

Current Affairs=30-07-2020

Cabinet approved National Education Policy (NEP) 2020



Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the first education policy of the 21st century i.e. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which has replaced 34 years old **NPE, 1986**. This was announced by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Keshav Javadekar**. With this, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) will officially be renamed the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**.

- It should be noted that from now onwards the education sector will get allocation of 6% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as compared to 1.7% previously.
- NEP 2020 emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- This new policy aligned to the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-4** of 2030 Agenda is aimed at **Universalization of Education** from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. Policy also aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.
- GER in higher education is to be raised to 50% by **2035** with the addition of 3.5 crore seats.



The policy premised on the **5 pillars** of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability has been created after the largest consultation and discussion process of its kind in the country. A total of 2.25 lakh suggestions received after the draft was placed in public domain for consultations.

Authorities/Curricular to be set up under NEP 2020:

NCPFECCE: National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will develop a **National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE)** for children up to the age of 8. The planning and implementation of ECCE will be carried out jointly by the Ministries of HRD, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs.

NCFSE: A comprehensive **National Curricular Framework for School Education (NCFSE 2020-21)** will be developed by the NCERT.

PARAKH: As a part of Assessment reforms in schools, a National Assessment Centre, **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** will be set up as a standard-setting body. Teachers are to be prepared for assessment reforms by **2023**.

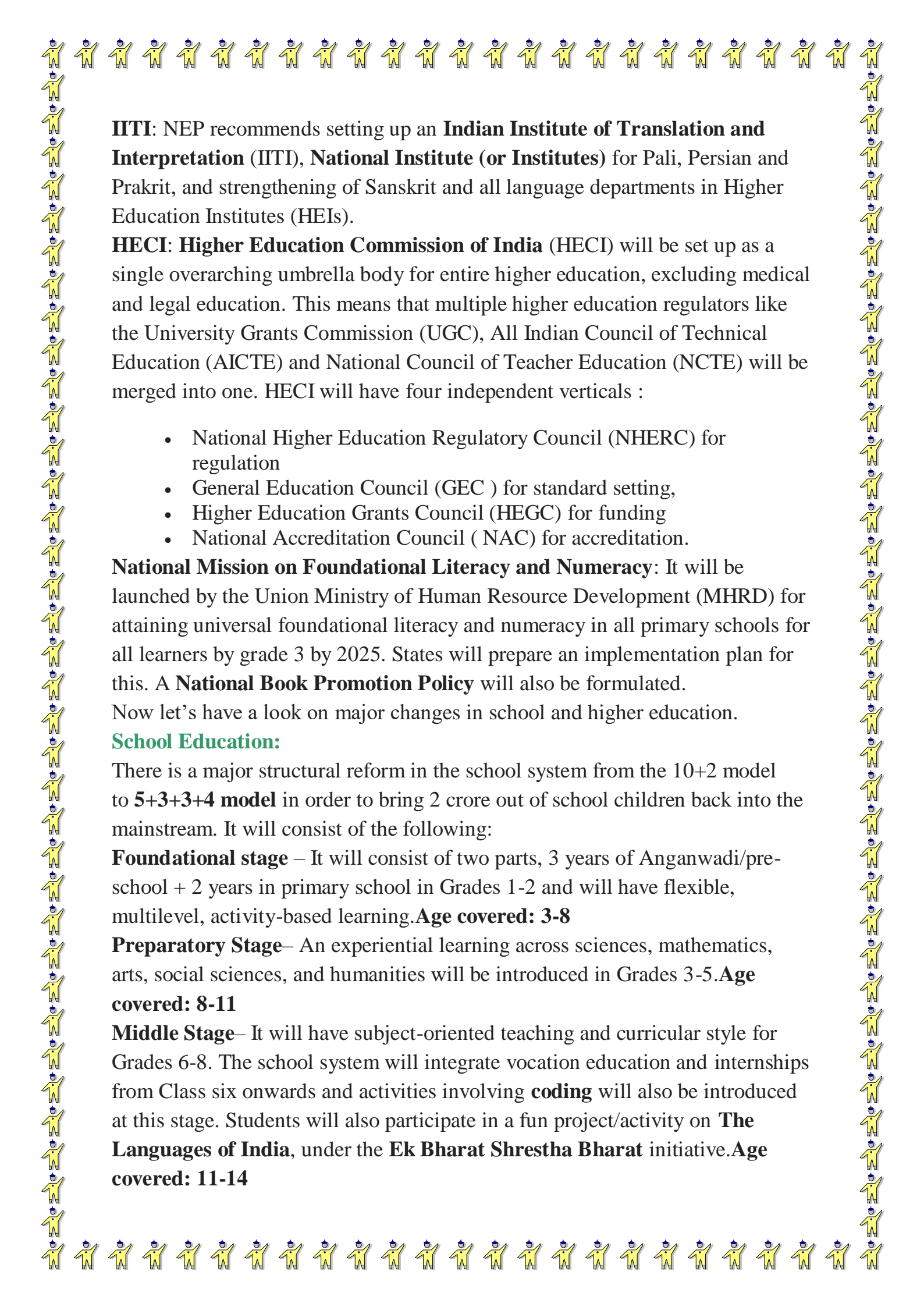
NRF: The **National Research Foundation (NRF)** will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

