

RUSA MAHARASHTRA



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PROGRESS REPORT
Best Practices and Activities of RUSA
Maharashtra

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In 2016 RUSA Maharashtra made steady steps in anchoring and consolidating on multiple priority components. These include upgrading infrastructure of state universities and its colleges; promoting research and innovation and training on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); inclusive education through Equity Initiatives; Faculty Improvement and Governance Reforms like promoting Academic Autonomy in Colleges that receive consistently high grading in NAAC Accreditation and formation of Bottoms-up Structure of State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) through linking IQACs (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) of Colleges and Universities to the State level body. Highlights of the Best Practices and Activities of RUSA Maharashtra are as follows.

1. Maharashtra State University Act and State Higher Education Council

The State Legislative Assembly passed the much awaited new Maharashtra Public Universities Bill 2016 on 8 December 2016 paving the way for wide-ranging fundamental reforms in the functioning of public universities. The Bill after some amendments has been ratified on January 11, 2017 as Maharashtra Public Universities Act 2016. As per Section 76 of the Act, Maharashtra Commission for Higher Education and Development (MAHED) is set up to coordinate and direct the long-term higher education policies' implementation in the State.

The Commission shall be the authority of the State Government in charge of and responsible for the higher education in the State. The Commission shall be the planning, monitoring, co-ordinating and evaluating authority and shall act as a think-tank for higher education. The Commission shall create synergy between various stakeholders namely, the State Government, public and private universities, private skills education providers and industries.

*The new Maharashtra State Universities Act 2016 provides for
Maharashtra State RUSA Council*

Maharashtra has constituted its State Higher Education Council (SHEC) through a GR dated December 23, 2016. The mention of the same is found in Section 78 of the Act as Maharashtra State RUSA Council. The council can sue and can be sued and will have to forward its yearly report of its activities to the Commission. The state has to issue official Gazette to specify composition, functions and responsibility of the council. The GR can be used while forming this gazette.

2. Promoting Technology Transfer Hubs:

Six hubs are being setup in the State Universities with the vision of tapping into research potential embedded in the State Higher Education Institutions and incubate research projects that hold promise for scale-up, commercialization or technology transfer to industry. All hubs and the facilities therein will be accessible to students and faculty of all departments, affiliated colleges and other Universities as well. The six hubs are *thematically provisioned as:*

- The Centre for Intelligent Systems at the Savitribai Phule Pune University.
- The Centre for Advanced Sensors at the Doctor Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad.
- The Center for Food Product Development at the SNTD Women's University Mumbai.
- The Centre for Bio-Actives & Natural Products at the Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University.
- The Centre for Renewable Resources for Health Care at the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded.
- The Centre for Natural Products and Alternative Medicine, Shivaji University Kolhapur.

Four Hubs will be operational and ready for inauguration in February 2017

To identify research projects from the institutions that can be incubated in these hubs, the SPD has constituted an Expert team that includes industry experts. **Fifteen projects across multiple disciplines have been selected by experts after multiple rounds of screening, presentations and field visits.** Regular reviews and guidance from the Experts team has enabled the principal

investigators of these projects to define clear deliverables, form inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary teams and seek industry partnerships; thus gearing up for higher success rates for commercialization or scale-up or technology transfer. This remarkable initiative has seen the research teams break out of their silos and reaching out to other departments and also industry for collaboration. A detailed report is also attached on all projects funded by SPD RUSA

Maharashtra under Research and Innovation.

Deliverables for Technology Transfer Hubs and Individual Projects under Research and Innovation component of RUSA were achieved within a record period of 10 months from the sanction of individual projects in June 2016 to March 2017. The following deliverables were planned and achieved by the RUSA funded Technology Transfer Centres: -

Sr. No.	Deliverables	Deliverables set for 2015-17	Deliverables achieved by March 2017
1	No. of Products/Processes/ Systems developed	10	17
2	No. of collaborative projects with industries	5	10
3	No. of IPR Filing	10	19
4	No. of Corporate/Startups incubated	01	-
5	No. of Technologies to be Licensed/transferred	5	23
6	Number of researchers trained in innovation activity	400	755
7	Number of Innovation training/workshops	12	25
8	Number of industry-Academia workshops in specified areas	8	10
9	Number of local/tribals benefitted in rural development technologies	50 to 100	-

