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## State Specific Note

### I. Introduction

The theme “Higher Education: Knowledge Economy” is of critical importance to higher education institutions (HEIs) because it places universities at the center of national development. As per the study shared, India’s demographic dividend—more than 65% of the population is under the age of 35—makes higher education critical for building a skilled workforce for sectors such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, clean technology, and global services.

With 81% of enrolment in state private universities, higher education institutions are playing a vital role in transforming India's economic base. However, the India Skills Report 2023 shows that only 47% of graduates are currently employable, highlighting the urgent need for future-ready curriculum, research-based learning, and scalable innovation.

Swami Vivekananda Subharti University believes that higher education institutions must play a catalytic role in realizing the goal of a developed India, especially through interdisciplinary education, global engagement, and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### II. Current Situation

India’s higher education landscape is witnessing structural reforms through:

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation.
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).
- National platforms like SWAYAM, SAMARTH ERP, and Virtual Labs
- The creation of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University has addressed this by:

- Adopting CBCS and Continuous Evaluation systems.
- Integrating with DigiLocker, AISHE, NAAC, and NIRF.
- Signing 20+ MoUs with foreign universities for academic and research collaboration.
- Hosting innovation festivals and community-driven research outreach.

### III. Challenges

Despite these initiatives, several gaps persist:

1. **Funding Constraints:** Most State Private universities have to allocate their maximum percentage of their budgets to salaries, with little for research and innovation. Private HEIs lack access to public R&D grants.
2. **Faculty Shortages:** Vacancies range from 40% to 60%, with slow recruitment processes.
3. **Digital Divide:** Access to digital resources remains uneven across urban-rural lines.

4. **Curriculum Obsolescence:** Limited alignment with 21st-century skills and interdisciplinary learning.
5. **Industry Disengagement:** Few HEIs co-create curriculum or research with industry.
6. **Internationalization Barriers:** Complicated visa norms, weak branding, and poor institutional visibility hinder foreign admissions.

#### **IV. Possible Solutions**

To address these challenges, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University recommends:

- The State Higher Education Finance Agency should provide funding for infrastructure, research, and innovation in private higher education institutions.
- Strict policies for transparent and timely faculty recruitment.
- Translational Research Zones should be developed with industry for rapid prototyping and commercialization.
- Modular, interdisciplinary curricula with embedded skill training aligned with Skill India and IndiaAI should be implemented.
- An integrated India Study Portal with alternate routes and faster visa integration should be provided.
- Blockchain-enabled digital degree verification and research citation tracking should be developed.
- Implementation of performance-based public funding models, linked to graduate employability outcomes, research productivity, and contributions toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **V. Best Practices**

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University Initiatives:

- Swami Vivekanand Subharti University's distinctiveness: "Harmonious Living with Nature & Environment: The University's Unique Distinctiveness"
- Swami Vivekanand Subharti University's best practices during the last 5 years are: 'Save Nature to Sustain Life', Aligning Modern Education with Indian Values and Culture, Reaching Out to Society is our Commitment, Wellness-A Holistic Loom, Responsibilities Foremost Rights Later.
- The university integrated industry-relevant skills into academic programs through regular curriculum updates, ensuring alignment with emerging sectors like Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Clean Technology, and Digital Services.

- Vocational training and value-added certification programs enhance student employability across domains.
- The University promotes interdisciplinary and applied research through dedicated **Research and Development (R&D) cells**, incubation centers, and collaborations with government and industry bodies.
- Emphasis on **intellectual property generation**, patent filing, and startup mentorship fosters a culture of innovation.
- Swami Vivekanand Subharti University encourages entrepreneurial mindsets through its **Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC)**, startup incubation programs, and business plan competitions.
- Deployment of **Learning Management Systems (LMS)**, smart classrooms, and digital content delivery ensures accessibility and adaptability in education.
- Strategic MoUs with **international universities, research institutions, and corporate partners** foster knowledge exchange, faculty development, and global exposure for students.
- Participation in government initiatives like **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** as a knowledge hub.
- The University actively promotes **education for sustainable development**, integrating **SDG goals** into its teaching, outreach, and research.
- Community engagement through health camps, rural development projects, and awareness drives demonstrates its commitment to inclusive growth.
- Implementation of **Outcome-Based Education (OBE)** frameworks ensures that learning outcomes are measurable, career-oriented, and aligned with market needs.

These practices are scalable, replicable, and contribute to India's transformation into a knowledge-driven nation.

## VI. Priority Areas

The dynamic and rapidly evolving landscape of higher education presents both opportunities and challenges, and the vision is to anticipate these developments with strategic, innovative, and impactful projects. Below, outlined the key upcoming projects, goals, and priorities that will shape the future of the University. Swami Vivekanand Subharti University has identified the following priority actions:

- The University will launch an International Curriculum Review Board composed of academic experts from around the world to regularly evaluate and refine its curricula.

- The upcoming year will see a renewed focus on research and innovation. Building on the success of the **Innovation and Incubation Center**, we plan to establish **dedicated research labs** in fields such as **artificial intelligence, biotechnology, green technology, and healthcare innovations**.
- In response to the growing demand for flexible learning solutions, the university will continue expanding its **e-learning initiatives**. The university plans to introduce a **full-fledged digital campus**, which will include **virtual labs, AI-driven personalized learning tools, and adaptive assessments**.
- The University plans to modernize its **libraries** with **digital repositories, AI-based resource management systems, and collaborative learning spaces**, making them more conducive to research and innovation.
- The University also plans to introduce **rural entrepreneurship development programs** aimed at empowering local communities by offering business training, mentorship, and access to financial resources.
- The University will actively pursue additional partnerships with universities across Europe, North America, and Asia to facilitate **faculty and student exchanges, joint research programs, and dual-degree opportunities**.
- The University plans to introduce **diversity and inclusivity initiatives** to ensure that students from all backgrounds feel supported and included.
- The University will invest in **solar energy projects, rainwater harvesting systems, and waste management programs** that aim to reduce its environmental footprint and promote sustainable practices across campus.
- Will establish School of Emerging Technologies (AI, Quantum, CleanTech, Blockchain).
- Planning to launch dual-degree programs with international HEIs.
- To achieve an NAAC A++ grade of level 4 or 5 as per the new accreditation system of MBGL and enter the NIRF Top 100.
- To enable at least 10% international student enrollment.
- Complete implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and National Credit Framework.
- Set up the Regional SDG Policy Research Centre in partnership with government agencies.
- Promotion of interdisciplinary research addressing national and global challenges.

- Establishment of research centers and innovation hubs for patent generation and technology transfer.

## VII. Way Forward – Strategy for Implementation

### Legal:

- UGC and State Govts to allow high-performing private HEIs access to **public research funds**.
- Facilitate **dual-degree frameworks** and **cross-border academic collaboration**.

### Administrative:

- Establish a **State-Level Task Force** with private HEIs and industry representatives.
- Simplify faculty hiring, curriculum approval, and international MoU processes.

### Technological:

- Scale up the use of **SAMARTH ERP**, **Virtual Labs**, **DigiLocker**, and **AI-based learning systems**.
- Introduce **Blockchain-based degree validation** and **central research dashboards**.

### Budgetary:

- Adopt **performance-based funding models**.
- Encourage **CSR partnerships**, **alumni giving**, and **international collaborations**.



**Director, IQAC**