

UGC approves BITS-Pilani off-campus centres

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RESOLVING ITS three-year-old standoff with Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), the University Grants Commission (UGC) this week approved the institute's branches in Goa and Hyderabad.

The HRD Ministry will issue a notification announcing "regularisation" of the two off campus centres next week, which would then make BITS eligible for the Institute of Eminence (IoE) status.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on July 25, the ministry had held back BITS's Letter of Intent (LoI) notifying its 'Eminence' tag because of the institute's standoff with the UGC over the legality of its off-campus centres.

BITS was selected along with Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and Reliance Foundation's proposed Jio Institute under the private institution category for IoE status. MAHE and Jio Institute were issued their LoIs on July 24.

The Union Cabinet had approved UGC's 'Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities Regulations 2017', in August 2017.