation.

Uchhtar Aavishkar Abhiyaan

The Uchhtar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) was launched to promote industry-specific need-based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market. All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level. Under the UAY, it is proposed to invest Rs. 250 crores every year on identified projects proposed by IITs, provided the Industry contributes 25% of the project cost. For the year 2016-17, (92) projects for Rs. 285.15 Cr have been approved for implementation.

Measures for promoting quality in Education – National Institutional Ranking Framework

The first ever 'India Rankings 2016' have been announced on 4th April 2016. In the very first year of its operation, more than 3,500 institutions have participated in the ranking exercise. This is a great beginning considering that established agencies like QS work with data from about 1,000 institutions annually. Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched national Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on 29th September 2015. Under this system, institutions of higher education would be annually ranked based on objective and verifiable criteria.

The ranking framework evaluates each institution on 5 broad parameters, namely:

- Teaching/learning resources,
- Research,
- Graduation outcomes,
- Outreach/Inclusive nature and
- Public perception.

The NIRF has been made available separately for Engineering, Management Pharmaceutical, Architecture, Humanities, Law and for universities as a whole.



The NIRF would allow ranking based on credible and verified data while capturing the major performance parameters. Participation in the NIRF would help the Indian educational institutions participate in the world rankings with greater confidence. The ranks were released in the four categories of institutions mainly, universities, engineering, management and pharmacy. There has been a good response for the initiative: 5000 institutions registered, of which 3640 logged in complete data through and self reporting exercise. The India Rankings 2016, released on 4th April 2016, is one of the biggest efforts for brining in accountability and transparency in the higher educational institutions (<https://www.nirfindia.org>). The effort has continued into the second edition with improvised metrics and the India Rankings-2017 would be declared on 3rd April 2017.

Establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) for creating capital assets in Higher Educational Institutions.

The Cabinet has considered and approved the proposal of establishment of HEFA in its meeting dated 12th September 2016. In order to give a big push for building up robust higher educational institutions, the Cabinet has approved creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with Government equity of Rs. 1,000 Cr. The creation of HEFA will enable

major investments for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 Cr for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.

The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10-yr loan. The principal portion of the loan will be repaid through the 'internal accruals' of the institutions. The Govt would service the interest portion through the regular Plan assistance.

All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as members of the HEFA. For joining as members, the Institution should agree to escrow a specific amount from their internal accruals to HEFA for a period of 10 years. This secured future flows would be securitised by the HEFA for mobilising the funds from the market. Each member institution would be eligible for a credit limit as decided by HEFA based on the amount agreed to be escrowed from the internal accruals.

The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorized capital of Rs.2,000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs.1,000 crore. The HEFA would also mobilize CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis.

Government of India has appointed M/S Canara Bank as Promoter for the HEFA and it is expected that the HEFA's operations would begin by April 2017.

National Academic Depository

In pursuance with Government's vision of Digital India and Commitment in the Budget Speech of 2016-17, to establish a Digital Depository for school learning certificates, degrees and other academic awards of Higher Education Institutions, on the pattern of a Securities Depository, Union Cabinet accorded its approval for establishment and operationalisation of a National Academic Depository (NAD) on 27th October 2016.

The NAD would help in validating the authenticity of these awards and ensuring their safe storage and easy retrieval. Maintaining academic awards in a digital depository would provide benefit to educational institutions, students and employers by enabling online access and retrieval; eliminate fraudulent practices such as forging of certificates and mark-sheets and facilitate validation. NAD would be available online 24X7 access to the stakeholders.

NAD shall maintain the authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of its database. It will also train and facilitate academic institutions/boards/ eligibility assessment bodies to efficiently lodge academic awards in the database.

