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## Higher Education in India

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### Introduction

- ❑ India's higher education system
  - world's third largest in terms of students
  - next to China and US.
- ❑ Only three Indian Universities - IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IISc (Bangalore) - included in the top 200 institutes in the **QS World Univ. Rankings**

### Issues and Challenges in India's Higher Education Sector

- ❑ **Enrolment:** GER of India in higher education is only 25.2%
- ❑ **Equity:** GER for males (26.3%), females (25.4%), SC (21.8%) and ST (15.9%) regional variations also exist
- ❑ **Quality:** Plagued with rote learning, lack of employability and skill development; low quality of education
- ❑ **Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure – a big challenge
- ❑ **Faculty:** A low Pupil-to-teacher ratio (30:1) as compared to the USA (12.5:1), China (19.5:1) and Brazil (19:1)
- ❑ **Outdated Curriculum:** Outdated, irrelevant curriculum; dominantly theoretical in nature; low scope for creativity
- ❑ **Regulatory Issues:** Over centralization, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism

- ❑ **Research:** Poor fund allocation in research, Low levels of PhD enrolment, etc
  - India's investment in R&D constant; around 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP

### Recent Initiatives Taken by the Government

- ❑ **Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP):** Five-year vision plan to improve the quality and accessibility of higher education over the next five years (2019-2024)
- ❑ **Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022**
- ❑ **UGC's Learning Outcome-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF)** to make student active learner and teacher a good facilitator
- ❑ **Graded Autonomy to Universities & Colleges:** 3-tiered graded autonomy regulatory system initiated, with categorization based on accreditation scores
- ❑ **Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN)** seeks to invite distinguished academicians, entrepreneurs, scientists, experts from premier institutions from across the world, to teach in the higher educational institutions in India. (Brain Gain)
- ❑ **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)**
- ❑ **National Institutional Ranking Framework.** Outlines a methodology to rank edu. institutions across the country

### Way Forward

- ❑ **Regulatory and governance reforms;** restructure or merge different higher edu. regulators (UGC, AICTE, NCTE etc.) to ensure effective coordination
- ❑ **Creating 'world class universities':** 'Institutions of Eminence' programme is a welcome initiative
- ❑ **Increased focus on vocational and profession led education**
- ❑ **Accreditation Framework:** All higher edu. institutions be accredited compulsorily & regularly, by agencies, empanelled through a transparent, high quality process



- ❑ **Performance-linked funding and incentives**
- ❑ **Distance and online education:** Broaden the scope of Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) and Open and Distance Learning (ODL)

For TTP