3. Capacity Building on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

As a result of the Capacity building workshops on IPR, 16 patents have been filed and 11 are in the process of being filed. During the field visits, through meetings with Researchers across the State Universities, it was realized that there is a need to sensitize researchers about the Intellectual Property Rights. SPD, RUSA Maharashtra collaborated with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Intellectual Property & Management (RGNIPM), Nagpur and organized 13 One-day Orientation programmes for faculty and student researchers across 13 State Universities. In second phase, three 5 Day residential training workshops were organized with a concentrated group of researchers from Universities at RGNIPM, Nagpur for three disciplines -

- Batch 1: Life Sciences, Pharmacy.
- Batch 2: Physics and Electronics
- Batch 3: Life Sciences

16 Patents filed, 11 patents in process of filing, 2600 researchers trained on IPR

Around 2600 participants mainly researchers from PG Departments and faculty of State universities and colleges attended 1 day Orientation Programme and 75 researchers and faculty were trained as Master Trainers in 5 day Residential Programme on IPR.

To facilitate, encourage, promote and safeguard scientific inquiry, research pursuits and the academic freedom of its faculty, researchers and students, it was realized that it is important to institutionalize the process and hence constitute IPR Cell at the University Level. Consequently, IPR Policy and Guidelines have been prepared through consultation with experts from RGNIPM and other industry experts. These guidelines have been shared with the Vice Chancellors to establish IPR Cell by January 16, 2017.

4. RUSA Resource Centres for Inclusive Education

RUSA Maharashtra has sanctioned 4 Resource Centres for Inclusive Education as Pilot projects in 4 Institutions from the Preparatory Grant. The centres would be a resource for students with different

abilities to assist them in teaching-learning process. These Centres are open for all the neighbouring Institutions. The centres would also run various courses for students with Visual Impairment and Deaf/Mute. The Centres are as follows:

1. Shivaji University, Kolhapur
2. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon is ready for inauguration
3. Shivaji College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Akola (Amravati University)
4. St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

4 Centres for Differently abled students established and implementing Inclusive Education policy in Maharashtra

Out of these 4 centres, Centre at Shivaji College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Akola has been established and was inaugurated on December 3, 2016 on the International Day for Differently abled People. Centre at Shivaji University is also ready for Inauguration and is already functional with all the equipments. The Centre at Shivaji University organised an ICT workshop for 200 differently abled students from the affiliated colleges and gave them hands-on training on the equipments bought at the centre. Shivaji College at Akola has also organised a sensitisation programme called “**I for Inclusion**” on January 20, 2017 in collaboration with Xavier's Resource Centre for Visually Challenged, Mumbai (XRCVC).

5. Infrastructure Support to Universities and Colleges

About 14 beneficiary institutions including 09 Universities and 5 Colleges received funding of Rs. 47.50 crores for infrastructure upgradation. RUSA grants are being used for construction, up gradation of Hostels, e-learning Centers, Digital Auditorium, Smart Classroom, Tribal Research Centers (Kinwat) etc. A screening committee was set up to evaluate all infrastructure proposals on the benchmark of them being student centric facilities. All the beneficiary institutes received the following amount for infrastructure, mainly spent on up-gradation or procurement.

