Group

EDUCATION
& RESEARCH

SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT

01

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION 2024 YEAR-END REVIEW

The Ministry of Education's 2024 Year-End Review highlights strides in advancing equitable and inclusive education, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The **Samagra Shiksha scheme maintained its comprehensive approach to school education, supporting infrastructure, teacher training, and inclusivity.**

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES INTRODUCED IN 2024	PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme	One Nation One Subscription
Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)	PM Internship Scheme 2024	Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)

Over 2 crore learners and 39 lakh volunteer teachers registered and **Ladakh achieved a 100% literacy rate, under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) program.** As per the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test** statistics, participation from **over 1.11 crore learners has been recorded. Out of which 89 lakh learners have been certified as literate.**

Under NCERT, the establishment of Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development **(PARAKH)** was a step toward standardizing student assessments. **The assessment of school students in Grades 3, 6, and 9, with participation from around 23 lakh students across 88,000 schools** was done under the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024. Holistic Progress Cards were also developed to reflect progress across curricular and co-curricular domains.

शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION

ULLAS: Empowering Bharat with Literacy & Lifelong Learning!

▶ Mission Jan Jan Saakshar: Promoting literacy for all individuals aged 15+ under NEP 2020.
▶ Covers Foundational Literacy & Numeracy, Life Skills, Basic Educations, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education.
▶ Hybrid Model: Combines offline, online, and blended approaches.

**Total project outlay:
Rs 1,037.9 Crore over 5 years!**
Achievement So far:

▶ Mission App: Launched in July 2023; 2 crore learners & 39 lakh volunteer teachers registered.
▶ Ladakh: First fully literate administrative unit.
▶ Over 88.89 lakh certified literates through assessment tests.

PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024: At a Glance

| Administered for **Grades 3,6,9** | Encompasses **782 districts** | Covers over **88,000 schools*** | Surveys more than **23 lakh students** | Conducted in **23 languages** |

PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024:

1. Aims at evaluating, analyzing, and enriching students competencies at end of the **Foundational, Preparatory** and **Middle** stages of education.
2. Gives a **system level reflection** on effectiveness of school education.

*PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 covers more approximately 88,000 sampled schools including Government, Government-Aided, Central Government and Private Recognized institutions.
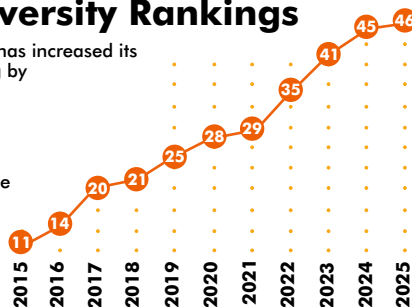
Efforts to enhance inclusivity included support for **Children with Special Needs (CwSN)** under Samagra Shiksha, offering individualized assistance and stipends. The **APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) initiative generated over 7 crore unique student IDs**, enabling seamless academic tracking and credit transfers. The digital transformation in India's school education system has resulted in a **growing proportion of schools using computers. There is a significant change that has been recorded from 38.5% in 2019–20 to 57.2% in 2023–24 including** the increase from 22.3% to 53.9% in internet access.

Number of Indian institutions in QS World University Rankings

Over the past decade, India has increased its representation in the ranking by

318%

the highest growth among the G20 nations.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Institutions	11	14	20	21	25	28	29	35	41	45	46

India's higher education institutions advanced in global rankings. **In the QS World University Rankings 2025, 46 Indian institutions were featured — a 318% increase since 2015**. IIT Bombay has ranked from 149th to 118th place and achieved the highest score among Indian institutions. **The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024 included State Public, Open, and Skill Universities.** IIT Madras stood undefeated at its first place in the Overall Category. These initiatives underscore the Ministry's commitment to an inclusive, digitally empowered, and holistic education system.
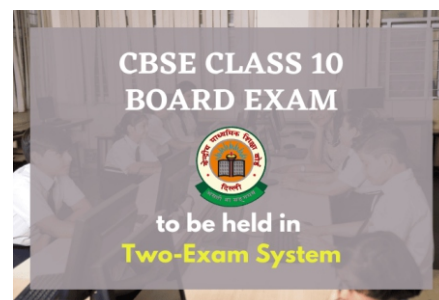
02

