

The Journey of RUSA in the State of Kerala

The Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan(RUSA) translated as the National Higher Education Mission in English is an umbrella scheme to be operated in mission mode over the two plan periods (XII & XIII Plan), which seeks to mainly improve overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions. The scheme is implemented through a set of bodies with clearly defined roles and functions at the National, State and Institutional level.

The Milestones

Agreement of Participation

Government of Kerala have approved to participate in the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the flagship programme of the Government of India intended for enhancing the quality and standard of higher education sector in the country. As per the G.O (MS) No.41/2014/H.Edn. dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 22.01.2014, the state agreed to participate in the programme.

Opening of Joint Account

Sanction was accorded for opening a Joint Bank Account in the name of Special Secretary, Higher Education Department and the Member Secretary, KSHEC for the purpose of RUSA vide GO (MS) No.41/2014/H.Edn. dated, 22.01.2014.

Sanction was also accorded for opening a special TSB Account (Account No.84) in the name of Special Secretary, Higher Education Department and the Member Secretary, KSHEC, in the District Treasury, Tvpm vide Government Order (Rt) No.6703/2014/Fin. Dated 27.08.2014.

When the Special Secretary retired from service, Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department was given the charge of RUSA.

RUSA-Round Table Conference

A round table conference of State Higher Education Councils organized by the Kerala State Higher Education Council was held on December 2nd 2013 at Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram. Thirteen States participated in the Conference. The modalities of constituting the Councils and RUSA were discussed during the Conference.

The Kerala State Higher Education Council hosted the Second Roundtable Conference of Executive Heads of the Councils and equivalent officials from states on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 10.00 AM in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. With the advent of RUSA, the role of the State Higher Education Councils has become important in planning, funding and monitoring of higher education institutions in the states. The discussions of the Roundtable focused on these issues. The hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Shashi Tharoor inaugurated the Roundtable. Amb.(Rtd) T.P.Sreenivasan presided over it.

The participants of the programme were:

States	Participants
1.MHRD (RUSA)	1.Ms. Neha Yadav, Consultant of Kerala(RUSA) 2. Prof. Venketesh Kumar, Consultant
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1. Prof. Francis Xavier, JNRM
3. Andhra Pradesh	1. Prof. L. Venugopal Reddy, Chairman, APSCHE 2. Prof. P. Vijaya Prakash, Vice Chairman, APSCHE
4. Assam	1. Mr. Ranjith Hazarika, Director, Higher Education
5. Gujarat	1. Mr. Vedant V.P, Joint Commissioner, Dept. of Higher Education
6. Himachal Pradesh	1. Mr. R.D.Dhiman, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education 2. Mr. Shashi Bhushan, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education
7. Kerala	1. Amb.(Rtd) T.P.Sreenivasan, Executive Vice Chairman, KSHEC 2. Dr. P. Anvar, Member Secretary, KSHEC 3. Dr.N.Veeramanikandan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala & Member, Executive Council, KSHEC 4. Dr.Sheena Shukkur, Pro Vice-Chancellor, MG University, Member, Executive Council, KSHEC 5. Prof.(Dr.) R. Jayaprakash, Member, Executive Council, KSHEC 6. Prof. Lopus Mathew, Member, Executive Council, KSHEC
8. Lakshadweep	1. Mr. T.Chandran, Education Officer
9. Manipur	1. Mr. Oliver Monsang, Director, Higher Education
10. Mizoram	1. Dr. L.N.Tluangi, Director, Higher & Technical Education 2. Dr. K.L.Phradhan, Joint Director, QAC-cum CDO, Higher & Technical Education
11. Nagaland	1. Mr.A.Wopen Lotha, Addl. Secretary, Higher and Technical Education
12. Odisha	1. Dr. Prabin Tripathy, Regional Director 2. Dr. Nivedita Prusty, Deputy Secretary
13. Puducherry	1. Mr. Karikalan, Director, Higher & Technical Education
14. Punjab	1. Dr. Roshan Sunkaria, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education
15. Tamil Nadu	1. Prof. Dr. Karu. Nagarajan, Member Secretary
16. West Bengal	1. Dr. P.K.Das, Member Secretary

Three Day Workshop for Stakeholders

In the first allotment, only Government colleges of the State were included and a three day workshop for Vice-Chancellors, DCE, DTE, Principals and Co-coordinators of RUSA was held and they were familiarized with the preparation of Institutional Development Plans. Around 120 participants from across the state participated in the event. The RUSA scheme and its implications were discussed in the morning sessions and a demonstration class on how to upload the Institutional Development Plan was done in the afternoon session. The Resource persons were Prof. Christy Clement, Research Officer, KSHEC and Mr. Ajith Brahmanandh, NIC.

Technical help from National Informatics Centre

The technical help for the creation of a website was provided by the National Informatics Centre of the Government. The colleges were able to upload their data to the website created by the NIC.

Management Information System

A data bank committee was constituted by the KSHEC for the collection of data from various colleges across the State and it was made part of the Management Information System. A Unique Software is being designed by the RUSA State Project Directorate to inculcate up-to-date information from all institutions to the State Project Directorate.

Preparation of the State Higher Education Plan by the TSG

The State had submitted the first draft of the SHEP in July 2014 and the revised version in January 2015.

Setting up of the Kerala State Higher Education Council

The Kerala SHEC started in 16th March 2007, on the basis of an ordinance known as the Kerala State Higher Education Council Ordinance 2006 and as per the GO (P) No.37/2007/H.Edn dated, 16th March,2007. The ordinance was subsequently replaced by the Kerala State Higher Education Council Act, 2007. RUSA has insisted that the Council should be as per the RUSA guidelines. The present guidelines of the Council need to be amended and the tenure of the present Council which has been extended will end on April 10th 2016. The new Council will be reconstituted as per the RUSA guidelines.

