



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
MHRD  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

# द न्यूजलेटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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## UK-INDIA Year of Education, Research and Innovation Launched

India and United Kingdom launched a joint initiative "2016: UK-INDIA Year of Education, Research and Innovation" in New Delhi on December 9, 2015. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, highlighted the importance of mobility of students and faculty and expressed hope that, under the GIAN Program, more UK academicians would be able to come to India in 2016. She expressed hope that areas of mutual interest in research could be picked up out of the ten research priority areas under IMPRINT (IMPActing Research Innovation and Technology). The Minister said that she would like to see partnerships and interaction among school students of India and UK, esp. children in Government schools, like Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Secretary of State, Business Innovation and Skills, United Kingdom, Mr. Sajid Javid, in his statement, said that he looked forward to launch of the UKIERI-III which could build upon good work already

done under earlier phases of UKIERI. He anticipated that more than 100 academicians from UK would be coming under GIAN over next two years. Under the UK Generation India program, they would be looking forward to send 25,000 UK students to India during the next 5 (five) years.

It is worthwhile to mention that during the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to the United Kingdom last month, it was jointly announced by both the Prime Ministers that 2016 would be the UK-India Year of Education, Research and Innovation. On its part, Ministry of Human Resource Development carried out a review of current cooperation, and a process of identification of possible and potential areas of activity under the Year of Education, Research and Innovation. Secretary of State of the United Kingdom Mr. Sajid Javid and Mr. Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science visited India.

*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest"*

- Benjamin Franklin

*Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, and Mr. Sajid Javid, Secretary of State, Business Innovation and Skills, UK, launching the 2016: UK-INDIA Year of Education, Research and Innovation, at a function, in New Delhi on December 09, 2015.*

Looking back at the year 2015, it emerges that the Ministry has made giant strides in the field of Higher Education. With launch of schemes like IMPRINT INDIA, Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), etc, the Higher Education is set for a qualitative shift.

This year witnessed several educational exchanges with a number of countries like the UK, the USA, Germany, New Zealand, etc, How Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development attended the Leaders' Forum at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The world took note of what India has to say as far as Higher Education is concerned.

The "2016 : UK-INDIA Year of Education, Research and Innovation" is one particular event that one should mark in one's calendars for the coming year. This initiative would add a new dimension to the educational exchange between India and the UK.

The National Awards for Innovation in Educational Administration 2015 and National Prizes for Kala Utsav 2015, were also conferred by the Hon'ble HRM. These awards reiterate the participants' commitment towards innovation and also stand as testimonies to the Central Government's commitment towards recognizing exemplary work in education.

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The third phase of UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI-III), will commence on 1st April 2016 with higher budgetary allocation of 3 million GBP per year from each side, UKIERI-III will provide a basic framework for the bilateral cooperation between India and UK over the next 5 years. It will focus on leadership and faculty development, integration of skills in the education system, e-partnership & research incubation and enhancing mobility.

Over the next year, UK and India intend to deepen their bilateral relationship across education, research & innovation. With this objective, both countries will undertake and support new initiatives. India and UK aim to create a professional network of academicians and work towards promoting research and teaching. India will look forward to more UK academicians coming to Indian institutions to teach courses under the recently launched GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks). In partnership between UK providers and community colleges and polytechnics of India, blended learning courses will be developed to increase employability, with focus on manufacturing and service sectors, to meet the requirements of "Make in India".

The approach in research will be inter-disciplinary cutting across various Ministries of Government of India. United Kingdom will be the partner country for the "Technology Summit 2016" to be organized jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on 24th-26th October, 2016 in New Delhi.

The emphasis from both the sides would be on increased mobility of students and faculty. While the Ranking Framework of Indian institutions will provide a mechanism to UK students to get an idea of quality of Indian institutions, UK side will be looking forward to support more UK students to India under 'Generation UK India' Program.

The launch of "Year of Education, Research and Innovation" was attended by Minister of State for Universities and Science from UK, Mr. Jo Johnson and Minister of State in Ministry of HRD Dr. R. S. Katheria, senior officials and academicians from both sides, including about 25 Vice Chancellors from UK

Universities and Vice Chancellors and Directors of Indian higher education institutions as well as media persons.

The launch was preceded by a bilateral meeting led by the two Ministers, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Mr. Sajid Javid, in which issues of mutual interests were discussed in detail. It was also attended by the Ministers of State from both sides i.e. Mr. Jo Johnson and Dr. R.S. Katheria and other senior officials.

### HRM confers National Award for Innovations in Educational Administration 2015



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani addressing at the presentation ceremony of the National Awards for Innovation in Educational Administration, in New Delhi on December 10, 2015.

On December 10, 2015, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, conferred National Award for Innovations in Educational Administration - 2015, in a function held in New Delhi. Felicitating and saluting the award winners for their untiring efforts in educational administration, she said that the award presentation was recognition of innovative work done by the winners to keep humanity alive through the spread of education within the framework of rules. Calling them 'unsung heroes' of great change brought through their innovative work at grassroots level, she expressed her gratitude to the family members of award winners who, with their cooperation, contributed to their success.

This Award aims to recognize and encourage District and Block Education officers (DEOs and BEOs) for their contributions in enhancing the credibility of the public educational system in educational delivery and ensuring

efficient functioning of the system of educational administration by adopting innovative practices at field level educational administration.

All the nominations of the DEOs and BEOs, received through the States, were evaluated by a panel of experts and 62 nominations finally shortlisted for the award.

A two day National Conference on Innovation in Educational Administration was also held to discuss and disseminate innovations introduced by the field officers. Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development and former Foreign Secretary to the Government of India delivered the key note address at the conference.

Dignitaries present on the occasion included Shri J. Veera Raghavan, former Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri Jandhyala B.G. Tilak, Vice-Chancellor, NUEPA.

### Smt. Irani confers National Prizes for “Kala Utsav - 2015”



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani with the winners of the National Award of Kala Utsav, at a function, in New Delhi on December 11, 2015.

Felicitating winners of Kala Utsav-2015, Union Human Resource Development Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in New Delhi, on December 11, 2015, said that all students should have 'One Aim, One Life, under One constitution and the one Nation'. Expressing her sincere thanks to the Prime Minister she said that Hon'ble Prime Minister had dedicated 'Kala Utsav' to nation with a vision of promoting national integration and preserving our cultural heritage by associating the students of country with Kala Utsav. She also extended thanks to all teachers, parents and state governments who inspired and motivated students to participate in 'Kala Utsav'.

She reiterated her earlier call to participants that they would go back with spirit of cooperation and brotherhood although they came here with a competitive spirit.



