



सत्यमेव जयते

For several millennia, India has been a major seat of learning. The first universities in the world - Takshashila - and Nalanda, were located in India and welcomed learners and students from all over the world. Among others, the decimal system, the number system, as also the digit 'zero' were invented in India.

Today, India has become a popular destination for international students for higher studies. The reasons include: quality education, affordable cost of living, India being a prominent ICT and communication hub, presence of large multinational companies, a large English speaking population, democratic governance, a strong legal and intellectual property protection framework, vibrant social and cultural life, etc.

India holds an important place in the global education industry. The country has one of the largest networks of education institutions in the world with more than 1.4 million schools with over 227 million students enrolled and more than 39,000 higher education institutes. The schooling segment in India is anticipated to be around US\$ 144 billion by 2020 from an estimated US\$ 95.8 billion in 2015. There are quite a good number of educational institutes in India that can compete with the best educational institutes of the world.

Higher education system in India has undergone rapid expansion. Currently, India's higher education system enrolls over 70 million students while in less than two decades, India has managed to create additional capacity for over 40 million students. At present, higher education sector is expected to grow at an average annual rate of over 18 per cent to reach US\$ 34.12 billion in next 10 years.

The distance education market in India is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of around 34 per cent during 2013-14 to 2017-18. Moreover, the aim of the government to raise its current gross enrolment ratio to 30 per cent by 2020 will also boost the growth of the distance education in India.

The education and training sector in India has witnessed some major investments and developments in the recent past. Some of them are:

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA

- The Government of India aims to increase digital literacy to at least 50 per cent of Indians from currently 15 per cent over a period of next three years.
- Training and skills development firm NIIT has partnered with US-based edX to offer online courses from leading international universities including MIT and Berkeley to about 0.5 million people over the next three years.
- Cisco Systems plans to invest US\$ 100 million in India over the next 2 years, which will be used to fund early-stage and growth-stage companies in the country, open six new innovation labs, three centres of expertise and train around 250,000 students by 2020.
- BRS Ventures & Holdings Ltd, (Abu Dhabi-based), plans to invest US\$ 1.8 billion in Amaravati in the state of Andhra Pradesh across projects in healthcare, tourism, hospitality, infrastructure, and education sector.
- Intel Corporation, has partnered with Extramarks Education, a digital learning solutions provider, to tap the US\$ 40 billion private school sector in India and thereby provide optimised learning solutions and extend computing technologies to students and schools in the country.

India's continued commitment to capacity building through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in Namibia has been a key pillar of bilateral relations. Namibian candidates get immense benefits from the skill and expertise they acquire in India. Under the ITEC scheme, more than 1,000 Namibian candidates have been trained in India so far. During the visit of Hon'ble President of India to Namibia in June 2016, India announced doubling of ITEC slots from almost 100 to 200 per year.

ITEC courses are available for Employees/officials in Government, Semi-Government, Public Sector, Universities/Schools, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Private Sector, and members of NGOs. There are 55 empanelled institutions conducting more than 300 short-term, medium-term and long-term courses during the year. Under the ITEC programme, the Government of India provides economy class return air ticket, gratis Indian visa, course fees, accommodation, book allowance, Living Allowance and study tour etc. **Interested candidates may apply at <https://www.itecgoi.in/>**

The number of Namibian students going to India on scholarships is also on an upward trajectory. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India offers 22 scholarships every year for students from Namibia to pursue undergraduate/postgraduate courses/research work in various Indian Universities. Interested students may follow the website of High Commission of India at www.hciwindhoek.in/ and **Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IndianNamibia** to get the details of next year's scholarship forms, which will be announced in Nov/Dec 2016.



Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon'ble Dr. Itah Murangi-Kandjii, handed over air tickets to meritorious Namibian students to go to India to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies under 100% scholarship by ICCR, New Delhi for academic year 2016-17.

