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NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

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HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
(C.E)

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANDHRA PRADESH PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (ESTABLISHMENT, RECOGNITION, ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) RULES, 2021.

[G.O.Ms.No.33, Higher Education (C.E), 8th June, 2026.]

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by the sections 20 and 21 read with section 99 of the Andhra Pradesh Education Act, 1982 (Act No. 1 of 1982), the Government hereby make the following amendments to Andhra Pradesh Private Higher Educational Institutions (Establishment, Recognition, Administration and Control of Institutions of Higher Education) Rules, 2021 as subsequently amended from time to time: -

AMENDMENTS

In the said Rules,

1. In Rule 2, in sub rule (1), -

(i) after clause (m), the following shall be inserted, namely, -

"(ma) "Rural Area" means a local area /revenue village/hamlet or any part of the Mandal declared by the Government to be a village, by notification in accordance with the rules made under the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (or) a area falling under Gram Panchayat Jurisdiction that is not classified as Urban or Tribal area.

(mb) "Scheduled Area" means such areas as the president may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas under Para 6(1) of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India. (As defined under the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Scheduled Tribes Act, 2019)."

(ii) after clause (o), the following shall be inserted, namely, -

"(p) 'Urban Area' means the area comprised within the Municipal Corporation constituted under the respective Acts or within the Municipality or a Nagar Panchayat constituted under the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965 and any such area in the vicinity as the Government may, having regard to the extent of, and the scope for the urbanization of that area or other relevant considerations, specify in this behalf by notification or an area specified as urban as per the Census of India, declare to be an urban area, which in the opinion of the Government, is likely to be urbanized; (as defined in the Andhra Pradesh Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act, 2016)."

2. In Rule 5, in sub rule (8), for clause (i), the following shall be substituted, namely, -

"A Corpus Fund of Rs.15 Lakhs at the time of establishment of College. No separate corpus fund required for starting new UG/PG programmes."

3. In Rule 8, for sub rule (3), the following shall be substituted, namely, -

"(3) The Educational Society which is running the Private Higher Educational Institution in the leased building shall be permitted to function in leased accommodation subject to the following conditions: -

(a) The Private Higher Educational Institution running in leased /rented accommodation with a lease period upto 30 years shall apply to the competent authority for EOP annually.

(b) The Private Higher Educational Institution running in leased/ rented accommodation with a lease period above 30 years shall be permitted to run in leased/rented accommodations, as equivalent to having own building."

4. In Rule 9, in sub rule (1), -

(i) in clause (i), the expression "in respect of colleges up to 5 years of existence and a maximum of 10 years of existence in exceptional cases" shall be omitted.

(ii) for clause (ii), the following shall be substituted, namely, -

"The Educational Society shall shift the College from rented building to own building within the locality/ mandal subject to prior approval of the competent authority."

5. In rule 11-A, sub rule (3) shall be omitted.

6. After rule 15, the following shall be inserted, namely, -

"15-A New Programme Approval Fee: The Educational Society/Trust shall remit the following programme approval fees into the account of the Competent Authority, ie., Commissioner of Higher Education (CHE) after the Inspection Committee visit and on the direction of the Competent Authority before issuance of permission order.

S. No	Programme	Scheduled Area (in Rs.)	Rural Area (in Rs.)	Urban Area (in Rs.)
1	B.A.	30,000	40,000	50,000
2	B.Com. (Other than CA)	40,000	60,000	75,000
3	B.Com. (CA)/ B.Sc.	50,000	75,000	80,000
4	PG(Arts/Commerce)	75,000	85,000	1,00,000
5	PG(Science)	85,000	1,00,000	1,50,000"

7. In Rule 16, for sub rule (6), the following shall be substituted, namely, -

- "(i) The renewal of provisional permission for colleges in leased premises shall be granted on a yearly basis, or in such manner as may be decided by the Competent Authority through the inspection process.
- (ii) The Competent Authority may, by guidelines issued under Rule 20, evolve a Risk-Based Assessment Framework which may include the use of data analytics, artificial intelligence and other contemporary technologies to identify colleges that require physical inspection on priority
- (iii) Where a college is classified as low-risk on the basis of such Risk-Based Assessment and other parameters notified by the Competent Authority, the Competent Authority may grant renewal on the basis of self-declarations, digital documentary verification and remote verification, and physical inspection in such cases shall be conducted only where specific risk indicators, deficiencies or complaints are identified."

8. In rule 16, after sub rule (7), the following shall be added, namely, -

- "(8)(a) The Educational Society which is running the Private Higher Educational Institution and it is defunct for last six consecutive years, shall not be eligible to seek permission for restoration.
- (b) Any Private Higher Educational Institution seeking permission for restoration of its functioning before the completion of 6 years break, shall apply to the competent authority for permission for restoration of its functioning as Private Higher Educational Institution with proper justification. Upon verification of adequate Infrastructural facilities and other conditions stipulated as applicable for Extension of Permission, and if the request is justified as per the educational needs of the locality, in the larger public interest, the competent authority may permit for restoration with approval of Government."