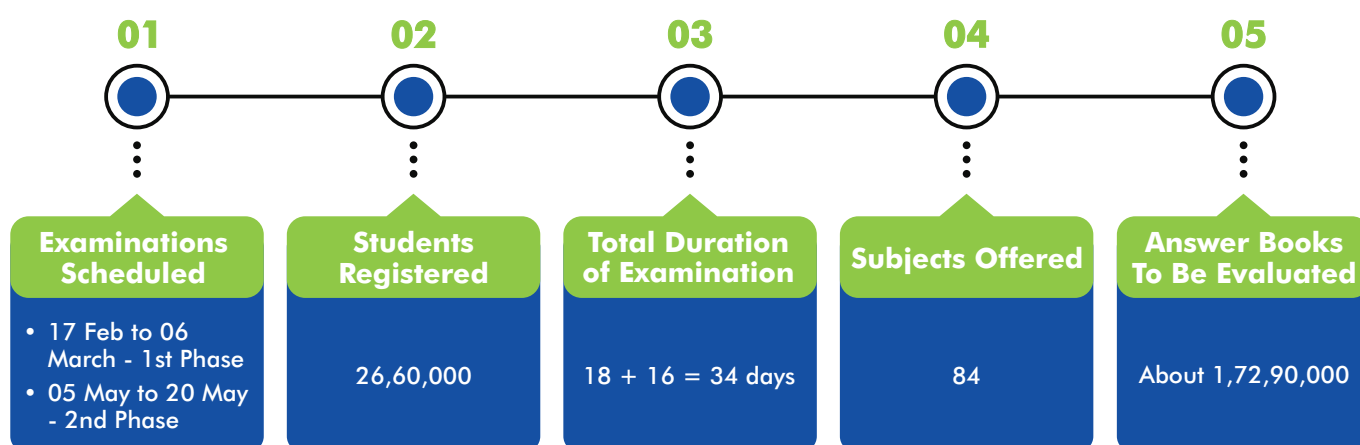# THE DRAFT SCHEME FOR TWO EXAMINATION UNDER CBSE CLASS 10TH BOARD EXAM FROM SESSION 2025-26

A draft scheme has been released by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to conduct two board examinations for Class 10th students effective from the 2025-26 academic session. This initiative aims to provide students with greater flexibility and multiple opportunities to improve their academic performance.

In every academic year, CBSE will conduct two separate board examinations on a full syllabus for their students. For next year, the first examination has been proposed between February 17 and March 6, 2026, and the second is scheduled to be held from May 5 to May 20, 2026. Both examinations will cover the full syllabus, and students can choose to appear in either or both, depending on their preparedness and performance goals.

SPREAD OF CLASS 10TH EXAMINATION 2025-26

01 — **Examinations Scheduled**
- 17 Feb to 06 March - 1st Phase
- 05 May to 20 May - 2nd Phase

