

2nd EDITION OF THE ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGE (ANIC 2.0)

GS Paper - 3 - Growth & Development - GS Paper - 2 - Human Resource - Government Policies & Interventions



WHY IN NEWS?

Atal Innovation Mission launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0).

- ANIC 1.0 was launched in 2018 for the clarion call to bring innovations and technologies relevant to the people.

WHAT IS ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGE?

- **About:**
 - Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
 - The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
 - ANIC solicits innovations in the prototype stage and supports the selected start-ups through to the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months.
- **Vision:**
 - Help create products from existing technologies that solve problems of national importance and societal relevance (productization)
 - Help new solutions find markets and early customers (commercialization) in the context of India.

○ **Objectives:**

- To **incentivize innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth** – Education, Health, **Water and Sanitation** Agriculture, **Food Processing**, Housing, **Energy, Mobility**, Space Application etc.
- To address the **Commercialization Valley of Death (Gap between the research and commercialization)** - supporting innovators scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation.

○ **ANIC 1.0:**

- **ANIC 1.0** followed an open innovation challenge format where challenge statements were put out in the public domain and a call for application was made.
- The winning start-ups / individual innovators **are supported through a tranche-based grant-in-aid of up to Rs.1 crore and through AIM's innovation network.**

○ **ANIC 2.0:**

- The 1st phase of **ANIC 2.0 will see 18 challenges** being thrown open from 7 sectors, which are, **E-mobility, Road Transportation, Space Technology and Application**, Sanitation Technology, Medical Devices and Equipment, **Waste Management**, Agriculture.

WHAT IS ATAL INNOVATION MISSION?

- AIM is Government of India's **flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship** in the country.
- Its **objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy**, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, **create awareness and create an umbrella structure** to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.
- **Major Initiatives:**
 - **Atal Tinkering Labs:** These are creating problem solving mindset across schools in India.
 - **Atal Incubation Centers:** Fostering world class startups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
 - **Atal New India Challenges:** Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
 - **Mentor India Campaign:** A national mentor network in collaboration with the public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
 - **Atal Community Innovation Center:** To stimulate community centric innovation and ideas in the unserved/underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
 - **Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE):** To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

SLOTH BEARS

GS Paper - 3 - Conservation



WHY IN THE NEWS?

Recently, **two sloth bears** were rescued by forest officials from a village in Jharkhand by the **People for Animals** group.

- The **People for Animals (PFA)** is an animal welfare organization founded by Maneka Gandhi.
- The PFA was informed by **Madaris**. Madaris is a **nomadic community that earns a living by performing street acts with animals**.

WHAT IS A SLOTH BEAR?

- **About:** Sloth bears are found in **Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan and Nepal**, predominantly in lowland areas.
 - Sloth bears primarily **eat termites and ants**, and unlike other bear species, they routinely carry their cubs on their backs.
 - They are also very fond of honey, hence their alternative name of **“honey bear”**.
 - Sloth bears **do not hibernate**.
- **Scientific Name:** **Melursus ursinus**
- **Habitat:** It is a forest-dwelling member of the family Ursidae (comprises 8 species of bears) that inhabits tropical or subtropical regions of India and Sri Lanka.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** **Vulnerable**
 - **CITES listing:** **Appendix I**
 - **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** **Schedule I**
- **Threats:** **Habitat loss, poaching** for body parts and are sometimes captured for use in performances or hunted because of their **aggressive behavior and destruction of crops**.

[Source:IE](#)

16th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF PROJECT ELEPHANT

GS Paper - 3 - Conservation



WHY IN NEWS?

At the 16th Steering Committee meeting of Project Elephant, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a **field manual named-Field Manual for Managing Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC) in India-to guide forest staffers dealing with HEC in major elephant range states.**

- The manual has been prepared by the ministry, along with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WWI)** and **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF India)**.
- It contains the detailed best practices of **minimizing human-elephant conflict**. It is drafted with the **aim of providing forest officials/ departments and other stakeholders with guidance towards interventions to help mitigate Human Elephant Conflict**, both in emergencies and when conflict poses a recurring challenge.

WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS RELATED TO ELEPHANTS?

- **Current Data on Elephants in India:**
 - India is home to approximately around **27,000 Asian Elephants**, which is the world's largest population of the species.
 - As per Elephant Census (2017), **Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049)**, followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).
- **Asian Elephants:**
 - **About:**
 - There are **three subspecies of Asian elephant** which are the **Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan**.

- The Indian subspecies has the widest range and accounts for most of the remaining elephants on the continent.
 - ❖ The **elephant herd is led by the oldest and largest female member** (known as the matriarch). This herd includes the daughters of the matriarch and their offspring.
 - ❖ Elephants have the **longest-known gestational (pregnancy) period** of all mammals, lasting up to **680 days (22 months)**.
 - ❖ **Females between 14 - 45 years may give birth to calves** approximately every four years with the mean interbirth intervals increasing to five years by age 52 and six years by age 60.
- **Global Population:** Estimated 20,000 to 40,000.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
- **African Elephants:**
 - **About:**
 - There are **two subspecies** of African elephants, the **Savanna (or bush) elephant and the Forest elephant**.
 - **Global Population:** Around 4,00,000.
 - Earlier in July 2020, **Botswana (Africa) witnessed the death of hundreds of elephants**.
 - **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List Status:**
 - ❖ **African Savanna Elephant:** Endangered.
 - ❖ **African Forest Elephant:** Critically Endangered
 - **CITES:** Appendix II
- **Threats:**
 - Escalation of poaching.
 - Habitat loss.
 - **Human-elephant conflict.**
 - Mistreatment in captivity.
 - Abuse due to elephant tourism.
 - Rampant mining, Corridor destruction.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TAKEN FOR CONSERVATION?

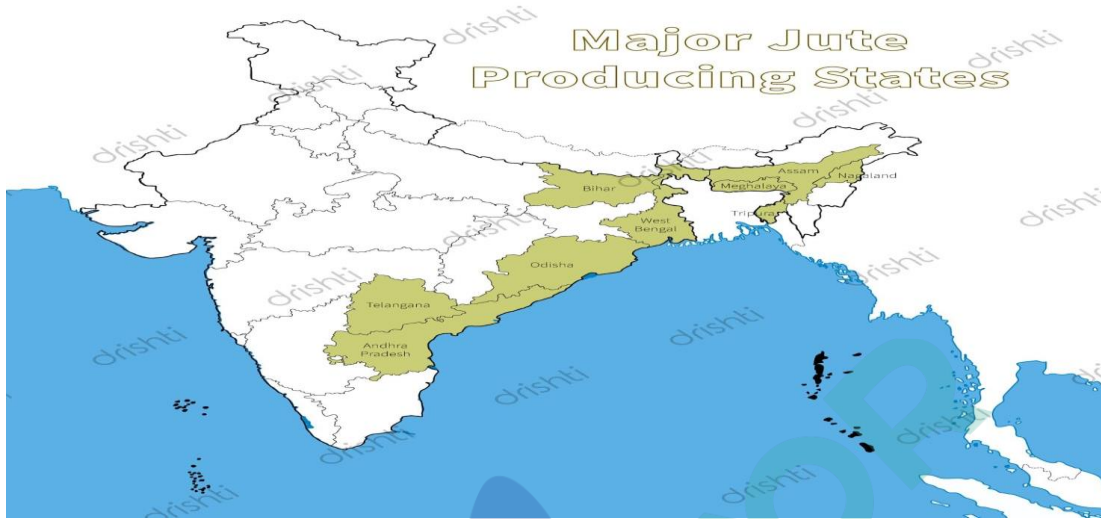
- Plans and programmes to **arrest their poachers and killers**.
- Declaration and **establishment of various elephant reserves** across the states. For example, Mysuru and Dandeli elephant reserves in Karnataka.
- **Cleaning areas from lantana and eupatorium (invasive species)** as they prevent the growth of grass for elephants to feed on.

