

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan along with Shri Nayab Saini inaugurated India campus of University of Southampton in Gurugram

Opening of Southampton's Delhi Campus Marks Milestone in Internationalisation of Education under NEP 2020: Dharmendra Pradhan

University of Southampton's Delhi Campus to Strengthen India–UK Education Cooperation: Dharmendra Pradhan

India Emerging as Global Knowledge Destination through Internationalisation of Education at Home: Dharmendra Pradhan

Gurugram Campus of University of Southampton to Foster Innovation, Research and Affordable World-Class Education: Dharmendra Pradhan

Courses at UG and PG level in Computer Science, Economics, Accounting & Finance, Business Management, Finance and International Management to be offered at the Gurugram campus

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, today inaugurated the India campus of the University of Southampton in Gurugram, Haryana, along with Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister of Haryana. Industries and Commerce Minister of Haryana Shri Rao Narbir Singh; Lord Patel OBE, Chancellor and Member of the UK House of Lords; Ms. Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India; Mr. Mark E. Smith, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton; Ms. Eloise Phillips, Academic Provost, University of Southampton, New Delhi; and senior officials of the Ministry of Education were also present on the occasion.



The inauguration marks a significant milestone in India's higher education landscape, commemorating five years of the National Education Policy 2020. The University of Southampton—a QS Top 100 global institution and founding member of the UK's Russell Group—becomes the first foreign university to operationalize a campus in India under the University Grants Commission's (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan said that this marks a momentous milestone towards internationalisation of education at home under NEP 2020, and also towards strengthening the education pillar of India-UK cooperation as envisioned in the India-UK Roadmap 2030.

Shri Pradhan commended and congratulated the University of Southampton for setting up this state-of-the-art campus within a year of receiving the LoI. He expressed confidence that the campus, with its basket of forward-looking courses and Southampton's legacy of academic excellence, will emerge as a distinguished institution shaping leaders of tomorrow.



The Minister said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has stated that education is a living bridge between India and the UK, and today's gala opening of the University of Southampton Delhi campus is an occasion to

strengthen that bridge further. Southampton University's campus in Gurugram will create new synergies, foster a new culture of curiosity and excellence, and present an added choice to students to access world-class education at a more affordable cost and nearer to home and family. He urged the University of Southampton leadership to start STEM courses at the Gurugram campus and added that this campus should aim to become a hub of solutions for global challenges.

Shri Pradhan said that education has been placed at the heart of India's development. Through the internationalisation of education at home, India is being envisioned as a global knowledge destination, reviving its civilisational legacy and reigniting its intellectual heritage from Pushpagiri and Nalanda to Gurugram. He invited other leading universities across the world to come to India for co-creating ecosystems of innovation, research and education, and said that together, efforts should be made to build a bright future and drive innovation and progress.

The new Gurugram campus will offer globally recognised undergraduate and postgraduate programmes aligned with UK academic standards. Students may spend up to one year at the University's campuses in the UK or Malaysia. Programmes commencing in 2025 include undergraduate (BSc) courses in Computer Science, Economics, Accounting & Finance, Business Management, and postgraduate (MSc) courses in Finance and International Management.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister of Haryana, welcomed the University of Southampton to the state and reaffirmed the Government of Haryana's commitment to positioning the region as a global education and innovation hub.

Lord Patel OBE, Chancellor of the University of Southampton and Member of the UK House of Lords, and Ms. Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India, also addressed the gathering and expressed their strong support for expanding UK-India educational partnerships.

Speaking on the occasion Secretary, Higher Education and Chairman UGC, Dr. Vineet Joshi, warmly congratulated the University of Southampton and the UK Government on the opening of their pioneering campus in India, calling it a proud milestone in the India-UK education partnership. He highlighted that this is the first campus set up under UGC's new regulations enabling top foreign universities to establish branch campuses in India, a key reform under the National Education Policy 2020 envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Dr. Joshi noted that NEP 2020 positions India as a global hub for education, research, and innovation, and emphasised that the UGC has created a streamlined, transparent process to facilitate such initiatives. Acknowledging the proactive support of the Haryana Government, he expressed confidence that the University of Southampton, with its legacy of academic excellence, will offer quality education in critical areas like Computer Science, Economics, International Business, and Management, contributing to India's priorities in digital innovation and global leadership. He concluded by expressing hope that the new campus

would foster collaboration between Indian and international academia, becoming a beacon of excellence and a bridge between nations.

The first cohort at the India campus includes academically accomplished students from across India and from international locations such as the United Arab Emirates and Nepal.

The University is set to hire over 75 full-time faculty members who meet UK academic standards and will be expected to undertake the University's Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice. These faculty members bring experience from global academic centres in the UK, UAE, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Germany, Japan, and the United States.

The University of Southampton has a global alumni network of more than 290,000 graduates, including over 1,700 from India. Many of these alumni are expected to support the India campus by serving as mentors and industry ambassadors.

The University received its official Letter of Intent on 29 August 2024, followed by a public announcement and formal launch on 13 September 2024.

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