02 — **Students Registered**
26,60,000

03 — **Total Duration of Examination**
18 + 16 = 34 days

04 — **Subjects Offered**
84

05 — **Answer Books To Be Evaluated**
About 1,72,90,000

Core subjects such as Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Hindi, and English will be conducted on fixed dates, similar to the current system. Regional and foreign language examinations will be administered on a single day. For other subjects, including vocational and skill-based courses, examinations will be scheduled two to three times based on student choices and subject combinations. Students will be assigned examination dates by CBSE and will not have the option to select specific dates.
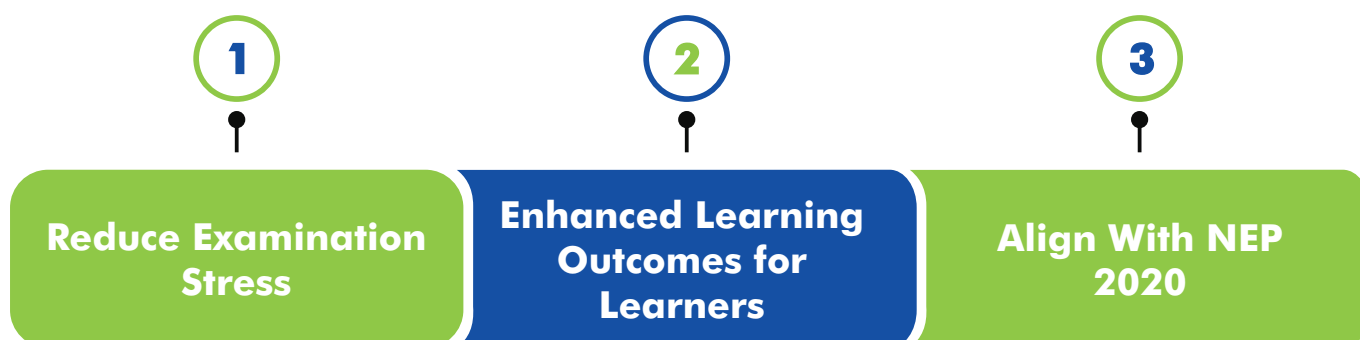
In an academic year, **the internal assessments along with practical examinations will be conducted only once**. After the first examination, students' performance will be available on DigiLocker, which can be used for provisional admission to Class 11th. However, final passing certificates will be provided only after both examinations have been completed. **The final mark sheet will include scores from both examinations, internal assessments, and the better of the two marks achieved**.

By offering two opportunities, students can alleviate the pressure associated with a single final examination. This will encourage continuous learning and better retention of the syllabus by students with the support of the policy's vision of holistic and flexible education.

KEY OBJECTIVES ALIGNED UNDER RECOMMENDATIONS

1	2	3
Reduce Examination Stress	**Enhanced Learning Outcomes for Learners**	**Align With NEP 2020**

The review of draft scheme is under review by CBSE which is working diligently to finalize the policy after considering stakeholder's feedback. This dual-examination approach is designed to reduce academic pressure and align with the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on holistic and flexible learning pathways.

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03

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHED REPORT ON 'EXPANDING QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH STATES AND STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES'
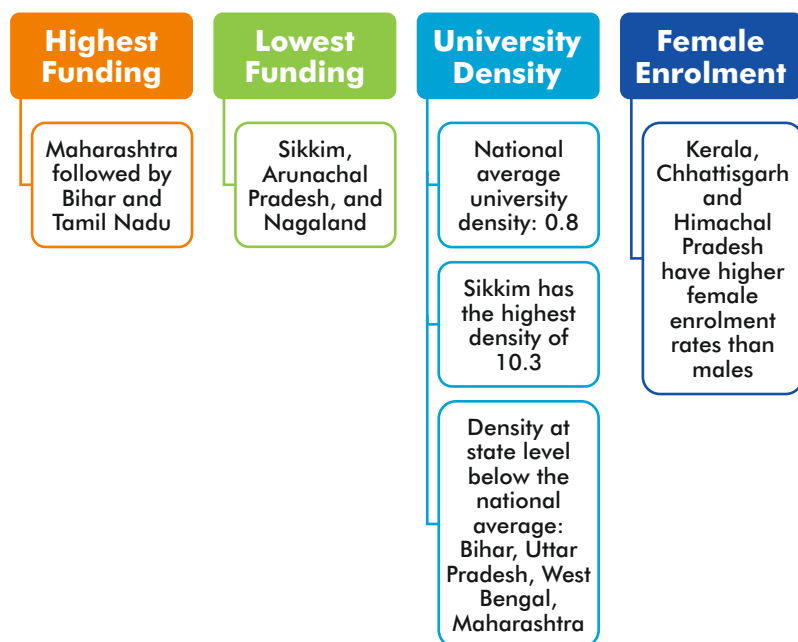
India's premier think tank NITI Aayog released a landmark policy report titled *"Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities"* on February 10, 2025. The report is aimed at strengthening the role of State Public Universities (SPUs), aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The report emphasizes the vital importance of SPUs, which account for nearly 80% of India's higher education enrolment. This has highlighted the expansion of access to quality education and supporting the NEP's objective of doubling enrollment to nearly nine crore students by 2035.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Highest Funding	Lowest Funding	University Density	Female Enrolment
Maharashtra followed by Bihar and Tamil Nadu	Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland	National average university density: 0.8	Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have higher female enrolment rates than males
		Sikkim has the highest density of 10.3	
		Density at state level below the national average: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra	

