



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

NCERT as a University: The Right Step for Teacher Education Reform

INDIAN EXPRESS

4 April 2026

POLITY

SOCIAL ISSUES

GS2

GS1

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotesFree UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →

ADVERTISE

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

NCERT as a University: The Right Step for Teacher Education Reform

 The Indian Express

4 April 2026

GS2

GS1

 The Indian Express

4 tags ▾



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"Will NCERT's deemed university status actually improve teacher quality in India, or will it create another bureaucratic layer in an already fragmented teacher education ecosystem?"

WHY IN NEWS

The Ministry of Education granted NCERT deemed-to-be university status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 on March 30, 2026 — empowering it to offer degree, PG, doctoral, and specialised programmes. The six constituent units include five Regional Institutes of Education and the PSSCIVE.

THE EDITORIAL ARGUMENT

NCERT's elevation to deemed university status is more than an administrative upgrade — it is a prerequisite for implementing NEP 2020's most transformative teacher education reform: the four-year integrated B.Ed. programme. Done right, this could fundamentally raise the quality of schoolteachers in India. The risk is that without adequate faculty, updated pedagogy, and accountability mechanisms, it becomes yet another credential factory.

THE NEP 2020 MANDATE THAT DROVE THIS DECISION

NEP 2020 mandates that by 2030, the minimum qualification for school teaching will be a **four-year integrated B.Ed.** — a programme combining subject content, pedagogy, and extended practicum. The current system, where B.Ed. is typically a one-to-two-year add-on after a three-year undergraduate degree, produces teachers who are often theoretically trained but practically underprepared.

NCERT's five Regional Institutes of Education (Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Shillong) are the natural anchor institutions for this reform. They run model schools (Demonstration Multipurpose Schools) that provide integrated training environments. But without degree-granting power, they had to affiliate with state universities — limiting curriculum autonomy and quality control.

WHAT THE DEEMED UNIVERSITY STATUS ENABLES

- 1 **Direct B.Ed./M.Ed./Ph.D. conferral** without depending on state university affiliations
- 2 **Four-year integrated B.Ed. design** with NCERT-set pedagogical standards — aligned with the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) being developed
- 3 **Research in education** — NCERT can now directly enroll doctoral candidates, accelerating evidence-based pedagogy development
- 4 **Curriculum flexibility** — the ‘distinct category’ status allows NCERT to design programmes that are not constrained by the generic UGC framework

THE GAPS THAT MUST BE FILLED

Faculty Shortage at RIEs

The five RIEs collectively have approximately 600+ faculty positions — many of which have been vacant for years due to UGC/AICTE pay scales not being competitive with private universities. Deemed university status alone does not address this.

Scale vs. Quality Tradeoff

India has approximately 1.4 million school teachers being trained annually — far more than the five RIEs can handle. NCERT’s role must be to set standards and train master trainers, not to directly produce the majority of teachers. Otherwise, the four-year B.Ed. will remain an elite programme inaccessible to rural and first-generation teacher-education students.

Vocational Education Integration

The PSSCIVE (Bhopal) — the sixth constituent unit — is specifically tasked with vocational teacher training. NEP 2020 mandates vocational education integration from Class VI. The quality of vocational teachers will determine whether this NEP provision succeeds or becomes a paper exercise.

THE LARGER TEACHER EDUCATION CRISIS

India’s teacher education ecosystem suffers from:

- **Fragmentation:** 16,000+ teacher education institutions (TEIs), with widely varying quality — many are “B.Ed. mills” with minimal infrastructure
- **Private sector dominance:** Over 90% of TEIs are private; profit motive has driven down quality in many states
- **Theory-practice gap:** Most B.Ed. programmes spend minimal time in actual school classrooms



NCERT's new status should be used not to create another university but to become a **regulator-cum-model-setter** — setting standards that all TEIs must meet, piloting the four-year integrated programme, and evaluating outcomes rigorously.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 — Governance and Education

- NEP 2020: teacher education reform, 4-year integrated B.Ed.
- NCERT's role in curriculum development and teacher training
- UGC Act, Section 3: deemed university provision

GS Paper 1 — Social Issues

- Quality of school education; teacher shortages; gender and regional disparities in teaching workforce
- Role of education in human development

Mains Keywords

NEP 2020, 4-year integrated B.Ed., NCERT, RIE, PSSCIVE, NPST, UGC Act Section 3, teacher education ecosystem

KEY FACTS

NCERT deemed university: notified March 30, 2026 (Section 3, UGC Act 1956)

6 constituent units: 5 RIEs (Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Shillong) + PSSCIVE (Bhopal)

NCERT established: 1961; HQ: New Delhi

NEP 2020 mandate: 4-year integrated B.Ed. as minimum teacher qualification by 2030

NPST: National Professional Standards for Teachers (under development by NCERT)

India's TEIs: 16,000+ total; 90%+ private

Sources: [Indian Express](#), [Ministry of Education](#), [UGC](#)

RELATED DAILY ARTICLES

4 Apr [Current Affairs Today — April 4, 2026](#)

4 Apr [CBDT Kar Saathi & New Income Tax Act 2025 — UPSC Notes](#)



4 Apr **UIDAI-MapmyIndia MOU — Aadhaar Centres on Mappls App**

4 Apr **NCERT Granted Deemed University Status — NEP 2020...**

← **PREVIOUS EDITORIAL**

Jan Vishwas: From 'Danda' to Trust — India's Largest...

NEXT EDITORIAL →

The Gangotri Crisis: When Glaciers Retreat, Water Wars Begin





CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/editorials/2026/04/ncert-deemed-university-teacher-education-nep/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com

