

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – D

Disaster Preparedness (Flooding)

Why in News?

Multiple states across the country have experienced the episodes of severe flooding which raises the issue of disaster preparedness.

Disaster preparedness plays a critical role in mitigating the adverse effects of natural disaster. Preparedness is defined by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) (United Nations International Strategy and Disaster Reduction, 2009) as knowledge, capabilities, and actions of governments, organizations, community groups, and individuals “to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.” Preparedness efforts range from individual-level activities (such as first aid training), to household actions (e.g. stockpiling of equipment and supplies), community efforts (like training and field exercises), and governmental strategies (including early warning systems, contingency plans, evacuation routes, and public information dissemination).

Connectedness to the Syllabus:

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Disaster Preparedness and the issues related to it, Health and Wealth loss, etc.

General Studies I: Salient features of world’s physical geography; Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.

General Studies II: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies; Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation; Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders; Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

General Studies III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment; Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment; Disaster and disaster management.

Article Links:

http://agritech.tnau.ac.in/agriculture/agri_majorareas_disastermgt_flood.html#:~:text=Identify%20potential%20home%20hazards%20and,Secure%20structurally%20unstable%20building%20materials

<https://scroll.in/article/967574/indo-nepal-conflict-and-coronavirus-lockdown-have-intensified-flood-threat-in-bihar>

[https://www.outlookindia.com/news\(scroll/over-200-people-evacuated-in-nilgiris-tn-govt/1909026](https://www.outlookindia.com/news(scroll/over-200-people-evacuated-in-nilgiris-tn-govt/1909026)

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<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/twitter-india-launches-dedicated-search-prompt-to-provide-information-about-disaster-management/article32088650.ece>

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiZ4ObZoYTrAhX-xDgGHQypDUMQFjACegQIAxAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdarpgov.in%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fcrisis_management3.pdf&usg=AOvVaw30EmQYoOle6WgJRPS-7xeM

Maps and Images:

FLOOD

A flood is submerging of normally dry land by an overflow of water. It can be localized event affecting a small area of land or a very big disaster that can have impact on whole island or river basin.

Duration of flood

- Slow-Onset Floods: can last for longer period
- Rapid-Onset Floods: shorter period like one or two days.
- Flash Floods: Flash Floods may occur within minutes or a few hours after heavy rainfall, tropical storm, failure of dams or levees or releases of ice dams.

Weather events	Poor maintenance	Development/planning issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heavy rainfallHigh tide with stormClimate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sewer networksInsufficient drainageInadequate maintenance of water course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inappropriate development in flood plainsRain water runoffBadly designed flood defence mechanisms.

TYPE OF FLOOD

River floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most common type of flood event
Flash floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extreme version of a river flooding event
Area or urban flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Occurs when low lying impenetrable ground becomes saturated
Area or urban flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Caused by high sea tidal surges and waves

