India has highest enrollment in higher education

India has got the highest enrollment in higher education at present with 70 million and is set to grow further and retain at least for the next 20 years, said chairman of Thiagarajar College of Engineering Karumuttu T Kannan. "There is a big challenge before the government and institutions since many of them are first-time college-goers. He addressed faculty and scholars from various engineering colleges in India and abroad during the inauguration of an international conference on transformations in engineering education.

Secretary general of International Federation for Engineering Education Societies (IFEES) Hans-Juergen Hoyer said that in a globalized world there is an increased need of interrelated work. Global competence for engineering graduates should be a key qualification.

Fundamental dynamics of globalization should also be included in the engineering curricula. Genuine commitment is the need of the hour among all stake holders in engineering education throughout the world. He wished to see students from various countries in the world to work together.
Varsities with top NAAC score to offer online degrees soon: Javadekar

Institutions with NAAC grade of A+ and A++ will soon be able to offer three-year degree programmes through online mode, which will be treated at par with regular courses.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) is formulating guidelines for three-year degree programmes to be provided via online mode.

“Nearly 15% institutions in the country with top National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) score of A+ and A++ will be able to offer three-year degree programmes through online mode,” HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters at the 65th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

“The universities will be free to decide their curriculum and set their question papers, be it multiple choice questions or subjective questions, but there will be certain norms that will be universally applicable,” he said.

The Union minister said the rules and guidelines would be notified by next month.

“At present, there are a few universities offering online courses but there are no set norms. Once the guidelines are notified, a university which does
not meet the NAAC grade requirement will be given two year period to either improve its NAAC grading or close down the course,” he said.

The online education will also help increase the enrolment ratio in the country, he said. “CABE will make efforts to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) which is at present 25.2% to 30% in next five years,” Javadekar said.

The Board also resolved to take necessary steps to ensure that no deserving student should be denied opportunity to have higher education for lack of means.

**Maharashtra leads in technical & distance education**

Maharashtra has made it to the top of the list with respect to technical and distance education institutes, apart from teacher training institutes, revealed the All India Survey for Higher Education (AISHE). The survey was released by the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) on Friday.

The report for the year 2016-17 also notes that Maharashtra has 667 technical institutions of the

**Gender gap narrowing in higher education: HRD survey**

Gender gap in India’s institutes of higher studies has reduced by nine lakh in the last five years with girl students outnumbering men in eight disciplines in 2016-17 academic session, according to a survey of the HRD ministry.

The All India Survey on Higher Education, released by the HRD ministry, says the gender gap in higher educational institutions decreased by over nine lakh from 2011-12 to 2016-17 (31.5 lakh to 21.5 lakh).
total 3,672 in the country, the highest for any one state.

As far as overall student admissions are concerned, Tamil Nadu leads the list, while Karnataka is in the third position right after Maharashtra.

The comprehensive AISHE survey also indicates that in the last five years, the number of students enrolling for higher education courses, between the age of 18 and 23, has increased by 35 lakh. There has also been a significant increase in the number of new universities and colleges in the last five years.

Interestingly, among the colleges as well, a majority of the institutes are actually privately owned.

The enrolment by the end of 2016-17 academic year stands at 3,57,05,905 with a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 25.2. GER is counted from the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions out of the total population in the age group of 18 to 23 years.

However, as per the survey, even though the GER of female is higher, there is still significant gap in BTech, MTech, law and MBA programmes. In BTech, there are only 39 women per 100 men, hardly any improvement from 38 women in 2012-13. Barring MPhil and PG levels, the gap is also significant in diploma level courses with 70% male enrolment. India aims to attain a GER of 30% by 2020.
Higher Education Increased By 8.2 Million

The Union Minister for Human Resource and Development (HRD), Prakash Javadekar released the AISHE or All India Survey on Higher Education for the year 2016-17 in New Delhi. The Minister of State (MoS) Satyapal Jain was also present. On the occasion he also launched the survey for the year 2017-18.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Prakash Javadekar informed that there is an increase in overall enrollment from 27.5 million in 2010-11 to 35.7 million in 2016-17 and improvement in Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) which is a ratio of enrollment in higher education to population in the eligible age group (18-23) years, from 19.4% in 2010-11 to 25.2 in 2016-17 which is a significant achievement.

The number of educational institutes listed on the AISHE portal has also increased. All India Survey of Higher Education Report has detailed information on 864 universities and 40,026 colleges.

The first survey was initiated in 2011 and has been carried out since then. In a press release, MHRD said that the portal based survey has reduced the time lag between conducting the survey and releasing the result of the survey. The survey covers almost all the Higher Education institutions (HEIs) in the country including Universities, Colleges and Stand-Alone institutions.

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