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NCERT



National Conference on School Libraries

NCSL 2026

Policy Perspectives and Case Studies on Advancing Literacy, Digital Inclusion, Civic Engagement, and Nation-Building under NEP 2020

19–20 November 2026

Organised by

Library and Documentation Division

National Council Educational Research and Training,
Sri Aurbindo Marg, New Delhi

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THE INSTITUTION

About NCERT

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), established in 1961, is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. NCERT, with its headquarters in New Delhi, plays a pivotal role in shaping and strengthening school education across the country. It assists and advises the Central and State Governments on educational policies and programmes, while leading initiatives in curriculum development, educational research, teacher education, and the creation of high-quality learning resources, including textbooks and digital content.

As a key institution in India's educational framework, NCERT promotes innovation, excellence, and equity in education through initiatives such as the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP). NCERT's academic and research activities are supported by a robust library network comprising the Central Library (Library and Documentation Division) at NCERT Headquarters, libraries at the Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Nellore, and Shillong, as well as specialized libraries at CIET, New Delhi and PSSCIVE, Bhopal.

PURPOSE & DIRECTION

Vision & Rationale

> *Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the NCERT Library seeks to be a vibrant knowledge hub that supports teaching, learning, research, and innovation in education.*

The library is envisioned not merely as a repository of information but as a dynamic academic space that promotes reading, critical thinking, creativity, and lifelong learning.

As an integral part of NCERT's educational and research ecosystem, it provides access to diverse print and digital resources, supports evidence-based scholarship, and facilitates the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Through its integrated library network, modern information services, and commitment to equitable access, the NCERT Library encourages intellectual growth, collaboration, and academic excellence while contributing to the broader goals of quality and inclusive education.

THE APEX LIBRARY

About LDD, NCERT

The Library and Documentation Division (LDD), NCERT is the central library and knowledge resource centre of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. Established in 1961, the Division serves as a premier educational library supporting research, curriculum development, teacher education, policy formulation, and academic activities across the country.

With a rich and diverse collection of books, journals, reports, theses, NCERT publications, digital resources, and educational databases, LDD caters to the information needs of researchers, educators, students, librarians, and policymakers. The Division offers a wide range of services, including reference and information services, circulation, current awareness services, access to e-resources, Web-OPAC, institutional repository, and information literacy programmes. Through its innovative digital initiatives, professional development programmes, and commitment to excellence in library services, LDD promotes equitable access to knowledge, lifelong learning, research integrity, and the effective use of information in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

A NATIONWIDE NETWORK

The NCERT Library System

The NCERT Library System is a nationwide network of libraries functioning under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It comprises the Library and Documentation Division (LDD), New Delhi, which serves as the apex library, along with the libraries of NCERT's constituent units, including the Regional Institutes of Education (Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Nellore and Shillong), the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) New Delhi, the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE) Bhopal, and other constituent centres. The system supports teaching, learning, research, curriculum development, teacher education, and educational policy through integrated access to print, digital, and multimedia resources.

In addition to its core academic and information services, the NCERT Library System plays a significant role in the development of school libraries and the professional growth of school librarians across India. Through national conferences, capacity-building programmes, training workshops, information literacy initiatives, and the dissemination of best practices, NCERT promotes innovative, inclusive, and sustainable school library services aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 — contributing to a strengthened educational ecosystem and a culture of reading, inquiry, and lifelong learning.

LDD - New Delhi	RIE · Ajmer	RIE · Bhopal
RIE · Bhubaneswar	RIE · Mysuru	RIE · Nellore
NERIE · Shillong	CIET · New Delhi	PSSCIVE · Bhopal

THE CONCEPT

Background Paper — NCSL 2026

School libraries are fundamental to the realization of quality education and the development of lifelong learners.

Once regarded as repositories of books, contemporary school libraries have become dynamic learning environments that encourage literacy, inquiry, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. NEP 2020 recognizes libraries as integral to the educational ecosystem and calls for vibrant school library systems that cultivate reading habits, strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy, promote multilingualism, ensure equitable access to quality learning resources, and leverage technology for learning.

In today's knowledge society, learners require not only literacy but also information, media, digital and, increasingly, AI literacy. Libraries are the spaces where students learn to locate, evaluate, create, and ethically use information — while advancing constitutional values, civic engagement, cultural heritage, and the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby contributing to nation-building.

Building on the National Conference on School Libraries (NCSL) 2025, NCSL 2026 deepens the national discourse on the role of school libraries in advancing NEP 2020 — focusing on policy perspectives and evidence-based case studies, and bringing together policymakers, educators, teacher-librarians, researchers, administrators, and technology experts to reimagine libraries as vibrant, inclusive, technology-enabled, and learner-centred spaces.

