Chapter 8.0
Policy and programmes of UGC

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8.1 University Grants Commission
8.1.1 Genesis

From ancient Bharat to modern India, higher education has always occupied a place of prominence in Indian history. In ancient times, Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila universities were renowned seats of higher learning, attracting students not only from all over the country but from far off countries like Korea, China, Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Tibet and Nepal. Today, India manages one of the largest higher education systems in the world.

The present system of higher education dates back to Mountstuart Elphinstone's minutes of 1823, which stressed on the need for establishing schools for teaching English and the European sciences. Later, Lord Macaulay, in his minutes of 1835, advocated "efforts to make natives of the country thoroughly good English scholars". Sir Charles Wood's Dispatch of 1854, famously known as the 'Magna Carta of English Education in India', recommended creating a properly articulated scheme of education from the primary school to the university. It sought to encourage indigenous education and planned the formulation of a coherent policy of education. Subsequently, the universities of Calcutta, Bombay (now Mumbai) and Madras were set up in 1857, followed by the university of Allahabad in 1887.

The Inter-University Board (later known as the Association of Indian Universities) was established in 1925 to promote university activities, by sharing information and cooperation in the field of education, culture, sports and allied areas.

The first attempt to formulate a national system of education in India came in 1944, with the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post War Educational Development in India, also known as the Sargeant Report. It recommended the formation of a University Grants Committee, which was formed in 1945 to oversee the work of the three Central Universities of Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi. In 1947, the Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with all the then existing Universities.

Soon after Independence, the University Education Commission was set up in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan "to report on Indian university education and suggest improvements and extensions that might be desirable to suit the present and
future needs and aspirations of the country". It recommended that the University Grants Committee be reconstituted on the general model of the University Grants Commission of the United Kingdom with a full-time Chairman and other members to be appointed from amongst educationists of repute.

In 1952, the Union Government decided that all cases pertaining to the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to the Central Universities and other Universities and Institutions of higher learning might be referred to the University Grants Commission. Consequently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) was formally inaugurated by late Shri Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the then Minister of Education, Natural Resources and Scientific Research on 28 December 1953.

The UGC, however, was formally established only in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Government of India through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India. In order to ensure effective region-wise coverage throughout the country, the UGC has decentralised its operations by setting up six regional centres at Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhopal, Guwahati and Bangalore. The head office of the UGC is located at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in New Delhi, with two additional bureaus operating from 35, Feroze Shah Road and the South Campus of University of Delhi as well.

8.1.2 Mandate

The UGC has the unique distinction of being the only grant-giving agency in the country which has been vested with two responsibilities: that of providing funds and that of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education.

8.1.2.1 The UGC's mandate includes:

- Promoting and coordinating university education.
- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

8.1.3 Inter University Centres (IUC)

The UGC has been setting up autonomous centres, from 1984, when the first one was established to provide common facilities for research, and for various services and programmes to the universities, since heavy investment in infrastructure and input is beyond the reach of the individual university to obtain these facilities. The following is one of the inter-university centres have been established:

8.1.3.1 Inter University Accelerator Centre (formerly -Nuclear Science Centre)

Inter University Accelerator Centre was the first Inter-University Centre to be established by the UGC in 1984. The primary objective of the Centre is to establish within the university system a world class facilities for accelerator based research. Its aim is to formulate common research programmes of research and development in collaboration with universities, IITs and other research institutions. It promotes group activities and human research development in experimental science and other branches of knowledge.

8.1.3.2 National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established by the UGC in September 1994 at Bangalore for evaluating the performance of the Universities and Colleges in the Country. NAAC's mandate includes the task of performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation of universities and colleges in the country. The philosophy of NAAC is based on objective and continuous improvement rather than being punitive or judgmental, so that all institutions of higher learning are empowered to maximize their resources, opportunities and capabilities. Assessment is a performance evaluation of an institution and /or its units and is accomplished through a process based on self-study and peer review using defined criteria. Accreditation refers to the certification given by NAAC which is valid for a period of five years. At present the Assessment and Accreditation by NAAC is done on a voluntary basis.

8.1.3.3 Inter University Centre for International Studies

The UGC has established Inter-University Centres (IUCs) for centrally providing state-of-the-art equipment & facilities for the benefit of researchers working in different universities. So far, these IUCS have been established mainly in the filed of science and technology. The UGC now proposes to establish the first IUC in the field of Humanities and Social Science by taking over academic and physical infrastructure available at Indo-American Centre for International Studies.
The proposed IUC would be providing dynamic and vibrant platform for academicians from India, SAARC region, Central Asian and other countries. The main objective of the IUC would be to address contemporary development issues with multi disciplinary approach in the following areas.

1. Education, Commerce, Economics of development of these countries along with the interface with the developed countries.