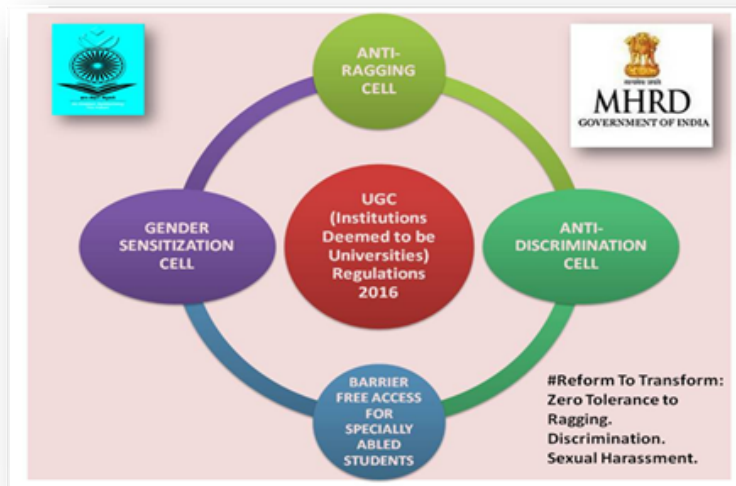


The NAD would be rolled out throughout the country in 2017-18. The NAD is operationalised by NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures, Limited (CVL) - two of the wholly owned subsidiaries of the Depositories registered under Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992.

UGC Initiatives

Women Candidates and Persons with Disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of one year for M.Phil and two years for Ph.D. In addition, women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil/Ph.D. for up to 240 days.

In case of relocation of an M.Phil/Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided a) all other conditions in these regulations are followed and b) the research work does not pertain to a project secured by the parent institution/ supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will give credit to the parent guide and institution for the part of research already done.



UGC has also notified UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational institutions) Regulations, 2012, which inter alia provides as under:

Every higher educational institution shall take appropriate measures to -

- a. Safeguard the interests of the students without any prejudice to their caste creed religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disability.
- b. Eliminate discrimination against or harassment of any student in all forms in higher educational institutions by prohibiting it and by providing for preventive and protective measures to facilitate its eradication and punishments for those who indulge in any form of discrimination or harassment.
- c. Promote equality among students of all sections of the society.

Restructuring of IIT Fee

Keeping in view the interests of the students, annual fee for IITs is capped to 2 lakh. This is subject to following safeguards for protecting the interests of the socially and economically backward students:

- The SC/ST/Differently abled students shall get **complete fee waiver**.
- The most economically backward students (whose family income is less than Rs.1 lakh per annum) shall get **full remission of the fee**.
- The other economically backward students (whose family income is between Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh per annum) shall get **remission of 2/3rd of the fee**.

- All students shall have access to **interest free loan under the ‘Vidya Lakshmi Scheme’** for the total portion of the tuition fee payable.

The report of the Committee on funding of IITs and the recommendations of SCIC for revision of annual fee in IITs based on the rationale arising from the fact that the cost of maintenance of the IITs is to be met largely from the student fee. On an average, the Government is spending about Rs 6 lakh per year on each student in the IITs.

Prime Minister’s Special Scholarship Scheme

- Special Scholarship Scheme for J & K students continued in the sixth year with few major modifications to streamline the processes and bring effectiveness to the scheme with ease of operation.
- Supernumerary seats in engineering program increased from 2 to 10 per college with 2 seats per stream so as to have enough friends from J and K in the campus.
- Awareness about the scheme was created through 10 workshops in J and K including remotest parts of J & K.
- In 2016-17, total of 3795 number of students were allotted seats through PM’s special scholarships scheme out of which 2235 are from Engineering, 177 from medical and 1084 from General (B.A., B.Sc. etc.).
- So far 2209 students have uploaded their joining reports, 1600 students have submitted their scholarship claims online and 1300 students have been paid their scholarships through a newly designed user friendly online portal.
- Plans of having a nodal officer/coordinator/mentor from each college where students of J and K have been allotted and organising training of these officers in counseling is underway

