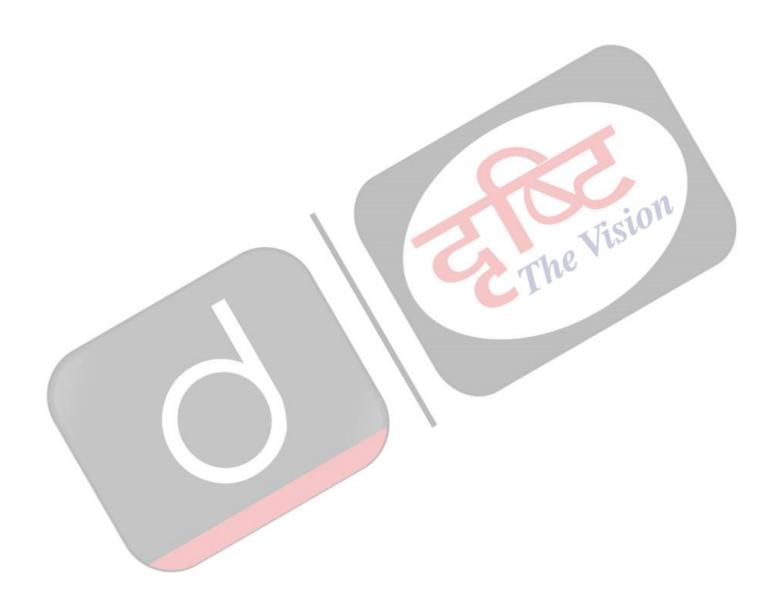# Higher Education in India

Higher Education in India

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 rot 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- **Outdated Curriculum:** Outdated, irrelevant curriculum; dominantly theoretical in nature; low scope for creativity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)

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