PURSE Programme empowers universities to improve the performance benchmarks

Universities across the length and breadth of India presented the progress under the “Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) program and how the program has strengthened the research ecosystem for conducting scientific research in the University system. At the Ninth Meeting of the Programme Management Board on PURSE, a total of 32 Universities presented progress in terms of research highlights, publication output, and Impact of PURSE in two days meeting.

‘Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE)’ is an incentive-based proactive scheme initiated by R&D Infrastructure division of Department of Science & Technology (DST) to empower the Universities to achieve scientific excellence which has been designed innovatively to strengthen the research in niche areas in leading universities across the country with adequate financial support and associated flexibility.

Since the initiation of PURSE in 2009, a total of Rs 900 Crores have been invested by the Department of Science & Technology to support 50 performing universities across the country. This initiative of the department has played a pivotal role in rejuvenating research across leading Universities in the country.

In the meeting, the Programme Management Board of PURSE also deliberated about the future restructuring of PURSE based on I_{10} index of faculty members in the University along with the H index may use to formulate the new criteria for selecting the Universities under PURSE Programme. Mission mode based restructuring of PURSE Universities to focus on thrust areas which align with National priorities of Excellence is also deliberated.