

**Bill No. 44 of 2022**

THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

By

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA, 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.

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(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 3F. **2.** After section 3E of the Central Universities Act, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:— 25 of 2009

Establishment of Central University of Andaman and Nicobar. **“3F. There shall be established a University, which shall be a body corporate, to be known as the Central University of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, having its territorial jurisdiction extending to the whole of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as specified in the First Schedule to this Act.”.** 5

Amendment of the First Schedule. **3.** In the First Schedule to the principal Act, for serial number 1 and entries relating thereto, the following serial numbers and entries, shall be substituted, namely:—

“1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Central University of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.	Whole of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.	10
1A.	Andhra Pradesh	Central University of Andhra Pradesh.	Whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh.”.	

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

After the Presidential assent to Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2021, India now has 55 Central Universities, out of which 40 are centrally funded through University Grants Commission (UGC) under the purview of Union Ministry of Education and another nine enjoy the autonomous status, directly funded by the Government of India (GoI). The enactment of Central Universities Act, 2009 was done with the aim to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in various States and Union territories. Currently there are several universities in Union territories like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Pondicherry, Chandigarh, but there is no such university in the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the third largest Union territory of India, boasting an area of 8,249 square kilometres and a population of 3,79,944. As per the Census of India (2011) the islands have a literacy rate of 86.27 per cent. which is higher than the national average of 74.04 per cent. This is further compounded by the government schemes of providing incentive to tribal students and providing primary schools close to almost every habitation. With such a high rate of literacy, it is imperative that the islands must have a Central University to provide quality secondary education to its bright young population. This will also create greater job specialization and aid in the carrying out of quality research.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are also unique due to their prevalence of vulnerable tribal groups. For instance, the Great Andamanese were once the most prolific tribe in the territories, numbering 10,000 in terms of population. By 1999, their numbers were down to just 41 tribals. Similarly, the Sentinelese are very isolated and have lost contact with other tribes. Some tribes like the *Jarawa* have a buffer zone around their inhabitation to prevent contact with tourists which may prove to be fatal for them. These tribes are regularly endangered by tourism, especially foreign tourist, and must be provided with quality education.

As of now, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the few Union territories not having a Central University under the Central Universities Act, 2009. Union territories like Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Ladakh, etc., all have a Central University. Improvement of quality and standard of education and research and have a strong connection with the central authority. After taking into account the development and spread of literacy and primary education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and its unique position in the country, the Government should consider setting up a Central University in the Union territory.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
16 February, 2022.

KULDEEP RAI SHARMA

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to insert new section 3F in the Central Universities Act, 2009, so as to establish a new university as body corporate to be known as the Central University of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, having its territorial jurisdiction extending to the whole of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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 twenty crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred twenty crore is also likely to be involved.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2009

(25 OF 2009)

3. \* \* \* \* \* Establishment of  
Sindhu Central  
University.

“3E. There shall be established a University, which shall be a body corporate, to be known as the Sindhu Central University, having its territorial jurisdiction extending to the whole of the Union territory of Ladakh, as specified in the First Schedule to this Act.”.

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THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See section 3 (4)]

Serial No.	Name of the State	Name of the University	Territorial Jurisdiction
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Central University of Andhra Pradesh	Whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh
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*(Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, M.P.)*