

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091

No.981-Edn(CS)/12016(99)/46/2026-CS SEC

Dated. Kolkata, the 20th August, 2026

ORDER

WHEREAS the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisions a structural transformation of the higher education landscape of the country that is multidisciplinary, credit-flexible, research-driven and closely aligned with evolving industry requirements;

AND WHEREAS translating this national vision into a workable State-level reality is a task of considerable administrative, academic and economic complexity, particularly in a State as large and institutionally diverse as West Bengal, comprising 31 State-aided Universities and more than 500 affiliated colleges, both Government and Government-aided;

AND WHEREAS, in view of the need of the hour and with the objective of ensuring effective, coordinated and time-bound implementation of NEP 2020 across the Higher Educational Institutions of the State, it is considered necessary to constitute a State-Level Task Force comprising appropriate stakeholders and experts drawn from academia, industry and administration and policy making bodies;

NOW, THEREFORE, a State-Level NEP 2020 Implementation Task Force (hereinafter referred to as “the Task Force”) is constituted as the apex coordinating body for translating the national directives of NEP 2020 into a State-specific, operationally sequenced programme of reform in the higher education sector of West Bengal.

2. Composition of the Task Force:

The Task Force shall comprise the following members:

A. Advisor:

Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, Review Committee for NEP 2020, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and Chairman, BOG, IIM, Calcutta and former Chairman of University Grants Commission.

B. Academic Leadership

1. **Professor Anil D. Sahasrabudhe**, Chairman of National Educational Technology Forum.

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2. **Professor Kailash Chandra Sharma**, former Vice-Chancellor and Chairman Haryana State Higher Education Council.
3. **Professor Shashikala Wanjari**, Vice-Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi.
4. **Dr. Rajib Kumar Sen**, Programme Director, NITI Aayog.
5. **Professor Suman Chakraborty**, Director, IIT Kharagpur.
6. **Professor Asutosh Ghosh**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta.
7. **Professor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty**, Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University.
8. **Prof. Kallol Paul**, Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University.
9. **Professor Tapas Kumar Chakraborty**, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT), West Bengal.
10. **Shri Purnendu Banerjee**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India

This tier shall be responsible for the structural and pedagogical substance of reform — redesigning university statutes, ordinances and syllabi; establishing credit-transfer and multiple-entry/exit mechanisms; and ensuring that curricular change is academically sound, working through each institution's own Academic Council and Executive Council structures, with the Task Force providing coordination and common standards across universities.

C. Industry Linkage — Experts from Industry

1. **Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, Padma Shri**, Chairman, Century Plyboards Ltd.
2. **Shri Suvankar Sen**, Director, Senco Gold
3. **Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya**, Chairperson, IT Committee and Member, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd.
4. **Any other member, as deemed fit**

This tier shall ensure that curriculum redesign is not conducted in isolation from labour-market realities and that the State's sizeable manufacturing, engineering and infrastructure sectors have a direct channel to shape vocational excellence, structured internships and the practical skill profile of graduating cohorts, as emphasised in NEP 2020.

D. Administrative and Departmental Leadership

1. **Shri Binod Kumar, IAS**, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal — **Chairperson**
2. **Shri Rajeev Kumar**, Principal Secretary, Department of TET&SD
3. **Smt. Chandani Tudu**, Senior Special Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal.
4. **Dr. Anindita Ganguly**, Director of Technical Education, West Bengal.
5. **Shri Bappaditya Halder**, Director of Industrial Training, Government of West Bengal.

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6. **Dr. Maitri Ghosh**, Joint DPI & OSD, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal.

7. **Any other member, as deemed fit**

This tier shall anchor the Task Force within the machinery of the State Government and shall be responsible for ensuring that every reform proposed by the academic and industry tiers is translatable into enforceable Government orders for rolling out the programme.

