

## **RUSA: LAYOUT AND UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The third-largest education system in the world is found in India. The revitalising and expansive XII<sup>th</sup> Plan was designed to improve higher education in India. The promotion of economic growth, inclusive growth, sustainable development in social justice and equity, as well as the creation of research-based knowledge for the development of trained and educated employees, are the key areas of attention in this plan. The tremendous rise of higher education in recent years reflects the industry's expanding significance in fostering economic growth. Given that access, equity, and excellence form the cornerstone of educational changes backed by teacher organisations, governments must simultaneously address these issues. The bodies must also approach this reform plan pragmatically and offer collective knowledge for additional quality improvement. India's educational system has advanced long way. Education serves as a barometer for both societal and human growth. An individual's dynamic side is what determines how he develops physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. It is a requirement for growth. Learning institutions need to come up with strategies for fostering human nature's enormous potential.

**Keywords:** Higher Education, RUSA, Government, UGC, India

## INTRODUCTION

Education is essential for any nation's progress and development. Given that knowledge-based industries and research institutions are crucial to the development process, the value of education, and particularly higher education, is steadily increasing. A deeper grasp of many different professions, cultures, and solutions to the many problems that the current generation is facing can be obtained through higher education. By introducing the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is prepared to make certain structural improvements to the Indian higher education system. RUSA suggests improving existing autonomous colleges and reorganising institutions into clusters in order to create new universities. Additionally, it would create new ideas for universities, colleges, and other types of educational institutions. Focus in particular on its suitability for universities, the compatibility of the goal for which the scheme is being implemented, and the welfare of higher education in India. Supporting higher education institutions strategically across the nation. The federal ministry provides funding via the state governments and union territories (UT), who, in collaboration with the central Project Appraisal Board, will assess the improvements made in academics, administration, and finances under the programme. The society has high expectations of the HEI, but this institution also bears enormous responsibility and plays an important part in the socioeconomic growth of the nation as a whole as well as the region in which it is located. Particularly for a developing nation like India, it is crucial.

## VISION AND PLAN

At the state level, there is a lack of vision and planning for the growth of institutions and the sector of higher education. There is a desperate need for planning in higher education that employs the state as the fundamental unit due to the difficulties in managing access and equality issues within and across states as well as the vast number of institutions that already come under the state university system. An independent agency with the authority to gather and distribute funds from the state as well as the federal government should be in charge of this planning. Through the University Grants Commission, the State Universities have already received some funding from the federal government. However, the UGC's mandate only permits it to sponsor a small number of organisations that are Section 12B and 2f (UGC Act)

compliant. This excludes about 33 percent of the State Universities and 51 percent of the colleges under such universities.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Adopting accreditation as a required quality assurance framework and guaranteeing compliance with established norms and standards can help improve the overall quality of existing state higher education institutions.

1. Improve the overall quality of existing State institutions by ensuring that all institutions conform to prescribed norms & standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework. This objective is a precondition for sanction of funds under all the components of RUSA.
2. Enhancing quality into Universities or Model Degree Colleges to upgrade their academic infrastructure and provide better teaching-learning environment to students.
3. Identify and fill critical infrastructure gaps in higher education by augmenting and supporting the efforts of the State Governments. Components 3 and 9 pertaining to infrastructure grants to universities and colleges address this objective, where funds are sanctioned for upgrading the existing infrastructure by way of new construction, renovation or purchase of equipment.
4. Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions. The State is required to fill all the vacant sanctioned posts and claim funds under RUSA for additional posts to enable them to achieve the student-teacher ratio of 20:1.
5. Facilitate research and innovation in the State higher educational institutions. State is required to furnish a detailed research and innovation plan.
6. Improve Access and Equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities, and differently abled persons.
7. Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels.

8. Create an enabling atmosphere in higher educational institutions to devote themselves to research and innovation.
9. Integrate skill developments efforts of the government with the conventional higher education system through optimum interventions
1. Achieve the target of GER of 32% by expanding the institutional base of States by establishing new institutions, in order to achieve high enrolment targets.
2. Usher transformative reforms in the State higher education system by creating an institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the State level (SHEC), promoting autonomy in State Universities and improving governance in institutions.
3. Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education by facilitating access to high quality institutions in urban, semi-urban and rural areas to get access to quality institutions. This objective is a precondition while deciding allocations for different districts of the State.
4. Commitment of States to undertake reforms: Academic (semester system, CBCS, curriculum development, etc.) and Examination (internal evaluation, end of semester evaluation) in the higher educational institutions. States can also undertake affiliation reforms by restricting the no. of colleges affiliated to a university to 100. Prerequisites, a set of a priori commitments required from the States ensure timely implementation of reforms under RUSA.
5. Clearly define the role of State Governments vis-à-vis State Higher Education Councils and Institutions.

## **SCOPE OF RUSA**

- 1) All state universities and colleges (both 12B and 2(f) compliant and non-12B and non-2(f)) from all states and UTs are eligible under RUSA.
- 2) Subject to eligibility 306 state universities and 8500 colleges will be cover.
- 3) Private colleges on some components with 50:50 ratios.

## **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCHEME OF RUSA**

November 2012 Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) had approved the draft of RUSA in its 60th Meeting held on 8th November, 2012. February 2013 The President of India announced the Scheme in his address to the joint sitting of Parliament on 21st February 2013 and Prime Minister also announced the Scheme in the Governors' conference on 12th February 2013. June 2013 Approved by Cabinet on 20th June 2013 as the only Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from department of Education. September 2013 Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of planning commission has cleared Scheme on 11th September 2013 and subsequently Hon'ble Finance Minister cleared Scheme on 23rd September 2013. October 2013 Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved RUSA on 3rd October, 2013.

## **BACKGROUNDS**

UGC mandate allows it to fund only a limited number of institutions that are UGC Section 12(B) and 2(f) compliant. Out of the 286 State universities (now 384 state universities), only 182 State universities are eligible for central assistance, which leaves a significant number of colleges and universities not eligible for UGC grants. Secondly, UGC is also not allowed to channelize funds through the State Government or any other entity other than Institutions. Thus, States often complained about being unaware of the development funds that come to the State Funded Institutions from Centre, making planning and funding very difficult for States.

## **MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR RUSA**

Most important task for RUSA is improvement in access, equity and quality across India. In other words, homogeneous improvement in all the three areas i.e. access, equity and quality across India would be a key challenge for RUSA. Parts of India which is in the nascent stages of higher education may only be able to work on access and equity, while quality improvement may take some more time to be visible. Reaching out to rural India and socially and educationally backward class may also be another challenge. According to the structure of the scheme co-ordination between RUSA Mission Authority and State Higher Education Council (SHEC) is proposed, which may also be a difficult task. A Management Information

System (MIS) is proposed for all co-ordination between National, State and Institutional level. During the initial years, it would be a challenge to train and align each individual to comply and feed information into MIS system.

## CONCLUSION

The national mission of RUSA is to promote HE, utilising strategic planning and management to concentrate on all HE areas, with a focus on the HE criteria specific to each state, in order to address quality concerns and to get central funding and grants through RUSA. The government should now concentrate on updating the institutions with appealing and contemporary infrastructure, such as classrooms, dormitories, research labs, training tools, etc. Higher education is now a vital component of developing the nation's human resources and its economy. By introducing a new CSS, the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), and the National Higher Education Mission, India is also expanding its higher education system.

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