



NEP 2020 and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

For Prelims: [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan](#), [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](#).

For Mains: Key features of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and federal issues arising from their implementation.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

The Union Government has **withheld Tamil Nadu's central share** of [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan](#) funds for opposing the [National Education Policy \(NEP 2020\)](#).

Why Tamil Nadu Opposes NEP 2020?

- **Language Policy Dispute:** NEP 2020 mandates a [three-language policy](#) (Tamil, English, and a regional language), which Tamil Nadu views as an **imposition** of the **center's policy**.
 - Tamil Nadu follows a **two-language formula (Tamil and English)** since 1968.
- **Undermining State Autonomy:** Tamil Nadu sees the Centre's push for uniform NEP implementation as an **infringement on its autonomy**, weakening [cooperative federalism](#).
 - Education is on the [Concurrent List](#), requiring flexibility and **state-level adaptability**.
 - Tamil Nadu is drafting its own **State Education Policy** to suit its **socio-linguistic and economic context**.
- **Call for a Pragmatic Approach:** Tamil Nadu argues that central schemes like **Samagra Shiksha** and [PM SHRI](#) should be **delinked from NEP 2020**.
 - Funding should be based on **performance indicators** rather than policy compliance.

What is the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020?

- **About:** NEP 2020 replaced the **34-year-old NEP of 1986** and aimed to bridge gaps in **quality, equity, and access to education** at all levels.
 - Based on the recommendations of [Dr K Kasturirangan committee](#), it prioritizes **foundational literacy, a holistic curriculum, multilingual learning**, and integration of vocational and academic pathways.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Structural Reforms:** NEP 2020 replaced the **10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 structure**, aligning education with the developmental needs of children **aged 3 to 18 years**.

Stage	Duration	Ages (Grades Covered)	Key Features
Foundational Stage	5 years	Ages 3-8 (Preschool &	Play-based learning

		Grades 1-2)	
Preparatory Stage	3 years	Grades 3-5	Introduction of formal learning methodologies
Middle Stage	3 years	Grades 6-8	Experiential and multidisciplinary learning
Secondary Stage	4 years	Grades 9-12	Flexibility in subject choices

- **Experiential Learning:** NEP 2020 emphasizes experiential learning through **internships, field visits, and real-world projects** to bridge theory and practice.
 - NEP promotes technology integration through **digital literacy, online platforms,** and tech-enabled classrooms to enhance learning.
- **Teacher Training:** NEP 2020 emphasizes continuous professional development to **equip teachers for evolving educational needs.**
- **Key Initiatives:**
 - **PM SHRI scheme:** It aims to develop **14,500 ideal schools** to serve as role models.
 - **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** It was launched to ensure **foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2.**
 - **PARAKH:** [PARAKH \(Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development\)](#) have been introduced to **monitor learning outcomes.**
 - **NISHTHA:** [NISHTHA \(National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement\)](#) teacher training program launched to **equip educators with skills** aligned with NEP's transformative goals.
- **Major Achievements:**
 - **Foundational Stage Curriculum:** The [National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage \(NCF-FS\)](#) introduced the **Jadui Pitara kit** to promote play-based learning for children aged 3-8.
 - **Regional Language Inclusion:** AICTE-approved engineering and medical courses are now available in **regional languages,** with **JEE and NEET** conducted in **13 languages** for better accessibility.
 - **Four-Year Undergraduate Program (FYUP):** Over 105 universities have adopted the FYUP, offering **multiple exit options and greater flexibility** in higher education.
 - **Global IITs:** **IIT-Madras** opened a campus in **Zanzibar** (Tanzania) and **IIT-Delhi** is planning a campus in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
 - **Digital Learning:** [PM e-VIDYA](#) and [DIKSHA platforms](#) promote digital learning for universal access, while [Vidya Samiksha Kendra](#) provides real-time data on educational progress.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Integration of the 5+3+3+4 Structure:** Aligning state curricula and training teachers for new methods remains a **challenge,** with foundational textbooks for some grades only recently prepared.
 - **Pending Legislation:** NEP 2020 proposes merging **UGC, AICTE, and NCTE** into a single higher education regulator, but the legislative framework is still **pending.**
 - **Lack of Uniform Monitoring:** Although evaluation efforts are ongoing, there are **no standardized assessment metrics** across states to measure NEP's impact effectively.

What is Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan?

- **About:** Introduced in the Union Budget 2018-19, **Samagra Shiksha** is a comprehensive program covering education from **pre-nursery to Class 12** to ensure equitable learning outcomes.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Integration of Schemes:** It subsumes three earlier schemes:
 - **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):** Focused on universal primary education.
 - **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA):** Aimed at secondary education.
 - **Teacher Education (TE):** Focused on training teachers.
 - **Sector-Wide Development Approach:** It streamlines implementation across **all levels (state, district, and sub-district)** instead of fragmented project-based objectives.
 - **Alignment with SDGs:** Ensures free, equitable, and quality education ([SDG 4.1](#)) while

eliminating gender disparities and ensuring access for vulnerable groups (**SDG 4.5**).

- **Implementation:** It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** (CSS) implemented through a **single State Implementation Society (SIS)** at the **State/UT level**.
 - SIS is a **state-registered body** implementing **CSS** and **development programs**.

Click Here to Read:

- [How CSS Pose Challenge to Fiscal Federalism?](#)
- [What are the Challenges in Competitive and Cooperative Federalism in India?](#)

Conclusion

The withholding of Samagra Shiksha funds **highlights the tension between the Centre and Tamil Nadu** over NEP 2020, reflecting broader issues of **federalism, linguistic autonomy, and education policy** implementation. Ensuring educational progress requires a **collaborative approach** that respects state-specific needs while maintaining national development goals.

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)

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