

Education Ministry notifies NCERT as deemed university

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The Ministry's notification enables the NCERT to offer courses and grant degrees; it directs the education body to begin doctoral programmes

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The Education Ministry has issued a notification declaring the National Council for Educational Research and Training, or NCERT, an institution deemed to be a university, enabling it to offer courses or programmes and grant degrees.

In the notification dated March 30, the Ministry said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had approved the expert panel's recommendations to grant deemed university status to the NCERT – a nodal school curriculum body – in January, following which the Ministry notified the grant of status to the council.

The notification confers the status on the NCERT, along with its six regional institutes, provided that a list of conditions is met.

These conditions prevent the NCERT from indulging in any activities that are "commercial" and "profit-making" in nature, and mandate that all aca-

NCERT upgrade

The new status empowers the council to design academic programmes and expand its role from a curriculum body to a higher education and research institution



- It must comply with UGC norms, avoid commercial/profit-driven activities, and follow strict guidelines for new or offshore campuses

- It must expand into research and innovative academic areas while securing accreditation from NAAC and programme ratings from the National Board of Accreditation

ademic courses or programmes must conform to the norms and standards prescribed by the UGC and the concerned statutory bodies or councils. The notification mandates the NCERT to start programmes and off-campus or on offshore campuses "only in accordance with the norms and guidelines issued by the UGC, from time to time, on the subject."

The Ministry has said the NCERT "shall take appropriate steps" to begin research and doctoral programmes, and "innovative

academic programmes" and the institute must not confine itself to the new emerging areas, but also "endeavour" to expand into other domains that are in accordance with UGC regulations and the National Education Policy of 2020. The Ministry said the NCERT must take all the measures required to get its academic programmes and courses rated for accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation, and for the institute itself by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.