

4. National Credit Framework

Why in News?

- The University Grants Commission has recently announced the implementation of the National Credit Framework (NCrF) for all regulatory organisations and universities in India.

Highlights

- The integration of academic and vocational education is emphasised by the National Education Policy (NEP) and is provided by the NCrF.
- This mechanism ensures equivalence within and between the two education streams.
- The total 'Notional Learning hours in a year' for assignment of Credits will be 1200 hours. A minimum of 40 credits may be earned for 1200 hours of learning every year with 20 credits per semester of six months
- Notional hours refer to the time that the average student would need to attend all classes, study for tests and do assignments and homework.
- The total credits earned by a student during the entire schooling period will be 160 credits.
- By the end of a three-year bachelor's degree course, the student will have earned 120 credits.
- When a student completes a Ph.D., the earned credits would be 320.
- Students will also get credits for participating in Olympiads, science quizzes, internships, and taking up jobs while they are studying in college.
- The NCrF has proposed several levels within this framework ranging from level 1 to level 8.
- The credit level that can be attained after completion of school education, i.e., grade 5th will be level 1, grade 8th will be level 2, grade 10th will be level 3, and grade 12th will be level 4.
- Higher education shall be from credit levels of 4.5 to level 8.
- The NCrF credit levels for school education are upto level 4, while for higher education
- For vocational education & training level 1 to level 8.
- NCrF aims to provide seamless horizontal and vertical mobility between different education streams in India. However, the successful implementation of the NCrF may face several challenges such as implementation, standardisation, acceptance and adoption.
- Addressing these challenges will require a collaborative effort from various stakeholders to ensure that the framework is up-to-date, relevant, and effective in addressing the changing needs of the education system in India.