

**Bill No. 234 of 2022**

THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

By

SHRI RAJU BISTA, M.P.

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*further to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Insertion of new section 3G.

2. After section 3F of the Central Universities Act, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the

25 of 2009.

principal Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Establishment  
of Darjeeling  
Central  
University.

**"3G. There shall be established a University, which shall be a body corporate, to be known as the Darjeeling Central University, having its territorial jurisdiction extending to the whole of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration and the territories to the north of River Ganga in West Bengal as specified in the First Schedule to this Act."**

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Amendment  
of the First  
Schedule.

**3.** In the First Schedule to the principal Act, after serial number 16 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:—

"17. West Bengal	Darjeeling Central University.	Whole of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration and territories to the north of River Ganga in the State of West Bengal."
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## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Central Universities Act, 2009 was enacted to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in various States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Darjeeling has remained a hub of education not only in India, but also across the South and South-East Asian countries. Darjeeling region, is home to some of the best schools in India and students from all over Asia come to study in the hills. Establishment of an institution of higher and technical learning in the region, has been a long-standing aspiration and pertinent demand of the people. Establishing a Central University in Darjeeling can help to turn it into one of the hubs for higher education in India and an important education center in all of South and South East Asia.

In 2011, an in-principal agreement for the establishment of a Central University in the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) had been reached between the Central Government, West Bengal Government, and the Gorkha representatives. Despite passage of new ten years since the agreement, steps towards establishment of the university have not been undertaken.

Moreover, out of 55 Central Universities, there is only one Visva Bharati that is located in West Bengal, and it was founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1921. Since then, no other Central University has been established in West Bengal. The population of the State has crossed 10 crores and only one Central University is not enough to cater to the needs of the students.

At present, there is no Central University in the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration region and Northern Districts of West Bengal. Therefore, establishing a new Central University in the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration will ensure increase in accessibility and quality of higher education and to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research for the people of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, North Bengal region of West Bengal. This shall also cater to the regional aspirations for years to come.

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 *inter alia* to provide for the establishment of a University in the name of "Darjeeling Central University" having Territorial jurisdiction in the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration and North Bengal region in the State of West Bengal.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;  
21 November, 2022.

RAJU BISTA

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to insert a new section 3G in the Central Universities Act, 2009 which provides for the establishment of a new University, to be known as the 'Darjeeling Central University', as a body corporate having territorial jurisdiction extending to the whole of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration and territories of north of River Ganga in West Bengal.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. At this stage, it is not possible to give exact estimate of expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, which will be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India, if the Bill is enacted into a law. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India. A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees six hundred crores is also likely to be involved.

*ANNEXURE*

[EXTRACT FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2009]

(ACT No. 25 OF 2009)

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See section 3(4)]

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Serial No.	Name of the State	Name of the University		Territorial jurisdiction		
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16.	Tamil Nadu	Central University of Tamil Nadu		Whole of the State of Tamil Nadu		
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*(Shri Raju Bista, M.P.)*