SWAYAM PRABHA

- The SWAYAM PRABHA has been conceived as the project for telecasting high quality educational programmes through 32 DTH channels on 24X7 basis. Every day, there will be new content of at least (4) hours which would be repeated 6 times a day, allowing the student to choose the time of his convenience.
- The DTH Channels will cover: -
 - (a) Curriculum based course contents covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. in higher education domain (all courses would be certification-ready in their detailed offering).
 - (b) School education (9-12 levels) modules; for teacher training as well as teaching and learning aids to children of India to help them understand the subjects better and also help them in better preparedness for competitive examinations for admissions to professional degree programmes.
 - (c) Curricula and courses that can meet the needs of life-long learners or Indian citizens in India and abroad.
 - (d) **IIT-PAL** - to assist the students in the Classes 11 and 12 aspiring to join IITs by encouraging scientific thinking and conceptual understanding critical to answer the 'tough' questions of JEE Advanced, so that good quality students enter the portals of IITs. The four channels under this would be on Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

SWAYAM

- SWAYAM is an indigenous (Made in India) IT Platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with a capacity to revolutionize the education system by providing best quality education covering all the subjects and courses being taught in the high schools, colleges and universities in the Country using the IT system to the students even in the remotest corner of the Country.

- SWAYAM would provide High quality learning experience-using multimedia on anytime, anywhere basis and provide one-stop web location for interactive e-content for all courses from School to University level.
- M/S Microsoft has been entrusted with the responsibility for creating the IT platform. Beta (β) Version of SWAYAM Portal has been launched on 15.08.2016.
- For creation of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), 8 National MOOCs Coordinators (NMCs) have been appointed with the responsibility to identify the best teachers for preparation of the material for the MOOCs. Total 262 Online Courses has been repurposed in SWAYAM format by NMCs till November 2016
- University Grants Commission (UGC) has vide Gazette Notification dated 19th July, 2016, notified Regulation, 2016 regarding 'Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM'. Accordingly, a student studying at a recognized institute anywhere in the country and having cleared the Online Course through SWAYAM, shall be awarded Credits and the credits earned by such a student shall be transferred from the Host Institute to the Parent Institute where the student is studying. However at present, such students through online learning delivered on SWAYAM platform can earn the Credits only up to 20% of the total courses in a Semester.
- This would allow any student in the country to take the courses offered by the best teachers on SWAYAM, thereby bridging the academic deficit experienced in the backward areas thereby, raising the overall standards of higher education in the country.

The status of preparation of the online learning courses is as follows:

National MOOCs coordinator	e-Content Courses Completed as on Date.	Courses to be repurposed in MOOCs Format by 31st July 2016.	Courses to be repurposed in MOOCs Format by from 1.8.16 to 31.12.16	Total Courses.
NPTEL	900	120	123	243
CEC	215	25	125	150
UGC	160	68	68	136
IGNOU	-	71	71	142
NCERT	-	24	24	48
NIOS	-	15	15	30
Total	1275	323	426	749

NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

- A Project titled "Development of National Digital Library of India, towards building a National Asset" has been sanctioned to IIT, Kharagpur under NMEICT.
- The objective is to provide access to the knowledge repository in terms of books, e-learning material, encyclopedia, journals, monographs, reviews, research work, articles, Acts and other knowledge material etc. for the benefit of learners/professionals/scholars and other interested people especially located at as also to overcome the constraints of time and also finances.
- Till November, 2016, there are 19.75 lakh e-contents in the Library. The contents cover almost all major domains of education and all major levels of learners from school level to the highest level of education including life-long

learners. 106 institutions have contributed e-contents to the Library and users from 465 institutions have been registered in the Library.

- The alpha version is now publicly available for registered students, faculty, researcher, officials, etc. The facility has been extended to 3.32 lakh students across all the Centrally Funded Institutions and some other State Funded institutions. Till now contents of 48 languages, including Indian as well as non-Indian languages, have been included in the Library.

