

## Education in Regional Languages

### Why in news?

The importance of using mother tongue in the teaching-learning process and creating educational materials has been emphasised in the New Education Policy (NEP) and initiatives like the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

### What is a regional language?

*Article 29-Protection of interests of minorities- Any section of the citizens having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.*

- It is a term used to refer to a language that is spoken by a sizeable number of people but it is not the de facto language of communication in the rest of the country.
- The language is used by people who have a population less than the majority of the state or nation.
- It is not the official language of the country.
- **Article 350A**- It facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.
- It shall be the endeavour of every State and local authority to provide adequate facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- The President may issue such directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.

To know about languages of India, click [here](#)



### What is the significance of teaching in regional language?

- **Language as an identity**- In a diverse and culturally rich country like India, language is more than just a means of communication; it is the essence of our identity.
- **Crucial skills**- The foundational years of education lay the cornerstone for a child's future intellectual growth.
- It is imperative that children acquire and enhance their Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills, and language should not hinder the development of these crucial skills.

*Neuroscientific research reveals that more than 85% of a person's brain development takes place before the age of 6.*

- **Fosters inclusivity-** It makes Right to Education under Article 21A a 'substantive right'.
- By offering education in regional languages, it breaks down language barriers, making education accessible to a wider audience and ensuring that no child feels left behind.
- **Preserve linguistic heritage-** Embracing regional languages in education helps preserve India's linguistic heritage.

*India has over 22 officially recognised languages and hundreds of dialects, each with its own unique cultural and historical significance.*

- **Enhance language proficiency-** Research suggests that multilingual individuals tend to have stronger communication skills, greater adaptability, and improved cognitive abilities.
- **Build an equitable education system -** It will ensure unbiased education and will be culturally and academically inclusive with better learning outcomes.
- **Incredible learning experience-** It allows the students to absorb the knowledge effectively leading to a higher level of optimism among students and boost students self-confidence.

### Initiatives Taken to Promote Regional Languages

- **National Education Policy 2020-** It states that wherever possible, the medium of instruction must be in the mother tongue or local languages.
- This must be done until at least class 5, but preferably till class 8.
- **NIPUN Bharat-** National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy is launched under National Education Policy 2020.
- It promotes mother tongue-based instruction as an integral aspect of achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) goals.
- **Bhasha Sangam-** It is an initiative under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat' mission implemented by NCERT.
- It aims to teach 100 sentences in 22 scheduled vernacular languages in 22 scheduled vernacular languages in Devnagri script with translation in English language.
- **Publication grant-** The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology is providing publication grant towards the publications of University Level Books in regional languages.
- **National Translation Mission-** It is implemented by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore.
- The text books of various subjects prescribed in universities and colleges are being translated in all languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- **Centre for Endangered Languages in Central Universities-** It is implemented by University Grants Commission (UGC) to promote regional languages in higher education courses and supports 9 Central Universities.

### What lies ahead?

- There is a need to implement **LEAP** — Language Enrichment for Advancing Progress which nurtures multilingualism and provides adequate training and resources to teachers.

- It helps to develop linguistic ability, improve cognitive development, enhance FLN skills, and create a more culturally rich and intellectually stimulating educational environment.

## References

1. [Business Line- Education in regional language fosters inclusivity.](#)
2. [PIB- Schemes to promote education in regional language](#)

