

● No Rigid Demarcation Of Streams ● 4-Yr Bachelors Programme Preferred Option

Less stress on boards, common college entrance test in sweeping edu reforms

School Will Now Be From 3-18 Yrs, Instead Of 6-16

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New Delhi: In sweeping "toddler to college" reforms, seen as the most ambitious since the introduction of the 10+2+3 system, the government on Wednesday unveiled the new National Education Policy that restructures school education by setting out age 3-6 years as pre-school, de-emphasises "high stakes" boards, introduces a SAT-like university entrance test and offers the option of a four-year

FULL COVERAGE: P 5, 6 & 8

or bachelor's degree at the undergraduate level.

The changes in the board structure, which seek to make the exams a test of "core com-

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES IS NOW MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FOR SCHOOLS

From 10+2 to 5+3+3+4: Current 10+2 structure in which policy covered schooling from Class 1 to 10 (age 6-16) and then Class 11-12 (age 16-8) gives way to 5 years of foundational education, 3 of preparatory, 3 of middle & 4 years of secondary schooling

Multi-Stream: Flexibility to choose subjects across streams of arts, science, extra-curricular, vocational & academic

Diluted Board: Board exams to test only core competencies; could become modular (object and subjective) and will be offered twice a year

Multilingual: 3-language policy to continue with 2 languages to be native

Bag-Less Days: School students to have 10 bag-less days in a year during which they are exposed to a vocation of choice (i.e. informal internship)

FOR COLLEGES

SAT-Like College Test: National Testing Agency to conduct common college entrance exam twice a year

4-Year Bachelor: 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's programme to be preferred; mid-term dropouts to be given credit with option to complete degree after a break

No Affiliation: Over next 15 years colleges will be given graded autonomy to give degrees, affiliation with universities to end, so would be deemed university status

Fee Cap: Proposal to cap fee charged by private institutions of higher learning

Going Global: Top-rated global universities to be facilitated to come to India, top Indian institutions to be encouraged to go global

► **Policy will make India a knowledge hub: PM, P 6**

► **Raj leaves its mark on New Education Policy, P 5**

► **NEP puts spotlight on digital infrastructure, P 8**

petencies", will be implemented from the 2021 academic session. The new university entrance test will be implemented for college admissions in

the 2022 academic session. NEP aims to provide students with increased flexibility and subjects and there will be no rigid separation between arts

and sciences, curricular and extra-curricular activities, etc, the government said.

► **Continued on P 8**

New policy will transform edu over next 20 yrs

Dr K Kasturirangan

This is a seminal moment that sets out the path for education in our country for the next 20 years.

India has made progress... However, equity and quality of education still remain

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massive challenges. This policy is a response to these changes and challenges while being anchored in strong fundamentals of good education. This policy is also a response to the unfinished education agenda set by the two previous education policies of 1968 and 1986/1992.

(The writer, an ex-Isro chief, headed the panel that drafted the Nat'l Education Policy). P 8