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani at the National Award Ceremony of Kala Utsav, in New Delhi on December 11, 2015.

The Union Minister expressed her confidence that India can prove its leadership on the global front in the field of cultural heritage as it has established its supremacy in science and technology as well. She saluted all the jury members who in their own right are experts in the field of art and culture. She said that Kala Utsav provides a national platform to express artistic talents to those who until now lagged behind because of non-availability of any such platform despite having necessary talents. Paying homage to Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar, whose death anniversary coincides with the event, she said that dedication to arts with the feeling of national integration as has been displayed during Kala Utsav will be a true tribute to him.

Nobel Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi, felicitating participants, said that if the power of art, artists and children of the nation comes together, India's daughters will not only be saved and educated, but won't be behind any other daughter in the world. Kala Utsav - 2015 was founded upon theme of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.

Famous Dance exponent Smt. Sonal Mansingh on this occasion said that one should not compromise with one's self respect while facing challenges of life and should channelize all the creative energy to achieve one aim in a life.

The Minister gave away national prizes for 'Kala Utsav-2015' in four categories - Visual arts, Music, Theatre and dance.

- Under Visual arts category 1st prize was bagged by Andman and Nicobar Islands, 2nd Prize jointly by Delhi and Haryana, and 3rd prize by Tamil Nadu.
- Under Music category 1st prize was won by Delhi 2nd by Chattisgarh, and 3rd prize jointly by Assam and Maharashtra.
- Under Theatre category, 1st prize was bagged by Haryana, 2nd by Assam and 3rd by Maharashtra.
- Under Dance category 1st prize was taken by Assam, 2nd by Dadra Nagar Haveli and 3rd by Karnataka.



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani with the children at the inauguration of the "Kala Utsav", in New Delhi on December 08, 2015.

First prize, Second prize and Third prize carry cash component of Rs. 1,25,000/- , Rs. 75,000/- , Rs. 50,000/- respectively for each of the above mentioned categories.

Ms. Stuti Singh Parihar, from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh was given prize for national level logo design.

## Access to Higher Education for Economically Poor

The Government is committed to enlarging access and equity in the higher education sector, and consequently, to provide schematic interventions, that seek to overcome social and economic disadvantages.

In order to ensure that no one is denied access to professional education, the Central Government is implementing the Central Sector Plan Scheme titled "Scheme on Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans" from scheduled Banks for professional education of students from economically weaker sections. The Scheme provides full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium (i.e. duration of a recognised professional course plus one year) on educational loans availed by all students belonging to economically weaker sections whose annual income is not more than Rs.4.5 lakhs. Towards this end, since 2009-10 and upto 30th September, 2015, an amount of Rs.5501.36 crores has been released to Banks, National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC), National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSCFDC) and National Safai Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

The Government has also recently notified the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL) to mitigate the risks and provide guarantee for educational loans taken under the Indian Bank's Association (IBA) Model Educational Loan Scheme. An amount of Rs.500 crores has been earmarked in 2015-16 under the scheme.

The Central Government is also implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship for College and University Students for providing financial assistance to meritorious students with annual family income less than rupees six lakhs to meet their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies. Another Central Sector Scheme viz. Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir supports

students from the State having parental annual income less than rupees six lakhs for pursuing higher studies.

The UGC has reported that it is taking regulatory measures and implementing several schemes to ensure that access to higher education in India percolates effectively to the weaker and marginalized sections of society. These measures are the following:

1. UGC(Promotion Of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012
2. Scheme of Women's Hostel
3. Post Doctoral fellowship of SC/ST
4. PG Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST
5. Ishan Uday special scholarship scheme for the North East Region
6. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST

Also, the UGC is implementing the scheme of Community Colleges in Universities and Colleges in the country. The main objective of the scheme is to offer low cost, high quality education locally, which encompasses both traditional skill development as well as traditional course work, thereby providing opportunities to the learner to move directly to employment sector or to move to the Higher Education sector. A total of 64 Community Colleges have been approved under the scheme (7 Universities and 57 Colleges).

#### **Joint Statement on National Mathematics Day 2015**

**Joint Statement by DG UNESCO and the Minister for Human Resource Development of India on the Occasion of National Mathematics Day, 2015 -**

"India has accompanied UNESCO since its founding in 1945 on the conviction that peace is built in the minds of people through education, science and culture. Our longstanding partnership is one of values and action. India subscribes fully to the principles of UNESCO, and seeks today to broaden and deepen this partnership, especially in education and science, because we know that these hold the keys to inclusion, innovation and shared prosperity.

In the Indian tradition, knowledge is deemed to be a supreme wealth that increases by giving. It is the greatest gift that one can give, for knowledge brings lifetime enrichment. UNESCO shares this profoundly humanistic vision. All the Organization's initiatives are driven by the belief that universal access to education and knowledge is the single most transformative investment to empower individuals and nations, to promote mutual understanding and foster world peace.

In this spirit and going forward, India and UNESCO will work jointly to deliver programme of collaborative action on education, commemorating as well the pioneering work of two celebrated Indian academics and intellectuals, Ramanujan and Aryabhata, whose contributions have spawned generations of mathematical and scientific research, catalyzing landmark advances over the years.

Ramanujan's contributions to number theory are legendary. His birth anniversary on 22 December is celebrated in India as National Mathematics Day. Aryabhata, who dates back to the classical age of Indian mathematics and astronomy, is credited with the 'invention' of the zero, his contributions also spanning an extraordinary range of mathematical fundamentals which are the basis of current major applications and continued research. The gift of a bust of this great mathematician-astronomer to UNESCO will be India's tribute to the world of mathematics and science.

On the occasion of National Mathematics Day 2015, India and UNESCO agreed to work jointly in spreading the joy of mathematics and knowledge to students and learners across the world. To this end, Conferences on the "Zero" at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, as well as at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore will be held, bringing together academics, mathematicians and teachers to explore and discuss key associated concepts. Efforts would be made jointly to connect research and practice, because it is on the benches of schools that the spark of mathematics is lit in young minds - through innovative teaching and learning, positive role models, and encouraging girls early on to follow scientific pathways.

India and UNESCO are firmly and fully convinced of the transformative power of education as the world seeks to build more inclusive, sustainable and just societies in pursuit of Agenda 2030. A sharper focus and a sense of collective duty must imbue our actions if we are truly to ensure that none are left behind in the quest to fulfill the right of education for all."