WHY WE CONVENE

Objectives of the Conference

The two-day conference is being organised with the following specific objectives:

- To provide a national level platform for school librarians to present research papers, action research studies, and evidence-based practices in school libraries.
- To provide a forum for exchange of ideas, experiences, and professional expertise among school librarians, and library professionals from across the country.
- To provide opportunities for participants to exhibit their posters, projects, and innovative library practices in their schools.
- To encourage participants for adoption of technology-enabled library services in schools.
- To explore the role of school libraries in implementing the recommendations of NEP 2020, like foundational literacy, reading culture, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.
- To showcase innovative library initiatives, services, best practices, ICT implementations and successful models that enhanced student learning.
- To promote action research among school librarians for continuous improvement of library programmes, services, and resource utilization.
- To foster collaboration and networking among school librarians across the country.

LIVE · STAGE-BASED SESSIONS

Call for Innovation Showcase

Beyond conventional paper presentations, NCSL 2026 invites schools, librarians, educators, and institutions to demonstrate innovative, scalable practices through live, stage-based sessions that participants can directly observe, learn from, and adapt in their own institutions. (For more details, please visit the website: https://ncert.nic.in/ldd/ncsl)

SHOWCASE I

School Library Innovation Showcase: Transforming Learning Spaces

A dynamic stage-based session where selected presenters demonstrate practices that have transformed library services and learning experiences — through practical demonstrations, live presentations, and real-world implementation models that bridge policy and practice in line with NEP 2020. Live demonstrations may include library makerspaces, reading-promotion campaigns, digital storytelling, mobile library and community outreach, AI-assisted library services, and inclusive library space redesigns.

SHOWCASE II

Best Practices Forum: Replicable Models for School Libraries

A practitioner-focused session highlighting successful, innovative, and scalable initiatives with measurable impact on teaching, learning, literacy development, student engagement, and community participation. The Forum focuses on evidence-based case studies, practical demonstrations, and measurable outcomes — emphasising approaches that are sustainable, scalable, and adaptable across diverse school environments.

BEST PRACTICES FORUM · FOCUS AREAS

Presenters are encouraged to highlight the context, objectives, methodology, resources, challenges, assessment strategies, and impact of their initiatives across the following focus areas:

01 Successful School Library Interventions

- Case studies of innovative library programmes and services
- Evidence of impact on learning, engagement, or literacy
- Low-cost and scalable models for school libraries

02 Reading Campaigns & Literacy Initiatives

- School-wide reading promotion programmes
- Reading challenges, clubs, and reading festivals
- Strategies for building habits and measuring outcomes

03 Community Engagement & Outreach

- Community libraries and outreach initiatives
- Parent and family engagement in reading
- Partnerships with local institutions and NGOs

04 Digital Inclusion & Technology Services

- Digital library initiatives and e-resource access
- Technology-supported learning and information access
- Innovative approaches to bridging the digital divide

05 Student-Led Library Innovations

- Student library leadership programmes
- Peer learning and student volunteer initiatives
- Student-created services, content, and activities

06 Collaboration: Librarians & Teachers

- Curriculum-integrated library programmes
- Collaborative teaching and project-based learning
- Partnerships supporting inquiry and literacy

CONFERENCE THEMES

1 · THEME ONE

School Libraries and Foundational Literacy

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is a national priority under NEP 2020, recognizing that reading with understanding and communicating effectively forms the basis for all future learning. School libraries create rich literacy environments, provide access to diverse reading materials, and foster a culture of reading beyond the classroom.

Through structured reading programmes, storytelling, reading clubs, book talks, and reader advisory services, libraries cultivate reading habits and help learners become confident, independent readers. In a multilingual country like India, libraries also support language development for first-generation and disadvantaged learners. Increasingly, evidence-based practice, learning analytics, and action research help demonstrate library impact on learning outcomes.

SUB-THEMES

- Role of libraries in achieving FLN goals under NEP 2020
- Multilingual collections and language development
- Assessment of reading habits and reading behaviour
- Action research and evidence-based practices
- Innovative reading promotion and reading-culture initiatives
- Support for literacy among diverse and disadvantaged learners
- Measuring library impact on learning outcomes
- Best practices in library-led literacy interventions
- Storytelling, read-aloud programmes, and literacy activities
- Family and community participation in literacy
- Learning analytics and data-driven library services
- Libraries as partners in lifelong reading

2 · THEME TWO

Digital Inclusion and Equitable Access to Knowledge

Access to information has become a critical determinant of educational opportunity and social inclusion. While technology has expanded access, disparities persist in infrastructure, connectivity, devices, and digital skills. School libraries serve as gateways to equitable access to knowledge and digital learning for all learners.

NEP 2020 emphasizes effective integration of technology with equitable, inclusive access. Libraries facilitate access to digital libraries, e-books, databases, and Open Educational Resources, and are evolving into facilitators of digital knowledge services through online catalogues, repositories, virtual reference, and remote access — while bridging the digital divide with devices, connectivity, assistive technologies, and accessible formats.

