



PM SHRI SCHEME: AN OVERVIEW – PAPER - II

1. Introduction

In a significant step towards enhancing the quality of education in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the upgrading of 14,500 schools through a centrally sponsored scheme known as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India).

The scheme aims to develop model schools that showcase the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Let us examine the key aspects of the PM SHRI scheme, its significance, associated federal issues, opposition from certain states, and the overarching vision of the initiative.

2. What is the PM SHRI Scheme?

The PM SHRI scheme is a centrally sponsored initiative designed to upgrade and transform existing schools into model institutions that epitomize the goals of NEP 2020. The key features of the PM SHRI scheme include:

- 1. High-Quality Education:** The scheme aims to provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive, and joyful environment that caters to diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, and varying academic abilities of children.
- 2. Mentorship and Leadership:** PM SHRI schools will mentor and provide leadership to other schools in their vicinity, promoting best practices and fostering a culture of excellence.
- 3. Green Schools:** The scheme emphasizes environmental sustainability by incorporating solar panels, LED lights, nutrition gardens, waste management systems, plastic-free zones, and water conservation practices.
- 4. Innovative Pedagogy:** The teaching methods in PM SHRI schools will be experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, and enjoyable.
- 5. Focus on Learning Outcomes:** Assessments will be based on conceptual understanding and real-life application of knowledge, ensuring competency-based evaluation at all levels.
- 6. Resource and Infrastructure Evaluation:** Continuous assessment of resources and their effectiveness will be conducted, with systematic plans to fill any identified gaps.



7. **Employment Linkages:** The scheme will explore partnerships with Sector Skill Councils and local industries to enhance employability and provide better job opportunities.
8. **School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF):** A framework will be developed to measure the key performance indicators and ensure regular quality evaluations of PM SHRI schools.

3. Significance of the PM SHRI Scheme

The PM SHRI scheme is a landmark initiative that holds significant importance for the Indian education system:

1. **Model Institutions:** By developing 14,500 model schools, the scheme aims to set benchmarks for quality education, which other schools can emulate.
2. **Environmental Consciousness:** The emphasis on green schools fosters environmental awareness and sustainability among students from a young age.
3. **Holistic Development:** The focus on innovative pedagogy and experiential learning ensures the holistic development of students, preparing them for real-world challenges.
4. **Enhanced Employability:** Linkages with local industries and skill councils will bridge the gap between education and employment, providing students with practical skills and better job prospects.
5. **National Education Policy 2020:** The scheme aligns with the vision of NEP 2020, aiming to transform the Indian education landscape by promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education.

4. Issues Associated with PM SHRI Scheme

Despite its noble objectives, the PM SHRI scheme has faced several issues, particularly concerning federal relations between the Centre and states:

1. **Conditional Funding:** The Centre's decision to withhold Samagra Shiksha funds from states that refuse to implement PM SHRI has raised concerns about conditional funding. States argue that educational funding should not be tied to specific schemes.
2. **Centralization vs. Federal Autonomy:** The scheme's implementation requires states to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to implement NEP 2020 in its



entirety. Some states view this as an infringement on their autonomy and decision-making powers.

3. **Naming Controversy:** The requirement to prefix PM SHRI to the names of selected schools has been contentious. States like West Bengal object to this condition, especially since they bear 40% of the scheme's cost.
4. **Political Overtones:** The scheme has been criticized for its perceived political overtones, with opposition-ruled states accusing the Centre of using it as a tool for political leverage.

5. States Opposing the PM SHRI Scheme and Reasons

Several states have opposed the PM SHRI scheme for various reasons:

1. **West Bengal:** The state has objected to the naming requirement, arguing that prefixing PM SHRI to schools' names undermines the contributions of state governments, which bear a significant portion of the scheme's cost.
2. **Punjab:** Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has declined to participate, stating that they are already implementing similar schemes, such as "Schools of Eminence," which focus on providing high-quality education.
3. **Delhi:** The Delhi government, also led by AAP, has refused to implement PM SHRI, citing their existing "Schools of Specialized Excellence" initiative, which aligns with the objectives of the PM SHRI scheme.

