



Expenditure on Higher Education

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Why in News?

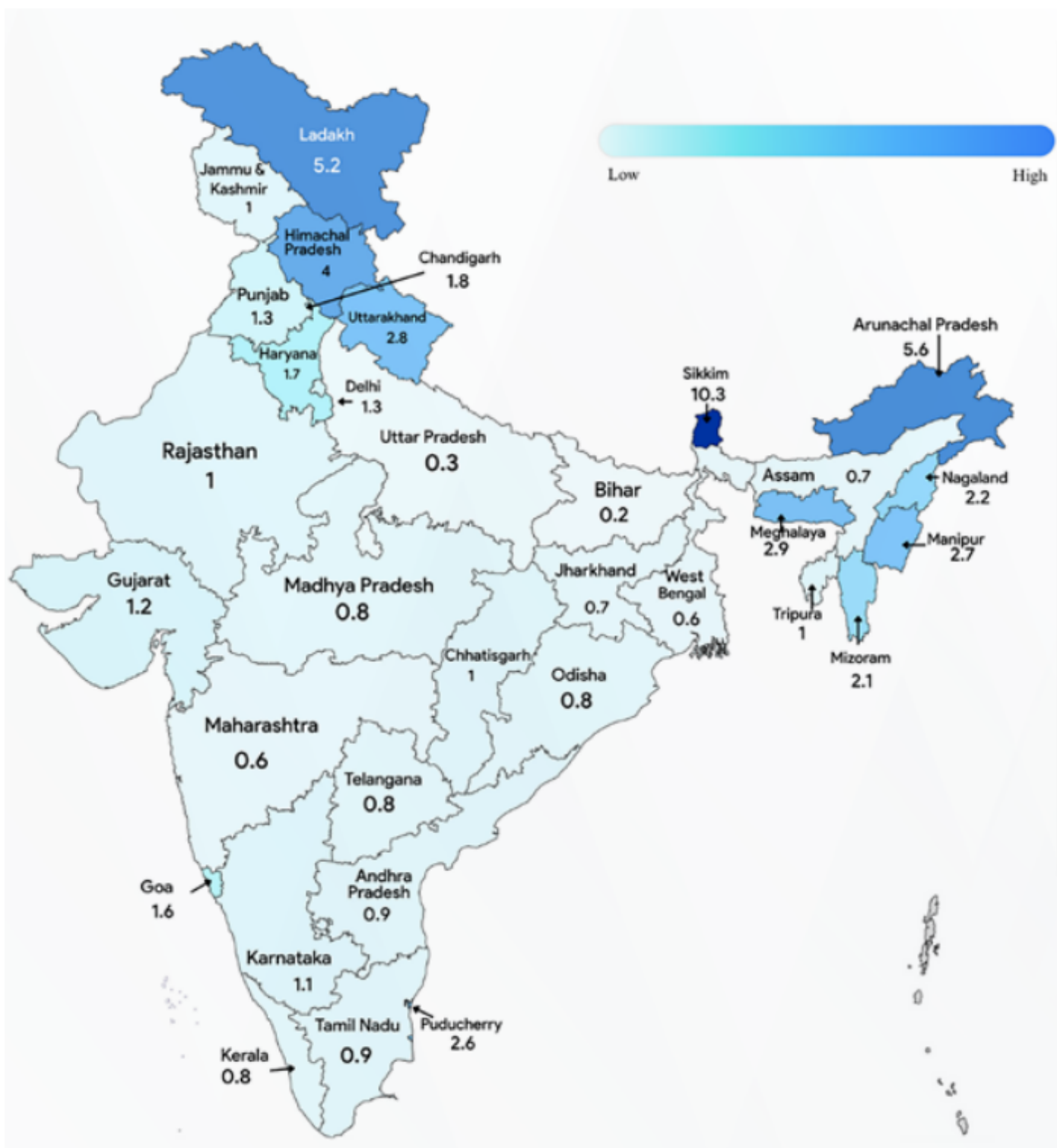
The [NITI Aayog](#) released a report titled ‘**Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities**’.

- It is a first-of-its kind policy document in the higher education sector focused specifically on **States and State Public Universities (SPUs)**.

What are the Key Findings of the NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education?

- **Education Expenditure:**
 - **Overall Expenditure: Jammu & Kashmir (8.11%)** leads in education spending, followed by Manipur (7.25%), while **Delhi** allocates significantly less (**1.67%**).
 - **Higher Education Expenditure: Bihar** ranks **highest** at **1.56%**, followed by **Jammu & Kashmir (1.53%)** and **Manipur (1.45%)** while **Telangana (0.18%)** has the lowest percentage.
 - **Per Youth Education Spending: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana** are among the top spenders on higher education, while **Rajasthan, Punjab, and Chhattisgarh** lag behind.
- **University Density:** The **national average university density (universities per 1 lakh eligible population** (18-23 years of age) in a state) is **0.8**.
 - **Sikkim** has the highest university density (**10.3**), followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh, while **Bihar** has the lowest (**0.2**).

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- **Gender Parity: Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh** have higher female enrolment, while Chandigarh, Mizoram, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have balanced enrolments.

Note:

- According to the [Economic Survey 2024-25](#), Education expenditure grew by **12% annually**, reaching **Rs 9.2 lakh** crore in FY25.
 - **Dropout rates** fell to **1.9% (primary)** and **14.1% (secondary)**, while higher education enrolment rose **26.5%** (2014-2022), raising **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** to **28.4%**.
 - Higher education GER needs to reach **50% by 2035**.

- **Digital divide persists**, with lower internet access in **rural areas (55%)** compared to **urban (69%)**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India have a bearing on Education? (2012)

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (d)