## Ministry Constitutes Drafting Committee for New Education Policy

As part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development's unprecedented collaborative, multi-stakeholder and multi-pronged consultation process for formulating the New Education Policy, the Ministry has decided to constitute a Drafting Committee for framing the New Education Policy. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee is Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary and the four members are: Smt. Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi; Shri Sewaram Sharma, former Home Secretary, NCT of Delhi; Shri Sudhir Mankad, former Chief Secretary, Gujarat and Prof. J S Rajput, former Director, NCERT. The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi will act as its Secretariat.

Along with the draft education policy, the Committee will also submit a Framework for Action. The three-pronged consultation process included online, grassroots and national level thematic deliberations.

The Ministry organized an online competition for a logo, slogan and tagline for the New Education Policy, for which over 3000 entries were received. The consultations were officially launched on MyGov portal on 26th January, 2015 on 33 themes across School and Higher Education. Over 26,500 suggestions have been received online.

Apex level institutions and regulators, such as, UGC, AICTE, NCTE, AIU, NCERT, CBSE, IAS, NLMA, NAAC, NUEPA, IGNOU, IITs, IIMs and Central Universities have held detailed discussion on identified themes with participation of renowned academicians, experts, practitioners, NGOs, civil society, student & teacher representative bodies, industry associations, and stakeholder from different Ministries of Government of India.

The grassroots consultations stem from the federal structure of the country in which states are equal partners in carrying forward the education agenda and have a critical voice in policy formulation. A meeting was held by the Minister of Human Resource Development on March 21, 2015 with Education Ministers, Secretaries and other senior officials of the State Governments in which the consultation process,

including the process of uploading their commendations on MyGov, was explained in detail and suggestions of States on the process as well as the themes were also invited. All participants appreciated the consultation process.

An extensive, time-bound, participative, bottom-up consultative process across nearly 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, 6600 Blocks, 6000 Urban Local Bodies, 676 districts and 36 States/Union Territories was carried out between May to October, 2015 and so far 63,100 villages, 3088 Blocks, 822 ULBs, 247 districts and three States have uploaded their suggestions on <https://survey.mygov.in>. Some states have conveyed that they have completed the consultations and have asked for more time for uploading the suggestions. More uploads are expected by the first week of November.

Consultation process was one of the agenda points in the meeting of Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 19th August 2015. Views of all States and members of CABE were invited on the consultation process and the themes. All States were also requested to undertake the consultation process and complete it within the defined timeframe and, if felt necessary, include additional themes.

Six Zonal Meetings were held by the Minister of Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in Eastern, Central, North-Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Zones covering all States and UTs in September-October 2015 which were attended by Education Ministers and officials of the respective States/UTs. States will be submitting their outcome documents with suggestions. Before each zonal meeting, the Minister of Human Resource Development interacted through video-conference with the states of the concerned zone. It included interaction with the State level officials of education departments, district level officials of a 68 districts and local elected representatives.

A separate meeting was held by the Minister of Human Resource Development with Ministries of Government of India. Their suggestions were noted and they were also asked to send their suggestions. In all, 13 Ministries of Government of India have sent their suggestions to Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Six online talks with leading subject experts, field practitioner engagement through the UN Solutions

Exchange platform, online survey by CBSE with over 15000 responses, youth survey and focus group discussions by Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO Category-I Institute in Asia Pacific were conducted as part of the public engagement. In addition, several organizations and individuals have sent in their views, suggestions and inputs through post and email which have been collated.

## YEAR END REVIEW 2015

### Initiatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development

The year 2015 will be recorded as a landmark year in education sector in many respects. One of the major achievements which Ministry of Human Resource Development accomplished during the year includes achievement of 100% target of completion of construction of separate toilets for boys and girls in schools under Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan within one year of the announcement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on August 15, 2014. The year will also be known for technical advancement made by the Ministry by laying emphasis on ICT leading to launch of a number of initiatives like e pathshala, Saransh, Shala Siddhi, Shaala Darpan, availability of NCERT books on mobile app etc.

The year also saw the Government of India's sincere efforts towards bringing out a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. New Education Policy is being framed after a gap of 23 years.

For the first time, the Government of India is embarking on a time-bound grassroots consultative process, which will enable the Ministry of Human Resource Development to reach out to individuals across the country through over 2.75 lakh direct consultations while also taking input from citizens online.

The year will also be remembered because of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore cracking the top 100 in world University ranking as per Times High Education

ranking for 2015-16 and IIT, Delhi also figuring in the top 200 list of QS. It has sent a strong message to other Indian Technical Institutes to better their performance in the key areas of academics research and faculty enrichment.

### DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A number of schemes related to Department of Higher Education were also launched during the year. IMPRINT INDIA was released on 5th November 2015. It is a Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India. IMPRINT INDIA aims at direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. Under this, 10 domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas: (1) Health care technology, (2) Energy security, (3) Rural urban housing design, (4) Nano technology, (5) Water/river system, (6) Advanced materials, (7) Computer science and ICT, (8) Manufacturing technology, (9) Advanced security and (10) Environment/climate change. The research in each of these areas is being coordinated by one IIT.

Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), was launched as an initiative to attract the best foreign academics to Indian Universities of Excellence. The programme has been launched to facilitate the partnership between Higher Education Institutions of India and other foreign universities. Under this (352) courses are being offered by foreign faculty from 38 Countries. The cost of the travel and honorarium ranging from \$8,000 - \$12,000 is being met from the scheme funds. These courses are being looked at as a starting point of long-term research collaboration between Indian Institutions and the other Global institutions; and therefore signal a major chapter in the higher education system.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015. The ranking framework evaluates each higher education institution on 5 broad parameters namely teaching/learning resources, research, graduation outcomes, outreach/inclusive nature and the public perception. The Ranks will be declared on the first Monday of April every year. An independent body is being proposed to undertake this work based on objective and verifiable criteria. So far, 2500 institutions covering engineering, management, pharma, architecture and universities have registered for participation in the ranking and are



submitting data. Participation in the NIRF would help the Indian educational institutions participate in the world rankings with greater confidence.

Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), is a Web portal where Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) will be available on all kinds of subjects. SWAYAM is the Indian electronic e-education platform which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to Post-Graduate stage in an interactive electronic platform. The IT platform for SWAYAM is going to be built and is expected to be operationalized by 31st March 2016 with a capacity to host nearly 2,000 courses. This would provide the best quality education to more than three crore students across the country. The system would allow 10 lakh students using the system concurrently. Once it becomes operational, students from the backward rural areas can access teaching from the best institutes in the country electronically, thereby, raising the overall standards of higher education in the country. SWAYAM-MOOCs project is intended to address the needs of school level 9-12 to Under Graduate and Post Graduate students, covering all disciplines.

