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- Phasing out affiliation system in 15 years
- Graded autonomy to colleges will be provided as per a stage wise mechanism.

**Other:**

- Increasing public expenditure on education (centre and states) to 6% of GDP at the earliest
- National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to promote use of tech in education – learning, assessment, planning and administration
- Gender Inclusion Fund for advancing gender equality in education.
- Special education zones for disadvantaged regions and groups. Financial incentives will be given to SC, ST, OBC and other disadvantaged groups.
- Promotion of multilingualism in schools and colleges.
- National institutes for pali, Prakrit and Persian to be set up along with institutes for translation and interpretation, for knowledge creation in Indic systems and languages.

**Significance of the policy:**

- Recognition of the importance of preschool education in the future of a child through 5+3+3+4 structure.
- Recognizing the importance of mother tongue upto class 5, which has an impact on learning outcomes for the child. In the context of increasing demand for English as a medium of instruction, this brings balance by not neglecting the mother tongue. This promotes multilingualism which is proven to have a positive impact on brain development.
- Emphasis on vocational education since class 6 is needed. With only 30% GER in higher education, the rest of the students need employable skills. Vocational education aids this. Hurdle of blue collarization of vocations in India must be overcome for this to succeed.
- Reforming teacher education is timely as multiple reports on education point to lack of quality in teacher education.
- Multidisciplinary and research approaches to education through MERU's and NRF are crucial for the 21st century. Areas like nano technology, bio technology, robotics, artificial intelligence all need this approach.
- Emphasis on technology can increase access to quality education.
- Recognizing the need for flexibility of education. This is important in the 21st century with high mobility and alternate ways of learning. Steps like Open schooling system, multiple entry and exit points in UG education, use of technological resources aid in this flexibility.
- Regulatory reforms by emphasis on transparency, quality, self-assessment and voluntary declarations. This reduces the regulatory burden on education. A single regulatory body with 4 verticals will aid in this lean but effective regulation.
- No child left behind through focus on gender equality and disadvantaged groups. Gender Inclusion Fund and Special education zones aid in this.
- Focus on long neglected Indian languages and knowledge systems (tribals etc) will advance cultural and scientific knowledge.

**Conclusion:**

Transformational vision proposed in NEP, 2020 requires huge resources in creation of infrastructure, personnel, institutions. NEP, 2020 has set a target of 6% of GDP as target at the earliest. This is a challenge in the current fiscal position of states and centre due to

COVID pandemic. But political will must be shown to realize the education transformation in NEP, 2020

**Mains question:**

**Q.1)** NEP, 2020 aims at transforming Indian education. What are its major provisions? Discuss its significance? [15 marks, 250 words]

