

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Higher Education Department- "Andhra Pradesh Policy for Promotion of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) and Private Universities, 2026"- Orders- Issued.

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HIGHER EDUCATION (RM) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 54

Dated: 12-10-2026

Read :-

From the Commissioner of Higher Education, Mangalagiri,
A.P.Lr.Rc.No.76/FHEI/2026, dated.28.08.2026.

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ORDER:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set an ambitious target to transform the State into a USD 2.4 trillion economy by 2047, including achievement of a per capita income of USD 43,000. Higher education, as a lever of human capital formation, is central to this vision.

2. The State currently has five universities ranked among the top 100 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), and 18 Universities holding 'A' or 'A+' accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Students from 170 different countries presently study in Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the favourable policy environment already in place.

3. Over 3.50 lakh undergraduate students graduate from Andhra Pradesh every year, and the State's per capita income of over USD 3,000 exceeds the national average of USD 2,150, indicating a substantial and sustained demand for quality higher education. Notwithstanding this, approximately 1(one) lakh students from Andhra Pradesh migrate abroad every year to pursue higher studies, representing a significant outflow of talent and resources that the State seeks to address by improving access to globally benchmarked education within the State.

4. Andhra Pradesh is committed to significantly enhancing its higher education landscape by 2029, with specific goals including: (i) establishment of more than five FHEIs in the State; (ii) attracting more than 5,000 foreign students to study in Andhra Pradesh; (iii) 80% of eligible Higher Education Institutions offering at least one programme in joint, dual or twinning mode; (iv) achieving a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 50%; and (v) elevating educational standards through private university initiatives.

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5. The presence of overseas University campuses in Andhra Pradesh is expected to enhance the State's global reputation and visibility, attract students, faculty and partnerships from India and abroad, foster collaborations with local institutions, government and industry for research and innovation, and act as a catalyst for economic growth in the State.

6. Keeping in view of the above factors the Commissioner of Higher Education, Andhra Pradesh proposed the Andhra Pradesh Policy for Promotion of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) and Private Universities, 2026, as a comprehensive, time-bound incentive and facilitation framework, so as to competitively position Andhra Pradesh among the preferred destinations in the country for establishment of FHEI and Private University campuses, in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, and the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023. Further, the UGC Regulations, 2023 provide the national regulatory framework for Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to establish campuses in India. However, a state-level policy is required to provide incentives, facilitation and coordinated support and to position Andhra Pradesh competitively among the states seeking to attract such institutions.

7. The policy framework has, accordingly, been formulated to address procedural, infrastructural, financial and regulatory impediments that may otherwise deter globally reputed universities from establishing physical campuses in the State, drawing upon UGC guidelines for FHEIs and international best practices.

8. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby approve the "Andhra Pradesh Policy for Promotion of Foreign Higher Education Institutions (FHEIs) and Private Universities, 2026" to attract reputed Foreign Higher Education Institutions and leading Indian Private Universities to establish campuses in the state. The detailed policy document is appended to this order at Annexure-I.

9. The Commissioner of Higher Education, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J SYAMALA RAO
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Commissioner of Higher Education, A.P., Mangalagiri.

The Member Covenor Private Universities through Commissioner of Higher Education, Mangalagiri.

The Chief Executive Officer & Member Secretary, APHEFRMC, Tadepalli.

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The Secretary, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, Tadepalli, Guntur District.

The Registrars of All State Universities under the control of H.E Department.

Copy to:-

The Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The OSD to Hon'ble Minister (HRD).

The P.S to Chief Secretary to Government.

The P.S to Principal Secretary to Government (HE).

The Law(B)Department.

Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I of G.O.Ms.No.54, Dated:12.10.2026

Andhra Pradesh Policy for Promotion of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) and Private Universities, 2026

1. Preamble and Rationale

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set an ambitious target to transform the state into a USD 2.4 trillion economy by 2047. The goal includes achieving a per capita income of USD 43,000.

Education, especially Higher Education, naturally becomes an important lever in this ambitious plan. The state has 5 universities in the top 100 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, and 18 universities have "A" or "A+" accreditation as per the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Students from 170 different countries study in Andhra Pradesh indicating the favorable policies and conditions present in the state. Over 350,000 undergraduate students pass-out from Andhra Pradesh each year and the per capita income in Andhra Pradesh is more than USD 3000 which is higher than the national average of USD 2150 indicating that there is a sustainable pipeline of students who can invest in their higher education. On an average, approximately 100,000 students from Andhra Pradesh migrate to study abroad every year.