- **Barricades** to prevent man-elephant conflicts.
- Measures for **establishment of a cell to study forest fire** prevention.
- **Gaj Yatra** which is a **nationwide awareness campaign** to celebrate elephants and highlights the necessity of securing elephant corridors.
- The **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme**, launched in 2003, is an international collaboration that tracks trends in information related to the illegal killing of elephants from across Africa and Asia, to monitor effectiveness of field conservation efforts.
- **Project Elephant**: It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** and was launched in February 1992 for the **protection of elephants**, their habitats and corridors.
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states** in the country through the project.
- Even **mahouts** (people who work with, ride and tend to elephants) and their families play an important part in the welfare of elephants.
- Recently, the **Supreme Court (SC)** upheld the 2011 order of the Madras High Court (HC) on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the **right of passage** of the animals and the closure of resorts in the area.

[Source:DTE](#)

POTENTIAL OF INDIA'S JUTE INDUSTRY AND RELATED CONCERNS

GS Paper - 3 - Cropping Patterns - Agricultural Marketing



WHY IN NEWS?

West Bengal is experiencing a crisis that has led to the closure of several Jute Mills.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- **High Rate of Procurement by Mills:**
 - Mills are **procuring raw jute at prices higher than** what they are selling them at after processing.
 - Mills do not acquire their raw material directly from the farmers because:
 - **Farmers are far-off from the mills locations:**
 - ❖ Mills would have to go to multiple farmers to acquire the requisite quantity as no single farmer produces enough to fulfil the requirements of the entire mill.
 - **Procurement Process is Cumbersome:**
 - ❖ The procurement now flows through middlemen or traders.
 - ❖ As a standard practice, the middlemen charge mills for their services, which involves procuring jute from farmers, grading, bailing and then bringing the bales to the mills.
- **Hoarding:**
 - The government has a fixed **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for raw jute procurement from farmers, which is Rs. 4,750 per quintal for the 2022-23 season.
 - However, **this reaches the mill at Rs. 7,200 per quintal**, that is, Rs. 700 more than the Rs. 6,500 per quintal cap for the final product.
- **Impact of Cyclone:**
 - The situation particularly has **become worrisome recently** with the **occurrence of Cyclone Amphan in May 2020** and the subsequent rains in major jute producing States.

- These events led to lower acreage, which in turn led to lower production and yield compared to previous years.
- Also, this led to production of a lower quality of jute fibre in 2020-21 as water-logging in large fields resulted in farmers harvesting the crop prematurely.

WHAT ARE THE RELATED CONCERNS?

- As the jute sector provides direct employment to 3.70 lakh workers in the country and supports the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families, closure of the mills is a direct blow to workers and indirectly, to the farmers whose production is used in the mills.
 - West Bengal, Bihar and Assam account for almost 99% of India's total production.

WHAT ARE THE RELATED INITIATIVES FOR THE JUTE SECTOR?

- Golden Fibre Revolution and Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta are two of the government initiatives to boost jute production in India.
 - Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing materials, particularly nylon.
- Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987:
 - Through the Jute Packaging Materials (JPM) Act, the Government is protecting the interests of about 4 lakh workers and 40 lakh farm families.
 - The Act provides for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith.
- Jute Geo-Textiles (JGT):
 - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Technical Textiles Mission which includes Jute Geo-Textiles.
 - JGT is one of the most important diversified jute products. It can be applied in many fields like civil engineering, soil erosion control, road pavement construction and protection of river banks.
- Jute SMART:
 - It is an e-government initiative which was launched in December 2016 to promote transparency in the jute sector.
 - It provides an integrated platform for procurement of sacking by Government agencies.