Launch of the Credit framework for Skills and Education as per the National Skills Qualification framework paving the way for certification of skills through the formal system and allowing for multiple exits and entrance into the education system with scope for vertical and lateral mobility. The CBCS will enable students to take courses of their choice, learn at their own pace, undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required credits, and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Approval by UGC of the Guidelines for Choice Based Credit Framework, provides for more choices for students to opt for employable courses through a system of flexible credits for foundational, elective and core courses. The status of CBCS is as follows:

1. All 39 Central Universities are implementing the CBCS system from 2015-16.
2. Major State Universities like Madras University, Chennai, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, Osmania University, Hyderabad, University of Bombay, Mumbai, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara Lucknow University, Lucknow, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Himachal Pradesh

University, Shimla and Gauhati University, Guwahati are also going to implement CBCS from the next academic session.

**Saksham scholarship scheme:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing Saksham scholarship scheme to provide support to differently abled students to pursue technical education.

Launch of the Know Your College portal is to provide informed decision making opportunity for students along with complete availability of all e-learning resources. A portal called Know Your College (KYC) has been started in which the data declared by all the educational institutions is being placed in a public portal and also made available through a mobile application so that the stakeholders can verify the same. It will also work as one stop shop for all educational resources. More than 40000 higher educational institutions are already mapped under the KYC.

Under Campus Connect programme, all the Central Universities in the country are going to be connected through WIFI network at a cost of approximately Rs.320 crores. Under this, all the classrooms, libraries, laboratories, hostels and places frequented by the students would be connected through a secured WIFI hotspots providing access to the educational and information resources to the students on 24x7 basis. This project will be implemented by ERNET and is expected to be completed by June 2016.

**Promoting Start-ups:** 37 new start-up parks/research parks would be set up this year with the coordination of Dept of Science and Technology (fund sharing on 50:50 basis) covering all the IITs, NITs and some IIITs/Central Universities. These would incubate the start-ups and hand-hold them till they reach the stage of commercialization, normally for a period of five years. IIT Madras Research Park has already become fully functional (it is ready for inauguration by the Prime Minister).

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** was launched for connecting higher education and society to enable technology and its use for development of rural areas. Under this all technical and higher education institutions have been asked to adopt five villages each; identify technology gaps and prepare plans for innovations that could substantially increase the incomes and growth in the rural areas.

**Ucchar Aavishkar Abhiyaan** : For promotion of innovation, All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level. For this purpose, it is proposed to launch a scheme Ucchar Aavishkar Abhiyan by investing Rs. 250 crores every year on identified projects proposed by IITs and NITs. Participation of industry in part-funding the project would be mandatory

**Engineering skills to unemployed youth:** An initiative as a part of the PMKVY is being launched to encourage all the 10,000 technical institutions (engineering and polytechnic) to provide engineering skills (through part-time courses of 6 to 8 months duration) to at least 100 unemployed youth using their infrastructure after college-hours. The training costs would be met by the central government and the placement of the trained youth is the responsibility of the institution. This is expected to provide high quality skilled persons required for the Make in India campaign.

**Comprehensive Language Policy:** An Expert Committee on Language was constituted on 29.12.2014 for preparation of Comprehensive Language Policy for the country and it met four times so far.

**Matribhasha Diwas:** Matribhasha Diwas was celebrated on 21.2.2015 to sensitize people about the need of greater use of mother tongues and other Indian Languages for development and progress of the Nation. Hon'ble HRM has inaugurated the programme at Chennai organized by CIIL, Mysore.

On the International front too, addressing The Leaders' Forum on an official visit to UNESCO Headquarters at Paris on 17th November this year the Minister of Human Resource Development Smt Smriti Irani reaffirmed India's commitment to the ideals of UNESCO and to furthering its role and activities. In this context, she recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi when in 1947 he had expressed the deep Indian interest in the efforts of UNESCO to "secure peace through educational and cultural activities".

**Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers:** During the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers at the Bahamas from 22-26 June, 2015, the Ministry of Human Resource offered the following: to set up the Malviya Commonwealth Chair

for Cross Border Teacher Education which will focus on issues pertaining to curriculum development, pedagogy, student assessment, pre-service and in-service teacher training and capacity development; Commonwealth Consortium for Research which can function in collaboration with the Commonwealth Education hub and provide cross funding for research projects which member nations deem appropriate; Strengthening of public institutions to bring about qualitative improvements in education at all levels; Providing e-Learning platform, SWAYAM to host e-courseware developed by Commonwealth of Learning; and Posting of digitized materials of Commonwealth countries on its soon to be established national e-Library.

Finally, the above flagship programmes, new schemes and innovations of the Ministry of HRD prove beyond doubt that it is playing a significant role in building strong foundations in education. While the Department of School Education & Literacy has its eye set on the universalization of Education and making better citizens out of the country's young brigade, the Department of Higher Education is engaged in establishing world class institutes of learning and providing ample opportunities for research and skill development to ensure that we create the world's largest workforce.



The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri T.R. Zeliang meeting the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani, in New Delhi on December 08, 2015.

### HRM Launched All India Survey on Higher Education



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani launching the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE), at a function, in New Delhi on December 21, 2015. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Shri V.S. Oberoi and the Additional Secretary (TE), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri R. Subrahmanyam are also seen.

On December 21, 2015, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, launched the Sixth All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) in New Delhi. Speaking at the event she highlighted the fact that the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) has shown significant improvement from 19.4% in 2010-11 to 23.6% in 2014-15. She expressed confidence that the target of 30% GER by 2020 as envisaged in 12th Plan would be achieved. She highlighted that efforts be made to increase number of female teachers in higher education. Union Minister also highlighted that this data base acts as rich depository that gives direction while devising policies to improve higher education.

Union Minister suggested that State universities in conjunction with regulatory bodies like AICTE should strive to update curriculum, which may include industry participation, use of ICT enabled education, collaboration with international organizations to make education more dynamic and increase employability. While appreciating the initiatives of states of Gujarat, Karnataka, and Odisha; The Union Minister called upon Ministry of Human Resource Development to explore the feasibility of replicating best practices like 'Jnana-Samnvay' of Karnataka at national level. She also congratulated all stakeholders involved in the process of All India Survey on Higher Education.

