



## Holistic Progress Card

**For Prelims:** National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT), [Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development \(PARAKH\)](#), [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).

**For Mains:** National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT), Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms.

[Source: IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the **National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT)** has introduced a new '**Holistic Progress Card**' (HPC), which will measure, apart from academic performance, a child's progress in interpersonal relationships, self-reflection, creativity, and emotional application in classrooms.

### Note

The HPCs have been devised by [Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development \(PARAKH\)](#), a standard-setting body under the NCERT, for the foundational stage (Classes 1 and 2), preparatory stage (Classes 3 to 5) and middle stage (Classes 6 to 8), as per suggestions by the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).

### What is a Holistic Progress Card (HPC)?

#### ▪ About:

- The HPC is a new approach to **evaluating students' academic performance** that moves away from **traditional reliance on marks or grades**.
- Instead, it adopts a **comprehensive 360-degree evaluation system** that takes into account various aspects of a student's development and learning experience.

#### ▪ Features:

- Under the HPC model, students are actively **engaged in class activities where they are encouraged to apply a range of skills** and competencies, demonstrating their understanding of concepts.
- The difficulty level they encounter while performing tasks is also considered in the assessment process.
- Teachers play a crucial role in **assessing students' strengths and weaknesses** across different dimensions, such as collaboration, creativity, empathy, attention, and preparedness.
- This allows teachers to identify **areas where students may need additional support** or guidance.

- One distinctive feature of the HPC is that **it involves students in the evaluation process.**
  - Students are encouraged to assess their **own performance as well as that of their peers**, providing insights into their learning experiences and the learning environment.
- Moreover, the HPC integrates **parents into the assessment process by soliciting their input on various aspects** of their child's learning, including homework completion, classroom participation, and **balancing screen time with extracurricular activities at home.**
- **Need:**
  - Departing from the traditional emphasis on memorisation, the **HPC prioritises the evaluation of higher-order skills**, including analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity among students.
  - Aligned with the NEP's directives, the [National Curriculum Framework for School Education \(NCF-SE\)](#) was introduced in 2023, advocating for a shift towards assessing **student progress through the systematic collection of evidence.**
    - Additionally, the NCF SE promotes **peer and self-assessment methods to empower students** in monitoring their own learning journey.
  - To gain a comprehensive understanding of students' core competencies, the NCF SE suggests **incorporating diverse classroom assessment methods**, such as projects, debates, presentations, experiments, investigations, and role plays. The design of HPC is in harmony with these recommendations.

## What is PARAKH?

- **About:**
  - PARAKH has been launched as part of the implementation of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020](#) that envisaged a standard-setting body to advise school boards regarding new assessment patterns and latest research, and promote collaborations between them.
    - It will act as a constituent unit of the NCERT.
  - It will also be tasked with **holding periodic learning outcome tests** like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.
  - It will **work on three major assessment areas:** large-scale assessments, school-based assessment, and examination reforms.
- **Objective:**
  - **Uniform Norms & Guidelines:** Setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards of India.
  - **Enhance Assessment Pattern:** It will encourage and help school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century.
  - **Reduce Disparity in Evaluation:** It will bring uniformity across the state and central boards which currently follow different standards of evaluation, leading to wide disparities in scores.
  - **Benchmark Assessment:** The benchmark assessment framework will seek to put an end to the emphasis on rote learning, as envisaged by the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020.](#)

## What is NCF for School Education?

- **About:**
  - The **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE)** is developed based on the vision of the **NEP 2020**, and to enable its implementation.
  - The formulation of NCF-SE will be undertaken by the NCERT. The NCFSE document shall henceforth be revisited and **updated once every 5-10 years, considering the frontline curriculum.**
- **Objectives:**
  - The NCF-SE serves as a **guideline for developing syllabi, textbooks, and teaching practices** in India.
  - Its objectives include shifting from rote (memorization by repetition) learning, connecting

education to real-life situations, making examinations more flexible, and enriching the curriculum beyond textbooks.

- The NCFSE also aims to **make learning enjoyable, child-centred**, and self-reliant, and promote democratic values. It provides guidelines for counseling secondary school students and is mandated for all age groups.

## What are the Legal and Constitutional Provisions Related to Education in India?

### ▪ Legal Provisions:

- The government has implemented the [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan \(SSA\)](#) as part of the [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act](#) for the primary level (6-14 years).
- Moving to the secondary level (age group 14-18), the government has extended the SSA to secondary education through the [Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan](#).
- Higher education, encompassing undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and MPhil/PhD levels, is addressed by the government through the [Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan \(RUSA\)](#) to meet the requirements of higher education.
  - All these schemes have been subsumed under the **umbrella scheme of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**.

### ▪ Constitutional Provisions:

- [Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy \(DPSP\)](#) initially stipulated that the government should ensure free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 within 10 years of the Constitution's commencement.
- Furthermore, an **amendment to Article 45 broadened** its purview to include early childhood care and education for children **under six years old**.
- Due to the non-fulfillment of this goal, the [86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002](#) introduced [Article 21A](#), elevating elementary education to the status of a fundamental right instead of a directive principle.

## What are the Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms?

- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#)
- [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan](#)
- [PRAGYATA](#)
- [Mid Day Meal Scheme](#)
- [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#)
- [PM SHRI Schools](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims:

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans- (d)

**Mains:**

**Q1.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

**Q2.** How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. **(2020)**

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