

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam – 2025 (ABSS 2025)

Concept Note

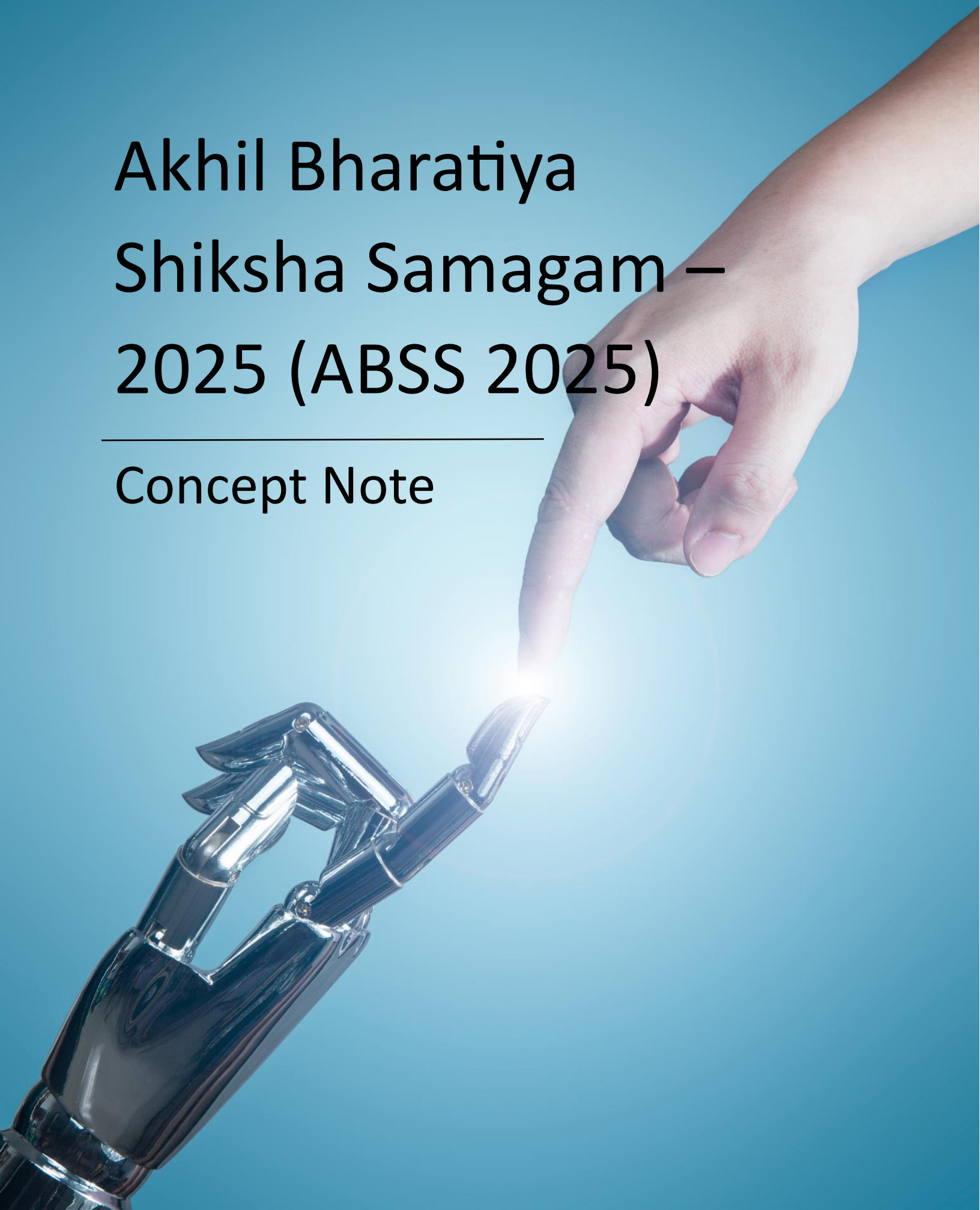


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I. Background: Vision and Rationale Behind the National Education Policy 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a landmark in India's journey to build a holistic, inclusive, and future-ready education system. As the first comprehensive education policy of the 21st century and the first in over three decades, NEP 2020 was launched to address deep-rooted structural challenges and realign the education sector with the aspirations of a rapidly transforming nation. Conceived through one of the most extensive consultative processes in policy-making—spanning over five years and involving lakhs of stakeholders—it reflects a shared national vision for education as the cornerstone of individual growth and national development.

At the time of its launch, India stood at the cusp of a demographic and technological transition. While significant progress had been made in expanding access to education, the system remained constrained by rigid structures, outdated pedagogies, rote-based assessment, and inadequate integration of skills, technology, and values. NEP 2020 responded to these challenges with a paradigm shift—placing the learner at the center of education, promoting multidisciplinary and experiential learning, and rooting pedagogy in Indian ethos while remaining globally relevant.

Now, in 2025, as India advances through its Amrit Kaal—the 25-year period leading up to the centenary of independence in 2047—NEP 2020 has become a critical driver of this transformation. It seeks to create an education system that not only imparts knowledge but also builds character, instills constitutional values, and fosters innovation, resilience, and global citizenship. The policy's foundational principles—access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability—aim to ensure that every learner,

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: A Unified Vision for Educational Transformation

Policy Milestones



First comprehensive education policy in
34 years



Formulated via **5+ years of consultation**
with **lakhs of stakeholders**



Anchored in a vision of **holistic, inclusive,**
future-ready education

Challenges addressed by NEP 2020



Rigid
structures

Outdated
pedagogy



Rote-based
assessment

Skill-tech-value
integration gaps



Catalysts for change



Teacher
capacity

Multilingualism



Digital
inclusion

Indian
Knowledge
Systems (IKS)



Outcome

Empowered learners, not just employable
graduates—driving India toward a **just, equitable,**
innovative, and sustainable future.

regardless of background or geography, has the opportunity to flourish.