WHAT ARE THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT JUTE?

- Temperature: Between 25-35°C
- Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm
- Soil Type: Well drained alluvial soil.
- Production:
 - India is the largest producer of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.
 - However, in terms of acreage and trade, Bangladesh takes the lead accounting for three-fourth of the global jute exports in comparison to India's 7%.

- It is mainly concentrated in eastern India because of the rich alluvial soil of Ganga-Brahmaputra delta.
- **Major jute producing states include** West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura.
- **Uses:**
 - It is known as the **golden fibre**. It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts.

[Source: TH](#)

MANDATE DOCUMENT FOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

GS Paper - 2 - Education - Government Policies & Interventions



WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** has released the “**mandate document**” for a **National Curriculum Framework** under the **new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.

- The mandate document is envisaged to bring about a **paradigm shift with focus on holistic development of children, emphasis on skilling, vital role of teachers, learning in mother tongue, cultural rootedness**.
- It is also a step towards **decolonization of the Indian education system**.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK?

- Central to the implementation of the transformative **National Education Policy 2020** is the new **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** which will empower and enable **outstanding teaching and learning in the country, by converting the vision of the NEP 2020 into reality in our schools and classrooms**.

- The development of the NCF is being guided by the **National Steering Committee (NSC)**, chaired by **Dr K Kasturirangan**, supported by the Mandate Group, along with the **National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT)**.
- The NCF will include:
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (NCFECCE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE)**,
 - The **National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE)**.
- The government held that the **NEP is the philosophy, National Curriculum Framework is the pathway and the mandate document released today is the constitution** to champion the changing demands of the 21st century and positively impact the future.
- The mandate group has set **28th February 2023** as the **deadline** for the revision of syllabi based on the new NCF.

WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MANDATE DOCUMENT?

- **Consultative Process:** It sets the mechanisms for the development of a **coherent and comprehensive NCF**, fully leveraging the widespread consultations already under way.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Education:** The process designed **ensures the seamless integration** imagined - vertically (across Stages) and horizontally in the NEP 2020 – to ensure holistic, integrated, and multi-disciplinary education.
- **Conducive Environment for Teaching:** It **enables the critical linkage between the curriculum of schools with the curriculum of Teacher Education** as an integral part of the transformative reforms envisioned by the NEP 2020.
 - Thus, enabling rigorous preparation, continuous professional development, and a positive working environment for all our teachers
- **Life-long Learning:** It informs the creation of opportunities for **life-long learning for all citizens in the country**.
- **Focus on Cutting-edge Research:** Anchored and informed by sound theory and **cutting-edge research yet using simple language with real-life illustrations** from classrooms and schools in a variety of contexts.
- **Addressing Huge Learning Loss:** The states and the Centre **“must act urgently”** to address the **“huge learning loss”** among students due to the interruptions in regular teaching and learning caused by the **pandemic** over the last two years.

WHAT IS MEANT BY DECOLONIZATION OF INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM?

- Industrialization and its **consequential imperialism and colonialism** have impacted this world for three centuries.
- India has been a **colony of the British Empire for two centuries**.
- These eventful two centuries of Indian history did see the influence of not only the **political and economic might of Britain** but its influence on every milieu of Indian life.

- India's indigenous education system was **gradually displaced**, and the **colonial model of education pervaded under the patronage from the colonial-state**.
- The **language, pedagogy, evaluation and knowledge** of the colonizer became ***naturalis obligato*** (Natural Obligation) for the population of the colony.
- Although **India got independence in 1947**, still Indian education system is heavily dominated by **western world**.
- **Hence, there is a need to decolonize Indian education System immediately.**

WHAT IS NCERT?

- NCERT is an **autonomous organization of the Government of India** which was **established in 1961** as a literary, scientific and charitable Society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It aims at reforming the school education system through research, training, policy formulation and curriculum development.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

[Source:IE](#)

