

UGC decision to let teachers fund refresher courses under criticism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

UNIVERSITY Grants Commission's (UGC) Human Resource Development Centre conducting a refresher course under self-supporting mode has not gone down well with the academics. They instead want the UGC to adequately fund the centres to be able to run the refresher and orientation courses.

The UGC made it mandatory for teaching faculty to undergo refresher courses and orientation courses. Accordingly, Bharathidasan university's UGC-Human Resource Development Centre's Director instructed an assistant professor from Thiru Vi Ka Government Arts

College in Thiruvallur to conduct a refresher course in Physics under self-supporting mode. The course can be held in April/May, subject to condition of a minimum of 50 participants. Registration fee will be ₹5,000 per participant, the order reads.

Teachers have opposed the UGC's decision to stop funding for the courses. Association of University Teachers' former president K Pandian explained what the process had been earlier. "At the end of every financial year, the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre (earlier the Academic Staff College) would meet and finalise budget for the next year.

Based on this, the UGC would allot funds with which refresher, orientation and short-term administrative courses would be conducted. Now, the courses have been made mandatory and teachers have been asked to bear the cost. The UGC-Human Resource Development Centres, functioning in four State universities in Tamil Nadu, do not have adequate funds. The ₹1 crore a year fund has now been reduced to ₹40, by the UGC," he said.

A refresher course would involve 120 lecture hours and 40 resource persons. The cost would range from ₹2.5 to 3 lakh. If the course were conducted under self-supporting mode, the centres would not bring in resource persons from outside the State, he noted.



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ENGAGEMENTS

- SNS College of Technology: 13th Graduation Day, Auditorium, 10:00 am
- Texcity Arts and Science College: 21st Annual Day, Auditorium, 10:00 am
- SNS Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science: Graduation Day, College Campus, 11:00 am
- Easa College of Engineering and Technology: 11th Annual Day and Sports Day, College Campus, 11:00 am
- SNS College of Engineering: 9th Graduation Day, Open Auditorium, 2:00 pm
- Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women: Workshop on Personality Development Programme for the Differently Aabled, Hi-Tech Seminar Hall, Sports Day, Campus, 2:00 pm
- Nanjiah Lingammal Polytechnic College: Women's Day Celebration, Seminar Hall, 3:00 pm