

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1939
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

Full literacy achievement in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

1939 Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the major strategies adopted by the Ministry to support Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in reaching full literacy status;
- (b) the key steps taken by the Ministry to identify and support non-literate adults in Andhra Pradesh and other districts in the country; and
- (c) how the Ministry plans to encourage replication of the best practices models across other States and Union Territories?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), namely, “New India Literacy Programme (NILP)” popularly known as ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, from 2022-2027 to support all the States and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in promoting literacy among non-literates across the country.

ULLAS works under the inspiring vision of making Bharat ‘Jan Jan Saakshar’, driven by Kartavyabodh (a sense of duty), utilising school platforms and community engagement through volunteerism. ULLAS aims to foster community engagement and promote voluntary participation by encouraging students from schools, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and

Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs), along with NSS, NCC and Civil Society Organizations, Anganwadi workers, teachers, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and other community-based institutions, to support non-literates in acquiring basic literacy.

The scheme promotes volunteerism through the ULLAS Mobile App, which facilitates the volunteers for registration of learners & volunteers.

A new literacy definition aligned with NEP 2020 and the criteria for declaring full literacy in States/UTs were communicated to all states/UTs on 07th August, 2024. Literacy is now defined as the ability to read, write and compute with comprehension, that is, to identify, understand, interpret and create, along with critical life skills such as digital and financial literacy. The criterion for declaring a State/UT fully literate is achieving a literacy rate of 95% or above, acknowledging that 100% literacy is unfeasible due to factors such as advanced age and intellectual disabilities.

To support these objectives, the ULLAS scheme is implemented in hybrid mode, allowing States and Union Territories flexibility to adopt offline, online, or blended modes. The scheme prioritizes foundational literacy, numeracy, critical life skills, and continuing education, focusing on rural and urban areas especially educationally disadvantaged groups, women and vulnerable populations. The target beneficiaries are identified by door-to-door survey by the states/UTs. They can also register on ULLAS App on their own.

A dedicated ULLAS Mobile App has been created for registering learners and volunteer teachers and also enable teaching learning process by providing access to primers in 26 languages. Till now, over 2.72 crore learners and more than 43 lakh volunteer teachers have registered on the app across the country, including 30.7 lakh learners and 27.8 lakh VTs from Andhra Pradesh and 4.3 lakh learners and 43 thousand VTs from Telangana. Equipped with classrooms, libraries, and digital resources, schools can transform into Samajik Chetna Kendras at various places, including government-aided and unaided schools, Panchayat Offices, Community Halls, and One Stop Centres, where foundational literacy, numeracy, and life skills are taught both online and offline. Moreover, using school infrastructure ensures the effective organisation and administration of testing centers for neo-literates, reinforcing the importance of schools in the ULLAS framework. To provide academic and resource support, a dedicated National Centre for Literacy (NCL) has been established at

NCERT. Institutions such as UGC, AICTE, and NCTE are actively engaging their resources in supporting the ULLAS scheme in a comprehensive manner.

To assess the learners, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) is held twice a year. Till date, more than 1.7 crore learners, including 3.92 lakh learners in Andhra Pradesh, have appeared in the FLNAT across the country. The best case practices and outcomes are regularly shared with all States/UTs by the Ministry in an interactive way.

Four States/UT namely Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa and Tripura have become fully literate under ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
