

NEWS TODAY

CABINET APPROVES NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

- NEP 2020 is based on the **Dr. K. Kasturirangan report** and it replaces the National Policy on Education (NPE) framed in 1986.
- Aim of NEP is to create an India centered education system that **contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society**, by providing high quality education to all.
 - > Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) will be re-designated as **Ministry of Education (MoE)** to bring the focus back on education and learning.
- **Need:** In last 34 years, India's education system, have been plagued by shortcomings such as huge dropout rates, shortage in the number of teachers, incompetent curriculum etc.

Key points in NEP 2020

Outcomes of NEP 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. ○ Bring back 2 crore out of school children into the main stream. ○ Attaining Foundational Learning & Numeracy Skills through National Mission by 2025. ○ Every child to come out of school adapt in at least one skill. ○ Inclusive & Equitable Education System by 2030. ○ Common Standards of Learning in Public & Private Schools.
Major reforms in School Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New 5+3+3+4 school curriculum with 12 years of schooling and 3 years of Anganwadi/ Pre-schooling. ○ Teaching upto at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/ regional language has been recommended. ○ Three-language formula will continue to be implemented. ○ No rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular and Vocational. ○ Vocational integration from class 6 onwards. ○ National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. ○ Board Examination will be low Stakes, Based on Knowledge Application. ○ National Assessment Center – PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development). ○ Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.
Major reforms in Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GER in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035 ; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education. ○ Higher Education curriculum to have Flexibility of Subjects. ○ Multiple Entry / Exit to be allowed with appropriate certification. ○ Single Regulator for Higher Education (excluding Legal and Medical). ○ Affiliation System to be phased out in 15 years with graded autonomy to colleges. ○ Public Investment in Education Sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest. ○ Special Education Zone for Disadvantaged Regions.
Use Of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technology use In Education Planning, Teaching, Learning & Assessment, Administration & Management, Regulation - Self Disclosure & Minimum Human Interface. ○ Increasing Access for Disadvantaged Groups, Divyang Friendly Education Software. ○ e-Content in Regional Languages, Digitally Equipping Schools, Teachers and Students.
Indian Knowledge Systems, Languages, Culture and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on Literature & Scientific Vocabulary of Indian Languages. ○ Strengthening National Institutes for promotion of Classical Languages & Literature. ○ Language Faculty and Research on Languages. ○ Cultural Awareness of our Indian Knowledge Systems. ○ Promoting Traditional Arts / Lok Vidya.

SUPREME COURT (SC) CLEARS HURDLE IN INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TRILATERAL HIGHWAY (IMTTH)

- **SC stayed the litigation initiated by the defaulting contractor** of IMTTH highway project before the Manipur High Court (HC).

- > This came in response on a petition filed by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) which said that further pendency of litigation before Manipur HC will harm India's bilateral relations with neighbours.
- > **MEA is responsible for the execution of IMTTH project**, which is being implemented by National Highways Authority of India.

About IMTTH

- It will connect **Moreh in Manipur and Mae Sot in Thailand**.
- It is a grant-in-aid initiative by **India as part of its "Act East Policy"**.
 - > India is **undertaking construction of two sections in Myanmar** namely: Kalewa-Yagyi road section and 69 bridges along Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa road section.
- **Benefits of project:**
 - > Provide **greater connectivity and seamless movement** of goods & people and traffic across three countries.
 - ⇒ It will particularly benefit North Eastern region, as well as Myanmar and ASEAN States.
 - > India has also proposed extending **highway to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam region** which is important both for strategic as well as trade reasons.
- **Challenges faced in completion of project:** geographical terrain, excessive rainfall, etc.