The survey covers all the Higher Education (HE) institutions of the country including Universities, Colleges and Stand-Alone institutions. The entire survey has been voluntary, based on motivation of respondents; and without any statutory mandate in place for collecting information of this nature. It needs a Survey like this to bring out the correct and complete picture of the system so that relevant statistics are available to the Central Government as well as State Governments, in order to devise future policies. The survey is also unique in the sense that it is a participatory effort between State Governments, Regulatory Statutory Authorities and the Ministries of the Government of India. The survey compiles and manages statistics directly online from respondent institutions. The main items of data collection under survey are Basic details, Programme details, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff, Student Enrolment, Examination Result, Infrastructure, Scholarships and Financial. The AISHE data is the source of information for 'Know Your College' portal (KYC) [www.knowyourcollege-gov.in/](http://www.knowyourcollege-gov.in/)

With the launch of 2015-16 survey, the time-lag will be reduced to bare minimum. All the institutions located in the country are requested to participate in the Survey and provide relevant data.

The major findings of the AISHE 2014-15 are as follows -

- 1) Increase in overall enrolment from 27.5 million in 2010-11 to 33.3 million in 2014-15.
- 2) Improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratio which is a ratio of enrolment in higher education to population in the eligible age group (18-23) years from 19.4% on 2010-11 to 23.6% in 2014-15.
- 3) Gender Parity Index (GPI), a ratio of proportional representation of female and male, has marginally improved from 0.86 to 0.93 to the corresponding period.
- 4) Number of institutions of higher education listed on AISHE portal has also increased significantly -

universities from 621 to 757 and colleges from 32, 974 to 38,056 during the same period.

The Survey was initiated in the year 2011 to prepare a robust data-base on higher education. Keeping in view the usefulness of data collected during the very first year, Ministry decided to make this survey an annual exercise of data collection in higher education sector. So far, survey for the year 2013-14 has been completed and data collection for 2014-15 is under progress and is likely to be completed very soon. Final report for the year 2013-14 and the provisional report for 2014-15 are available.

### Awards for Promotion of Sindhi Language Announced

The Executive Board of National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSSL), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development with its aim to promote, develop and propagate Sindhi language, met on December 4, 2015, under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development.

The Executive Board decided to confer two Lifetime Achievement Awards which also carries a Sanman Rashi of Rs. 5.00 lakhs each under two categories, namely Sahitya Rachna Sanman and Sahityakar Sanman.

It has been decided that Lifetime Achievement Awards for the year 2014-15 will be conferred to Shri Lakshman Hardwani, and Shri Jairam Rupani, under the categories of Sahitya Rachna Sanman and Sahityakar Sanman respectively.

For the year 2015-16, the Lifetime Achievement Awards will be conferred to Shri Lakhmi Khilani and Shri Kanhaiya Lal Talreja under the categories of Sahitya Rachna Sanman and Sahityakar Sanman respectively.

It has also been decided to confer six Literary Awards for the year 2014-15 and seven Literary Awards for the year 2015-16, which also carries a Sanman Rashi of Rs.1.00 lakh each to these Scholars.

For the year 2014-15, the Awards will be conferred to (1) Shri Mohan Himthani (Poetry), (2) Dr.(Mrs)Usha Saraswat (Fiction), (3) Shri Arjun Kriplani (Fiction), (4) Prof. Dr. Baldev Matlani (Non Fiction), (5) Dr. Haso Dadlani (Non Fiction), (6) Shri G V Murjani (Translation). For the year 2015-16, the Awards will be conferred to (1) Shri Arun Babani (Poetry), (2) Ms.Poonam Ratnani (Fiction), (3) Shri Laxman Bijlani (Fiction), (4) Shri Jagdish Shahdarpuri (Non Fiction), (5) Shri Tej Kabil (Non Fiction), (6) Ms.Monica Panjwani (Debutant Writer), (7) Shri Ghansyam Murlidhar Sharma (Translation)

It was also decided that a team of Sindhi youngsters including a writer and a historian be deputed to travel to select countries. These will be countries to which Sindhis trace their roots, as well regions within the country where Sindhis have settled, and then trace India's historical relations with them and publish the findings. Accordingly, 10 Sindhi students of Class XI and above will be shortlisted annually.

A grant of Rs. 1.00 crore each as Corpus Fund to Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University in Ajmer and Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore has been concurred by the Executive Board to establish Sindhi Chairs to promote Sindhi Language.

### HRM Launches "The Global Initiative of Academic Networks" (GIAN)

The Global Initiative of Academic Networks" (GIAN) programme was formally launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani on November 30, 2015, at the IIT Gandhinagar. While speaking at the launch of GIAN, HRD Minister said that this initiative, GIAN brings into practice the belief of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'. Inspired by the vision of the Prime Minister and responding to his wish to ensure early implementation to facilitate the needs of institutions, faculty and students to embrace new knowledge frontiers. The fact that this vision of the Prime Minister has translated into action within a time span of just one year is a reflection of the team work between the Ministry of Human Resource

Development and the institutions of higher learning. She said, "While our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the clarion call of "Make In India," GIAN is our effort to tell the world "Come, Teach In India".



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani launching the GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks), in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on November 30, 2015.

The Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) is a new and catalytic programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, one with potentially far reaching impact. It is intended to enlarge and deepen the interface of India's institutions of higher learning and globally recognised institutions of academic eminence. Over the next year or so, faculty from highly rated institutions abroad will visit India, interact and partner with their counterparts and with students, and deliver specialised courses.

The two courses - one at IIT Gandhinagar and the other at IIT Kharagpur - launched today would be the first in setting the trend and tenor of the programme, two eminent academicians began their courses - 3D Digitization for Cultural Heritage, delivered by Professor Marco Callieri, Visual Computing Lab, ISTI-CNR, Italy at the IIT Gandhi Nagar, and another course at IIT Kharagpur by Professor Nico Verdonschot, faculty of the Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, University of Twente, Netherlands on Orthopaedic Biomechanics: Implants and Biomaterials.

In the weeks and months to come, the academic interface will enlarge, and increasingly enable international academic collaboration. Most importantly,

the GIAN programme offers a basis and a platform for a long-term cooperation.

From abroad, faculty from 38 countries are presently scheduled to deliver courses, including 46 academics from the USA, 9 from the UK, 6 each from Germany and Australia, and 2 from Israel. The list of countries includes Russia, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Netherlands, Malaysia and South Korea. This remarkable array of academicians will span 13 disciplines and 352 courses to be taught in 68 national institutions.

The courses vary in duration from 1 week to 3 weeks depending on the subject and are free for students from the host institution, at nominal charges for others and webcast live as well. Webcasting will allow students across the country to benefit, in real time, providing access to high quality educational content. To encourage and make possible continued access to course content and delivery, it would be placed on the website of the concerned institution.

