

Fake varsity count rises by 8 this year, total 32

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New Delhi: India has added eight fake universities in just a few months to its list of dubious institutions duping students.

According to data shared by the Union government in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, there are 32 fake universities in India. In December 2025, the government had told the Upper House that there were 24 fake universities.

BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal had sought to know whether the University Grants Commission has identified certain universities as fake and if any action has been taken against such institutions.

In a written reply on Thursday, minister of state for education Sukanta Majumdar said the UGC periodically releases a list of fake universities. Currently, 32 such fake institutions are functioning in India "as per the latest list published in February 2026". The list is available on the UGC website.

"Education is in the concurrent list and both central and state governments work together for the development of education in India," the minister said in his reply.

The UGC has issued clar-

ifications, compliance letters and showcause notices, and put up notices on its website to caution students and people against fraud institutions, the minister said. Letters have also been issued to the chief secretaries, education secretaries and principal secretaries of the states and Union Territories concerned, requesting them to take suitable action against such institutions and to register FIRs against them, the minister said.

"The central government has requested the chief secretaries of all state governments and UT administrations to take legal action for the closure of these institutions, and to take appropriate action against those involved in defrauding and cheating students by misrepresenting themselves as 'universities', awarding degrees, and using the word 'university' with their name," the minister said.

On December 3, 2025, BJP MP Laxmikanta Bajpayee, too, had wanted to know about fake universities. Majumdar had then said: "Currently, 24 institutions figure in the list. Out of which, nine have been included in the list of fake universities during the last five years."

Going by the two replies separated by eight months, India had added 17 fake universities, more than half of the 32 such institutions, in the last six years.

According to the UGC Act, any institution set up by an Act of Parliament or an Act of any Assembly or by an executive order under Section 3 of the UGC Act is genuine. However, they have to obtain approval from the regulator to offer professional courses. According to the All India Higher Education Survey, there are 1,289 genuine universities in India.

M.M. Salunkhe, former president of the Association of Indian Universities and former vice-chancellor of the Central University of Rajasthan, said the measures being taken were inadequate to prevent fraud institutions from coming up. He said many genuine universities were offering fake degrees since they had not obtained approval from the regulators.