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NAAC asked to rework accreditation process for higher education institutes

- The HRD ministry has asked NAAC to work towards bringing transparency, objectivity and technology into the grading system.
- The key criteria set by NAAC are:
 - Curricular Aspects
 - Teaching-learning and evaluation
 - Research, consultancy and extension
 - Infrastructure and learning resources
 - Student support and progression
 - Governance , Leadership and Management
 - Innovations and Best Practices
- As per the new methodology, the peer team assessment of institutions will be given just 20% weightage instead of the current 100% in deciding the grade of an institution.
- Major (80%) weightage of the grade will be decided based on technical and objective inputs via use of Information Communication & Technology (ICT). These and many more changes, said officials, are in the pipeline in the accreditation process of higher education institutions in order to bring in transparency, objectivity and technology in the assessment and grading.

Indian government directs JNU, IIM, Harvard to

evaluate its skill development programmes

The Indian government has recently asked both national and international universities to review its ambitious skill development programmes.



- As per reports, the National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme (NSDC) is the execution agency of the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship
- Manish Kumar, the corporation's CEO and managing director in recent HT report said, "We have asked these institutions to do an in-depth research and provide information about the results and effects of skill development plans. With this we will get to know the gaps that can be bridged,"



Just 40 per cent of engineering students get jobs: Prakash Javadekar

The government has set a target of making at least 60 per cent of engineering graduates in the country employable in the next five years .

According to latest reports, only



Education institutes should focus on research for India's growth: HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar

Speaking at the convocation of a private management institute, Prakash Javadekar said that "India needs expertise in all sectors to manage the economy. We need to realise that in order

40 per cent of engineering graduates got placements after passing out of college.

The Union Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar said that in order to improve the placement scenario, the AICTE has decided to introduce summer internships for at least 75 per cent of the students and introduce updated model curriculum.

Model curriculum for engineering institutes:

- AICTE will soon put up a model curriculum on its website
- Speaking about B Ed colleges, Javadekar said many complaints have been registered about the quality of education, following which the ministry has asked them to submit affidavits about the number of teachers, salaries, infrastructure etc.
- About 6,300 institutions have given the feedback which was being analysed, while hundreds of those colleges which have not submitted the required details will get notices asking why action should not be taken against them, the HRD minister said.

to be part of growth story of India, education institute need to focus on research,"

Indian economy's growth

Javadekar added, "As the economy grows, we need good leaders and better managers from our educational institute. Management institutes will provide training to the students to manage the economy of India."

He also interacted with the students and discussed the problems faced by the Indian economy at present and various employment generating and skill-building projects undertaken by the Centre.

UGC chairperson, Ved Prakash, who was the guest of honour at the convocation, said, "Institutes of learning are the most enduring organisations in the world and they have taken the society to the next stage of development." Sanjay Dhande, the chairman of the Management Development Institute (MDI), also addressed the students at the programme.

Earlier, during the Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, the HRD Minister said that over 10,000 vacant posts will be filled up by the government in various Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) this academic year.

- Furthermore, previous reports also revealed that just 15 per cent of 3200 institutions offer engineering courses recognised by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

This is why India started its own university ranking system

About a decade and a half ago, Chinese policy-makers were miffed that too few of their universities made it to the top hundreds in the world. Now India has started emulating the Chinese, in principle if not in method. Last week, MHRD announced its list of top Indian universities, based on its own ranking methodology.

Unlike the Chinese system, the ministry has stuck to Indian universities, though its unstated aim is to benchmark Indian institutions against the best in the world sometime in the future. "We want to improve our institutions," says Surendra Prasad, former IIT Delhi director, who is chairman of the National Board of Accreditation, and a core member of the National Institutional Ranking Framework.

Indian institutions operate under circumstances not captured in international rankings and these have to be captured in a different set of parameters. He recommended that, like the Chinese, India should develop its own ranking system. And once the methodology stabilised, it could be used to compare Indian institutions fairly with the best in the world. Most of the heads of Indian institutions and senior faculty had always looked at international rankings with suspicion.

"Research is more widespread than we thought," says Prasad. This was especially true of engineering research, with significant contributions coming from the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) and state universities. The rankings show private universities have also been improving standards, especially in research.

Private universities have starting taking the rankings seriously, and have been engaging with the international ranking agencies in recent times. Over the next decade, they could provide serious competition to India's best public institutions.

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