These lectures would be made available later to the students across the country through the SWAYAM, the MOOCs platform and the National Digital Library. A web portal ([gian.iitkgp.ac.in](http://gian.iitkgp.ac.in)) has been designed by IIT Kharagpur to allow electronic registration and online assessment.

The Minister for Education, Government of Gujarat Sri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama was present on the occasion, along with a large number of stakeholders of the education sector, including specialists, teachers and students.

### India Signs MoU to Establish 3 IIITs

On December 12, 2015, the Central Government signed Memorandum of Understanding and documentation for establishing three Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) at Ranchi, Nagpur and Pune. These IIITs are operated on a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode with participation of State Government and Industry, apart from the Central Government. The IIITs are expected to bring out high quality IT manpower required for building up IT industry in the country. The agreement has been signed by Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Secretary, Department of Higher Education from the Central Government side and by Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, M/s ADCC Infocad, Nagpur and M/s Hubtown, Mumbai.

IIIT-Ranchi will operate from the Old Judicial Academy in the Administrative Training Institute, Ranchi admitting 120 students for the year 2016-17 through JEE 2016 examination. The partners for IIIT-Ranchi - the TCS and Tata Motors have committed participation in developing curriculum which is required by the industry. The institution will be mentored by NIT-Jamshedpur.

IIIT-Nagpur will be set up in the BMIT Campus (temporary campus) with the participation of M/s ADCC Infocad and TCS. Government of Maharashtra has identified 88 acres of land for setting up a permanent campus. The BNIT will be the mentor institution. It has proposed to admit 120 students in the CSE and ECE branches in 2016 through JEE-2016 examination.

IIIT-Pune will be set up in the Siddhant Engineering College (temporary campus) and the permanent campus will be constructed at Chakan for which the State Government has identified 100 acres of land. The industry partners are M/s Hubtown Mumbai and M/S Roltas have agreed to develop the curriculum suitable to the industry. The Institute will start functioning under the mentorship of COE Pune and 120 students will be admitted in 2016 through JEE-2016.

With this, the total number of IIITs in the PPP mode has gone up to 16, leaving 4 more to be set up for which scheduled has been fixed in the month of January 2016.

### Sports to be a Compulsory Subject

Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Committee for integration of Sports in Higher Education as part of New Education Policy consultations. The Terms of Reference of the Committee include charting out a blue print for the integration of sports within the University framework, recommending the administrative structure required to govern the process of integration, identifying the priority areas of sports infrastructure including the choice of specific sports and creating necessary partnerships with internationally acclaimed universities, which are well endowed with sports infrastructure and where sports education is well developed.

Further, out of the 33 themes identified for consultation on New Education Policy, one of the themes under School Education is "Comprehensive Education - Ethics, Physical Education, Arts & Crafts, Life Skills". It has been stated in the background note that our students need to have a holistic development which cannot be achieved only through information and instruction. Knowledge needs sensitization to values, ethics, appreciating arts, physical education, sports and life skills.

The Government has undertaken a collaborative, multi-stakeholder and multi-pronged consultation process for formulating the New Education Policy (NEP), which included online, grassroots and national level thematic deliberations. The Government of India has constituted a Committee for the Evolution of the New Education Policy (NEP) which will examine the outcome documents, recommendations, suggestions and views received and submit a Draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA).

The draft reports of the Committee for integration of Sports in Higher Education and also outcome documents of the theme "Comprehensive Education - Ethics, Physical Education, Arts & Crafts, Life Skills" have been forwarded to the Committee for the Evolution of the New Education Policy (NEP).

## 6 New IITs for country

On December 2, 2015, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved setting up of six new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Jammu, Kerala and Karnataka. The Cabinet further gave its approval for operationalisation of these IITs initially by forming of Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in order to give a legal status to them till the amendment for their incorporation in The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 is enacted.

Each new IIT will have an initial intake of 180 students in its first year from temporary / transit campus which would increase to 450 in the second year and to 928 (840 Undergraduates, 80 Postgraduates and 8 Ph.D.) in the third year of their operation.

The total cost for running these IITs is Rs.1,411.80 crore and will be incurred between 2015-16 and 2018-19. The new IITs will be operated from their temporary campuses for the initial period of three years before shifting into their permanent campuses in the 4th year. Each IIT will have a sanctioned strength of faculty members, with a faculty-student ratio of 1:10.

### Background:

The present approval for the establishment of the six new IITs to be registered as Societies under the Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to create new legal IIT entities, as passing the Bill for amendment of the IT Act, 1961 for incorporation of the six new IITs in the Parliament will take some time. The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, contains no provision to enable establishment of new IITs. Every new IIT commenced since its enactment has required an amendment to the Act itself. In light of this, it would be appropriate to establish the new IITs through the formation of Societies as it has not been possible to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 to make provision for establishment of new IITs, before the admissions to academic session 2015-16 in these new IITs.

## Higher Education Institutes in Global Ranking

Eight Higher Educational institutions from India have been listed in the top 500 universities in the World by the QS rankings in 2015. Two institutions viz Indian Institute of science (IISc), Bangalore and Indian Institute of technology (IITs), Delhi have been placed on 147 and 179 respectively in the QS World University Rankings for 2015-16. These rankings are steadily improving year to year as per the details given as below:

Institute	QS Ranking		
	2013	2014	2015
<b>IIT Delhi</b>	222	235	179
<b>IIT Bombay</b>	233	222	202
<b>IIT Kanpur</b>	295	300	271
<b>IIT Kharagpur</b>	346	286	324
<b>IIT Madras</b>	313	322	254
<b>IIT Roorkee</b>	401-410	461-470	391
<b>IIT Guwahati</b>	601-650	551-600	451-460
<b>IISc Bangalore</b>	–	NA	147

Many of the top institutions like Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institutes of Technology have been producing high quality research comparable to the best institutions in the world.

However, since many of these ranking systems attach considerable importance to perception, despite faring well in the research, many institutions from India have not secured the ranks as per their performance. While working on their strengths, the Indian higher education institutions would need to work on improving their perception index if they have to better their global rankings.

For a more objective assessment based on performance, Government has brought out the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for Higher Education Institutions.

Under this, each institution is evaluated on 5 broad parameters namely - 1) Teaching / Learning resources, 2) Research 3) Graduation Outcomes, 4) Outreach / Inclusive nature and 5) The public perception.

