



UGC REGULATION: POLITY/ GOVERNANCE

NEWS: *What are UGC's new draft rules on Vice-Chancellor appointments and why are states upset?*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The University Grants Commission (UGC) draft regulations 2025 propose changes to the Vice Chancellor (VC) appointment process, increasing central influence and sparking state-Centre disputes over autonomy and federal principles. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu oppose the enhanced role of Governors, citing concerns over diminished state authority in education governance.

1. Current VC Appointment Framework

- **UGC 2018 Regulations:**
 - A search-cum-selection committee shortlists candidates through public notifications or nominations.
 - Central Universities: VCs appointed by the President (Visitor).
 - State Universities: Appointments governed by state laws, with significant involvement of Governors (Chancellors).

2. Proposed Changes in UGC Draft Regulations 2025

- The Chancellor/Visitor to appoint the selection committee.
- Committee Composition: Three experts nominated by the Chancellor, UGC Chairman, and the university's apex body.
- Expanded eligibility: Professionals from industry or policy backgrounds can be considered for VC roles.
- **Impact:** Centralization of power in VC appointments, reduced state influence.

3. State-Centre Disputes on VC Appointments

- **Kerala:** Bill to replace the Governor with educationists as Chancellors awaits presidential assent.
- **West Bengal:** Assembly passed a Bill to make the Chief Minister the Chancellor, leading to legal disputes.
- **Karnataka:** Proposed legislation to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as Chancellor remains pending.
- **Maharashtra:** A 2021 Bill reducing the Governor's powers was withdrawn by the succeeding government.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Passed Bills for state government control over VC appointments, awaiting Governor approval.



NEW FACULTY RECRUITMENT NORMS

Highlights of the latest draft UGC regulations

Subject Flexibility: Candidates can teach based on their highest academic specialization, regardless of prior degree subjects or NET focus

Expanded Vice-Chancellor Eligibility: Professionals from fields like industry and policymaking with academic contributions are now eligible

Inclusivity Focus: Relaxations for EWS and PwD categories alongside SC/ST/OBC, with emphasis on Indian languages in academia

Transparent Recruitment: Teaching candidates will be assessed on practical teaching and research aptitude

Fair Career Advancement: Promotions consider leave for maternity, childcare, or study.

Recognising Innovation: Criteria now include teaching innovations, digital content, and community engagement

Revised Librarian and Sports Roles: Emphasis on digitization, indigenous sports, and public health contributions

Professor of Practice: Industry experts can join HEIs for teaching and research outside sanctioned posts

Improved Leadership Selection: Vice-Chancellor appointments ensure transparency through expert-led committees

Strict Compliance Measures: HEIs violating regulations risk penalties like exclusion from UGC schemes and degree programmes



4. Federalism and the Debate on Autonomy

- Critics argue the proposed changes undermine federalism and reduce state autonomy in university administration.
- UGC defends the changes, citing alignment with NEP 2020, transparency, and clarity over existing ambiguities.

5. Implications for Governance and Education



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- **Positive Aspects:** Standardized VC selection, transparency, and expanded candidate pool.
- **Concerns:**
 - Potential central overreach and erosion of state autonomy.
 - Strained federal relations and governance issues in education.
- **Balancing Act:** Need to harmonize quality education governance with federal principles.

6. About the UGC

- **Established:** 1956 under the UGC Act.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Mandate:**
 - Promote and coordinate university education.
 - Set and maintain standards in teaching, research, and examinations.
 - Disburse grants and advise governments on improving university education.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-draft-rules-on-vc-appointments-say-why-states-are-upset-9775435/>