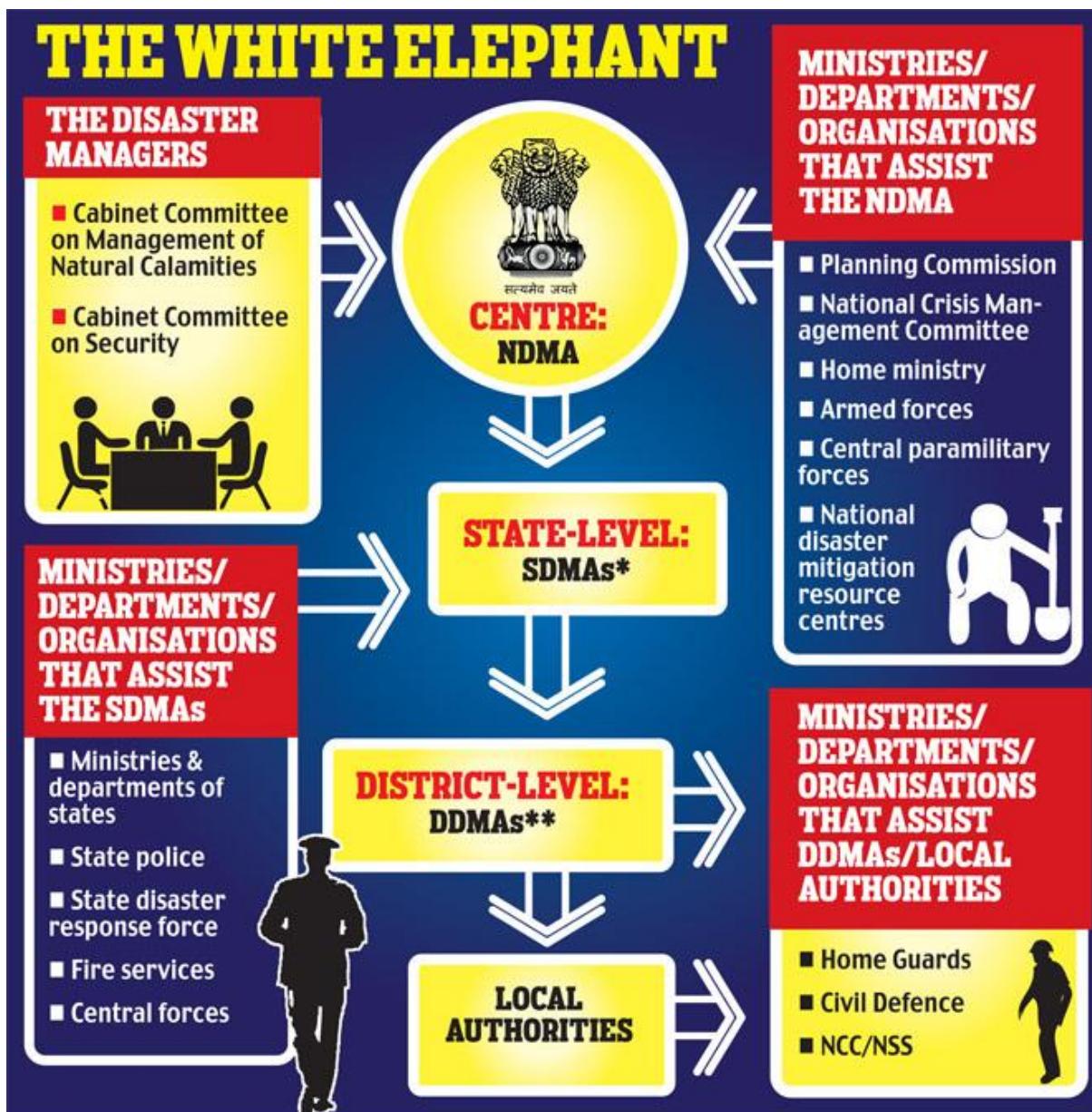
URBAN FLOODS



https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimage.slidesharecdn.com%2Fdisaster-180406165626%2F95%2Fdisaster-management-flooding-and-landslide-1-638.jpg%3Fcb%3D1524416604&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.slideshare.net%2FSonikaPatel%2Fdisaster-management-flooding-and-landslide&tbnid=a4l_Cn3S1hC-QM&vet=1ahUKEwilkovM74HrAhX3BrcAHYNIBRoQMygbegUIARDfAQ..i&docid=gJxIQbMi4gC1_M&w=638&h=359&q=disaster%20preparedness%20flood%20in%20India&ved=2ahUKEwilkovM74HrAhX3BrcAHYNIBRoQMygbegUIARDfAQ

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<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/north/story/national-disaster-management-authority-great-made-tragedy-india-today-167916-2013-06-25>

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Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Information Sheet

International Disaster Law project

Centre for Criminal Justice & Human Rights, School of Law,
University College Cork & the Irish Red Cross Society

When a disaster such as a flood, earthquake or typhoon strikes, local communities are the first to respond to rescue those in peril and to provide support and assistance to those in need. Often, the international community will also respond, by providing humanitarian assistance and expertise.

However, there is no such thing as a "natural" disaster. Disasters occur when a natural hazard overwhelms a vulnerable community. Therefore, reducing individual and community vulnerabilities while strengthening their resilience is the core of disaster risk reduction (DRR).



Image: Nicole Robicheau (IFRC)

The importance of prevention, mitigation and preparedness

Reflecting our increasing understanding of vulnerability and resilience, in recent years there has been an increasing focus on DRR measures in advance of a disaster occurring. As explained by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction ([UNISDR](#)):

- **Prevention** encompasses activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks.
- **Mitigation** is the lessening or minimising of the adverse impacts of a hazardous event.
- **Preparedness** is the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters.