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Digital libraries and e-resource services in schools
- Virtual and hybrid library service models
- Technology-enabled learning spaces and hubs
- Assistive technologies for learners with disabilities
- Universal access and equity in digital learning
- Integration of ICT in library programmes
- Digital repositories and knowledge management
- Mobile technologies and remote access
- Accessible digital content and inclusive services
- Best practices in technology-enabled services
- Open Educational Resources and digital content
- Bridging the digital divide through libraries
- Digital access for rural and underserved communities
- Capacity building for digital literacy

3 · THEME THREE

Civic Engagement, Nation-Building & Constitutional Values

NEP 2020 envisions education as a means to develop constitutional values, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, cultural awareness, and active citizenship. School libraries occupy a unique position as democratic learning spaces that provide equitable access to information, encourage critical inquiry, and promote meaningful engagement with society.

By enabling learners to explore diverse perspectives and evaluate reliable sources, libraries foster critical thinking, empathy, and respect for diversity, and promote media and information literacy. They advance constitutional values, preserve cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge, and act as agents of inclusive development contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Libraries as spaces of democratic participation
- Media and information literacy for citizenship
- School libraries as agents of social transformation
- National integration through reading and culture
- Environmental awareness and sustainability
- Promoting constitutional values through libraries
- Combating misinformation and critical evaluation
- Preserving cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge
- Intercultural understanding in diverse societies
- Case studies on civic engagement
- Citizenship education and student engagement
- Libraries and community engagement programmes
- Libraries and local history documentation
- School libraries and the SDGs

4 · THEME FOUR

Innovative Services, Engagement, Leadership, Policy & Management

School libraries are evolving from information repositories into dynamic learning environments that support creativity, collaboration, and lifelong learning. Under NEP 2020 they are expected to foster engagement, support curriculum implementation, and enhance access to knowledge — requiring innovative services, effective leadership, sound governance, and strategic management.

Contemporary libraries adopt gamification, makerspaces, storytelling, reading campaigns, and student-led initiatives to become vibrant learning hubs. Robust policy frameworks, quality standards, professional competencies, and systematic assessment are critical to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of school libraries.

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Gamification for student engagement
- Student-led library initiatives
- Strategic planning and governance of libraries
- Professional development of teacher-librarians
- Evidence-based library advocacy
- Best practices in library management
- Makerspaces and creative learning environments
- Innovative services supporting curriculum
- Implementing NEP 2020 recommendations
- Change management and innovation in services
- Impact assessment of library programmes
- Storytelling, book clubs, and reading campaigns
- Leadership competencies for school librarians
- Library standards and quality benchmarks
- Partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Data-driven decision-making

5 · THEME FIVE

Information Literacy, Media Literacy & AI Literacy

The rapid expansion of digital technologies, social media, and Artificial Intelligence has transformed how information is created, accessed, shared, and consumed — alongside challenges of misinformation, information overload, bias, privacy, and ethics. The ability to critically evaluate information and use technology responsibly is now an essential competency.

NEP 2020 emphasizes critical thinking, digital literacy, and ethical reasoning. School libraries serve as centres for information, media, digital, and AI literacy — empowering students to become informed, discerning, and responsible users and creators of information, to assess credibility and recognise bias, and to engage with AI ethically and critically.

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Information literacy frameworks for schools
- Media literacy and critical evaluation of sources
- Digital citizenship and responsible online behaviour
- AI tools and applications in libraries
- Privacy, data security, and algorithmic awareness
- Integrating information literacy into teaching
- Combating misinformation and fake news
- Ethical and safe use of digital technologies
- Ethical use of AI in teaching and research
- Best practices in information, media & AI literacy
- Inquiry-based learning and research skills
- Fact-checking and verification for students
- Artificial Intelligence literacy for students
- Academic integrity in the age of AI

6 · THEME SIX

Inclusive and Accessible School Libraries

Equity, inclusion, and accessibility are central to NEP 2020, which affirms that every learner — irrespective of background, gender, language, location, or ability — should have access to meaningful learning opportunities. School libraries advance these goals by providing equitable access, boosting participation, and supporting diverse needs.

Inclusive libraries create welcoming, learner-centred environments through inclusive policies, accessible infrastructure, diverse collections, assistive technologies, and adaptive services. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) offers a valuable framework to accommodate learner diversity from the outset, ensuring services are beneficial for all learners.

