

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1776
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2024

Private Universities

1776 Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Private Universities established across the country during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether UGC is also considering to grant autonomous status to colleges across the country and if so, the number of proposals received from the colleges and the status thereon as on date during the last five years;
- (c) whether Private Universities are empowered to offer General Degree Programme without specific approval from UGC; and
- (d) whether Indian Universities were failing to compete with others globally and the steps taken by Government to make Indian Universities globally competitive and the success achieved in this regard so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that 149 State Private Universities have been established in the country during the last five years. The State-wise and year-wise details of these Universities may be accessed at https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques.

(b): The UGC has informed that during the last five years, UGC has received 806 proposals/applications from various colleges across the country for grant of autonomous status, of which, 613 proposals have been considered and approved by the UGC.

(c): The State Private Universities are established as per Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 and are empowered to award degrees as specified under Section 22 of the UGC Act with the approval of Regulatory/Statutory Authorities, wherever required. Therefore, no specific approval is required from UGC for offering general degree programme. However, the approvals for running professional and medical programmes are given by the respective Statutory Councils.

(d): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates Indian HEIs to attain the goal of global quality standards. It further states that top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. In this regard, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- The UGC has issued Regulations to enable Indian Institutions to collaborate with FHEIs to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes. The regulation may be accessed at https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4555806_UCG-Acad-Collab-Regulations.pdf.

- The UGC has issued enabling Regulations to facilitate establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Institutions (FHEIs) in India. The regulations are available at <https://fhei.ugc.ac.in/Downloads/Regulations.pdf>.
- World-Class Foreign Universities and Institutions have been allowed to establish their campus in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) and offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Foreign Universities and Institutions can set up their Branch Campuses in GIFT City as per the criteria and standards laid down in the International Financial Services Centers Authority (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centers) Regulations, 2022. (weblink: <https://ifsca.gov.in/Document/Legal/ifsca-ibc-and-oec-regulations-202213102022113639.pdf>).
- Two universities, namely, Deakin University and University of Wollongong from Australia have established their campus in GIFT City. The first batch of Deakin University commenced on 3rd July, 2024. The admissions for University of Wollongong's first batch are still open.
- UGC has brought out Guidelines for the establishment of Research and Development Cell (RDC) in universities and colleges, to create a conducive environment for enhanced research productivity, encourage collaboration across industry, government, community-based organizations, and agencies at the local, national, and international levels and facilitate greater access to research through the mobilisation of resources and funding. Presently, more than 1500 RDC have been established in Higher Educational Institutions across the country.
- To enable Indian HEIs to engage industry experts and professionals as guest faculty in HEIs to share the wealth of knowledge gained over their long careers with students, the UGC has developed Guidelines for engaging Professors of Practice in universities and colleges. Universities and Colleges have been requested to take the necessary steps to engage Professors of Practice according to the requirement and by following the published guidelines.
- Towards implementing the vision of multidisciplinary education, the UGC issued the "Guidelines for Transforming Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions" on 02.09.2022.
- As a result of all these initiatives, the Indian HEIs ranked in "QS World University Ranking" has increased from 9 in the World University Ranking (WUR) 2014 to 45 in WUR 2024.
- The number of Indian HEIs has also increased from 49 in 2019 to 91 in 2024 in Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and India remains the most represented Higher Education system with 148 universities out of 856 featured in the QS World University- Asia Ranking 2024 and has also contributed the highest number of 37 new entrants.
- Further, as per the Elsevier Report, the total number of publications has also increased from 6,61,912 in (2012-2016) to 10,12,624 in (2017-2021).