NCFTE: A comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE 2021)**, will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree

NPST: For recruitment of teachers, a common **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** will be developed by the NCTE by 2022, in consultation with NCERT, SCERTs (State Council of Educational Research and Training), teachers and expert organizations.

SSSA: For standard-setting and accreditation for school Education, states/UTs will set up an independent **State School Standards Authority (SSSA)**. The SCERT will develop a School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (**SQAAF**) through consultations with all stakeholders.

NETF: An autonomous body, the **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)**, will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology



IITI: NEP recommends setting up an **Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes)** for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, and strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

HECI: Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. This means that multiple higher education regulators like the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) will be merged into one. HECI will have four independent verticals :

- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation
- General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting,
- Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding
- National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy: It will be launched by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025. States will prepare an implementation plan for this. A **National Book Promotion Policy** will also be formulated.

Now let's have a look on major changes in school and higher education.

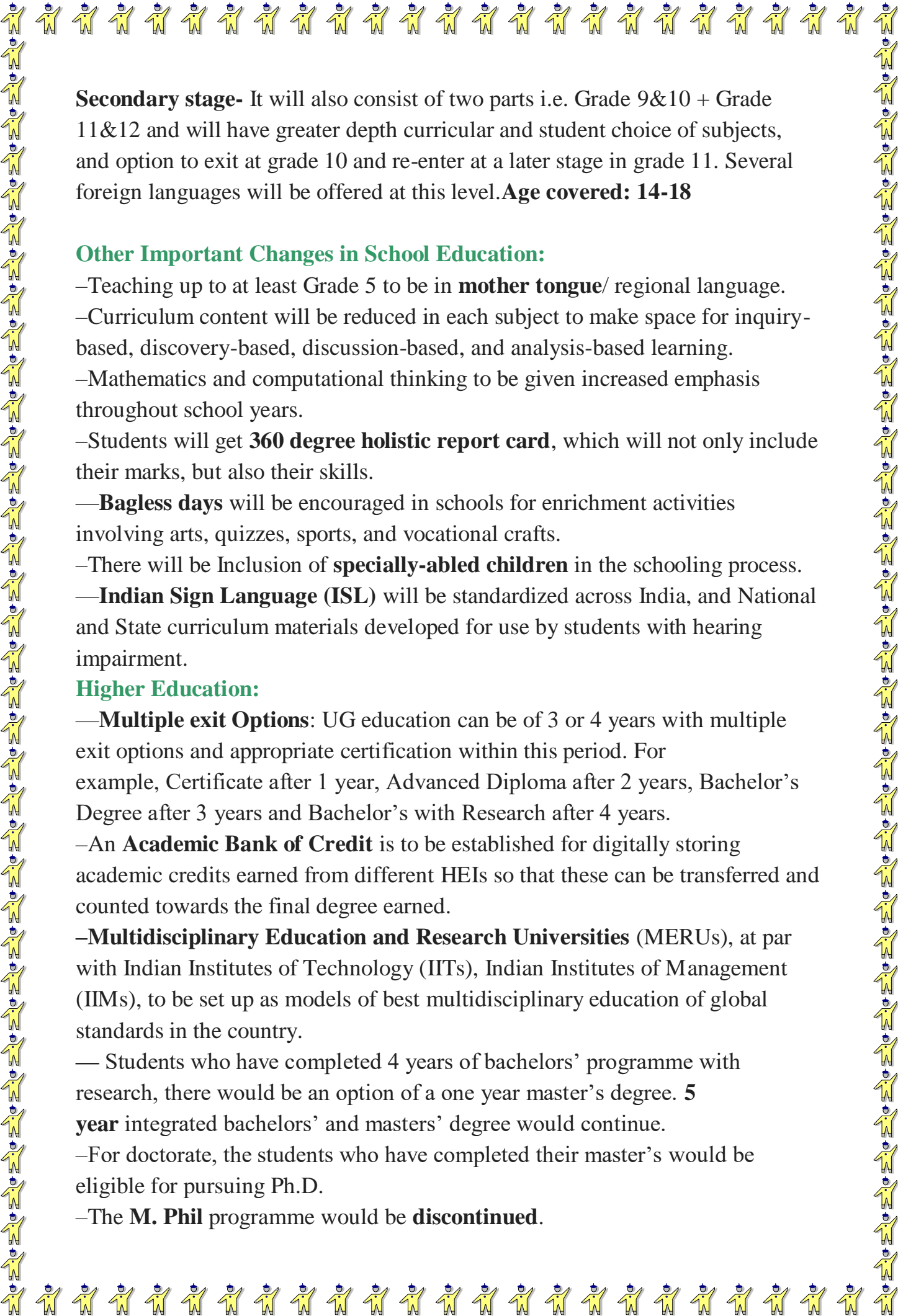
School Education:

