GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3077
ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

NEP implementation challenges

3077 **Shri Kapil Sibal:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress has been made on implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, and how will its goals be supported in 2025-2026;

(b) the NEP 2020 milestones the Ministry has achieved by July, 2025;

(c) the NEP initiatives, the Ministry is prioritizing for implementation in 2025; and

(d) how will the Ministry address NEP implementation challenges by 2026?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): After announcement of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), a number of transformative changes have taken place both in school and higher education for its implementation.

In School Education several initiatives have been taken such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh–Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education; DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as One Nation One Digital Platform having e-Books and e-Contents; launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development); NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST); National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem; implementation of a scheme "New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS" targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out such as National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in conjunction with guidelines / regulations like Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programme; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programme offered by Higher Education

Institutions; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Programme simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which will act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; introduction of PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students inter-alia enabling collateral free, guarantor free loan through a simple, transparent and student-friendly and entirely digital application process; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.

Sustained efforts for internationalisation of Indian higher education ecosystem under the National Education Policy 2020, has enabled the entry of reputed foreign universities into the Indian education landscape. Letters of Intent have been issued to 11 globally ranked universities from countries such as the UK, Australia, the US, and Italy to establish offshore campuses in India. Notably, the University of Southampton has already operationalised its campus in Gurugram in the current academic year. Two Australian universities—Deakin University and the University of Wollongong—have commenced operations at GIFT City, Gujarat. Additionally, UK-based Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University have also received approval to set up campuses in GIFT City. Indian institutions like IIT Madras (Zanzibar) and IIT Delhi (Abu Dhabi) are expanding globally. IIM Ahmedabad and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the IIM Ahmedabad Dubai Campus in the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC).

India's standing in global rankings has significantly improved, with 54 Indian HEIs featured in the QS Rankings 2026. In QS 2026, 54 Indian HEIs/Universities are ranked as compared to 28 in QS 2021. In QS 2026, there are 10 Indian HEIs in top 500. In QS World University Rankings, Asia 2025 India has second most representation, with 163 universities featured and 7 institutions in the top 100. The QS Subject Rankings for 2025 included 79 Indian HEIs, an increase of 10 from the previous year's 69, reflecting a 14% growth. Indian Institutions were represented across 533 entries, marking 25.7% increase from 424 entries in the previous edition.

According to Annual Report (2023-24) of the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, Government of India (GOI), India has shown remarkable growth in the field of intellectual property, with 92,168 patent applications filed in 2023–24 - an increase of over 115% since 2014-15. A major driver of this growth has been the contribution of educational institutions. The patent filings by domestic educational institutes have more than tripled from 7405 in 2021-22 to 23,306 in 2023-24. Educational institutions are playing an important role in promoting innovation in India. In 2023–24, they filed 23,306 patent applications, which is 25.28% of all patents filed that year. This shows their strong and growing contribution to research and new ideas.

India ranks 3rd in terms of number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) as per 'Research and Development Statistics at a glance 2022-23 of Deptt. Of Science and Technology.

Focus of NEP on research and innovation has propelled India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81 in 2015 to 48 in 2020 and currently being ranked at 39th place in 2024.

For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make Al work for India", the Government had approved establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. Ministry of Education approved three academic institutions for establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) – CoE of AI in Health at IISc Bengaluru, CoE of AI in Agriculture at IIT Ropar and CoE of AI in Sustainable Cities at IIT Kanpur. Further, a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Education has been announced in Budget 2025-26 for a total outlay of Rs. 500.0 Cr.

To promote multilingual education, the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme, as per the Budget announcement 2025–26, has been envisaged to provide textbooks across various school and higher education subjects in 22 Indian languages in digital format over the next three years.

NEP 2020 provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. A large number of initiatives have been implemented. Further, implementation of NEP 2020 is a continuous process.

Education being in the concurrent list of Constitution, Centre and States are equally responsible for providing quality education to all. Accordingly, Ministry of Education, State Governments, education-related Ministries, the regulatory and implementing bodies of school and higher education such as University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, Universities/Colleges/Schools etc. have taken initiatives for implementation of NEP 2020.

To create awareness and discuss innovative ideas for NEP implementation, a series of workshops / consultation-cum-review meetings have been held with States/UTs, Educational Institutions, other stakeholders from time to time. Implementation of NEP 2020 was discussed in National Education Ministers' Conference held in Gujarat in June 2022; National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in June 2022; 7th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held in August 2022; Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2022, 2023 and 2024; 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held on 27th July 2024. A two-day National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education was organized with Secretaries of States/UTs on 12th & 13th November 2024 to disseminate various approaches and methodologies to implement NEP 2020. A two-day Vice Chancellors' Conference of Central Universities was held in Kevadia, Gujarat on 10th & 11th July 2025 to focus on Central Universities' role as drivers of educational transformation and their contribution to Viksit Bharat @2047; review progress and set the future roadmap.

Recently, Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2025 was held on 29th July 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on the occasion of 5 years of announcement of NEP 2020 to discuss and deliberate innovative approach for implementation of NEP 2020. In the Samagam, State Education Ministers and other officials of States/UTs also participated.

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