



Draft National Higher Education Qualification Framework

For Prelims: NQF, NEP 2020.

For Mains: Initiatives related to Education.

Why in News?

Recently, the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has released a **Draft National Higher Educational Qualification Framework (NHEQF)** as a part of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) to assess students at different levels.

- The NEP 2020 aims at making **“India a global knowledge superpower”**.
- Given the size of the higher education system and the diversity of institutions and programmes of study in India, the country needs to move towards developing a nationally accepted and internationally comparable and acceptable qualifications framework to facilitate transparency and comparability of higher education qualifications at all levels.

What is Draft NHEQF?

- The framework is **not intended to promote a uniform curriculum or national common syllabus**. The purpose is **to bring up/elevate all HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) to a common level of benchmarking to ensure that all institutions are providing quality education**.
- The draft framework has **outlined several learning level “descriptors” or parameters** based on which **students can be assessed at every level**.
- **These parameters include** generic learning outcomes, constitutional, ethical, and moral values, employment ready skills, entrepreneurship mindset, and application of knowledge and skills among others.
- The NHEQF has **divided parameters into levels 5 to 10**.
 - Levels 1 to 4 cover the school education.
 - The NHEQF level 5 represents learning outcomes appropriate to the first year (first two semesters) of the undergraduate programme of study, while Level 10 represents learning outcomes appropriate to the doctoral-level programme of study.
- The NHEQF envisages that students on completion of a programme of study **must possess and demonstrate the expected graduate profile/attributes acquired**.
- It **also fixes the number of credits** required to clear the different levels of the four-year undergraduate programme, postgraduate degrees and doctoral degrees.
 - The **NEP 2020 allows multiple entry and exits at the undergraduate level**. It effectively means that students can exit after completing one year of undergraduate programme with a certificate, after two years with a diploma, after three years with a bachelor’s degree, or can complete four years and get an honours degree with a honours/research degree.
 - A credit is a unit by which the coursework is measured.

What is the Background of the National Qualifications Framework in India?

- India **recognized the need for NQF both for general education and for Vocational Education and Training (VET).**
- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** developed the **National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF)** and the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** (renamed as Ministry of Education, after NEP 2020 recommendations) **developed the Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF).**
- These two frameworks were considered and used while developing the **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) notified in 2013.**

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- It **came into existence on 28th December, 1953 but became a statutory organization** of the Government of India by the UGC Act, 1956, under the Ministry of Education.
- The **UGC's mandate** includes:
 - Promoting and coordinating university education.
 - Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
 - Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
 - Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
 - Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
 - Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/draft-national-higher-education-qualification-framework>