

{ **STARTED IN ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE'S NAME** } FOR STUDENTS

UP govt, UK FCDO launch joint Chevening scholarship

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LUCKNOW : The Uttar Pradesh government and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK, signed an agreement in the presence of chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday to launch the 'Chevening-Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme.'

Under the scheme, five talented students from the state will be awarded scholarships every year to pursue a master's degree in prestigious universities in the United Kingdom.

CM Yogi Adityanath said the scheme aims to prepare youth for a 'Global Leadership Role' by providing opportunities in education, research, and leadership at an international level.

It will run for three academic years from 2025-26 to 2027-28, with provisions for renewal from 2028-29.

Inspired by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the initiative seeks to raise Uttar Pradesh's profile on the global education platform.



Chief minister Yogi Adityanath along with dignitaries during the signing of agreement.

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The scholarship will cover tuition, examination and research fees, living allowance, and airfare.

The cost per student is estimated between £38,048 and £42,076 (Rs 45-48 lakh).

Of this, the state government will contribute £19,800 (Rs 23 lakh), while the FCDO UK will bear the remaining amount.

British High Commissioner

to India Lindy Cameron, who signed the MoU alongside the chief minister, said it was a pleasure to formalise the agreement in Lucknow.

She noted that five students each year will study in the UK on fully funded scholarships for the next three years, describing it as a reflection of deepening India-UK ties.

Sharing photos of her meeting with the chief minister on

X, Cameron wrote, "Great to be back in Uttar Pradesh. Thank you, Chief Minister @myogiadityanath for your time and valuable discussion on the future of the UK-India education partnership. The UK is a fantastic place to study, and our new partnership with the UP Government will help even more talented young people from the state experience our world-class education."

The High Commissioner highlighted that the initiative aligns with Vision 2035, signed recently during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UK visit.

She said it would open opportunities not only in education but also in trade and business, building on the Free Trade Agreement negotiations between the two countries.

The Chevening programme in India is the largest globally, benefitting more than 3,900 scholars and fellows since 1983.

Alumni have gone on to work across sectors, including cyber, science, policy, and development.

"They form a vital part of the living bridge between India and the UK," Cameron said.

LAUNCHED FOR 3 YEARS, CAN BE EXTENDED

UP signs Chevening scholarship MoU with UK for study at Britain's varsities

Under the programme, 5 students from the state will be sent to pursue master's degree every year

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 19

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for the "Chevening-Atal Bihari Vajpayee Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme" under which five meritorious students from the state will pursue master's degrees at Britain's leading universities every year.

The agreement was signed in Lucknow by British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The UP Cabinet had recently approved the proposal for the scholarship scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Adityanath said this scholarship scheme will serve as a powerful platform to transform the state's education system and prepare the youth for global leadership roles. The scheme, he emphasised, aimed to enable meritorious students to achieve excellence in education, research, and leadership at the international level.

The programme will com-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, and others during signing of the 'Chevening-Atal Bihari Vajpayee Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme', in Lucknow on Tuesday. *Express*

mence from the academic session 2025-26 and run for three years, with the possibility of renewal from the 2028-29 session.

The Chief Minister urged the students to "seize this opportunity and enhance the pride of both the state and the country".

The scholarship covers tuition, examination and research fees, living allowances, and airfare to and from the UK. The total cost per student is estimated to be ₹38,048 to ₹42,076 (Rs 45-48 lakh), with the state government contributing around ₹19,800 (Rs 23 lakh) and the re-

mainder funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

The British High Commissioner highlighted that under the scholarship scheme, five students will receive full scholarships to study in the United Kingdom each year for

the next three years.

This initiative reflects the strengthening ties between India and the UK, an official statement said, adding this comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the UK, where he had signed the Trade Agreement and Vision 35, opening new avenues for business and education.

On August 7, the state Cabinet had given nod to the draft proposal titled "Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chevening Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme".

The government then had informed that the scholarship will provide for students' stay and study at top UK institutions like the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and the Landon School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay had then stated that the scheme will be renewed or extended thereafter. He had also said the funding will be equally shared by the state government and the FCDO.

The state government has cleared Rs 2 crore for the current financial year for the programme, it is learnt.