Andhra Pradesh is committed to significantly enhancing its higher education landscape by 2029. Some of the key goals include:

1. Having more than 5 Foreign Higher Education Institutions in Andhra Pradesh.
2. More than 5000 foreign students in Andhra Pradesh.
3. 80% of eligible HEIs to offer 1 program in joint, dual or twinning mode.
4. Achieving GER of 50%.
5. Elevating educational standards and providing more opportunities for high-quality education within the state through private university initiatives.

In pursuit of positioning Andhra Pradesh as a globally competitive academic destination, and in alignment with the strategic imperatives outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, this policy articulates a comprehensive framework for facilitating and incentivizing the establishment of Foreign Higher Education Institutions (FHEIs) within the state. It also targets the enhancement of educational standards through private universities, encouraging them to play a pivotal role in providing high-quality education and innovative programs.

Having an overseas campus in Andhra Pradesh can enhance a foreign or global reputation and visibility, attracting students, faculty, and partnerships
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from India and abroad. Such campuses can lead to collaborations with local institutions, governments, and industries, providing new research opportunities and insights. A successful campus can be a catalyst for economic growth and sustainability in the state. The guidelines acknowledge the imperative for internationalization of the higher education ecosystem to enhance academic standards, catalyze research and innovation, and expand access to globally benchmarked education for the youth of Andhra Pradesh. The policy framework has been formulated to address procedural, infrastructural, financial, and regulatory impediments that may deter globally reputed universities from establishing physical campuses in India. It draws on national regulations, including the University Grants Commission's (UGC) guidelines for FHEIs, and incorporates best practices observed across various geographies.

2. Vision

To transform Andhra Pradesh into a premier academic and knowledge hub by attracting world-class Foreign Higher Education Institutions and leading private universities, fostering transnational academic collaboration, and facilitating access to international quality education for meritorious students within the state. This vision aims to create a dynamic educational environment, leveraging the strengths of diverse institutions to enhance academic excellence and innovation across Andhra Pradesh.

3. Objectives

- Attract top-tier Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) and leading Indian private universities to establish high-quality campuses in Andhra Pradesh.
- Design and implement tailored incentive and support packages that encourage private universities to set up, expand, and sustain operations in the state.
- Institutionalize policy mechanisms that deepen academic collaboration, drive research and innovation, and enable robust cross-border knowledge exchange.
- Provide targeted subsidies for private universities launching unique, future-ready, and high-demand academic programs aligned to emerging learner and industry needs.
- Ensure students of Andhra Pradesh gain access to globally benchmarked education through subsidized and reserved seats in partner institutions.
- Incentivize development of state-of-the-art educational infrastructure and create an enabling ecosystem for international institutions and private universities.

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- Simplify and streamline regulatory and administrative processes so that private universities and FHEIs can obtain approvals and establish strong operational foundations efficiently.
- Catalyze balanced regional development by leveraging higher education as a driver of knowledge-led economic growth, innovation, and talent enhancement.
- Strengthen the global engagement of private universities by supporting strategic collaborations with international institutions and boosting their appeal to international students.
- Recommend FHEIs to customize their academic programs to take cognizance of Indian national priorities and Andhra Pradesh's socio-economic context, by taking inspiration from NEP 2020, AP-specific skills, and regional development needs.
- Encourage FHEIs to co-create curricula with AP universities and industry so that global programs embed local case studies, regional development challenges, and sectoral priorities of the state.

4. Scope and Applicability

This policy shall be applicable to all FHEIs and Indian Private Universities desirous of establishing independent campuses in Andhra Pradesh, an FHEI being free to do so directly or through an Academic Infrastructure Service Provider in accordance with 5.3, subject to compliance with regulatory frameworks prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other statutory authorities.

This policy will be applicable to:

- A university or higher education institution established or incorporated outside India, which is legally authorized and accredited in its home jurisdiction to award undergraduate and/or postgraduate degrees and is ranked among the top 500 global institutions as per internationally recognized ranking systems (e.g., Times Higher Education or QS World University Rankings) or placed within the top 100 of the subject rankings in the domains specified in Section 6. The university or higher education institution must be capable of independently establishing and operating a branch campus in India, in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023.
- An Indian Private University that is accredited by relevant national bodies and exhibits a strong track record of academic excellence, research innovation, and industry collaboration, and is encouraged to set up campuses in Andhra Pradesh to enhance the state's educational landscape.