There is a major structural reform in the school system from the 10+2 model to **5+3+3+4 model** in order to bring 2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream. It will consist of the following:

Foundational stage – It will consist of two parts, 3 years of Anganwadi/pre-school + 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2 and will have flexible, multilevel, activity-based learning. **Age covered: 3-8**

Preparatory Stage– An experiential learning across sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities will be introduced in Grades 3-5. **Age covered: 8-11**

Middle Stage– It will have subject-oriented teaching and curricular style for Grades 6-8. The school system will integrate vocation education and internships from Class six onwards and activities involving **coding** will also be introduced at this stage. Students will also participate in a fun project/activity on **The Languages of India**, under the **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat** initiative. **Age covered: 11-14**



Secondary stage- It will also consist of two parts i.e. Grade 9&10 + Grade 11&12 and will have greater depth curricular and student choice of subjects, and option to exit at grade 10 and re-enter at a later stage in grade 11. Several foreign languages will be offered at this level. **Age covered: 14-18**

Other Important Changes in School Education:

- Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in **mother tongue**/ regional language.
- Curriculum content will be reduced in each subject to make space for inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based, and analysis-based learning.
- Mathematics and computational thinking to be given increased emphasis throughout school years.
- Students will get **360 degree holistic report card**, which will not only include their marks, but also their skills.
- Bagless days** will be encouraged in schools for enrichment activities involving arts, quizzes, sports, and vocational crafts.
- There will be Inclusion of **specially-abled children** in the schooling process.
- Indian Sign Language (ISL)** will be standardized across India, and National and State curriculum materials developed for use by students with hearing impairment.

Higher Education:

- Multiple exit Options:** UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.
- An **Academic Bank of Credit** is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned.
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)**, at par with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- Students who have completed 4 years of bachelors' programme with research, there would be an option of a one year master's degree. **5 year** integrated bachelors' and masters' degree would continue.
- For doctorate, the students who have completed their master's would be eligible for pursuing Ph.D.
- The **M. Phil** programme would be **discontinued**.

Background of NEP, 2020:

–In May 2016, **Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy** under the Chairmanship of Late Thirumanilaiyur Sitapati Ramana (TSR) Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report. Based on this, the HRD Ministry prepared ‘Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016’.

—In June 2017, **Committee for the Draft National Education Policy** was constituted under the Chairmanship of eminent scientist Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, which submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019 to the HRD Ministry on 31st May, 2019.

Evolution of Education Policy:

University Education Commission (1948-49)

Secondary Education Commission (1952-53)

Education Commission (1964-66) under Dr. D. S. Kothari

National Policy on Education, 1968

42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976- Education in Concurrent list

National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986

NPE 1986 Modified in 1992 (Programme of Action, 1992)

T.S.R. Subramaniam Committee Report (May 27, 2016)

Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan Committee Report (May 31, 2019)

1st five of 36 French Rafale fighter jets landed at Haryana's Ambala

Airbase



Forty-six months after the €7.87 bn (Rs 59,000 crore) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), that was signed between India and France in September 2016, the first five of 36 Rafale fighter jets, from France were landed in Ambala in Haryana after covering a distance of nearly 8500 km

to join the Indian Air Force (IAF). The five aircraft include two twin seater trainer aircraft and three single seat fighter aircraft. These fighter jets are

manufactured with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE), by **Dassault Aviation**, a french company.

[India and France signed the €7.87 billion deal for Rafale fighter jets](#)

- The five jets took off from the Bordeaux-Merignac airbase in Bordeaux in South France and made their first stopover at a French base in Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on their way to India.
- As the jets entered the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), stealth destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kolkata, deployed in the Western Arabian Sea, as a part of welcoming procedure.
- The Rafale fighters were escorted by two **Sukhoi 30 MKIs** (Modernizirovannyi, Kommercheskiy, Indiski) after they entered the Indian air space, and were given a water salute when they landed in Ambala.
- Notably, Rafale is the first imported fighter to be inducted into Service since the Sukhoi-30s from Russia in the late 90s.

Ahead of the arrival of the jets, **Section 144** (power to issue order in urgent cases of the nuisance of apprehended danger) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 was imposed around Ambala Cantonment to prevent large gatherings and prohibit any photography or video-recording of air-base.

Pilots who flew the Rafale fighter:

The five jets were flown by pilots of the 17 Golden Arrows led by Commanding Officer Group Captain **Harkirat Singh** along with Wing Commander Manish Singh, Wing Commander Abhishek Tripathi, Wing Commander Sidhu, Wing Commander Arun, Group Captain Rohit Kataria, and

Defence Ministry of India and Indonesia agree to expand the military ties during Defence Minister Dialogue in New Delhi



Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh and the Defence Minister General of Indonesia Mr. Prabowo Subianto agree to expand the military ties during the Defence Minister's dialogue held at New Delhi.

Objective: To expand the defence industries and military ties between two countries and to expand the technology sharing.

Key Info:

- i. The ministries agreed to further enhance the bilateral defence cooperation between the countries.
- ii. A defence cooperation agreement was signed by the two countries in the year 2018.
- iii. The agreement aims to raise the relationship between two countries and to increase the comprehensive strategic partnership.
- iv. There was a possible issue of the BrahMos cruise missile to Indonesia by India to enhance the maritime security.

Key Person of the Indian Delegation:

Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff, General M M Naravane, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air, Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar are the key pioneers who attended the meeting.

UNICEF Publishes First of its kind report on Health crisis: “The Toxic Truth: Children’s Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential”



United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Pure Earth, international non-profit organization authored and published the first of kind report on the health crisis titled “**The Toxic Truth: Children’s Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential**” states that around lead poisoning affects large

number of children all across the globe.

The Toxic Truth:

The Toxic Truth, is an analysis of childhood exposure to lead conducted by the Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation.

It was verified with the study approved for publication in Environmental Health Perspectives.

Features:

The report features case studies in Kathgora (Bangladesh), Tbilisi (Georgia), Agbogbloshie (Ghana), Pesarean (Indonesia), and Morelos State (Mexico).

Gist of the Report:

i. The report identifies lead as a potent neurotoxin which harms the brains of the children particularly in children under the age of 5 resulting in neurological, cognitive and physical impairments.

ii. The report states that around 1 in every 3 that is around 800 million children across the world has the blood lead level above or at 5 micrograms per decilitre, the amount at which action is required and Almost 50% of these children live in South Africa.

iii. The report states that the exposure of lead in childhood is linked to the mental health and behavioural problems which increase the rate of crime and violence.

iv. To the lower and middle income countries, it is estimated to cost around USD 1 trillion, in lost economic potential of these children over their lifetimes.