PIED CUCKOO TO BE TRACKED IN MIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY

- Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing and Department of Biotechnology have begun a **study of the migration of pied cuckoo from Africa to India and back.**
 - > It is done by **tagging two of the birds with satellite transmitters.**
- This is for the first time that a bird species is being tagged to **understand its relationship with climate patterns** like change in monsoon winds, erratic rainfall, seasonal fluctuations, etc.
 - > Arrival of the pied cuckoos has traditionally been **seen as onset of the monsoon.**
- Study is part of a larger project **-Indian Bioresource Information Network (IBIN)**, funded by Department of Biotechnology.
 - > IBIN is proposed to be a **single portal data provider on India's bioresource** - plant, animal, marine, spatial distribution and microbial resources.
- **About Pied Cuckoo (Clamator jacobinus or Jacobin Cuckoo)**
 - > There are **two populations of Pied Cuckoo found in India**- southern part (resident) and North and Central India (migratory).
 - > It is one of the few species that come to India in the summer.
 - > IUCN status: Least Concern.
 - > It is primarily arboreal (lives on trees), lays its eggs in nests that belong to other birds.








OFFSHORE WIND CAN YIELD TWIN BENEFITS OF GHG REDUCTION, RETURN ON INVESTMENTS: WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE REPORT

- **Key highlights of the report:**
 - > **Reduction of 0.3-1.61 gigatons of carbon dioxide** every year by 2050 if offshore wind energy generation is scaled up.
 - > Every \$1 invested in increasing production capacities of Offshore wind power can generate a **\$2-17 benefit on return on investment.**
 - > Off shore wind systems **need near-zero water for energy generation and cooling.**
- **Offshore wind energy** is the clean and renewable energy obtained by taking advantage of the force of the wind that is produced on the high seas, where it reaches a higher and more constant speed than on land due to the absence of barriers
- **India and Offshore wind energy**
 - > India notified the **"National Offshore Wind Energy Policy" in 2015.**
 - > India has set target of at **least 5,000 MW of offshore wind energy** generation capacity by 2022 and 30,000 MW by 2030.
 - > Estimates suggest that the **Gujarat coastline alone has the potential to generate around 106,000 MW of offshore wind energy** while Tamil Nadu has a potential of about 60,000 MW.
 - > Government has also issued **Draft Offshore Wind Energy Lease Rules, 2019 to regulate and promote the industry.**

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) to be scrapped by December 31st</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEIS was introduced in 2015, under Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015. • It aimed to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and the associated costs of exporting products produced in India. • It provided incentive in the form of duty credit scrip to the exporter to compensate for his loss on payment of duties. • It will be replaced by Production Linked Incentive Schemes for select sectors, and the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP).
<p>National registry of COVID patients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is being planned by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with the Health Ministry and All India Institute of Medical Sciences. • Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Create a rigorous database of COVID-19 patients to understand how treatment can be improved. > Serve as a crucial platform to conduct clinical trials to study the effectiveness of newer therapies.
<p>Mars 2020 Mission with Perseverance rover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. • It will carry a unique instrument, MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment, which for the first time will manufacture molecular oxygen on Mars. • Perseverance rover will drill and collect rock samples which will then be returned to Earth by future missions. • It will land in Jezero Crater on Mars. • NASA's other mission to Mars: Mars Pathfinder Mission (1997); Spirit and Opportunity(2003); Curiosity (2012).
<p>Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA TS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has decided to extend CA TS across all its tiger reserves for further strengthening and improving management interventions. • CA TS is a conservation tool that sets best practice and standards to manage target species, and encourages assessments to benchmark progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It is a partnership of tiger range governments, inter-governmental agencies, institutions, NGOs and conservation organisations. > It is being adopted for use beyond tigers, including potentially jaguars, lions and freshwater dolphins. > World Wide Fund for Nature is helping tiger range countries to implement CA TS.
<p>Blue macaws rescued in Assam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyacinth Macaw/Blue Macaw is a parrot native to central and eastern South America. • IUCN status: Vulnerable.
<p>Sree Sree Joykali Matar temple, Natore, Bangladesh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is among the oldest temples in Bangladesh which was built approximately 300 years back by Shri Dayaram Roy, the founder of Dighapatia Royal Family. • Recently, it has been reconstructed with assistance from India under High Impact Community Development Project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > MoU for the reconstruction of the temple was signed in 2016.

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