Illinois Tech University New Campus in India

Why in News?

Illinois Tech University announced that India's **University Grants Commission (UGC)** had formally approved its plan to **open a new campus in Mumbai,** making it the **first American university to receive authorisation** to establish a degree-granting campus in India.

Key Points

- **About Mumbai Campus:**
  - Illinois Tech University will welcome students to its new **Mumbai campus starting in Fall 2026.**
  - The campus will offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in high-demand fields such as Computer Science, Engineering, and Business.
  - It will deliver the **same** experiential and industry-aligned curriculum as **Illinois Tech's Chicago campus.**
  - It will also include the university's signature Elevate program, which guarantees students access to **hands-on research, internships, and career-enhancing opportunities.**

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- **About:**
  - India's first effort to establish a national education system began with the **1944 Sargeant Report**, which recommended creating a **University Grants Committee.**
    - Formed in **1945**, the committee initially supervised **Aligarh, Banaras, and Delhi** universities. By **1947**, its scope expanded to include all existing universities.
    - In **1948**, the **University Education Commission**, led by **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**, recommended its restructuring based on the **UK model.**
    - In **1952**, the Union Government designated the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** to oversee grants for Central Universities and higher education institutions.
      - Formally inaugurated by **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in 1953** , it became a **statutory body in 1956.** The head office of the UGC is located in **New Delhi.**
- **Composition:**
  - UGC is made up of a **Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and 10 other members.** The Central Government appoints all members of the UGC.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Assess universities' financial needs, and allocate and disburse grants for maintenance, development, and other purposes.
    - Recommends improvements in higher education and assists in implementation.