NEP 2020 sets out bold objectives: **universal foundational literacy and numeracy**; integrated early childhood care and education; universal access to education at all levels; holistic school curricula; transforming assessment; equitable and inclusive education; efficient resourcing and effective governance; adult education and lifelong learning; seamless pathways across education and skilling; autonomy and excellence in higher education; and a vibrant ecosystem of research and innovation. It emphasizes teacher capacity, digital inclusion, multilingualism, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), and flexible learning trajectories through tools such as the National Credit Framework (NCrf) and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).

Ultimately, NEP 2020 envisions an education system that builds not just employable youth but empowered individuals – ready to lead India into a just, equitable, innovative, and sustainable future.

II. Policy Engagement and Dissemination Efforts

Since the adoption of the National Education Policy 2020, the Ministry of Education has undertaken a multi-pronged, systemic effort to translate the policy's transformative vision into institutional action. Recognizing that successful implementation hinges on deep understanding and alignment across diverse stakeholders, the Ministry of Education has spearheaded extensive consultation and capacity-building processes involving central ministries, state governments, academic institutions, and civil society actors.

A series of structured outreach and dissemination events were organized post-policy announcement to foster shared ownership and encourage localized planning. These included national-level forums such as the **Conference of Governors**, the **Visitor's Conference on Higher Education** chaired by the **Hon'ble President of India**, the National Education Ministers' Conference held in Gujarat in June 2022; and **the National Conference of Chief Secretaries**, which elevated NEP implementation as a key priority area. Zonal and regional-level **consultations with Principal Secretaries, State Higher Education Councils, and Vice Chancellors enabled state-specific strategy formulation and provided space to showcase best practices**. More than 22 zonal workshops, 28,000+ institutional consultations, and multiple virtual kick-off meetings created momentum and ensured that every region had a voice in the implementation process.

Dedicated forums like the National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education (Nov 2024) and the series of outreach seminars conducted in collaboration with over 400 state universities and 84 Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs) further reinforced local engagement. Events like **the Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, and Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav celebrated annually to honour India's civilizational and linguistic unity, exemplify how the NEP's emphasis on cultural rootedness and Bharatiya languages is being brought to life. Similarly, thematic drives around multilingual

education, vocational skilling, foundational literacy, and digital empowerment are supported by flagship initiatives like PM SHRI, APAAR ID, National Mission for Mentoring, NIPUN Bharat Mission, ULAAS, and Eco Clubs, etc., Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Pariyojana, which are widely publicized and anchored through regional summits, campaigns, and digital platforms.

It is in this context, the **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam** serves as a pivotal platform that brings together all stakeholders in education to deliberate and advance the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which seeks to overhaul India's education system to meet the demands of the 21st century. The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, through collaborative dialogue and stakeholder engagement, seeks to translate this vision into actionable strategies, ensuring that NEP 2020's reforms pave the way for an inclusive, innovative, and future-ready education system.

III. Genesis of Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS)

The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2022, held from July 7 to 9 in Varanasi and was honoured by the esteemed presence of the **Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Governor & Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**. The ABSS 2020 was a landmark event organized by the Ministry of Education to accelerate the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Hosted at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre, the summit brought together over 300 academic and administrative leaders from universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) to deliberate on transformative strategies for aligning India's education system with NEP 2020's vision. The event provided a platform for discussing best practices, success stories, and implementation strategies to ensure effective policy execution.

ABSS 2022 featured **12 thematic sessions** covering key areas such as multidisciplinary education, digital empowerment, research and innovation, and capacity building for educators. The discussions emphasized actionable strategies, including the adoption of flexible curricula, promotion of Indian languages and **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)**, and the integration of sports and arts into education. The summit also showcased an exhibition highlighting innovative educational initiatives and institutional achievements. A dedicated valedictory session outlined key takeaways and the way forward, reinforcing the commitment to continuous engagement among stakeholders for long-term impact

Second edition of ABSS was held between 29th to 30th July, 2023 marking the third anniversary of NEP. The event was held in Delhi in ITPO, Pragati Maidan and was graced by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister**. The event witnessed participation from over 3,000 stakeholders, including eminent academicians, industry leaders, and policy experts. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the disbursement of **Rs.630 crore** under the **PM SHRI Scheme**, aimed at strengthening more than **6,200** selected schools across the country. Additionally, he presided over

the launch of curriculum content for education and skilling in 12 regional languages. The event covered discussions around 16 key themes cutting across school education, higher education and skills such as Quality education and governance, **NCrF** and **APAAR**, **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**, **NIRF ranking**, capacity building for **PM Gati Shakti**, and **IKS**. The panelists addressed key concerns and way forward for all the themes - understanding Foundational Literacy and Numeracy; advocating for granting greater autonomy to higher education institutions (HEIs), strengthening leadership, empowering the Institutions and strengthening academic linkages through the SCERTs and DIETs; a Roadmap to Competency Based Assessment: **PARAKH**; Issues of Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Group (SEDG); and integrating technology to enhance governance and outreach. Following key points were discussed-

- A unified credit framework and digital academic account was also proposed to streamline academic records and promote lifelong learning.
- Toy-based Joyful learning for Foundational Stage.
- Use of Indian Languages and digital technology can be key to well-being of the SEDGs.
- For internationalization, the entry of foreign universities, global collaborations, and student-faculty exchanges was encouraged. Research and development should be bolstered by increased funding, interdisciplinary focus, and industry partnerships.
- Further, a need for refining The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for better transparency and alignment with global standards
- Bolstering the collaboration between SCERTs and DIETs, which play a crucial role at the district level, creates a seamless flow of knowledge and expertise.
- Digital empowerment requires expanding infrastructure, training educators, and promoting digital literacy
- Holistic education is to be achieved by integrating vocational training, internships, and skill-based learning.
- Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) should be embedded in curricula, with support for classical languages and traditional disciplines
- Stakeholders were urged to develop institution-specific NEP implementation plans, and robust monitoring mechanisms are recommended to track progress using data-driven tools.

