

# Draft National Education Policy 2019

## Key highlights of proposed policies for higher education institutions

### In brief

Last year, the Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD) released the Draft National Education Policy 2019 for public consultation up to 30 June 2019.<sup>1</sup> It envisions an India-centered education system that contributes directly to the sustainable transformation of India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high quality education to all.

The policy covers the entire education sector from pre-school to higher education and is guided by the goals of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability.

It also advocates the adoption and integration of technology into all facets of the sector – teacher training, learning, evaluation and administration.

With specific reference to higher education institutions (HEIs), the draft policy intends to double the gross enrolment ratio (GER) from 25% to 50% by 2035, as well as encourage HEIs to move towards a multidisciplinary approach. A light but tight regulatory regime, coupled with outcome-focused regulations and not inputs, is a welcome proposition.

## Proposed regulatory and accreditation structure of HEIs

### Institutional framework

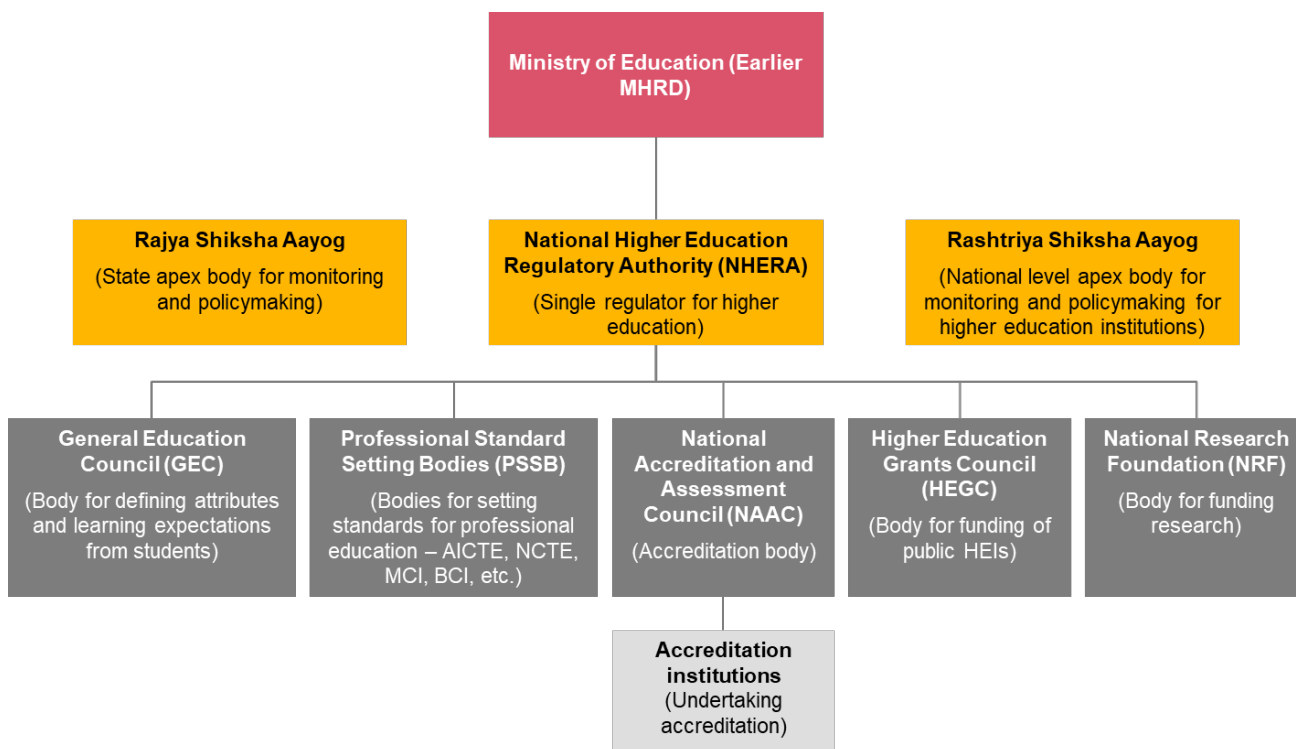
- Both public and private HEIs, including existing ones, would need to be categorised under any of the following three types by 2030:

