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Academics for improving quality of higher education

Academics in Bihar have pinned their hopes on bigger financial allocation for education sector in the 2019-20 Union Budget to be presented in the Parliament on Friday.

Many academics pointed out that the government must undertake systemic integration of educational reforms.

"In this Budget, we hope the government gives prominence to improving the quality of higher education and the overall quality of schooling. We also hope the government continues to promote e-learning through digitization in education which will encourage the youth to shift to digital platforms for advanced learning," they said.

They further observed that improving quality and achieving excellence were major challenges that higher education institutions faced today. "Institutions are required to hire competent faculty members, raise teaching standards, encourage research and nurture talent. Universities and other institutions of academic merit should be allocated grants for catapulting research in every field," they said.

Pleading for higher budgetary allocation for education, Patna University (PU) English department's former head Shiva Jatan Thakur said, "The per capita expenditure on human resource development in India is just 3-4%, while it is 16.4% in China. Greater allocation of funds is required for strengthening infrastructure for teaching and research with focus on technological education for women."

According to PU economics department's former head Nawal Kishore Chaudhary, only expansion of education and skill can stop the ever-increasing divide between the rich and the poor. Provisions should be made for setting up more centrally-funded universities and research institutes for increasing gross enrolment ratio in higher education in a backward region like Bihar.

"We hope to see the government taking more initiatives to enhance the quality of education, encourage research and path-breaking innovation along with strategic steps towards social and economic reforms. The number of fellowships awarded by the UGC, CSIR and other funding agencies should be enhanced in order to bring in more students for quality research work in universities," said a research scholar of PU.

Link: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67761734.cmsutm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Karnataka Higher Education Academy empowering newly recruited teachers

Governor-cum-chancellor Lalji Tandon is hopeful of streamlining higher education in Bihar soon. Interacting with mediapersons at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, Tandon claimed some recent initiatives taken by him had started yielding fruits and the overall academic scenario of the state was

improving.

"The derailed academic calendars of different universities had been doing injustice to the talented students of the state. Most of them have, however, been regularized now. Admissions to undergraduate and postgraduate courses have been completed in many universities and examinations are likely to be conducted on time. More than half of them have already organized convocations and distributed degrees to the passouts and the rest are expected to do so in a month," he said.

The chancellor also expressed his pleasure over the ever-increasing empowerment of girls in higher education. He said, "Almost 70-80% of the gold medals are awarded to girls. This is a healthy development."

Tandon also threw light on the introduction of biometric attendance system for teachers in all universities and improvement in classroom attendance of students. He said, "Universities have been directed to appoint guest faculty members against sanctioned vacant posts as per the University Grants Commission guidelines and the reservation roster. They have already started making the appointments and the process is likely to be completed in a month or two. The Bihar Public Service Commission has been asked to complete the ongoing appointment of assistant professors at the earliest and necessary steps have been initiated for constituting the state university service commission for making fresh appointments."

A two-day national seminar of eminent academics will be organized at the Raj Bhavan on February 4 and 5 for preparing a blueprint for the development of higher education in Bihar. "A university management information system will be implemented from the next academic session to facilitate online admission of students and digitization of all records. At least one college in each university will soon be developed as a centre of excellence and best performers in different fields will be given chancellor's awards," Tandon said.

Principal secretary to governor, Vivek Kumar Singh and higher education consultant to chancellor's secretariat, R C Sobti also spoke about the recent developments in higher education.

Link:http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67678352.cmsutm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Academics to discuss plans for better higher education

In its bid to prepare a road map of higher education in Bihar, the chancellor's secretariat has decided to seek the advice of internationally acclaimed academics of the country during the two-day conference to be held at Raj Bhavan on February 4 and 5.

Patna University (PU) has been asked to make necessary preparations for organizing this conference. Issues like accreditation of colleges and universities, governance and financial management of universities, innovative practices, incubation, ethics, best practices, national institutional ranking framework (NIRF), university management information system (UMIS), and qualitative improvement in research activities will be discussed during altogether 10 different sessions, Raj Bhavan sources said.

Giving details, PU vice-chancellor Rash Bihari Prasad Singh said UGC chairman, NAAC director and senior officials of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation, Skill Development University, Haryana, and National Sports Complex, Patiala, are being invited to attend the conference and render their valuable advice on how to improve the higher education standards in the state.

Two sessions would be devoted to group discussions in which experts would share their experience with the stakeholders, he added.

Munger varsity budget: The syndicate of Munger University approved Rs 160-crore deficit budget for the next financial year (2019-20). At a meeting held at Patna University guesthouse under the chairmanship of its vice-chancellor Ranjit Kumar Verma, the syndicate approved the proposal for opening of 12 postgraduate departments (schools) and creation of 182 teaching posts for the university.

The syndicate also approved the proposals for construction of a world-class auditorium and an elliptical amphitheatre and a guesthouse on the campus. The syndicate further approved proposals for corporate funding and inter-university partnership.

The meeting was attended among others by pro-vice-chancellor Kusum Rai, students' welfare dean Kamal Sinha, proctor Sanjay Bharti and chancellor's nominee Maharshi Mudgal.

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