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Inclusive library policies and practices
- Accessible infrastructure and universal design
- Gender-sensitive library spaces and programmes
- Community outreach and inclusion programmes
- Technology-enabled accessibility solutions
- Services and resources for children with disabilities
- Inclusive collections and diverse resources
- Promoting gender equity through libraries
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in libraries
- Case studies in inclusive libraries
- Assistive technologies and accessible services
- Braille, audio, tactile, and accessible digital resources
- Services for socio-economically disadvantaged learners
- Inclusive reading promotion and literacy
- Measuring impact of inclusive services

Outcome of the Conference

As the apex academic body for school education in India, NCERT plays a pivotal role in guiding policy implementation, resource development, and capacity building. NCSL 2026 will reaffirm NCERT's leadership in implementation of the vision of NEP 2020 by strengthening school libraries as nodal points of reading, promotion of literacy, equitable digital access, civic engagement, and constitutional values.

The conference is expected to showcase innovative library practices, action research, and evidence-based insights into the effective implementation of school library programmes across diverse educational settings. The conference proceedings will serve as a valuable reference resource for policymakers, educators, researchers, school librarians, and other stakeholders in education.

This conference will support the development of strong professional networks among librarian fraternity and stakeholders of education. This will lay the foundation for sustained collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and continued innovation in school library services across India.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Participants

School Librarians / Library In-charges from all over India are welcome to attend the conference. NCERT will pay TA and/or DA, where admissible as per NCERT norms (subject to deputation of the schools of the concerned participants) to the selected participants whose papers are accepted for presentation or publication

CALL FOR PAPERS

Paper Submission Guidelines

Interested school librarians, professionals, research scholars, administrators, policymakers, and academics are invited to submit full-text research papers with a plagiarism report to ncsl.ncert@gmail.com:

LANGUAGE

Papers may be submitted in English or Hindi.

LENGTH

Between 2,500 and 4,000 words (maximum).

ABSTRACT

A concise abstract of 250 words (maximum) with 3 to 5 keywords.

FORMATTING

Times New Roman; 12 pt body; headings 14 pt bold; title 16 pt bold; single line spacing.

CITATION STYLE

References must conform to the APA Style Manual (7th Edition).

AUTHOR DETAILS

Title (Dr./Mr./Ms.), full name, institutional affiliation, and email of all authors.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

All papers must be plagiarism-free and compliant with the UGC Guidelines (2018).

Note: All submitted papers will undergo review by a panel of subject experts. Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings with an ISBN.

SUPPORT & LOGISTICS

Travel, Registration & Accommodation

NCERT will extend travel allowance (TA) support to approximately 100 paper presenters/participants in accordance with NCERT norms.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

- **Eligibility for Travel Allowance:** TA will be provided only to the first author whose paper is accepted for presentation at the conference.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** Financial assistance shall be at the discretion of the Committee constituted, as per the rules framed for this purpose.
- **Priority Criteria:** Preference will be given to library professionals affiliated with school libraries from outside Delhi and the NCR for travel grant.
- **Author Limit:** Travel allowance will be provided to only the first author per accepted paper.

REIMBURSEMENT CONDITIONS

- Travel allowance is limited to Third AC train fare or bus fare, upon production of valid travel tickets.
- Tickets must be booked through authorized sources (IRCTC, M/s Balmer Lawrie and Company, M/s Ashok Travels and Tours) to be eligible for reimbursement under NCERT norms.
- TA reimbursement will be made via online bank transfer; participants must provide their bank name, account number, and IFSC code.

REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

The participants, including co-authors and general attendees, who are interested in attending the conference, are required to pay the registration fee. The registration fee includes the conference kit, meals, and a certificate. The details of the registration fee will be made available to participants through the conference website:

https://ncert.nic.in/ldd/ncsl.

ACCOMMODATION FOR NON-LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

- Accommodation for one author per accepted paper may be arranged in NIE Guest Houses/ Hostels, subject to prior request and availability, as per NCERT norms.
- For non-local participants who are co-authors or who wish to attend the conference without submitting a research paper, accommodation arrangements may be facilitated on a self-financed basis, subject to prior request and availability.
- NCERT has limited accommodation on a dual-sharing basis per room, allotted on a first-come, first-served basis after confirmation from the conference secretariat.
- Participants accompanying family must arrange stay at their own convenience. A few alternative accommodations in nearby hotels will be provided through the conference website.

LEADERSHIP & ORGANISATION

Conference Council

PATRON-IN-CHIEF

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Director, NCERT

CHAIRPERSON

Prof. Prakash Chandra Agarwal

Joint Director, NCERT

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

Dr. Akash

Head & Librarian, LDD, NCERT

CONVENER

Dr. Pooja Jain

Deputy Librarian, LDD, NCERT

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Library Staff of NCERT and its Constituent Units

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Submission of Full Paper	Paper Acceptance Notification	Conference Dates
10th September 2026	15th September 2026	19–20th November 2026

GLIMPSES OF NCSL 2025



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL LIBRARIES · NCSL 2026

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
LIBRARY & DOCUMENTATION DIVISION

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