MoE Guidelines for Coaching Centres

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Why in News?

Recently, the <u>Ministry of Education (MoE)</u> has introduced **comprehensive guidelines to regulate coaching centers** and manage the unregulated growth of private coaching centres.

What are the Major Guidelines for the Coaching Centres?

- Age Restrictions: Coaching centers are prohibited from enrolling students below 16 years of age. Student enrolment is allowed only after completing the secondary school examination.
- Tutor Qualification: Tutors must have at least a graduation qualification, and the hiring of individuals convicted of moral turpitude is prohibited. Moral turpitude means an act done contrary to honesty and good morals of the society.
- Avoiding False Promises and Assurance: Coaching institutes cannot make misleading promises, guarantee ranks, or assure good marks.
 - Misleading advertisements about coaching quality, facilities, or results are strictly prohibited.
- Updated Website: Coaching centers are required to have a website with updated information on tutor qualifications, courses, duration, hostel facilities, and fees.
- Mental Well-being: In response to rising student suicides, the guidelines emphasize the need for coaching centres to prioritize mental well-being.
 - This includes establishing a counseling system, **providing information about psychologists and counsellors**, and training tutors in mental health issues.
- Fee Regulations: Tuition fees must be fair and reasonable, and refunds should be provided on a pro-rata basis if a student leaves a course prematurely.
- Inclusive Policies: Coaching institutes must refrain from discriminating based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or descent.
 - Special efforts can be taken to increase the representation of female students, those with disabilities, and marginalized groups.
- Infrastructure Standards: A minimum of one square metre per student during a class.
 - Coaching center buildings must comply with fire safety codes, building safety codes, and other relevant standards.
 - Buildings and surroundings must also be **Divyang-friendly**, following the provisions of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, 2016.
- Government Oversight: The government proposes the registration of new and existing coaching centers within three months of the guidelines taking effect.
 - State governments are tasked with monitoring coaching centre activities and ensuring compliance with registration eligibility.
- **Penalties:** In case of violation of any of the terms and conditions of registration or general conditions, the coaching centre shall be liable for penalties as follows:
 - $\circ~$ Rs 25,000/- for first offense
 - $\circ~$ Rs. 1,00,000/- for the second offense
 - Revocation of registration for subsequent offense.

Note

According to the **Ministry of Education**, coaching means tuition, instructions or guidance in any branch of learning imparted to more than **50 students** but does not include **counseling**, **sports**, **dance**, **theatre and other** creative activities.

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