Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023

Why in news?

The Annual Status of Education Report 2023 has been published recently by Pratham, a civil society organisation.

What is ASER?

- It is a nationwide citizen-led household survey that provides a snapshot of the status of *children's schooling and learning in rural India.*
- **Conducted by-** Pratham, a non-governmental organisation.
- **Launched-** 2005
- **Published**- It was conducted *annually* until 2014 and *switched to alternate year cycle* in 2016.
- **Basic ASER**- It collects information about enrolment in pre-school and school for children in the age group of 3 to 16, and assesses children aged 5 to 16 one-on-one to understand their foundational reading and arithmetic abilities.
- **ASER, 2017**- For the first time it focused on the activities, abilities and aspirations of the youth aged ***14 to 18*** in 28 districts of the country.
- **ASER 2023**- It revisits 14-18 age group on collecting data and information about new domain that have emerged as important in the post pandemic world.
- **Theme**- Beyond Basics
- **Data collection**- The survey was conducted in 28 districts across 26 states in India.

What are the key highlights of the report?

Category	Enrolment %
Overall enrolment	86.8%
Not enrolled for 14 year old	14 year old- 3.9%
	18 year old- 32.6%

- **Opted streams**- Most of the people in this age group were enrolled in the ***Arts/Humanities streams***.
- Females are less likely to be enrolled in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) stream (28.1%) than males (36.3%).
- **Vocational training**- Only 5.6% of surveyed youth report taking vocational training or other related courses currently.
- **Basic reading**- About 25% still cannot read a Class II level text fluently in their regional language.
- **Math abilities**- More than half struggle with division (3 digit by 1 digit) problems.
- **English ability**- A little over half can read sentences in English (57.3%).
- Of those who can read sentences in English almost three quarters can tell their

meaning.

- **Gender based performance**- Females can do better than males in reading a Class II level text in their regional language.
- Males do better than females in arithmetic and English reading.
- Across all digital tasks, such as finding and sharing videos, searching the internet, setting an alarm, and using Google maps, boys outperformed girls.
- **Gender gap**- Males are more than twice as likely to have their own smartphone as females.
- **Mobile penetration**- Close to 90% of all youth have a smartphone in the household and kn0w how to use it.
- About two-thirds of the youth reported using smartphones for educational purposes, such as watching online videos related to studies, solving doubts or exchanging notes.
- **Digital literacy divide**- Females are less likely to know how to use a smartphone or computer as compared to males.
- **Skill deficit**- The report revealed that there is a huge skill deficit among adolescents, many of them only a few years away from entering the job market.

References

1. The Hindu- Half of youth failed basic math
2. Down To Earth- Girls in rural area less likely to use smartphones
3. Indian Express- Rural kids lack class 3 math