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The provisions herein shall govern the nature, structure, and extent of state facilitation and incentives provided to qualifying FHEIs and Indian Private Universities.

5. Incentivization Model for FHEIs and Private Universities

FHEIs:

5.1. Financial Incentives

The following fiscal measures shall be extended to eligible FHEIs:

- **Land Subsidy:** Subsidized land of up to 50 Acres shall be extended to FHEIs.
- **Stamp Duty Exemption:** Full exemption from stamp duty and registration charges on land acquisition or lease for educational use shall be granted.
- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Facilitation:** The Government shall encourage PPP arrangements with local industry and infrastructure developers to support institutional establishment and service delivery.
- **Support for Research and Innovation:** Research, development and innovation activities undertaken by an eligible institution, whether independently or in collaboration with a university, research institution, laboratory or industrial undertaking in the State, and in particular such activities as are aligned with the priority domains referred to in Section 6, shall be eligible for support by the State by way of research grants, doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships, seed and matching funding, access to State-owned research facilities and equipment, support for joint research centres and incubation facilities, and such other forms of assistance as the Government may determine.

5.2. Regulatory and Legal Incentives

- **Single Window Clearance Mechanism:** The existing digital Single Window Portal of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) shall be updated to provide end-to-end processing of approvals, licenses, and permissions across all regulatory domains.

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- **Designated Nodal Agency:** The Commissioner of Higher Education (CHE) shall function as the nodal authority to facilitate institutional approvals, coordinate with UGC and SEZ authorities, and provide handholding support to FHEIs.
- **Regulatory Liaising:** The state shall assist FHEIs in navigating regulatory processes stipulated by the UGC, Ministry of Education, and other concerned bodies.
- **Visa and Work Permit Facilitation:** The state shall coordinate with central authorities to ensure seamless acquisition of work permits, research visas, and dependent visas for foreign academic and administrative personnel.
- **Legal and Compliance Support:** Legal advisory assistance shall be extended for drafting employment contracts, intellectual property agreements, and dispute resolution protocols in line with Indian jurisprudence.

Note:

1. The above incentives are for FHEIs signing MOUs with Andhra Pradesh before 31st December 2027, after which incentives shall be on a case-to-case basis.
2. Over and above these incentives, additional incentives and requirements may be considered if the FHEI shows a distinctive nature of technology or has an exceptional reputation in its field.

5.3. Academic Infrastructure Service Providers

An eligible FHEI may establish and operate its campus through an Academic Infrastructure Service Provider empanelled by the Government. The provider develops and maintains the physical infrastructure of the campus and provides non-academic services in relation to it. The institution retains the whole of the academic function and the award of degrees.

- **Who may be a provider:** A company incorporated in India, or a higher educational institution established by or under a law in force in India, empanelled by the Government. An entity which itself awards, or seeks to award, any degree, diploma or certificate shall not be empanelled.
- **What a provider may do:** Develop, construct, operate and maintain the campus and its physical infrastructure; campus facility

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management; hostels, dormitories and amenities; recruitment and management of non-academic staff; incubation centres and research facilities; and such other non-academic services as the institution may require.

- **What a provider shall not do:** The provider shall have no role in the curriculum, pedagogy, admission of students, teaching, assessment, examination, appointment of faculty or the award of degrees, all of which shall vest solely in the institution in accordance with the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023. It shall not hold itself out as awarding, or as a partner in awarding, any degree, diploma or certificate. The institution occupying the campus shall furnish an undertaking to the Government that its academic functions are not outsourced, directly or indirectly, to the provider.
- **Development in advance of an institution:** A provider may develop academic infrastructure in anticipation of, or pursuant to, an arrangement with an eligible FHEI.
- **Allotment of Land:** Land may be allotted on lease to an empanelled provider, through a transparent process, for the development of academic infrastructure under this sub-section, on such tenure and conditions as may be specified.
- **Use and reversion:** The infrastructure so developed shall be used solely for the campus of one or more eligible FHEIs and for no other purpose. The provider shall complete the development, and an eligible FHEI holding a Letter of Intent from the UGC shall commence operations therein, within such periods as may be specified; failing which the allotment shall stand cancelled, the land together with the structures standing upon it shall revert to the Government. The provider shall bear the risk of development and shall have no claim against the Government where no eligible institution commences operations.
- **Incentives to the provider:** For the limited purpose of implementing an approved FHEI campus under this sub-section, the provider may avail the following facilitation measures and concessions otherwise available to the FHEI under 5.1 and 5.2, subject to the conditions specified herein. It shall receive no incentive other than those so available, save such additional incentive as the Government may consider appropriate in a deserving case. The consideration payable by the institution to the provider shall be a matter between them, to which the Government shall be no party.

