



# Pre-draft National Curriculum Framework for School Education

**For Prelims:** National Curriculum Framework for School Education, Modular Board Exams, 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.

## Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Education released a pre-draft version of the **National Curriculum Framework** for School Education and has sought feedback from diverse stakeholders.

- The pre-draft was formulated by a **committee led by K Kasturirangan**, a former head of the [Indian Space Research Organization \(ISRO\)](#).

## 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 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 NCF for School Education?

- **About:**
  - The **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) is developed based on the vision of the NEP 2020, and to enable its implementation.**
  - The **formulation of NCF-SE will be undertaken by the NCERT**. The NCFSE document shall henceforth be revisited and updated once every 5-10 years, considering the frontline

curriculum.

▪ **Objectives:**

- The **NCFSE serves as a guideline for developing syllabi, textbooks, and teaching practices in India.**
- Its objectives include **shifting from rote (memorization by repetition) learning, connecting education to real-life situations,** making examinations more flexible, and enriching the curriculum beyond textbooks.
- The NCFSE also aims to make **learning enjoyable, child-centered, and self-reliant, and promote democratic values.** It provides guidelines for counseling secondary school students and is mandated for all age groups.

## What is the Pre-draft National Curriculum Framework for School Education?

▪ **About:**

- The document covers the curriculum **framework for children aged 3 to 18 years** and seeks feedback from students, parents, teachers, educators, experts, scholars, and professionals.

▪ **Key Features:**

- **Learning via 6 Pramana's:**
  - **Pratyaksa**, interpreted as **perception through five senses;**
  - **Anumana**, which uses **inferences to come to new conclusions;**
  - **Upamana**, which is knowing through **analogy and comparison;**
  - **Arthapatti**, which involves knowing through **circumstantial implication,**
  - **Anupalabdhi**, which includes **perception of non-existence,**
  - **Sabda**, which is "something an individual can only **directly know a fraction of all reality**"
- **Panchakosha Vikas for Moral Development:**
  - Indian education system emphasizes a holistic approach that fosters **moral development, cultural understanding, and social awareness among children.**
  - This is achieved through a five-fold development approach that includes traditional practices like yoga, a balanced diet, and cultural activities.
- **Teachings from Indian History:**
  - Education in India **encourages questioning and debates to stimulate critical thinking and open-mindedness,** as exemplified by the Upanishads.
  - Additionally, Indian history education identifies and explains important phases of the **Indian national movement against British rule, with special reference to the Gandhian and subaltern movements,** to promote **national identity and social justice.**
  - Teaching the concepts of different religious and philosophical traditions, including **Buddhism, Jainism, and Vedic philosophies, to promote cultural diversity and interfaith understanding.**
- **No Exams till Class 2:**
  - It proposes that explicit tests and exams are not suitable assessment tools for children in classes up to 2 and recommends introducing written tests only from class 3 onwards to avoid imposing additional burden on the child.
- **Curriculum for Secondary Stage:**
  - For **Grade 10 certification, students will have to take two essential courses from humanities, maths and computing, vocational education, physical education, arts education, social science, science, and interdisciplinary areas.**
  - In **Grades 11 and 12, students will be offered choice-based courses in the same disciplines for more rigorous engagement.**
    - This phase of the **Secondary Stage would be divided into semesters** and each choice-based course would be for a semester.
    - **Students must complete 16 choice-based courses to complete Grade 12.**
  - **Modular Board Exams** will be offered **as opposed to a single exam** at the end of the year, and the result will be based on the cumulative result of each exam.

- **Arts and Interdisciplinary Areas:**

- Arts education will include music, dance, theatre, sculpture, painting, set design, and scriptwriting, while interdisciplinary areas will include knowledge of India, traditions, and practices of Indian knowledge systems.

- **Significance:**

- The National Curriculum Framework for School Education is significant because it provides a roadmap for the education of children in India, which includes **multiple educative approaches and learning-teaching material for different stages of school education.**
- The framework emphasizes the importance of including values and their "**rootedness**" in India, including content, language learning, academic approaches, philosophical basis, aims, and epistemic approach.

## 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](#)

## What is the National Education Policy 2020?

- **About:**

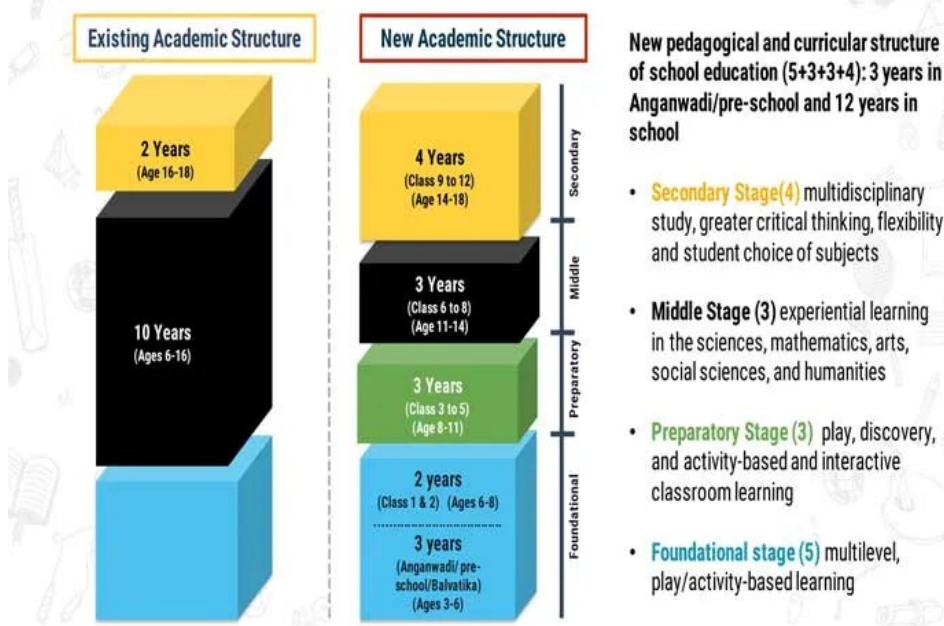
- The NEP 2020 is a **comprehensive framework for education reform** in India that was approved in 2020, aiming to bring **significant changes in the education system of India** by providing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education.

- **Features of the NEP 2020:**

- Universalization of education from preschool to secondary level.
- Introduction of a **new pedagogical and curricular structure** based on 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.

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### Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



## 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 education system in India. Critically examine the statement. **(2020)**

**Source: TH**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/pre-draft-national-curriculum-framework-for-school-education>