This is the first focussed policy document by NITI Aayog dedicated to SPUs. It presents an in-depth analysis of data over the last decade on higher education indicators including quality, governance, funding, infrastructure, inclusivity, digitalization, faculty development, and employability. Besides this, recommendations are made for increasing autonomy in curriculum design and establishing clear frameworks for faculty governance to foster academic excellence. It also emphasizes the need for digital transformation of higher education and promoting international collaborations to enhance global competitiveness.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

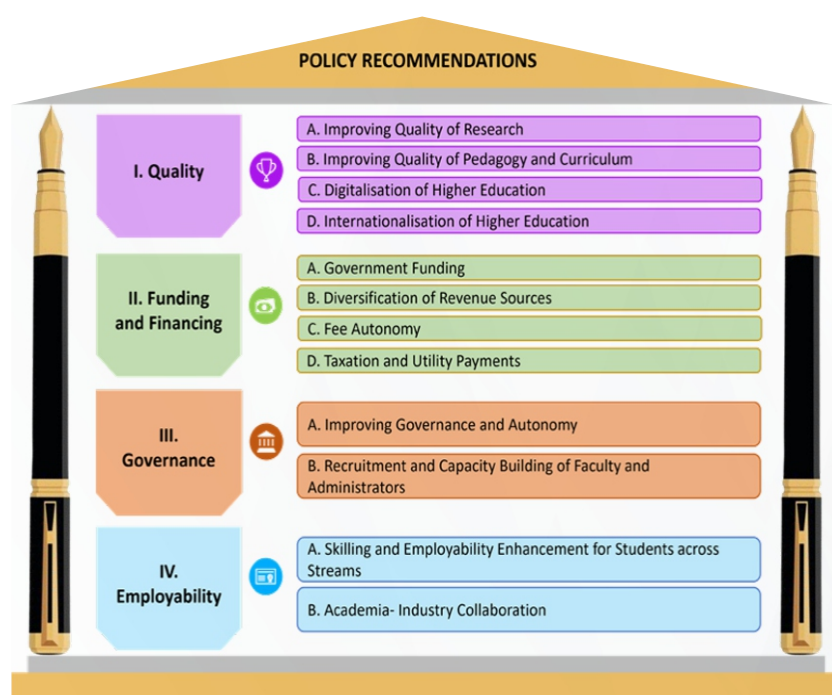| 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Enhancement in Research Quality	Financial Reforms	Governance Improvement	Digital Transformation	International Collaborations

The report is the result of consultations with government officials from over 20 states and Union Territories, Vice Chancellors, and senior academicians from 50 leading SPUs, including the heads of several State Higher Education Councils across India.

The document offers nearly 80 policy recommendations covering short, medium, and long-term actions. These suggestions include enhancing the quality of teaching and research, updating curriculum and pedagogy, reforming governance structures, and promoting interdisciplinary learning. It talks about expanding technological infrastructure, fostering stronger industry-academia linkages, and ensuring financial sustainability. It also addresses administrative and structural hurdles such as outdated regulations and capacity gaps in faculty development and leadership.

