

Minutes of the 2nd Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

Mission Authority Meeting held on 17th April 2017

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The second meeting of the RUSA National Mission Authority (NMA) was held on 17th April, 2017 at 12.00 noon under the Chairmanship of Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD). Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education), also attended the meeting. The list of participants who attended the meeting is placed at annexure.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched the RUSA Portal, RUSA Fund Tracker App and also 17 RUSA projects across 15 States.

At the outset, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) stated that within a short period of three years, the RUSA scheme has made significant progress nationwide. He also lauded the initiative of a mobile based fund tracking app and opined that it will go a long way in tracking the progress of the scheme.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting of National Mission Authority held on 8th January, 2014

The National Mission Authority confirmed the minutes of its 1st meeting held on 8th January, 2014.

Agenda Item 2: Status Note on RUSA

The status of performance of States and UTs under RUSA was presented to the NMA for its consideration. The NMA appreciated the work done under RUSA and acknowledged that it was making an impact on growth.

Agenda Item 3: Flexibility in RUSA schematic norm

Some of the States and UTs made request for revision in the RUSA guidelines, which is as follows:

- For Components 3, 5 and 7 (Infrastructure Grants to Universities, upgradation of existing Degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges and Infrastructure Grants to Colleges), the restriction to limit the cost of creation of new facilities, renovation / upgradation of



existing facilities, and purchase of new equipment to 35%, 35% and 30% of the total cost of the project, needs to be relaxed based on requirements of each proposal.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

- Members from Hilly states made a request for increasing the allocation to components in comparison with non-hilly states, considering their location and topographical difficulties.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Agenda Item 4: Any other items with permission of Chair

- a) The Chair asked participating States to offer their suggestions/ inputs for improving Higher Education issues more broadly. State /UT specific observations and requests are given below:

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Six Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) were approved by University Grants Commission (UGC) and the first instalment of Central Grant has been received and utilised. However, the pending amount is still awaited from the Centre for the completion of the projects.
2. The State has submitted proposals for 3 new MDCs under RUSA and the same needs to be considered for funding.
3. Compensation or honorarium may be considered for teachers and others who coordinate activities under RUSA in the institutions being funded.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Rajasthan

1. For universities newly created out of an existing university, the existing funding requirement of NAAC accreditation may be relaxed, as the new institution would not be eligible for accreditation for at least 2-3 years.
2. The infrastructure grants to the institutions should be based on number of faculties & students.
3. The student teacher ratio prescribed under RUSA is 20:1, which is very difficult to achieve. Hence, the same stipulation may be relaxed for funding.
4. To incentivize the introduction of CBCS, a provision may be made in the scheme for providing special grant for introduction of CBCS.

5. PAB meetings may be organized in different states which will give opportunity to learn the best practices adopted by different State Governments which can be replicated.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Tamil Nadu

1. The State needs further sanction of Rs. 1055.62 crore for which a detailed proposal was handed over to the Hon'ble Union Minister for HRD.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Uttarakhand

1. Special Aid for State Universities and Colleges to become eligible for NAAC accreditation may be considered as central funding has become dependent on quality and accreditation and it is difficult for hilly States to generate funds for the purpose.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Sikkim

1. State has passed Sikkim State University Bill. The State desires to start a university of its own, therefore, intervention is requested from the Central Government for help in this regard.
2. Sikkim has 4 districts which are all educationally backward. A dedicated science college has been started in western part of Sikkim which is the most educationally backward district without funds from RUSA. Also, State is likely to start an Arts college and a college for women in north district. Intervention is requested from the MHRD for granting funds for the new colleges.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)

1. The UT is in dire need of a university, as its students are constrained by distance, cost and other issues.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Madhya Pradesh

1. Relaxation of NAAC accreditation requirement for institutions in the tribal and backward areas.
2. Relaxation in the requirement of having SHEC by an Act and allow SHECs to exist just by Executive Order.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Kerala

1. The state has come up with a Master plan where the existing degree colleges and universities will be converted into Centres of Excellence (CEs) in a span of four years.
2. Setting up of Bio Diversity Parks in the colleges has been taken up to address the needs of climate change and conservation etc.
3. Under 'Shastryan' initiative in Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSIT), results and the findings of researches taken up in the laboratories are showcased and shared with the public as extension of education and lifelong learning.