CONNECTIVITY

- Establishment of 1 GBPS Connectivity to universities and 20 numbers of 512 Kbps broadband connectivity to colleges has been provisioned under NMEICT. A total of 403 Universities have been connected through 1 Gbps Optical Fiber; 22026 Colleges have so far been connected with 10 Mbps bandwidth.
- Ministry of HRD is in the process of providing 1Gbps connectivity to the Universities that are funded fully or partly by Center, State Universities and Private & Deemed Universities with NAAC accreditation that have consented for sharing of 25% cost.
- On the lines of 'Digital India' initiative of the PMO, the MHRD has now decided that the campuses of Universities, (having 1 Gbps bandwidth) shall be provided 'Campus Connect' i.e., Wi Fi enabled campus. In the initial stage 'Campus Connect' shall be provided at all Central Universities. The WiFi project would be implemented on a OPEX model through M/S RailTel. It is expected that all the Central Universities would be provided WiFi facilities through OPEX model by end of April 2017.

BHUVAN - RUSA PORTAL

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a **mobile application for uploading geo-tagged photographs** and associated details captured by the educational institutions, on Bhuvan-RUSA portal as a part of implementation of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) funded works. This application for geo-tagging of institutions under RUSA is a location based service.

The total number of points of RUSA funded works that have been geo tagged by the higher educational institutions till date is 4176 in 32 States/UTs. These points are reviewed at the State level and the National Mission Directorate for acceptance.

The mobile geo tagging App of RUSA covers the following attributes: construction work or equipment, institution name, new or upgraded work, type of work, current stage of work, percentage completed, completion date, bank name, account number, amount released and amount utilized.

DIGITAL ISBN

The Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development has launched ISBN portal on 7th April, 2016 to facilitate authors and publishers to register ISBN online. The manual system has been replaced with the interactive portal which would overcome the problems like delayed response, difficulty in registration, lost documents etc. and ensure ease of registration, enhanced accessibility, wider transparency, trust and credibility and greater efficiency for allotment of ISBN to authors and publishers.

The Raja Rammohun National Agency for ISBN under the Ministry of Human Resource Development through the ISBN portal aims to streamline the entire process and makes it user friendly.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)

It covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting of higher education. Data is being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance and infrastructure. Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE. These are useful in making informed policy decisions and research for development of education sector.

AISHE 2015-16 has been completed & survey for the year 2016-17 has been launched on 13th December, 2016 and a time-lag of four month to fill required data for higher education has been given to upload the data online form Universities, Colleges & Stand-alone institutions.

Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA)

Pursuant to the Honorable Prime Minister's appeal to youth in 'Mann Ki Baat' for creating awareness among people about digital economy and cashless modes of transactions, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched '[Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan](#)' on 1st December 2016.



The purpose of the '[Vittiya Saksharta Abhiyan](#)' is to actively engage the youth/ students of Higher Education Institutions to encourage and motivate all payers and payees to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of funds. Ministry of Human Resource Development views the institutions of higher education in the country, faculty members and students to take the lead and act as engines of this transformational shift.

The Union HRD Minister launched [a webpage](#) where students can register themselves, give continuous feedback and suggestions on the initiative as well as upload the progress of their work. More than 1.70 lakh volunteers have registered for Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA) by December 2016.

National Initiative for Design Innovation

Open Design School: ODS would ensure maximum reach of design education and practice in the country through various collaborative education programmes (linking a broad spectrum of educational institutes), and free sharing of its courseware through the internet. The proposal for setting up of ODS was approved in the Sixth PAB held on 2nd September 2016.

National Design Innovation Network: - NDIN would be a network of design schools that work closely with other leading institutions of industry and academia, NGOs and government to further reach and access of design education, to promote design innovation in all sectors, and to develop wide ranging collaborative projects between institutions. The proposal for setting up of NDIN was approved in the Sixth PAB held on 2nd September 2016.

Design Innovation Centres are also running various courses and workshops to support the students and help them achieve their goals. The scheme has also provided employment and is a platform for students to demonstrate their capabilities.

DIC status till December, 2016: - Seventeen DIC's has been established so far out of which one DIC, that is NEHU, Shillong was approved in the Sixth PAB held on 2nd September, 2016. The already established DIC's are as follows: -

IIT Mumbai, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IISc Bangalore, University of Delhi, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT BHU, University of Rajasthan, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Rani Durgawati University, SPA, Delhi, IIT Kanpur, Panjab University, JNTU Kakinada, IIT Hyderabad and IIT Hyderabad and NEHU, Shillong.

