# **UGC Framework for Private Universities**

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### Context

Thinking about the future academic vision instead of "commercial interests", the UGC has notified modalities for state private universities.

## **Key Highlights**

- The University Grants Commission recently allowed private universities to establish their off-campus centres and introduced rules for the same.
- The country's private universities were not allowed to open off-campus centres so far in other states.
- In a meeting held on March 5, UGC decided to allow the country's private universities to open off-campus centres in any state within the country if they met the following criteria:
  - A minimum of 5 years of established order and operations and
  - Accreditation from the national Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- However, it will not be required to have an A or a B grade in NAAC ratings.
- The non-public college that wants to set up off-campus centres should meet the minimum workforce, infrastructure and financial necessities set by the commission.
- The universities must provide approvals from the statutory and regulatory bodies.
- The universities will have to assure they may provide infrastructure, faculty and publications being supplied at the main campus to the students of their off-campus centres.

- The universities should pay Rs 10 lakh as status quo expenses to UGC.
- The fee could have the right to carry out inspections and take punitive measures in opposition to the college in cases of irregularities and court cases.
- The UGC may additionally order closure of a university's off-campus middle if it breaches any of the guidelines.
  - In such instances, the university must facilitate shifting college students to their main campus.

## **About University Grants Commission (UGC)**

- The University Grants Commission of India is a statutory body under the provisions of UGC Act, 1956.
- It is liable for coordistate, willpower and renovation of requirements of better schooling.
- It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses finances to such identified universities and colleges.
- Nodal Ministry: Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

### Mandate of UGC

- Promoting and coordinating college schooling.
- Determining and retaining standards of coaching, examistate and studies in universities.
- Framing rules on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring tendencies in the area of collegiate and college schooling; disbursing offers to the colleges and faculties.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and State governments and establishments of better mastering.
- Advising the Central and State governments on the measures essential for the development of university education.

## Conclusion

- Academic experts said that this selection might also show useful for college students as they may get extra options to select from.
- However, it additionally means that the sixteen authorities-run universities in the country will face more opposition.
- More college students may also shift to those centres, leaving a massive number of permitted seats in the public universities vacant each year.

Source: The Indian Express

#### **UPSC Mains practice Question**

Q.How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. (2020)

