



## National Education Policy, 2020

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the **new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020** with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - **from the school to college level.**

- The NEP 2020 aims at making **“India a global knowledge superpower”**.
- The Cabinet has also approved the **renaming** of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the **Ministry of Education.**
- The NEP cleared by the Cabinet is **only the third major revamp of the framework of education** in India since independence.

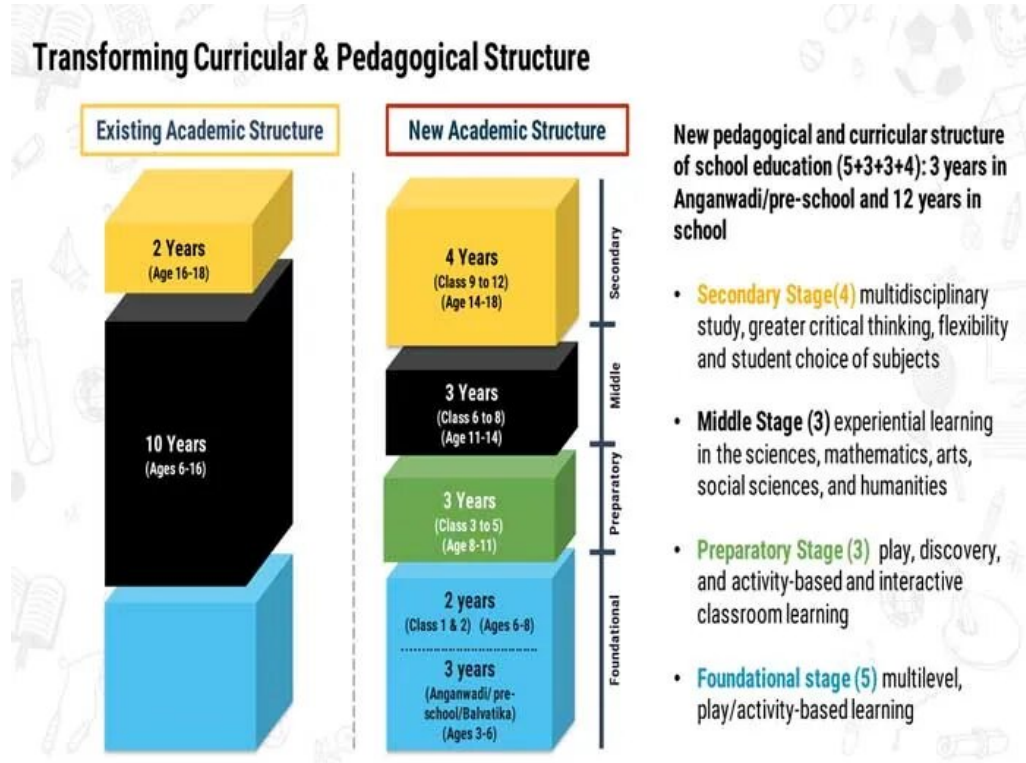
The **two earlier education policies** were brought in **1968 and 1986.**

### Key Points

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- **School Education:**
  - **Universalization** of education from **preschool to secondary level** with **100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in school education by **2030.**
  - To bring 2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream through an **open schooling system.**

- The current **10+2 system** to be **replaced** by a new **5+3+3+4** curricular structure corresponding to **ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively**.



- It will bring the uncovered age group of **3-6 years** under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the **crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child**.
- It will also have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.
- **Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be made easier**, to test core competencies rather than memorised facts, with all students allowed to **take the exam twice**.
- **School governance** is set to change, with a **new accreditation framework and an independent authority** to regulate both public and private schools.
- Emphasis on **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools.
- **Vocational Education** to start from **Class 6 with Internships**.
- Teaching up to at **least Grade 5** to be in **mother tongue/regional language**. No language will be imposed on any student.
- Assessment reforms with **360 degree Holistic Progress Card**, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes

- A new and comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021**, will be formulated by the **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)** in consultation with **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.

By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.

