



Mandate Document for National Curriculum Framework

For Prelims: Mandate document, National curriculum framework, National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

For Mains: Reforms in Education, Decolonization of Indian education system, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** has released the “**mandate document**” for a **National Curriculum Framework** under the [new National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020](#).

- The mandate document is envisaged to bring about a **paradigm shift with focus on holistic development of children, emphasis on skilling, vital role of teachers, learning in mother tongue, cultural rootedness**.
- It is also a step towards **decolonization of the Indian education system**.

What is the National Curriculum Framework?

- Central to the implementation of the transformative **National Education Policy 2020** is the new **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** which will empower and **enable outstanding teaching and learning in the country**, by **converting the vision of the NEP 2020 into reality in our schools and classrooms**.
- The development of the NCF is being guided by the [National Steering Committee \(NSC\)](#), chaired by **Dr K Kasturirangan**, supported by the Mandate Group, along with the [National Council for Education Research and Training \(NCERT\)](#).
- The NCF will include:
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (NCFECE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE)**.
- The government held that the **NEP is the philosophy, National Curriculum Framework is the pathway and the mandate document released today is the constitution** to champion the changing demands of the 21st century and positively impact the future.
- The mandate group has set **28th February 2023** as the **deadline** for the revision of syllabi based on the new NCF.

What are the Highlights of the Mandate Document?

- **Consultative Process:** It sets the mechanisms for the development of a **coherent and comprehensive NCF**, fully leveraging the widespread consultations already under way.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Education:** The process designed **ensures the seamless integration** imagined - vertically (across Stages) and horizontally in the NEP 2020 - to ensure holistic, integrated, and multi-disciplinary education.

- **Conducive Environment for Teaching:** It enables the critical linkage between the curriculum of schools with the curriculum of Teacher Education as an integral part of the transformative reforms envisioned by the NEP 2020.
 - Thus, enabling rigorous preparation, continuous professional development, and a positive working environment for all our teachers
- **Life-long Learning:** It informs the creation of opportunities for **life-long learning for all citizens in the country.**
- **Focus on Cutting-edge Research:** Anchored and informed by sound theory and **cutting-edge research yet using simple language with real-life illustrations** from classrooms and schools in a variety of contexts.
- **Addressing Huge Learning Loss:** The states and the Centre **“must act urgently” to address the “huge learning loss”** among students due to the interruptions in regular teaching and learning caused by the **pandemic** over the last two years.

What is meant by Decolonization of Indian education system?

- Industrialization and **its consequential imperialism and colonialism** have impacted this world for three centuries.
- India has been a **colony of the British Empire for two centuries.**
- These eventful two centuries of Indian history did see the influence of not only the **political and economic might of Britain** but its influence on every milieu of Indian life.
- India’s indigenous education system was **gradually displaced, and the colonial model of education pervaded under the patronage from the colonial-state.**
- The **language, pedagogy, evaluation and knowledge** of the colonizer became ***naturalis obligato*** (Natural Obligation) for the population of the colony.
- Although **India got independence in 1947**, still Indian education system is heavily dominated by **western world.**
- **Hence, there is a need to decolonize Indian education System immediately.**

What is NCERT?

- NCERT is an **autonomous organization of the Government of India** which was **established in 1961** as a literary, scientific and charitable Society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
- It aims at reforming the school education system through research, training, policy formulation and curriculum development.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

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