



# drishti

## Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019: EIU

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### Why in News

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India ranked **35<sup>th</sup>** in the **Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019**, as per a report published by **The Economist Intelligence Unit**.

- This year, India **scored 53** and has jumped five ranks from the 40th rank with an overall score of 41.2 across categories in 2018.
- **Finland topped** the index **followed by Sweden**.

### Worldwide Educating for the Future Index

- The index and report are commissioned by the **Yidan Prize Foundation**.
- It was developed to assess the effectiveness of education systems in preparing students for the demands of work and life in a rapidly changing landscape.
- It is the first comprehensive global index to evaluate inputs to education systems rather than outputs such as test scores and concentrates on the 15-24 age band in 35 economies.

### Key Points

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- WEFFI ranks countries based on their **abilities to equip students with skill-based education**.
- The rankings are based on **three categories**:
  - Policy environment.
  - Teaching environment.
  - Overall socio-economic environment.
- The report analyses the education system from the perspective of skill-based education in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship as well as digital and technical skills.
- Among the world's largest economies, the US, UK, France and Russia fell back in the index while China, India and Indonesia took steps forward.

## Reasons for the Growth

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- The report attributes India's growth to the **new national education policy** introduced and published in 2019 that mentions future-oriented skills such as critical thinking, communication and entrepreneurship.

The education policy was **highlighted in the Union Budget 2020** and it will come under '**Aspirational India**' which will **focus** on skill-based education, a greater inflow of finance to attract talented teachers and innovate and build better labs.

- A **degree level full-fledged online education programme** along with **apprenticeship embedded degree or diploma courses** in 150 higher educational institutions is also proposed which will begin by March 2021.

### Aspirational India

- It is one of the three prominent themes of Union Budget 2020, the other two being **economic development (for all)** and **building a caring society that is humane and compassionate**.
- Under the Aspirational India theme, the budget covers **rural, water and sanitation, and education**.

## Challenges

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- The report highlights the **inability of the Indian education system to utilise the opportunity of internationalising the higher education system**.
- Another challenge is a **decentralised education system** according to the report. Well-intentioned policy goals relating to future skills development **often do not get filtered downward** which is a problem in economies like the US and India.

## Solutions

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India should develop its education system so that it **becomes a preferred destination for higher education**.

- For this, under the **Study in India Programme, Ind-SAT exam will be held for Asian and African students for scholarships**.
- The programme will be used for **benchmarking foreign candidates who receive scholarships for studying in Indian higher education centres**.

### Study in India Programme

- It is a project under the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** with the primary objective to **target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination**.

- It offers **fee waivers to meritorious foreign students** studying in Indian educational institutes.

**Source: HBL**