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12/07/2018

The Move to replace UGC with Higher Education Commission of India is, less likely to provide autonomy and more political interference. Discuss

1) Recommendation: The HECI bill seeks to abolish the existing University Grants Commission which the country's apex body in distributing funds to public universities.

Inference: The bill transfers the power to distribute funds to Higher Education Commission of India which has a majority political influence in its composition.

2) Recommendation: The Bill empowers the HECI with the authority to shut down or Jail the university authority if the Commission finds they disobey its order and refuse to pay the penalty.

Inference: The bill indirectly removes the authority of university in making decision. Instead it provides a strong authority to the Commission to control the decisions taken by the universities.

3) Recommendation: The Bill proposed a 12 Member Composition for Higher Education Commission for India. The members are

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to be three members ~~with~~ - IAS officers from Central government; Four Members to be from Various Central bodies like All India Technical Education Council and National Council for Teachers education; one to be from Industrial Sector; Four to be from universities out of which 2 for Vice chancellors and 2 for Professors.

Inference: The majority is held by the Government officials who may be influenced by politicians. Insted UGC restricts members from government to be less than half the strength.

In this regard the loopholes in the HECI which indirectly empowers the politicians to influence has to be addressed in order to empower universities to bring inovation in accademics.

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