The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2024**, held on **July 29, 2024**, marked the fourth anniversary of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and served as a crucial platform for deliberating on its effective implementation. Organized by the **Ministry of Education**, the event convened **over 1,200 participants**, including **State Education Secretaries, university Vice Chancellors, school principals, policymakers, industry experts, and students**. The discussions

focused on fostering collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the smooth execution of NEP 2020's objectives.

The summit featured **six thematic sessions**, covering diverse aspects of education and policy implementation. Key themes included **sustainability in education, industry-academia collaboration, STEM promotion, ranking and accreditation for quality enhancement, curriculum equivalence across school boards, and the implementation roadmap for the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**. Eminent panelists, including **academicians, researchers, government officials, and industry leaders**, shared insights on bridging gaps between education and industry, enhancing research opportunities, and improving accessibility to quality education.

A significant highlight of ABSS 2024 was the emphasis on **integrating sustainability into educational curricula**, ensuring students are equipped with knowledge and skills relevant to emerging global challenges. The discussions also underscored the importance of **vocational training, digital empowerment, and multilingual education**, aligning with NEP 2020's vision of holistic and inclusive learning. The event concluded with a **valedictory session**, summarizing key takeaways and outlining actionable strategies for the future.

ABSS 2024 reaffirmed the government's commitment to **transforming India's education landscape**, fostering innovation, and strengthening academia-industry linkages to prepare

| ABSS 2022–2024: Powering NEP 2020 from Vision to Action | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Year | Key Highlights | Participation | Focus Themes |
| 2022 | Launch edition in Varanasi; 12 thematic sessions; Exhibition of innovations | 300+ HEI leaders | Multidisciplinary education, IKS, digital empowerment, flexible curricula |
| 2023 | PM announced ₹630 Cr under PM SHRI; 16 themes; 12-language curriculum launch | 3,000+ stakeholders | NCrF & APAAR, PM Gati Shakti, autonomy for HEIs, global collaborations |
| 2024 | 4th NEP anniversary; 6 sessions; Sustainability spotlight | 1,200+ including students, VCs, policymakers | STEM, curriculum equivalence, industry-academia linkages, NCF roadmap |

students for a dynamic global economy. The summit's outcomes will play a pivotal role in shaping policy decisions and ensuring the long-term success of NEP 2020's implementation.

IV. ABSS 2025: 5th Anniversary of NEP 2020

The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025**, marking the **fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, is set to be a pivotal event, continuing its tradition of shaping the future of education in India. Building on the successes of previous editions, ABSS 2025 will serve as a platform for **academicians, policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and government representatives** to review the remarkable progress made under NEP 2020 and chart the way forward. The discussions will focus on **making education more accessible, practical, skill-oriented, and seamlessly integrated with employment opportunities**, ensuring students are equipped for a dynamic global economy. Special emphasis will be placed on **re-envisioning secondary education to achieve 100% GER by 2030**, **Bharatiya Bhasha**, leveraging **technology in classrooms**, **mainstreaming Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)**, and fostering **inclusivity to make learning accessible to all**.

NEP 2020: Building a Future-Ready Higher Education Ecosystem



Academic Flexibility

- **NCrF** (SOP issued on 7th August 2024) offers a **unified structure for credit accumulation, transfer, and redemption across school education, higher education, vocational training, skill development and work-based learning**
- **153 universities** offer **multiple entry/exit**



Credit Ecosystem

- **2,469 institutions** on **ABC**;
- **32 Cr+ IDs** issued
- **2.36 Cr APAAR IDs** seeded



Digital Learning

- **1,149 ODL programs** (**116 HEIs**)
- **544 online courses** (**107 HEIs**)
- **388 universities** on **SWAYAM**



Industry Linkages

- **100+ HEIs** offer **apprenticeship-embedded degrees**
- **696 Professors of Practice**
- **More than 19,000 experts** engaged



Research & Access

- **ONOS: 13,000 e-journals** for **4,300 institutions**
- **6,517** in **NIRF rankings**



Faculty Upskilling

- **More than 2.5 lakh faculty** trained via **MMTTP**
- **3,950 programs** on areas like, **AI, cybersecurity, mental health, entrepreneurship**

Since its launch, **NEP 2020** has **revolutionized India's education landscape**, introducing transformative policies that foster **flexibility, inclusivity, and innovation**. The **National Credit Framework (NCrF)**—adopted by **170 universities**—has enabled seamless credit accumulation across academic, skill-based, and experiential learning. The **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)** has onboarded **2,469 institutions**, issuing over **32 crore IDs**, with **2.36 crore unique APAAR IDs**

already seeded with credits. The introduction of **multiple entry and exit options** across **153 universities**, while **biannual admissions**, approved by the UGC, are driving India closer to its **50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) target by 2035**.

