



New Initiatives for Education Sector

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**.
 - **NISHTHA** 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

- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#).
- [Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan \(RUSA\)](#).
- [Prime Minister's Research Fellowship \(PMRF\)](#).
- [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