

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1140
ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

Promotion of Vernacular languages in schools

1140 Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:

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

- (a) whether any measure has been taken to promote vernacular languages in innovation curriculum in schools;
- (b) the funding support provided for curriculum development in regional languages; and
- (c) the details of implementing agencies?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government of India, through its policies, schemes, and other initiatives, promotes all Indian languages. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, formulated after a nationwide discussion and interaction with all stakeholders and those concerned about the education of children in school, emphasises the promotion of all Indian languages in school. The Language Section of NEP-2020, from para 4.11 to 4.22, is titled Multilingualism and the Power of Language.

The NEP-2020, inter-alia, provides that it is well understood that young children learn and grasp nontrivial concepts more quickly in their home language/mother tongue. Home language is usually the same language as the mother tongue or that which is spoken by local communities. Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. This will be followed by both public and private schools. High-quality textbooks, including in science, will be made available in home languages/mother tongue. In cases where home language/mother tongue textbook material is not available, the language of transaction between teachers and students will still remain the home language/mother tongue wherever possible. Teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction. All languages will be taught with high quality to all students.

As a follow-up to the NEP-2020, the following initiatives have been undertaken and implemented at national and state levels for promotion of languages:

- i. **Primers in Indian languages:** A primer is the first book for learners and for anyone to learn and get familiarized with the language through visual and textual form and to notice and use language in contexts. The focus of the primers is to introduce the letters of the alphabets in words and word chunks in real-life contexts and also numbers and short sentences in the languages. Primers have been developed in the 121 languages listed in the Census of India 2011 jointly by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The developed primers are available on the NCERT website at <https://ncert.nic.in/primers.php>. This is the first time that primers/textbooks have been developed in all the languages mentioned in the Census of India 2011. It paves the way for promoting all Indian languages in school education and supports the documentation and preservation of our languages.
- ii. **Bhasha Sangam under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:** The Government of India initiated a nationwide programme to promote all Indian languages through the programme of Bhasha Sangam. Children in school learn 100 sentences in the 22 scheduled languages with audio and video support. The programme has been in implementation for the last seven years, and schools across the country are participating and learning the Indian languages. Both textual and audio-video materials are available on the DIKSHA portal at <https://ncert.nic.in/bs-2021.php>
- iii. **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav:** The Government of India has directed all educational institutions and schools to celebrate the great Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi's birthday as Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav in December every year with various activities. Schools, teacher education institutions, and other educational institutions are celebrating Indian languages through various cultural, ethnic, social, and academic activities. December 11 is the final day of the Utsav, in which schools and other institutions showcase their Indian language activities.
- iv. **Bhartiya Bhasha Summer Camps:** It was launched on 19th May, 2025 to promote multilingualism among school students in a joyful and engaging way. Schools introduced another Indian language to students through various activities and cultural programmes. It helps students experience the linguistic and cultural unity of Indian languages and fosters mutual respect, cultural appreciation, and national integration through language learning.
- v. **Jaadui Pitara:** Jaadui Pitara has been developed as an exemplar of content needed in any school for the foundational stage. It represents a wide range of useful content and demonstrates the sensibilities (age-appropriate, sensory experience, and local) to be kept in mind while developing such content. The Pitara has toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, storybooks, playbooks for students, and teacher handbooks. The core transformative aspect of NCF-FS is “learn through play.” The NCF-FS describes how children at this stage learn best through play-through activity and doing. Children enjoy learning in several ways: talking, listening, using toys, working with material, painting, drawing, singing, dancing, running, and jumping. Jaadui Pitara is available in 22 Indian languages and also on the NCERT website at <https://diksha.gov.in/jadoo/explore.html>. Jaadui Pitara has also been converted into digital form and is available in 22 languages at <https://ejaadupitara.ncert.gov.in/explorejaadu.html>.

- vi. **Translation of NCERT Textbooks into 22 Scheduled Indian languages:** Content subject textbooks developed as a follow-up to NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 are translated into the 22 scheduled languages. The textbooks developed for Classes I, II, III, and VI in content subjects are available for learners in the 22 scheduled languages. The textbooks can be accessed at <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?aknjm1=0-13>.
- vii. Digital platforms such as **DIKSHA, BHASHINI, ANUVADINI**, and multiple channels under **PM e-Vidya** are being leveraged to promote multilingual content delivery and inclusive learning. Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpretation and additional language options are being incorporated into e-content to widen accessibility. Capacity building for teachers and school heads is being undertaken through the **NISHTHA** platform, with a focus on multilingual pedagogy and ICT integration. DIKSHA currently hosts 6,778+ textbooks energized with QR codes, including 409 NCERT textbooks and Energised Textbooks. There are more than 3.69 lakh+ digital contents on DIKSHA, including audio-visual content, reading and practice material, interactive resources, and lesson plans. These e-contents are available in 133 languages (126 Indian and 7 foreign languages). National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) offers training modules in multiple Indian languages: 11 languages for elementary-level, 10 languages for secondary-level, 11 languages under NISHTHA for NIPUN Bharat, and 2 languages for ECCE. The languages include English, Hindi, Urdu, and other bhartiya bhasha such as Telugu, Bengali, Kannada, Odia, Assamese, Gujarati, Punjabi, Marathi, Bodo and Mizo.
- viii. Encouraging the mother tongue as the medium of instruction will empower children with confidence, creativity, and comprehension, while also enabling them to seamlessly acquire other Indian and global languages as they progress. Towards this end, the Union Budget 2025-26 has announced the **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme** to provide digital form Indian language books for school and higher education.
- ix. The Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya provides quality books to children and adolescents, ensuring accessibility across diverse geographies, languages, genres, and educational levels. The platform offers 5,000+ non-academic books in 23 languages making a wide range of resources available to users.

Moreover, the Government of India, through its national-level funding mechanisms and national-level schemes/programmes like Samagra Shiksha and other such schemes and programmes, allocates funds to states and state-level agencies for quality education, which includes the promotion of Indian languages. NCERT provides academic support to states for the development of school curriculum in languages.