

Monthly Updates- May 2025

Centre for Higher Education Quality Upgradation and Excellence (CHEQUE)

Overview

The **Centre for Higher Education Quality Upgradation and Excellence (CHEQUE)** Project is a strategic initiative by CRISP aimed at strengthening the **overall quality and performance of higher education institutions** across India. Through a focus on academic mentoring, institutional engagement, and capacity building, the project supports colleges and universities in their pursuit of excellence and accreditation. CHEQUE is designed to enhance student retention and graduation rates, promote the integration of educational technology (EdTech), and boost graduate employability by aligning programs with industry needs. In addition, the project encourages institutions to improve their extension activities and community engagement, contributing to a more socially responsive education system.

Strategy and Approach

As part of its strategic implementation, the CHEQUE Project engages experienced Academic Mentors (AMs) to support higher education institutions in quality improvement. These retired academicians, appointed for their expertise in academics and administration, are each assigned 10–15 colleges. They work closely with institutional teams to implement quality enhancement initiatives focused on teaching, student outcomes, and institutional performance.



Experienced Mentors

Retired academicians are appointed Academic Mentors (AMs) to guide colleges in quality improvement.



Mentorship Scope

Each AM supports 10–15 colleges, driving targeted quality enhancement initiatives.



Focus Areas

Mentors help improve teaching, student outcomes, and institutional performance.

Major Highlights

- The CRISP CHEQUE team collected information on basic details of the institutes which will be utilized by the project for implementation. The CHEQUE team has completed the analysis of information gathered.
- Academic Mentors visited 51 institutes across Telangana for orienting about CHEQUE.
- The CRISP Telangana team oriented all the colleges under Kakatiya University on May 16, 2025 on CHEQUE Project. The orientation was attended by Vice Chancellors, Senior University Officials, and Academic Mentors.
- The CRISP team organized a dedicated strategy and planning meeting of Telangana Academic Mentors which was held at Osmania University on 29th May 2025, focusing on the development of institution-specific action plans for June 2025.

Challenges Faced



The planned activities have faced delays due to ongoing final examinations and the upcoming summer vacation period. The implementation of proposed interventions may encounter setbacks, as many institutions demonstrate limited understanding of the processes involved, necessitating extensive handholding and capacity building support.

Learnings and Way Forward



- ✓ Most of the institutions are not aware about various initiatives for quality improvement such as inclusion of MOOCs, IICs, NDL, NAAC accreditation process, mentor-mentee systems, IDPs, etc. Gradual introduction of these by target approach is required to improve the quality of the participating institutions. Initial visits to these institutions also help us in assessment and a perception of the participating institute in planning of the accreditation process.
- ✓ Academic Mentors in collaboration with the CRISP PMU will develop institution specific action plans for the upcoming quarter, as evident by the baseline assessment of participating colleges.
- ✓ Implementation of the June action plans will begin as scheduled, ensuring alignment with identified needs and institutional priorities.

Photo Gallery

