

PM SHRI: A CATALYST FOR EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

The Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative marks a monumental leap towards India's vision of becoming a developed and knowledge-driven society. This paper critically explores the scheme's alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, its transformative potential in shaping future-ready citizens, and its implementation strategy. Through infrastructural innovation, holistic pedagogy, teacher empowerment, and inclusive practices, PM SHRI schools aim to become beacons of educational excellence. The paper concludes by evaluating the current progress, challenges, and way forward.

Key Words: PMSHRI Schools, NEP2020, Model school, Experiential learning, School governance, Transformational reforms in school education

INTRODUCTION

Education remains the cornerstone of a nation's development. For a country like India, endowed with a youthful demographic, the path to global leadership lies in reforming and strengthening its educational system. The PM SHRI initiative, a centrally sponsored scheme approved in September 2022, seeks to create a network of model schools that not only reflect modern pedagogical values but also remain rooted in India's rich civilizational ethos. These institutions are envisioned as exemplars showcasing the spirit of NEP 2020 and contributing to the larger vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

Understanding the PM SHRI Scheme

The PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) is a centrally sponsored initiative aimed at upgrading more than 14,500 existing schools to demonstrate NEP 2020 implementation in action.

Objectives:

- Establish quality-centric model schools grounded in Indian values.
- Foster holistic development through inclusive and experiential learning environments.
- Promote equity, digital integration, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.

Funding Pattern:

- 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs with legislatures.
- 90:10 for North Eastern/Himalayan states and J&K.

- 100% central funding for UTs without legislature.

Duration:

2022–23 to 2026–27, post which the onus shifts to States/UTs to sustain performance benchmarks.

Key Features and Components

1. Infrastructure Development:
 - Smart classrooms, science and ICT labs, Atal Tinkering Labs, skill labs, and green schools.
 - Optimal use of school premises as “Samajik Chetna Kendras.”
2. Curriculum & Pedagogy:
 - Experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, toy-based (foundational years), competency-based learning.
 - Emphasis on conceptual understanding and application to real-life situations.
3. Teacher Training:
 - Regular in-service training aligned with 21st-century skills and digital literacy.
 - Emphasis on inclusive and learner-centric approaches.
4. Holistic Development:
 - Focus on emotional, social, and physical well-being through sports, arts, value-based education, and career counselling.
5. Technology Integration:
 - Seamless incorporation of digital tools across teaching, assessment, and administration.
6. Inclusivity and Equity:
 - Special focus on multilingual learning, gender equity, Divyang inclusion, and foundational literacy.
7. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):
 - Emphasis on Balvatika, Jadui Pitara, and child-friendly infrastructure.

Selection and Monitoring

School Selection Process (3-Stage Challenge Mode):

- Stage 1: Signing of MoU between Centre and States/UTs.
- Stage 2: Identification using UDISE+ data.
- Stage 3: Evaluation via quality benchmarks and performance indicators.

School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF):

- Benchmarks include NEP implementation, enrolment tracking, learning outcomes, skill acquisition, community linkage, sustainability, and emotional well-being.

The Six Pillars of PM SHRI (Linked to NEP 2020)

Pillar	Focus Area	Related NEP Chapters
1	Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment	Chapters 1, 2, 4, 24
2	Access & Infrastructure	Chapters 3, 7
3	Human Resources & School Leadership	Chapters 5, 15
4	Inclusive Practices & Gender Equity	Chapter 6
5	Management, Monitoring & Governance	Chapter 8
6	Beneficiary Satisfaction	Chapter 8

Impact and Relevance in the 21st Century

- Future-Ready Citizens: Equipping students with critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.
- Models of Excellence: Functioning as mentorship hubs for other schools.
- Catalysts for Reform: Inspiring pedagogical and administrative innovations across the system.
- Strengthening Community: Reinforcing civic engagement, national values, and social unity.
- Bridging Gaps: Boosting enrolment, access, and equity across underserved regions.

Progress So Far

- MoUs Signed: 33 States/UTs and KVS/NVS.
- Schools Selected: 12,079 across four phases (Primary: 1,329 | Elementary: 3,340 | Secondary: 2,921 | Senior Secondary: 4,489).
- Enrolment Surge: 75.8% increase in student enrolment in pilot schools across five states (from 14,258 in 2020–21 to 25,065 in 2023–24).

Challenges and Way Forward

- Quality Training: Ongoing professional development for teachers is crucial.
- Monitoring & Transparency: Real-time assessment and feedback loops for accountability.
- Community Involvement: Active local participation for holistic success.
- Digital Equity: Addressing the digital divide to ensure uniform access.

CONCLUSION

The PM SHRI initiative is not just a policy intervention but a vision for India's educational renaissance. By embodying the principles of NEP 2020, these schools stand to redefine learning spaces into vibrant, inclusive, and future-ready institutions. If implemented with fidelity, they can transform the educational ecosystem and become the pillars of a Shikshit, Viksit, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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