National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

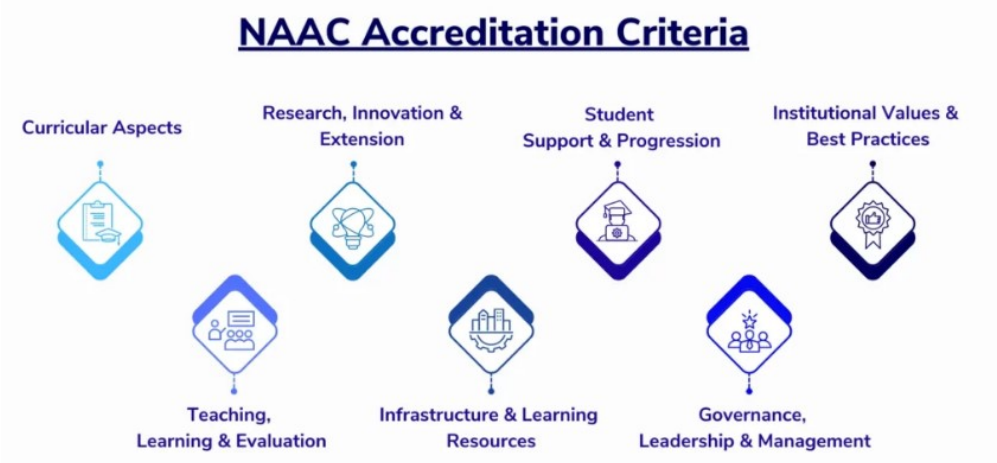
Why in News?

The CBI recently arrested 10 people of NAAC inspection team and office-bearers of Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), Andhra Pradesh, in a case of bribery for a favorable NAAC rating.

- NAAC is a body set up under the ***University Grants Commission (UGC).***
- **Established in –** 1994.
- **Headquarters –** Bengaluru.
- NAAC is controlled by a General Council (GC) and an Executive Committee (EC).
- **Governing council**- Headed by - UGC chief.
- **Aim –** To evaluate the performance of higher education institutions, and providing accreditation.
- NAAC grades are widely regarded as a marker of quality, with institutions prominently displaying them.

UGC regulations of 2012

- It made it mandatory for higher education institutions to get accredited after 6 years of functioning, or after two batches have graduated.
- This means that for funds from the UGC, a higher education institution needs to be accredited.
- **Autonomous Accreditation -** These grades also specifically matter in certain scenarios for instance, to apply for ***autonomy,*** a college needs to be accredited with a minimum ***NAAC grade of 'A'.***
- **Criteria -** Institutions are assessed on parameters including infrastructure, teaching and evaluation, governance, and research.



- **Process -** The process of assessment involves the institute itself submitting a 'self-study' report, a 'student satisfaction survey' conducted by NAAC, and a 'peer team visit'.
- It ends with a NAAC grade and accreditation certification of quality provided by NAAC for a period of 5 years or 7 years in the case of institutions that have had an 'A' grade or higher in

previous cycles.

National Education Policy 2020

- It suggested that the present 8-point grading system transition into a ***binary accreditation system*** the institution will be identified as ‘accredited’, ‘awaiting accreditation’, or ‘not accredited.’
- In 2024, NAAC announced reforms in the accreditation process in line with the committee’s recommendations binary accreditation instead of grades, along with a maturity-based graded accreditation.
- The system classified from ***levels 1 to 5*** for accredited institutions to improve their quality.
- Institutions can evolve from Levels 1 to 4 as “Institutions of national excellence”, and progress to Level 5 as “Institutions of Global Excellence for Multi-Disciplinary Research and Education”.
- This system is ***still in the process of being rolled*** out with workshops having been held with stakeholders so far.

Reference

The Indian Express | NAAC bribery case