What is Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)?

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) defines disaster risk reduction as:

"Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systemic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters. Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction."²

Disaster risk reduction therefore encompasses a broad range of activities – from ensuring that legislative and policy approaches reflect known hazards, to community-based initiatives and technical solutions such as early warning systems.



Images: VectorOpenStock

How can law support DRR activities?

Good laws can help to strengthen critical infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals and roads, as well as assisting governments to respond to people's needs more effectively. Law can also help communities understand the risks they face and to make themselves safer. Legal frameworks should motivate, organise and promote cooperation between government, civil society and the private sector, and guard against forgetfulness when it has been a long time since the last major crisis.

On the other hand, weak or ineffective laws can sap public confidence, entrench old ways of thinking and enable a culture of inactivity. They make it even harder for committed individuals to make a difference.

For more information, see: <http://disaster-law.ucc.ie>

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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The conclusion of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction¹ at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 highlighted the importance that states and the broader international community place on preventing, mitigating and preparing for known hazards.

Priorities for action

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

To promote accountability of governments and other stakeholders, the Sendai Framework sets out **seven specific targets** to be met during the period 2015-2030:

- a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality.
- b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally.
- c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP).
- d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
- e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.
- f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support.
- g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.

While not legally binding on states, at the adoption ceremony in March 2015, government representatives highlighted their "determination to enhance our efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce disaster losses of lives and assets worldwide." Governments also stressed their strong commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and called on all stakeholders to take action.²

¹ UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, [What is Disaster Risk Reduction?](#)

² UN, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (18 March 2015) A/CONF.224/CRP.1.

³ UN, *Sendai Declaration* (18 March 2015) A/CONF.224/CRP.2.

Relevant International Standards & Guidelines

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has recognised that states have a binding obligation to protect the lives of all persons in their territory. While it may not be possible for a government to prevent all disasters occurring, they do have a duty to minimise potential risks.

Selected ECtHR Caselaw

Oneryildiz v. Turkey (2004) – states have a positive obligation to take appropriate steps to safeguard the lives of those within their jurisdiction.

Kolyadenko & others v. Russia (2012) – lack of evacuation warnings or rescue operations was a violation of the right to life.

Hadzhiyska v. Bulgaria (2012) – there is a duty on the state to do "everything within the authorities' power in the sphere of disaster relief for the protection of [the right to life]."⁴



