

'Foreign varsities can play important role'

Shoeb Khan | TNN

Jaipur: Houston University, Texas, USA, is looking for more collaborations with eligible Indian universities to improve the higher education scenario in the country and invited educational institutes in Rajasthan for tie-ups.

This was stated by **Renu Khator**, president and chancellor of Houston University during an exclusive to TOI during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas here on Saturday.

"The need of the hour is to provide globalised education to Indian youths. It will expose them to different education systems making them adaptable and employable to work in different countries," she said.

Khator informed that Houston University has 20 tie-ups with reputed Indian institutes at different levels. "Our tie-ups with IITs and Delhi University among others are always a win-win situation for both the countries. It has always helped both the nations in research work besides it making knowledge global," she said.

She was in the city to attend a jam packed



Molina Khimani

interactive session on 'Global Indian - Inclusive Growth' at the Maharana Pratap Auditorium on the first day of three-day pravasi meet. On tie-ups with institutes from the state, Khator said, "It will be great if we have academic joint ventures in the desert state."

She further said, "Foreign universities can play a bigger role in India's higher education by opening their campuses, promoting online education, research partnerships and individual and joint degree partnerships."

Being a strong observer of developments in the education sector across the globe especially India, Khator suggested ways to increase the gross enrolments ratio (GER) in India. "GER can be accelerated by introducing some changes in the structure of the education system. It should be made more flexible and accessible to age groups," she said.

The US-based academic also said it (increase in GER) cannot be achieved unless private players contribute. She asked the corporate within India and NRIs to contribute by granting scholarships to students in their region, city or village to have equal opportunities for all. "The NRIs or private players should financially and academically strengthen state universities which are committed for inclusive education," Khator said.

Khator cautioned students on every second Indian universities' claim of tie-ups with universities based in the US or the UK. "Sometimes the collaboration was not all substantive and merely on papers. Students should conduct their complete research before enrolling in universities here and abroad," she added.