Formation of TSG

The activities of RUSA had been done by the Expert Panel of TSG for RUSA with the help of Executive Members of the Council. Now after the formation of the RUSA State Project Directorate, the SPD has been doing all the important activities of RUSA. The existing panel of TSG members has been transferred to the RUSA State Project Directorate. Sanction has also been accorded for the creation of the Technical Support Group of RUSA. The composition of the TSG has been given below:

1. Panel of Subject Experts (20 numbers from all the five streams of Engineering, Arts, Science, Commerce and Management).
2. Office Assistant-----1

3. Data Entry Operator-----1

The TSG has been created as per GO (MS)No 496/2014/H.Edn, dated 15/07/2014

Expert Panel of Consultants for the Technical Support Group of RUSA

It was decided to form an Expert Panel of Consultants for the TSG of RUSA comprising of Professors (on deputation/retired from Govt/Aided service) from the four streams of Arts, Engineering, Management and Commerce. Interview was held and a Panel of 23 Professors was selected. The Government have sanctioned the formation of the TSG Expert Panel as per letter No. 29880/B1/2013/H.Edn dated 10.6.2014.

Science Stream

1. Dr.P.Muhamed, Former Director, AMU Centre, Malappuram
2. Dr. E.M.Muhammad, Assoc. Prof. Maharajas College, Ernakulam
3. Dr.M.P.Rajan, Former Principal, NSS Hindu College, Changanassery
4. Dr.K.V.Saban, Principal, St.Aloysious College, Edathuva
5. Prof. H.Badarudeen Rawthar, State Coordinator, Quality Assurance, NAAC, Former HOD, Chemistry, CET,Tvpm
6. Dr.G.Jacob, Assoc. Prof(rtd), St. Gregorious College, Kottarakkara

Commerce & Management

7. Dr.K.I.Georgee, Assoc.Prof. Mar Ivanios College, Tvpm
8. Dr.Jagathy Raj V.P, Prof. School of Management Studies
9. Dr. P.K.Velayuthan, DCE (rtd)
10. Dr.Ajims P. Muhammed, Principal, MES College, Mampad
11. Dr. J.Vijayan, Assoc. Prof. Govt. College, Chavara
12. Prof. Yadeendradas P, Assoc. Prof.(rtd), Govt. College, Thrissur

Arts & Social Science

13. Prof.K.G.Padmanabhan Nair, Former Principal, MG College, Tvpm
14. Dr.S.Sudharsana Babu, Assoc. Prof.(rtd), Dept. of Malayalam, DB College, Sasthamkotta
15. Dr.M.Usman, Principal, Amal College of Advanced Studies, Nilampur, Malappuram

Engineering

16. Dr. Sukesh Kumar.A, Principal(rtd), Govt. Engineering College, Palakkad

17. Dr. Ashalatha Thamburan, Exec. Director, Mohandas College of Engineering, Anad,
Tvp
18. Prof. Narayanan Potti, Director, SPFU, TEQIP
19. Dr.K.K.Saju, Assoc. Prof & Former HOD, Mechanical Engg, CUSAT

Library Science

20. Dr.Vijayakumar.K.P, Assoc. Prof and Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science,
University of Kerala

RUSA Southern Regional Conference

(Organized by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

Venue: Hotel Samudra, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram

July 14, 2015

Members Present:

MHRD

Ms. Ishita Roy, Joint Secretary H.Edn and National Mission Director (RUSA)
Mr. Harpreet Singh, Director, MHRD
Prof.B.Venkatesh Kumar, TISS, Mumbai
Mr. Sanjeev Narayan, Under Secretary, MHRD
Mr. K Rajan, Section Officer, MHRD
Dr. VivekNagpal, Sr. Consultant, MHRD
Mr. Rohit, Consultant, MHRD
Mr. Saravanan, Consultant, MHRD
Ms. Suman Shukla, Consultant, MHRD
Ms. Juile Singh, Consultant, MHRD
Ms. Sugandha Gupta, Consultant, MHRD

Andhra Pradesh

Prof.P. Vijaya Prakash, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council
Prof. P.Narasimha Rao, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council
Smt. B. Udaya Lakshmi, Commissioner, Technical and Collegiate Education
Smt. C.H..Tulasi, Academic Officer, Collegiate Education
R.David Kumar, Academic Guidance officer
Dr.K.Padmavati, Principal, Govt., Degree College (W), Begumpet, Hyderabad
Dr.C.Manjulatha, Principal, Govt., City College, Nayapul, Hyderabad
Dr.Mastanaiah, Principal, Govt. Arts College (A), Rajmundry, East Godavari

GOA

Mr. Bhasker G Nayak, Director, Higher Education
Dr. Anil S Dinge, Principal, PESs Shri Ravi SitaramNaik College, Farmagudi
Mr. PravinBhende, Principal, G.V.M's G.G. P.R. College of Commerce& Economics
Mr. Sudarsan P K, Professor, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau

KARNATAKA

Mr.BharatLalMeena IAS, Principal Secretary, Higher Education
Mr.Chakravarthi Mohan IAS, Commissioner, Dept. of Collegiate Education
Dr.S.A.Kori, Executive Director, Higher Education Council

KERALA

Amb.(Rtd) T.P.Sreenivasan, Executive Vice Chairman, KSHEC
Mr.B.Srinivas IAS, Secretary, Department of Higher Education
Dr. P.Anvar, Member Secretary, KSHEC
Dr.Dileep Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Sanskrit University, Kalady
Dr.Thankamani M.K, Principal, University College
Mr.FinnyZacharia, Additional Secretary, Higher Education
Mr.Shijulal, Under Secretary, Higher Education
Mr. Christy Clement, Research Officer, KSHEC

