

Daily Editorial Analysis 15 September 2025

September 15, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com

Bringing Global Education Home

Context

- In recent years, **India has witnessed a significant transformation in its higher education landscape**, marked by the entry of world-class foreign universities establishing physical campuses within its borders.
- Based on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission (UGC), **the Ministry of Education has issued twelve letters** of intent to leading global institutions, with one U.K. university already commencing operations in Gurugram for the 2025–26 academic session.
- This **shift signals not only a conscious policy realignment but also a strategic vision** to expand educational opportunities for Indian students and reshape the nation's place in global academia.

Policy Foundation and Vision

- The **cornerstone of this development lies in the UGC regulations introduced in 2023**, which enabled foreign universities to set up campuses in India with operational autonomy and regulatory clarity.
- This initiative aligns directly with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which emphasizes reimagining higher education to be both globally competitive and locally grounded.
- The **policy reflects India's growing ambition to host world-class institutions**, thereby integrating global best practices with indigenous educational traditions.

The Reason Behind India's Timing in Opening Its Doors to Foreign Universities

- The **country is experiencing a unique convergence of factors**: a large and aspirational youth population, a rapidly expanding economy, and an innovation-driven startup ecosystem.
- The **demand for high-quality education** in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, sustainability, and data science is rising sharply.
- At the same time, **India's domestic reforms**, such as hybrid learning models, streamlined research funding via the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, and outcome-oriented accreditation reforms, **create fertile ground for global institutions to thrive**.
- **Foreign universities**, many of which face operational challenges and demographic shifts in the West, **find in India a promising environment**.
- **With its vast youth population and expanding intellectual capital, India offers both opportunity and stability**, making it an attractive destination for international expansion.

Local Advantage, Global Gains of the Arrival of Foreign Campuses

• Transformative Benefits

- For Indian students and their families, **the benefits are transformative**. Access to world-class education at home eliminates the financial and logistical burdens of studying abroad.
- **Students can now experience global curricula**, diverse peer networks, and international research opportunities without leaving their own cultural and familial environment.
- This **accessibility democratises global education**, making it attainable for students who might otherwise have been excluded due to economic or social constraints.
- **Parents, too, find reassurance in this development**. They can provide their children with global opportunities while maintaining the security of proximity.
- The **result is a new equilibrium where aspiration and assurance co-exist**, thereby reshaping the very notion of international education.

• Raising the Bar for Indian Institutions

- The arrival of foreign campuses inevitably **raises the bar for domestic universities**.
- **Competition compels innovation**, urging Indian institutions to upgrade curricula, foster research, and strengthen global linkages.
- Already, **collaborations between IITs, IISERs, AIIMS, and international universities are driving advancements in renewable energy**, public health, and engineering.
- The **new campuses will only accelerate such exchanges**, enriching both research output and academic culture.
- Moreover, **this influx of foreign players contributes to India's broader knowledge economy**.
- By **facilitating cross-border partnerships, India not only enhances its own academic ecosystem but also strengthens its global educational ties**, particularly with partners in Australia, Europe, the UK, and the United States.

• India as an Education Powerhouse

- Despite India's established reputation in technology, **diplomacy, and manufacturing, its potential in education remains underemphasised**.
- Yet, **the country's rich intellectual heritage**, from ancient centres like Nalanda to modern experiments like Shantiniketan, **provides a foundation for positioning India as a distinctive force in international education**.
- The **goal is not to mimic Western models but to create an educational environment** that blends global excellence with local wisdom.
- **Welcoming international institutions and students is not a diversion from addressing domestic challenges**; rather, it amplifies resources, quality, and ambition within the Indian system.
- By shaping the narrative of what world-class education means, **India can move from being a consumer to a co-creator of global educational standards**.

Conclusion

- **What began as an idea within NEP 2020 is now evolving into a bold reconfiguration** of India's higher education landscape.
- **By hosting global university campuses, India provides its students with unprecedented choices** while strengthening its own academic infrastructure.
- The **dilemma of choosing between studying in India and going abroad is being replaced** by a more empowering possibility: accessing global opportunities at one's doorstep.
- This **transformation represents not just a policy initiative but the unfolding of a new chapter** in India's knowledge economy.

Bringing Global Education Home FAQs

Q1. Why has India allowed foreign universities to establish campuses within the country?

Ans. India has allowed foreign universities to set up campuses to align with the National Education Policy 2020, which seeks to make higher education globally competitive while remaining locally rooted.

Q2. What advantages do Indian students gain from foreign universities opening campuses in India?

Ans. Indian students gain access to international-quality education, global curricula, and research opportunities without the high costs and challenges of studying abroad.

Q3. How does the entry of foreign universities affect Indian institutions?

Ans. The entry of foreign universities creates healthy competition, encouraging Indian institutions to innovate, improve their curricula, and strengthen research collaborations.