Parameters	Challenges Highlighted	Recommendations
Quality	Poor **research infrastructure** and low **R&D spending**, outdated **curriculum and issues of faculty shortages.**	→ **Research:** Develop a **National Research Policy** → **Pedagogy:** Regularly **update curricula** & assess **teaching effectiveness**
Funding	**Limited funding to cater to capital expenditure & operating expenses,** lack of **fee autonomy.** E.g. Education spending by states have fallen as percentage of GSDP between 2005-06 & 2019-20.	→ Increase **education investment** to **6% of GDP,** boost **R&D spending** to **2% of GDP.** → Diversify revenue via **self-financed programs, alumni engagement, CSR, and PPP models.**
Employability	Outdated **curriculum** and weak academia-**industry collaboration**	→ Promote **internships, industry collaborations, skill training, and entrepreneurship.**
Governance	**High accreditation costs,** lack of **administrative autonomy, opaque faculty hiring.** E.g. Only 38 SPUs appeared in the top 100 institutions (university category) in NIRF 2024.	→ Enhance **accreditation affordability,** Grant **SPUs autonomy,** improve **regulatory frameworks,** and
Internationa-lisation	**Selection criteria** need revision, underfunded research limits global outreach.	→ **Identify and prioritize** SPUs with existing infrastructure suitable for international students. → Conduct a **review of existing model curricula** to identify areas needing adjustments to **align with international standards.**

By offering a strategic roadmap, the report complements the vision of NEP 2020 and aims to transform India's SPUs into institutions capable of delivering high-quality, inclusive, and future-ready education. Its implementation is expected to play a crucial role in building the human capital needed for India's long-term development and in realizing the national goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy by 2047, fostering innovation, global competitiveness, academic excellence, digital integration, and regional economic growth.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Quality
A. Improving Quality of Research
B. Improving Quality of Pedagogy and Curriculum
C. Digitalisation of Higher Education
D. Internationalisation of Higher Education

II. Funding and Financing
A. Government Funding
B. Diversification of Revenue Sources
C. Fee Autonomy
D. Taxation and Utility Payments

III. Governance
A. Improving Governance and Autonomy
B. Recruitment and Capacity Building of Faculty and Administrators

IV. Employability
A. Skilling and Employability Enhancement for Students across Streams
B. Academia- Industry Collaboration

04

RBI IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION LAUNCHED THE NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO BOOST FINANCIAL LITERACY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in collaboration with the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE), has launched a nationwide campaign to enhance financial literacy. This initiative aims to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their finances and safeguard against fraud and digital schemes.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Financial Literacy Centers
- Public Awareness Campaigns ("RBI" Kehta Hai")
- Financial Awareness Messages (FAME)
- National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)
- Financial Education Programmes

The establishment of Financial Literacy Centres (FLCs) by India's Leading Banks is the key component of this campaign. These centres organize specific camps designed for different target audiences, making sure that financial education is provided to those who require it the most. Banks actively engage with communities through these FLCs, focussing on the financial needs of different demographics.

RBI Kehta Hai...
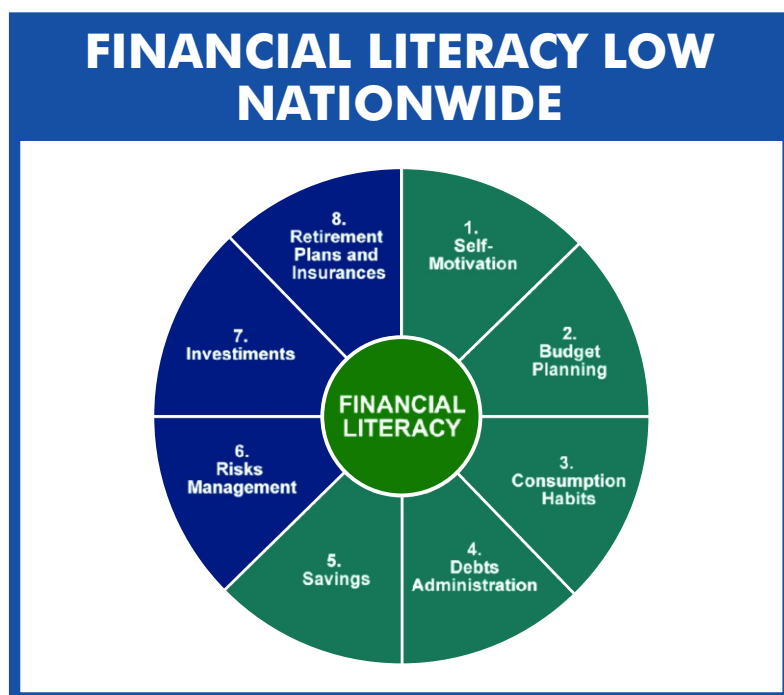**Jaankar Baniye,**
Satark Rahiye!

