



5 Years of NEP 2020

For Prelims: [National Education Policy \(NEP 2020\)](#), [PM SHRI](#), [Right to Education Act, 2009](#), [PARAKH](#), [NISHTHA](#), [PM e-VIDYA](#), [DIKSHA](#), [Vidya Samiksha Kendra](#), [SDG](#), [Centrally Sponsored Scheme](#), [Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities \(MERUs\)](#)

For Mains: Key Achievements & Challenges Related to NEP 2020, Government Policies Related to Education, Measures to Strengthen NEP.

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The **Union Education Minister** inaugurated the [Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam \(ABSS\) 2025](#) to mark the **5th anniversary of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#)**.

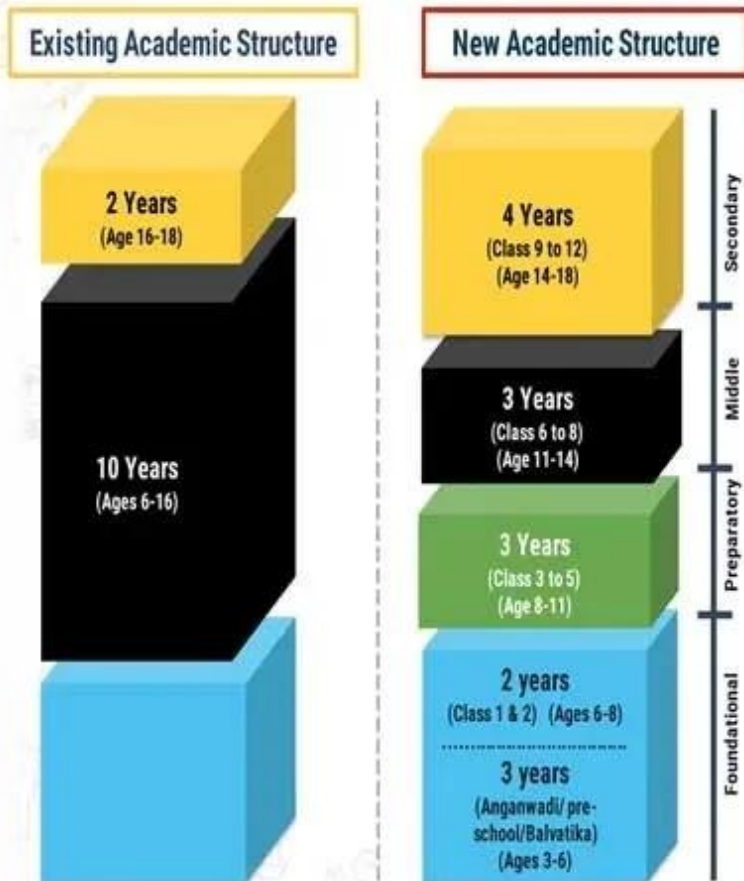
What are the Key Achievements of NEP 2020?

- **Mother Tongue-Based Education & Curriculum Reform:** The **5+3+3+4 structure** and NCF-SE (National Curriculum Framework for School Education) promote experiential, competency-based learning with mother tongue as the medium of instruction in early years.
- **Inclusivity:** Over **1.15 lakh students** from **SEDG (Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups)** and **7.58 lakh girls** have enrolled in **residential schools**.
 - The **PRASHAST App** supports disability screening.
- **Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN):** **NIPUN Bharat** and **Vidya Pravesh** have reached over **4.2 crore students** across **8.9 lakh schools**.
- **Teacher Training:** **4 lakh+** teachers trained under [NISHTHA](#) via digital platforms like [DIKSHA](#), and [PM e-Vidya](#).
- **Multidisciplinary & Holistic Higher Education:** NEP 2020 promotes [Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities \(MERUs\)](#) to provide world-class education.
 - Introduction of **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** enables **flexible learning** and **credit transfer** and emphasis on **Multiple Entry and Exit** systems.
 - **72%** of schools have internet access. Initiatives like **Vidyanjali**, **DIKSHA**, **PM e-Vidya**, **e-Jaadui Pitara (AI-powered play-based learning)**, and **AI Bots (e.g., Katha Sakhi, Teacher Tara)** are **enhancing education delivery**.
- **Common Testing:** **CUET**, introduced in 2022, has become a **key gateway for undergraduate admissions**.

What is the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020?

- **About:** The **National Education Policy 2020** aims to address issues of **quality, equity, access**, and **affordability** across **all levels of education**. It replaced the **34-year-old NEP of 1986**.
 - It is based on the recommendations of the [Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee](#).

Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school

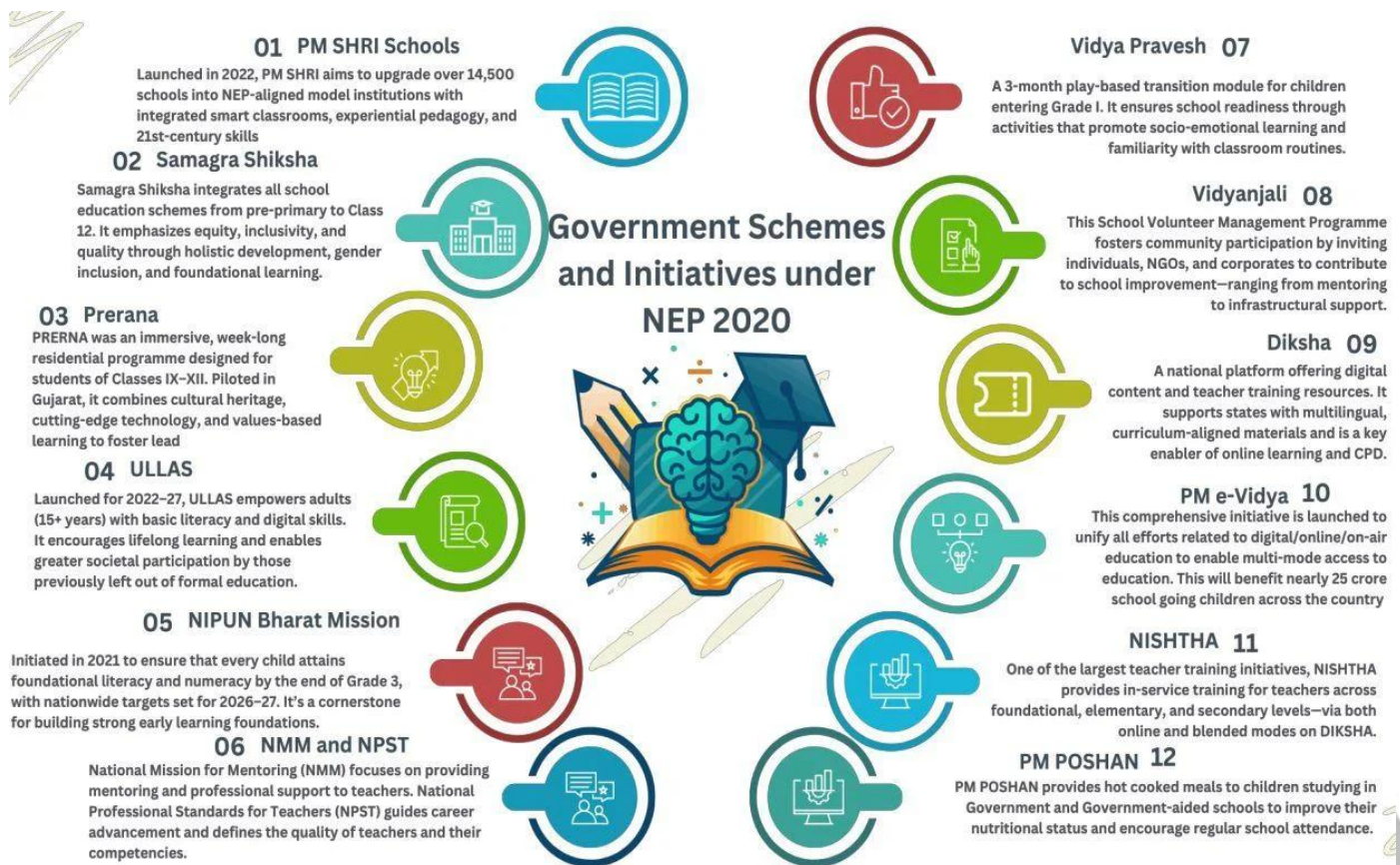
- **Secondary Stage(4)** multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects.
- **Middle Stage (3)** experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities
- **Preparatory Stage (3)** play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning
- **Foundational stage (5)** multilevel, play/activity-based learning

Targets of NEP 2020

Target Area	Goal
Early Childhood to Secondary Education	Universalization by 2030
Foundational Literacy & Numeracy	Achieve basic reading and numeracy skills by 2025 (via NIPUN Bharat)
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	100% in school education by 2030; 50% in higher education by 2035
Out-of-School Children	Reintegrate 2 crore children via open schooling
Teacher Training	Prepare all teachers for assessment reforms by 2023
Inclusive & Equitable Education	Full implementation by 2030

▪ Key Initiatives:

- [PM SHRI Schools](#)
- [NIPUN Bharat](#)
- [PARAKH \(Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development\)](#)
- [NISHTHA \(National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement\)](#)



What are the Key Challenges Related to the NEP 2020?

- **Lack of Consensus:** NEP implementation varies across states, with opposition from states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal over provisions like the **three-language formula**, **mother tongue instruction**, and **common entrance tests**.
- **Infrastructure & Financial Constraints:** There are shortages of **qualified teachers**, **poor digital infrastructure**, particularly in **rural areas**, and **inadequate Anganwadi preparedness** for quality **Balvatika (pre-primary)** education.
 - Public spending on education remains **below NEP's 6% of GDP target**, with **budgetary allocations falling short** of supporting the policy's **ambitious reforms**.
- **Regulatory & Linguistic Barriers:** The establishment of the **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**, intended as a successor to the **UGC (University Grants Commission)**, and the rollout of the **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education** have both experienced delays.
 - Additionally, **translating educational content** into diverse Indian languages and the **shortage of regionally fluent teachers** pose major implementation challenges.
- **Resistance & Weak Monitoring:** **Institutional resistance to pedagogical reforms** and apprehensions about **over-centralisation (e.g., CUET)** hamper adoption.
 - Also, the **lack of robust data systems** and **uneven implementation** hinder effective **monitoring and evaluation** of NEP 2020 outcomes.

What Steps are Needed to Strengthen the Implementation of NEP 2020?

- **Enhance Research & Innovation:** Invest in research at the **technology-pedagogy** interface for **evidence-based, context-specific innovations**.
- **Digital Infrastructure Gap:** There is an urgent need to **upgrade school-level ICT infrastructure**, as only **57.2% schools have functional computers** and **53.9% have internet access (UDISE+ 2023-24)**.
- **Teacher Training:** Enhance capacity-building for **tech integration**, promoting **creativity**,

critical thinking, and ethical reasoning.

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Foster cooperation among **educators, technologists, social scientists, and policymakers** to steer **future-ready learning ecosystems**.

Conclusion

NEP 2020 provides a **transformative vision** for a **21st-century education system**. Notable progress includes **Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN)**, **digital access**, and **higher education reforms**. However, **federal disagreements, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory delays** remain key challenges. With **strategic investment, inter-governmental coordination, and innovation**, NEP's goals of a **flexible, inclusive, and future-ready education ecosystem** can be achieved.

Drishti Mains Question:

What are the key features of National Education Policy (NEP 2020). Critically analyze the impact of NEP 2020 on federalism.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (2020)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/5-years-of-nep-2020>