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- How those incentives apply to a provider:
 - *Land Subsidy (5.1)*: available up to 50 acres irrespective of the number of institutions occupying the campus. Additional land beyond 50 acres, if sought, shall be considered having regard to the requirements of the institutions proposed to be served. Allotted on lease, and through a transparent process
 - *Stamp Duty Exemption (5.1)*: available, and extends both to the instrument by which the provider takes the land and to the instrument by which the institution takes the campus from the provider.
 - *Public-Private Partnership Facilitation (5.1)*: applies directly, the arrangement being one of those there contemplated.
 - *Support for Research and Innovation (5.1)*: not available to the provider. Research is an academic activity of the institution, and the provider's role is confined to the physical infrastructure and non-academic services.
 - *Single Window Clearance (5.2)*: available to the provider in its own name, it being the applicant for the building and utility clearances.
 - Designated Nodal Agency (5.2), and the Dedicated Relationship Manager under section 7: available, in respect of the same campus.
 - Regulatory Liaising (5.2): confined to approvals at the level of the State. The applicant before the UGC and the Ministry of Education is the institution and not the provider.
 - *Visa and Work Permit Facilitation (5.2)*: not available. The entry is directed at foreign academic and administrative personnel, and the provider is an Indian entity whose personnel are ordinarily Indian nationals
 - *Legal and Compliance Support (5.2)*: available by way of facilitation and reference only, the State not assuming an advisory liability to the provider.
 - The Note following 5.2: applies, the entitlement of the provider following that of the institution occupying the campus.

- **Detailed conditions:** The criteria and procedure for empanelment, the transparent process for allotment of land, tenure and conditions of the lease, the periods referred to above, the model agreement, and all other matters of detail shall be as may be specified by the Government by separate orders.

Private Universities:

5.4. Private University Policy Objectives

- **Improving the Educational Landscape:** The main goal of the policy is to raise educational standards and offer more opportunities for high-quality education throughout the state.
- **Incentivizing Top Institutions:** The policy is targeted toward attracting top-tier universities, as rated by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), to establish their campuses in Andhra Pradesh.

5.5. Land Subsidy and Stamp Duty Waiver Policy:

- **Land Subsidy:** Subsidized land for up to 50 acres, enabling private universities to set up extensive campuses that include vital academic, residential, and recreational facilities.
- **Stamp Duty Waiver:** 100% waiver on stamp duties for the universities to reduce initial financial outlay required for land transactions.

Note:

1. The above incentives are for Private Universities signing MOUs with Andhra Pradesh before 31st December 2027, after which incentives shall be on a case-to-case basis.

5.6. Support for Research and Innovation:

Provided that support under this sub-section shall be extended on such terms, to such extent, subject to such conditions and in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed by separate orders of the Government, and shall in every case be subject to the sanction of the competent authority and the concurrence of the Finance Department; and nothing in this sub-section shall confer upon any institution a right to claim support of any particular nature or quantum.

6. Selection Criteria for Foreign Higher Education Institutions and Indian Private Universities:

FHEIs eligible for consideration under this policy must meet the following selection criteria:

- **Global Ranking:** Institutions ranked within the top 500 of the Times Higher Education (THE) or QS World University Rankings, as per UGC guidelines. **(or)**
- **Subject-specific Excellence:** Institutions placed within the top 100 in specific subject rankings of THE or QS in domains relevant to the economic and social development priorities of Andhra Pradesh. For the purpose of this criterion, the domains relevant to the economic and social development priorities of Andhra Pradesh shall be such domains as the Government may notify from time to time, and shall, until otherwise notified, include semiconductors and electronics, ports and maritime, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, medical technology, agriculture and food technology, Deeptech, quantum technology and artificial intelligence. The enumeration aforesaid is illustrative and not exhaustive, and the Government may, having regard to the emerging requirements of the State economy, add to or alter the said domains by notification; and a domain so notified shall be deemed to be a priority domain for all purposes of this policy.