14 state institutions benefitted by up gradation of infrastructure

- i. Creation of Digital classrooms & Virtual Classrooms in 7 State Universities and 2 Colleges - A total of 92 classrooms which have been converted into technology enabled classrooms.
- ii. 1 e-Learning Studio at SP Pune University which was inaugurated during the launch of Maharashtra RUSA projects.
- iii. Impacting Quality of Life of students and teachers -
 - Augmenting water supply at SP Pune University – In order to improve the existing water supply network to fulfill the growing needs at SP Pune University, RUSA funds are being utilized to provide one elevated reservoir along with the appropriate distribution networks.
 - Sustainable energy solutions of installing Solar panels - Shivaji University has availed the facility of having solar panels across the campus for lighting purpose. This will decrease their expenditure on consumption of electricity for a huge campus.
 - Up-grading Hostels and sanitation facilities in 8 Institutions – Funds were used to upgrade hostel facility in 4 Universities for boys and girls. Mainly the toilet blocks and the rooms of the hostel are renovated to make the stay comfortable for the students. In SNDTW University Hostels were mainly created for research scholars & postgraduate students. Shivaji University, Kolhapur; RTM Nagpur University, Dr. BAMU, Aurangabad, SNDT Women's University are ready for launch.
- iv. A Tribal Research Centre at Kinwat near Nanded – One of its kind tribal centre, it is envisaged to be a community based centre at Kinwat, a tribal area in Nanded with objectives of socio-economic upliftment of local tribal communities of Gond, Kolam, Pardhan, Pardhi, Bhil, Naicheda, Mahadev Koli and Andh. Its foundation stone has been laid and the construction work of academic building & research laboratory is in progress.
- v. 11 Computer Labs in 5 Universities and 1 College - The high end computers procured under RUSA will be used to enrich teaching, research and extension programs. Computer labs at SRTM Nanded University; SNDT Women's University; Solapur University, RTM Nagpur University are ready for launch.
- vi. Upgradation of laboratories in 3 state universities and 3 colleges - Science laboratories at Shivaji University, Kolhapur and Online Examination Lab at North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon are ready for launch.

A detailed Physical Inspection was conducted by the RUSA team in all beneficiary institutions to monitor the progress of work done under infrastructure. During field inspection, installation of equipment along with RUSA logo, maintenance of asset registers, uploading photographs on Bhuvan RUSA and registration and functioning of PFMS were monitored.

6. BHUVAN RUSA

A Workshop on Bhuvan RUSA Mobile App was organised with University's RUSA Coordinators and BCUDs to track the progress of RUSA funded infrastructure grants. Status of pictures from institutions and acceptance at both levels is as follows:

Beneficiary Institutions		Points geo-tagged	Points Moderated	Level 1 accepted	Level 2 accepted
Universities	Colleges				
9	5	301	260	44	24

7. Academic Quality and Accreditation

- As per Government Resolution dated October 10, 2016, the State has formed a newly constituted State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC). First meeting of this newly constituted SLQAC was held on Friday, December 23, 2016 at Sydneham College Mumbai. As an important development, the committee gave in-principal go ahead to institutionalize a bottom-up structure of SLQAC by linking IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) of universities and colleges to the state level body thereby planning and implementing interventions. A draft GR on the Bottom-up structure and function of SLQAC is prepared and is under consideration.
- As an outcome of the first SLQAC meeting, there was a common consensus that most unaided colleges affiliated with State universities are not accredited. In order to take all stakeholders on board, SPD RUSA organized a Review Meeting on NAAC accreditation on January 7, 2017 at SNDT Churchgate campus with BCUD Directors and Regional Joint Directors. The meeting resulted in preparation of clear action plan on NAAC accreditation for each state university.
- SPD has initiated Mapping of Colleges of State Universities on a GIS Platform with an objective to build scenarios on formation of more number of cluster universities. Since many state universities are have a huge number of affiliated colleges their numbers have become unmanageable to implement quality reforms. Such an exercise will also help analyse institutions on many other indicators and hence plan effective interventions on quality assurance. Discussions have already been initiated with Remote Sensing Agency Nagpur.

- First draft of Modules and Resource Persons prepared for NAAC training for Master Trainers in partnership with UGC HRDC (Human Resource Development Centre)
- SPD Team gained access to AISHE database and DHE MIS to analyse data on accreditation and other quality indicators on a regular basis.

8. Governance Reforms through Autonomy

Academic Autonomy is a pre-requisite to move towards excellence. It is also a key mandate of academic reforms under RUSA.

- A Two day Residential Workshop was organized in partnership with Dept. of Economics, Mumbai University on August 1 & 2, 2016. About 123 Participants - Principals of colleges (Highest Grade in 3 NAAC Cycles), HoDs of University Departments and BCUDs.
- Expert Group on Autonomy formed – Principals of Xavier’s College, Somaiya College and HoDs from Dept of Economics, Chemistry and Physics of Mumbai University volunteered to hand hold.
- A second **consultation on Academic Autonomy** was organised with **Principles** and **Management Council Members** of college on September 23, 2016 at St. Xavier’s College Mumbai. Hon. Minister for Education Sh Vinod Tawde had an open interaction with principals and management representatives of the colleges and announced measures in response to questions asked and assured to simplify procedures to apply for autonomy. Principal Secretary Sitaram Kunte also addressed the participants at the meeting thereby giving a message of a strong policy environment to promote academic autonomy.
- Invited and facilitated proposals on Academic Autonomy from eligible colleges that were sent to UGC and followed up. About 5 Proposals are in process with UGC while 8 Proposals are in process with Mumbai University.

