Fully literate states in India

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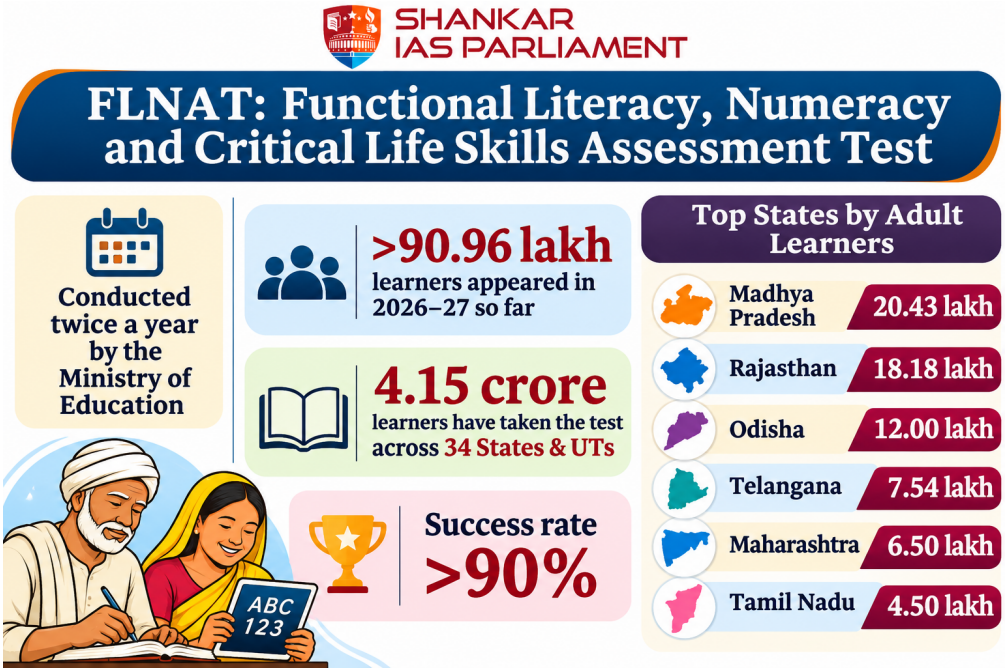
Why in news?

As many as 11 states and Union Territories (UTs) have declared themselves "fully literate" under the Centre's adult literacy initiative ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

- **Fully literate** – 11 states & Union Territories such as Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Lakshadweep.
- Madhya Pradesh leads the country in adult learners.
- **Criteria for fully literate** – A state or Union Territory is declared "fully literate" when its adult literacy rate (ages 15 and above) reaches 95% or higher, covering reading, writing, numeracy, and critical life skills.



ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram Scheme

- ULLAS – Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society.
- It is also known as the New India Literacy Programme.
- It is a ***centrally sponsored scheme*** of India's Ministry of Education for FY 2022–2027.
- **Aim** – To impart literacy, numeracy, and life skills to non-literate adults aged 15 and above in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

- **Implemented by** – Department of School Education and Literacy since 2022–23, in a hybrid mode through volunteerism, utilising school and higher education institution (HEI) platforms and community engagement.
- **FLNAT** – It is a mechanism under ULLAS to evaluate learners' reading, writing and numeracy skills. Successful learners are certified as 'Literate' by the National Institute of Open Schooling.
- FLNAT is conducted twice a year.
- Over 90.96 lakh learners aged 15 and above have taken the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) this academic year.
- **5 components** —
    - Foundational literacy and numeracy,
    - Critical life skills,
    - Basic education,
    - Vocational skills and
    - Continuing education.
- **Target** – In pursuance of NEP 2020, the scheme targets non-literate persons aged 15 and above.
- **Impact** – The scheme has raised India's literacy rate to 81.1%, from 74.04% in the 2011 Census.
- More than 4.17 crore learners and 52.89 lakh volunteer teachers have registered on the ULLAS mobile app.

Reference

Indian Express | 11 states, Union Territories are 'fully literate'

