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ULLAS – 11 States and UTs

Declared Fully Literate

ULLAS – Latest News

As many as 11 States and Union Territories (UTs) have declared themselves "fully literate" under the Centre's ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, an adult education initiative aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The initiative aims to achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) among non-literate individuals aged 15 years and above, thereby promoting inclusive education and lifelong learning.

States and UTs Achieving Full Literacy Status

The 11 States and UTs that have declared themselves fully literate are:

Union Territories

- **Ladakh, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, and Lakshadweep:** Five Union Territories have declared themselves fully literate.

States

- **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand:** Six States have declared themselves fully literate.

Criteria for Full Literacy

A literacy rate of 95% or above is considered equivalent to achieving full literacy.

Achieving 100% literacy is practically difficult due to factors such as advanced age and certain intellectual disabilities that may affect an individual's ability to read and write.

ULLAS – Progress and Key Achievements

The Department of School Education and Literacy, under the Ministry of Education, has been implementing ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) since 2022-23.

Assessment through FLNAT

- **Assessment method:** The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) evaluates learners' reading, writing and numeracy skills.
- **Frequency:** It is conducted twice a year to assess learning outcomes.
- **Certification:** Successful candidates receive a literacy certificate from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

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Participation and Performance

- **2026-27 participation:** Over 90.96 lakh learners aged 15 years and above have appeared for FLNAT during 2026-27 so far.
- **Overall participation:** Approximately 4.15 crore learners across 34 States and UTs have taken the assessment.
- **Success rate:** The overall success rate is above 90%.

State-wise Participation

- **Madhya Pradesh:** 20.43 lakh adult learners assessed.
- **Rajasthan:** 18.18 lakh adult learners assessed.
- **Odisha:** 12 lakh adult learners assessed.
- **Telangana:** 7.54 lakh adult learners assessed.
- **Maharashtra:** 6.5 lakh adult learners assessed.
- **Tamil Nadu:** 4.5 lakh adult learners assessed.

Madhya Pradesh leads in the number of adult learners assessed under the programme.

Components of the ULLAS Scheme

In pursuance of NEP 2020, ULLAS adopts a comprehensive approach to adult education through five components:

- **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy:** Developing basic reading, writing and mathematical skills.
- **Critical Life Skills:** Promoting essential skills related to financial literacy, digital literacy, legal awareness, health and family welfare.
- **Basic Education:** Providing opportunities to acquire equivalent foundational and elementary education.
- **Vocational Skills:** Enhancing employability and livelihood opportunities through skill development.
- **Continuing Education:** Encouraging lifelong learning through further educational and skill-development opportunities.

Implementation Mechanism and Community Participation

- **Target group:** Non-literate individuals aged 15 years and above.
- **Implementation mode:** A hybrid approach combining digital and community-based learning.
- **Volunteerism:** Encourages educated citizens to participate as volunteer teachers.
- **Institutional support:** Utilises schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as platforms for adult learning.
- **Community engagement:** Promotes local participation to improve access and learning outcomes.

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- **Digital participation:** More than 4.17 crore learners have registered on the ULLAS mobile application. Around 52.89 lakh volunteer teachers have registered on the platform.

Impact on India's Literacy Rate

According to government figures, India's literacy rate has increased to 81.1%, compared with 74.04% in Census 2011.

The programme seeks to address educational exclusion among adults who missed formal schooling opportunities.

It also promotes social empowerment, economic participation and intergenerational learning.

Significance of the Initiative

- **Inclusive development:** Extends educational opportunities to disadvantaged and marginalised sections.
- **Women empowerment:** Adult literacy can strengthen women's financial independence, awareness of rights and participation in decision-making.
- **Economic empowerment:** Foundational and vocational skills can improve livelihood opportunities and productivity.
- **Digital inclusion:** Digital literacy enables citizens to access online public services and participate in the digital economy.
- **Democratic participation:** Literacy improves awareness of constitutional rights, government programmes and civic responsibilities.
- **Human capital development:** Supports the development of a skilled, informed and productive population.

Challenges and Way Forward

Key Challenges

- **Learning retention:** Ensuring that newly acquired literacy skills are retained and used in everyday life.
- **Digital divide:** Addressing unequal access to smartphones, internet connectivity and digital learning resources.
- **Regional disparities:** Improving literacy outcomes in educationally disadvantaged regions.
- **Social barriers:** Overcoming gender inequalities, poverty, social exclusion and lack of time among adult learners.
- **Quality assessment:** Ensuring that certification reflects functional literacy rather than merely examination performance.

Way Forward for Sustainable Learning Outcomes

- **Community-based learning:** Strengthen community-based learning centres.

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- **Local-language resources:** Provide locally relevant learning materials in regional languages.
- **Women's participation:** Promote greater participation of women in adult education.
- **Digital accessibility:** Improve access to digital devices, connectivity and learning resources.
- **Continuous monitoring:** Establish monitoring mechanisms to assess learning retention and outcomes.

Conclusion

ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram is an important step towards inclusive adult education and lifelong learning in India. The declaration of full literacy by 11 States and UTs reflects progress in expanding foundational literacy and numeracy among adults. However, sustainable success will depend on retaining learning outcomes, reducing regional and digital inequalities, strengthening community participation and ensuring that literacy translates into practical social and economic empowerment.

