New Initiatives for Education Sector

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Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister launched **multiple initiatives in the education sector** at a conference, to mark the completion of one year of reforms under the **National Education Policy 2020** which aims at making **India a global knowledge superpower.**

The Prime Minister also noted the role played by portals like **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)** and **Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)** in online education during the **pandemic.**

Key Points

- **Academic Bank of Credit:**
    - It is **envisaged as a digital bank** that holds the **credit earned by a student** in any course. It is **a major instrument for facilitating multidisciplinary and holistic education.** It will provide **multiple entry and exit options** for students in **Higher education.**
    - It will make the youth **future-oriented and open the way for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) -driven economy.**
- **Engineering in Regional Languages:**
    - 14 engineering colleges in **eight States** are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages: **Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Bangla.**
        - This emphasis on mother tongue as the medium of instruction will **instil confidence in the students from poor, rural and tribal backgrounds.**
        - In a recent survey, the **All India Council of Technical Education** (AICTE) discovered that **42% of the students surveyed nationally, favoured pursuing Engineering in regional languages.**
    - The **AICTE** is creating a **database of resources to allow colleges to offer more programmes in regional languages** and developed a tool to translate engineering content into **11 languages.**

- **Vidya Pravesh & SAFAL:**
  - Vidya Pravesh, a **three month play based school preparation module for Grade 1** students will be released along with **SAFAL** (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels), **a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools.**
- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):**
  - It will help in **building up a new education ecosystem that will create a digital foundation leading to self-governance** of all parties involved, particularly states and the Centre.
  - It lets **educationists do evaluation based on talents and abilities,** helping students understand their area of specialties that can be utilised in their future profession.
- **National Education Technology Forum (NETF):**
  - It will provide independent **evidence-based advice to central and state government agencies** on technology-based interventions. A **special focus will be on improving technology access** at the grassroot education level.
    - Schools will be required to **have skilled professionals.** In addition, **schools will have to hire qualified candidates** to teach emerging technological skills to students.
  - Once the forum is set up, **school-wise information will be sought on how technology is being used** for imparting academic content and what steps are being taken to enhance research.
  - It will be **funded by the government** but at a later stage, **private funding and support from industry bodies would be invited.**
- **NISHTHA 2.0:**
  - It will provide **training to teachers as per their needs** and they will be able to give their suggestions to the department. It will have **68 modules including 12 generic and 56 subject-specific modules** and will cover around **10 lakh teachers.**
    - <u>NISHTHA</u> is the largest teachers' training programme, first of its kind in the world to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- **Sign Language as a Subject:**
  - Indian sign language, **for the first time, has been accorded the status of language subject.** Students will be able to study it as a language also.
  - There are more than 3 lakh students who need sign language for their education. This will give a boost to Indian sign language and will help the **divyang people.**

Related Previous Initiatives

- <u>**National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning**</u>**.**
- <u>**Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan**</u> **(RUSA).**
- <u>**Prime Minister's Research Fellowship**</u> **(PMRF).**

- **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration** (SPARC).
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**.
- **NEAT**.
- **PRAGYATA**.
- **Mid Day Meal Scheme**.
- **Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009**.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**.

Source: PIB