



# STARS Project

## Why in News

The Union Cabinet has approved implementation of the [World Bank](#) aided- **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project** with a total project cost of Rs. 5,718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to about Rs. 3,700 crore.

## Key Points

- The STARS project would be implemented as a new [Centrally Sponsored Scheme](#) under the Department of School Education and Literacy, **Ministry of Education (MoE)**.
- **Aim and Focus:** These are aligned with the objectives of [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) of **Quality Based Learning Outcomes**.
  - **Strengthening the government-managed school education system** that primarily caters to the educational needs of girls and students from marginalised groups.
  - Focus on initiatives of [PM e-Vidya](#), **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission** and **National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education** as part of the [Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan](#).
- **Features:**
  - **Key Areas:**
    - Access and retention;
    - Right to education entitlements;
    - Quality interventions;
    - Teacher education and training;
    - Gender and equity;
    - Inclusive education; and
    - Upgradation of the learning environment.
  - **Support for Participation in PISA:** India's participation in the 2022 cycle of the [Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#) survey will also be funded by this project.
    - **PISA** was introduced in **2000** by the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD).
    - It tests the learning levels of 15-year-old children in reading, mathematics, and science. The test is conducted every three years.
    - **India stayed away from PISA in 2012 and 2015** on account of its dismal performance in 2009, when it was placed 72nd among the 74 participating countries. The government decided to end the boycott in 2019.
- **Major Components:**
  - **At the national level:**
    - To strengthen the **national data systems** of the Ministry of Education (MOE) to capture robust and authentic data on retention, transition and completion rates of

students.

- To support the strengthening of **learning assessment systems**.
- **PARAKH: Establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.**
  - a. Included in NEP, this **independent and autonomous** institution under the MOE **will set standards for the around 60 examination boards** in the country.
- **Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC):** It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
  - a. The CERC component would facilitate:
    - i. The **rapid re-categorization of financing** (to provide flexibility in the crisis situation).
    - ii. The **utilization of streamlined financing** request procedures (so that delays in financing is eliminated).
- **At the State level:**
  - The project seeks to **improve education outcomes** and **school-to-work transition strategies** for better labour market outcomes in **6 states**: Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.

## Way Forward

- The STARS programme builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing 'education for all'.
- STARS will support India's renewed focus on addressing the 'learning outcome' challenge and help students better prepare for the jobs of the future - through a series of reform initiatives.

**Source: PIB**

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