

Higher Education Bill: House Panel Flags Centralization of Powers

A joint committee of Parliament noted that the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, may centralize regulatory powers, affecting institutional autonomy.

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, is a proposed legislation aimed at regulating the higher education sector in India.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025**, was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** in **December** last year.
- Following its introduction, the Bill was referred to a **joint committee of Parliament** for review.
- The joint committee noted that the Bill could lead to the **concentration of extensive regulatory powers** in a **single central regulator**.
- This centralization of power may potentially undermine **institutional autonomy** in the **higher education sector**.
- The **draft report** of the joint panel stated that the **graded penalty architecture** proposed in the Bill cannot be imposed arbitrarily.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Under the **Seventh Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, '**Education**' is listed in the **Concurrent List**.

A **Joint Committee of Parliament** is typically formed with members from both the **Lok Sabha** and the **Rajya Sabha**.

For a **Bill to become an Act**, it must be passed by both Houses of Parliament and receive the **President's assent**.

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** was established in **1956** under the **UGC Act, 1956**, to coordinate, determine, and maintain standards of university education.

Institutional autonomy refers to the **freedom of educational institutions** to make decisions regarding their administration, academic programs, and financial management.

The **legislative process** for a Bill typically involves introduction, committee stage, debate, voting, and **presidential assent**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, aims to centralize higher education regulation.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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