### Ministry Appoints Review Committee for Non-NET and NET Fellowships

As a part of the overall process of bringing about change in the Higher Education sector, and improving access, quality, impact and equity in the Universities, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is in the process of reviewing the current research framework, efforts, opportunities, quality and output. A key imperative is the need to encourage and expand quality research in diverse fields. In this regard, the Ministry appointed a Review Committee for non-NET and NET Fellowships on October 25, 2015.

For over two decades, the All India National Eligibility Test (NET), a competitive examination conducted twice a year by the University Grants Commission (UGC), has been the basis for the Research Fellowships and currently almost nine thousand that enable students to pursue M.Phil and Ph.D programmes.

The Non-NET Fellowship Scheme was introduced by the UGC in 2006. It is presently limited only to fifty institutions including Central Universities and those with Potential for Excellence. Almost thirty five thousand students are presently availing of these Fellowships.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has from December 2014, enhanced the support provided to Research Fellowships based on the NET. Junior Research Fellows will receive, for the first two years Rs. 25,000/- per month and 30% House Rent Allowance (HRA) as well as a contingency grant for each year. Senior Research Fellows will receive, for the next three years Rs. 28,000/- per month, 30% HRA and a contingency grant for each year.

The Government has decided to establish a Review Committee to go into the issues related to the research fellowships provided by the UGC, covering both NET and Non-NET fellowships.

Amongst the issues entrusted to the Committee are a) the feasibility of enhancing the number of NET fellowships, which are merit based, b) establishing a transparent system of transfer of fellowship amounts each month to the Non-NET fellows, which is presently being done on a reimbursement basis, and without the Direct Benefit Transfer mandated by the Government, c) bringing the benefits and opportunities of the Non-NET fellowship scheme to a larger number of Universities, including State Universities, d) considering economic and other criteria for eligibility for non-NET fellowships, e) recommending guidelines for the selection, coverage, award, and administration of the non-NET fellowships.

Irrespective of the recommendations of the Review Committee, all existing and continuing fellowships, NET as well as Non-NET would be continued; there will be no change retrospectively.



### India, Germany Sign Declaration for German Language

On November 18, 2015, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, gave its ex-post approval to the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Federal Foreign Office of Germany on Promotion of German as an additional Foreign Language in KV schools in conformity with the National Education Policy of India and promotion of teaching of Modern Indian Languages in Germany.

The Joint Declaration of Intent will help to intensify existing bilateral cooperation between India and Germany and to further advance the relations between the two countries in the field of education in accordance with the laws, policies and regulations in force in the two countries.

#### Background:

A MoU was entered into on September 2011 between Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Goethe-Institute, Max Mueller Bhawan for teaching of German Language in the KVs. The validity of the MoU had expired in September, 2014 but the MoU had not been renewed further in view of some inconsistencies in the provisions of that MoU vis-à-vis the National Education Policy and the National Curriculum Framework relating to the "three language formula".

Consequent upon further deliberations by the Board of Governors of KVS and review of the matter in the Ministry of HRD, draft of a fresh MoU proposed to be concluded between Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Goethe-Institute/Max Mueller Bhawan was referred to the Ministry of External affairs, on 5th April, 2015 proposed that the MoU would need to be signed at the Inter- Governmental level as Goethe Institute cannot take obligations on behalf of the German Government for promotion of Modern Indian Languages in German educational Institutions.

In a Joint Statement issued by the Prime Minister and German Chancellor in Berlin on April 14, 2015, it was agreed to support the respective programmes and

efforts in India and Germany to broaden knowledge of each other's languages among the youth in accordance with the National Policy of each country.

Ministry of External Affairs had proposed a revised draft which was a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) to be signed between Ministry of Human Resource development of the Republic of India and federal foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the promotion of teaching of German as an additional foreign language in KV schools in conformity with the National Education Policy of India and Modern Indian Languages in Germany. On details of the implementation modalities, an inter-institutional MoU would subsequently be entered into between Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Goethe-Institute/Max Mueller Bhawan.

For promotion of Modern Indian Languages in the German educational institutions, separate arrangements on implementation modalities will be entered into between the counterpart institutions to be identified on either side. The JDI also envisaged that the Embassy of India will establish contacts with the Standing Conference of the Ministers of education and Cultural Affairs of the Lander in the Federal Republic of Germany as the competent institution for school and higher education. The nodal implementing agencies on both sides may enter into a separate MoU at the earliest.

### HRM, German Minister of Education Exchange Views on a Range of Issues

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, and Dr. (Mrs.) Johanna Wanka, German Minister of Education and Research held bilateral discussions in New Delhi on October 5, 2015. The Ministers exchanged views on a range of issues related to enhancement and deepening of traditional ties. These covered collaboration in science and technology, skills development, the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) as well as cooperation in the field of promotion of languages of each country in the other. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the bilateral relations.

After the talks, India and Germany signed two Joint Declarations of Intent (JDIs) and an MoU for enhancing cooperation in education. The two JDIs and the MoU

were signed in the presence of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister for Human Resource Development and Dr. (Mrs.) Johanna Wanka, German Minister of Education and Research.

The first JDI seeks to implement a new programme titled "Indo-German Partnerships (IGP) in Higher Education" over four years from 2016-2020 to encourage and support cooperation between higher education institutions in each country. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany, the respective implementing agencies for the JDI also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for operationalization of the cooperation between the two countries in the field of the Higher Education.

The MoU will develop a joint partnership programme aimed at enhancing long-term partnerships between German and Indian institutions of higher education. New and innovative areas of cooperation would be opened, enabling participating institutions to develop teaching and research profiles and contribute to their internationalization strategies. Each side will contribute 3.5 million Euros for the initial programme period of four years. The IGP will fund a number of projects, which would be identified based on a competitive selection process. By concentrating on top-level strategic partnerships, the programme aims to improve the overall quality of teaching and research and to strengthen inter-disciplinarity within the participating institutions.

The second JDI is regarding the promotion of German as a foreign language in India and promotion of modern Indian languages in Germany. As part of the JDI on promotion of each other's languages, students in Kendriya Vidyalaya (KVs) will be able to opt for the German language as an additional foreign language, in conformity with the National Education Policy of India. The JDI will be operationalised, in India through collaboration between the Max Mueller Bhavan and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and in Germany through nodal agencies to be identified shortly.

### HRM addresses Leaders' Forum at 38th UNESCO General Conference

While addressing The Leaders' Forum on an official visit to UNESCO Headquarters at Paris, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, the Minister of HRD affirmed India's solidarity

with the people and Government of France in the wake of the recent terror attacks in Paris. Later in the day and on behalf of the people of India, she placed a wreath at the Bataclan Theatre, in honour of those who had lost their lives in the recent attacks. The Minister also reaffirmed India's commitment to the ideals of UNESCO and to furthering its role and activities. In this context, she recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi when in 1947 he had expressed the deep Indian interest in the efforts of UNESCO to "secure peace through educational and cultural activities".

