

## Policy Workshop

# National Education Policy 2020

and the Agenda of

# Higher Education ← Expansion →

31 - VMCC, IIT Bombay

• 3rd-4th May 2023 •

## CONCEPT NOTE

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a clear departure from previous education policies favouring universalisation of primary education, expansion of secondary education and consolidation of higher education. Aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and based on learning from other developed regions and countries, the NEP 2020 placed major emphasis on the expansion of higher education. India plans to achieve a 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education by 2035. Many of the other targets and reforms, for instance, the universalisation of schooling till the age of 18 years by the year 2030 and the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN), a mission mode intervention to achieve basic numeracy and literacy among primary students by 2026-27 are directly linked to goals of expansion of higher education.

According to the latest estimates, India's current GER in higher education stands at 27.1%. It is noteworthy that all postsecondary qualifications, some below the bachelor's degree (level 6 of ISCED 2011), are included while calculating GER. Enrolment in distance education mode also makes a significant contribution to GER. NEP aims to achieve a doubling of GER within 15 years. It proposes many structural reforms focusing on quality, excellence and equity. The idea of single regulatory authority, classification of institutions into teaching-intensive university, research-intensive university and autonomous colleges, the introduction of vocational dimensions to the higher education curriculum, heavy funding for research and revitalisation of higher education institutions as centres of knowledge production, flexible and entry and exit schemes, the establishment of colleges in underdeveloped regions and launching of Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) are some of the recommendations to revamp the higher education system. Assurance of public spending on education tune of 6%, in principle, indicates the government's commitment to education affairs.

As we start moving from word-mode to action-mode of policy, what should be the central idea that drives the expansion agenda? How do we consider the country's complex nature of higher education development? The fact that there is a widening gap between states in terms of GER and some of the states has almost reached the 50% target further raises questions about the nature of policy implementation. Does quantitative expansion accompany qualitative and progressive reforms in regulation, governance, management, institutional structures, study programmes, teaching-learning, financing instruments and student outcomes? Or are we going to create an expanded version of the current system?

This policy workshop jointly organised by Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies at IIT Bombay and Azim Premji University Bengaluru aims to bring together policymakers, academics, institutional leaders, teachers and students to discuss and debate the future directions of higher education in India in light of NEP 2020. The outcome of the policy workshop is expected to provide perspectives and evidence-based insights for transforming higher education at system, institution and classroom levels.

**Program Schedule  
Day 1 - 03 May 2023**

**Registration: 09:00 – 09:30**

**INAUGURAL SESSION**

<b>09:30-09:35</b>	<b>Prof. N. C. Narayanan</b> Head, Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies IIT Bombay	<i>Welcome</i>
<b>09:35-09:45</b>	<b>Prof. Malish C. M.</b> Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies IIT Bombay	<i>Introduction and Presentation of the Theme Paper</i>
<b>09:45-10:00</b>	<b>Prof. Subhasis Chaudhary</b> Director, IIT Bombay	<i>Director's Address</i>

**Release of the Workshop Theme Paper**

<b>10:00-10:40</b>	<b>Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar</b> Chairperson University Grants Commission	<i>Inaugural Address</i>
<b>10:40-10:45</b>	<b>Dr. Rishikesh B. S.</b> Azim Premji University	<i>Vote of Thanks</i>

**← Tea Break →**

**SESSION I - HIGHER EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE**

<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>Prof.N.V.Varghese</b> Former Vice Chancellor National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi	<i>Chairperson's Remarks</i>
<b>11:30-12:05</b>	<b>Prof. Kannan Moudgalya</b> IIT Bombay	<i>Technology and Higher Education</i>
<b>12:05-12:40</b>	<b>Prof. Kerry Shephard</b> University of Otago, New Zealand	<i>Higher Education and Sustainable Development</i>

**Discussion | 12.40-13:00**

**← Lunch Break →**

**SESSION II - GEARING FOR MASSIVE EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

<b>14:00-14:30</b>	<b>Prof. S. Srinivasa Rao</b> Mahindra University, Hyderabad	<i>Chairperson's Remark</i>
<b>14:30-15:10</b>	<b>Prof. Furqan Qamar</b> Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	<i>Higher Education in India at Crossroads</i>
<b>15:10-15:45</b>	<b>Prof. Pradeep Kumar Chaudhury</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	<i>Status of Higher Education Participation in India</i>
<b>15:45-16:20</b>	<b>Prof. Sayantan Mandal</b> IIT Jammu	<i>Teachers and Teaching in a Massified System</i>

**Discussion | 16:20-16:30**

**Day 2**  
**04 May 2023**

**SESSION III - EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN MASSIFIED SYSTEM**

<b>09:30-09:50</b>	<b>Prof. Malish C. M.</b> Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies IIT Bombay	<i>Chairperson's Remarks</i>
<b>09:50-10:20</b>	<b>Prof. Satish Deshpande</b> Delhi University	<i>Understanding Equity and Excellence in an Expanding System</i>
<b>10:20-10:50</b>	<b>Dr. Anupam Pachauri</b> National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi	<i>Roadblocks for Quality and Excellence in Higher Education</i>
<b>Discussion   10:50-11:00</b>		

← Tea Break →

**SESSION IV - GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS**

<b>11:15-11:35</b>	<b>Prof. V. Santhakumar</b> Azim Premji University	<i>Chairperson's Remarks</i>
<b>11:35-12:00</b>	<b>Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan</b> National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi	<i>Towards a Single Regulatory Structure</i>
<b>12:00-12:25</b>	<b>Dr Chetan Singai</b> Public Policy Researcher	<i>Enabling Governance and Regulation to Implement NEP 2020: Unpacking the Case of Karnataka</i>
<b>12:25-12:50</b>	<b>Prof. D. Parthasarathy</b> Nayanta School of Public Policy Hyderabad	<i>Institutional Reforms and Leadership</i>
<b>Discussion   12.50-13:00</b>		

← Lunch Break →

**PANEL DISCUSSION: FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<b>Prof. N. V. Varghese</b> Former Vice Chancellor National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi	<i>Moderator</i>
	<b>Prof. Satish Deshpande</b> Delhi University	<i>Panel Members</i>
	<b>Prof. Shruti Tambe</b> Savitribai Phule Pune University	
	<b>Dr. Rishikesh B. S.</b> Azim Premji University	
	<b>Mr. Kanthi Swaroop Gunti</b> IIT Bombay	

**THANK YOU**