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## 45 'A' Grade Colleges may Grant Degrees

by Deepshikha Punj

**New Delhi:** The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) have jointly decided to provide autonomy to 45 'A' grade colleges to grant degrees.

The decision was taken at a meeting officials from the HRD Ministry and the UGC had here on Monday with the representatives of autonomous colleges and state governments.

The colleges are selected from cities like Jabalpur, Bangalore, Sivakasi, Erode,

Kolkata, Jamshedpur, Amravati, Pune, Jodhpur and Kolhapur, based on their academic performance.

Loyola colleges in Vijaywada, Secunderabad and Madras, St Xaviers in Kolkata and Tirunelveli, Government Model Science College Jabalpur, Vidya Bharti Mahavidyalaya Amravati, St Joseph's College Tiruchirappalli, Patkai Christian College Nagaland, Jamshedpur Women's College and Jamal Mohamed College Tiruchirappalli have all made it to the list of 45 colleges.

Welcoming the move, former Anna University vice-

chancellor E Balagurusamy said it was a positive step.

"It will work only if implemented in earnestness. We are aware that university systems have become corrupt and even colleges are easily able to procure what they want. So, only those colleges that demonstrate integrity and honesty should be given this power," he stressed.

However, the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation is not happy with the move. Its general secretary Asok Barman said they were opposed to the proposal. "Most of these colleges lack

infrastructure or do not have enough faculty members and are not deserving of autonomy," he said, adding sincere thought should be given to it before its final implementation.

Interestingly, while colleges from the south dominate the list, north has drawn a near blank. "The only good thing that will come out of this decision is that it will increase competitiveness and may lead to other colleges trying to better their performance," said Virendra Singh, Jt Secretary of MG-KVP affiliated College Teachers' Association.



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## 45 autonomous colleges with NAAC 'A' grade allowed to grant degrees

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By [Abhay Anand](#)

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The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to convert 45 autonomous colleges into universities, which will allow them to grant degrees.

Some of the colleges among 45 autonomous colleges selected are Loyola colleges in Vijaywada, Secunderabad and Madras, St Xaviers colleges Kolkata and Tirunelveli, Government Model Science College Jabalpur, Vidya Bharti Mahavidyalaya Amravati, St Joseph's College Tiruchirapalli, Patkai Christian College Nagaland, Jamshedpur Women's College and Jamal Mohamed College,

Tiruchirapalli, among others.

The MHRD would also spend around Rs 2, 500 crore on these colleges to convert them into universities. The decision was taken during a meeting between the MHRD and the University Grants Commission with representatives of autonomous colleges, accredited with 'A' grade from the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC).

Government would spend the money over the next three years; it would bestow many other autonomous colleges with the power to grant degrees.

The Secretary, Higher Education informed them about the provisions of the recently approved Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a scheme of MHRD wherein autonomous colleges desirous of converting themselves into universities can be provided with funding up to Rs 55 crores each. The total amount earmarked for XII FYP for this scheme is Rs 2,475 crores.

It was decided that the UGC Standing Advisory Committee on Autonomous Colleges under the Chair of Prof Syed Hasnain will finalize its recommendations within two months including a draft Regulations for autonomous colleges.

The central government will explore ways to confer degree granting powers on autonomous colleges by way of amending the UGC Act.

It was decided that at least 10 per cent of all eligible colleges in the country will be conferred with autonomy by end of XII Plan.