PUDUCHERRY

Mr. T. Karikalan, Special Secretary to Govt. & State Project Director (RUSA)
Dr. S. Mohandoss, Member Secretary - RUSA
Dr. V. Ramaswami, Principal, Govt. College, Puduchery
Dr. N. Sreenath, Dean, Govt. Engg. College, Puduchery
Dr. S.Udhayakumar, Pricipal, Mothilal Nehru Govt.Polytechnic College, Puduchery

Tamil Nadu

Prof. Dr. Karu. Nagarajan
Member Secretary

TELENGANA

A. Vani Prasad I.A.S, State Project Director RUSA
Mr.T. Vijaya Kumar I.A.S, Joint Secretary, Education Telangana
Prof. K. VenkataChalam, Vice Chairman HEC, Telangana
Dr.K. Padmavati, Principal, GDC (W), Begumpet (Autonomous), Hyderabad
Mr.B. Kanakachary, Academic Guidance Officer, Collegiate Education
Dr. C. Manjulatha, Principal, City College (Autonomous), Hyderabad
K. Srinivas, Project Officer RUSA
Moria Eunice, Special Officer, Collegiate Education

The RUSA Southern Regional Conference was meant for the states to share their best practices and the problems faced by them regarding the implementation of the RUSA programme. The conference was attended by the representatives from MHRD, representatives from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Hon'ble minister of Education, Govt. of Kerala , Shri Abdu Rabb mentioned that RUSA is a milestone in the Higher education scenario and the deliberations with the other states and MHRD will help strengthen the higher education in the states and in the country as a whole.

Ms. Ishita Roy, Joint Secretary(JS), MHRD said that RUSA is the flagship programme of MHRD and allayed fears by saying that MHRD is very much committed to RUSA. Since it is a bottom up programme, it will have its challenges and is not a strait jacket programme as each state will have its own nuances. The RUSA programme now having completed 1 ^{1/2} years has crossed its infancy stage and the progress attained needs to be looked into. She further said that states need to have reached atleast 1.5% of GSDP

The objective of this meeting was to look into the existing issues between the state governments and the state higher education Councils, how to help states implement the plans, look into the functional autonomy, what specific reforms have taken place in the following –affiliation reforms; academic reforms and government reforms, share the best practices .The most important issue to be looked into was the ban on recruitment as 40% of faculty positions remain vacant. She remarked that there were not much concerns in the areas of equity and access in the southern region when compared to the Eastern region. A road map is needed before the xiith plan comes to an end.

The states were asked to present their concerns, the progress attained in implementing the RUSA programme and the fund utilization. The states said that they were committed to the academic, affiliation reforms as most of them had conducted capacity building seminars/workshops, introduced semesterization at UG/PG levels, introduced exam reforms etc. Goa mentioned that they had filled up all the faculty positions.

Initiatives taken by the states:

Andhra Pradesh:

- Submitted State Higher Education Plans
- Knowledge Advisory Board
- Held conferences on how to improve quality; capacity building seminars/workshops
- Common University Acts in the pipeline
- Looking for Public Private Partnership in Higher Education
- State Accreditation Council is being proposed

- CBCSS made mandatory at UG/PG levels; revamped curriculum; several combinations of courses in arts, sciences and commerce. From 3rd semester onwards, module based system
- Online teaching/MOOCs made use of for shortage of faculty. Smart Class rooms being set up in colleges/universities. It is proposed to make at least four credits through MOOCs.
- Workshops to enhance entrepreneurship. Incubation centres in universities. Internship programs for students in final semester linking up with industries
- Special training programmes in pedagogical skills.
- WiFi connectivity in most universities

Issues:

No meeting of Vice Chancellors at Governor level.

Faculty positions to be filled up

Utilization certificates to be produced.

Tamil Nadu:

The utilization certificate would be submitted by Oct/Nov

Faculty recruitment being done through Teacher Recruitment Board

Several universities have tied up with universities in Australia

Interim Board to evaluate various degrees

Karnataka

CBCSS introduced at UG/PG levels

Faculty positions to be filled up

Conference of Vice Chancellors are held.

Sharing of e content-teaching material through a common portal in both English and regional language

All universities are internally and externally connected i.e. a professor of a university can interact with students of another university

Individual laptops to teachers

Students' feedback about the teachers is communicated to the portal and is available at the university level. This facility is made available at all Govt. Colleges

Admission is online

The consultants for each state mentioned the amount of fund spent.

The Joint Secretary (JS) said MHRD could look into what intervention was needed regarding semesterization in colleges. There is also a major need to remove the ban on recruitment, understand the sanctioned faculty strength in the states. The large no. of affiliating colleges under

some universities should be cut down as was done in the case of Bangalore University which has been divided into four zones.

Cluster of colleges to be formed where they do not exist

The JS said that the major hurdles regarding the implementation of the RUSA programme was the non presentation of the utilization certificates (UC) on the funds already granted. She said that the 60-70% of the amount needs to be spent by September. No expenditure would be allowed beyond Nov/Dec and it is essential that a calendar of events be prepared to make use of these funds.

There would be no compromise on the qualifications of the faculty. She said that MOOCS and online teaching could supplement the teaching process and should not be a substitute for the physical presence of a teacher.

Research and innovative component of RUSA should be taken as a whole for the State.

In reply to the queries/concerns from the states regarding the accreditation of colleges with C grade, MHRD said that there would be a discussion with PAB regarding the upliftment of these C grade colleges.

