

August - 01

TAMIL NADU

AL Somayaji

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has created a temporary post of Special Senior Counsel for the state Government.
- ❖ It appointed former Advocate General A.L. Somayaji to the post to deal with cases of “special importance and complicated nature.”

Thiyaa and Ezhava community

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has accorded Backward Class status to the Thiyya and Ezhava communities.
- ❖ They predominantly live in Nilgiris District and the border of Kerala.
- ❖ The Ezhava community had been among the BCs in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State.
- ❖ They remained a BC community in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of the erstwhile Tirunelveli district even after the merger of these areas with the erstwhile Madras State.

NATIONAL

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Education Policy 2020 to reform the higher education sector.

Background

- ❖ In May 2016, Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy under the Chairmanship of TSR Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report.
- ❖ In June 2017, Committee for the Draft National Education Policy was constituted under the Chairmanship of Former ISRO chief Kasturirangan.
- ❖ The last Education policy was released in 1986 that is 34 years back.
- ❖ The first NPE was promulgated in 1968 by the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the second by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, and the third by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020.



Highlights

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has been renamed by Union Cabinet as the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The Public spending on education by states and Centre is to be raised to 6% of the GDP as compared to 1.7% previously.

School education

- ❖ It proposes changing the existing 10+2 Curricular and Pedagogical Structure with 5+3+3+4 design covering the children in the age group 3-18 years.
- ❖ Five years of the Foundational Stage: 3 years of pre-primary school and Grades 1, 2;
- ❖ Three years of the Preparatory (or Lower Primary) Stage: Grades 3, 4, 5;
- ❖ Three years of the Middle (or Upper Primary) Stage: Grades 6, 7, 8;
- ❖ Four years of the High (or Secondary) Stage: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12.
- ❖ Universalise the pre-primary education (age range of 3-6 years) by 2025.
- ❖ Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- ❖ The mother tongue will be a medium of instruction till 5th grade.
- ❖ A new school curriculum with coding and vocational studies from class 6 will be introduced.
- ❖ A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will ensure basic skills at the class 3 level by 2025.
- ❖ Instead of exams being held every academic year, school students will only answer three exams, in Classes 3, 5 and 8.

Higher Education

- ❖ The merger of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission.
- ❖ Four-year undergraduate degrees with multiple entry and exit options will be introduced.
- ❖ By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a four-year integrated B.Ed.
- ❖ M Phil is to be discontinued
- ❖ It also aims to double the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.
- ❖ The National Testing Agency (NTA) will now be given the additional responsibility of conducting entrance examinations for admissions to universities across the country, in addition to the JEE Main and NEET.

- ❖ A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education.
- ❖ It is a Single regulator for all higher education except medical and legal courses.



National Education Policy 2020
TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN EDUCATION SYSTEM
School Education

- **Universal Access from pre-primary school to Grade 12**
Target to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030
- **Early Childhood Care Education**
Education for all children between 3-6 years by 2025
- **Replacing 10+2 with 5+3+3+4**
After five years in pre-primary, students to aim at enhanced skills in new pedagogical system
- **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**
Focus on early language and mathematical skills from Grades 1-3 by 2025
- **Multilingualism and the power of language**
Medium of instruction till Class 5, preferably till 8, to be home language/mother tongue
- **Reforms in exams**
Board exams to be broken into two, to test core capabilities
- **New National Assessment Centre PARAKH**
A standard-setting body for assessment of students pan-India
- **Equitable and inclusive education**
Emphasis on socially disadvantaged, girls, socio-cultural identity children for education
- **Teacher recruitment and career path**
National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) to be developed by 2022 for teachers
- **Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education**
State School Standards Authority to be set up in all States/UTs
- **Vocational Education**
By 2025, at least 50% of students to have exposure to vocational education

Authorities/Curricular under NEP 2020

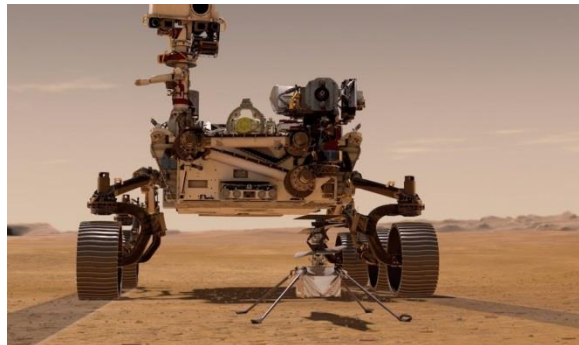
- ❖ The following bodies will be setup under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8.
- ❖ A comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education (NCFSE 2020-21) will be developed by the NCERT.
- ❖ A National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be set up as a standard-setting body.
- ❖ The National Research Foundation (NRF) will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture.

- ❖ A comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE 2021), will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in consultation with NCERT.
- ❖ For recruitment of teachers, a common National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) will be developed by the NCTE by 2022.
- ❖ For standard-setting and accreditation for school Education, states/UTs will set up an independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA).
- ❖ An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology.
- ❖ Setting up an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, and strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).
- ❖ Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mars Perseverance Rover 2020

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has its Mars mission named Mars Perseverance Rover 2020.



- ❖ The Mars Rover aims to reach the Red Planet by the year 2021.
- ❖ The rover was launched by Atlas V-541 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida of USA.
- ❖ The Mars Perseverance rover has a robot that will deploy first-ever interplanetary helicopter named Ingenuity.