- **Higher Education:**

## Learning plan

A look at the key features of the new education policy: • R.V.S. PRASAD



- Public spending on education by States, Centre to be raised to 6% of GDP
- Ministry of Human Resource Development to be renamed Ministry of Education
- Separate technology unit to develop digital education resources

### SCHOOL EDUCATION

- Universalisation from age 3 to Class 10 by 2030
- Mission to ensure literacy and numeracy skills by 2025
- Mother tongue as medium of instruction till Class 5 wherever possible
- New curriculum to include 21st century skills like coding and vocational integration from Class 6
- Board exams to be easier, redesigned

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- New umbrella regulator for all higher education except medical, legal courses
- Flexible, holistic, multi-disciplinary UG degrees of 3-4 years' duration
- 1 to 2 year PG programmes, no M.Phil
- College affiliation system to be phased out in 15 years

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio** in higher education to be **raised to 50% by 2035**. Also, **3.5 crore seats** to be added in higher education.

The **current** Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is **26.3%**.

- Holistic Undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum can be of **3 or 4 years with multiple exit options** and appropriate certification within this period.
- **M.Phil** courses will be **discontinued** and all the courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level will now be interdisciplinary.
- **Academic Bank of Credits** to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits.
- **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)**, at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- The **National Research Foundation** will be created as an **apex body** for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

- **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)** will be set up as a **single umbrella body** for the entire higher education, **excluding medical and legal education**. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the **same set of norms** for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. Also, HECI will be having **four independent verticals namely**,
  - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for **regulation**,
  - General Education Council (GEC) for **standard setting**,
  - Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for **funding**,
  - National Accreditation Council (NAC) for **accreditation**.
- **Affiliation of colleges** is to be **phased out in 15 years** and a stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.


Over a period of time, every college is expected to develop into either an autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.

- **Other Changes:**

## Digital drive

The new education policy has emphasised the integration of technology in all levels of learning. Some features of the policy:

Technology in education	Teacher education	Financial support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum, will be created for the exchange of ideas on use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning and administration</li> <li>▪ A dedicated unit for the purpose of creating digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building will be set up in the ministry</li> <li>▪ Integration of technology will be done to improve classroom processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meritorious students belonging to SC, ST, OBC and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups will be given incentives</li> <li>▪ Private institutions will be encouraged to offer scholarships to their students</li> </ul>
		Professional education
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standalone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities will aim at becoming multi-disciplinary institutions</li> </ul>



- An autonomous body, the **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)**, will be created to provide a platform for the **free exchange of ideas** on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.
- National Assessment Centre- '**PARAKH**' has been created to assess the students.
- It also paves the way for **foreign universities to set up campuses** in India.
- It emphasizes setting up of **Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones** for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- National Institute for **Pali, Persian and Prakrit**, Indian Institute of **Translation and Interpretation** to be set up.
- It also aims to **increase** the public investment in the Education sector to reach **6% of GDP** at the earliest.
- Currently, India **spends around 4.6 % of its total GDP on education.**

## Education In India

- **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Part IV** of Indian Constitution, **Article 45 and Article 39 (f)** of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), has a provision for **state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education**.

- The **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution in 1976** moved education from the State to the **Concurrent List**.

The education policies by the Central government provides a broad direction and state governments are expected to follow it. But it is **not mandatory**, for instance Tamil Nadu does not follow the three-language formula prescribed by the first education policy in 1968.

- The **86<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2002** made education an enforceable **right under Article 21-A**.

- **Related Laws:**

**Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009** aims to provide **primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years** and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.

It also mandates **25% reservation for disadvantaged sections** of the society where disadvantaged groups

- **Government Initiatives:**

## **Way Forward**

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- A New Education Policy aims to facilitate an **inclusive, participatory and holistic approach**, which takes into consideration field experiences, empirical research, stakeholder feedback, as well as lessons learned from best practices.
- It is a progressive shift towards a more scientific approach to education. The prescribed structure will help to cater the ability of the child – stages of cognitive development as well as social and physical awareness. If **implemented in its true vision**, the new structure can bring India at par with the leading countries of the world.

**Source:TH**