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# Dnyana Ganga e-Bulletin

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**Dnyanprassarak Mandal's  
College and Research Centre,  
Assagao, Bardez, Goa  
Library and Information Centre**

**Compiled By:**

**Dr. Jayaprakash**

**Librarian**

**Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre**

**Assagao, Bardez, Goa – 403 507**

## **About this e-Bulletin**

It is a compilation of information from different sources which would be of interest to professionals, academicians and students. While adequate care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of links provided, we do not accept any liability. If you have any interesting information to share or to provide feedback, pl. write to [dmclibrarian@rediffmail.com](mailto:dmclibrarian@rediffmail.com).

# KNOW YOUR HEALTH



- US CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report says, "After one member in a household becomes sick with Covid – 19, about 53% of others living in the same home also become infected".
- Children who spend more time in extracurricular activities, like sports and the arts, and less than two hours in recreational screen-based activities have better mental health, and lower levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms according to study reported in Preventive Medicine Journal.
- A person whose husband or wife is admitted to the ICU has an increased risk of suffering a cardiovascular event, such as chest pain, heart attack, stroke, irregular heart rhythm, heart failure or pulmonary embolism, within a month of the ICU admission.
- Delaying Cancer Treatment by just four weeks can increase the risk of dying from it by about 10%, according to a study published in the BMJ.
- Changes in night time blood pressure could increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, according to a Japanese study published in the Circulation Journal.

Source: Health Supplement, The Week, December 2020

## National Youth Day:

### Courses about Swami Vivekananda on offer

While the varsities are asked to hold online lectures, webinars on teachings of Swami Vivekananda, there are certain courses on Vivekananda or his philosophy that are on offer round the year. If you wish to know more about the 'youth icon', here are some courses across varsities on him.

**National Youth Day:** National Youth Day: As a tribute to the contribution of Swami Vivekananda towards the country, India celebrates his birth anniversary as National Youth Day on January 12. Calling Vivekananda, a 'national youth icon', the University Grants Commission has asked universities to ensure that this year's celebrations are held regardless of several varieties and colleges being shut. The UGC in its letter has asked higher education institutes to participate in online competitions. "Swami Vivekananda accorded great importance to youth power towards nation-building and universal brotherhood. Swami Ji considered education to be a continuous process in which all aspects of life, such as physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual should be imbibed. His contribution to the creation of a new modern India is incredible," the letter read.

While the varsities are asked to hold online lectures, webinars on teachings of Vivekananda, online competitions including creative writing, poetry, debate competitions, poster designing etc. In another notice, UGC asked higher education institutes to participate in celebrations of the National Youth Parliaments as well.

While these competitions are held usually during the first week of January, there are certain courses on Vivekananda or his philosophy available round the year. If you wish to know more about the 'youth icon', here are some courses across varsities on him –

**Certificate Course in Swami Vivekananda Philosophy:** The course is offered by Shankarlal Khandelwal Arts, Science and Commerce College, Akola. The six-month course can be pursued after class 12 and along with any other course. It teaches about the life and works of Swami Vivekananda, system of Vedanta, Vivekananda's views on caste, society, politics, arts, education, etc, and yoga among other topics.

**Certificate course in Vivekananda Studies:** A certificate course is being offered by Panjab University, Chandigarh. The course is divided into two parts – the life and work of Vivekananda, and sages of modern India. The course also teaches about the life and work of many other prominent people including Ramana Maharishi, Swami Ram Tirtha, Sharda Ma, Aurobindo. The course is offered by the Centre for Swami Vivekananda Studies at PU in open mode. It is a year-long course.

The Centre also conducts a self-development programme (SDP) in collaboration with Sri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heart fullness Institute for students of the various departments of the University, a PhD programme as well as a six-month certificate courses on yoga and meditation, ancient Indian wisdom, elementary Sanskrit and Bhagavadgita.

**Certificate Programme in Swami Vivekananda Studies:** Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar offers a distance course called Certificate Programme in Swami Vivekananda Studies (CPSVS). It is a six-month course and anyone who has passed class 12 or a three-year diploma can take this course. “The programme structure seeks to develop an attitude among students for embracing values like peace, universal love, acceptance, harmony, service and self-leadership. The programme would also aspire to arouse spiritual consciousness and awaken a sense of human divinity amongst today’s youth,” the varsity prospectus reads.