Summarizing the issues of the different states, it was stressed upon that the,

- Appointment of Vice Chancellors be done
- Faculty positions to be filled up (guest faculty would affect the quality of HE)
- Functional autonomy to be given to institutions, putting in elements of accountability
- Plans beyond infrastructure
- Suggest improvements in research in colleges/universities

Sri. Harpreet Singh, Director, MHRD commented that it is difficult to grant funds if the DPRs do not come in time, if there is a mismatch and also if the UCs are not presented in time. Visits to certain states could be conducted to apprise if certain targets have achieved, if faculty positions have been improved and a report card would be issued by the end of the year. In most states, the contribution of the state to the RUSA fund remains a big question and measures need to be taken to see the proper flow of fund to the RUSA account. The MHRD would be updating RUSA guidelines and releasing a handbook.

The next PAB would be in August engaging the World Bank too. The MHRD officials proposed exposure visits to World Class Universities if necessary.

Pondicherry

Higher Education Plan prepared and sent in the month of April.

Received the Preparatory grant.

UC will be furnished in three weeks

Doesn't have a state university

Only one University- Pondicherry University and it is a Central University

All the arts and Science, Engineering colleges are affiliated to the Central University

Accreditation Process actively followed

Accreditation reforms, semester system, CBCSS

Upgradation of an engineering college to a Technical University

Proposal for faculty training academy, only one academic Staff College

Faculty vacancies will be filled shortly

Revised plan submitted

Kerala

RUSA was unable to fund any of our reform programmes

Reform proposals approved by State Govt. but not able to implement it because of shortage of funds

Our expectation was RUSA would fund it and it did not happen.

RUSA has a broader outlook

Affiliation reforms-cluster of colleges in order to decentralize; technical university-various specialized universities- now we are thinking of private universities that can be effectively sanctioned. We have autonomous colleges-improved admissions-results published readily-exam reforms- medical university exams unique in the world- results published immediately online within a few days after the exam.

Expenditure- came to understand that the more we spend, the better

Also we are happy to take the informal advice of Sri. Harpreet that we could use it for some other purpose not only preparatory.

We haven't got the money for other components.

We are allotted 110crores and Mr. Harpreet says the money will be allotted soon.

Can't finish the granted money by the end of this year

We are delighted to know that you are considering additional projects even during the current financial year and we could give more proposals.

We would rather give innovative proposals; construction and other various things like Faculty Training Academy, KSAAC etc, you have taken a restricted kind of approach

Goa

One single University in the state.

Accreditation process started

Reforms- Semester system followed

Continuous evaluation and internal assessment as well as external assessment positively carried out.

Periodic revision of syllabus done.

CBCSS introduced from 2016-17

No ban on recruitment

Rs.30000 given for contract lecturers which is the highest in the country, 45, 000 for qualified NET candidates

University 100% autonomous- colleges are also there

Educational destination for India

Started Academic Staff College

Not appointed any consultants

Delay in release of funds from Govt.

Even C grade colleges should be considered

Telangana

UC will be submitted within 15 days

A district with no engineering colleges is there.

Vacancies will be filled. 86% in place

Workshops conducted

VC's i/c. VCs will be appointed- IAS officer and academicians appointed as present VCs. Regular VCs will be appointed soon.

Governance reforms: University Act at the preparatory stage

Karnataka Model of Edusat and smart class rooms initiated.

Exams- online exams considered. Affiliation harsh and strict.

The conference ended with the vote of thanks given by Sri. Ishita Roy, JS, MHRD.

RUSA State Project Directorate (SPD)

The RUSA State Project Directorate has been formed as per the GO (MS) No.497/2014/H.Edn. dated, 15.07.14. Accordingly, the Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department is designated as the State Project Director of RUSA. The following supporting staff is also sanctioned:

1. State RUSA Coordinator
2. Section Officer
3. Assistants-----3
4. System Analyst
5. Data Entry Operator
6. Research Officers-----2

All the important works associated with RUSA has been done by the State Project Directorate.

Allotment by Project Approval Board, RUSA

The proposal of Infrastructure grants to Universities and Colleges was approved by the Project Approval Board and 15 Colleges and four Universities were selected based on Accreditation Status for granting infrastructure grants. An amount of 110 crores has been allotted as infrastructure grants to these institutions. The list of the institutions which has got allotment is given below:

Universities

1. Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady
2. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
3. University of Kerala
4. University of Calicut

Colleges

5. Govt. College, Kasaragod
6. Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad
7. SNGS Govt College, Pattambi
8. Govt. College, Mananthawady
9. Govt. Arts and Science College, Meenchandha

10. Govt. College, Madappally
11. Govt. College, Kodenchery
12. KMM Govt. Women's College, Kannur
13. Govt. Brennan College, Thalassery
14. CA Govt. College, Kuttanallur
15. Govt. College, Chalakkudy
16. University College, Thiruvananthapuram
17. Govt. College, Nedumangadu
18. Maharaja's College, Ernakulam
19. College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram

Formation of State Level Quality Assurance Cell for RUSA

As per the direction of the MHRD, G.O No. 24-1, 2016, U-Policy, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, dated, 30/01/2016, the State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SQAC) was created for facilitating timely mandatory NAAC Accreditation in the institutions. The available pool of NAAC assessors was considered while deciding the SQAC Coordinator. The list of the members selected for the SQAC is given below:

1. **Srinivas B, IAS**, Director, RUSA SPD & Principal Secretary, Higher Education
2. **Prof.S.Varghese**, RUSA State Project Coordinator, **Convenor of the Cell**
3. **DCE** Representative
4. **DTE** Representative
5. **Dr. Sudheer**, Director, Academic Staff College, University of Kerala, **Coordinator of the Cell**
6. **Dr. Suresh Kumar**, Rtd. Principal & RUSA TSG Member
7. **Dr. N.Rajan**, Rtd. Principal & RUSA TSG Member
8. **Dr. Geetha Gopinath**, Former Principal, Marthoma Training College, Ranni
9. **Prof. M.A. Kuriyachan**, Former Professor, Medical College, TVPM.
10. **Dr.Molly Marceline**, Former Principal, University College, Tvpm

Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

As per the direction of MHRD, GO No.24-1/2016-U.Policy, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, dated 30.1.2016, the SPD, RUSA has to identify resource person for building capacities for PFMS (Public Financing Management System) and share the details with the consultants by 10th of February 2016. Hence the Finance Officer of RUSA State Project Directorate (SPD) has been identified as the Resource Person of PFMS. The Finance Officer will be assisted by the State Project Directorate.

