

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2099  
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

**Promotion of Foreign Students/Researchers for collaborative programmes in HEI in  
North East**

**2099 Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to attract and encourage foreign students/researchers to do collaborative programmes in different Higher Education Institutes (HEI) in North East;
- (b) if so, the number of foreign students/researchers doing courses including Ph.D courses in all the Central Universities, IIT, NIT, IIM in North East during the last three years, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is trying to help Assam University, Silchar and Tezpur Universities, the two Central Universities of Assam to collaborate with Foreign Universities; and
- (d) whether any Special Fund is being considered, if so, the details thereof?

**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. To promote “Internationalization of Education” in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India including those in North East, several initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry of Education which include:

- UGC’s Regulations 2022 enables framework for Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes. The Regulations can be accessed at [https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4555806\\_UCG-Acad-Collab-Regulations.pdf](https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4555806_UCG-Acad-Collab-Regulations.pdf).
- 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. These regulations are available at

<https://fhei.ugc.ac.in/Downloads/Regulations.pdf>. The UGC had issued Letter of Intent to the University of Southampton (UoS), United Kingdom (UK) on 29 Aug 2024 to set up its campus in India.

- **Study in India (SII) Programme** revamped and aligned as per NEP 2020 to attract foreign students in India for Higher Education Studies through systematic brand building, marketing, social media and digital marketing campaigns. A web-portal (<https://studyinindia.gov.in>) has also been launched as a one stop solution for connecting foreign students, Indian HEIs and visa authorities enabling smooth admission and visa processing.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** to encourage research collaboration between top Indian Institutes with the premier foreign institutes

**IIT Guwahati**, a premier technical institution of Central Government, has **182** foreign students enrolled in various courses including Ph.D Programme in last three academic sessions. Similarly, **19** foreign students/Researchers are doing their courses including Ph.D courses in **Tripura University** and **29** foreign students are pursuing Ph.D courses in **Tezpur University**.

Central Universities are Statutory Autonomous Organizations established under an Act of Parliament and governed by their respective Acts and Statutes made there-under. All administrative and academic decisions are taken by the University with the approval of its statutory bodies such as executive council, academic council.

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