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## The Draft National Credit Framework (NCrF)

### Why in news?

The government began the process of public consultations on the National Credit Framework (NCrF) which seeks to integrate academic and vocational domains.

### What is the credit system?

- **Credit system** - Credits are recognition that a learner has completed a prior course of learning, corresponding to a qualification at a given level.
- It offers flexibility in choosing courses, the option to change courses or institutions midway, or to re-enter the education system after dropping out without losing years.
- The students can digitally deposit their credits in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and redeem them whenever required.
- **Credit frameworks** - Credit frameworks are guidelines to be followed by schools, colleges and universities in adopting the credit system.
- For example, the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) lays out the guidelines for higher educational institutions that want to implement the credit system.

*The Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) which offers the opportunity to mix and match a wide variety of courses, enabling interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary education, is followed by many universities in India.*

### What is the NCrF about?

- **NCrF** - National Credit Framework is an umbrella framework for skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling, accreditation and evaluation in educational & skilling institutions.
- It proposes to integrate the credits earned through school education, higher education and vocational and skill education.
- It encompasses National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF), National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF).
- The NCrF has been proposed as part of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\)](#).
- **Coverage** - It brings the entire school education system under the ambit of credits for the first time.
  - So far, only the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) followed a credit

system.

- The NCrF covers skill and vocational education.
- **Validity of credits** - According to the University Grants Commission regulations, the credits shall remain valid for a maximum duration of **7 years**.
- A student shall have to earn at least 40 credits for completing a year of school education after putting in 1200 hours of notional learning hours.
- **Draft** - It has been drafted by a 11-member committee headed by National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) chairperson **Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi**.

*Notion learning hours means time spent not just in classroom teaching, but also in a range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities such as sports, yoga, performing arts, music, social work, NCC, vocational education, job training, internships or apprenticeships.*

## **What are the benefits of this framework?**

### **For students**

- Ensures flexibility in the duration of study/ courses through multiple entries and exit/work options
- Paves way for creditisation of all learning hours, including academic, vocational and experiential learning
- Gives the provision for lifelong learning - any time anywhere learning

### **For institutions**

- Brings about a unification of higher education institutions
- Promotes multidisciplinary education
- Promotes stronger collaboration between institutions
- Increases the focus on research and innovation

### **For government**

- Assists the government to increase the enrolment of students
- Helps to fulfil the national vision of complementing the demographic dividend
- Aids in transforming India into the Skill capital of the world

### **For industry**

- Allows students to attain NSQF-approved foundational skills
- Helps students be more employable
- Allows integration of educational upskilling through micro credentials

## **References**

1. [The Indian Express | Working of credit system in schools](#)
2. [The Hindu | Draft National Credit Framework](#)
3. [PIB | The draft National Credit Framework \(NCrF\)](#)



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