*13 Proposals of Colleges on Academic Autonomy in Process with UGC
or State Universities*

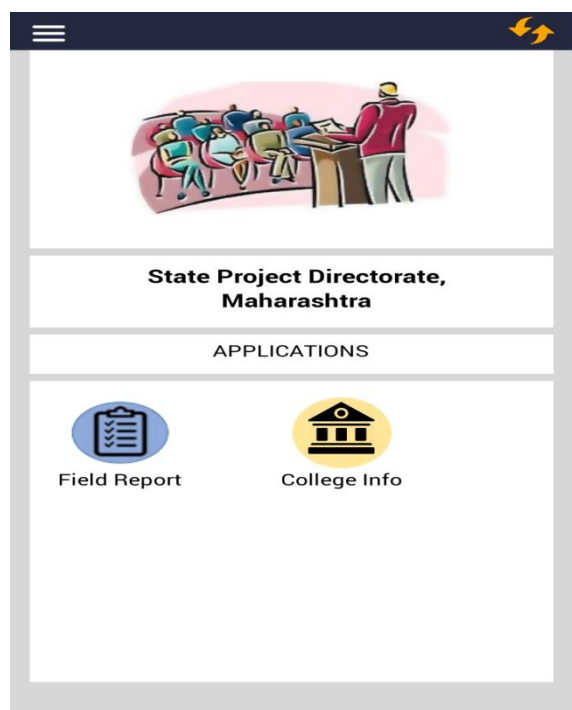
9. IT Enabled Innovations for SPD RUSA

RUSA Maharashtra Field Report App -

RUSA, Maharashtra envisions of easy Monitoring mechanism through App to report the status of ongoing work and compare stages of progress on work which will create transparency between Universities, Colleges and RUSA. Looking at the current need, RUSA, Maharashtra, collaborated with Anant Computing Pvt. Ltd to develop field report app for internal employees of RUSA. This app will help RUSA team, Monitoring to track funds allocated to university or college are spend properly and can report the status of ongoing work based on field visits by team. The app has multiple sub categories to track down all the details and status related to ongoing development work.

- New Construction
- Up gradation
- Procurement
- Others

It is developed and ready to be tested at 2 university or college level and after further modification, it will be implemented from first week of February 2017.



Application Page: Click on Field Report Icon

Fill in Name of the univeristy or College of visit and component of Review example: Infrastructre, Research & Innovation, Equity Initiative etc. and click on type of work to be observed from the given 4 options

RUSA Maharashtra's website is also under construction and will be launched in February 2017.

10. Faculty Improvement

Infrastructure Grants to HRDC – tenders have been floated for various procurement. HRDC is also slated to be shifted to a new ShankarraoChavan building complex within Mumbai University. 2 Orientation Programme, 4 Refresher Courses and 2 Short Term Courses have been conducted with a total of 161 teacher participants. Another 9 programmes are in the pipeline as per the schedule. In addition the following programmes are planned -

1. Master trainers workshop on Accreditation
2. Refresher Course in E-Commerce & E-Business
3. Refresher Course in Biological Sciences
4. 1 Orientation Programme
5. Short Term Course on E-Content Development
6. Short Term Course on Renewable Energy and its applications

11. Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

- All beneficiary 14 institutions of RUSA Maharashtra have been mapped on PFMS.
- Trained 45 CAFOs (Chief Accounts and Finance Officer) and Accountants and Clerks of all 11 State Universities on PFMS. Training new beneficiary institutions as and when required.
- All beneficiary institutions have started their transitions and completing backlog entries on PFMS.

12. Other Initiatives

- SPD Team member attended a workshop on NAD – National Academic Depository at Mumbai University in October 2016.
- 3 Members from SPD RUSA Team participated Unleashing full potential for Social Change Leadership Workshop (UFPSC) for 3 members of RUSA Team at TISS from November 18-20, 2017.

- Participation in NAAC Global Summit on Quality Higher Education 16-17 September 2016