Apart from these, several universities have chairs in Vivekananda studies including Central University of Jammu, Mahatma Gandhi University, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Sanskrit University among others. Even the world’s first university dedicated to yoga in Bengaluru is named Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/national-youth-day-courses-about-swami-vivekananda-on-offer-7141944/>

## **Institutes of Eminence Like IITs Allowed to Set Up Offshore Campuses**

Several Institutes of Eminence (IoEs) like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) can now set up their campuses outside the country. This is now possible as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has amended its regulation for IoEs. The Commission has also included a clause allowing offshore campuses for such institutes. This came to light after the Commission recently released UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) (Amendments) Regulations 2021, Thursday.

“Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities shall be permitted to start new off-campus center(s) (maximum of 3 in 5 years and not more than 1 in one academic year),” the official UGC notification read.

The institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities shall submit their application to the Ministry by way of an affidavit along with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) containing its 10 year Strategic Vision Plan and a five year rolling implementation plan, recruitment plan, student admission plan, research plan, infrastructure development plan, financial plan, administrative plan, governance plan with clear annual milestones and action plan on how the proposed off-campus is to be set up with identifiable outcomes for approval to start/establish an Off-Campus Centre.

Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities applying for off-campus centre(s) shall have to meet the following stipulations in the proposed off-campus centre(s) within a reasonable time period not exceeding one year:

The teacher-student ratio shall not be more than 1:20 OR shall be as per the requirement of the concerned Statutory Council(s).

The teacher- student ratio shall be 1:10 at the end of the five years.

The faculty for this purpose shall include the regular faculty, adjunct faculty, overseas faculty, visiting faculty). contractual faculty, industry faculty and tenure track faculty or faculty as otherwise permitted by the Statutory Council(s) concerned.

However, at least sixty per cent of the faculty shall be appointed on permanent/regular basis; (ii) a minimum of five hundred students on its rolls under regular class room mode with one third PG/Research students (iii) five PG programmes; (iv) research Programmes; Provided further that the Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities shall be permitted to start an Off-Campus Centre(s) in an interim campus subject to the condition that the permanent campus shall be ready within a reasonable time period not exceeding five years.

Source: -<https://odishatv.in/education-news/institutes-of-eminence-like-iits-allowed-to-set-up-offshore-campuses-click-for-new-ugc-regulation-508476>

## **All higher education regulators including UGC, AICTE will be merged in 2021**

- Higher education secretary Amit Khare said introduction of a single entrance test for admission into all central universities will be executed
- India is home to one of the largest higher education sector with over 1000 universities and over 50,000 colleges and institutions

New Delhi: Looking to accelerate education reforms, the union government Friday said it will merge all the higher education regulators including the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to create a single education commission in 2021.

Higher education secretary Amit Khare said that structural reform in the education sector will happen in 2021 and several reforms including the merger of education regulators, and introduction of a single entrance test for admission into all central universities, will be executed.

“When will these changes come -- you will see them in 2021 itself. In the education sector, you have UGC, then for technical courses (you have) the AICTE, for teacher education there is NCTE -- all of them will get merged. And in the next academic session we'll be having one single Higher Education Commission of India," Khare said at the FICCI annual convention Friday.

The merger of the higher education regulator, considered a big reform in the education space was being debated for years. And authorities and academics have been arguing, how multiple regulatory system in the education sector is fostering red tape, and hindering its growth. Even the new education policy announced in July had touched upon the need for it. Besides, the merger of the education regulators was also an election agenda of the ruling BJP during the 2014 general elections.

India is home to one of the largest higher education sector with over 1000 universities and over 50,000 colleges and institutions but quality of education has been patchy.

Khare said a single entrance exam for admission into all central universities is coming in 2021 and “the academic credit bank, through which one can transfer credits from one university to another, that is also (coming in) 2021". The secretary said, the “multiple entry and exit system that we are introducing" will allow a student to “take a sabbatical for a year, come back and join the system without losing out on the credits that she or he has already earned".

Talking about private sectors role and how the government views them, the secretary said private players in higher education will get a similar treatment as their government peers in terms of access to R&D funding, regulations and structural change requirements. He said the benchmarking will happen based on performance instead of taking into account the governance structure.



"I want to raise about the ease of doing business or how the private sector is view. Now, the policy now has very clearly mentioned the role of private sector. They are not to be profiteering but reasonable surpluses have to be generated. It is obvious that no enterprise would be able to operate. If reasonable surpluses are not generated. A very important change which this policy has brought in, is to balance the regulatory structures for the private as well as public," he said in the secretaries' panel at the FICCI convention.

"Right now, ... the deemed-to-be-universities have a different structure, the state universities, private universities (have a different structure). What the policy emphasizes is that governance model should be the same. And all institution should be benchmarked on the basis of their academic performance and not on the basis of the ownership, that whether it is centrally funded or state funded or private funded," he explained.