Setting up of State Level Academic Audit Team

As per the direction of MHRD, GO No.24-1/2016-U.Policy, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, dated 30.1.2016, the SPD,

RUSA, has to set up a State Level Academic Audit Team to assess the performance of institutions and teachers. Accordingly, as per the direction of the MHRD, the Andhra Pradesh State Project Directorate which had successfully implemented this in their state was contacted and after thorough deliberations with the Andhra Pradesh Project Directorate a framework was prepared by the State Project Directorate of RUSA. This will be shortly implemented in the State. The State Project Directorate with the help of the Technical Support Group will implement academic audit in the State.

Geo-Tagging of Institutions which have received the infrastructure grants from RUSA

The geo-tagging of institutions which have received the infrastructure grants has been going on well with many institutions uploading their photographs in the Bhuvan App of RUSA made by the ISRO. Initially, the State Project Directorate got the help of the Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environmental Centre to implement the scheme of geo-tagging. Now the RUSA Coordinators in the institutions have been uploading the pictures to the Bhuvan App.

Allotment in the ninth Project Approval Board meeting of RUSA for Kerala

The PAB gave approval for 2 colleges under Infrastructure Grants to Colleges, namely Government College for Women , Trivandrum and Government College , Attingal (Rs. 4 crore); 1 Human Development Resource Centre (erstwhile Academic Staff College) at University of Kerala for Faculty Improvement (Rs.1 crore), 2 Colleges for Upgradation to MDC, namely N..M.S.M Govt College , Kalpatta and Govt College Munnar (Rs. 8 crore) and Equity Initiatives for the State as a Unit (Rs. 5 crore); with the total amount of Rs. 18 crores.

Project Monitoring Units

Project Monitoring Units have been formed by the RUSA State Project Directorate to monitor the institutions that have received the RUSA grants. The team comprising of TSG members and the members of the State Project Directorate, visited the 19 institutions across Kerala and physically verified the projects going on in the institutions.

Procurement of Utilization Certificates

All the selected Government institutions have sent their utilization certificates of the first installment to the RUSA State Project Directorate, which have been verified and approved by the SPD. The certificates have been sent to the RUSA Mission Authority, MHRD.

The Allotment of Infrastructure Grants as First Installment to Institutions

As per the letter No.F. No 24-42/2014- U.Policy(KERIGUIGC-Gen) from the Director, Department of Higher Education, MHRD dated 18.06.2015, Government of India had released an amount of Rs.7,71,87,500. Subsequently, the state Government had released an amount of Rs.4,15,62,500 as state

share and the total infrastructure grants were Rs. 11,87,50,000. The amount has been disbursed to four Universities and 15 Government Colleges on 8/9/2015. The infrastructure grants are disbursed in the following manner:

No	Institution Name	State Share	Central Share	Total
1.	Sree Sankaracharya University, Kalady	87,50,000	1,62,50,000	2,50,00,00
2.	Mahatma Gandhi University	87,50,000	1,62,50,000	2,50,00,00
3.	University of Kerala	87,50,000	1,62,50,000	2,50,00,00
4.	University of Calicut	87,50,000	1,62,50,000	2,50,00,00
5.	Govt. College, Kasaragod	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
6.	Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
7.	SNGS Govt. College, Pattambi	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
8.	Govt. College, Mananthawady	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
9.	Govt. Arts and Science College, Meenchandha	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
10.	Govt. College, Madappally	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
11.	Govt. College, Kodenchery	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
12.	KMM Govt. Women's College, Kannur	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
13.	Govt. Brennan College, Thalassery	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
14.	C.A.Govt. College, Kuttanallur	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
15.	Govt. College, Chalakkudy	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
16.	University College, Tvpm	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
17.	Govt. College, Nedumangadu	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
18.	Maharaja's College, Ernakulam	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
19.	College of Engineering, Tvpm	4,37,500	8,12,500	12,50,000
	Total	4,15,62,500	7,71,87,500	11,87,50,000

GFR 19-A
(See Rule 212 (1))

Utilization Certificate of Universities in the Component - Infrastructure Grants to Universities

Certified that out of **Rs.6,50,00,000/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Lakhs Only)** of Infrastructure Grants to Universities Letter No. F No. 24-42/2014-U-Policy (KERIGUIGC-GEN) from the Director, Dept. Of Higher Education, MHRD dated 18-06-2015 sanctioned during the year **2015** in favour of the **Government of Kerala**, out of which an amount of **Rs.6,50,00,000/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Lakhs Only)** has been released. The Govt. Of Kerala released an amount of **Rs. 3,50,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakhs Only)** as per GO(MS)No. 606/2015/H.Edn dated 06/10/2015 as state share for the financial year 2015. A sum of **Rs. 10,00,00,000** Has been utilized for the purposes of infrastructure grants to Universities.