9. After rule 16, the following shall be inserted, namely, -

"16-A. Online processing of applications: —

- (1) All applications under these Rules including applications for grant of permission to start a new private un-aided degree college, sanction of new Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes, additional sections, conversion of existing programmes, shifting of college, change of management, change of name, restoration of functioning, and renewal or extension of permission shall be filed online on the portal notified by the Competent Authority.
- (2) All communications under these Rules, including communications relating to deficiencies, scrutiny outcomes, inspection schedules, hearings and decisions, shall be made through the said portal and shall constitute sufficient notice for all purposes under these Rules.

- (3) Payment of all prescribed fees, including registration, processing, inspection and Programme Approval Fee under Rule 15-A, shall be remitted online through the payment gateway integrated with the said portal.
 - (4) The Competent Authority may, by general or special order, require physical submission of hard copies of the application or supporting documents in addition to the online filing, in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
 - (5) The Competent Authority shall, by guidelines issued under Rule 20, prescribe the timelines within which each class of application shall be processed, the manner of grievance redressal in respect of the portal, and the procedure for handling technical failures of the portal."
10. In rule 17, the sub rule (4) shall be omitted.
11. In rule 18, after sub rule (28), the following shall be added, namely, -

“(29) Mandatory Public Disclosure:

- (a) Every Private Un-aided Degree College shall maintain on its website, in a separate 'Mandatory Disclosure' page accessible from the home page, the following information in respect of each academic year, updated not later than 30th September every year: —
 - (i) Permission and affiliation orders of the Competent Authority and the affiliating University, programme-wise;
 - (ii) Sanctioned intake, admitted students and pass percentage, programme-wise, for the preceding three academic years;
 - (iii) Full list of teaching faculty with qualifications, designation, mode of appointment (regular / contractual / guest) and date of appointment;
 - (iv) Fee structure approved by the Competent Authority or the affiliating University, programme-wise;
 - (v) Infrastructural details, including number of classrooms with square footage, laboratory, library, sports and other amenities;
 - (vi) NAAC accreditation status and grade, if any, with date of validity;
 - (vii) UGC 2(f) and 12(B) status;
 - (viii) Inspection Committee Reports relating to the college, as uploaded by the Competent Authority under Rule 15(5);
 - (ix) Grievance redressal mechanism, with the name and contact details of the designated officer.
- (b) The Competent Authority shall verify the accuracy of such disclosure as part of the annual renewal or inspection process under these Rules.
- (c) Failure to maintain such disclosure in the prescribed manner shall be a sufficient ground for the Competent Authority to defer, condition or refuse the renewal of permission, or the sanction of new programmes or additional sections under these Rules, and shall additionally attract the provisions of Rule 19 where applicable.

(30) Skill Certification Programmes:

- (a) An affiliated Private Un-aided Degree College may, with the approval of the affiliating University and in conformity with the credit framework notified by the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education, the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, the AP State Council of Higher Education or the AP State Skill Development Corporation, as the case may be, offer skill certification programmes, microcredentials, and short-term skill courses to its students.

- (b) Credits earned by students under such skill certification programmes shall be recognised and recorded in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) of the student concerned, and may be counted towards the credit requirements of the principal degree programme, to the extent and in the manner permitted by the affiliating University and the credit framework of the University Grants Commission, as in force from time to time."

12. In rule 19, after sub rule (3), the following shall be added, namely,-

"(4) If any Private Higher Educational Institution, while submitting the application for any service, provides wrong/fabricated/misleading information or fake/tampered documents and is found guilty of such offence, it shall be punished with a penalty of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs only) besides filing of criminal case."

The Commissioner of Higher Education, A.P is requested to take necessary action accordingly subject to following conditions mentioned below:

- i. There shall be no financial commitment on the State Exchequer either presently or in future;
- ii. no claim for grant-in-aid, compensation or regularization arises out of these amendments;
- iii. all regulatory safeguards relating to infrastructure, safety, affiliation and quality standards are strictly enforced;
- iv. restoration of institutions shall be subject to verification by competent authorities and applicable university/regulatory norms;
- V. Institutions shall be encouraged to establish incubators and accelerators to promote startups, apart from skilling.

This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide their U.O.Note.No.FIN01-FMU0PC (HTE) /58/2020-FMU-HTE, Computer No.1259958, Dated:08.05.2026 & U.O.Note.No.FIN01-FMU0PC (HTE)/58/2020-FMU-HTE, Computer No:1259958, Dated:14.05.2026 .

KONA SASIDHAR,
Secretary to Government.

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