**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Good Morning,

I Tanmay Karmarkar, am going to speak about the NEP which was declared in 2020.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was approved on July 29 in the Union Cabinet meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The new policy, which replaces the 34-year-old policy of 1986, aims to pave way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. The Prime Minister while delivering inaugural address at the University Grants Commission Higher Education Conclave on August 7, 2020 emphasised that the National Education Policy aims to keep the current and future generations ‘Future Ready’ while focussing on the National Values and National Goals.  NEP lays the foundation of New India as it is based on a Holistic approach.

**Goals of National Higher Education Policy**

1. Increase investment in Education sector to 6% of GDP: The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest, says NEP.
2. 100% GER in School Education by 2030: New Policy aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
3. 50% GER in Higher Education by 2035: 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 % by 2035; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.

Some of the biggest highlights of the NEP 2020 are, 1) a single regulator for higher education institutions, 2) multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, 3) discontinuation of MPhil programmes, 4) low stakes board exams, 5) common entrance exams for universities. NEP 2020 also opens doors to Top 100 Global Universities of the World to set up campuses in India.

NEP 2020 Highlights for School Education

1. New 5+3+3+4 curricular structure to cover Pre-School Education: The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.
2. No rigid separation between academic streams: Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools; Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships
3. Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/ regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.
4. Learning Outcomes: Assessment reforms with 360-degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes

**NEP 2020 Highlights for Higher Education**

1. Broad based, multi-disciplinary UG Education: The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Undergraduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.
2. Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits
3. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
4. National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
5. Higher Education Commission of India(HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body the for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI to have four independent verticals - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council( NAC) for accreditation. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation, and academic standards.
6. End of Affiliation of Colleges: Affiliation of Colleges to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. Over a period, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.