



American Embassy launches EducationUSA India mobile application on Student Visa Day

While celebrating Student Visa Day, American Embassy launched EducationUSA India mobile application to promote authentic information.

The American Embassy has launched an app to help Indian students who are aspiring to enroll themselves in the US universities.

Today marks the US Mission in India's fifth annual Student Visa Day, an event that celebrates higher education ties between India and the United States. The Mission dedicates this day to helping qualified Indian students prepare for their studies in the United States and connects them with EducationUSA - a network of US-sponsored advising centers dedicated to helping students find the right US university and navigate the application process.

The Embassy has also planned a number of other measures for the benefit of the Indian students wanting to study in the US, whose economy has already been benefited to the tune of \$7.5 billion from the Indian students' money.

"We want the authentic information on US universities to be available to the Indian students," Karl M. Adam, Deputy Cultural Affairs officer in the Embassy said while launching the EducationUSA India mobile application which will provide comprehensive and accurate information on studying in the US.

He said the Embassy has combined all EducationUSA information into one Facebook page.

At present, the EducationUSA has seven student advising centres in India Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmadabad, Adam said. "We are looking to expand the number of these centres. We are also researching to build a network of credible agents to disseminate authentic information on the US education system and help the students with their application process," Karl M. Adam, Deputy Cultural Affairs officer in the American Embassy.

Why are Indian students an asset to US economy?

The Indian students have contributed \$7.5 billion to the US' economy directly, according to the Embassy officials.

As per the estimates, Indian students represent over 17 per cent of the total international student population in the US, the second largest community in US followed by China. The Embassy officials said the US has a million international students and one out of every 5 international students is an

Indian.

The number of Indian students enrolling with the universities in the US has doubled in the last decade, they said.

Statistics over the decades

In 2018, 1,96,000 students were enrolled in the higher education institutions in the US from India. This was a significant increase from 1,82,000 in 2017. According to the officials at the embassy, the student visa approval rate is as high as 90 percent.

Talking about the education system, Adam said the United States offers a multi-disciplinary approach to education at the university level.

"The universities follow a flexible approach to education and it is possible for the students to change their majors after getting admission. Seventy percent international go to 300 schools in US but we have 4,700 accredited colleges to choose from."

Link:<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/american-embassy-launches-educationusa-india-mobile-application-on-student-visa-day-1547321-2019-06-12>

Female Graduates Dominate Toppers List, But Enrollment In Higher Education System Low: President

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While female graduates dominate the lists of toppers and medalists at convocations, the enrollment of girls in higher education system in the country is relatively low and an area of concern, President Ram Nath Kovind said Monday.

"I must point out relatively low enrollment of girls in higher education system, particularly in the eastern institutions. This is not only an area of concern, but also a paradox since girl students tend to do well in school examinations outscoring boys. When allowed the opportunity, girl students maintain this in higher education as well," he said.

Kovind was addressing the gathering at the launch of the Ministry of Human Resource Development's national rankings of higher educational institutions for this year.

"Since I have been travelling to convocations of universities across the country, I have been happy to find that female graduates dominate the topper lists and that of medalists. Many families deny girls this chance and we need to address this as a society and a country," he said.

The president said recent expansion of higher education in India has widened access and improved equity.

"Even so, the quality remains a concern. While there are islands of excellence, both in the public and private sectors, overall standards are uneven. As our higher education infrastructure continues to grow, and as enrollment rises, it is important to lift the bar," the president said.

Kovind said a nuanced approach is essential to ensure that higher education not only fulfills individual aspirations, but also achieves national goals and priorities.

"It is critical that there is a significant Indian presence in global rankings of leading universities and higher educational institutions in the very near future. We live in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution amid a knowledge society and an innovation economy.

"We cannot realise our potential without the requisite education infrastructure - measured both by numbers and standards. That is why the keen sense with which institutions participate in the India Rankings mechanism should persist and be escalated to striving for and achieving rankings among the global best," he said.

Jindal Global University Launches Report On Higher Education In India

The Jindal Global University (JGU) has launched a report on improving higher education quality in India, a statement from the university said on Wednesday.

The Jindal Global University (JGU) has launched a report on improving higher education quality in India, a statement from the university said on Wednesday. In the report "Diversity and Inclusion: Towards Building a Diverse, Equitable and Global University", the JGU highlighted its progress on 16 indicators including national origin, state origin, gender parity, age, religion and caste, education and professional background, disability, academic offerings and interdisciplinary, pedagogy, research and disciplinary diversity.

The other indicators are international collaborations and partnerships, governance and leadership, student financial inclusion, inclusive teaching and learning, gender identity and sexual orientation, and community outreach and engagement.

"The idea of this pluralism is deeply embedded in India's rich cultural heritage," said C. Raj Kumar, founding Vice Chancellor of JGU and Director of the International Institute of Higher Education Research and Capacity Building, while launching the report here on Tuesday.

All institutions and organisations inherently need to be as representative as possible of the communities they are located within, in order to survive and thrive. Higher education institutions have an even greater obligation to accomplish such representation given the public character of their mission and purpose, and the broad societal goals they commit to achieve.

"These aims take on greater significance in India's developing context, and given the value that a robust higher education system can add to achieving national developmental goals," Kumar said.

Releasing the diversity report, Professor Virandar S. Chauhan, Chairman of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) pointed out the multiple challenges for higher education institutions in attaining reasonable progress on indicators of diversity and inclusion.

"A lot of universities which are celebrated in India are mono-universities and these tend to be focused on a single discipline. Institutions must consider offering courses outside of their traditional disciplinary orientations... You have to have diversity in faculty, and in the subjects that you offer," he added.

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