

Australia-India education qualification recognition mechanism

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In news– Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has recently announced an 'Australia-India education qualification recognition mechanism'.

What is is this mechanism?

- The new mechanism will mean that **degrees obtained in Australia will now be recognised in India, and, vice-versa, degrees obtained in India will be recognised in Australia.**
- This new mechanism was finalised by Australian Education Minister Jason Clare and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the former's visit to Delhi recently.
- **India has other agreements with countries like the US.**
- **What makes this broader than the agreement with the US is it includes online courses also,** apart from courses that **Australian universities can run in India or at a standalone campus like the one that University of Wollongong is setting up.**
- This agreement is expected to make it easier for Indians to go to Australia for both education and work, and vice-versa.
- **However, this move will not apply to professional qualifications just yet.** Professional registrations of engineering, medicine and law graduates will remain outside the ambit of this agreement.
- The Australian premier also confirmed that **Geelong's Deakin University will be the first ever foreign**

university to have an offshore campus in India, to be set up in Gandhinagar's GIFT City.

- The campus is set to offer courses in cyber security and business analytics.

Maitri scholarship-

- A new scholarship was also announced for Indian students studying in Australia.
- The **'Maitri' scholarships will provide financial assistance to Indian students in Australia for as long as four years.**
- The scholarships are **part of the wider Maitri (friendship) programme** that seeks to boost cultural, educational and community ties between Australia and India.
- The 'Maitri' scholarship was first mentioned in a joint media statement by Australian ministers on February 14, 2022.
- The \$ 11.2 million Maitri Scholarships Program will attract and support high-achieving Indian students to study at Australian universities.
- It will showcase Australia's globally renowned academic and research institutions, particularly in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health.