

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2902
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

Foreign University campuses in the country

2902# **Smt. Dharmshila Gupta:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Universities would be encouraged to establish academic partnerships and research collaborations with the University of Southampton;
- (b) whether Government is planning to ease regulations for the establishment of more Foreign University campuses in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken regarding this; and
- (d) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure inclusivity so that students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds can also be benefitted from the said initiative?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) was framed and approved by the Government of India to transform and improve the quality of education in the country. One of the key aspects of NEP 2020 is “Internationalisation of Education”, which aims to promote and share best academic & research practices through interactions among diverse education systems.

In alignment with the vision of NEP 2020, University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued “UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023” to facilitate the establishment of branch campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) in India. Thereafter, UGC has issued ‘Letter of Intent’ to Southampton University, UK on 29th August 2024 for establishment of their campus in India.

Further, International Financial Services Centres Authority (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022 have been issued to facilitate the establishment of campuses of world-class foreign universities in GIFT City, Gujarat.

University Grants Commission (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations,

2022 has also been issued to foster academic collaboration between Indian higher educational institutions and foreign higher educational institutions.

Government of India has taken various measures to promote accessibility and affordability of Higher Education in the country. Ministry of Education launched SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Portal in July 2017 to make high-quality content available to learners free of cost with the approach of “Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime Learning”. The portal has more than 5.1 crore enrolments since its inception.

Ministry of Education has launched PM Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme on 6th November 2024, to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. Under the scheme, collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students, including female students, who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) and who desire to avail the education loan. Further, for students with annual family income up to ₹ 8 lakh, the scheme provides 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹ 10 lakhs. Up to one lakh fresh students not getting any other scholarship or interest subvention on education loan will get this interest subvention.

University Grants Commission (UGC) also provides scholarship under "National Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies (NSPG)" scheme to students pursuing Post Graduate Programs. UGC also provides fellowships to pursue Ph.D. in all disciplines including STEM education, under UGC NET-Junior Research Fellowship and Savitribai Jyoti Rao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship.
