

**F. No. 5-3/2015-U.Policy**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Human Resource Development**  
**Department of Higher Education**

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2016.

**Subject: Constitution of a National Steering committee to oversee the implementation of the project of National Academic Depository**

The Government of India is committed towards bringing administrative and academic reforms through the use of technology for delivery of efficient services to all stakeholders. Education engages with almost every citizen of the country and the Government is keen to create quality infrastructure that will facilitate delivery of services to citizens and also enable academic institutions in their core functions.

2. The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a digital depository of academic awards to be known as National Academic Depository (NAD) on the pattern of securities depository. NAD will be an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets etc) lodged by the academic institutions / boards / eligibility assessment bodies in a digital format. It will be on 24X7 online mode for making available academic awards and shall help in validating their authenticity, their safe storage and easy retrieval. NAD shall comprise of two interoperable digital depositories namely NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the depositories registered under SEBI Act, 1992. These digital depositories shall keep the academic awards in the digital format and ensure data integrity.

3. Consequent upon the approval of Cabinet, the Government in exercise of powers conferred under section 20(1) of UGC Act 1956 has designated University Grants Commission (UGC) as an authorised body to enter into a tripartite agreement on behalf of all Central Higher Educational Institutions (CHEIs), Institutions of National Importance (INIs) and Boards etc. with the wholly owned subsidiaries of the depositories registered under SEBI Act, 1992, namely NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) initially for a period of three years for the purposes of establishment of NAD comprising of two interoperable digital depositories.

4. In turn, the academic institutions / boards / eligibility assessment bodies may select either of the two entities for entering into legally enforceable service level agreement between them and the selected depository for utilizing the services of NAD. Lodging, access, retrieval and validation of academic awards in the NAD will be primarily on the strength of this agreement.

5. The National Academic Depository will enable the Central Higher Educational Institutions, and Central Board of Secondary Education and other degree/diploma/educational certificate awarding bodies under the Central Government to lodge the academic awards issued by them in the National Academic Depository portal. Other Higher Educational Institutions and Boards will be encouraged to participate in the Depository. Degrees/diplomas issued by higher educational institutions and certificates, including related mark sheets, transcripts and evaluation reports will be lodged by the concerned academic institution on the

NAD portal. This shall also include certificate, diplomas issued for skill development by the institutions approved by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

6. The Government has, therefore, decided to constitute a National Steering Committee to oversee the launch and implementation of the project of National Academic Depository with the following members:

1.	Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD	Chairperson
2.	Chairman, UGC	Member
3.	Chairman, AICTE	Member
4.	Chairman, CBSE	Member
5.	Representative of D/o School Education & Literacy	Member
6.	Representative of MeitY	Member
7.	Representative of D/o Expenditure	Member
8.	Representative of D/o Economic Affairs	Member
9.	Representative of M/o Health & Family Welfare	Member
10.	Representative of M/o Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	Member
11.	Representative of M/o AYUSH	Member
12.	Representative of D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	Member
13.	Representative of Ministry of External Affairs	Member
14.	Representative of Ministry of Law & Justice	Member
15.	Deputy Director General, Statistics, MHRD	Member
16.	Special Invitees*	Member
17.	Joint Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD	Member-Secretary

\* The special invitees to the NSC will include representatives from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Medical Council of India (MCI), Bar Council of India (BCI), Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH), Dental Council of India (DCI), Indian Nursing Council (INC), Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and from such other bodies as decided by the Central Govt. from time to time.

7. The terms of reference of the committee would be as under:

- a) To provide guiding principle to the National Academic Depository (NAD) for its proper functioning.
- b) To prescribe systems required for the commencement of operations by the wholly owned subsidiaries of depositories which shall include infrastructure requirements, hardware and software designs.
- c) To oversee the implementation of the NAD initiative.
- d) To devise strategies for promotion of the NAD initiative among the institutions and students community.
- e) Review the performance at least every quarter of the depositories comprising the National Academic Depository and also the performance of UGC as a body designate to facilitate the implementation of NAD.
- f) To approve the academic awards and the academic institutions which are to be covered under NAD.
- g) To prescribe reasonable caps on various services which will be chargeable under NAD.

