

encourages setting up of solar parks and installation of solar power plants on canals tops and banks.

The policy also aims to promote small investors by reserving 20 per cent of the target for the projects of capacity of 1-2 Mw. For these projects,

HAPPENING HARYANA
The installation of rooftop solar power project has been encouraged by allowing the sale of power generated at the last lowest discovered tariff without tendering. Rooftop solar power plants can be set up without any permission from the

installation of agricultural solar powered pump sets will be promoted to meet water and irrigation needs. The surplus power generated from the solar pump sets might be bought by the Haryana Power Purchase Centre at average power purchase cost rate of the year.

Minister of State for Power and Coal Piyush Goyal said real estate in Haryana is 'hot'. "I have afforded a flat in any of the buildings Rajiv makes in Gurgaon," he said, pointing at Rajiv Singh, vice-chairman, DLF.

using urine for irrigating plants a few months back, said his organisation made a profit of ₹1 crore from the Maharashtra government by selling toilet water. "Some 100 buses in Nagpur run on bio-CNG provided by us," he said.

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Long road for new centres of excellence in India

The long-term sustainability for these new centres is a challenge. India needs at least 600 such institutes to stop 200,000 students migrating to foreign universities each year

SAHIL MAKKAR
New Delhi, 8 March

Every year, around 200,000 Indian students are admitted to foreign universities and they collectively pay about ₹15,000 crore in tuition fees. The reasons why such a sizeable number of young people leave the country for studies include fewer seats at the premier institutes in India, proliferation of substandard institutes, and a substantial increase in the size and income of the middle-class.

It is estimated that in the next 10 years, the size of Indian middle class will grow tenfold — from 50 million to 500 million; in the next five years, the number of students seeking higher education will grow from the current 26 million to 40 million. It means that India would need another 600-700 universities to accommodate the additional demand of 14 million students by 2020.

Currently, India has 714 universities and around 40,000 colleges. "India will outpace China in the next 10 years as the country with the largest tertiary-age population," notes a British Council report released in 2014 on the future of higher education in India.

But, despite this huge potential in the realm of education, not many corporate houses are finding it a lucrative business. This is mainly because of shortage of land to build institutes of learning and the fact that education is considered an 'over-regulated' sector in the country.

Many believe education is not a profitable business when it comes to setting up a world-class research institute. For many industrialists and corporate honchos, it is an act of philanthropy, brand building and corporate social responsibility.

Rumour has it that industrialist Naveen Jindal decided to set aside a large sum of grants when he was told that he can be India's John Harvard. Before his death in 1638, Harvard had donated half his wealth for the setting up of a college, which later grew to become the world's most renowned university.

Jindal gave ₹600 crore to set up the O P Jindal Global University (JGU) in 2009. Likewise, Shiv Nadar, philanthropist and founder of HCL, helped in establishing the Shiv Nadar University (SNU) in 2011 and Azim Premji, chairman of software giant Wipro, contributed in setting up the Azim Premji University.

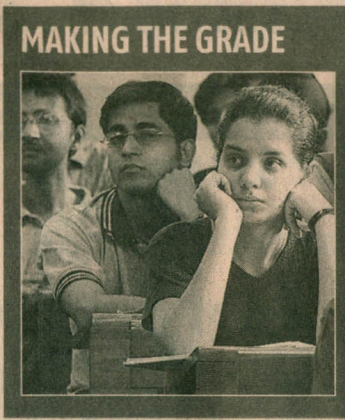
Premji has donated 39 per cent of his stake in the software company to philanthropy. The recently opened Ashoka University is funded by the doyens of industry such as Genpact founder Pramod Bhasin and Naukri founder Sanjeev Bikhchandani, among others.

At the crossroads

It is still a long road for these philanthropy-backed new varsities, which are vying to be India's answer to Harvard and Columbia University. The biggest challenge before them is financial sustenance as they cannot survive purely on the basis of grants and aids in the long run.

