

## **NEP 2020**

NEP 2020 It refers to the National Education Policy 2020. (NEP 2020) was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020. The NEP 2020 outlines the vision of India's new education system. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986.

The NEP 2020 is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The main objective of the policy is to transform India's education system by 2040. The policy aims at making "India a global knowledge superpower".

Shortly after the release of the policy, clarifications was given by the Government that no one will be forced to study any particular language and that the medium of instruction will not be shifted from English to any regional language.

The language policy in NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature; and it is up to the states, institutions, and schools to decide on the implementation.

The NEP 2020 enacts numerous changes in India's education policy. Some of the Major Highlights of the National Education Policy 2020 are:

### **School Education**

The "10 + 2" structure will be replaced with "5+3+3+4" model. All schools' exams will be semester wise twice a year. This will be implemented as follows:

1. **Foundational Stage:** This is further subdivided into two parts - 3 years of preschool or anganwadi, followed by classes 1 and 2 in primary school. This will cover children of ages 3-8 years. The focus of studies will be in activity-based learning.
2. **Preparatory Stage:** Classes 3 to 5 will cover the ages of 8-11 years. It will gradually introduce subjects like speaking, reading, writing, physical education, languages, art, science and mathematics.
3. **Middle Stage:** Classes 6 to 8, which will cover children between ages 11 and 14. It will introduce students to the more abstract concepts in subjects of mathematics, sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.
4. **Secondary Stage:** Classes 9 to 12, which will cover the ages of 14-19 years. It is again subdivided into two parts i.e. classes 9 and 10 will cover the first phase while classes 11 and 12 will cover the second phase. These 4 years of study are intended to inculcate multidisciplinary study, coupled with depth and critical thinking. Multiple options of subjects will be provided.

School students will only attend three exams, in classes 3, 5 and 8 instead of exams being held every academic year. Board exams will be continued to be held for classes 10 and 12 but will be re-designed. Standards for this will be established by an assessment body, PARAKH.

To make them easier, these exams would be conducted twice a year, with students being offered up to two attempts. The exam itself would have two parts. They are:

1. Objective
2. Descriptive.

Report cards will be "holistic", offering information about the student's skills. Coding will be introduced from class 6 and experiential learning will be adopted.

The aim of the new policy is the universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. Through the open schooling system, the NEP 2020 will bring 2 crores out of school children back into the mainstream.

The Midday Meal Scheme will be extended to include breakfasts. More focus will be given to students' health, particularly mental health, through the deployment of counselors and social workers.

### **Higher Education:**

It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options.

In higher education, the Gross Enrolment Ratio to be raised to 50% by 2035 and 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.

Higher Education curriculum to possess Flexibility of Subjects.

Various Entry and Exit to be allowed with relevant certification.

To facilitate Transfer of Credits, the Academic Bank of Credits will be established.

For fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education, National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body.

A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. It will be a single overarching umbrella body.

Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will have four independent verticals namely

1. National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) to regulate higher education, including teacher education, while excluding medical and legal education.
2. General Education Council (GEC) for standard-setting. It will also be responsible in framing a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF).
3. National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.
4. Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding and financing of universities and colleges. This will replace the existing National Council for Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission.

In 15 years, Affiliation System to be phased out with graded autonomy to colleges.

NEP will promote Multilingualism in both schools and higher education. The policy proposes new language institutions such as the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and the National Institute or Institutes for Pali, Persian and Prakrit. Other proposed bodies include the National Mission for Mentoring, National Book Promotion Policy, National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.

NEP 2020 will also emphasize in setting up of the Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions, and groups.

Both the Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in the education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

**Other changes by NEP 2020 are:**

Under NEP 2020, many new educational institutes, bodies and concepts have been given legislative permission to be formed. These include:

- Academic Bank of Credit, a digital storage of credits earned to help resume education by utilizing credits for further education
- National Education Commission, headed by the Prime Minister of India
- Special Education Zones, to focus on the education of underrepresented group in disadvantaged regions
- Gender Inclusion Fund, for assisting the nation in the education of female and transgender children
- National Research Foundation, to improve research and innovation
- National Educational Technology Forum, a platform to facilitate exchange of ideas on technology usage to improve learning
- National Assessment Centre- 'PARAKH' has been created to assess the students.
- 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.

The policy emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups. It also paves the way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India.

Note: 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. Education in India is a Concurrent List subject.

