सत्यमेव जयते

Department of School Education & Literacy
Ministry of Education
Government of India

उल्लास ULLAS
नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम
जन जन साक्षर

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

8 th September 2024











Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

"अब भारत में विकास का एक नया मॉडल विकसित हुआ है। ये मॉडल Inclusion का है, सबको साथ लेकर चलने का है।

ये मॉडल - **सबका साथ, सबका विकास का है।**

(18 July 2023)"



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Hon'ble Education Minister

> हमें देश में रोज़गार को बढ़ाना है , आमदनी बढ़ानी है, पढ़ेंगे समझेंगे तब जाकर ही बढ़ेंगे , इसीलिए उल्लास के बिना कोई गति नहीं है।
>
> *(6 February 2024)*



Shri Jayant Chaudhary

Hon'ble Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (IC)

"मैं सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे उल्लास पहल को पूरी तरह से अपनाए। 2030 तक पूर्ण साक्षरता प्राप्त करने के लक्ष्य की दिशा में अधिक प्रयास करें।"

(8 September 2024)




उल्लास ULLAS
नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम (NILP)
पढ़ना-लिखना सीखूंगी,
सीखूंगी मैं कंप्यूटर।
कर डिजिटल साक्षरता,
बनूंगी मैं आत्मनिर्भर।
सभी के लिए शिक्षा एवं जीवन पर्यंत शिक्षा
जिला साक्षरता समिति, रामगढ़