Q4. Why is this development happening at this point in time?

Ans. This development is happening now because India has a large youth population, a growing economy, and ongoing educational reforms that make it attractive for global institutions.

Q5. How does this initiative contribute to India's global position in education?

Ans. By hosting world-class institutions, India positions itself as an emerging hub of international education, shifting from being a consumer of global education to a co-creator of it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Cutting Off Online Gaming with the Scissors of Prohibition

Context:

- In a sudden move, the Government of India passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 at the end of the monsoon session, without debate or consultation with States or industry stakeholders.
- The Bill bans online real money games while promoting e-sports and social gaming.
- This abrupt ban has raised concerns about foreign investment, as online gaming was a fast-growing sector with significant global funding.

- Critics argue that such unpredictable policy shifts could damage investor confidence and undermine India's potential to lead in digital industries.
- This article highlights the sudden passage of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which bans online real money games, sparking concerns over jobs, revenues, investment, constitutional rights, and regulatory alternatives.

Fallout of the Online Gaming Ban

- The ban on online real money gaming strikes directly at India's digital economy, affecting technology, payments, and digital content — sectors central to *Digital India*.
- The industry, projected to **employ 1.5 lakh people by 2025** in areas like design, programming, customer support, and analytics, now faces massive job losses, stifled innovation, and weakened entrepreneurship.
- Additionally, online real money games were expected to **contribute about ₹17,000 crore in GST revenue**, benefiting both the Centre and States.
- By cutting this revenue source, the government has imposed a significant financial cost.
- The Centre justifies the ban by citing financial ruin and addictive behaviour among players, **equating gaming with a societal harm akin to drug abuse**.
- However, critics question whether prohibition is the right solution, suggesting that careful regulation — as attempted in States like Tamil Nadu — might address negative impacts without destroying jobs, revenue, and industry growth.

Ignoring Responsible Gaming and Legal Safeguards

- Online gaming companies had introduced proven tools to promote responsible play, such as age-gating, self-exclusion, deposit and time limits, bot detection, KYC/AML checks, and ethical advertising standards.
- Instead of strengthening these safeguards, the government imposed a blanket ban, dismantling accountability and pushing players toward illegal offshore platforms that operate outside Indian jurisdiction, evade taxes, and expose users to fraud.
- The ban also undermines constitutional rights and federal principles. **Article 19(1)(g)** guarantees the right to practise any profession or business, which this law curtails.
- Moreover, **betting and gambling are State subjects**, yet the Union government acted unilaterally, raising constitutional concerns now challenged in court.
- At the heart of the debate is whether online games are “**games of skill**” or “**games of chance**.”
- Courts have consistently upheld skill-based games as legitimate, while States regulate or ban chance-based gambling.
- Instead of clarifying this distinction with robust regulation, the government chose prohibition — a blunt approach that risks worsening the very problems it sought to solve.

Finding a Middle Ground in Online Gaming Regulation

- The solution to online real money gaming lies not in prohibition or unchecked freedom but in balanced legislation.

- A clear licensing system, strict compliance standards, and a predictable taxation regime could safeguard players, prevent addiction, and respect States' roles while ensuring industry growth.
- Instead, the blanket ban drives revenues and opportunities into the underground economy, strips players of protection, and risks fueling unregulated networks.
- Whether this move truly safeguards citizens or leaves them more vulnerable remains an open question.

Conclusion

- The abrupt ban on online real money gaming risks job losses, revenue decline, and regulatory gaps, raising doubts about whether it protects citizens or worsens vulnerabilities.

Cutting Off Online Gaming with the Scissors of Prohibition FAQs

Q1. What does the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 ban, and why is it controversial?

Ans. The Bill bans online real money games, sparking concerns over jobs, investment, and constitutional rights. Critics argue regulation, not prohibition, would balance growth with safeguards.

Q2. How will the gaming ban impact India's economy and employment?

Ans. The industry was projected to employ 1.5 lakh people and contribute ₹17,000 crore in GST. The ban risks massive job losses, revenue decline, and stifled innovation.

Q3. What safeguards had gaming companies already implemented for responsible gaming?

Ans. Companies introduced age-gating, self-exclusion, deposit limits, KYC/AML checks, and ethical advertising. The ban dismantled these protections, leaving players vulnerable to illegal offshore apps and fraud.

Q4. What constitutional and federal issues are raised by the ban?

Ans. The ban violates Article 19(1)(g), restricting the right to practise any business. It also bypassed States' authority, since betting and gambling are State subjects.

Q5. What is the suggested middle ground for regulating online gaming?

Ans. A balanced approach involves licensing frameworks, strict compliance, and fair taxation to protect players, prevent harm, and support industry growth without banning real money games.

Source: TH

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