Sl. No.	Letter No. and Date	Amount (Rs.)
1	Letter No. F No. 24-42/2014-U-Policy (KERIGUIGC-GEN) from the Director, Dept. Of Higher Education, MHRD dated 18-06-2015	6,50,00,000
	Total Amount sanctioned by MHRD, Govt. Of India	6,50,00,000
	Total Amount released by MHRD, Govt. of India	6,50,00,000
2	GO(MS)No. 606/2015/H.Edn dated 06/10/2015 (State Share)	3,50,00,000
	Total fund released by MHRD, Govt. of India and Govt. of Kerala	10,00,00,000
	Total Amount utilized for the purpose of Infrastructure Grants to Universities as on 18/02/2016	10,00,00,000
	Balance fund	0.00

Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the Infrastructure grants to Universities was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/are being fulfilled and that I have exercised that following checks to see that the money was actually utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

1. Audited
2. Verified the bills and vouchers

18/2/2016

Designation :
State RUSA Project Coordinator
(for The Director, RUSA SPD)

Sd/-
Prof. S.Varghese

GFR 19-A
(See Rule 212 (1))

Utilization Certificate of Colleges in the Component - Infrastructure Grants to Colleges

Certified that out of **Rs.12,187,500/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Only)** of Infrastructure Grants to Colleges Letter No. F No. 24-42/2014-U-Policy (KERIGUIGC-GEN) from the Director, Dept. Of Higher Education, MHRD dated 18-06-2015 sanctioned during the year **2015** in favour of the **Government of Kerala**, out of which an amount of **Rs.12,187,500/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Only)** has been released. The Govt. Of Kerala released an amount of **Rs. 65,62,500/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand and Five Hundred Only)** as per GO(MS)No. 606/2015/H.Edn dated 06/10/2015 as state share for the financial year 2015. A sum of **Rs. 1,87,50,000** Has been utilized for the purposes of infrastructure grants to Colleges.

Sl. No.	Letter No. and Date	Amount (Rs.)
1	Letter No. F No. 24-42/2014-U-Policy (KERIGUIGC-GEN) from the Director, Dept. Of Higher Education, MHRD dated 18-06-2015	12,187,500
	Total Amount sanctioned by MHRD, Govt. Of India	12,187,500
	Total Amount released by MHRD, Govt. of India	12,187,500
2	GO(MS)No. 606/2015/H.Edn dated 06/10/2015 (State Share)	65,62,500
	Total fund released by MHRD, Govt. of India and Govt. of Kerala	1,87,50,000
	Total Amount utilized for the purpose of Infrastructure Grants to Colleges as on 25/02/2016	1,87,50,000
	Balance fund	0

Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the Infrastructure grants to Colleges was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/are being fulfilled and that I have exercised that following checks to see that the money was actually utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

3. Audited
4. Verified the bills and vouchers

18/02/2016

Designation :
State RUSA Project Coordinator
(for The Director, RUSA SPD)

Sd/-
Prof. S.Varghese

GFR 19-A
(See Rule 212 (1))

Utilization Certificate of Preparatory Grants of RUSA

Certified that out of **Rs.2,62,60,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Two Lakh and Sixty Thousand Only)** of Grants- in- aid sanctioned during the year **2013-14** in favour of the **Government of Kerala** under this ministry/department letter No. F.No. 4-17/2013- U.II dated 24-02-2014, F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy(MMER-Gen) Dated 31-03-2014, F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy (MMERNNER-SC) Dated 31-03-2014 and F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy(MMERNNER-ST) Dated 31-03-2014, out of which an amount of **Rs.2,62,60,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Two Lakh and Sixty Thousand Only)** has been released. The Government of Kerala released an amount of **Rs.1,40,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh Only)** as per LetterNo.67633/W&M11-1/117/2015-Fin Dated 21/03/2015 and **Rs.1,40,000** (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand Only - as the matching share of MMER grants) as State share for the financial year 2014-15. Given in the margin and **Rs.0 (nil)** on account of unspent balance of the previous year, a sum of **Rs. 3,30,96,442/- (Rupees Three Crores Thirty Lakh, Ninety Six thousand four hundred and Forty Two Only)** has been utilised for the purpose of the **implementation of RUSA** for which it was sanctioned and that the balance of **Rs.73,03,558/-(Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Eight Only)** will be adjusted towards the Grants- in- aid payable during the next year **2016-17**.

Sl. No.	Letter No. and Date	Amount (Rs.)
1.	F.No. 4-17/2013- U.II dated 24-02-2014 of MHRD, Govt. of India (Amount sanctioned by Govt. of India)	2,60,00,000
2.	F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy(MMERNNER-Gen) Dated 31-03-2014 of MHRD, Govt. Of India (Amount sanctioned by Govt. Of India	2,01,500
3.	F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy(MMERNNER-SC) Dated 31-03-2014 of MHRD, Govt. Of India (Amount sanctioned by Govt. Of India	39,000
4.	F.No.24-18/2014-U.Policy(MMERNNER-ST) Dated 31-03-2014 of MHRD, Govt. Of India (Amount sanctioned by Govt. Of India	19,500
Total Amount sanctioned by MHRD, Govt. Of India		2,62,60,000
Total Amount released by MHRD, Govt. of India		2,62,60,000
5	Letter No.67633/W&M11-1/117/2015-Fin Dated 21/03/2015 of Finance (W&M-II) Department, Govt. of Kerala	1,40,00,000
6	Matching share of MMER grants released by Govt. Of Kerala	1,40,000
Total fund released by MHRD, Govt. of India and Govt. of Kerala		4,04,00,000
Total Amount utilized for the purpose of RUSA as on 22/3/2016		3,30,96,442
Balance fund		73,03,558

Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grants- in- aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/are being fulfilled and that I have exercised that following checks to see that the money was actually utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

5. Audited

6. Verified the bills and vouchers

22/3/2016
Coordinator

Designation : State RUSA Project

(for Director)

Sd/-

Prof. S.Varghese

RUSA Sponsored Seminars:

National Seminar on Fostering Synergistic Relationships in the Higher Education Scenario: Capacity Building and Pedagogical Innovations:

A national seminar sponsored by the RUSA State Project Directorate was held on March 4th and 5th 2016 in Fatima Mata National College, Kollam. Around 20 Government and Aided Colleges in and around the cities of Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram participated in the event. Research scholars and academicians presented their papers on issues relating to the Indian higher education system with special reference to the state of Kerala such as governance reforms for quality, ranking of institutions and regular accreditations by NAAC, improving the regulations in regard to quality, integrating skill development in higher education, promoting open and distance learning and online courses, opportunities for technology enabled learning, addressing regional disparities, bridging gender and social gaps, linking higher education to society, sustaining student support systems, promoting meaningful partnership with the private sector, promoting research and innovation and inculcating new knowledge.

