

Report on the India/UK Together: Higher Education Collaboration Delegation - June 2022

27 UK Higher Education leaders visited India from 6-10 June 2022 and met with representatives from 10 Indian States and over 100 Indian HEIs. Two MOUs were signed during the delegation.



Background

The delegation was jointly organised by the British Council, Department for Education (DfE) and Department for International Trade (DIT) Education team, working with Universities UK International (UUKi). It was the largest ever delegation of UK Higher Education leaders to visit India.

The five-day engagement between the Indian and UK higher education sectors included a range of carefully curated sessions, visits and briefings involving the visiting delegation, union and state governments, Indian universities, and sector bodies.

The delegation, which consisted of Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, and Heads of International Departments from UK higher education institutions, as well as representatives from Russell Group, Global Wales and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, visited Delhi and then divided into groups to visit Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata.

Sir Steve Smith, the UK International Education Champion, was unfortunately unable to lead the delegation due to Covid. In his absence it was led by Vivienne Stern, Director UUKi and Zamila Bunglawala, Director, International Education Directorate, DfE. The previous high-level higher education delegation had taken place in September 2019 in Delhi and Hyderabad, at a time when the new National Education Policy (NEP) had just been announced but not published.

During this visit, the delegation was able to learn more about how the NEP implementation process is progressing and were able to interact with those responsible for translating the NEP from policy into practice.

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Programme highlights

6th June 2002

- By invitation from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, a half-day bilateral workshop was held with the Ministry of Education, the Universities Grants Commission (UGC), the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Vice-Chancellors. The workshop enabled UK delegates and their Indian counterparts to work together to develop recommendations for effective joint governance structures to drive collaboration in higher education between India and the UK at both the G2G and institutional levels (A report on the outcomes from the workshop will be shared when it is available).

7th June 2022

- An HMG-led session for UK HE delegates, showcasing the range of work on education in India undertaken by the British High Commission (BHC), the Science and Innovation Network (SIN), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), the Department for International Trade (DIT), the UK-India Business Council (UK-IBC), and the British Council.
- An overview of the Indian Government strategy for Internationalisation of Higher Education and an update on the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Panel discussions between senior UK and Indian policy makers exploring international collaboration between our two countries in higher education and research relating to NEP 2020.
- Case studies of how Indian and UK universities have been working together in partnership through a consortium model to deliver trans-national HE (TNE) programmes and collaborative research.
- Presentations from Indian states on their international ambitions and their progress on implementing the NEP.
- A session with business and academic leaders on how industry-academia collaboration can help build the skills that graduates need to prepare them the world of work, foster entrepreneurship, and strengthen the research and development of new products and services.
- Signing of an MOU between Delhi Sports University and the University of East London in the presence of the Honourable Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi Government.
- Signing of an MOU in Bangalore between Nottingham Trent University and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) to explore collaboration in teaching and research.

8th June 2022

- Institutional visits in Delhi to explore opportunities for collaboration on mutually relevant themes including, international faculty and student mobility, new research, capacity building, curriculum and assessment reform, and quality assurance. Delegates visited OP Jindal Global University (JGU), the Energy Research Institute (TERI), Amity University Noida, and Delhi Sports University (DSU).

9th and 10th June 2022

- The delegation divided up into smaller groups to visit Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Bengaluru. The state visits included three high-level round tables chaired by Education Ministers and visits to key Higher Education and Research Institutes.

Watch the video of the delegation highlights [here](#)



Initial Outputs from the Delegation

- 2 MOUs were signed during the delegation.
 1. Between Delhi Sports University (DSU) and University of East London (UEL) on academic collaboration. This was witnessed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.
 2. Between Nottingham Trent University and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) to explore collaboration in teaching and research.
- Follow-Up meeting organised by UUKi in London for GIFT city on 7th July 2022.
- 15 new connections made between UK and Indian Universities currently being pursued.
- Received follow-up insights from all Indian apex government bodies – UGC, AICTE, AIU, NAAC.
- Press and communications of the visit generated 126 stories in total across print and online outlets, leading to 1Bn+ overall reach. On Twitter, there were over 1,000 engagements, over 16,500 impressions, and 64 retweets.