2. World trade, GATS, IPR, financial management for international understanding.

3. Conflict management, diplomacy, development and peace initiatives between various countries.

4. Human rights, human values, life skills and learning to live together.

5. Art, literature and other allied areas.

8.1.3.4 Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astro-Physics (IUCAA)

Information IUCAA, Pune was set up in 1988 as an autonomous centre of excellence to help initiate nurture and grow initiate research and developmental activities in Astronomy and Astrophysics in the University sector. IUCAA was set up with the basic purpose of providing advanced centralized facilities for subjects not adequately covered in the university departments and colleges.

8.1.3.5 National Facilities

The UGC has established 4 National Facilities Centre in the selected universities as per details given below:-

1. Western Regional Instrumentation Centre, Mumbai, Mumbai University

2. M.S.T. Radar Facilities, Sri Venkateshwar University, Tirupati

3. Inter University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences IUCHSS, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

4. Crystal Growth Centre, Anna University, Madras

8.1.3.5.1 Western Regional Instrumentation Centre, Mumbai

This Centre was established by University Grants Commission in 1978 under the administrative control of Mumbai University with the objective to provide training to USIC staff and students for proper use and maintenance
of instruments conducting advanced study programmes such as workshops, seminars for teachers, Research workers from University, National Laboratories and industries etc.

8.1.3-5.2 M.S.T. Radar Facilities, Sri Venkateshwar University, Tirupati

The University Grants has established a centre for MST Radar application in the Physics Department SU University, Tirupati in 1990 to utilize the National MST Radar facilities created at Gadanki by the Researchers and Scientists in Indian Universities.

8.1.3-5.3 Inter University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences
IUCHSS, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

The main objectives of the Centre are to invite teachers form universities and colleges to the institute as associate of the IUC, organize "Research Seminars" for researchers and young teachers in University and Colleges and to organize "Study weeks" for discussing important problems of National and international interest.

8.1.3-5.4 Crystal Growth Centre, Anna University, Madras

This centre was established in 1982 with the following objectives.

- To develop facilities for growth and growth and characterization of crystal of technological and industrial importance.
- To bridge the gap between needy industries and Lab. Res.
- To cater the needs of various institutions in India with regard to requirements of special crystal for Research etc.

8.1.3.6 Inter University Centre for International Studies

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8.1.3.7 Consortium for Scientific Research (1989)

UGC-DAE was created in the year 1990 with the broad objective of developing competence and promoting research in front line areas of science and technology in Indian Universities by providing institutional frame work for optimum utilisation of major research facilities established by the department of Atomic Energy such as Dhruv Reactor of Mumbai, VECC at Kolkata and Synchrotron Radiation Sources at Indore. The facilities of IUC can be availed by scientists from any university.

8.1.4 Financial Support
8.1.4.1 General:

UGC provides Development (Plan Grants) and Maintenance (Non-Plan Grants) to university and college level institutions. As of now, the UGC provides development as well as maintenance grants to 16 Central Universities, 53 Delhi University Colleges, (which include 20 Trust Maintained colleges, 16 Delhi Government Colleges, 6 University maintained colleges and 11 Evening Colleges), 4 colleges of the BHU and 12 College Hostels of Delhi University. Besides, 6 Inter-University Centres (IUC) also receive development as well as maintenance grants. In addition to these, 24 Deemed Universities, 5 colleges of Delhi University and 120 State Universities are provided development grants.

8.1.4.2 Development Grants:

UGC has formulated 42 schemes for providing development assistance to universities, university level institutions, colleges and individual faculty members and researchers. The
related links to these schemes are provided below. You may access related guidelines and download application form forms.

- Schemes for Universities
- Scheme for Colleges
- Schemes both for Universities and Colleges
- Schemes for Individual Faculty Members and Researchers

8.1.4 Major Projects of UGC to promote ICT in Education

The traditional system of education is based on the student come to the place where information instruction is delivered; now information can be delivered directly to the student through networks/Internet. Today rapidly growing trends to link students, researchers and teachers with each university/college departments and libraries. It links students, researchers and teachers directly with distant programme sources, usually through computer and communication technology. This trend offers educational experience and degrees outside the traditional institutions. In point of view, UGC has plan to get connected all universities/colleges, departments and libraries. This network has been developed by UGC with the collaboration of INFLIBNET and ERNET. To promote ICT in Education UGC established IUC for different purpose. The major projects/IUC are as follows-

1. UGC - CEC
2. UGC - INFONET
3. UGC - INFLIBNET

UGC- Infonet will be connecting all universities so that there could be Intranet and Internet connectivity. The entire facility, the equipment needed for creation of connectivity, technical support and charges for the bandwidth hiring would be given cent percent grant for Xth five year plan. This network provides many of facilities i.e. distance learning, e-learning, sharing of resources, multimedia application and on-line training programs through Intranet/Internet in phased manner. In order to promote the quality in educational video programmes CEC is conducting video competition for Indian as well as for Asian Producers. UGC-ERNET will crate 16 mirror- sites with high-speed servers at their 16PoP station for keeping repository of information of respective region and also host digital library and e-learning in consultation with INFLIBNET. INFLIBNET will help university to develop Network access policy in consultation with ERNET.