



Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan

Why in News

The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has approached the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** to take notice of the alleged corruption in the implementation of the **Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**.

- The alleged acts of corruption in the implementation of RUSA were discovered in July, 2019 after **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** director pointed out serious irregularities in the utilisation of funds.

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- RUSA is the **centrally sponsored scheme** launched in **October 2013** that aims at **providing strategic funding to higher education institutions** throughout the country.
- The scheme is being **operated in mission mode** for **funding state universities and colleges** to achieve the **aims of equity, access and excellence**.
- Funding is provided by the central ministry through the State governments and Union Territories (UTs), which in coordination with the Central Project Appraisal Board monitors the academic, administrative and financial advancements taken under the scheme.
 - Since 2016-17, the government has spent an average of Rs 1,500 crore every year on RUSA.

Objectives

- Improve the **overall quality of state institutions** by conforming to the prescribed norms and standards.
- **Adoption of accreditation** (certification of competency) as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
- **Promoting autonomy in state universities** and improving governance in institutions.
- Ensure reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination system.
- Ensure **adequate availability of quality faculty** in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.
- Create an **enabling atmosphere for research** in the higher education system.
- **Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education** by setting up institutions in unserved and underserved areas.
- Improve **equity in higher education** by providing adequate opportunities to the disadvantaged.

Source: IE

