



## Current Affairs of the Day

### PAPER 1:

#### ➤ Geography:

1. 18 killed as landslip buries tea workers' quarters in Idukki
2. What are causes of these landslides and measures needed to mitigate them?
3. Difference between soil creep, soil flow and landslides.

### PAPER 2:

#### ➤ Polity & Governance:

1. NEP lays the foundation for a 'New India', says Modi
2. Highlights of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

#### ➤ International Relations:

1. India to take part in Kavkaz 2020 in Russia

### PAPER 3:

#### ➤ Economy:

1. No free grain in July for 40% of PMGKAY beneficiaries



## 18 killed as landslip buries tea workers' quarters in Idukki

- At least 18 persons were killed and 52 others are missing after a series of landslips at the Nayamakkad tea estate at Pettimudy, near Rajamala in Idukki district.

### Value Added Information

#### Landslides:

#### What are causes of these landslides and measures needed to mitigate them?

The sudden movement of rock, debris or earth along the slope is called landslide.

The various causes of landslides are:

Natural causes-

- Landslides are generally associated with natural calamities like earthquake, volcanic eruptions, floods, cloudburst, etc.
- Long spell of rainfall
- Loose soil cover and sloping terrain

Anthropogenic causes-

- Rapid urbanization and changes in land use patterns
- Rampant deforestation and mining activities like blasting and quarrying, etc.
- Increased industrialisation leading to climate change and weather disturbances
- Change in river flow due to construction of dams, barriers, etc.

#### Various measures needed to mitigate them are-

- Hazard mapping by demarcating areas prone to landslides and avoiding stress on those areas for settlement
- Construction of retention walls to avoid land from slipping
- Increasing afforestation and vegetation cover
- Practise measures to check soil erosion like terrace farming, contour ploughing, etc.
- Implementing surface drainage control works to control the movement of landslide along with rain water and spring flows.



- Proper planning of developmental processes following sustainable methods.

**Differentiate between soil creep, soil flow and landslides. Which of these is/are commonly found in India? Why and where?**

- The different combinations of soil, water, topography and gravity results into either soil creep or soil flow or landslides.
- **Land creep:** Slow and gradual movement of soil over gentle slopes. It can happen even in the absence of water due to wind/ animal peddling. Minimal water can act as lubricant in this process.
- **Land flow:** It a bit faster than land creep. It happens when water content is adequate enough to form a suspension with underlying soil. It is visibly seen over weeks and months. Even it can be observed over days/ hours immediately after the rains.
- **Landslides:** It is a sudden fall of land mass due to acute slopes. And lubricant action of water. This is due to detachment of land mass over regolith where the water detaches the weak junctions.
- In India all the three forms are evident. Soil creep and soil flow are common causes of soil erosion in India. They happen all across India, throughout the year. But as India gets nearly 75% of its rain during monsoons and western disturbances landslides are also not uncommon. Recent Uttarakhand floods and Pune landslides are examples for that.

## NEP lays the foundation for a 'New India', says Modi

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 laid the foundation for a 'New India' of the 21st century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, emphasising the shift from rote learning and "herd mentality" to creative and innovative thinking.
- Addressing a conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under the NEP, he said there had been no major changes in the education system for many years, resulting in the promotion of a "herd mentality" in Indian society instead of the values of curiosity and imagination. "So far, the focus has been on 'what to think'. The NEP emphasises a shift in approach to focus on 'how to think' instead".



## Value Added Information

### Highlights of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

#### School Education:

- New Policy aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- NEP 2020 will bring 2 crores out of school children back into the mainstream through the open schooling system.
- The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under the school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for the development of mental faculties of a child.
- The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.
- Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools; Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships

**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



- Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/ regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.
- Assessment reforms with 360-degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes
- A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT.
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.

### Higher Education:

- Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 % by 2035; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- The policy envisages broad-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate Program with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entries and exit points with appropriate certification.
- Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits

### National Education Policy 2020

## TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR NEW INDIA



### Higher Education

- **Increase GER in higher education**  
Aim to reach at least 50% by 2035 from 26.3% in 2018
- **Holistic Multidisciplinary Education**  
Multi-disciplinary holistic education at UG level in all fields
- **Restructuring of UG and PG degrees**  
UG degree to be of either 3 or 4 years, with certifications after each year
- **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)**  
To be setup in or near each district for promoting research in all fields
- **Rationalised Institutional Architecture**  
HEI clusters/Knowledge Hubs to be set up with each have 3,000+ students
- **National Research Foundation (NRF)**  
To create a culture of research that permeates through all universities
- **Financial support for students**  
Students from underprivileged classes to be incentivized per merit
- **Open and distance learning to be expanded**  
To play a major role in increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50%
- **Motivated, Energized, and Capable Faculty**  
Clearly defined, independent & transparent process for hiring the right faculty
- **Effective Governance and leadership in HEIs**  
Graded accreditation and graded autonomy to achieve excellence in 15 years
- **Regulatory body**  
Higher Education Commission of India to be the single umbrella for higher education
- **Teacher Education**  
A new, comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education to be formulated
- **Technology in Education**  
National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to be formed to promote use of technology
- **Adult Education**  
Aim to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy by 2030
- **Promotion of Indian languages**  
HEIs to promote higher education in mother tongue/local languages
- **Investing in the future**  
Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest



- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
- 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. HECI to have four independent verticals – National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC ) for standard-setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council( NAC) for accreditation.
- Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.
- Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
- Over a period of time, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College or a constituent college of a university.

### Others:

- 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 to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.
- NEP 2020 emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups
- New Policy promotes Multilingualism in both schools and higher education. National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up
- The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.



## India to take part in Kavkaz 2020 in Russia

- In a resumption of bilateral and multilateral military exercises which were deferred due to COVID-19, India will take part in the **Russian Kavkaz 2020** strategic command-post exercise next month.
- The invitees also include China and Pakistan, apart from other member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- The invitation comes amid the ongoing standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. A small tri-service contingent will take part in the exercise to be held in Astrakhan, a defence source said.
- The Indian contingent includes 150 Army personnel and smaller number of personnel from the Navy and Air Force.

## No free grain in July for 40% of PMGKAY beneficiaries

- Almost four out of ten people dependent on free food from the Centre did not receive their July allocation under a special scheme to help tide over the COVID-19 crisis, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told journalists on Friday, blaming States for their failure to distribute the free grains and pulses.
- In fact, as many as 11 States and Union Territories did not carry out any distribution at all under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in July, the first month of the extended scheme. In the first phase, from April to June, about 95% of the 81 crore beneficiaries received their grain allocation. In July, that dropped to just 61%, according to an official statement. Only 6% of the free chana has been distributed.
- The lag is partly because some States follow staggered a bi- or tri-monthly distribution cycle, said Mr. Paswan, adding that such States have promised to distribute both the July and August allocation during this month. The laggard States include Punjab, West Bengal and Uttarakhand. In the flood-hit States of Assam and Bihar, the PMGKAY coverage for July was only 21% and 52%, respectively.
- PMGKAY was rolled out in April as part of the Centre's response to COVID-19 and resultant lockdown, which deprived crores of people of their livelihood.