Objectives of the Seminar

1. To provide a better framework for fostering an enabling environment to improve and strengthen the teaching-learning process.
2. To instill collective responsibility to meet the challenges of the new millennium.
3. To bring about a blending of technology and traditional classroom approaches.
4. To determine and make explicit the purpose of pedagogical innovation.
5. To scale-up e-learning.
6. To develop pace setting curricula that extends beyond syllabi and text books.
7. To inculcate in the learners, analytical capability blended with socio-economic concern.

Themes for Technical Sessions

1. Pedagogical Innovations.
2. Capacity building of learners and knowledge providers.
3. Pace setting curriculum innovations.
4. Bridging the digital divide.
5. Public and Private Sector-meaningful partnerships.
6. Internationalization of Higher Education.

7. Research linked with social and economic needs.
8. Technology enabled learning.

Short-Term Administrative Training for Heads of University Teaching Departments from 2.03.2016 to 5.03.2016:

Objectives:

Heads of Departments are vested with the very important function of leading the respective departments academically. Besides their scholarship, Heads of Departments need to have the administrative capacity to take strategic decisions and implement innovative ideas for the betterment of their colleagues and students. It is inevitable that Heads of Departments need to be given appropriate training in the area of academic administration with emphasis on personal management, decision making, interpersonal relations, accounting, budgeting, fund mobilization and utilization. The training for HODs is focused to provide them clear perception regarding the areas referred above.

Topics discussed:

1. Management Skills
2. University Administration
3. University Laws
4. Academic Administration
5. Service Rules
6. Fund Mobilization and Utilization
7. Stress and Time Management
8. Interpersonal Relations

No: of participants: 50

Two day International Seminar on ‘Rising India, Higher Education and the World Order in the 21st Century, March 10 & 11, 2016 at St.John’s College, Anchal:

Objectives:

1. To examine India’s potential as an emerging power.
2. To examine the need for Internationalization of higher education.
3. To study the domestic problems that hurdle India’s emergence as a great power.
4. To asses and analyze the impact of India’s emergence as a great power on world order and global governance.
5. To discuss the problems of higher education in Kerala.

Sub-themes:

1. Influence of history and civilization on rising India.

2. Internationalization of Higher Education.
3. Higher Education Scenario in Kerala.
4. India's foreign policy; reformulating strategies and perspectives.
5. India's views on international system.
6. Managing relations with the big powers- USA, China, Russia and Japan.
7. India's leadership in South Asia and relations with immediate neighbours.
8. Integrating into the world system; issues and agencies.
9. Major security challenges: terrorism, cyber security and military modernization
10. Domestic challenges before a rising India: fighting illiteracy

A total of 300 members participated in the event. 150 paper presenters and 150 participants from all over India and abroad attended the seminar. Teachers from neighboring colleges also participated in the event.

Workshop on Accreditation for Principals and NAAC Coordinators of the colleges in the state, 5th to 8th January 2016 at Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum.

A salient objective of the RUSA scheme is to improve the overall quality of existing state institutions by ensuring that all institutions conform to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework. Assessment and accreditation in higher education, through transparent and informed external review process, are effective means of quality assurance in higher education. These mechanisms provide a common frame of reference for students and others to obtain credible information on academic quality across institutions thereby assisting student mobility across institutions, domestic as well as international. Till recently, accreditation was voluntary as a result of which very few colleges and universities were accredited. Mandatory accreditation in India's higher education sector would enable it to become a part of the global quality assurance system. Hence all institutions eligible for funding under RUSA would require to be accredited or have applied for accreditation. The role and spread of National Assessment and Accreditation Council and the National Board of Accreditation would be expanded by the MHRD to cater to the large number of institutions which would be applying for accreditation.

As part of capability building activities of the institutional leaders a workshop on accreditation has been organized by the State Project Directorate of RUSA and the Kerala State Higher Education Council for selected Principals and NAAC Coordinators of colleges in the state from 5th to 8th January 2016 at Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum. The inauguration of the new office of the RUSA State Project Directorate was also done on 5th of January 2016 at 9.30 A.M by the *hon'ble Minister for Education, Shri P.K Abdu Rabb*. A total of 120 colleges participated in the seminar. Among the participants were 120 Principals and 120 NAAC coordinators from these colleges.

Topics of the seminar:

1. NAAC for Quality Consciousness in Higher Education
2. NAAC-An enabler and facilitator of Quality Higher Education
3. Microscopic Preparation for Accreditation
4. Quality up-gradation in Higher Education
5. NAAC Accreditation Process and Benefits

6. NAAC Accreditation- Best Practice in Higher Education
7. Accountability in Higher Education
8. NAAC Accreditation- Assessment Procedures

The Best Practices under RUSA State Project Directorate

1. Implementing Video Conferencing System in Institutions

The Video Conferencing facility will be established in 30 Government Colleges & Directorate of Collegiate Education under the RUSA project.

