

'Virtual classrooms the way forward'

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Kolhapur: Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said initiatives such as virtual classroom can be used for imparting quality education across schools and colleges in the state.

Fadnavis was at the Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK) on Sunday for the inauguration of virtual classroom and the ground breaking ceremony of the museum complex as well as the new building of department of journalism and mass communications.

"Knowledge should get international exposure to get the most out of it. We have so many colleges, but most of them are plagued with the lack of

experienced teaching faculties. Virtual classrooms might be useful for us in this case," the chief minister said.

He said such classrooms can be the best examples of the power of communication.

Congratulating the SUK for bagging the first rank in the state and 28th across the country in the recently announced National Institution Ranking Framework (NIRF), Fadnavis said he will be happy to see the university get to the number one rank in future.

He said the state government will always be there and extend co-operation to the university for its academic and administrative needs.

State school and higher education minister Vinod Tawde said in his speech that the Rashtriya Uchchar

Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme has proved effective for many academic institutions across the state. "We have received Rs 550 crore grants under RUSA from the Centre, which has been used effectively to improve the academic standards of universities in the state," he said.

He too wished the university best for its future plans and said it should get the top ranking in near future.

"Manish Verma, the state director of RUSA, has been strict in implementing RUSA guidelines across institutions, which have resulted in the better academic standards.

The university's Barrister Balasaheb Khardekar Library hosts the first virtual classroom in western Ma-

harashtra, which is equipped with multimedia projector, visualizer, interactive board and a digital podium.

According to the officials, the university is planning to connect the classroom with its autonomous colleges and the ones which have scored A grade in the assessment of various agencies.

"In the long run, all the 279 colleges affiliated to the SUK will be connected with the virtual classroom via the National Knowledge Network. The students in these colleges can simultaneously witness the event through internet connection. It will be helpful for conducting various workshops and interactions online," said D R More, the director of Board of College and University Development at SUK.

QUALITY EDUCATION