The "RBI Kehta Hai" campaign plays a crucial role in the literacy drive, using a multi-media and multilingual approach to reach a wider audience. It leverages various platforms to spread awareness about safe banking practices and essential financial concepts, helping individuals make informed decisions in real-life scenarios.

Recognizing diverse population needs, the NCFE and the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL) are conducting Financial Education (FE) programs for those under 18 and over 60. These programs address the unique financial challenges faced by these age groups, offering tools to manage their financial futures confidently and responsibly. **The NCFE is also implementing the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) in consultation with financial regulators**.

This strategy aims to build a culture of financial literacy by equipping citizens with essential financial skills and long-term economic understanding. Additionally, the **RBI has conducted a Pan-India Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey based on the OECD/INFE Toolkit, assessing financial literacy in terms of knowledge, attitude, and behaviour**. Through these initiatives, the RBI and NCFE seek to create a financially informed and resilient population capable of sound financial decision-making and contributing to national economic development.

FINANCIAL LITERACY LOW NATIONWIDE

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05

"ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION" APPROVED BY CABINET TO EMPOWER INDIA'S INNOVATION AND RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

The Union Cabinet's approval of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme on November 25, 2024, marks a transformative step in democratizing access to scholarly research across India. **Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, ONOS aims to bolster India's research ecosystem.**

This scheme will provide comprehensive access to international scholarly journals for government-run higher education institutions and R&D centres. **Starting January 1, 2025, the scheme will grant access to over 13,000 international journals from 30 major publishers, benefiting approximately 1.8 crore students, faculty members, and researchers across 6,300 diverse academic institutions.**

This initiative ensures equitable access to high-quality research materials, bridging the knowledge gap between urban centres and institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, towns, and remote regions. **The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous interuniversity centre under the University Grants Commission will manage the ONOS system centrally.**

INFLIBNET will effectively oversee the delivery of digital access to these publications, guaranteeing a smooth and user-friendly experience for scholarly students. **The government has budgeted Rs 6,000 crore to fund this plan from 2025 to 2027, with an additional Rs 150 crore set aside each year for publication in chosen Open Access (OA) journals**. By removing financial and infrastructural barriers to research, ONOS empowers Indian researchers to collaborate with global scholarly communities, enhancing the quality of research across disciplines.

ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION

- Benefits to be managed through a national subscription coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter - university center of the **University Grants Commission(UGC)**

- Scheme to benefit nearly **1.8 crore students** in **6300 institutions**

- Department of Higher Education to have a unified portal **"One Nation One Subscription"** through which the institutions will be able to access the journals.

PROMINENT PUBLISHERS

Elsevier	Springer Nature	Wiley	Taylor & Francis	Oxford University Press
Cambridge University Press	IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)	SAGE Publishing	BMJ (British Medical Journal)	American Chemical Society
	American Mathematical Society	Emerald Publishing	ICE Publishing	Bentham Science Publishers

This strategic move positions India to become a global leader in research and development, fostering innovation and self-reliance in the pursuit of knowledge. It is also expected to encourage interdisciplinary research and boost institutional rankings globally, amplifying India's academic visibility and global influence. Furthermore, ONOS supports inclusive education by allowing students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds to access top-tier research without cost, driving a more equitable and knowledge-driven society.

06

EXPERT INSIGHT

"

The Union Budget 2025 brings several transformative announcements for education, particularly benefiting youth and children. The establishment of 50,000 Atal Innovation Labs is a game-changer for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Expanding broadband connectivity in rural schools under 'Vidya Shakti' will significantly improve access to quality education. The launch of PM Research Fellowship (PMRF) 2.0, alongside the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, will further strengthen India's research ecosystem. These initiatives mark crucial steps toward 'Viksit Bharat 2047', and I sincerely thank the government for these forward-thinking decisions.

