

UGC's National Credit Framework

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In news– The University Grants Commission (UGC) recently released the National Credit Framework (NCrF).

About the framework-

- The National Credit Framework (NCrF) is **a single meta-framework that works on the accumulation of credits earned through school education, higher education and vocational & skill education.**
- **Under this system credit will be assigned to academic learning and skill learning.**
 - It aims to integrate general (academic) education, vocational education, and experiential learning including relevant experience and proficiency/professional levels acquired.
 - The system is based on the National Education Policy, NEP 2020.
- **It is developed jointly by UGC, AICTE, NCVET, NIOS, CBSE, NCERT, DGT, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Skill Development.**
- The credit system is already being followed by IITs, IIMs, NITs and other INIs.

Some of the benefits of NCrF-

- To remove the separations between educational streams, General and Vocational education, Curricular & other activities.
- Establishing equivalence between general and vocational education & training/skilling.
- Mobility between and within General and vocational education & training/skilling

- Provisions for lifelong learning through multiple entry and multiple exit (ME-ME) options
- The credit framework provides for a comprehensive and practical approach to include all dimensions of learning i.e. academic education, skilling and experiential learning including relevant experience and professional levels acquired.
- The credits earned after the completion of academic education, vocational education, training & Skill education – the collected credits will be **stored in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**.

Different NCrf Credit Levels-

- The NCrf has proposed that the **maximum levels within this framework shall uniformly be up to level 8**. The assignment of Credit levels under NCrf will be based on the cumulative number of years of learning with an assessment
 - The credit level that can be attained after completion of school education i.e. **grade 5th will be level 1, grade 8th will be level 2, grade 10th will be level 3 and grade 12th will be level 4**.
 - **The higher education shall be from credit levels of 4.5 and to level 8**.
- For Vocational Education, Training and Skilling, the NCrf credit levels are from level 1 to 8 wherein level 1 is of the lowest level of competence and complexity while level 8 indicates the highest level of competence and complexity.

What is a Notional Learning Hour?

- **Notional hours refer to the time that the average student would need to attend all classes, study for tests and do assignments and homework**.
- The total Notional Learning Hours for one year of education/ learning across school education, higher

education and vocational education, training and skilling have been **agreed to be 1200 Hrs per year** for the purpose of assignment of credits for which the students/ learners shall be awarded 40 Credits subject to assessment.