"Universities are not money-making business. If someone wants to make money, then he will have to cut corners on faculty budget, infrastructure and, more importantly, on research," says R Sudarshan, dean of Jindal School of Government and Public Policy. "We want to create a niche for ourselves so that we are able to sustain on our own in the next 10-15 years," adds Sudarshan.

The world over, top-ranking institutes are supported by their wealthy alumni, endowment and industry grants. For instance, 30,000 donors and volunteers contribute to the Harvard College Fund each year, according to its website.



JGU says it spends around 20 per cent of its revenue, or ₹25 crore, on scholarships every year. "We are expected to break-even in terms of revenue this year," says Sanjeev P Sahni, principal director of the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS).

Similarly, 85 per cent of all students at SNU are currently receiving some sort of scholarship and financial aid from the university. All doctoral students receive a stipend of ₹35,000 a month and are exempt from paying tuition fees.

But, it is unlikely that the universities will continue to provide the same financial support to its students after a few years.

"We would be happy to have students who can fully pay their tuition fees, provided they clear the university entrance exam and fulfil all admission criteria," says S N Balakrishnan, chancellor, Shiv Nadar University.

Currently, all these new insti-



SNU
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₹35,000*
POSTGRADUATE
₹15,000*
(For all graduate students, tuition and hostel fees are waived off)
■ For undergraduates, scholarship is

provided in categories —
■ For category around ₹15,000 (for eight s is waived categories 85% and respective are waived

JGU: OP Jindal Global University; SNU: Shiv Nadar U

tutes are struggling to fill up the entire seats. Some say they have deliberately kept the intake low to maintain the teacher-student ratio. Others say it will take some more time before the universities are popular and become a brand.

JGU is currently holding orientation sessions where its professors visit schools and talk to students about the university. School students are also offered one month paid orientation programme on university campus so that they can decide on the undergraduate course, which they want to pursue after schooling.

Six degrees of separation

In January this year, Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy said India should send around 10,000 students to the US for PhDs in science, technology, engineering and math every year over the next 50 years. He said it should be on condition that the students would not

be given any employment in the US. They should come back and serve in India for the next 10 years.

Murthy's statement holds true as it is often said that India doesn't produce high-quality researchers and many students opt for ghost writers for their thesis. In fact, the capacity which is being created at these new centres is mainly for the undergraduate students, who then seek admission at foreign universities for their PhDs.

At the undergraduate level, the fees charged at these new centres are higher than those at other institutes and the salary package offered during the campus placements is average.

For instance, a five-year law course at JGU costs ₹36.25 lakh, including housing, dining and course material costs. When it comes to salary, the lowest remuneration for the 2015 law batch was ₹12,000 a month and the highest was ₹1.2 lakh a month. The average



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employ about 1,000 workers directly and engage around 3,000 more for providing services such as furniture assembly, delivery services, among others. The MoU stands for mutual commitment from both parties and intends to provide clarity on working methods.

BS REPORTER

Remaining Part

India

SNU

PHD SCHOLAR

₹35,000*

POSTGRADUATE

₹15,000*

(For all graduate students, tuition and hostel fees are waived off)

- For undergraduates, scholarship is

provided under three categories — A, B and C

- For category A, fee of around ₹10 lakh (for eight semesters) is waived off. For categories B and C, 85% and 42% fees, respectively, are waived off

ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

- Young India Fellows (YIF) are either fully or partially sponsored of ₹7.75 lakh total fee towards tuition, lodging and meal
- Currently, Ashoka University has 198 YIFs

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*Stipend per month

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salary was ₹58,000 a month.

At SNU, the highest, lowest and average packages offered were ₹15 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹3.48 lakh, respectively.

Ashoka students appear to have got better money. The median salary for the one-year post graduate programme was ₹9.2 lakh per annum.

Experts say Indian students earn most of their tuition fees while studying abroad. Their degrees are recognised the world over and many prefer to stay back for good salaries and easier access to research funds. The amount remitted back to India is also substantial. For instance, the US was the second-largest contributor to India in terms of remittance (\$11.5 billion) after the United Arab Emirates, which contributed \$13.2 billion. The US continues to be the favourite destination for Indian students.

Series concluded