The Minister of Human Resource Development Smt Smriti Irani was on an official visit to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris in connection with its high level segment 'The Leaders' Forum' on 16-17 November 2015. Her visit coincided with the ongoing 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference as well as the 70th anniversary celebrations of UNESCO.

The Minister also highlighted recent pioneering initiatives on education undertaken by the Government of India. India's efforts are aimed at opening the windows of opportunity of education to all its citizens. To this end, India offered to partner with UNESCO towards collaborative knowledge sharing, which would assist all countries in their efforts towards achieving Agenda 2030 in a timely manner.

The Minister also held a meeting with the Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, to discuss the full range of India's cooperation with the organization across UNESCO's programmes on education, science, culture, and communication and information. As a founder member, India's is a voice that is heard with much respect at UNESCO. Presently, India is member of eight important UNESCO bodies which span the diverse fields of UNESCO's work. The Minister also paid homage to the statue of Shri Aurobindo located in the Japanese garden at UNESCO headquarters. The statue is a gift from the Government of India to the Organization as its tribute to the House of Peace.

The Minister was received at The Leaders' Forum by the Director General UNESCO Irina Bokova alongside the Namibian Presidency of the General Conference and the Egyptian Chair of the Executive Board. Several Heads of State and Government are attending this Forum which will today see an intervention by President Francois Hollande of the host country, France.

### IIT Council CEP Submits Report

The Committee of Eminent Persons (CEP) constituted by the IIT Council under the Chairmanship of Prof Ashok Misra submitted its report to the Government of India on November 5, 2015. The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Major changes in the structure of JEE shall be effected from 2017 onwards:

- A National Testing Service shall be set up by early 2016, mandated to conduct an Aptitude Test, which should test the scientific aptitude and innovative thinking ability. The Aptitude test may be offered 2 or more times in a year and would be an online test. The testing shall test the scientific thinking and cannot be gamed through coaching.

- Based on this performance, about 4 lakh candidates shall be short-listed for taking the JEE.

- The JEE itself will be on the lines of the current JEE (Advanced) and designed to test the knowledge in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics; and will be conducted by the IITs.

- From this, ranks will be issued to 40,000+ students who can seek admission in IITs and NITs based on a common counselling.

- The IITs be requested to set up a system for developing mock JEE examinations which will help students prepare for the JEE significantly and wean them away from the coaching industry. The possibility of using the MOOCS platform can also be explored.

- MHRD may take measures for the improvement of school education and the method of examination of the Boards, so that students with the Science aptitude are well prepared in the concepts by the time they reach 12th grade, without dependence on coaching institutions.

2. Till such time, that is for 2016 and 2017, the practice of two tier JEE examination shall be continued.

- The top 200,000 students from JEE (Main) shall be allowed to appear in JEE (Advanced).

- More than 40,000 ranks will be issued in JEE (Advanced) for developing a better system for selection of candidates.

- Joint counselling for IITs and NITs shall be continued as was done last year.

3. Board marks shall not to be counted for giving rankings this year for NITs, CFTIs etc.

The Government has decided to place the recommendations of the Report in the public domain for widespread consultation with the stakeholders.

Since this process would take some time, it was decided that the JEE 2016 shall be conducted in the same manner as 2015, with an enhanced intake from 1.5 lakh to two lakh into the JEE (Advanced) stage. The weightage given to Board marks in JEE (Main) would continue for the year 2016.

### President launches Imprint India at the Visitor's Conference



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressing the gathering during the launch of IMPRINT India Brochure, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on November 05, 2015. The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani and the Secretary, Department of Higher Education and Member Secretary, CABE, Shri V.S. Oberoi are also seen.

The IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India brochure was released on November 5, 2015 at the Visitor's Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. 'IMPRINT India' is a Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India. The brochure was released by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union HRD Minister Smt Smriti Irani, MoS for HRD Shri Ram Shanker Katheria and MoS for Chemicals and Fertilisers Shri Hansraj Ahir. The first copy of the brochure was presented to the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The President later launched the 'IMPRINT' India.

The President of India said that, if the institutes of higher learning come together, they can make a difference in a short span of time to higher education sector in our country. IMPRINT India is synergizing platform for institutions, academia, industry that encourages research & innovation, making it socially more relevant. The President appreciated efforts of Ministry of Human Resources Development with special mention of Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) and recently launched National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). He also added that the New Education Policy (NEP) must alter the dynamics of the education sector and help us achieve the GER target of 30 percent by 2020, a goal we cannot afford to miss.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Prime Minister laid stress on the importance of innovation and technology for the progress and development of the nation. He said institutions of higher education should give primacy to innovation in learning. He further added that finding solutions to challenges like global warming and converting waste to wealth were key to the rise of India. He exhorted institutions of higher learning to focus on areas such as defense manufacturing. "Science is universal but technology must be local," the Prime Minister said.

The Union HRD Minister Smt Smriti Irani while speaking on the occasion said that IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) provides an overarching vision that guides research into areas that are

predominantly socially relevant. She thanked the Prime Minister at the Visitor's Conference for sharing his vision of enabling foreign academicians to come, Teach in India, at government institutions across the Nation at no added cost to the students under a programme called 'GIAN.' She added that starting this November, in the coming one year, under GIAN 400 foreign academicians will be welcomed in government institutions to impart new knowledge to students here and share new teaching methodologies with faculty.



The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi releasing the IMPRINT India Brochure, at the Visitor's Conference 2015, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on November 05, 2015. The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani and the Secretary, Department of Higher Education and Member Secretary, CABE, Shri V.S. Oberoi are also seen.

The Minister further added that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has resolved, with the blessing of the Prime Minister, to build an Indian MOOCs platform which would bring in close to 2.5 lakh hours of e-content on a single platform thereby possibly making it the world's largest repository of electronic learning resources under a single window. From school education modules of levels 9 to 12 to varied courses in Aerospace Engineering, Biotechnology, Atmospheric Science and languages, 'SWAYAM' will ensure universal access to high quality education for every Indian. She gave her sincere thanks to institutions present at the occasion who have confirmed close to 714 courses that will be specially designed for 'SWAYAM'.

Other dignitaries present at the function were Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Secretary, Higher Education and Secretary to the President of India, Smt Omita Paul.