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UGC Issues Norms for Ethics in Higher Education

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Why in News

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has adopted the **Higher Education Quality Improvement Programme Mandate** to improve the quality in higher educational institutions.

The Quality Mandate was developed by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** which contains 5 documents covering the **5 verticals of Quality Mandate-**

- **Evaluation reforms**
- **Eco-friendly and sustainable university campuses**
- **Human values & professional ethics**
- **Faculty induction**
- **Academic research integrity**

Key Points

The **quality mandate aims at** evolving higher education system to equip the country's next generation with vital skills, knowledge and ethics for leading a rewarding life.

Student evaluation plays a crucial role in improving the quality of Higher Education in the country.

Five Documents on 5 verticals of Quality Mandate

- **Evaluation reforms:** Under this, the report '**Evaluation Reforms in Higher Educational Institutions in India**' has been published in order to make student assessment more meaningful, effective and linked to '**Learning Outcomes**'.

- **Eco-friendly and Sustainable University Campuses:** The **SATAT - Framework for Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Campus development in Higher Educational Institutions** encourages universities to adopt reflective policies and practices to enhance the environmental quality of the campus and to adopt sustainable and green methods in its future.
- **Human Values & Professional Ethics:** A policy framework '**MulyaPravah - Guidelines for Inculcation of Human Values and Professional Ethics in Higher Educational Institutions**' has been developed to discuss and streamline the process that helps to infuse the culture of human values and ethics in educational institutions.
 - The **guidelines** for values and ethics in higher education call for students to-
 - **Observe modesty** in their overall appearance and behaviour.
 - **Maintain good health** and refrain from any kind of intoxicants.
 - **Maintain harmony** among students belonging to different socio-economic status, community, caste, religion or region.
- **Faculty Induction:** The guidelines for Guru-Dakshta – A guide to **Faculty Induction Programme (FIP)** will fulfill its main objective to sensitise and motivate the faculty to adopt learner centred approaches, **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** integrated learning and new pedagogic approaches to teaching-learning, assessment tools in higher education.
- **Academic Research Integrity:** UGC is putting up efforts for setting up a **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE)** to continuously monitor and identify quality journals across disciplines. It will be useful to create more awareness and help the cause of promoting academic integrity and ethical publishing.

University Grants Commission

- It came into existence on **28th December, 1953** and became a **statutory organization** of the Government of India by an **Act of Parliament in 1956**, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in university education.
- The **head office** of the UGC is located in **New Delhi**.

Source: TH