

# Southampton In Gurugram, 1st Foreign University In India

## Why In News

- **University of Southampton** has become the first UK university to receive approval from the Indian government to establish a comprehensive campus in the country. This move marks a significant milestone in **the Indian education sector**, aligning with the University Grants Commission's (UGC) initiative to invite the top **500 foreign universities** to set up campuses in India.



## University Of Southampton

- A **letter of intent (LoI)** was handed over to the University of Southampton today, marking the formal beginning of this collaboration. The event took place in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who emphasised the significance of this development under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- "This reflects both the vision of **elevating our educational standards** to the highest global levels and delivering on the education pillar of India-UK cooperation," Dr Jaishankar stated.



- He expressed confidence that such endeavours will further prepare Indian youth for global challenges and foster international cooperation.
- **University of Southampton**, recognised as one of the top 100 universities globally, will establish its campus in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR). **This campus will focus on** education, research, knowledge exchange, and enterprise activities, integrating Southampton's world-class expertise with India's emerging potential as a global education hub.



- **Mark E Smith, president and vice-chancellor** of the University of Southampton, highlighted the importance of this initiative.
- "In the 21st century, no university can be truly global without engaging with India. We intend to establish a campus that delivers social value and economic impact to India and the university by bringing together Southampton's world-

class activities in education, research, and knowledge exchange and enterprise, with all the talent of the rising global superpower that is India," he said.

- He further added that the new campus would play a crucial role in supporting the Government of **India's transformative agenda** by harnessing the potential of Indian youth. Professor Andrew Atherton, vice-president of International and Engagement, emphasised the campus's role in fostering academic collaboration and enhancing the Indian higher education system.



- "**University of Southampton Delhi NCR** will be the first comprehensive international campus in India. It will foster academic collaboration and bring an international dimension to the Indian higher education system, opening up opportunities to **study for a top 100 degree in-country**," he stated.
- This development is seen as a significant step **towards realizing the NEP 2020's** vision of '**internationalisation at home.**'



- The Education Minister also lauded the growing interest of **globally renowned higher education institutions** (HEIs) in collaborating with Indian institutions and contributing to India's future as a global education and talent hub.



- So far, only **Australian universities- Deakin University and the University of Wollongong** - have set up their campuses in India, at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Moreover, **Malaysia's Lincoln University College** was the first foreign university to register through the UGC's dedicated portal to set up a campus in India.

