

HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS ON ANVIL

Top Universities May Get Full Autonomy

Committee has drawn up blueprint of measures to be implemented via executive orders

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New Delhi: India's top tier educational institutions could soon get full autonomy under a major structural reforms blueprint that seeks to do away with outdated regulations and assure quality higher education.

A high-level committee set up by the Prime Minister's Office has drawn up a set of short-term measures, which can be implemented through executive orders and would not require legislative changes, to transform the sector in a time-bound manner, according to people familiar with the matter.

Some of the immediate measures include granting graded autonomy to universities, opening up the accreditation process to third-party agencies via Accreditation Advisory Council and improving effectiveness of UGC's existing scheme for autonomous colleges.

Measures to improve quality of PhDs, facilitate academic collaborations with foreign educational institutions and allow top institutes to run online and ODL (open and distance learning) programmes without territorial restrictions are



other ideas on the table.

The committee, comprising top representatives of the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, human resource development ministry and NITI Aayog, was constituted by the PMO in June this year, following a presentation to PM Narendra Modi on the major roadblocks facing the sector.

The committee submitted its report on August 30.