



UGC Halts PhD Admissions in Three Rajasthan Universities | Rajasthan | 23 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#) has prohibited three universities in Rajasthan from enrolling new **Ph.D. students**. This action follows investigations into **allegations of issuing fake and backdated degrees**.

Key Points

- **Universities Affected:** The institutions barred from enrolling new Ph.D. scholars are **OPJS University, Churu, Sunrise University, Alwar and Singhania University, Jhunjhunu**.
- **Allegations:** A Standing **Committee** appointed by UGC has found that the three Universities did not follow the **provisions of the UGC PhD Regulations** and the **academic norms** for awarding of PhD degrees.
- **UGC's Action:** The **Standing Committee** has recommended that the **UGC** may debar these Universities from **enrolling PhD students** for the **next five years**.
- **Implications:** This incidence raises concerns about the quality and credibility of higher education institutions in Rajasthan.
 - It underscores the need for stringent oversight to maintain academic standards and protect students' interests.

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- UGC came into existence on **28th December, 1953** and became a **statutory Organisation** of the Government of India under the **University Grants Commission Act, 1956** for the **coordination, determination** and maintenance of standards of **teaching, examination** and **research** in university education.
 - The UGC operates under the **Ministry of Education**, the Central Government appoints a **Chairman, a Vice-Chairman**, and **ten other members to the UGC**.
 - The Chairman is chosen from people who are not officers of the Central Government or any State Government.
 - Apart from **providing grants** to eligible universities and colleges, the Commission also advises the Central and State Governments on the measures that are necessary for the development of Higher Education.
 - It functions from New Delhi as well as its six Regional offices located in Bangalore, Bhopal, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Pune.
 - It also **regulates the recognition of fake universities**, autonomous colleges, deemed to be universities and distance education institutions.
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Mount Abu Records Lowest Temperature at 2.4°C | Rajasthan | 23 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station, recorded a **temperature of 2.4 degrees Celsius**, marking the **state's lowest temperature**.

Note: The highest peak in the [Aravalli Range](#) is [Guru Shikhar](#), located on [Mount Abu](#).

Key Points

- **Other Regions:** In the plains, **Sangaria of Hanumangarh** recorded a minimum of 5.8°C followed by 6.8°C in Lunkaransar, 7.3°C each in Sirohi and Fatehpur.
 - According to the [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#), Piloni recorded 7.6°C followed by 7.8°C in Churu, 8.2°C each in Sikar and Sriganganagar and 8.8°C in Nagaur.
- **Weather Conditions:** The cold conditions have affected various parts of Rajasthan, with temperatures significantly lower than usual for this time of year.
- **Impact:** The unusual cold has prompted discussions about its effects on daily life, agriculture, and [tourism](#) in the region.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **About:**
 - **IMD** was established in **1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the **Government of India**.
 - It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
 - IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the [World Meteorological Organization](#).
- **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - To take meteorological observations and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like **agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations**, etc.
 - To warn against severe weather phenomena like [tropical cyclones](#), norwesters, [dust storms](#), heavy rains and snow, cold and [heat waves](#), etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
 - To provide meteorological statistics required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
 - To conduct and promote research in meteorology and allied disciplines.