He further said that entire system will be now be output based and outcome based, and not based on the input like how much land does one university possess etc. The secretary said the proposed National Research Fund (NRF) as envisaged in the new education policy, will promote competitive funding of research based on proposals submitted by universities individually or collectively irrespective of whether they are private run or public run. "It is possible that private university may get the funding and Central University may not. If a proposal is not good," he argued.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/>

## **Common entrance exam for all varsities, Higher Education Commission by 2021**

The common admission test for entrance to all central universities that is coming in 2021, the Academic Bank of Credit through which one can transfer credits from one university to another, that is also 2021, Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare said The Higher Education Commission of India, which envisages replacing autonomous bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC) and AICTE, will be set up next academic session, a top government official said on Friday.



The National Education Policy 2020 recommended setting up of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as a single overarching umbrella body for higher education, excluding medical and legal education.

“You will see some of the major changes in 2021 itself. If I could list out, for example, the common admission test for entrance to all central universities that is coming in 2021, the Academic Bank of Credit through which one can transfer credits from one university to another, that is also 2021,” Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare said at a virtual conference organised by FICCI.

Talking about regulatory changes planned for the next year, he said bodies like UGC, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) will get merged.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/common-entrance-exam-for-all-varsities-higher-education-commission-by-2021-secy-7101765/>

## **UGC issues Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions to offer Apprenticeship/ Internship embedded Degree Programme**

The University of Grants Commission (UGC) on December 07, 2020 has issued guidelines for Higher Education Institutions to offer Apprenticeship/ Internship embedded Degree Programme. Realizing the importance of apprenticeship/internship, the Budget announcement of 2020-2021 set out for the introduction of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/Diploma programme to improve employability of general stream students.

Source: [\[Notification No. 4-6/2020 \(NSQF\)\]](#)

## **Offer one semester internship for UG courses: UGC to colleges**

Students will be eligible to take the master's course based on the core subjects or internship. This, says UGC, will ensure 'vertical mobility' of students. Unlike the present trend, where internships are mostly part of the technical courses, the Commission has asked colleges to offer the internship-embedded degree programmes for all disciplines.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all affiliated universities and colleges to offer at least one semester of internship as part of their undergraduate programmes. Unlike the present trend, where internships are mostly part of the technical courses, the commission has asked colleges to offer the internship-embedded degree programmes for all disciplines.

While any UG programme in any discipline is eligible to embed internship in their curriculum, the institutes have to offer these internships in consultation with sector skill councils — AICTE, FICCI, CII etc. The internships need to be at least 20 per cent of total credits for the UG course and need to be off-campus work, as per the guidelines.

The duration of the internship should be at least one semester which can be offered in a continuation or at intervals without altering the total duration or programme. Students will be given credits for the internship they opt for. These credits will be included in the total programme credit or in the result. Students will be eligible to take the master's course based on the core subjects or internship. This, says UGC, will ensure 'vertical mobility' of students.

The concept of offering an internship or apprentice-embedded courses was first announced as part of the Budget 2020-21 announcement. The Minister of Education has now released detailed guidelines for higher education institutes to ensure standardised offering of these courses. The UGC too has written to higher education institutes asking to implement the same.

“The competencies demanded by the industry need to be embedded in our university curriculum so that the employment-employability gap is overcome. The minimal linkage between the general degree curriculum and employer’s requirement calls for an effective remodelling of degree programmes, driven by changing needs of the industry and service sector. Apprenticeship and internship can play a significant role in this context...You are requested to kindly promote apprenticeship/internship embedded degree programmes in your University as well as the colleges/institutions affiliated to your university,” the letter by the UGC read.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/offer-one-semester-internship-for-ug-courses-ugc-to-colleges-7097770/>

**While opting for a collaborative course, it is important to gather information on credibility, admission process, course design and duration, student and faculty exchange programmes, and more**

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 broadly hinged on setting right two key anomalies in India’s existing education system. The first is flexibility in choice of subjects, course duration, course structure, and so on. The second is absorbing and assimilating world-class foreign resources and institutions into the Indian mainstream.

A prudent education administrator, however, will recognise that a sudden leap into uncharted territory might prove counterproductive. The transition will have to be managed well for India to reap the rewards for years to come. Therein lies the importance of the growing trend of collaborations between foreign and domestic Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

There are, of course, clear benefits to such collaborations, ranging from Indian students studying contemporary and globally recognised courses from the comforts of a home environment, widening the reach of such courses and world-class pedagogy at almost a quarter of the costs to getting students access to cutting-edge virtual learning tools. But it is the larger value addition to the education system that is more exciting.

For one, it provides foreign institutions with a cost-effective method to study the new market and accordingly bring in modifications to their course curricula if required.