6. Conclusion: Vision of the PM SHRI Scheme

The PM SHRI scheme embodies a visionary approach to revamping the Indian education system by establishing model schools that reflect the principles of NEP 2020. By focusing on quality education, environmental sustainability, innovative pedagogy, and enhanced employability, the scheme aims to create a transformative impact on the education landscape. However, addressing the federal issues and ensuring collaborative implementation with states is crucial for the scheme's success.

Ultimately, the vision of PM SHRI is to create an inclusive, equitable, and high-quality educational environment that empowers students, nurtures their potential, and prepares them for a dynamic and sustainable future. As civil services aspirants, understanding the multifaceted aspects of such schemes is essential for contributing to informed policy-making and effective governance in the education sector.

MAIN PRACTICE QUESTIONS



1. Discuss the relationship between the PM SHRI scheme and the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and analyze the federal relations between the Centre and states in the context of its implementation.
2. Elaborate on the vision of the PM SHRI scheme and its alignment with the spirit of cooperative federalism in India.

ANSWERS

1. Discuss the relationship between the PM SHRI scheme and the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and analyze the federal relations between the Centre and states in the context of its implementation.

Introduction: The PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme is intrinsically linked to the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The scheme aims to develop 14,500 model schools that exemplify the goals and vision of NEP 2020, which emphasizes high-quality, equitable, and inclusive education.

NEP 2020 calls for innovative and holistic approaches to education, focusing on experiential and competency-based learning, which PM SHRI seeks to operationalize.

Core : However, the implementation of the PM SHRI scheme has highlighted significant federal challenges. The Centre's decision to withhold funds from the Samagra Shiksha scheme for states not participating in PM SHRI has sparked controversy. States such as West Bengal, Punjab, and Delhi have opposed the scheme, citing issues like the conditional nature of funding and the requirement to prefix PM SHRI to school names.

This has led to accusations of central overreach and political maneuvering, with states arguing that educational policies should respect state autonomy and not be used as tools for political leverage.

The States opposition includes the conditional prefix of PM SHRI in the name boards and communication despite of their 40% contribution. The federal relations between the Centre and states have thus been strained, with states demanding more flexibility and recognition of their existing educational initiatives.

Conclusion : The contention underscores the need for a balanced approach that aligns national educational goals with state-specific needs and conditions, fostering a cooperative federal framework for policy implementation.

2. Elaborate on the vision of the PM SHRI scheme and its alignment with the spirit of cooperative federalism in India.



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MAKING YOU SERVE THE NATION

Introduction : The vision of the PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme is to create model schools that provide high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education, in line with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Core : These schools are envisioned to be centers of excellence, showcasing best practices in pedagogy, environmental sustainability, and holistic student development. By focusing on innovative teaching methods, experiential learning, and competency-based assessments, PM SHRI aims to prepare students for real-world challenges and foster a culture of lifelong learning.

However, the successful realization of this vision relies heavily on the spirit of cooperative federalism. Cooperative federalism emphasizes collaboration and mutual respect between the Centre and states, recognizing that both have crucial roles in policy implementation.

For PM SHRI to achieve its objectives, it must be implemented in a manner that respects state autonomy and accommodates state-specific educational contexts.

The current challenges in the implementation of PM SHRI highlight the need for a more collaborative approach. States like Punjab, Delhi, and West Bengal have raised valid concerns about the scheme's conditional funding and naming requirements. Addressing these concerns through dialogue and flexibility can help build trust and cooperation.

Conclusion: A truly cooperative federal approach would involve joint decision-making, shared responsibilities, and recognition of states' existing educational initiatives. By fostering such collaboration, the PM SHRI scheme can effectively contribute to the national educational landscape, ensuring that the vision of NEP 2020 is realized in a manner that benefits all stakeholders.