

# Economic institutes must carry out relevant research: Javadekar

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“WHY ARE students stuck with foreign ideas and prefer to work on *videshi* (foreign) case studies when the entire country is going through a tremendous experiment?” – Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar posed this question to assembled students at the 24th convocation ceremony at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Shivaji Nagar here.

Javadekar, who was delivering the annual Kale Memorial Lecture, said he was pleased to know of the locally relevant research projects being done by the students and faculty at GIPER, saying he believed economists were also social scientists who need to analyse how society thinks, perceives and makes choices.

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UNION HRD MINISTER

of the country's currency... The entire nation is in queue, it's a great opportunity for study. But one IIM said it would take them three months to design the study and I replied that by then, it will be done. For three months, what will you design? It's a project on hand, go out and study how people got knowledge of it, how they perceived it, how they adjusted to the situation and their thinking post-demonetisation, whether it was beneficial or not. This is a socially relevant study,” said Javadekar. “I think institutes of economics must do relevant research because that is the need of the hour. The small and big changes in the society must be

considered and studied by students, academicians and researchers in the country.”

Javadekar, who highlighted developments made by his ministry and the Centre, spoke of initiatives like changes in regulatory mechanisms. Stating that the Union government did not believe that regulators should create problems for institutes, he spoke of the reforms where three major regulators – the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) – would have similar rules and processes to bring in efficiency. Javadekar also spoke about the graded regulatory mechanism as part of key reforms in the UGC to impart greater transparency, freedom and autonomy to institutions.

The minister also told students that the UGC would now put up an ideal syllabus for all courses online every year. “Often we see institutions using the same outdated syllabus and hence now the UGC will put up syllabus every year. If the institutions want it, they can simply copy it,” said Javadekar.