

PANCH SANKALPA OF NEP 2020 - POLITY

NEWS: Union Education Minister inaugurated a two-day **Vice-Chancellors' Conference** at Kevadia, Gujarat.

- It is aimed at reviewing the progress of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and aligning Central Universities with the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Recent Trends in Higher Education (as of latest data)

- **Significant Growth in Enrolment:**
 - Total enrolment in higher education reached **4.46 crore students**, reflecting a **30% increase** since 2014–15.
- **Rising Female Participation:**
 - **Female enrolment rose by 38%**, a greater increase than the overall average.
 - For the **first time**, the **female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education has **surpassed the male GER**, indicating progress in gender equity.
- **Surge in Research Degrees:**
 - **Ph.D. enrolment nearly doubled**, showcasing an expanding research ecosystem.
 - Female enrolment in Ph.D. programmes **increased by 136%**, reflecting improved opportunities for women in academic research.
- **Inclusivity Among Marginalised Groups:**
 - **GER among Scheduled Castes (SCs)** rose by **8 percentage points**, and among **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** by **10 percentage points**.
 - This growth reflects improved access, affirmative action, and institutional support for marginalised communities.

Panch Sankalpa – Five Transformative Pillars of NEP 2020 Implementation

- **1. Next-Gen Emerging Education:**
 - Focus on future-relevant disciplines such as **AI, robotics, data science, and climate studies**.
 - Promotes research and innovation in cutting-edge fields to equip learners for evolving job markets.
- **2. Multidisciplinary Education:**

- Breaks down rigid subject silos; encourages combining **sciences, humanities, commerce, and arts**.
- Enables students to make **interdisciplinary academic choices** based on interests and goals.
- **3. Innovative Education:**
 - Prioritises **creative, experiential, and project-based learning**.
 - Incorporates **critical thinking, problem-solving, and design thinking** into pedagogy.
- **4. Holistic Education:**
 - Emphasises **physical, emotional, social, and ethical development** alongside academic growth.
 - Promotes sports, arts, community engagement, and life skills education.
- **5. Bharatiya Education:**
 - Seeks to integrate **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)**, ancient wisdom, and traditional learning practices.
 - Encourages understanding of India's civilisational legacy and cultural heritage.

Strategic Action Points for Higher Education Institutions

- **Raise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 50% by 2035:**
 - Requires scaling **digital access**, strengthening **faculty development**, and ensuring **curriculum modernisation**.
- **Prepare University-Level NEP Strategy Papers:**
 - Institutions must outline localised roadmaps addressing:
 - **Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)**
 - **Technology-enabled learning platforms**
 - **Employability and vocational skill integration**
- **University-Hosted NEP Events:**
 - Promote awareness and localisation through workshops, policy dialogues, and academic community engagement.
- **Celebrate 'Academic Triveni Sangamam':**

- **Celebrate the past** – honour India’s rich educational and cultural history.
- **Calibrate the present** – align current practices with NEP principles.
- **Create the future** – position India as a **global leader in education and research**.

About the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- **Background and Implementation:**
 - NEP 2020 replaced the **1986 National Policy on Education**.
 - Formally **implemented from the 2023–24 academic year**, making it the **first education policy of the 21st century in India**.
- **Philosophical Vision:**
 - Aims to **unlock the full potential of every learner**, with a balance of **foundational literacy, higher-order skills, and moral and emotional growth**.

Key Features of NEP 2020 in Higher Education

a) Holistic and Multidisciplinary Learning:

- Promotes **flexibility** in subject selection and **interdisciplinary studies**.
- Encourages blending of **vocational, academic, and life skills training**.

b) Structural Reforms in School Education:

- Introduces the **5+3+3+4 structure** replacing the older 10+2 system.
- Brings **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** into formal schooling.

c) Higher Education Restructuring:

- Proposes a **flexible curriculum framework** for undergraduate programmes.
- Introduces **multiple exit options** with appropriate certification (e.g., Certificate after 1 year, Diploma after 2, Degree after 3/4).
- Encourages **interdisciplinary institutions** offering **research-driven, innovation-focused education**.

d) Digital and E-Learning Promotion:

- Emphasises **online education, MOOCs, and technology-enabled pedagogy**.
- Aims to **bridge the digital divide**, especially for rural and disadvantaged groups.

e) Higher Education Reforms:

- **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC):** Allows students to **earn, store, and transfer credits** across institutions.
- **Integration of Vocational Education:** Aims to make **50% of learners vocationally trained** by 2025.
- **National Research Foundation (NRF):** Strengthens **research funding and quality** across disciplines.
- **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI):** A new regulatory architecture replacing UGC, AICTE, and others; focused on **light but tight regulation**.
- **Internationalisation & Regional Languages:**
 - Enables **foreign universities to set up campuses** in India.
 - Encourages teaching in **regional and Indian languages**, while promoting **global collaborations**.

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