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Higher Education Institutions torch-bearers of progress: President

President Pranab Mukherjee said higher education institutions are the torch-bearers of progress in the country, and stressed the need for quality research..

"Building institutions is not merely a brick-and-mortar activity. It represents a vision of the future, which we all want for our nation and the generations to come," he was quoted as saying by an official release.

"There is a need for innovative mechanisms to address the problem of vacancies on a long-term basis," Mukherjee said, adding that 70 per cent vacancies in central universities have been filled.

UGC amends regulations, College principals to get one more term



committee".

"The University Grants Commission (UGC) in one of the important decisions has said that a college principal can get one more term after completion of his/her five-year tenure, following the constitution of the external peer review

The term of appointment of the college principal shall be five years with eligibility for re-appointment for one more term, only after a similar selection process, which shall take into account an external peer review, its recommendations, and its outcomes. The framework of

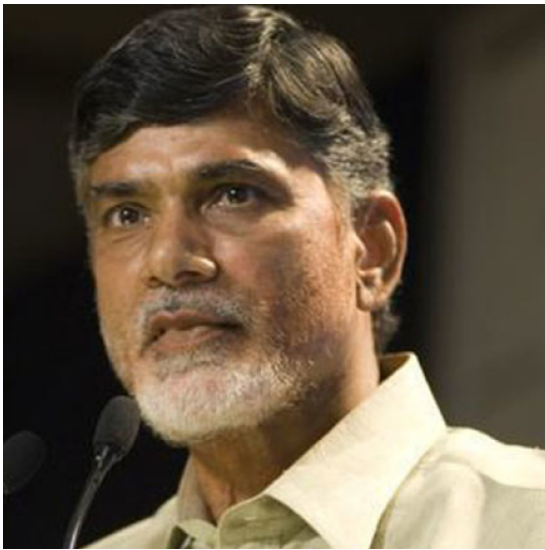
the external peer review shall be specified by the UGC.

The higher the ranking of institution, the greater the autonomy: Prakash Javadekar

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar offered greater autonomy for educational institutions which perform well. Reiterating the Centre's commitment towards improving the quality of education in the country.
- He also announced that we are in favour of granting greater autonomy to the educational institutions, particularly deemed and private universities. But then to enjoy that autonomy, they will have to be top ranked," said Javadekar.
- The higher the ranking, the greater the autonomy. Top ranking institutes can enjoy as much as 90 percent autonomy and only 10 percent regulations. The average universities will have 50:50 and the bad universities will have 90 percent regulation and ten per cent freedom," he said.
- The government has been focussing on how to arrest the outflow of students to foreign institutes. The need is to develop research and innovation infrastructure in our educational institutes and we are doing that in a big way. We are also stressing on enhancing scholarships," Javadekar said.
- The need is also to change the global perception about our higher educational institutes. We are building 20 world class universities and endeavouring to ensure that our higher educational institutes feature among the top ranked institutes in the world," he said.



"Education is not a political agenda but a national agenda. We do not politicise education. Our aim is to improve the education system in a mission mode," Javadekar said



Universities should embrace innovation in big way: Andhra CM

Underlining the importance of innovations, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the country's education system should move ahead of traditional ways and embrace innovation.

"The world has moved towards innovation, things are changing fast. What was useful yesterday will be redundant tomorrow. The goal of education is to create individuals capable of doing new things. The need is to move ahead of traditional ways and embrace innovation," said Naidu addressing the 12th Ficci Higher Education Summit here.

"All our universities should have incubation centres so that new ideas and innovations can be tested, nurtured and ultimately



'Enrolment in higher education doubles in 3 years'

The gross enrollment ratio (GER) in state higher education has almost doubled in three years. The latest data released by higher and technical education department revealed that the higher education GER which was 8.4 in 2011-12 increased to 10.1 in 2013-14 and reached 15.4 in 2014-15

GSP Gupta, OSD to the secretary of higher education department said "We are expecting an even higher GER in 2015-16 as many steps were taken this year to increase the menthol including starting of classes in second shift, establishment of new colleges and inviting private universities to the state."

In 2017-18, many new colleges will be started in the state including 12 model degree colleges and 22 polytechnic

used for development," he said.

colleges. "To meet our aim, the process of identification of land for 17 more polytechnic colleges and 38 regular colleges will also begin in the state in the coming session," Singh said

India must spend 6% of GDP on education, says Manmohan Singh



Dr Singh was speaking on **Education and Development: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities**, on the occasion of the 17th annual conference of the Indian Association of Social Sciences Institutions at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID). Addressing the gathering, Dr Singh said, "By imparting universally accepted secular education, individuals can be empowered with human values that enable them to contribute in building a socially and culturally harmonious society.

Dr Singh also emphasized the need to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from 24.3 per cent in 2014-15. In developed countries, it is around 50 per cent. He said private universities accounted for 34.21 per cent of the total universities (760) in 2014-15. Private colleges account for 77 per cent of the total colleges (38,498) and 63 per cent are unaided. Private colleges both aided and unaided

are responsible for 67 per cent of total enrolment in the country.

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