Image: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

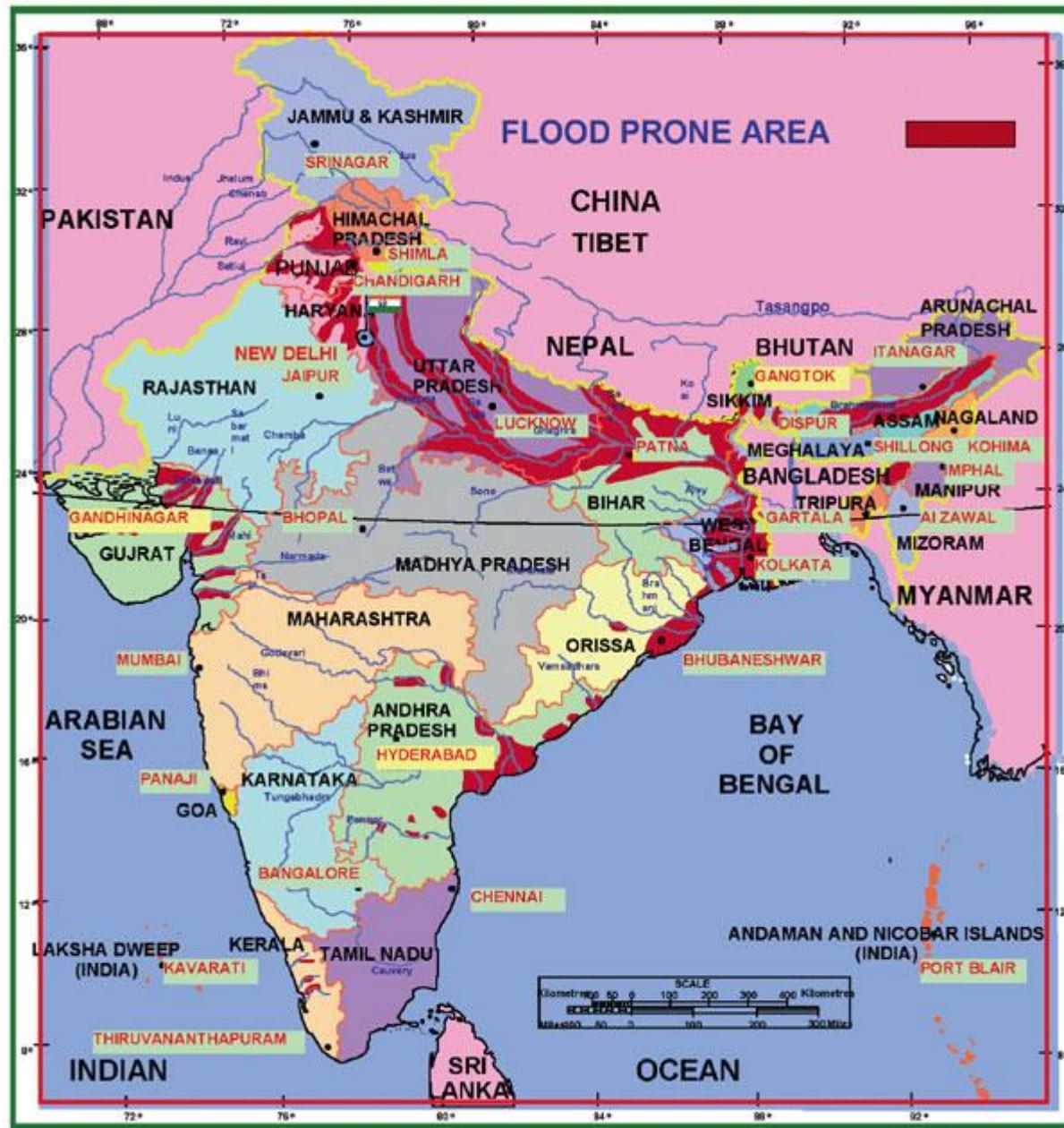
ILC Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (2016)

Article 9: Reduction of the Risk of Disasters

1. Each State shall reduce the risk of disasters by taking appropriate measures, including through legislation and regulations, to prevent, mitigate and prepare for disasters.
2. Disaster risk reduction measures include the conduct of risk and past loss information, and the installation and operation of early warning systems.

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Video Links:

CEC UGC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeBYDkNFBik>

MOOC Osmania University Hyderabad: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DExlZTfKZAM>

RSTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsCVIZNiMu8>

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Heritage Management

Why in News?

A NITI Aayog working group under the chairmanship of Amitabh Kant has suggested rebranding of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and also presented an action plan for heritage management of monuments in the country.

The working group on "Improving Heritage Management in India", set up last year under the instruction of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a report noted that the branding tagline for India's heritage needs to sync with the tourism tagline "Incredible India" that has already made a strong presence.

Considering the extended framework and mandate of ASI, it is feasible that the nomenclature should reflect more than "Archaeological Survey of India" in its name.

Connectedness to the Syllabus:

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Heritage Management, HRIDAY Scheme, Tourism Development and its correlations with the Indian Economy and the issues related to it etc.

General Studies I: Salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times; Effects of globalization on the Indian society.

General Studies II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

General Studies III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it; Industries and Investment models; Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Article Links:

<https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-06/Improving-HeritageManagement-in-India.pdf>

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/travel-tourism/improve-services-at-heritage-sites-to-create-more-jobs-niti-aayog-panel/1986780/>

