

Report on Hon'ble Prime Minister's Address (During Conclave Inauguration)

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Shikshak Parv was inaugurated on Sept 7, 2021, to mark the completion of one year of NEP 2020, and to felicitate teachers, professors, academicians, policymakers, and others who have contributed to the making of the policy, and in the area of education.

The theme of Shikshak Parv is “*Quality and Sustainable School – Learnings from Schools in India*” as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.

Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan gave the welcome address. He expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his guidance in reimagining the role of education for the country's progress, and inspiring teachers to develop a connection with the country's soul in realising the nation's dreams.

Shri Pradhan further said that the country has been passing through difficult times due to the prevailing Pandemic situation. In these circumstances, teachers have played a leading role; therefore, we need to learn from their experiences and that the idea of Shikshak Parv has originated on the behest of the Hon'ble Prime Minister guidance and vision. It will also be an important event during the Amrit Utsav of Azadi- 75 years of Independence.

Hon'ble Minister of Education further added that while teachers and professors are at the centre of Shikshak Parv, another initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Priksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is intended to guide students in their pursuit of education. Shikshak Parv will be an opportunity for teachers to understand and pursue the Hon'ble Prime Minister's philosophy and dream of creating a *New India*.

He apprised the audience about the five new releases and requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to launch (virtually) and dedicate the new initiatives to the people.

Five Releases

1. ISL Dictionary based on Universal Design of Learning
2. Talking Books
3. NISHTHA 3.0-NIPUN Bharat
4. VIDYANJALI
5. School Quality Assessment and Assurance (SQAA) Framework

Hon'ble Minister said that under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister education would bring transformational changes in the country.

Address by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi greeted his cabinet Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministers from States, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Smt. Annpurna Devi and Shri Kasturangan Chairperson, and Members of the NEP 2020 Committee, academics, experts, principals, teachers and students. He congratulated teachers who have been National Awardees. He highlighted the role of teachers for their guidance to students and their praiseworthy contribution in these difficult times of pandemic. He was happy to see the beaming faces of students since schools were reopened after almost two years. He said they should not be carried away with the enthusiasm of going to school and meeting friends, but remain cautious and follow Covid rules sincerely.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister referred to the new projects and the initiatives undertaken during the celebration of Amrit Utsav of Azadi- 75 years of Independence and how these will determine the image of New India on the completion of hundred years. The projects will help in realising the nation's dreams and make students future-ready. The initiatives such as DIKSHA, NISTHA, Talking Books, SQAAF will facilitate children's learning in an equitable and inclusive environment. These will help in making the education system globally competent.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister referred to the pandemic time as very challenging for students and teachers. However, he praised the teachers for their ability to overcome these challenges by innovating and successfully imparting online education, conducting online projects, group voice calls and online examinations. The use of technology in this manner was new to all and never heard of or experienced before. Now such practices are part of our daily life. He encouraged teachers to take these capacities forward and give new direction to these learnings, thus expanding the horizon of education.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that we are fortunate that people are looking forward to the changes, and that the NEP was released at this juncture in time. The NEP 2020 is an advanced and futuristic policy. Major reformative decisions in the last few years will transform the education sector of the country. One of the major strengths of reforms he highlighted is that all the initiatives are participatory in nature. In every stage, from the formulation to the implementation, experts, academicians, teachers, professors and policymakers have played a significant role, and they deserve much appreciation. The next step would be to urge people, society and communities to participate in this process.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister quoted a *shloka* to highlight the importance of Education (Vidya) as one of the most valuable treasures because it has the power to expand as it is shared (VidyaDaan) with others. He mentioned that all teachers must have experienced this sense of self-fulfillment. He stated that the programme Vidyanjali 2.0 is an initiative to strengthen the efforts for ensuring progress for all. It is a dynamic platform for the society and private sector to come forward and contribute in the direction of quality improvement in education and society, at large. He talked

about how in India we have a tradition of strengthening society through partnership since time immemorial. *Janbhagidaari* is a feature of national character. We must make it robust by ensuring people's participation. He said that we have realised it in programmes such as *Swachh Bharat*, Digital India, etc. Vidyanjali is an invitation to professionals and entrepreneurs to come forward and work to give a new direction to students' dreams and goals. He cited the example of a bank manager in Utrakhand and a few others who played a significant role in connecting with children and making their lives better.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister praised the brilliant performance of Indian athletes at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Indian youth has been inspired by their exceptional performances. He informed the audience that during his meeting with athletes, he requested them to visit at least seventy-five schools and engage children in dialogue to inspire and encourage them to excel in sports.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister then went on to discuss another milestone initiative viz. the establishment of School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF). He said that this will remove all the anomalies and create an equitable and inclusive platform for education in terms of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and inclusive teaching-learning practices. The framework gives States the flexibility to adapt it as per their needs and varying contexts. By establishing standards and removing disparities, it will bring transformational changes in education.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister said that education is the most potent tool for social mobility and is instrumental in removing inequalities. The establishment of NDEAR platform will deliver diverse, relevant, contextual, innovative solutions and ensure policy implementation. He mentioned that the various provisions for multiple entry and exit points at higher education, credit-based assessment, linkages in academic activities, and transparency through digitisation of the system will be beneficial for all students. He remarked that these transformations will be the face of new-age education. Education will henceforth be inclusive and based on equity. In order to realise these objectives, he stated that Sign language has been given the status of a subject in the curriculum. An ISL dictionary comprising of ten thousand words has been brought out for the benefit of *Divyaang* children.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister further added that under NIPUN, FLN Mission had been launched for children from three to eight years of age. Initiatives have been taken up to bring quality in pre-primary years of education. Another step is to develop competencies, higher-order thinking skills, creativity and critical thinking. However, he clarified that there is no denying that teachers are at the helm of affairs for all educational endeavours. He pointed to the fact that in this time of transition, teachers will benefit from NISHTHA 3.0 to build their professional capacities. The online teacher training modules will help prepare teachers for the new challenges that students are facing.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister reassuringly said that we can realise our inner capabilities to achieve our goals because of our inherent *Samskaras*. Recalling his visits to Bhutan and Saudi Arabia, he felt proud when told about the learned Indian teachers who taught there with dedication. Teachers leave an imprint with their sensitivity, bonding and ethical duties wherever they go and teach. He urged teachers that now is time to take this spirit to new heights and turn possibilities into opportunities to redefine and redesign teaching and learning.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed his delight over the activities such as the series of workshops and seminars that will take place during the Shikshak Parv. The Shikshak Parv that started on the 5th September 2021, he said will culminate on 17th September 2021 on the occasion of *Vishwakarma* Day, celebrating the architect and the creator with divine qualities. He highlighted that the celebrations of policy experts, academicians and teachers during the Parv will help in the successful implementation of NEP 2020. He urged people to engage in collective thinking in villages and cities so that the new forward looking objectives of NEP 2020 can be achieved. He ended his address by reiterating that only with everybody's efforts in the education sector can India progress.