GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

"Learning outcomes under Nipun"

118 **Shri Sanjay Seth**:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a) what mechanisms are in place to track learning outcomes annually under National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat;

(b) whether the Ministry has partnered with independent bodies for third-party assessment of literacy and numeracy benchmarks;

(c) what steps have been taken to address disparities in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) outcomes between rural and urban schools;

(d) how the Ministry is ensuring digital access in low-resource schools for foundational learning materials; and

(e) what feedback mechanisms exist for teachers and parents to report challenges in implementing the mission?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

 (a) to (e):   A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI SANJAY SETH REGARDING "LEARNING OUTCOMES UNDER NIPUN".

(a) to (e):   As per the recommendation of NEP 2020, a dedicated mission 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy' (NIPUN) Bharat Mission was launched by the Government of India on 5th July 2021, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha- an integrated scheme for School Education. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission. It is the first time that the age group of 3-6 years has been included in the school continuum in foundational stage in 5+3+3+4 structure consisting of 3 years of Balvatika and Grade 1 & 2.

National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was launched on 20th October, 2022 and it is the first ever integrated Curriculum Framework for children between ages 3-8 in India. It is a direct outcome of the 5+3+3+4 'curricular and pedagogical' structure that NEP 2020 has come out with for School Education. This Foundational Stage framework will also guide the preparation of the Teachers for this Stage of education.

A new concise format for monitoring of NIPUN, NIPUN Bharat Mission Planning and Implementation Template (NBMPIT), was developed and shared with all States/UTs to understand the progress at a glance and for better monitoring.

PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) has been setup under National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L). The primary objective of this survey is to evaluate the learning competencies of students in Foundational Literacy, Foundational Numeracy, Language and Mathematics at the end of each of the educational stages i.e. Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle in Grades 3,6 &9.

PARAKH is conducted once in three years. In between State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) is conducted annually at state level.

The latest PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 was conducted on 4th December, 2024 by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. This survey marks a significant advancement in India's assessment framework, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes competency-based learning and assessment reforms. The State/UT wise PARAKH 2024 report has been officially released in public domain on 2nd July, 2025. This can be accessed at https://dashboard.parakh.ncert.gov.in/en.

PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan findings highlight a significant improvement in foundational literacy and numeracy skills outcomes, reflecting the positive impact of the NIPUN Bharat Mission as envisioned in NEP 2020. It reflects that the performance of children in Grade 3 in rural school is better than urban schools and clear improvement in learning outcomes from previous survey.

The impact of NIPUN initiatives is also visible in national-level learning assessments of ASER (Annual Survey of Education) 2024 which is an independent organization. It reflects that underage (age 5 or below) children in Grade 1 have significantly reduced indicating improved age-appropriate enrollment. Foundational reading & arithematic levels among Class III children in government schools have reached their highest since 2005.

For effective implementation of NIPUN Bharat Mission following initiatives have been taken and the same are being implemented by all States/UTs :-

➢ A 3months play based 'School Preparation Module and Guidelines' for Grade I named 'Vidya Pravesh' was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds (Balvatika, Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), at home, private play schools etc.), to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I. It provides play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development to bolster a child's pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. This Programme is being implemented across the country. From 2022-23 till date, over 4.2 crore students in 8.9 lakh schools have benefitted.

- ‘Jaadui Pitara’ - a play-based learning-teaching material is tailored for children between the age group of 3-8 years. As envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) ‘Jaadui Pitara’, was launched on 20th February, 2023. The Jaadui Pitara is a box having 53 Learning Teaching Materials (LTM) for the foundational stage. It has toys, games, puzzles. puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, playbooks etc. for students and handbooks for teachers. It is a giant leap towards enriching the learning-teaching environment and making it more child-centric, lively and joyful for the Amrit Generation as envisioned in the NEP 2020. It also consists of a Trainer's Handbook ‘Unmukh’ which is a comprehensive guide for the trainers which has activity bank for 3–6-year-old children which is mapped to Panchkoshiya vikas and curricular goals of NCF-FS for future training of teachers at Foundational Stage. The Activity Book ‘Anand” contains integrated worksheets to be used by children.

- The e-Jaadui Pitara (e-JP) was launched on 10th February 2024. The e-JP is an integration of the latest technology with play-based pedagogy and a way to disseminate the learning of Jaadui Pitara and transcend it beyond the four walls of the classroom. The stakeholders involved are teachers/educators, parents, etc. e-JP, in alignment with the NEP 2020, is an app initially developed for Android users along with browser access at https://ejaaduipitara.ncert.gov.in/. The app currently has more than 1,000 stories in different languages. This website and mobile app are packed with fun and engaging content in multiple languages, including activities, songs, riddles, stories and lullabies. Using Artificial Intelligence, it comprises of three bots, viz.,

  a) Katha Sakhi: Your storyteller Buddy, bringing magical tales to life;

  b) Teacher Tara: A guide for educators, offering tips and resources; and

  c) Parent Tara: A supportive companion for parents, providing guidance and fun activities.

  Play and activity based textbooks for classes 1 and 2 have also been prepared and shared with States/UTs(Hindi-“Sarangi”, English-“Mridang”, “Mathematics- Joyful-Mathematics and Anandmay-Ganit” and Urdu- “Shahnai”) fulfilling NEP 2020 and NCF-FS (National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage) recommendations.

- The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) vertical on DIKSHA aligns with the vision of NIPUN Bharat Mission to ensure that every child attains the desired learning competencies in reading, writing, and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. The key features of the FLN verticals on DIKSHA are as under:

  i. Target Group: Students from Pre-primary to Grade 2, along with support for teachers, parents, and caregivers.

  ii. Content Repository has 2,433 age-appropriate e-contents and activity-based digital resources such as: Interactive stories, rhymes, and poems, Worksheets and games Teaching-learning videos.

  iii. Multilingual Support: Resources are available in multiple Indian languages to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness.

  iv. Teacher Training Modules: Includes NISHTHA-FLN online courses for capacity building of teachers in line with NEP 2020.

  v. Assessment Tools: Includes simple, easy-to-use assessment materials aligned with learning outcomes.

  vi. Parental Engagement: Offers guidance and activities to help parents support home-based learning.

- Initiatives like the Holistic Progress Card (HPC) have been introduced to provide a multidimensional assessment of student development, capturing not only academic performance but also co-curricular and socio- emotional growth. This formative assessment tool allows for timely feedback and informed interventions. Feedback is collected through regular review meetings at the central, state, district, and block levels as well as through SCERTs and DIETs during training programmes and field monitoring.

- The Government of India has introduced the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) as part of the academic framework to strengthen the monitoring of actual learning outcomes. This initiative is part of the 'One Nation, One Student ID' initiative in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and serves as a unique, lifelong academic ID for every student. It records their academic journey from the foundational stage (Balvatika) onwards, including academic achievements, co-curricular activities, skill development, assessments, and basic health records. This digital system ensures continuity of learning, aids dropout recovery, and enables timely academic updates for parents, teachers, and institutions.

➢ Further, APAAR is integrated with the Holistic Progress Card (HPC), which captures a 360-degree view of a student's development through competency-based and formative assessment. The data from the HPC is linked to Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), a centralized data analytics platform that monitors student progress, identifies learning gaps, and supports targeted interventions. Together, APAAR, HPC, and VSK create a digital, data-driven ecosystem supporting digital transformation goals of NIPUN Bharat Mission, and the broader Samagra Shiksha initiative allowing continuous tracking of each student's progress, ensuring accountability and improved learning outcomes across all stages of education.

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