



## National Curriculum Framework

**For Prelims:** National Curriculum Framework, NEP, Right To Education

**For Mains:** Education System in India and related issues

### Why in New?

Recently, the Union Education ministry launched the **National Curriculum Framework** for foundational stage education of children in the **three to eight years age group**.

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## Key features of the framework

The National Curriculum Framework, made for the 3-8 age group, is the first such integrated curriculum for children

### What replaces textbooks?

NCF suggests the use of simple worksheets for the 3-6 age group

- "...for ages 3-6, there should not be any prescribed textbooks for the children...(they) should not be burdened with textbooks," the document states.

### Why is this an important step?

- Vast numbers of school-going children routinely fail learning outcome tests
- Effect of holistic education in founding years on learning levels of children



### Other reforms

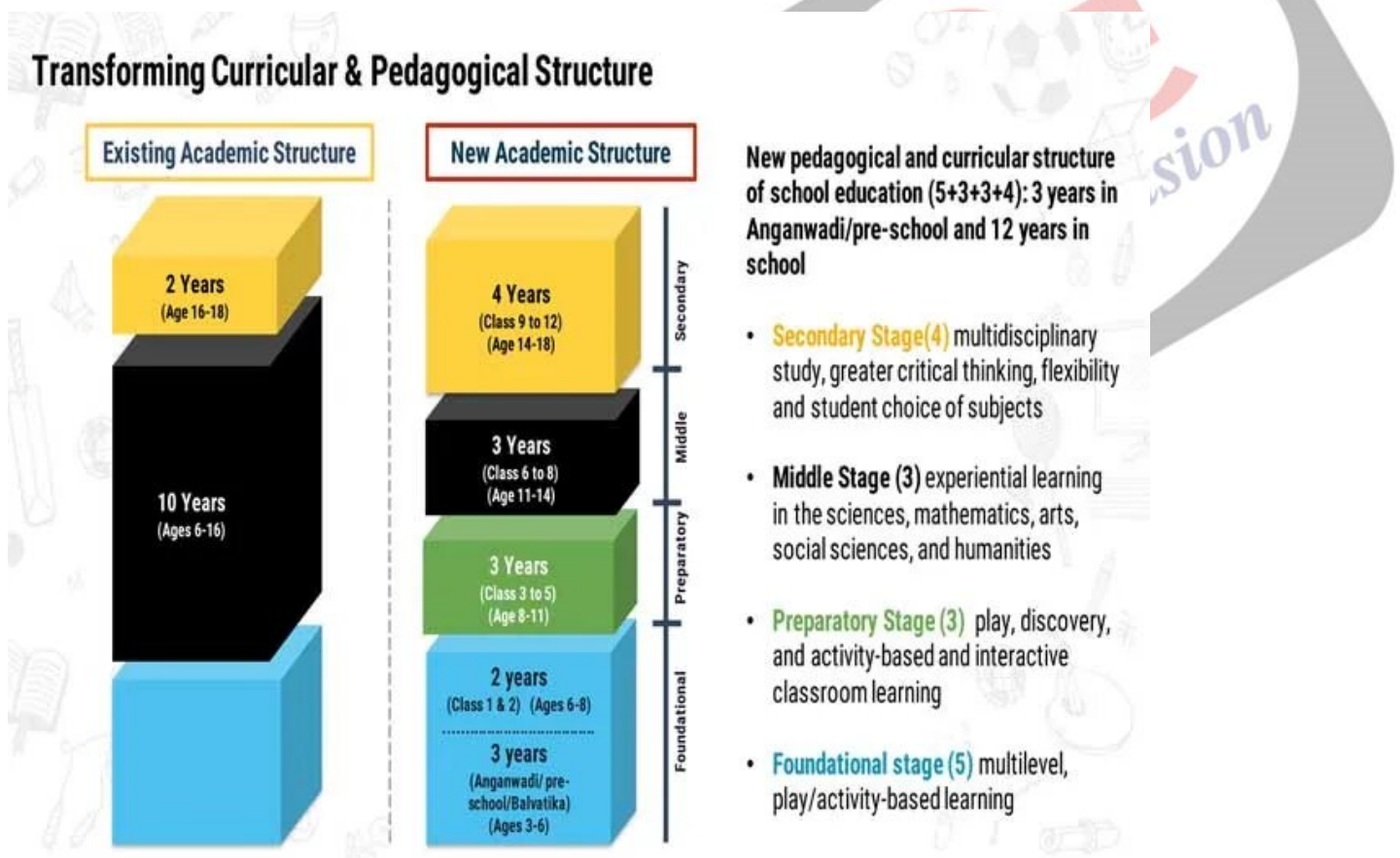
- Toy-based learning
- Avoiding stereotypes
- Gender representation
- Ethical, moral awareness

**What is the National Curriculum Framework?**

- The NCF has four sections:
  - the National Curriculum Framework for School Education
  - the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education
  - the National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education
  - National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education
- The framework focuses on the '**panchakosha**' concept - the ancient Indian emphasis on the body-mind connection.
- The NCF says its **five parts are physical development** (sharirik vikas), development of life energy (pranik vikas), emotional and mental development (manasik vikas), intellectual development (bauddhik vikas) and spiritual development (chaitisik vikas).
- It is an important step taken to implement the [New Education Policy-2020](#).

## What is NEP, 2020?

- The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is transforming education in India.
- It has set the **education system on a path to delivering the highest quality education** for all, with equity and inclusion.
- Amongst the most transformative aspects of NEP 2020 is the **new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure** which integrates Early Childhood Care and Education for all children of ages 3 to 8.
- **Early childhood lays the foundation for life-long learning** and development - it is a key determinant of the quality of overall life.



## What are the Constitutional Provisions and Laws related to Education in India?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - Part IV of Indian Constitution, **Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, has a provision for state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education.

- The **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution in 1976** moved education from the State to the Concurrent List.
  - The education policies by the Central government provides a broad direction and state governments are expected to follow it. But it is not mandatory, for instance Tamil Nadu does not follow the three-language formula prescribed by the first education policy in 1968.
- The **86<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2002** made education an enforceable right under Article 21-A.
  - **Article 21A** of the Constitution makes it obligatory on the State to provide free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 and 14 years.
- **Related Laws:**
  - **[Right To Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#)** aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
    - It also **mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections** of the society.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **[Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#), [Mid Day Meal Scheme](#)**, Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVS schools), Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV schools) and use of IT in education are the result of the NEP of 1986.

## 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 concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
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: [Livemint](#)**