



Review of Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan

Why in News

The **Union Education Minister** chaired a **review meeting on [Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan \(RUSA\)](#)**.

Key Points

▪ About the Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan:

- **Aim:** It aims at providing **strategic funding to higher education** institutions throughout the country.
 - The scheme is being operated in mission mode for **funding state universities and colleges** to achieve the aims of **equity, access and excellence**.
- **Funding:** It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched in October 2013.
 - Since 2016-17, the government has spent an average of Rs. 1,500 crore every year on RUSA.
- **Objectives:**
 - Improve the **overall quality of state institutions** by conforming to the prescribed norms and standards.
 - **Adoption of accreditation** (certification of competency) as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
 - **Promoting autonomy** in state universities and improving governance in institutions.
 - Ensure **reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination system**.
 - Ensure **adequate availability of quality faculty** in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.
 - Create an **enabling atmosphere for research** in the higher education system.
 - **Correct regional imbalances** in access to higher education by setting up institutions in unserved and underserved areas.
 - Improve **equity in higher education** by providing adequate opportunities to the disadvantaged.

▪ Highlights of the Meeting:

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** Need to draw plans on educating additional 3.5 crore students to increase GER to 50% by 2035.
 - **GER:**
 - **India's higher education enrollment** is calculated in terms of GER, which is the ratio of population in the 18-23 age group to the number of people enrolled in higher education.
 - According to **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)**, the GER in higher education has increased from 25.8% in 2017-18 to 26.3% in 2018-19,

while in absolute terms the enrolment increased from 3.66 crores to 3.74 crore students.

- **Focus on Local Skills:** A total of 7 crore students with employable skills that suit local conditions should pass out from colleges and Universities. Education should lead to local employment. Education in Degree College should be aligned with the **“One district one product (ODOP)”** plan.
- **Monitoring:** The **University Grants Commission** will monitor the progress of work done by Institutions which received funding under the RUSA Scheme.

Source: PIB

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