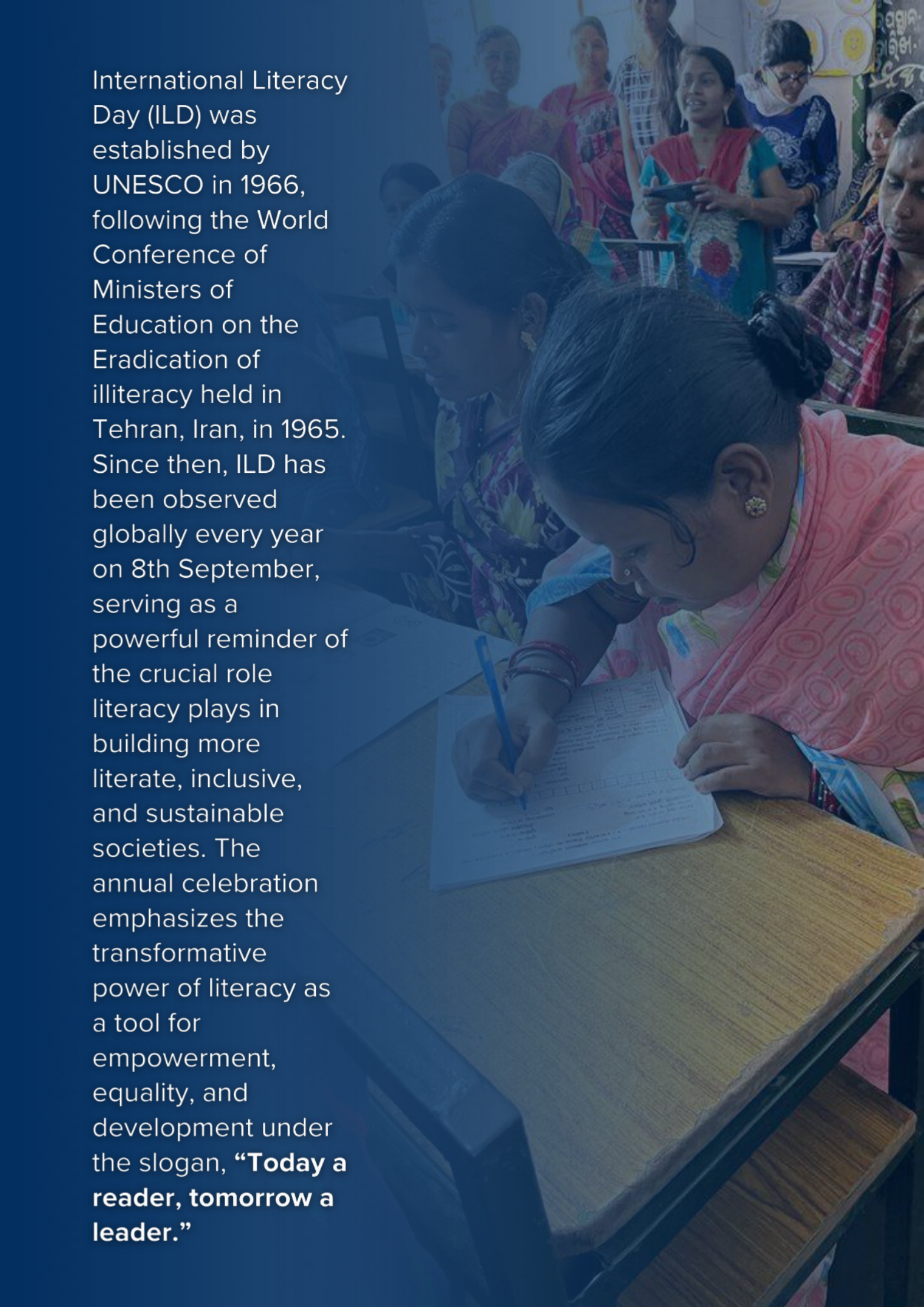



उल्लास ULLAS
नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम
"सभी के लिए शिक्षा"
जिला साक्षरता मिशन प्राधिकरण
रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ





International Literacy Day (ILD) was established by UNESCO in 1966, following the World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of illiteracy held in Tehran, Iran, in 1965. Since then, ILD has been observed globally every year on 8th September, serving as a powerful reminder of the crucial role literacy plays in building more literate, inclusive, and sustainable societies. The annual celebration emphasizes the transformative power of literacy as a tool for empowerment, equality, and development under the slogan, **“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”**



Key Highlights of the Tehran Summit:

- **Global Recognition of Literacy:** The Tehran Summit recognized literacy as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone for social and economic development. The conference called for international cooperation to eradicate illiteracy and promote literacy policies globally.
- **Focus on Adult Education:** The Summit underscored the importance of adult education and lifelong learning, emphasising that literacy is not limited to the ability to read and write but encompasses the capacity to participate fully in society.
- **Sustainable Development and Peace:** Literacy was linked to broader goals of sustainable development, economic growth, and peace. The conference advocated literacy as a means to achieve social justice and peaceful societies.
- **Integration of Literacy into National Policies:** Countries were urged to incorporate literacy into their national education plans, ensuring it became a priority in educational reforms and development strategies.

India's Response to Literacy: Aligning with Global and National Goals

India has made significant progress in addressing all the key aspects identified at the Tehran Summit. The country's literacy initiatives are well-aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims for 100% literacy and is committed to achieving SDG 4.6 of UNESCO—ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults attain foundational literacy and numeracy by 2030.

India's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2022-23 reported an overall literacy rate of 80.3%, and through ongoing efforts, the country is on a path towards full literacy. Under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, four rounds of evaluations (FLNAT) have been conducted across 32 States/UTs, in which over 1 Cr. learners appeared.

International Literacy Day in India: A Celebration of Progress and Commitment

Since 1967, India has been celebrating International Literacy Day on 8th September each year to promote adult literacy and education. The Government of India, in collaboration with States and Union Territories, has organized ILD as a mega event. Dignitaries including the Hon'ble President of India (2013-2016), Hon'ble Vice President of India (2012, 2017), and Hon'ble Minister of Education have graced the occasion in previous years.

In 2023, under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, the ILD celebration extended into a week-long literacy campaign from 1st to 8th September, involving 3.5 crore stakeholders across the country. This week was filled with a range of activities, including seminars, workshops, literacy campaigns, cultural events, and marches, showcasing a collective commitment to the cause of literacy.

