

# IONEDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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## India to soon have 20 'world-class' institutions: UGC



In a bid to improve the quality of education in India & provide better facility to students, the UGC has recently passed a new set of regulations for setting up universities.

According to reports, the UGC has planned to set up 20 world-class institutions.

Meanwhile, in the budget speech, Jaitely announced to bring out reforms in University Grants Commission (UGC) for higher education.

Here's what he said:

- **"Greater autonomy will be provided to major institutes"**
- **"UGC will be reformed for higher education"**

Furthermore, media reports suggest that the government sector institutions/universities may be given financial support of approximately Rs 1000 crore each.

## We want to promote innovation: Javadekar



"Innovation is the real sustainable way for prosperity to grow, it adds value to products and services, and generates wealth, therefore we must innovate," said Javadekar while inaugurating an ASSOCHAM Higher Education Summit.

Funds allocated in the budget for promoting the education sector across states will only be granted on the basis of quality of education being imparted. "The funds will not be allocated just like that. In the last year the quality quotient in the budget was 10%, while this year

we have increased it to 25%, so our main focus is on quality."

Highlighting the pivotal role of private sector in higher education sector's development, the Union Minister said, "We want private investments in higher education sector as it is not only government's baby but a societal issue, we understand that there is a cost of education but they must strive for quality."



### **IISc becomes first Indian university to be ranked among top 10 in world**

On Mar 7, the Times Higher Education (THE) revealed that India is home to one of the world's best small universities, as it made public the 2017 edition of the rankings. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been ranked eighth at the 'THE's Best Small Universities in the World 2017'. However, India's overall show in the ranking took a hit this year, as there were two institutions in the top 20 last year, though none were in top 10. Small universities are those with fewer than 5,000 students.

Despite the new high, India has two



### **'New framework for higher education a priority now'**

Emphasizing the formation of a different regulatory framework for higher education institutions, Cept director, Bimal Patel spoke about regulations focusing on improving the quality of education.

Some 16 doctorate degrees, 295 postgraduate degrees and 189 undergraduate degrees were awarded. Around 36 students received university-level awards for excellence in academics.

Patel said that while regulations for matters related to admission,

misses. Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, and Savitribai Phule Pune University which were ranked 14 and 18 respectively in the 2016 edition could not retain their spots in the top 20 this time.

Seeta Bhardwa, student editor at THE said, "The Best Small Universities in the World for 2017 highlights that small universities provide high student satisfaction and good working relationships between students and their professors. Many students are drawn to smaller class sizes, higher teacher to student ratios and the communitylike feel that a small university can provide."

curriculum and finances formed by professional bodies and government departments, are underpinned by good intentions, they are often poorly structured and very rigid. This does not focus on improving the quality of education.

No attempt is made to find out if the students are actually learning or not. If the objective is ensuring that quality education is being imparted, one should focus on what students are learning. Regulators should not focus on rigidly insisting on institutions meeting input standards and should rather focus on improving quality," said Patel.

## **Gross Enrolment Ratio For Higher Education Increases To 24.5% Says MHRD**

### **Central Government Initiatives to improve GER**

In a press release, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) informed that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Higher Education in India increased to 24.5 percent during 2015-16. This is a positive step toward increasing the rate of literacy in the country. Only a decade ago, that is during the period 2004-5, the GER for higher education in India was only 10 percent. The ministry said that the quantum jump in GER over the last decade was an indication of improvement in registration of students in higher educational institutes.

The Central Government has launched various initiatives to improve the quality of education in institutes of higher education. The HRD ministry launched National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2015. NIRF released its first ranking list in 2016 and is set to release the ranking list for 2017 in April this year.

In the Twelfth Five Year Plan a new scheme called Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was launched. RUSA seeks to promote equity, access, and excellence in state higher education system. This scheme supports upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to form a university, setting up of new professional colleges in unserved and underserved areas and providing grant to colleges and universities to help them improve their infrastructure.

## IonIdea new wins in Education space



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