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)

Initiation of the Third Phase of of TEQIP has been approved by Cabinet on 12th September 2016. The Project will be implemented as a 'Central Sector Scheme' with total project outlay of Rs. 3600 crore. However, the project would be initiated with a cost of Rs. 2660 crore, with the possibility of additional financing of Rs. 940 crore at later stage. Out of the Rs.2660 crore, the Central share will be Rs.1330 crore and external assistance from the World Bank through International Development Association (IDA) Credit of Rs. 1330 crore

Institutions in the central, eastern and north-eastern region and hill States are at present in need of similar and specific interventions. The Focus States are 7 Low Income States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh), 3 Hill States (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand), 8 North-Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The initiation and implementation of the project TEQIP-III will bridge this gap.

The major outcomes of the project are: 1) Better academic standards, through accreditation, filling up faculty positions, training faculty in better teaching methods, improved research outputs in institution in Focus States/UTs. 2) Better administration of the institutions with improved financial/academic autonomy. 3) Better systems for assessment of Student Learning, higher transition rates. 4) Transparent and expeditious release of funds to institutes by way of Direct Funds Transfer (DFT) System.

International Collaborations and Partnerships:

A) BRICS

1st Meeting of the BRICS Network University IGB

Indian Delegation visited Ekaterinburg, Russia for the 1st meeting of the International Governing Board (IGB) of the BRICS Network University (NU) from 6-8 April, 2016, to draft regulations/ statute for the functioning of the BRICS Network University.

2nd Meeting of the BRICS Network University IGB

The 2nd meeting of the International Governing Board (IGB) of the BRICS Network University (NU) has taken place at IIT Bombay on 27th September, 2016. As there is no participation from the Chinese side in the meeting, nothing concrete has been arrived upon as far as the regulations and statute are concerned.

Signing of 'New Delhi Declaration' at 4th BRICS Education Ministers Meeting

The 4th BRICS Education Ministers Meeting (EMM) took place in New Delhi on 30th September, 2016. It was preceded by a BRICS Senior Officials Meeting on Education on 29th September, 2016. New Delhi Declaration on Education was signed during the 4th BRICS Education Ministers Meeting.



B) International Conference on the Zero:

The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, Paris together with the Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris and with the support of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, hosted an International Conference on the Zero on 4-5th April, 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. This was an effective projection of India's soft power, showcasing our rich and remarkable heritage in Mathematics. The crowning moment was the unveiling of Aryabhata's bust by Hon'ble HRM and Director General of UNESCO, which now adorns the entrance of UNESCO.

C) SAARC Technical Meeting of Senior Officials on Education:

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in collaboration with SAARC Secretariat, held SAARC Technical Meeting of Senior Officials on Education on 15-16th September, 2016 in New Delhi as a follow-up of the 2nd meeting of SAARC Education Ministers held on 31st October, 2014 with a purpose to prepare detailed

work plan for joint activities over the coming five years. The Delegates from all the SAARC Countries and SAARC Secretariat participated in the meeting.

D) ADDENDUM X to the MoU between Government of India and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI):

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) have signed on 15th July, 2016 an ADDENDUM X to the Memorandum of Understanding for a period of five years i.e. from 1st April, 2016 to 31st March, 2021 after obtaining approval of the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 29th June, 2016. Extension of MoU will facilitate SICI to continue with promotion of knowledge and understanding between Canada and India in the areas identified through facilitation of academic exchanges between the two countries.

E) 50th Anniversary of International Literacy Day at UNESCO Head Quarters:

UNESCO organized the 50th Anniversary of International Literacy Day at its Headquarters in Paris on 8-9th September, 2016 on the theme 'Reading the past, writing the future'. On the invitation of Director-General, UNESCO, Sh. Upendra Kushwaha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development participated in the global event. The main objectives of this global event were to review the achievements and lessons learnt over 50 years of engagement towards more literate societies and to identify the multi-faceted challenges in literacy and ways to address them, in the framework of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, considering equity, inclusion, quality and gender dimensions.

GG/RT/MHRD@YEAR 2016