Narendra Modi & Pravind Jugnauth virtually inaugurated Supreme Court building in Port Louis, Mauritius



Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building of Mauritius in Port Louis through video conference. The Supreme Court building has been constructed with Indian

grant assistance of **US\$ 30 million** and is the first India-assisted infrastructure project within the capital city of Port Louis

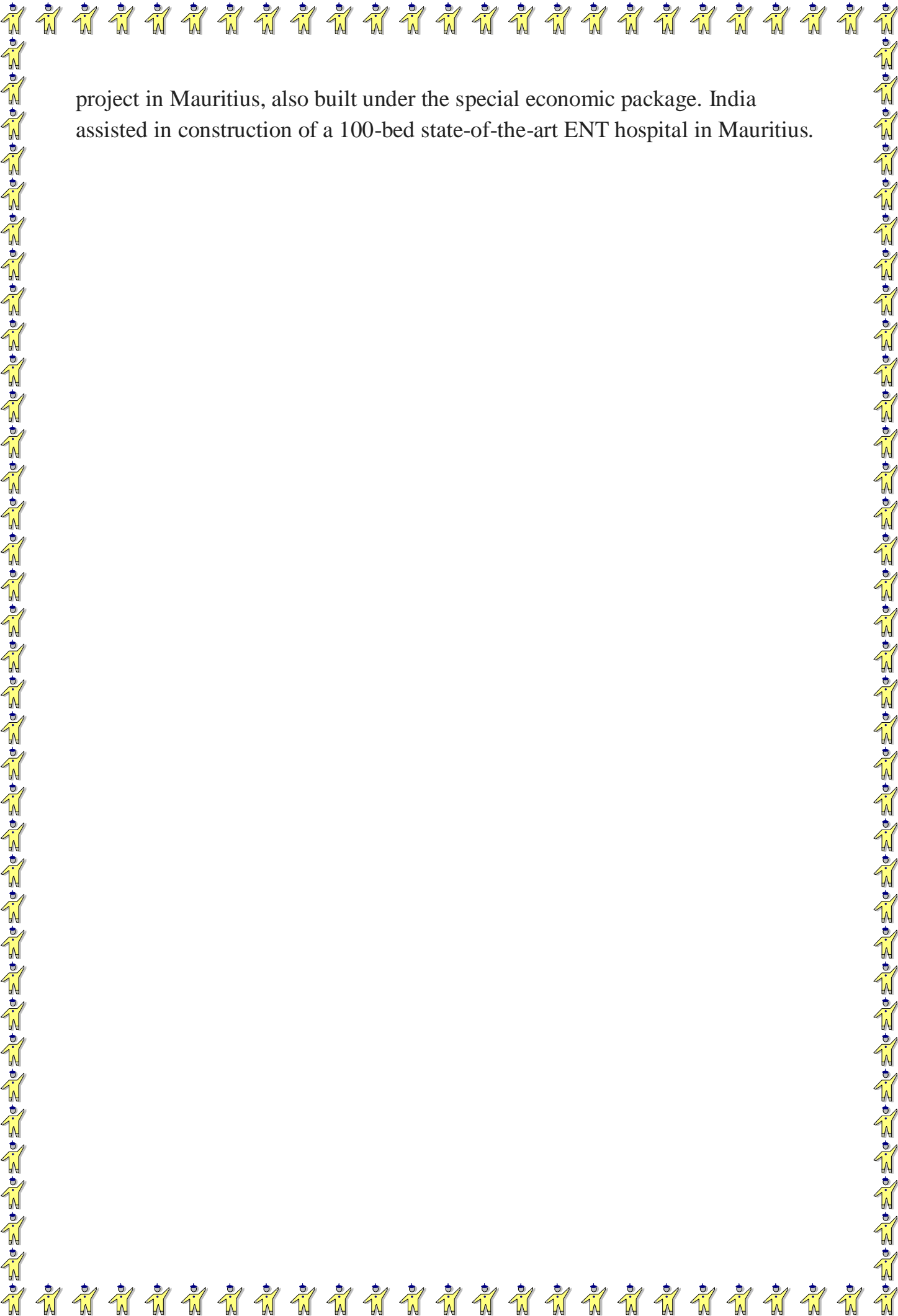
- The newly inaugurated building is one of the five projects being implemented under the ‘Special Economic Package’ of \$353 million extended by India to Mauritius in 2016.

Key Points:

- The building is spread over an area of more than 4700 square metres with over 10 floors and a built up area of around 25,000 square metres.
- The building flaunts a modern design and green features with focus on thermal and sound insulation and high energy efficiency.

Other projects with Indian Grant:

-In October 2019, Prime Minister Modi and the PM of Mauritius had jointly inaugurated the Phase-I of the Metro Express Project and the new ENT Hospital



project in Mauritius, also built under the special economic package. India assisted in construction of a 100-bed state-of-the-art ENT hospital in Mauritius.