Type 1 – research universities	Type 2 – teaching universities	Type 3 – colleges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equal focus on cutting-edge research and high-quality teaching.</li> <li>150–300 institutions envisaged in 20 years.</li> <li>Programmes across undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG) and doctoral (PhD), professional and vocational courses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher focus on teaching though research programmes also undertaken.</li> <li>1000–2000 institutions envisaged in 20 years.</li> <li>Multi-disciplinary programmes across UG, PG, Ph.D, professional and vocational courses.</li> <li>Can transition to type 1 as they achieve higher focus on research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusively for high-quality teaching.</li> <li>5000–6000 colleges envisaged in 20 years.</li> <li>Multi-disciplinary UG programmes plus diplomas and certifications, professional and vocational courses.</li> <li>All (currently) affiliated colleges, must transition into either:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>autonomous degree-granting colleges (type 3)</li> <li>merge completely with the affiliating university</li> <li>develop into a university.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development

<sup>1</sup> [https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Draft\\_NEP\\_2019\\_EN\\_Revised.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Draft_NEP_2019_EN_Revised.pdf)

- State governments would prepare a 10-year plan that would envision a judicious distribution of the types of institutions across the state.
- New colleges from 2020 onwards must only be autonomous colleges (type 3 HEIs) and there will be no deemed universities, affiliating universities or affiliated colleges after 2032.
- New HEIs to be set up through an Act of the Parliament, a legislation passed by a state or an HEI Charter by the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA). The HEI Charter is to be awarded on the basis of assessment criteria to be specified by the NHERA.
- Functions of funding, standard setting, accreditation and regulation to be performed by independent bodies to avoid conflict of interest and concentration of power. The proposed institutional framework is given below.



Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development

## Accreditation

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to oversee accreditation (essential for ensuring quality) and issue licences to public and private accreditation institutions (AIs).
- Newly-constituted HEIs to receive their first accreditation within 5 years and a second accreditation within 10 years.
- All existing HEIs shall be accredited by 2030 and those not accredited will cease operations.
- The current graded accreditation (GA) system to transition into a binary accreditation (BA) system (a yes or no accreditation) by 2030. The BA system will be introduced by 2022 and HEIs are free to choose between the GA or the BA regime till 2030.

## Other regulatory considerations

- An HEI will be called a multidisciplinary institution if it offers at least two programmes in arts and humanities, at least two in science and mathematics and at least one in the social sciences disciplines. Single-stream institutions will be phased out.
- An HEI may choose to have a time gap of 12–24 months between accreditation and taking up autonomy. It may take up autonomy in steps within this period.

- All HEIs will gradually move towards full autonomy – academic, administrative and financial. HEIs are to be given the freedom to decide on the three parameters of autonomy:
  - Academic: Freedom to start courses, decide on curricula, faculty and their qualifications, criteria and number of students for admission, run open and distance learning programmes, etc.
  - Administrative: Freedom for appointment and management of staff, setting up of internal governance and management structures, constituent colleges, off-campuses and multiple campuses.
  - Financial: Private HEIs will be free to set the fees for their programmes, subject to the discharge of social responsibility in the form of 25–100% scholarships for 50% of students in all their programmes.

All private and public HEIs will transparently and publicly disclose their audited financials and other financial matters such as fees to provide assurance of financial stability and audited evidence that the HEI is a not-for-profit organisation.

### Internationalisation of higher education

- The top 200 global universities will be permitted to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place.
- Collaboration between foreign and Indian institutions will be facilitated for twinning programmes, student exchange, faculty mobility, research and provide mutual recognition to the degrees awarded by both countries.
- Public and private universities that meet specified eligibility criteria will be encouraged to set up campuses in select countries. The Government of India (GoI) will make amendments in laws to enable this.
- Indian universities may also consider launching online and blended learning courses in various disciplines to expand their reach in India and abroad.

## Governance framework

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- All HEIs shall be governed by an autonomous and independent Board of Governors (BoG), which will be the apex body for the institution.
  - The board will have 10–20 members, of which one-third are to be from the HEI, up to three are to be government nominees and others will represent alumni, local community and industry experts.
  - It will be responsible for preparing and measuring progress against the institutional development plan (IDP) and its review is to be made publicly available.
  - The sponsoring body of a private HEI is to appoint the BoG.
- For private universities, the governor of the state will be the Visitor and preside over convocations.
- Mechanisms for public accountability:
  - HEIs to institute a court consisting of eminent people representing public interest, to which the BoG shall present the progress of the HEI.
  - Alternately, the HEI can have more than 50% of its BoG members representing public interest (being independent and not having a role within the HEI).

## Other highlights

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- HEIs to institute a framework for adoption of technology in teacher training, learning and evaluation, access to education, planning, administration and management.
- A National Education Technology Forum (NETF) is to be set up to advise the government on best practices for adoption of technology in education.
- A National Research Foundation (NRF) is to be set up as an autonomous body to catalyse research and innovation across universities and colleges. The NRF will be allocated an annual grant of INR 200 billion.

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