

Central Government of India Schemes in Higher Education

1. Financial Assistance to HEIs & Scholarships

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Beneficiaries	Lead Ministry in GOI	Remarks
Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP)	Provides direct financial aid for day-to-day expenses; includes a specific special scholarship for J&K and Ladakh to boost local employment.	Meritorious students from families with an annual income below ₹4.5 Lakh.	MoE	(Not for WB)
PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme	Provides collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans up to ₹10 Lakh, alongside a 3% interest subvention.	Students admitted to the top 860 Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs).	MoE/HED	Available. To be promoted for wider participation.
Central Sector Interest Subsidy (CSIS)	Offers full interest subsidy on education loans during the course period and the subsequent moratorium.	Economically Weaker Section (EWS) students pursuing professional/technical degrees.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
National Overseas Scholarship (NOS)	Funds tuition, living expenses, and travel for students pursuing Master's and Ph.D. programs abroad.	SC, ST, Landless Agricultural Labourers, and Traditional Artisans.	MoSJE / MoTA	To be promoted for wider participation.
PM-YASASVI	An umbrella scholarship initiative that includes Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, and Top Class Education funding.	OBC, EBC, and De-Notified Tribe (DNT) students.	MoSJE	To be promoted for wider participation.
AICTE Pragati & Saksham	Pragati funds technical education for women; Saksham provides financial support for specially-abled students.	Single girl children and specially-abled students in AICTE-approved institutions.	MoE (AICTE)	To be promoted for wider participation.
NSPG (National Scholarship Portal - General)	A digital platform integrating multiple Central Government scholarship schemes for easy application and disbursement.	Students from SC/ST/OBC/Minority /EWS/Divyang and meritorious students.	MoE (Under UGC)	Available
AICTE Saraswati	Provides financial assistance to girl students for pursuing higher technical education at PG level.	Girl students pursuing PG courses in AICTE-approved institutions.	MoE (AICTE)	Available

2. Research, Innovation & Academic Excellence

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Beneficiaries	Lead Ministry in GOI	Remarks
Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF)	Attracts top talent into deep research by offering high-tier stipends and research grants.	B.Tech, M.Tech, and M.Sc graduates from elite institutes pursuing a Ph.D.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)	Funds joint research projects between Indian institutions and top-tier global universities.	Indian faculty/researchers and their international counterparts.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT)	Addresses major societal and engineering challenges through funded research projects.	Faculty and researchers at premier technical institutions.	MoE / DST	To be promoted for wider participation.
Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)	Brings international scientists and researchers to teach specialized courses in India.	Faculty, higher education students, and international guest lecturers.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
National Post Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF)	Supports young researchers for advanced, independent research.	Ph.D. holders in Science, Engineering, and related disciplines.	DST (SERB)	To be promoted for wider participation.
National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)	Supports advanced computing, AI, simulation, and data-intensive research.	Universities, researchers, and HEIs.	DST	To be promoted for wider participation.
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	Promotes innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, and incubation in institutions.	Students, innovators, startups, and HEIs.	NITI Aayog	To be promoted for wider participation.
NIDHI Programme	Supports innovation and startup development through incubation and entrepreneurship.	Students, researchers, startups, and innovators.	DST – NSTEDB	To be promoted for wider participation.
ICMR–CCR (Centre for Collaborative Research)	Promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative health/medical research.	Researchers and academic institutions.	ICMR	To be promoted for wider participation.
ISRO RESPOND	Encourages research	Universities, academic	ISRO	To be

(Sponsored Research)	in space science, space technology, and applications.	institutions, and researchers.		promoted for wider participation.
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3. Digital Learning & Educational Resources