Another huge gain is the enhancement in pedagogical skills for the Indian teaching community. The more comprehensive collaborations will not only see Indian faculty conducting such courses but also being trained and certified for it.

Foreign institutions had flexibility woven in to their curricula long ago. Therefore, the subject combinations that they provide are in keeping with current career requirements. So, besides opening up a world of opportunities, this also helps set the base for what the NEP envisions.

### **Impact on students**

It is also important to note the effect that such collaborations can have on a student's career. Unique opportunities such as transfers and access to excellent Master's programmes provides them a head start. As they progress, such application-oriented education not only results in them adding substantial value to their work, but also helps them grow faster.

While opting for a collaborative course, it is important to gain the right information on aspects like track record and credibility of the foreign partner, its level of active involvement in day-to-day discourse and exam process, the admission process, course design and duration, student and faculty exchange programmes, industry exposure provided, and success of the alumni network.

One key limitation may be the acceptance of such courses in local government-related careers but, in most cases, this will be a mere technicality that can be easily overcome by opting for a simultaneous course that is accepted. However, the knowledge and exposure gained from such collaborative courses remain and can never be taken away.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/importance-of-international-collaborations/article33537151.ece>

## UGC Invites Applicants for Bilateral State Scholarships in Hungary

The UGC is now inviting interested Indian students to apply for Bilateral State Scholarships in Hungary for the academic year 2021-2022. Applicants, who are able to get selected, will be allowed to participate in numerous free courses.

They will also be entitled to receive a stipend. The stipend can be completed by a supplement, an accommodation contribution, etc. However, this depends on the type of scholarship. The stipend will either be paid by the receiving institution, which in this case is Tempus Public Foundation, or by India. As usual, this also depends on the type of scholarship.

A point to be noted is that there is no financial liability on the part of UGC for these scholarships. The scholarship duration can vary from a total of three days to a period of 36 months.

The Entry and admission requirements in Hungary will follow the standards of the Bologna Process. Thus, the applicant must have a bachelor's degree in order to get access to master's and PhD courses. To get selected for a BA degree, the applicant must have language proficiency certificates, diploma and other documents that are required by the programme.

As already known, the Hungarian higher education system is more than 650 years old at this point. There are a total of 65 higher education institutions in Hungary. These range from minor universities of applied sciences to top research universities. Among them, a total of are 28 state-funded, 11 institutions are privately-funded and 26 are church-funded. These institutions offer more than 500 courses in English, German, French and other languages.

Most of the higher education institutions in Hungary have their own careers offices. There students can obtain information regarding available jobs. These employers are known for providing flexible working hours and conditions for students.

The applications, along with the relevant documents, should be sent to the Section Officer, IC Section, Room IVo. 508- A, University Grants Commission, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002 on or before February 25, 2021.

Source: <https://www.sindhuvoy.in/cultures/society/students-to-apply-for-bilateral-state-scholarships-in-hungary>

## UGC directs universities to set up office for international affairs

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities to set up an office for international affairs as part of internationalization of higher education. The move is aimed to promote India as a global study destination and intensive academic and research collaboration with foreign HEIs.

Establishment of an office for international affairs in each university will be an integral part as National Education Policy 2020 has also laid emphasis on expanding the global outreach of the Indian higher education by promoting India as a global study destination and intensive academic and research collaboration with foreign HEIs.

The office will be responsible to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting foreign students, to disseminate information related to admission process among prospective foreign students. It will also engage in promotional activities and brand building campaign abroad etc. “Considering the importance of office for international affairs, you are requested to establish such as office in your university for undertaking activities as mentioned,” read a statement issued by the UGC.

Source: <https://www.educationtimes.com/article/newsroom/80302033/ugc-directs-universities-to-set-up-office-for-international-affairs>

## 100 colleges in Telangana accredited by NAAC

**Hyderabad:** Number of NAAC accredited colleges has declined in Telangana State. After the expiry of the accreditation of 37 colleges, the count has fallen down from 164 to 127. According to the Times of India report, the accreditation of more 27 institutions will expire between January and March 2021 bringing the count of NAAC accredited colleges in Telangana State further down to 100. The accreditation of colleges expired as the visit of the NAAC peer team was postponed due the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory for the higher education colleges in Telangana to secure NAAC accreditation by 2022.

Expressing views over it, B Madhava Reddy, principal of G Pulla Reddy College of Pharmacy said that the college had submitted the documents in February last year. However, due to the pandemic, the visit of the team got delayed and it is scheduled in the next few months, he added. It may be mentioned that last year, the peer teams of NAAC had inspected only 30 colleges in Telangana State.

Source: <https://www.siasat.com/decline-in-number-of-naac-accredited-colleges-in-telangana-2069447/>

**The End**