

## **Statement of India at the G20 Virtual Education Ministers' Meeting on September 5, 2020**

Hon'ble Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Excellencies.

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this virtual Meeting of the G20 Education Ministers. I extend my warm appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for organising this meeting.

This meeting represents yet another important milestone in our endeavor to strengthen G20 exchanges and partnerships in the field of education. The meeting provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities related to the three identified priority areas -- Early Childhood Education (ECE) as a foundation for developing global competence and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, Internationalization in Education, and Education Continuity and Building Resilience within Education Systems to withstand future crises. I am glad to inform that these themes also constitute some of the priority areas of action being pursued by the Government of India.

I am very happy to share that India has announced a new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 on the 29th of July, after nearly 34 years. The NEP 2020 is a very forward looking policy that will change the entire education landscape of the country and will establish India globally as a powerful centre of knowledge.

The 21st Century is the century of knowledge. Our priority today is to evolve an education system that will pave the way to a glorious future and help nurture global citizens who not only provide leadership to India but to the whole world. It is our priority to develop a system of education that promotes the process of sustainable development while being grounded in Indian values and knowledge systems.

We have made rapid strides in reforming and transforming our education system in response to the challenge of Covid pandemic.

One of the overarching goals of this Policy is to ensure universal access to high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) across the country by 2030. ECCE for children aged 3-6 years is being made an integral part of school education. In higher education the policy has recommended flexibility in choice of subjects, fluidity between different streams, multiple entry and exit with the facility of credit transfer. The policy also lays a lot of stress on nurturing a culture of research, improving quality of education and better management

and governance of institutions.

The NEP 2020 envisages several initiatives for internationalization in education and promoting India as a global study destination by providing premium education at affordable costs. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries, and selected universities from among the top 100 in the world will be facilitated to operate in

India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place. Research collaboration and student exchanges between Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted through special efforts.

The global crisis caused by the COVID 19 pandemic has pushed all our countries into a phase of uncertainty affecting our daily lives, our functioning and our economic activities. India acknowledges the ongoing initiatives put forward by educators, institutional leaders, families, and communities in G20 Member States in supporting continued learning during the COVID-19 crisis. In order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on all sectors including education, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has recently launched an initiative for achieving an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' or Self Reliant India. In the special session of G20 Education Ministers on COVID 19 response I spoke at length about the steps taken by the Government of India and other stakeholders of the education sector to ensure that students continued to learn online and through the mediums of television and radio.

India has always promoted educational collaboration between different countries in the world. I take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's commitment to the efforts being taken by G-20 Member States to continue with the development and use of flexible learning strategies, including a variety of distance and e-learning solutions within different country contexts. I hope that at the end of today's meeting, we would be in a position to identify approaches to further strengthening our cooperation in the field of education with special focus on the three identified priority areas of action.

Thank you.