



Vice President Calls For Reservation Of Seats For The Poor In Private Institutions



The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu today exhorted universities and higher educational institutions in the private sector to earmark certain percentage of seats for the poorer sections and subsidize their education. Delivering the 9th Convocational Address of the Lovely Professional University at Phagwara, Punjab, he said, "Unfortunately, quality private sector education has become out of bounds for the poor and marginalized sections".

"Why should not private universities earmark certain percentage of seats for students belonging to poorer sections and subsidize their education", he asked. The Vice President pointed out that public sector alone cannot provide quality higher education for all and the private sector must pitch in.

He said that industries and the private sector in general should supplement the efforts of the government in making quality education available to all. "Our challenge is to ensure the spread of knowledge to every section and every corner of our country", he added.

Calling for a complete overhaul of our education system, the Vice President said that majority of our colleges have become mere breeding centers for producing students with degree certificates rather than individuals with critical analytical skills. He expressed concern that students passing out of colleges were lacking the employable skills.

Quoting poor performance of Indian higher educational institutes, the Vice President stressed the need to improve the standards by leaps and bounds to make them globally competitive.

He called for increasing the number of institutions and universities to meet the growing demand of students seeking higher education and to realize India's target of a gross enrollment ratio of 30% by 2020.

The Vice President said that educational institutions must kindle the entrepreneurial spirit among the students.

Lauding the farmers of Punjab for turning the state into rice bowl of India, the Vice President called for making agriculture sustainable through innovative methods. He suggested students studying agriculture must spend time with farmers to have a firsthand understanding of the problems faced by farmers.

Link <https://www.ndtv.com/education/vice-president-calls-for-reservation-of-seats-for-the-poor-in-private-institutions-1935849>

UGC Asks Universities, Colleges To Celebrate 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'

Days after CBSE instructed its affiliated schools to organize appropriate activities to observe 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' on October 31, 2018, UGC has issued a similar circular to Higher Education Institutes. National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The circular reads, "The occasion provides us an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the actual and potential threats to the unity, integrity and security of our country."

Some of the suggested activities for Universities and affiliated colleges includes a 'Run for Unity' by the students, teachers, and staff with the message of Unified Bharat. Another activity suggested by UGC is 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' pledge taking ceremony, and debates, quizzes and competition on relevant topics. Similar activities were suggested by CBSE to schools.

In colleges where NCC unit exists, UGC has suggested inviting Army Officers/Ex-Army Officers to give a talk on National Unity, Integrity, Security and any other related topic.

Colleges and Universities may also upload the video of activities undertaken on the University Activity Monitoring Portal.

Along with the circular, the Rashtriya Ekta Pledge has also been forwarded to the universities and colleges.

Link <https://www.ndtv.com/education/ugc-asks-universities-colleges-to-celebrate-rashtriya-ekta-diwas-1936151>

HRD Ministry Launches Innovation Cell For Higher Education Institutions



The HRD Ministry Wednesday established an innovation cell at the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) with an aim to brainstorm new ideas about promoting innovation in all higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country. The innovation cell was launched at the AICTE headquarters by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar through video conferencing.

"This will be a significant step in institutionalising innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country. The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years," Mr. Javadekar said.

"More than 1,000 HEIs have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in their campuses," he said.

The Union minister said varsities are the main research centers of developed countries and because of their research they are at the top in global innovation ranking.

"Now Indian universities are also setting up research centers through the IIC programme and we are expecting good rank in global innovation ranking in next two to three years through this initiative," he added.

[Linkhttps://www.ndtv.com/education/hrd-ministry-launches-innovation-cell-for-higher-education-institutions-1951190](https://www.ndtv.com/education/hrd-ministry-launches-innovation-cell-for-higher-education-institutions-1951190)

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IonIdea

38-40, EPIP Zone, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560066

Office Phone: +91 (80)-665-81500 (extn. 1052, 1064)

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