

India's Higher Education, Mapped

A data snapshot from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023-24 — the most comprehensive national dataset on India's colleges, universities, students and faculty, now benchmarked against NEP 2020 targets.

45M

STUDENTS ENROLLED

64,456

INSTITUTIONS

30%

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

58,134

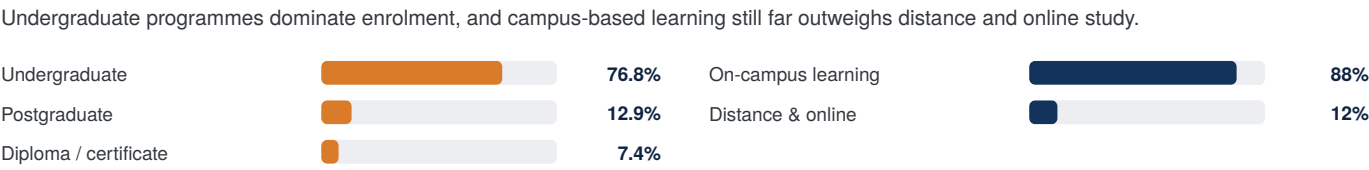
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Overview

The Indian Ministry of Education released the AISHE 2023-24 report this month, offering the most current comprehensive picture of India's higher education system. Although the underlying data is two years old, participation was strong — roughly 91% of institutions responded, with gaps filled using prior-year submissions. This edition is also the first to report progress against India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 reforms.



Where Students Are Studying



Regional Concentration

More than half of India's higher education students are concentrated in just six states.

STATE	STUDENTS ENROLLED
Uttar Pradesh	7.2M
Maharashtra	4.65M
Tamil Nadu	3.58M
Madhya Pradesh	2.77M
Karnataka	2.76M
Bihar	2.76M

These six states account for 52.9% of total enrolment.

Highest Gross Enrolment Ratios: Puducherry (72%), Chandigarh (58.5%), Delhi (53%), Tamil Nadu (52.3%), Uttarakhand (48.5%). Lowest: Lakshadweep (7.1%) and D&N Haveli / Daman & Diu (10.5%).

Gender & Access

Female Gross Enrolment Ratio (31.2%) has now exceeded male GER (28.9%) for the seventh consecutive year, with a Gender Parity Index of 1.08. Yet men still form a slightly larger share of total enrolment (50.3%) — a reflection of India’s underlying youth gender imbalance rather than access. Women are the majority at postgraduate level (56.2%) even as undergraduate enrolment remains near parity (49.5% women).

31.2%

FEMALE GER (UP FROM 30.2%)

28.9%

MALE GER (UNCHANGED)

106,385

STUDENTS WITH BENCHMARK DISABILITIES (0.2% OF TOTAL)

Disciplines: What India Studies

UNDERGRADUATE	SHARE	POSTGRADUATE	SHARE
Arts	32.1%	Social Sciences	18.6%
Science	13.5%	Management	18.2%
Engineering & Technology	12.9%	Science	15.1%
Commerce	12.0%	Indian Languages	7.9%
Medical Science	6.3%	Commerce	7.8%

Notably, Engineering & Technology and Arts — the two largest UG disciplines — each make up only around 2% of PG enrolment. At the PhD level (0.34M students), Science (23.4%) and Engineering & Technology (20.5%) lead. STEM enrolment across all levels stands at ~10M students (22.5% of total), with women at 43.9% of STEM overall and 54.6% within Science specifically.

International Students

International enrolment rose 19% year-on-year to 58,134 students from 173 countries, though it remains concentrated: the top ten source countries account for 63.8% of the total.

SOURCE COUNTRY	SHARE
Nepal	24.1%
United Arab Emirates	7.0%
United States	5.9%
Bangladesh	5.9%
Nigeria	5.5%
Zimbabwe	4.0%

The UK ranks 29th (396 students, 0.68% share; 57% growth over two years). 73.6% of international students are enrolled at undergraduate level, and Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu together host 57.8% of them. B.Tech, B.Sc, BBA, MBA and B.E. are the most popular programmes.

NEP 2020: University-Level Progress

For the first time, AISHE reported how far universities have progressed on NEP 2020 reforms.

- **65%** have established R&D cells
- **58%** adopted the National Curriculum & Credit Framework (UG)
- **58%** have Entrepreneurship & Innovation cells
- **58%** signed industry-linkage MoUs
- **56%** introduced four-year UG programmes
- **55%** participated in national rankings
- **51%** adopted the National HE Qualification Framework
- **47%** published Institutional Development Plans
- **45%** offer multidisciplinary programmes
- **26%** collaborate with foreign HE institutions
- **15%** participated in international rankings

Open to collaboration: we regularly hear from foreign universities, education institutions and edtech companies exploring partnerships, research tie-ups and market entry into India's higher education landscape. If that's you, we'd love to connect for knowledge-sharing — reach out via www.abkisolutions.com or email admin@abkisolutions.com.

Sources:

AISHE 2023-24 Report, Ministry of Education, Government of India — [full report \(PDF\)](#)

The Hindu — [India's higher education enrolment hits 45 crore](#)

Hindustan Times — [Higher education enrolment hits 45 million](#)



Prepared by Abki Solutions · www.abkisolutions.com · admin@abkisolutions.com