

VOICES

Imminence of eminence

How justified is the government in granting the status of eminence to the Jio Institute?

■ NEHA RUPEJA



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Sheer ignorance that goes into knighting an institution that is still in the womb, with the title of ‘Eminence’ may sound stupefying, but what is more flabbergasting is the idea of money buying academic credibility. Jio Institute, which has been proposed as a Greenfields project, is selected as an ‘Institution of Eminence’ and has proven to us that profit-making matters more than education.

Though it may be too quick to judge that Jio Institute has been unreasonably graded, it is a premature judgment by the government to have chosen an institute that is not yet in existence, as an IoE.



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Issuing the letter to grant the Institute of Eminence status to Jio Institute took the masses by storm. But before we criticise this move, we must understand that it is not necessary for an institute to exist in order to qualify for this. Rather, sufficient evidence to prove that it can translate its commitments into a reality, within three years, also forms one of the criteria. It is only a matter of time before the institute earns the status once operations begin.



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A great educational house does not need state-of-the-art structure, yet needs top notch research material and faculty. But more importantly, it needs values that will mould tomorrow’s thinkers. Money cannot buy that. In this context, the inclusion of an institution to the list is farfetched as the institution has not yet been physically established. This questions the intentions of the government in making this move.



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The topic is trending these days, especially because of the inclusion of the Jio Institute.

It is a smart move as the institute is supported by the largest private sector company (Reliance) in India, which has a transformational impact and expertise in large-scale game-changing initiatives.

It has the potential to fulfil the requirements of the Government, and at the same time, has the potential to crack in to the global rankings.

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