

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2931
ANSWERED ON - 26/03/2025

MATRIBHASHA DIWAS INITIATIVE

2931 Shri Narhari Amin :
Smt. Sunetra Ajit Pawar:
Shri Brij Lal:
Smt. Kiran Choudhry:
Shri Baburam Nishad:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps that have been taken to ensure effective implementation of Matribhasha Diwas in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
- (b) the extent to which HEIs are integrating their Matribhasha Diwas celebrations while emphasising multilingualism incorporated in NEP, 2020;
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the impact of mother tongue-based education on learning outcomes;
- (d) whether any incentives or financial support are being provided to institutions actively promoting mother tongues in teaching and research; and
- (e) whether there is any plan to introduce policies promoting mother tongue instructions in technical and vocational education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e) : The National Education Policy, 2020 lays lot of stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. NEP provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language/ regional language upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8. The policy also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/ mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching. In order to achieve this objective the Government is integrating multilingualism at school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in Indian languages so that students have the choice to study

in their mother tongue/local language. NEP-2020 places strong emphasis on leveraging technology for strengthening various facets of education including preserving and promoting the nation's diverse linguistic heritage/diversity. Higher Educational Institutions are free to impart education through any language as per needs and local conditions.

Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated on 21st February of every year to promote the dissemination of mother tongues and awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. Languages are powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. Initiatives to recognize and promote the use and dissemination of mother tongues encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education and develop awareness and understanding of linguistic and cultural traditions. In this direction, in consonance with NEP, the Government of India every year celebrates the Matribhasha Diwas in various Educational Institutions across the country.

Government of India has initiated various programmes to encourage mother tongue. In order to further facilitate education through Indian languages and to promote mother tongues, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also asked its affiliated schools to consider using Indian languages, as enumerated in the Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution, as the medium of instruction from Foundational stage till end of Secondary stage i.e. from pre-primary classes till class XII as an optional medium in addition to other existing options. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru in collaboration with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi released 102 primers in 100 Indian Languages.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have leveraged Anuvadini App to translate books for Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses and Technical books like engineering and law in multiple Indian languages. The translated books are available on e-KUMBH portal. UGC and AICTE have issued guidelines for preparation of text books and supporting the teaching-learning process in the mother tongue/local languages. Technical education is being imparted in certain AICTE approved institutions in various languages. To activate promoting mother tongues in

teaching and research in various States and create maximum educational content in different Indian Language, AICTE launched 'Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and nurturing of Indian Languages (VAANI)' scheme which provides financial assistance to approved institutions for organising seminars/ workshops/ conferences. Common University Entrance Test (Under Graduate), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) are conducted in 13 languages.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 Scheduled Indian languages in the open source. The Bhashini open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been listed on API Setu (<https://apisetu.gov.in>). Bhashini APIs are available for anyone to integrate with any application.
