

# **National Curriculum Framework**

For Prelims: National Curriculum Framework for School Education, National Education Policy 2020.

**For Mains:** Features of National Education Policy 2020, Major Issues Related to the Education Sector in India, Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms.

#### Source: TH

## Why in News?

Recently, the final **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** was released by the <u>National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)</u>, leading to significant reforms in the education system, led by the principles of the <u>National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.</u>

 The NCF introduces changes in language learning, subject structure, evaluation strategies, and environmental education, reshaping the educational landscape for Grades 3 to 12 under CBSE.

# What are the Key Highlights of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)?

- Language Learning:
  - Students in Classes 9 and 10 learn three languages, with at least two being native Indian languages.
  - In Classes 11 and 12, students will study two languages, including one of Indian origin.
    - Aim to achieve a "literary level" of linguistic capacity in at least one Indian language.
- Board Exams and Evaluation:
  - Students are allowed to take Board exams on at least two occasions in a school year.
    - Only the best score among attempts will be retained.
- Alignment with NEP 2020:
  - The NCF follows the guidelines of NEP 2020. Provides the framework for formulating new textbooks from Grades 3 to 12 under CBSE.
    - Textbooks for Classes 3-12 aligned with 21st-century requirements.
    - Focus on **ensuring rootedness in the current context while being forward-looking.**
- Changes in Mandatory and Optional Subjects:
  - Earlier, students in Classes 9 to 12 studied five mandatory subjects with an option to add one more.
    - Now, the number of mandatory subjects for Classes 9 and 10 is seven, and for Classes 11 and 12 is six.
- Optional Subjects:
  - First group includes art education, physical education, and vocational education.
  - The second group includes **Social Science**, **Humanities**, and interdisciplinary areas.
  - The third group includes Science, Mathematics, and computational thinking.

# Flexibility and Choice for Students:

- Redesigned "Secondary Stage" to provide more flexibility and choice.
- No strict separation between academic and vocational subjects, or between Science, Social Science, Art, and Physical Education.
- Students can choose varied subject combinations for their School Leaving Certificates.

### Environmental Education:

- Emphasis on environmental awareness and sustainability.
- Environmental Education integrated across all schooling stages.
- Separate area of study dedicated to environmental education in the Secondary Stage.

## Content Distribution for Social Science Curriculum (Classes 6-8):

- 20% content from local level.
- 30% content from regional level.
- 30% content from national level.
- 20% content from global level.

## What is the National Curriculum Framework?

#### About:

- NCF is one of the key components of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, that enables and energizes this transformation, informed by the aims, principles, and approach of NEP 2020.
- The NCF has undergone four revisions in the past in 1975, 1988, 2000, and 2005. The proposed revision, if implemented, would be the fifth iteration of the framework.

#### Four Sections of NCF:

- NCF for School Education (NCF-SE)
- NCF for Early Childhood Care and Education (Foundational Stage)
  NCF for Teacher Education
- NCF for Adult Education

### Objective:

- It aims to help in positively transforming the school education system of India as envisioned in NEP 2020, through corresponding positive changes in the curriculum including pedagogy.
- It aims to realize the highest quality education for all children, consistent with realizing an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by the Constitution of India.

# What is the National Education Policy 2020?

#### About:

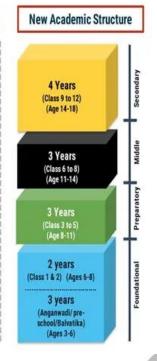
 The NEP 2020 is a comprehensive framework for education reform in India that was approved in 2020, aiming to bring significant changes in the education system of **India** by providing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education.

### Features of the NEP 2020:

- Universalization of education from preschool to secondary level.
- Introduction of a new pedagogical and curricular structure based on the cognitive and socio-emotional development of students.
- Emphasis on the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills in primary education.
- Increased focus on research and development in education.

# **Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure**





New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school

- Secondary Stage(4) multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects
- Middle Stage (3) experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities
- Preparatory Stage (3) play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning
- Foundational stage (5) multilevel, play/activity-based learning

# What are the Other Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms?

- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- PRAGYATA.
- Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
- PM SHRI Schools.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

## **Prelims**

### Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

- 1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the State Council of Teacher Education concerned.
- 2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
- 3. In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

# Ans: (b)

# **Mains**

**Q.** National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. **(2020).** 

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