STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

About HECI (Higher Education Commission of India)

Polity & Governance

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About HECI (Higher Education Commission of India)

HECI is a proposed single regulatory body for higher education in India.

It aims to replace multiple regulators like:

- UGC (University Grants Commission)
- AICTE (Technical Education Council)
- NCTE (Teacher Education Council)
- The purpose is to bring uniform standards, transparency, and efficiency to higher education.

Why HECI is being created?

Currently, higher education is regulated by multiple bodies, causing:

- Overlapping functions
- Delays in approvals
- Confusion for universities & colleges
- Lack of coordinated policy-making
- HECI will centralize all responsibilities under one authority, improving governance.

Key Functions of HECI

HECI will govern:

- Academic standards : Setting quality benchmarks for universities and colleges.
- Accreditation : Assessing and rating institutions across India.
- Regulation of courses and curriculum : Ensuring modern, relevant, skill-based education.
- Funding (through a separate body) : Financial support and grants may come through a dedicated division associated with HECI.
- Teacher training & qualifications : Improving teacher education institutions.

What will HECI replace?

HECI aims to take over functions of:

- UGC – currently handles grants and academic standards
- AICTE – regulates engineering, management, and technical colleges
- NCTE – regulates teacher training (B.Ed., D.El.Ed. etc.)
- Medical (MBBS, nursing) and legal education (LLB) remain outside HECI's scope.

Structure of HECI

HECI may have four verticals, each with a specific role:

- NHDA – National Higher Education Accreditation Council
- HEGC – Higher Education Grants Council
- HEGC-Academic – Sets academic standards
- GEC – General Education Council (course framework)
- This ensures separation of regulation, funding, and academic quality.

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Alignment with NEP 2020

HECI is a major reform under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Goals include:

- Flexible, multidisciplinary education
- Uniform high standards
- Freedom for universities to innovate
- Improving India's global education ranking