

## Press Release

### Focus: Education Sector In The Eastern Region

**Kolkata, July 22, 2017: "Education is not a Political Agenda, it a National Agenda. Educating people meaningfully is our duty"- Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of HRD, Government of India.**

**"Quality, Quality and Quality are the three priorities of Education. Brain gain instead of brain drain is our motto"- Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of HRD, Government of India**

**"We want to bring competition, autonomy and give it to good players when it comes to higher education" – Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of HRD, Government of India.**

In the Annual Opening Session themed around "Development Through Capacity Building" organized by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce** in Kolkata today, **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of HRD, Government of India** stated that education is a large constituency and that provision of quality education will change the lives of the country. He felt although India is endowed with the advantage of a mammoth youth population, the country could gain in the true sense if this population is well trained and skilled. He also said that education should be such that invokes innovation. **Research and innovation** should be the two pillars of education in our country so as to drive competency among Indian students in the global platform. Shri Javadekar pointed out the lacunas in education historically which include **low expansion, high drop-out rates, and decline in quality**. He said that earlier to promote right to education, no detention was made compulsory till the eighth standard, which coupled with mid-day meal provision, essentially instilled the idea of "aana khaana jaana" amongst students and even many teachers. As a result, the entire system of education suffered where many students of higher classes failed to learn the basics of that been taught in lower standards. Thus, the government of India has come up with "**Learning Outcomes**" where it will identify the minimum competencies of the students that will create accountability. He also said that around 30-40 lacs students were out of school and the GOI will bring them under education within the next 2-3 years. He mentioned of the **important initiatives** that the government has undertaken or is in the process of undertaking toward the overhaul of the education system such as revamping teacher training so that he/she can invoke capacity building as according to each student, mandatory affiliation for institutions, bringing detention policy at the fifth and eighth standards, vesting power in the hands of the states to detain that will create accountability, promoting digital and physical education, giving more autonomy to institutes to redraft their curriculum to improve quality, commencing state of the art online and offline courses under SWAYAM (400 courses have already been initiated and 1 lakh students have already registered), choice based credit for these students, digital library facility with 66 lakh books, accreditation under NIRF, and establishment of the National Academic Repository to get authenticated documents. He stated university certificates will now include college names too that will facilitate the employer to filter out candidates based on the respective college ratings. He felt innovation in software and hardware is of huge importance. Thus the government is establishing research parks, incubation centers and promoting startups from colleges. With regard to funding, he said that industry and government

collaboration are necessary. Also, initiative like like Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana, Smart India Heckathon, Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan etc. will facilitate the education system in terms of not just identifying the best talents in the country but also retaining them going ahead to come out with innovative ideas in every filed that India can be proud of.

**Mr. Shashwat Goenka, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce** said that there is an urgent need to improvise India's education system in terms of quality and capacity building to unlock this demographic dividend. A robust interface between industry and academia has to be established through collaborative projects. Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution of India; both Center and state governments have an important role to play in shaping the Education system in India. He felt that for a country which is set to emerge as a major economic super power of the world, the human capital divide would soon be bridged to foster a sustainable, job inducing development path for India.

**Mr. Rudra Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce** delivered the formal vote of thanks.

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