

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3715
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026

Implementation of NEP, 2020 and holistic education vision

3715 **Dr. K. Laxman:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) how the NEP, 2020 is reshaping the learning landscape to focus on critical thinking, foundational literacy and holistic development;
- (b) the transformation visible in schools adopting NEP-aligned pedagogy and competency-based learning; and
- (c) how students in Telangana will be benefitted from the policy's emphasis on mother tongue instruction and flexible subject choices?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): This National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities - both the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving – but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions.

The Samagra Shiksha scheme aims to foster critical thinking among learners through activities like the Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan - to encourage innovative teaching through science and math circles, mentoring by eminent experts, and exposure visits to inspire interest in STEM education; Tinkering Labs; Competency-based assessments and Experiential Learning.

This Department has launched a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat Mission (NBM))” for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains Foundational Literacy and

Numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 2. To achieve the objectives of NBM, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs under the integrated centrally sponsored scheme of education namely, Samagra Shiksha.

Vidya Pravesh - a 3-months play based 'School Preparation Module and Guidelines' for Grade I has been launched to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade-I from diverse backgrounds (Balvatika, Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), at home, private play schools etc.). It provides play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development to bolster a child's pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. This programme is being implemented across the country.

Jaadui Pitara (JP), a set of 53 play-based learning-teaching materials for ages 3-8 has been launched and is available in 22 Indian languages. JP includes toys, puzzles, story cards, flashcards, and teacher handbooks. Its digital extension offers multilingual stories, activities, songs in 22 Indian languages. As envisaged in NEP 2020, these initiatives are an integral part of the foundational stage.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE 2023) and the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS)

The Scheme further aims to focus on holistic development to improve student outcomes. Initiatives include provision of providing skill education through hands-on training, resource persons, and internships; extra-curricular activities; development of sports facilities and the engagement of yoga/sports coaches to promote physical well-being; establishment of Eco-clubs. The Government is taking a multi-pronged approach to provide psychological support to students, teachers, and families for mental and emotional wellbeing. The Ministry of Education's initiative MANODARPAN covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support through a national toll-free helpline.

The Government of India conducts periodic large-scale assessments to measure learning and education outcomes across the country. PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS), 2024 evaluated the learning competencies/outcomes of students in FLN, Language and Mathematics at the end of each of the educational stages.

PRS 2024 findings highlight a significant improvement in FLN skills outcomes, reflecting the positive impact of the NBM as envisioned in NEP 2020. It reflects that the performance of children in Grade 3 in rural school is better than urban schools and government schools have outperformed the private schools at foundational stage.

The NEP, 2020 lays a lot of stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant throughout the Nation including the State of Telangana. It is well understood that young children learn and grasp nontrivial concepts more quickly in their home language/mother tongue. Home language is usually the same language as the mother tongue or that which is spoken by local communities. The NEP 2020 mentions that wherever possible the medium of instruction up to at least class 5 and preferably up to class 8 will be in the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language and learning of

Indian languages should be integrated with school education so that students have the option of studying in any Indian language.

Further, NEP 2020 advocates increased flexibility and choice of subjects to study, particularly in secondary school - including subjects in physical education, the arts and crafts, and vocational skills – so that students can design their own paths of study and life plans. NEP 2020 provides for no hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams, etc. in order to eliminate harmful hierarchies among, and silos between different areas of learning.

Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) schools are being set up as NEP 2020 exemplar schools and are expected to become the template for other schools.
