

High Level Dialogue on Cooperation in Education between India and Finland (31 January 2024)

Joint Statement

1. In pursuance of the Joint Statement issued following the virtual meeting held between the Prime Ministers of India and Finland on 16 March 2021, a High Level Dialogue on Cooperation in Education was held in a virtual format on 31 January 2024.
2. The Indian side was led by Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Department of Higher Education and the Finnish side was led by Ms. Anita Lehikoinen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture. The composition of delegation is attached.
3. Both sides held comprehensive discussions based on the mutually agreed agenda. Both sides shared the update on current policies, visions and reforms in their respective education sectors. They also highlighted the opportunities for future collaboration between both countries. Based on the discussions, both sides agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in the following areas:
 - i. **Early to senior secondary education** – Sharing of best practices; joint development of pedagogical framework/practices, learning contents/tasks/ learning solutions; collaboration in capacity building and professional development of teachers, school-to-school partnerships, joint research on learning/comparative studies, explore collaboration under NEP 2020.
 - ii. **Higher Education** – Both sides acknowledged the ongoing cooperation in higher education through different networks and cooperation, e.g. FICORE initiative (Finnish India Consortia for Research and Education). Further, both sides agreed to explore collaboration in for example, teacher mobility schemes, student exchange programmes, industry academia collaboration, and internship programmes. Indian side invited reputed Finnish institutes of higher education to setup campuses in India as per the new regulations by University Grants Commission (UGC).
 - iii. **Student mobility** – Both sides agreed to explore ways to facilitate movement of students, researchers and other specialists to each other's country for education purposes and facilitate mutual recognition of academic qualifications.
 - iv. **Skill Development** – Both sides agreed to do mapping of skill resources for optimal utilization of manpower available in both countries.
 - v. Both sides agreed to explore possibilities of establishing a Working Group at functional level to facilitate the cooperation in education sector.
 - vi. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in education between India and Finland.

Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
International Cooperation cell

India-Finland High Level Dialogue

Mode: Virtual

Date & Time: 31st January, 2024; 1300 hrs to 1530 hrs (IST)

List of Participants from Indian Side

1. Sh. K. Sanjay Murthy – Secretary (HE), MoE- Co-Chair
2. H.E. Mr. Raveesh Kumar, Ambassador of India in Finland
3. Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary (ICC), MoE
4. Ms. Prachi Pandey, Joint Secretary (Institutions & Training Bureau), D/o SEL, MoE
5. Ms. Sonal Mishra, Joint Secretary – I, M/o SD&E
6. Ms. Shalia Shah, Deputy Secretary (ICC), MoE
7. Representative from UGC
8. Representative AICTE
9. Representative from NCERT

List of Participants from Finnish Side

1. Ms Anita Lehtikainen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture
2. H.E. Mr Kimmo Lähdevirta, Ambassador of Finland in India
3. Ms Sirkku Linna, Director-General of Department for Higher Education and Science Policy, MoEC
4. Ms Jaana Palojarvi, Director for International Relations, MoEC
5. Ms Minna Bálint, Senior Ministerial Adviser, MoEC
6. Ms Marjo Vesalainen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, MoEC
7. Ms Johanna Koponen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, MoEC
8. Ms Sari Eriksson Senior Ministerial Adviser, MoEC
9. Mr Niklas Nikanorov, Senior Specialist, MoEC