"

Prof. V. Kamakoti
Director
IIT Madras

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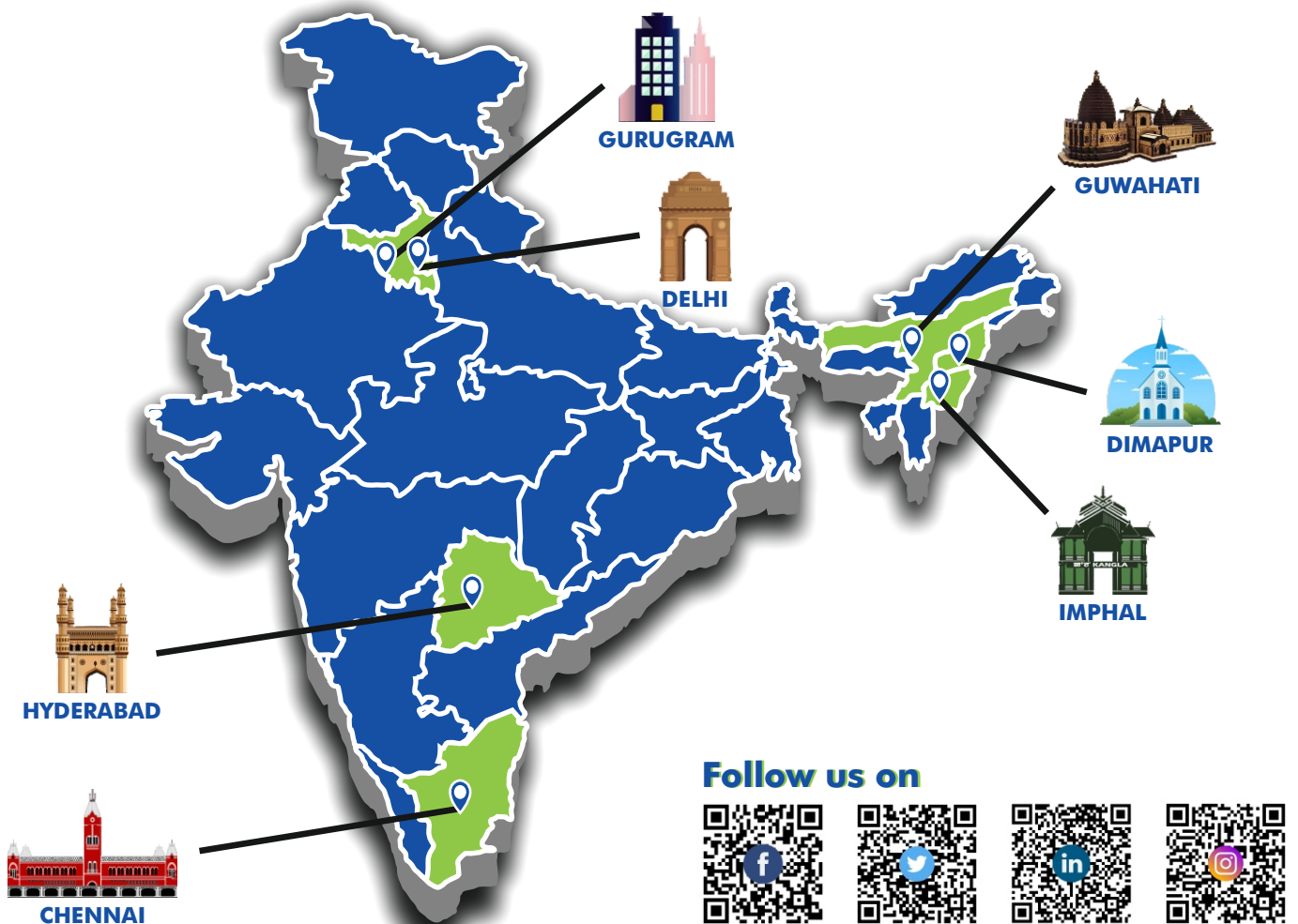
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