Video conferencing is becoming the most common application of the new information age. This upsurge is prompted by three factors:

- The workgroups made up for experts from many different locations require a technology that allows people to meet face-to-face with high productivity on a moment's notice. Only video conferencing meets this demand.
- Changes in video conferencing technology, particularly high definition and what's being called video presence, are giving video conferences the same sense of connection and collaboration as a live meeting. In fact, they're better than live, because video conferencing allows data sharing that is not possible in live meetings, plus the recording of video conferences provides necessary records for security and regulatory requirements. In addition, new video conferencing technology has excellent security plus advanced management and scheduling capabilities. Also, the cost of video conferencing end points has decreased tenfold since 1998. Travel costs have escalated.
- The IP (Internet Protocol) revolution has lead to "IP everywhere" making the transmission of video conferences far less expensive, much easier to use, more reliable and significantly more scalable to meet the growing requirements.
- The new video conferencing technology has such excellent definition, picture and sound quality, plus data-sharing capability.
- It allows whole offices to come together often, to solve problems, share successes and celebrates, increasing the identity.

2. Laptops and Special Software for differently abled students

Special imported laptops with the adequate with assistive technology devices for visually impaired, hearing impaired and physically challenged students in the college classroom/library have been provided to 40 Government Colleges where differently abled students are more in number. The special software that has been included in the laptops has been given below:

1. **Screen Readers** are described by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) as “software programs that allow blind or visually impaired users to read the text that is displayed on the computer screen with a speech synthesizer.” The AFB suggests them for those with low vision, because “learning to listen to speech output will prove more productive for such individuals than struggling to read text while leaning close to the computer screen.”
2. **Word Talk** is a free add-in for Microsoft Word, this program can read aloud any document written in Word and create audio files that can be saved. In addition, assistive technology expert Paul Hamilton writes that “WordTalk functions can be accessed by customizable keyboard shortcuts—for individuals with vision challenges, or those who cannot use a mouse effectively, or to speed the work of anyone who relies extensively on WordTalk.” In addition, students with reading disabilities can also use screen readers to help them understand course materials.
3. **Word Prediction** programs include a number of different applications, some of which can be downloaded from the Internet, are available to help students with writing challenges. Word predictors “can help a user during word processing by ‘predicting’ a word the user intends to type. Predictions are based on spelling, syntax, and frequent/recent use. This prompts students who struggle with writing to use proper spelling, grammar, and word choices, with fewer keystrokes.” Students who struggle with memory difficulties might find this program useful, too.
4. **Supernova Access Suite** is “a complete screen reader with natural sounding speech and integrated screen magnifier with Braille display support.” This product can be downloaded from YourDolphin.com, which also offers a free trial so that students can make sure it will work for them. This company offers many varieties of this technology, making it easy for students to select the right program for their needs.

5. **Video Magnifiers** are also sometimes described as a form of closed-circuit television (CCTV) that “uses a video camera to display a magnified image on a monitor or television screen.” Students with low vision can use them to read their course materials with greater ease. A company named Ulva offers a variety of styles for students to choose from to suit their academic requirements.
6. **Close Captioning and Subtitling**: Services such as those provided by the CPC company can be used on both Mac and Windows formats, and enable deaf students to watch the same online video material as their colleagues. This makes it easier for them to participate in online courses that offer video lectures of their professors. They can also use the program to create their own videos with subtitles or close-captioning, which may come in handy for students with speech disorders.
7. **FaceMouse**: For students with limited mobility, Claro’s FaceMouse turns a standard webcam into a mouse operator, allowing students to use their head and facial gestures to perform a number of tasks, including pointing the cursor, clicking on sites, or typing on the keyboard. For example, “Claro FaceMouse effectively turns the user’s head into a remote ‘joystick’ controller. Claro FaceMouse has a variable setting for sensitivity, making the mouse pointer easier to control. Specific head or facial actions can be linked to keyboard presses. ‘Head Down’ can be assigned as the ‘Down Cursor’, and ‘Mouth Open’ could be ‘Enter Key’. All the various face actions can be assigned to a keystroke.”
8. **Sip-and-Puff Systems**: A truly innovative tool that makes computer use easier for students with mobility challenges, including paralysis and fine motor skill difficulties, sip-and-puff systems allow users to control a mouthstick, similar to a joystick, using their breath. Students can direct the mouthstick to click on web pages, type, and perform other functions.

9. **Digital Dictionary and Videos of Basic words in sign languages**

This digital dictionary presents the *ASL signs* for hundreds of science concepts ... to fill a gap in the instruction of *deaf* students in higher level mathematics classes, immediately relevant,

grounded in the *classroom* context, and personalized text for improving the reading comprehension of college students who are deaf. Videos of the Top 150 Basic Words in Sign Language can also be purchased

CeDS (Centre for Disability Studies) is developing few tools with the support of the faculty and students of Engineering colleges, which can be installed at a later stage after the validity of the tools, are done. A one day workshop for the faculties of the Colleges can be organized which will aim to impart the training in using the assistive devices.

E-Journal Portal for RUSA

The Government have given sanction to provide e-journals for selected 40 Government Colleges as a best practice of RUSA SPD. Electronic journal is a periodic publication which is published in electronic format, on the Internet. Electronic journals have several advantages over traditional printed journals: the content pages can be searched for full text of journals to find articles on a certain subject. Students and teachers could access the sites and upload their articles through this.

The key features are as mentioned below:

1. New Registration
2. Books & eBooks
3. Journals & Magazines
4. Multidisciplinary topics
5. Courses
6. Research Solutions
7. Research Platforms
8. Archives
9. Journal Subscription

RUSA State Project Directorate Library

A library has been set up in the RUSA State Project Directorate as a part of best practice under RUSA. The research wing of the State Project Directorate and the expert panel of Professors from the TSG make use of this library. A very good e-journal network has also been set up in the RUSA State Project Directorate. In the next stage, teachers and research students will also be given accessibility.