Telangana

1. Creation of the infrastructure and sanctioning of the Model Degree Colleges need to be supplemented with sufficient and appropriate teacher training /orientation to the serving faculty with the latest techniques and methods of teaching -learning.
2. The Hon'ble Minister also stressed upon the fact that the amount earmarked and approved for the state should be released in total so that the ongoing construction, procurement work etc. are not interrupted.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Himachal Pradesh

1. The tribal students, across the State are still struggling to learn English Language and hence finding difficult to pursue higher education. The Central Government, through RUSA, may create enabling mechanisms through which, after passing 10th standard, such students are prepared for higher education.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

Haryana, Manipur, Mizoram & Nagaland

1. Relaxation in utilisation of infrastructure grants as per the requirements of the institutions.

(Action to be taken: Ministry to consider and communicate decision taken)

- b) The programme of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) was taken up for discussion on the request of Secretary (HE). Secretary (HE) emphasised that this initiative is of utmost importance for promoting mutual bonding and cooperation amongst people from diverse cultures in India. He exhorted the Ministers to provide leadership to the programme in their States/UTs and monitor the implementation of the programme with the paired States by regular review and guidance. Secretary (HE) further mentioned that the nodal officers should be nominated in those States which have not yet done so and concrete implementable action plans have to be quickly finalised with the paired States. He requested the Ministers present to instruct the Secretaries of the EBSB Nodal Department in their States, to ensure expeditious implementation of this important national initiative.
- c) The Hon'ble HRD Minister then informed the NMA members about some of the new initiatives taken in Higher Education, which are given below:
 1. National Academic Depository (NAD): Converting existing physical documents like diploma, degree-certificates, mark sheets into 'demat' format is a step that would help all the stakeholders, including students and employers. All the credentials would be available at the click of the mouse, at a nominal charge. Towards this end, the NAD will be a storehouse of academic awards and degrees in a digital format.
 2. National Digital Library: Over 65 lakh books are available for teachers and students and the same needs to be leveraged by all state Universities for optimum benefits.
 3. GIAN: Under the scheme, State Governments or Institutions, can get a course taught by foreign experts at no costs to them. Last year, around 2000 teachers from reputed global institutions taught students of various institutions and this year, around 6000 international experts are expected to participate.
 4. SWAYAM: This online repository of education content is an invaluable source of knowledge that has brought classrooms to the drawing rooms of the students. This offers a good opportunity for offering Massive Open Online Courses .
 5. Smart India Hackathon was conducted on 1st and 2nd April, 2017 in 26 different locations so an event envisioned for promoting innovation, out-of-the box thinking in young minds

about problems of social importance. Over 25 Central ministries have identified their problems in their processes to which young minds offered innovative solutions. States need to use this innovative way to find solutions to the issues that constrain them.

6. The NMA noted that the future releases will be based on budgetary allocation in the current financial year only.

The chair also observed the following:

1. There is a need of reducing the load of affiliation burden from Universities.
2. There is a dire need for in-service training for imparting quality education to teachers in higher education institutions of the States.
3. Best practices need to be shared as this promotes learning. There is also a need to disseminate research and innovation carried in Universities (viz the "Shastryan" currently being practised in the state of Kerala).
4. The issue of flexibility of providing grants under components 3, 5 and 7 of RUSA Guidelines needs to be discussed internally in the Ministry before a final decision is taken.
5. All States should look at various models of providing Wi-Fi facilities on campus to enable e-learning in higher education.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.



Annexure

Name	Designation	Ministry/ State
Shri Prakash Javadekar	Minister of Human Resource Development	MHRD
Shri. Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education)	MHRD
Shri Kadiyam Srihari	Deputy Chief Minister	Telangana
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi	Lieutenant Governor	Andaman& Nicobar Island
Shri R B Subba	Minister for Higher Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Sikkim
Prof. C. Ravindranath	Minister for Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Kerala
Thiru K.P. Anbalagan	Minister for Higher Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Tamil Nadu
Shri R. Romawia	Minister Higher & Technical Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Mizoram
Shri Thokchom Radheshyam Singh	Minister Higher & Technical Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Manipur
Smt Kiran Maheshwari	Minister Higher and Technical Education & Sanskrit Education	Rajasthan
Shri Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya	Minister, Higher Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Honchun Ngandam	Minister Higher Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Arunachal Pradesh
Shri G S Bali	Minister Technical Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Himachal Pradesh
Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat	Minister Higher Education & Chairperson, SHEC	Uttarakhand
Shri Ram Bilas Sharma	Minister Higher Education	Haryana

Shri. Deo Nukhu	Parliament Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Vice Chairman	Nagaland
Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma	Secretary, Department of Higher Education	MHRD
Shri V S Chauhan	Chairman UGC	UGC
Smt Ishita Roy	Joint Secretary (Higher Education) & National Mission Director (RUSA)	MHRD
Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay	Adviser	DST, Delhi
Prof S. Venkatachalam	Vice Chairperson	SHEC, Telangana
Shri Venkata Sastry Yedla	Director (RUSA)	MHRD
Prof. Venkatesh Kumar	Professor and National Co-ordinator	Tata Institute of Social Sciences

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