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## Feedback Note

### 1. Name of the Topic

#### **Higher Education: Knowledge Economy**

The theme focuses on transforming India's higher education institutions (HEIs) into dynamic centres of innovation, research, and skill development that directly contribute to national progress. This aligns with India's vision of becoming a global knowledge superpower and achieving its developmental goals under the "Viksit Bharat" initiative.

Swami Vivekananda Subharti University strongly supports the theme as it reflects the emerging role of higher education institutions in creating intellectual capital, improving employability, enhancing research output, and promoting inclusive, technology-driven growth across various sectors. Recognizing the centrality of education in human capital formation, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University considers the theme to be timely and important for guiding policy and institutional reforms in higher education, particularly in India's vast network of state universities and private higher education institutions.

### 2. Policy Gaps and Challenges

India's current higher education structure, particularly in state private universities, has many policy and implementation gaps. Key challenges include inadequate funding models, fragmented regulatory frameworks, and limited institutional autonomy. The state private universities have limited mobility of students and faculty for international exchange programmes and joint research initiatives. Another shortcoming is the disparity in digital infrastructure and access, especially for students from rural or marginalized communities.

Research activities are hampered by complex grant processes, minimal industry support, and inadequate focus on translational innovation. Lack of incentives for academic-industry collaboration results in underutilization of research potential. In addition, outdated curricula, rigid assessment systems, and limited avenues for interdisciplinary learning prevent students from acquiring employable, future-ready skills. Lack of favourable mechanisms to engage international students and regulatory hurdles are hampering India's global visibility and competitiveness.

### 3. Potential Solutions

To address these challenges, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University recommends adopting a multidimensional strategy:

(1) Establish state-supported Research Parks and Translational Research Zones to bridge the gap between innovation and market-ready solutions.

- (2) Create a State Higher Education Finance Agency to provide soft loans and grants to HEIs for infrastructure and research.
- (3) Launch structured Faculty Exchange Programs with global universities and digital faculty training under SWAYAM. Special focus on female faculty leadership and mentoring for STEM inclusivity.
- (4) Encourage modular and interdisciplinary curricula that integrate AI, blockchain, and sustainability.
- (5) Embed apprenticeship and live projects into academic programs to align with industry needs.
- (6) Promote global collaborations, dual degree programs, and student/faculty exchange.
- (7) Digitize all academic output via DOIs and integrate platforms like DigiLocker, SAMARTH ERP, and Virtual Labs.

By implementing these reforms, India's HEIs—especially State Private Universities and emerging private universities—can become globally competitive and inclusive engines of innovation.

#### **4. Best Practices**

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University has initiated several scalable and replicable models of academic reform, infrastructure enhancement, and community engagement. The university runs a Digital Research Repository where all publications and theses are assigned DOIs for global visibility. The university also runs outreach programs in rural areas, linking innovation with local development needs such as sanitation, telemedicine, and agri-tech. Swami Vivekanand Subharti University has signed over 20 MoUs with foreign institutions and industries, resulting in collaborative research and international exposure for students. The International Cell of the university handles onboarding, support, and engagement of foreign students. Additionally, the ERP system ensures seamless academic and administrative operations, while integration with Virtual Labs enhances practical STEM education. These best practices reflect Swami Vivekanand Subharti University's commitment to NEP 2020 and can be adopted by other HEIs to foster a sustainable, digital, and globally aligned higher education ecosystem.

**Best Practices** for Submission on Behalf of Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Aligned with the Theme: "*Higher Education: Knowledge Economy.*"

1. Implementation of Integrated Digital Governance through SAMARTH ERP
2. Multidisciplinary, Credit-Based Modular Curriculum under NEP 2020
3. Virtual Lab Integration for Practical Learning
4. Telemedicine and Health Outreach Model



**Director, IQAC**