Technology-driven learning has expanded significantly, with **116 higher education institutions** offering **1,149 Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programs**, benefitting over **19 lakh students**, alongside **107 institutions** providing **544 online courses**. The **SWAYAM** platform now facilitates **credit transfers up to 40%**, with **388 universities** integrating its courses. Digital initiatives like **SAMARTH** Supports digital governance across more than 13,000 HEIs, across 32 states/UTs across 440 districts streamlining admissions, payments, and academic records. Currently, the platform is hosting 1.85 crore students and 2.16 lakh faculty records. Strengthened **industry-academia linkages** are evident through **apprenticeship-embedded degrees** offered at **100+ institutions**, **Professors of Practice** engaging more than **17,000 industry experts** to bridge practical knowledge gaps.

India's higher education ecosystem continues to grow, with **518 universities and 10,465 institutions accredited** and **6,517 institutions participating in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**. The **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** initiative grants access to nearly **13,000 e-journals** across **6,300 institutions**, fostering a robust research environment. The **Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP)** has empowered over **2.5 lakh faculty members** with more than **3,950 training programs**, equipping educators with expertise in **AI, cybersecurity, mental health, and entrepreneurship**.

School Education Advancements

The **Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL)** has made remarkable progress in implementing NEP 2020 with multifarious interventions and initiatives across all levels of school education

The Indian school education system is one of the largest in the world, comprising nearly **14.72 lakh schools, over 98 lakh teachers**, and catering to **approximately 24.8 crore students as per UDISE+ 2023-24** from pre-primary to higher secondary levels, spanning diverse socio-economic backgrounds. As per the **UDISE+ 2023-24 data**, the school infrastructure landscape has significantly improved, with:

- 98.3% having access to drinking water
- 97.2% schools having Girl's toilets
- 95.7% schools having Boy's toilets
- 94.7% having hand-washing facilities.
- 91.8% schools with electricity
- 89.0% equipped with library facilities
- 77.1% equipped with ramp facilities

Learning outcomes have improved significantly, especially in foundational literacy and numeracy. Government schools have shown greater gains than private schools, with the **2022–2024 period** marking the **sharpest improvement in a decade**. PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 and ASER 2024 findings highlight a significant improvement in foundational literacy and numeracy skills outcomes, reflecting the positive impact of the NIPUN Bharat Mission as envisioned in NEP 2020.

Curriculum reforms under the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** have led to the rollout of new textbooks for **8 out of 12 grades besides Jadui Pitara for Balvatika children**. Textbooks of grades 1 and 2 are, available in **22 Indian languages**. Over **3.74 lakh e-contents** are hosted on the **DIKSHA** platform, including materials in **126 Indian and 7 foreign languages, 14,819 ISL videos, and 5,135 audiobook chapters**.

Vocational education has expanded from **960 schools in 2014 to 29,342 in 2024**, with enrolment rising from **58,720 to over 30.8 lakh students**. The **ULLAS** adult education scheme has registered **2.60 crore learners and 42 lakh volunteer teachers**, with more than 1.7 crore **neo-literates**. Ladakh became the first fully literate administrative unit under this initiative **followed by Mizoram, Goa and Tripura**.

Assessment and monitoring have been strengthened through:

- **PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan** (Dec 2024): **21.15 lakh students** across **74,000 schools**.
- **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021**: **34 lakh students** and **1.18 lakh school**.
- **State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS)**: **84 lakh students** across **4 lakh schools**.

The **PM SHRI** initiative has selected **13,076 schools** to become exemplar schools for NEP 2020 for transformation, while the **PM POSHAN** scheme now includes **Bal Vatika** students and supports **School Nutrition Gardens** in over **6.28 lakh schools**.

Other key initiatives include:

- **NIPUN Bharat**: Mission launched on 5th July 2021 for universalizing foundational literacy and numeracy.
- **Vidya Pravesh**: A 12-week school readiness module for grade 1 adopted nationwide. It is now an annual calendar and over 4.2 crore students benefitted up to now.
- Learning Teaching Material (**JAADUI PITARA**) and its digital version e-Jadui Pitara based on NCF-FS launched
- National Curriculum Frameworks for Foundational Stage and School Education (**NCF-FS** and **NCF-SE**) launched.

- PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), National Assessment Centre set up.
- Holistic Progress Card for the Preparatory, Foundational, Middle and Secondary stage prepared.
- Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) operational at CBSE, NCERT and 34 States/UTs
- 117 Primers in Regional Indian languages now available on DIKSHA
- Existing **12 DTH Channels of SWAYAM PRABHA** for School Education extended to 200 channels with a total of 92,147 Video Contents equals 26,662 hours of telecast received from States/UTs/ABs in 30 languages
- National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) and National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) guidelines notified.
- 64 institutions granted recognition for 4-year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) with an intake of 6,100.
- All 613 functional District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) being developed as Centres of Excellence in phased manner from FY 2023-24
- **PRASHAST**: A digital disability screening tool covering all **21 disability conditions**.
- **Vidyanjali, school volunteer management program**, to strengthen Government and Government aided schools through community and private sector involvement.

Together, these initiatives reflect a holistic and integrated approach to education reform, ensuring that every learner—from preschool to postgraduate—has access to quality, equitable, and future-ready education.

ABSS 2025 will highlight these achievements while setting the course for the next phase of educational transformation. Discussions will focus on **deepening industry-academic collaboration, refining vocational pathways, expanding digital infrastructure, and embedding sustainability in curricula.** As India's premier education summit, ABSS 2025 will reaffirm the nation's commitment to **equity, excellence, and innovation**, ensuring that NEP 2020's impact continues to drive educational progress for years to come.

V. Thematic Areas of Discussion:

Joint Session 1: Use of Bharatiya Bhasha in Teaching-Learning

Background

India's rich linguistic heritage is central to its cultural identity and social cohesion. Language shapes thought, fosters familiarity, and carries the essence of tradition and knowledge. However,

many Indian languages face stagnation or risk extinction due to limited public engagement and inadequate educational resources. This decline not only threatens the survival of diverse linguistic traditions but also undermines the cultural and intellectual wealth embedded in them. Revitalizing these languages is essential to preserving India's pluralistic ethos and ensuring inclusive access to knowledge and expression.

What does NEP Say?

In alignment with NEP 2020's objectives, a renewed national effort is underway to revitalize Bharatiya Bhasha through the development of high-quality educational materials, literature, and arts, alongside updated dictionaries that foster meaningful discourse in native languages. To build institutional capacity, higher education institutions will launch new academic programmes in Indian languages, literature, arts, music, and philosophy, including integrated four-year B.Ed. dual degrees aimed at cultivating a robust cadre of skilled educators. Supporting this initiative, the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) will be established to promote multilingual translation and interpretation, leveraging technology to enhance linguistic inclusivity. Additionally, Sanskrit will be mainstreamed through innovative pedagogies and integrated with contemporary disciplines to ensure its relevance and accessibility in modern education.

A national digital platform will be developed to document and preserve India's linguistic and cultural diversity. This portal will host multimedia content—stories, poetry, performances, and dictionaries—contributed by communities and curated by academic institutions. Language academies for each Eighth Schedule language will be constituted to standardize vocabulary and publish updated dictionaries, in consultation with scholars and native speakers.

To further incentivize learning, scholarships will be introduced for individuals of all ages to study Indian languages and arts. Proficiency in Indian languages will also be recognized as a qualification criterion in employment, reinforcing the role of language in education, culture, and national development.

What has been done until now?

Significant strides have been made to achieve the ambitious vision set forth in the NEP and promote Bharatiya Bhasha across all levels of education. Students are now permitted to write examinations in local languages, even for English-medium programs, ensuring inclusivity and linguistic empowerment. Universities are actively integrating regional languages into the teaching-learning process, supported by translation of original works. The National Instructional Media Institute has published over 525 skill education textbooks in 22 Indian languages, while AICTE continues to translate engineering textbooks into 12 languages. Institutions offering Indian language courses have nearly doubled since 2014–15, with student enrolment rising to over 8.4 lakh in 2022–23. Further, 117 Primers in Regional Indian languages have been developed, out of which 22 are in scheduled languages and 99 non-scheduled languages. These Primers are

bridges/links for both students and teachers in learning. Additionally, Primers in 26 languages were released during the ULLAS Mela.

The introduction of professional programs in Indian languages has been facilitated. Engineering courses are now offered in Marathi at Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering, and MBBS programs are being taught in Hindi across six states. IGNOU has launched MBA programs in Hindi and Odia, and IIT Jodhpur offers B.Tech with a Hindi medium option. Competitive examinations such as NET, CTET, NEET, JEE, CUET, and SSC are now conducted in 12 Indian languages. The Bar Council of India has adopted bilingual instruction, furthering accessibility in legal education.

Cultural initiatives such as **Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav** (celebrated annually on 11th December) and **Matribhasha Diwas** (21st February) promote multilingualism and the use of mother tongues in schools and higher education institutions. Flagship programs like **Kashi-Tamil Sangamam**, now in its third edition, celebrate civilizational ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, fostering cultural exchange and linguistic pride. The Ministry of Education has also established Centres of Excellence for classical languages including Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Malayalam, Sanskrit, and Kannada, with new CoEs approved for Pali, Prakrit, Bengali, Marathi, and Assamese.

To support digital and academic infrastructure, initiatives such as the **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Pariyojana**, **National Translation Mission**, and **Language Data Consortium for Indian Languages (LDC-IL)** are being implemented. Projects like **Bharatavani**, **SPPEL**, and **National Testing Service** aim to preserve endangered languages, deliver multilingual content, and standardize language assessment. CIIL and NCERT have jointly published primers in 121 languages and launched platforms like **Bhasha Sangam** and **PM E-Vidya Tamil**, enabling students to engage with diverse linguistic traditions through digital media.

Recent Announcements

The **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Pariyojana (BBPP)**, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, is a landmark initiative aimed at providing digital textbooks in 22 Indian languages for school and higher education. Over a three-year period (2025-2028), 2.43 Lakh textbooks will be developed through original writing and translation, supporting the NEP 2020's vision of inclusive and equitable education. Coordinated by the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti and implemented by institutions such as UGC, AICTE, INIs, and NIMI/NSDC, the scheme empowers universities and autonomous institutions to produce subject-specific textbooks in Indian languages, leveraging faculty expertise and AI translation tools like Anuvadini, Udaan, and Bhashini.

With an estimated budget of Rs.5,100 crore, BBPP is designed to transform India's education ecosystem by fostering knowledge creation in Indian languages, engaging thousands of educators, translators, and experts, and promoting convergence between Bharatiya Bhasha, technology, and research. The scheme will be supported by platforms like INFLIBNET and

AICTE's e-KUMBH, with NETF providing technical guidance. Long-term outcomes include systemic transformation, decolonization of education, increased Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), and the establishment of a robust Bharatiya Bhasha ecosystem across education and employment sectors.

Topics for Discussion

- How can the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Pariyojana transform the learning experience for students in rural and semi-urban India?
- **In what ways can technology – especially AI translation tools – support or hinder the goals of the BBPS and NEP 2020?**
- **How can the integration of Indian languages in professional education (engineering, medicine, law, etc.) impact employability and industry readiness?**
- **How can universities ensure quality and consistency in the creation of textbooks across 22 languages under the BBPS?**
- **What measures can be taken to overcome the limitations of learning in one's own language, particularly in specialized fields such as medicine, science, and technology, where access to advanced terminology and resources is often restricted?**

Session 2: Anusandhan and Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF): Nurturing India's Next Generation of Academic and Industry Leadership

Background

As emphasized in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Research and Development (R&D) is central to transforming India into a knowledge-driven economy. The policy recognizes that the global knowledge landscape is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by breakthroughs in science and technology, the proliferation of big data, and the rise of artificial intelligence and machine learning. These advancements present unprecedented opportunities for India's growth and global competitiveness. At the same time, complex global challenges—such as climate change, pandemics, and economic globalization—demand innovative, research-based solutions across sectors.

NEP 2020 calls for the creation of research-intensive universities and Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) to foster high-quality, cross-disciplinary research. It advocates for ending institutional silos by forming HEI clusters, enhancing resource efficiency, and promoting collaboration. The policy also encourages the establishment of incubation centers, frontier research hubs, and stronger industry-academia linkages. In this context, the National Research Foundation (NRF) is envisioned as a key enabler, supporting peer-reviewed research, mentoring, and infrastructure development. By embedding a culture of innovation and inquiry

within HEIs, NEP 2020 positions R&D as a cornerstone for national development, resilience, and global leadership.

As we engage with diverse stakeholders at the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, it is essential to explore how collaborative research can drive innovation and translate the vision of NEP 2020 into actionable outcomes

Recent Announcements:

The Union Budget 2025–26 reflects a strong commitment to innovation, with Rs.20,000 crore allocated to support private sector-led R&D. A Deep Tech Fund of Funds was launched to empower startups in emerging fields such as AI, robotics, and quantum computing. Additionally, Rs.100 crore was earmarked for the National Geospatial Mission to modernize infrastructure planning and land records. To nurture research talent, 10,000 Prime Minister's Research Fellowships were proposed for premier institutions like IITs and IISc. The expansion of Atal Tinkering Labs and the establishment of National Centres of Excellence for AI-driven skilling further demonstrate the government's commitment to fostering scientific temper and future-ready skills. Investments in energy R&D, including small modular reactors, highlight the budget's focus on sustainable innovation.

What has India achieved till now?

Achievements in R&D India's performance in the Global Innovation Index (GII) has significantly improved, rising from 81st in 2015 to 39th in 2024.

- Ranked 3rd in 2022 (from 7th in 2010) in terms of total number of Science and Engineering publications as per the National Science Foundation (NSF) database of the United States.
- 6th position (in 2022) in number of patent applications from 8th position (in 2013) as per WIPO.
- 3rd rank in terms of number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) as per 'Research and Development Statistics at a glance 2022-23.
- Gross Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) more than doubled from Rs. 60,196.75 Crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 127,380.96 Crore in 2020-21.
- Over 2,871 Universities/Institutions have established R&D cells, while 16,067 Institution Innovation Councils (IICs) have been set up to strengthen the startup ecosystem.
- IDEA Labs have been launched to promote experiential learning, STEM education, and industry linkages, with 423 HEIs receiving funding.
- The Smart India Hackathon 2024 saw participation from 2,600 HEIs, 295,422 students, and 55,795 ideas submitted across 254 problem statements.
- The One Nation One Subscription scheme has provided access to over 13,000 e-journals from 30 major publishers to more than 6,300 government HEIs, benefiting 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers.
- 93 CFIs, including 22 Central Universities, 22 NITs, and 20 IITs, have incubated or supported startups.

- Patent filings have surged by 115% since 2014–15, reaching 92,168 in 2023. HEIs alone filed 23,306 patents in 2022–23, a 158% increase from the previous year, accounting for 25% of total patents filed.
- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023, established NRF with a Rs.50,000 crore hybrid financing model to democratize research funding. NRF supports peer-reviewed grants, mentorship, infrastructure, and inclusive research—including in regional languages.
- The Prime Minister’s Research Fellowship (PMRF) continues to attract top talent to PhD programs, offering up to Rs.80,000/month and Rs.2 lakh/year in research grants. Under PMRF 2.0, announced in Budget 2025–26, 10,000 fellowships will be awarded over five years with an outlay of Rs.8,313 crore.

Key Discussion Points:

- Operationalizing the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) to centralize and democratize research funding.
- Mobilizing Rs.36,000 crore through private and philanthropic engagement.
- Funding high-quality doctoral research in frontier areas like AI, quantum technology, and sustainability.
- Strengthening R&D clusters and promoting knowledge sharing among HEIs.
- Enhancing research in CFHEIs aligned with national development priorities.
- Developing models to track patents granted, not just filed, to assess innovation impact.
- Ensuring widespread participation in NIRF to evaluate institutional performance and provide targeted support for improvement.
- Creating structured Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for co-funded research and commercialization.
- Incentivizing industry participation through tax credits, patent support, and co-innovation platforms.

Session 3: Re-envisioning Secondary Education to achieve 100% GER by 2030

Background:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Para 3.1 mentions that *“It will be a top priority to bring these children back into the educational fold as early as possible, and to prevent further students from dropping out, with a goal to achieve 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio in preschool to secondary level by 2030.”* This ambitious goal goes beyond simply providing access; it requires a holistic re-envisioning of the entire secondary schooling landscape. Fundamental reforms are needed across curriculum design, pedagogical practices, teacher development, infrastructure, and governance, all coupled with targeted interventions to ensure equity and inclusion for every child. Ultimately, this paradigm shift aims to cultivate a flexible, multidisciplinary, and future-ready education system

that not only brings all children into the fold but also equips them with the 21st Century Skills essential for national development in a rapidly changing world.

Bharat has already made substantial strides in achieving near universal access to elementary education, rigorously pursuing NEP 2020's objective of 100% GER from pre-school through secondary levels. These efforts and achievements have been supported by sustained government initiatives such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, which were subsumed under the Samagra Shiksha scheme in 2018 to provide an integrated framework for school education from pre-primary to senior secondary. This is evidenced by a Gross Access Ratio (GAR)¹ of 97.83% for primary, 96.57% for upper primary, 95.35% for secondary, and 94.97% for higher secondary.

Despite these significant access achievements, challenges persist. The current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stands at 77.7% for the Foundational Stage, 96.5% for the Preparatory Stage, 89.5% for the Middle Stage, and a notably lower 66.5% for the Secondary Stage. A critical area for improvement is the Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) that reflects age-appropriate grade enrolment, which is currently 74.0% for Foundational, 71.4% for Preparatory, 64.4% for Middle, and only 50.9% for the Secondary Stage. Improving NER is crucial because age-appropriate admissions are vital for optimizing learning outcomes; they ensure children are developmentally ready for the curriculum, leading to more effective instruction and significantly reducing learning difficulties, ultimately enhancing educational success.

Further compounding these challenges, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (2023-24) reveals 1.37 crore out-of-school children in the 6 to 17 years age group. Additionally, UDISE+ data indicates concerning dropout rates: 3.7% at the Foundational, 5.2% at the Preparatory, and 10.9% at the Secondary stage. A significant contributing factor to this dropout is a fragmented school system, which leads to approximately 1.07 crore students leaving school due to the unavailability of admission at middle and higher levels or distance to nearest available school.

Consequently, a top priority should be to bring these children back into the educational fold as early as possible and to prevent any further students from dropping out. In alignment with NEP 2020, a concerted national effort will ensure universal access and provide opportunities for all children in the country to obtain quality holistic education – including skill education – from pre-school to Grade 12.

Key Recommendations of NEP 2020:

- To achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030 through two overall initiatives:
 - To provide effective and sufficient infrastructure so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education at all levels from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
 - To achieve universal participation in school by carefully tracking students, as well as their learning levels, in order to ensure that they (a) are enrolled in and attending

¹ Samagra Shiksha AWP&B 2025-26

school, and (b) have suitable opportunities to catch up and re-enter school in case they have fallen behind or dropped out.

- To facilitate learning for all students, with special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), the scope of school education will be broadened to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes.
- Make it easier to build schools, to encourage local variations, focusing more on outputs than inputs.
- Encouraging community, volunteer, alumni participation in enhancing learning.

What has India achieved till now:

Over the past decade, substantial progress has been made in saturating schooling facilities through centrally sponsored schemes like Samagra Shiksha and various initiatives at the State and UT level. Efforts are underway to provide essential amenities in government schools. At present, 92-98% saturation has been achieved in basic Infrastructure facilities like Drinking Water, Toilets, Library, Handwash, etc. The focus is on strengthening existing schools, facilitating new openings, and ensuring critical infrastructure, including toilets, drinking water, ramps, handrails, boundary walls, adequate classrooms, etc.

Despite significant advancements in building robust infrastructure at the secondary level, UDISE+ data indicates persistent gaps in facility saturation. To bridge this, a targeted outlay of ₹5,989.91 crores has been sanctioned to equip 91,456 Secondary/Senior Secondary schools with essential ICT laboratories, Smart Classrooms, and Science laboratories. Looking ahead, in line with the Budget 2025 announcement, 50,000 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are set to be established in government schools over the next five years, aiming to cultivate curiosity, innovation, and a scientific temper. Furthermore, the BharatNet project will provide broadband connectivity to all government secondary schools in rural areas.

To facilitate learning for all students, the scope of school education has been broadened to include multiple pathways, encompassing both formal and non-formal education modes. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes are being implemented by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools² for meeting the learning needs of young people in India who are not able to attend a physical school.

Additionally, government and state initiatives significantly expand educational access for Socio-Economic Disadvantaged Groups. The Samagra Shiksha scheme significantly expands educational access beyond traditional schooling by providing crucial residential facilities. This includes Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya (NSCBV), which are vital for children from Socio-Economic Disadvantaged Groups. Currently, 5138 KGBVs are enrolling 7,11,505 students, and 1,137 NSCBVs accommodate

² State Open Schools are in 11 States i.e., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.

1,15,193 students. A decision has also been taken to saturate all KGBVs with ICT and Smart Classrooms.

In a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Samagra Shiksha has significantly expanded hostel facilities for tribal students, sanctioning 492 hostels across 17 states under the PM JANMAN scheme and an additional 692 hostels across 23 states under the DAJGUA scheme.

All these efforts are geared towards re-envisioning Secondary Education, with the overarching goal of achieving 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2030 up to Class XII.

Key Discussion Points:

- **Increasing Education Investment:** Ensure adequate and sustained public investment in the education sector, aligning with targets such as 6% of GDP.
- **Enhancing Access and Infrastructure:** Plan for sufficient infrastructure at the secondary level, through a comprehensive analysis of intake capacity gaps at school, block, and district levels.
- **School availability and Continuity:** Simplify the existing ten parallel school categories to reduce admissions-related disruption and improve student transitions.
- **Strengthen Identification & Re-enrolment:** Enhance existing efforts like house-to-house enumeration, based on UDISE+ data, APAAR ID, etc
- **Strengthening of NIOS/SIOS** to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Targeted support (scholarships, incentives) for disadvantaged groups, girls, and CWSN.
- **Strengthening Teacher Capacity and Support:** Address Teacher and Teacher Educator Vacancies and capacity gaps.
- **Expanding and Integrating Skill Education programs into mainstream education** from the middle school stage, making them an integral part of the curriculum.
- **Leverage AI for Pedagogical Enhancement:** Collaborative effort to determine how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be effectively leveraged to support and improve pedagogical practices.
- **Effective Governance and Community Engagement:** decentralized planning, data driven decision making and fostering Public-Private Partnership for infrastructure and Innovation.

Joint Session 4: COE in AI for Education - Transforming Teaching and Learning Ecosystem

Background

NEP 2020 emphasizes the transformative role of technology in education, highlighting India's strength in digital innovation. It envisions the integration of emerging technologies like AI, machine learning, and adaptive learning tools to enhance teaching and learning processes. While the policy covers various aspects of education, the integration of AI is particularly focused on enhancing learning, teaching, assessment, and administration. To support this, Centers for Excellence in AI for Education will be established to drive research, innovation, and context-based implementation of tech-enabled educational solutions.

The Union Budget 2025–26 marks a strategic move with the announcement of a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI), reinforcing India's commitment to lead in the global AI landscape. Aligned with NEP 2020's vision of integrating technology in education, this initiative aims to bridge the skill gap in AI, foster cutting-edge research, and prepare a future-ready workforce to meet evolving industry demands.

India's growing leadership in digital innovation and AI presents a unique opportunity to revolutionize teaching and learning methodologies. The CoE is poised to serve as a national hub for integrating AI into educational practices, fostering cutting-edge research, and developing scalable, context-sensitive solutions to improve learning outcomes.

As AI continues to reshape industries and redefine job roles, the Centre will play a critical role in bridging the skill gap by preparing a future-ready workforce and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among educators, technologists, and researchers.

This session will examine the strategic importance of this announcement, its potential to drive educational and economic transformation, and the roadmap for its effective implementation across the higher education landscape.

Centre of Excellence in AI for Education: Leveraging AI to Transform Higher Education

- a) Recognizing the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in reshaping education and workforce development, the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) proposes the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI for Education, with a dedicated budgetary allocation of Rs.500 crores under the Union Budget 2025–26.
- b) The CoE is envisioned to serve as a national hub for integrating AI into teaching and learning processes, with a focus on enhancing higher education outcomes and preparing students for emerging job roles in AI-driven sectors.
- c) The initiative aims to address the growing demand for AI-skilled professionals by offering structured training programs, interdisciplinary curriculum, and hands-on research opportunities aligned with industry needs.
- d) The CoE will collaborate with premier institutions and industry partners to develop specialized modules in areas such as machine learning, robotics, data science, and AI ethics, ensuring relevance and practical applicability.

- e) Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country will be engaged as implementation partners, contributing to curriculum development, faculty training, and student mentorship.
- f) Students from participating HEIs will be encouraged to take on roles as AI Fellows, contributing to research, peer learning, and outreach activities. Selection will be based on academic merit and interest in AI applications in education.
- g) The CoE will also establish AI Learning Labs within HEIs, equipped with advanced simulation tools, datasets, and computing infrastructure to support experiential learning and innovation.
- h) These labs will serve as regional centres for AI experimentation and will be integrated with existing digital infrastructure such as the National Digital University and SWAYAM platform to ensure wide accessibility.
- i) Capacity building will be supported through regular workshops, certification programs, and collaborative projects, with guidance from leading institutions such as IITs and IIITs.
- j) For the AI Fellows, this model is envisioned to:
 - (i) provide financial support through stipends,
 - (ii) offer mentorship from top academic and industry experts,
 - (iii) foster innovation and research capabilities,
 - (iv) encourage excellence through performance-based recognition and assessments.

Topics for discussion:

- **Assessing AI integration in higher education** involves analyzing existing AI-related programs, faculty expertise, and infrastructure across HEIs, while identifying potential host institutions and regional gaps for targeted development.
- **Building awareness on AI's educational value** requires promoting its role in enhancing teaching, learning, and career readiness, while launching campaigns that instill the mindset that AI literacy is essential for future success.
- **Early engagement and exposure** to AI should begin from Grade 7 onwards, supported by outreach programs led by faculty, researchers, and industry experts to spark interest and build foundational understanding among students.
- **Embedding future skills in higher education curricula:** involves integrating essential competencies such as data analysis, coding, digital communication, and ethical reasoning into academic programs to prepare students for AI-driven careers.
- **Changing career perceptions** involves guiding students beyond traditional aspirations for government jobs by showcasing the wide range of AI-driven career opportunities available in private, public-private, and entrepreneurial sectors.
- **Community outreach and engagement** should involve organizing AI fairs, workshops, and seminars to actively involve students, parents, and educators, while demonstrating real-world applications of AI to build interest and understanding.

Expected Outcomes

a) Clarity on Policy Implementation

- Develop a clear roadmap for operationalizing the CoE in AI for Education, including timelines, institutional roles, and key milestones.
- Establish regulatory and governance frameworks to guide implementation across Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

b) Actionable Recommendations

- Identify strategies for integrating AI and future skills into mainstream higher education curricula.
- Share best practices for faculty development, curriculum design, and student engagement in AI education.

c) Strengthened Industry Collaboration

- Outline models for sustained collaboration between HEIs and industry partners to ensure relevance and innovation.
- Create feedback mechanisms for industry to contribute to curriculum updates and skill alignment.

d) Enhanced Public Awareness and Engagement

- Promote awareness among educators, students, and administrators about the opportunities and challenges of AI in education.
- Design stakeholder engagement strategies to build a robust AI education ecosystem.

e) Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Encourage initiatives that foster AI-driven innovation in education, including student-led projects and institutional research.
- Explore funding, mentorship, and incubation support for startups and educational technology solutions emerging from HEIs.
