Draft National Credit Framework

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In news– The Union Minister of Education has launched the draft of National Credit Framework (NCrF) for public consultation recently.

Key highlights of NCrF-

- Taking the vision of the new National Education Policy (NEP) the Government of India has developed the National Credit Framework (NCrF) **to enable the integration of academic and vocational domains** to ensure flexibility and mobility between the two.

- NCrFwill also **enable students who have dropped out of the mainstream education** to re-enter the education ecosystem.

- **NCRF is an umbrella framework for skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling,** accreditation & evaluation encompassing our people in educational & skilling institutions and workforce.

- The Committee constituted by the Government(for NCrF) with members from UGC, AICTE, NCVET, NIOS, CBSE, NCERT, Department of School Education and Literacy & Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, DGT, and Ministry of Skill Development under the guidance of Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

- **The inclusive umbrella framework aims to make the options for Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit accessible** and applicable across the higher education, school education and vocational education, allowing students to choose their own learning trajectories and programmes.

- **NCrF will seamlessly integrate the credits earned through school education, higher education** and

vocational and skill education by **encompassing the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF),** National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF).

- It also **supports educational acceleration for students with gifted learning abilities** and Recognition of Prior Learning for the workforce that has acquired knowledge and skills informally through the traditional family inheritance, work experience or other methods.

Benefits to stakeholders-

Proposed benefits for various stakeholders are as follows:

Students:

- NCrF will ensure **Flexibility in the duration of study/ courses through provisions of multiple entries and exit/work options** as well as pave the path for creditisation of all learning hours, including academic, vocational and experiential learning.
- It will also give the provision for **lifelong learning — any time anywhere learning: It will also help students by:**
  - Establishing multidisciplinary and **holistic education with flexible curricula.**
  - Removing the hard distinction between the education stream and making study choices respectful, allowing for more than one award in the same period.

- **Removing the distinction between arts, science, social sciences, commerce, etc.**

  - Giving student credits for every academic/ skill/ experience.
  - E**nhancing the scope of core learning** to include

foundational and cognitive both.

Institutions:

NCrF will bring about a **unification of higher education institutions to promote multidisciplinary education,** creating a diverse and rich students knowledge base. It will also help in:

- Promoting **stronger collaboration** between institutions.
- Making credit mechanism simpler and uniform.
- Increasing **focus on research and innovation.**
- Promoting **digital learning, blended learning**, and open distance learning.
- Leveraging the institutional infrastructure.

Government:

NCrF is expected to **assist the government to increase the enrolment of students, helping to fulfil the national vision of complementing the demographic dividend** and transforming India into the Skill Capital of the World. It will also:

- Making vocational education and training/ skilling aspirational.
- Highly educated and trained workforce for Aatmnirbhar Bharat.

Industry:

NCrF will **allow students to attain NSQF-approved foundational skills developed by industry** and be more employable. The provision of micro-credentials will allow **integration of quick educational upgradation/ up-skilling** It will also help in:

- Re-Skilling and up-skilling of existing employees/ engineers.
- **Making students more employable** by enabling a more holistic design of the study.
- Creating a multi/ cross-sectoral skilled pool of

employable youth.