

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 370
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2026**

Tracking framework for NIPUN Bharat and PM SHRI Schools

370 Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju:

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

- (a) the State-wise detail regarding the mid-year assessment of foundational literacy and numeracy under the NIPUN Bharat Mission for the academic session 2025-26;
- (b) what active screening mechanisms have been deployed to ensure that the Central infrastructure funds disbursed under the PM SHRI scheme are being utilized optimally by States without capital diversion to non-academic projects; and
- (c) the steps being taken to expand accessible, localized digital learning repositories for students in remote, tier-3 rural sectors?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): The NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on achieving universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in the foundational stage. In alignment with the policy, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) Mission was launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on 5th July 2021 with the vision of creating an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy among children and is for children in age 3-8 (3 years of preschool/Balvatika, Grade 1 & 2).

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

The latest PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan(PRS) 2024 was conducted on 4th December, 2024. 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>.

PRS 2024 findings highlight a significant improvement in FLN skills outcomes, reflecting the positive impact of the NBM as envisioned in NEP 2020. It reflects that the performance of children in Grade 3 in rural school is better than urban schools and government schools have outperformed the private schools at foundational stage. The comparative picture for Grade-3 performance as compared to National Achievement Survey (NAS), 2021 is tabulated below:

Grade 3: Comparative Picture (India) (in %age)		
	NAS, 2021	PRS, 2024
Language	62	64
Mathematics	57	60

(b): The Department of School Education & Literacy is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of PM SHRI scheme in partnership with all the States and UTs. Financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components for implementation of the interventions as per norms. The release of central share depends on the submission of the utilisation certificates, audit reports in respect of funds released earlier, physical and financial progress reports, State contributions and compliance with the scheme norms.

Further, the department undertakes following steps in the PM SHRI scheme to ensure that the Central infrastructure funds disbursed are being utilized optimally by States without capital diversion to non-academic projects:

- i. Monitoring of expenditure through a separate PRABANDH Portal (<https://prabandh.education.gov.in/pmshri/>) developed by NIC, enabling monitoring of utilisation and outcomes under various components approved by PAB.

- ii. Conduct of regular monthly reviews with States/UTs to assess progress.
- iii. A dedicated PM SHRI schools activities portal (<https://pms shri .education.gov.in/sqaf/activities>) has been developed to capture real-time data from schools, including student-level outcomes, infrastructure readiness, component-wise saturation, and progress on key indicators.
- iv. Field visits by officials of the department for on-ground monitoring of the PM SHRI schools under the scheme.

(c): The Government has undertaken several digital initiatives to strengthen equitable access to quality school education across the country under the PM e-VIDYA initiative, in line with the vision of "One Nation, One Digital Platform." Under this initiative, the number of SWAYAM PRABHA DTH TV channels for school education has been expanded from 12 to 200, broadcasting over 1.04 lakh curriculum-aligned educational video programmes in 30 languages to support learners, particularly those without internet access and in rural and remote areas. In addition, educational audio content is disseminated through 393 radio stations and is also available as podcasts on iRadio, thereby enhancing the reach and inclusivity of digital learning.

The Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) serves as the national AI-enabled digital education platform and the One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure for school education. It provides over 3.62 lakh e-content resources, 7,477 QR-coded Energized Textbooks (ETBs) and digital learning materials in 135 languages (128 Indian and 7 foreign languages). DIKSHA is accessible to students, teachers, parents and educators across the country, with all States/UTs onboarded and empowered to customise its features for teachers, learners and administrators. The platform also hosts a dedicated Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Vertical, aligned with the NIPUN Bharat Mission, to support children in achieving foundational competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 2.

Further, under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to all States/UTs including remote and teir-3 rural sectors, for setting up of ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Government Schools having classes VI to XII.