Please note: The selection criteria are subject to revision as per the guidelines of University Grant Commission (UGC).

Indian Private Universities eligible for consideration under this policy must meet the following selection criteria

- **NIRF Ranking:** Indian Private Universities with a top 100 NIRF rank shall be preferred over non-ranked universities.

7. Facilitation for FHEIs

To foster an investor-friendly ecosystem and reduce procedural friction, the Government of Andhra Pradesh shall institutionalize the following mechanisms to ensure facilitation for FHEIs:

- **Integrated Digital Portal:** As a first step, all FHEIs wanting to set up a campus in the country have to complete an application on a

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centralized UGC portal (<https://fhei.ugc.ac.in/>) for establishment of campus. After that a centralized state level UGC integrated portal shall offer a real-time tracking of approvals, downloadable compliance checklists and grievance redressal.

- **Time-bound Approvals:** Statutory timelines for approval of land allotments, construction permissions, and affiliation certificates shall be codified and monitored through a dashboard-based governance model.
 - While there is a dependency on UGC's LOI and final approval, the state shall allot land and construction permissions within 6 months of the FHEI receiving the UGC LOI.
- **High-level Facilitation Committee:** A state-level facilitation committee chaired by the Principal Secretary, Higher Education will directly intervene to resolve inter-departmental issues to improve process efficiency.
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** Codified SOPs shall be published for each regulatory and procedural interface at state level to ensure predictability, transparency, and accountability.
- **Inter-Agency Convergence:** Active coordination shall be ensured across departments including Municipal Administration, Industries, Revenue, and Power to streamline the institutional setup lifecycle.
- **Dedicated Relationship Managers:** Each FHEI shall be assigned a relationship manager from the CHE (Commissioner of Higher Education) to assist with administrative processes and liaising throughout the pre- and post-establishment phases.
- **Regulatory support in terms of entity creation:** The Government will support the FEHIs in terms of tax provisioning, regulatory and entity structure guidelines through establishing specialized teams.
- **Facilitation of Interim Campus:** Where an eligible FHEI proposes to commence operations from an interim facility pending establishment of its permanent campus, the State shall extend to that institution, in respect of the interim facility, the same facilitation as is available in respect of the permanent campus, including identification of suitable premises, assistance in the matter of utilities and allied clearances, and the services of the Single Window Clearance Mechanism, the Designated Nodal Agency and the Dedicated Relationship Manager.

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- **Interim Facility and Permanent Campus:** An eligible FHEI may commence operations from an interim facility approved by the UGC, pending establishment of its permanent campus, and shall not on that account be disentitled to any incentive under this policy. Operation from an interim facility shall not be treated as establishment of the permanent campus for the purposes of this policy. The permanent campus shall be established within such period as may be prescribed by the UGC or, where no period is so prescribed, within the period undertaken by the institution in its Memorandum of Understanding with the State; and the incentives availed while the institution operates from the interim facility shall be subject to establishment of the permanent campus within that period.
- **Recognition of Credits:** Universities in the State shall, subject to the regulations of the UGC and to their own statutes and academic regulations, recognize credits earned in programmes offered by an eligible FHEI, through the Academic Bank of Credits.

8. Implementation and Oversight

- The Commissionerate of Higher Education (CHE) shall serve as the primary executing agency responsible for operationalizing this policy.
- A Performance Monitoring Unit (PMU) shall be instituted under the CHE to track key performance indicators (KPIs), including timelines of service delivery, number of institutions onboarded, seat allocations to local students, and research collaborations.
- Periodic review mechanisms involving stakeholder consultations shall be instituted to assess policy impact and recommend mid-course corrections.

9. Policy Review and Amendments

This policy shall be subject to annual review by the Higher Education Department. Amendments, if any, shall be undertaken based on stakeholder feedback, evolving regulatory frameworks, and emergent trends in international higher education.

J.SYAMALA RAO
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT