

# **Report on Haryana Government Schools**

### Why in News?

A recent government report revealed that **19 schools in the state are without any students,** 811 schools have just one teacher, and a total of 3,148 schools have less than half of their student capacity filled.

# **Key Points**

- The report, which outlined key points from a **meeting held by the Union education ministry's project** approval board in February 2024, pinpointed 14,562 government schools in the state.
- The report highlighted the insufficient number of teachers, particularly in elementary schools, and advised the government to promptly fill these vacancies.
  - The shortage of teachers has impacted the central funding allocated for salary payments.
  - In the primary sector, the financial assistance has decreased to Rs 14 lakh from Rs 19 lakh in the 2021-22 period.
  - Similarly, in higher education, grants have dropped from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 14 lakh due to several unfilled positions.
- Apart from the shortage of teachers, the report also pointed to lack of basic infrastructure for students in these schools.
  - While the schools are 18% short of their target for additional classrooms, toilets for boys and girls are 1% and 1.8% fewer than what they should be. Smart classrooms are also 1.4% behind the required number.
- The report emphasized that non-recurring approvals from the past, which have not been addressed by the state for years, will eventually become the state's sole responsibility after a period of 5 years according to the <u>Samagra Shiksha framework</u>.
- Schools that have not set up facilities must withdraw their initial proposals and think about submitting new ones.
  - The state government has been directed to regularly update the progress of pending tasks on the <u>Prabandh portal</u> to avoid any errors in the data presented.

# Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- It is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII.
- It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education.
- It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik
   Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme covers **1.16 million schools**, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).
- It is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme. It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States. It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.

# Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):

- In order to enhance the direct outreach of the scheme, all child-centric interventions
  will be provided directly to the students through DBT mode on an IT-based platform
  over a period of time.
- This DBT would **include RTE (Right to Education) entitlement**s such as textbooks, uniforms and transport allowance.

#### On NEP Recommendations:

#### Encouraging Indian languages:

• It has a new component for appointment of language teachers, which includes salaries, and training costs as well as bilingual books and teaching learning material as recommended in NEP.

#### • Pre-primary Education:

- It will now include **funding to support pre-primary sections at government schools**, i.e. for teaching and learning materials, indigenous toys and games and play-based activities.
- Master trainers for pre-primary teachers and anganwadi workers will be supported under the scheme.

#### NIPUN Bharat Initiative:

• Under this initiative, an **annual provision of Rs. 500 per child** for learning materials, Rs. 150 per teacher for manuals and resources and Rs. 10-20 lakh per district will be given for assessment for foundational literacy and numeracy.

#### On Digital Initiatives:

 There is a provision for ICT labs and smart classrooms, including support for digital boards, virtual classrooms and DTH channels which have become more important in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### For out-of-school children:

- It includes a provision to support out of school children from age 16 to 19 with funding of Rs. 2000 per grade to complete their education via open schooling.
- There will also be a greater focus on skills and vocational education, both for students in school and dropouts.

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