National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0

NEAT 3.0 is a **single platform** to give the **best-developed ed-tech solutions** and courses to students. **58 global and Indian start-up ed-tech companies** are onboard this single platform providing 100 courses & e-resources for capacity building, improving the learning outcomes, and developing employable skills of the learners.

Why is it in the news?

Union Education Minister & Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched NEAT 3.0 on **January 3, 2022**.

Facts about NEAT 3.0

- 12 Lakh **NEAT ed-tech free course coupons** worth Rs 253.72 crore were also provided to **socially and economically disadvantaged students**.
- The Union Minister has urged the AICTE to integrate courses in the NEAT programme with **skill India** . This will help in stimulating employability by finding the opportunities in emerging areas of skill and prepare the youth for the future.
- He has suggested the **AICTE and ed-tech companies** to provide e-resources at minimum possible cost.

Benefits of NEAT 3.0

- NEAT will help in **bridging the digital divide**, especially among the economically disadvantaged learners.
- It will also help in **fulfilling the knowledge-based requirement** of India and the world.

What is NEAT?

- In **2019**, the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** had announced the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) programme, which would make use of the Public-Private partnership **PPP model.**

(**Note:** the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) was renamed the **Ministry of Education** in **2020**.)

- **MHRD** created a **National NEAT platform** <u>to give one-stop access</u> to the technological solutions provided by the EdTech companies..

- **Registration** of the learners would be done through the **NEAT portal** by the **EdTech companies.** Development of solutions would also be the responsibility of the **EdTech companies and** could **charge fees** as per their policy.

- EdTech companies would have to provide **free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution** through NEAT portal.

- The **distribution** of free coupons would be the **responsibility of the MHRD**. These would be given to the **most socially/economically backward learners.**

- **Independent Expert Committees** would be constituted to select the EdTech solutions and evaluate them as well.

- **MoUs** will be signed with the <u>shortlisted EdTech companies</u>.

Who is the implementing agency of NEAT?

- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** is the implementing agency for the programme.

- The scheme is administered under the guidance of an <u>Apex Committee</u> constituted by the **MHRD (now the Ministry of Education)**

What is the aim of NEAT?

Its aims are:

- To **<u>use technology for better learning outcomes</u>** in Higher Education.

- To bring the best technological products in education pedagogy on a single platform for the convenience of students or learners.

- **To <u>improve the employability of the youth</u>** on a single platform.

- To use **Artificial Intelligence** for a <u>personalized and customized learning</u> <u>experience</u> for better learning outcomes and skill development.

- **AICTE, MoE act as the facilitator** and aim <u>**to ensure that the solutions are freely available**</u> to a larger number of socially and economically disadvantaged learners.