3. Terms of Reference

The Task Force shall provide strategic guidance, review the progress of implementation, identify institutional and operational gaps and recommend suitable measures for achieving the objectives of NEP 2020 in the higher education sector of the State. In particular, it shall:

- (1) **Curriculum Overhaul:** guide the redesign of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes towards a holistic, multidisciplinary model — including transition to the four-year undergraduate structure with flexible entry/exit options and certified exit qualifications at each stage; a common multidisciplinary elective basket across affiliated colleges; alignment of postgraduate structures with the revised undergraduate framework; and formulation of a credit-transfer mechanism;
- (2) **Industry-Linked Curricula:** partner with on-boarded corporate leaders to institutionalise apprenticeships, practical training and credit-backed internships, District level internship program and periodic sector skill-gap audits feeding into elective-basket revisions;
- (3) **Institutional Mentoring:** establish a collaborative ecosystem in which premier institutions share best practices in governance, research management and faculty development with smaller State colleges — including formal mentor-mentee pairings, shared research-infrastructure access agreements, and governance-practice workshops covering NAAC/NBA readiness, financial autonomy and academic-council functioning;
- (4) **Credit Standardisation:** facilitate implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) for seamless student mobility.
- (5) **Identify risks to implementation** including uneven institutional readiness, faculty unfamiliarity with outcome-based credit-linked pedagogy, credit-recognition disputes during transition, concentration of industry engagement, and administrative or budgetary bottlenecks — and recommend appropriate mitigation measures, including direct escalation to the Finance Department and liaison with UGC/AICTE, where necessary.

4. Working Groups and Sub-Committees

To translate the plenary decisions of the Task Force into implementable detail, the following four standing Working Groups shall operate under the Task Force, each chaired by a designated member and reporting back at every plenary sitting:

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Working Group	Chair	Core Responsibility
Curriculum & Credit Framework	Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta, Vice-Chancellor, MAKAUT and VC, Kalyani University	Multidisciplinary syllabus design; Academic Bank of Credit integration; multiple entry/exit Rules.
Technical & Vocational Education	Principal Secretary, TET&SD, Director Vocational training, Director ITI, Director of Technical Education	Engineering/Polytechnic curriculum migration; skill-lab and apprenticeship standards.
Industry Partnership & Internships	Industry Representatives	Internship MoUs; apprenticeship credit norms; sector skill-gap mapping
Institutional Mentoring & Faculty Development	Senior Academic Representative panel	Premier-institution mentoring rollout; faculty retraining; research-capacity sharing

The Task Force may constitute such further sub-committees or co-opt such additional experts as it deems necessary for the discharge of its functions.

5. Implementation Roadmap

Implementation shall be sequenced in three overlapping phases so as to manage the administrative load on affiliated colleges and avoid disruption to ongoing academic sessions:

- (i) **Phase I — Foundation:** regulatory and statutory alignment, including amendment of university statutes, rollout of the four-year undergraduate structure in Government and Government-aided colleges, and formation of the secretariat and Working Groups;
- (ii) **Phase II — Expansion:** curriculum depth and industry linkage, including curriculum revision, multidisciplinary elective baskets across affiliated colleges, notification of internship-credit norms, and ABC on-boarding of all State universities;
- (iii) **Phase III — Consolidation:** quality assurance and mobility, including full inter-institutional credit mobility, review of mentoring-programme outcomes, and NAAC/NBA readiness audits across mentored colleges.

6. Meetings, Secretariat and Miscellaneous

- (i) The Task Force shall meet as often as may be necessary, and ordinarily at least once every quarter, at a date, time and venue to be fixed by the Chairperson;

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- (ii) The Higher Education Department shall provide necessary secretarial, logistic and administrative support to the Task Force and its Working Groups;
- (iii) Non-official members shall be entitled to TA/DA as admissible under the relevant rules of the State Government, to be borne by the Higher Education Department;
- (iv) The Task Force shall submit periodic progress reports, together with its recommendations, to the State Government in the Higher Education Department;
- (v) This order shall take effect from the date of its issue and shall remain in force until further orders.

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20/8/26

Additional Chief Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

No. 981/1(24)-Edn(CS)/ 12016(99)/46/2026 -CS SEC

Dtd.20/08/2026

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal;
2. Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, Review Committee for NEP 2020, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and Chairman, BOG, IIM, Calcutta and former Chairman of University Grants Commission);
3. Professor Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of National Educational Technology Forum.
4. Professor Kailash Chandra Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor and Chairman Haryana State Higher Education Council.
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18. Shri Bappaditya Halder, Director of Industrial Training, Government of West Bengal.
19. Dr. Maitri Ghosh, Joint DPI & OSD, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal.
20. The Vice-Chancellors of all State-aided Universities of West Bengal;
21. The Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal / The Director of Technical Education, West Bengal;
22. The Principals of all Government and Government-aided Colleges (through the respective Universities);
23. Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Higher Education Department;
24. Guard file.

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Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal