

## UGC releases draft guidelines for recognition for prior learning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday released the draft guidelines for recognition for prior learning, which is one of the key components of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Recognition for prior learning (RPL) allows individuals to gain formal recognition for skills and competencies acquired through informal, non-formal and experiential learning.

A student can acquire a maximum of 30% of credits

through RPL for a degree programme. UGC plans to introduce RPL for university admissions and job placements in 2026. For example, a student with a BCom degree and work experience will be assessed for skills and allowed to enrol in a one-year PG course with exemptions in a few subjects.

"RPL helps bridge the gap between real-world experience and formal education. It also enhances career prospects," UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said. Candidates' prior learning will be

assessed through portfolio assessment that includes work samples, projects, coursework, and certificates, standardised exams, interviews, skill demonstrations and project evaluation.

The draft regulations propose establishing govt-recognised centres in state universities, central universities, deemed universities and private universities. "It will give an opportunity for India's large informal workforce to get formal education and career progression opportunities," Jagadesh Kumar added.

Academicians say recognising prior learning will lead to further confusion in the higher education system. "The draft guidelines are very general, and implementation will be difficult for universities. Skill certificates are enough for students with specific skills," said P Duraisamy, former vice-chancellor of University of Madras.

"Teachers are struggling to assess the learning outcome for regular students. So, assessing students with work experience will lead to further confusion," he added.

