Reforming higher education institutions

Why in news?

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Recently union government has announced a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore for 20 institutions of excellence in higher education.

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What is the plan on higher education institutions?

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- Out of 20 institutions of excellence in higher education 10 each in the public and private space.
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- Such institutions will be given greater autonomy to decide on their affairs, as has been done in the case of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).
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- This is planned over the next five years, by this measures like granting central status to universities will be a thing of the past.
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What is the actual status of Indian higher education?

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- India has the largest number of higher education institutions in the world an astounding 33,723.
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- It has a very high levels of enrolments in higher education, but the situation is just the reverse in terms of actual outcomes.
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- A large number of educational institutes has little credibility in terms of the quality of education they impart and churn out degrees that have little value.
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- According to a survey 80% of the more than 100,000 engineering students that graduate each year are unemployable.

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How public institutions are affected by government moves?

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- A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education found that the total vacancies in Central universities were 53% of the sanctioned positions of professors.
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- Many of the state universities do not hire regular faculty and make do with poorly paid part-time teachers for lack of funds.
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- At many instances government had its heavy-handed treatment dealing with internal university matters.
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- This has also reflected in the poor standing of Indian higher education institutes in any established global ranking.
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Source: Business standard

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