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Beneficiaries	Lead Ministry in GOI	Remarks
SWAYAM	India's national Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform, offering free access to standardized courses and academic credits.	Higher education students, professionals, and lifelong learners.	MoE	Option is available
SWAYAM Prabha	A consortium of DTH channels broadcasting high-quality educational programming and lectures 24/7.	Students in remote areas lacking high-speed internet access.	MoE	Option is available
One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)	A centralized digital library framework providing country-wide access to global research journals and databases.	Students, researchers, and faculty across all Indian HEIs.	MoE	Option is available
National Digital Library of India (NDLI)	A massive virtual repository of learning resources equipped with a single-window search facility.	The entire academic community.	MoE (IIT Kharagpur)	Available
National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT)	Leverages technology to provide high-speed broadband connectivity and digital content to institutions.	Universities and colleges nationwide.	MoE	Partially Available

4. Institutional Infrastructure & Quality Funding

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Beneficiaries	Lead Ministry in GOI	Remarks
Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)	Previously RUSA; provides strategic, condition-linked funding to improve infrastructure, equity, and quality in state higher education.	State-run Universities and Colleges.	MoE	MoU signed for onboarding. Will be rolled out soon.
Higher Education	Provides long-term, low-	Centrally funded	MoE /	NA

Financing Agency (HEFA)	interest capital loans for building world-class infrastructure and advanced laboratories.	institutions (IITs, NITs, AIIMS, Central Universities).	Canara Bank	
Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)	Systematically evaluates and ranks educational institutions based on innovation, startup ecosystems, and entrepreneurship.	All recognized Universities and HEIs.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)	Connects knowledge institutions with local communities to design technological solutions for rural development challenges.	Rural village clusters and participating HEIs.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
MERIT	Improving the quality, equity, and governance in selected technical institutions, including engineering colleges and polytechnics, through curriculum modernization, research ecosystem enhancement, lab development, and gender inclusion in technical education.	Technical institutions, engineering colleges, and polytechnics.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.
DBT-FIST (Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure)	Augments laboratory infrastructure and research facilities in universities and HEIs.	Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.	DBT	To be promoted for wider participation.
DST-PURSE (Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence)	Provides support for strengthening university research ecosystems.	Universities and researchers.	DST	To be promoted for wider participation.
DBT-SAHAJ Infrastructure	Supports scientific infrastructure access and collaborative research facilities.	Universities and academic institutions.	DBT	To be promoted for wider participation.
DST-SAIF (Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities)	Provides advanced scientific instrumentation and analytical services.	Researchers, universities, and institutions.	DST	To be promoted for wider participation.
DST-SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical &	Establishes advanced analytical and manufacturing facilities for academia and	HEIs, industries, startups, and researchers.	DST	To be promoted for wider

Technical Help Institutes)	industry.			participation.
CAFES (Campus Accommodation & Facilities Enhancing Social Experience)	Provides financial aid to government and government-aided institutions to construct and upgrade student hostels.	Government and government-aided institutions.	MoE	To be promoted for wider participation.

5. Skill Development & Vocational Integration

Scheme Name	Primary Objective	Target Beneficiaries	Lead Ministry	Remarks
PM Vishwakarma	Integrates traditional artisans into the formal economy through standardized skill upgrades, certification, and training.	Traditional craftspeople, artisans, and family-based trades.	MSME / TET & SD	To be promoted for wider participation.
Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY-4.0)	Colleges can register as a Skill Hub/Training Centre under Skill India.	Diploma holders and general degree students.	MSDE	To be promoted for wider participation.
National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)	Mandates and funds on-the-job training and stipends to equip students with practical, industry-ready skills.	Engineering graduates, diploma holders, and general degree students.	MoE	Implemented but awareness is low
SHREYAS	Enhances the employability of general degree graduates through paid industry apprenticeships and soft skills training.	Non-technical higher education students (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., B.Com).	MoE / MoSD&E	To be promoted for wider participation.
Khelo India	Develop sports infrastructure, identify talent, support athletes, and strengthen sports culture in schools and colleges.	University & college students	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	To be promoted for wider participation.
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	Spreads awareness regarding equal rights to education for girl children and empowers their future.	Girl students.	Ministry of Women & Child Development	To be promoted for wider participation.

