

cards under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

■ **UGC Makes PhD Optional for Recruitment to Post of Assistant Professor**

The UGC has announced that the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, have been amended and Ph.D qualification would now be optional for a teacher post. "Ph.D qualification for appointment as an Assistant Professor would continue to be optional. The National Eligibility Test (NET), State Eligibility Test (SET) and State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) shall be the minimum criteria for the direct recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor for all Higher Education Institutions," UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said. Meanwhile, the UGC has also clarified that SET and SLET would not be a criterion for selecting Assistant Professors in Central Universities.