

NIPUN Bharat

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NIPUN Bharat: The Pathway to Educational Excellence for Every Child

Context : The **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024** presents a positive outlook, showing significant improvements in **foundational learning**, especially in **Grade III**. This progress can be largely attributed to the **Indian government's efforts** to improve education quality, particularly through the **NIPUN Bharat Mission**. The mission has played a key role in these improvements, and its continued success is crucial for India's educational future.

Government Efforts and Their Impact:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** laid the groundwork for **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**.
- It emphasized the importance of **early education**, recognizing it as a crucial step for long-term educational success.

NIPUN Bharat Mission:

- The **NIPUN Bharat Mission**, launched in **2021** by the Ministry of Education, focuses on improving **reading, writing, and math skills** for children aged **3-9 years**.
 - Its goal is to achieve **universal foundational literacy and numeracy** by **2026-2027**.
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Key Goals of NIPUN Bharat:

1. **Improve basic skills** (reading, writing, and arithmetic) for children aged **3-9 years**.
 2. Achieve **universal foundational literacy and numeracy** by **2026-2027**.
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Key Components of NIPUN Bharat:

- **Oral Language:** Focuses on **listening, vocabulary, and speaking** skills.
- **Decoding:** Helps children understand how **letters and sounds** connect.
- **Reading Fluency:** Encourages children to read **quickly** and **understand** what they read.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Teaches children to **understand** and **think critically** about

what they read.

- **Writing:** Improves **writing skills**, enabling clear expression.
 - **Foundational Numeracy:** Teaches basic **math concepts** that solve everyday problems.
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Implementation of NIPUN Bharat:

- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** oversees the program at the national level.
 - **State and Union Territory (UT) governments** create local plans for implementation.
 - The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** conducts **foundational learning studies** to track progress.
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Key Features of NIPUN Bharat:

- **Rs 500 per child** for **teaching materials** to make learning more engaging.
 - **Rs 5,000 per teacher** for **capacity-building workshops**, and **Rs 150** for **learning resources**.
 - States are given:
 - **Rs 10-20 lakh** for **student assessments**.
 - **Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore** for setting up **Project Management Units** at state and district levels.
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Success Stories of NIPUN Bharat:

- **Uttar Pradesh:** Teachers use **songs** to make math more interesting. **ASER 2024** reports an increase in **Grade III students' reading ability** from **24% to 34%**, and **subtraction skills** rose from **29% to 41%**.
 - **Odisha:** The use of **colorful, contextualized workbooks** has helped children, like **Shragatika Ghosh**, improve their **reading skills**.
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Challenges and the Need for NIPUN 2.0:

Transition Challenges:

- **Foundational learning** is still fragile, and many children struggle when moving to more **advanced topics**.

Challenges for Vulnerable Groups:

- **Children from marginalized communities** face extra challenges due to a lack of **early learning support**.
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Why NIPUN 2.0 is Necessary:

- While **NIPUN Bharat** has brought improvements, **long-term systemic reforms** are needed to sustain and expand its impact.
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Proposed Enhancements for NIPUN 2.0:

1. **Extension Till 2030:** Allowing more time will help ensure **long-lasting improvements**.
 2. **Expansion to Grades III-V:** Extending the program to higher grades will help children build on their foundational skills.
 3. **Focus on Early Childhood Education (ECE):** Strengthening **preschool education** will better prepare children for primary school.
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Conclusion - A Call for Action:

The **ASER results** show that **progress is possible** when the right resources and policies are in place. Extending **NIPUN Bharat** will not just improve data but also **transform lives** across the country. By advancing **NIPUN 2.0**, India has the chance to set a **global standard** in **foundational education**, ensuring **quality education** for all children and a better future for the nation.



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