

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

February 19, 2022

In news- The Government has recently approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31st March, 2026.

New phase of RUSA-

- **New phase of RUSA targets to reach out the unserved, underserved areas;** remote/ rural areas; difficult geographies; LWE areas; NER; aspirational districts, tier-2 cities, areas with low GER etc., and to benefit the most disadvantaged areas and SEDGs.
- **The new phase of the scheme has been designed to implement some of the recommendations and aims of the New Education Policy,** which suggests some key changes to the current higher education system to revamp and re-energize it.
- **Under the new phase of the scheme, State Governments will be supported for Gender inclusion, Equity Initiatives, ICT,** Enhancing employability through vocationalisation & skill upgradation.
- **State Universities will be supported for Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research.**
- Grants will be provided for strengthening both accredited and non-accredited Universities and Colleges for undertaking various activities including teaching-learning in Indian languages.

About Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)-

- **RUSA, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** launched in 2013, operating in mission mode for funding the state government universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence.

- The central funding (in the **ratio of 65:35 for general category States and 90:10 for special category states**) would be norm based and outcome dependent.
- The funding would flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions.
- The funding to states would be made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans, which would describe each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education
- RUSA would create new universities through upgradation of existing autonomous colleges and conversion of colleges in a cluster.
- It would create new model degree colleges, new professional colleges and provide infrastructural support to universities and colleges.
- Faculty recruitment support, faculty improvements programmes and leadership development of educational administrators are also an important part of the scheme.
- In order to enhance skill development the existing **Central scheme of Polytechnics has been subsumed within RUSA.**
- A separate component to synergise vocational education with higher education has also been included in RUSA.
- Besides these, RUSA also supports reforming, restructuring and building capacity of institutions in participating states.