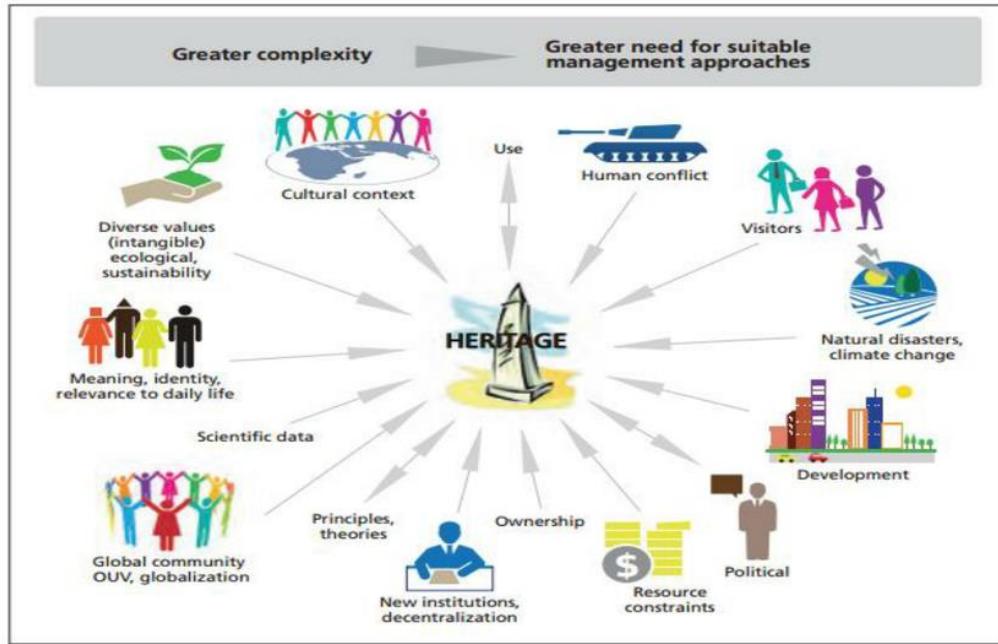
<https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/niti-aayog-working-group-suggests-rebranding-of-asi/1861302>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/restoring-heritage-one-brick-at-a-time/article29866558.ece>

Maps and Images:

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<http://blog.culturalecology.info/2018/09/20/artisan-ecologies/>

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Video Links:

RSTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tyctl7qakMs>

RSTV (Mamallapuram Special): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1gUANoKvjc>

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New Education Policy

Why in News?

The Indian government replaced a 34-year-old National Policy on Education, framed in 1986, with the New Education Policy of 2020. The NEP, approved by the union cabinet, makes sweeping reforms in school and higher education including teaching. Some of the biggest and important highlights of the NEP 2020 are, 1) a single regulator for higher education institutions except for law and medical colleges and common entrance tests for universities, 2) multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, 3) discontinuation of MPhil programmes, 4) low stakes board exams, 5) common entrance exams for universities.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Educational reforms and the issues arising out of it.

General Studies II: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies; Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation; Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Article Links:

<https://www.mhrd.gov.in/nep-new#:~:text=About%20New%20Education%20Policy%20Consultation,and%20the%20world%20at%20large>

https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English.pdf

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/reading-new-education-policy-india-schools-colleges-6531603/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/nep-2020-what-does-the-new-policy-mean-for-learners-and-indias-education-system/videoshow/77267716.cms>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/new-education-policy-2020-live-updates-important-takeaways/story-yMm1QaeNyFW4uTTU3g9bJO.html>

<https://www.livemint.com/education/news/new-education-policy-five-big-changes-in-school-higher-education-explained-11596098141333.html>

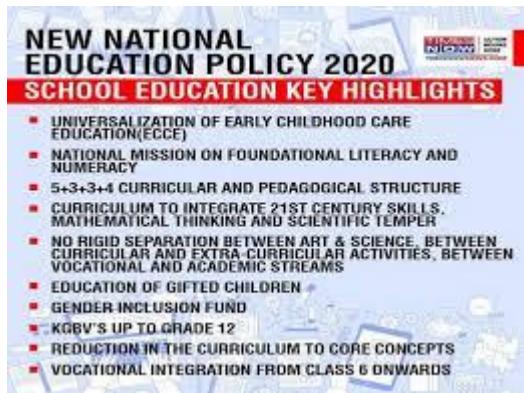
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1642049>

Maps and Images

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<https://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/mhrd-nep-2020-new-education-policy-pdf-highlights/629005>

Video Links:

India Today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9T5Nkxllbs>

RSTV : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlsXIIGQXXA>