

Private, foreign universities can set up offshore campuses in UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The state legislative assembly on Wednesday passed four landmark bills aimed at bringing in reforms in the higher education sector.

The move will open doors for private universities from other states and foreign universities to set up their offshore campuses in UP. The assembly also paved the way for the establishment of three new private universities in the state.

Higher education minister Yogendra Upadhyay stated that these historic reforms in the higher education sector will elevate Uttar Pradesh's image on both national and international platforms. "With the establishment of new universities and foreign campuses, students will have the op-

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portunity to access world-class education right in their home state. They will no longer need to go outside the state, as high-quality education will now be affordable and easily accessible here," he said.

He added, "Until now, only institutions registered in UP could establish universities within the state. However, the new amend-

ment bill allows institutions, companies, and trusts registered in other states with a proven track record to open private universities in UP." Besides, foreign universities recognised by the UGC will also be eligible to establish campuses in the state.

Both the initiatives, said officials, are aimed at curbing the mass exodus of students to other states and abroad, and generating employment by creating UP as an educational hub. For this, the Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Act, 2019 (Uttar Pradesh Act No. 12 of 2019) has been amended. As part of this reform, new universities such as Vidya Vishwavidyalaya Meerut, Vivek Vishwavidyalaya Bijnor, and Chandigarh Vishwavidyalaya Unnao will now be established.