From September 1st to 8th, 2024, a week-long International Literacy Campaign was observed across the nation, culminating in an International Literacy Conference on September 7th, on the eve of International Literacy Day. The celebrations concluded with a grand event on September 8th, 2024, at the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, marking International Literacy Day. **The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while the Minister of State for Education and the Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Shri Jayant Chaudhary, was the Guest of Honour.**

International Literacy Day 2024: A Week-Long Literacy Campaign

The celebration in 2024 continued the momentum, reflecting India's unwavering commitment to literacy. From 1st to 8th September 2024, the Department of School Education & Literacy, under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, organized a massive nationwide literacy campaign. This campaign saw **participation of 4.84 crore stakeholders**, including learners,volunteers, educators, students, and citizens from diverse States and UTs. Their enthusiasm and commitment were instrumental in furthering India's literacy mission, creating a sense of national unity around the goal of eradicating illiteracy.

The International Conference on the 'Spectrum of Literacy' on 7th September 2024 served as a precursor to the ILD celebration on 8th September 2024, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The conference brought together global experts, policymakers, and educators to discuss innovations and challenges in literacy, and to share success stories from around the world.





Report on

LITERACY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

(1st - 8th September 2024)

under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

Introduction

The Literacy Week from 1st to 8th September 2024 was organised across all States and Union Territories (UTs) of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. This initiative, which aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focused on enhancing literacy at the grassroots level with special emphasis on multilingual education and inclusive learning practices. The week culminated in the celebration of I**nternational Literacy Day (ILD)** on 8th September 2024, with the theme **"Promoting Literacy through Multilingualism."**

The Literacy Week celebrations engaged a wide range of participants including school and college students, volunteer teachers, learners, State/UT officials, and the community at large, ensuring a collective effort towards spreading literacy.

Objective: The Literacy Week aimed to:

- Raise awareness about the importance of literacy and ULLAS, particularly foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, basic education, vocational skills, and continuing education.
- To boost the number of learner and volunteer teacher registrations, driving the nation closer to the mission of Jan Jan Saakshar.
- Promote community participation and volunteerism to enhance literacy, with a focus on inclusivity, especially for marginalised communities.
- Foster collaboration between educational institutions, government bodies, and civil society to support the national literacy mission.

Activities Conducted

A wide range of activities were conducted across States/UTs involving schools, colleges, volunteer teachers, community members, and government officials to spread the message of literacy under the ULLAS scheme.

The following were key events:

1. Workshops and Seminars:

- Workshops, conferences, and seminars were organised by District Education Officers and District Literacy Mission Authorities. These events involved participants from government and aided schools, teacher training institutes, and higher education institutions affiliated with universities or AICTE.
- Discussions were held on the ULLAS Scheme's five components to create awareness among education stakeholders and promote active participation.

2. Community Involvement through Gram Panchayats:

- Meetings were conducted at the Gram Panchayat level, engaging Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), local government representatives, self-help groups (SHGs), farmers, women's groups, and retired employees.
- These meetings emphasized the importance of literacy for all and discussed how to effectively implement ULLAS at the community level.

3. Rallies and Street Plays:

- Rallies, including cycle rallies and "Prabhat Pheris," were held across towns and villages. Students, teachers, and community members participated with banners and placards, spreading awareness about literacy.
- Nukkad Nataks (street plays) and other public performances were organized by students and volunteers, highlighting the role of literacy in personal and social development.

4. Awareness Campaigns through Posters, Pamphlets, and Wall Paintings:

- Extensive use of visual media, including posters, pamphlets, and wall paintings, was made to promote the ULLAS program and its components. These materials were displayed in public spaces such as schools, community centers, and market areas.

5. Debates and Discussions:

- Debate competitions were held in schools and colleges on the theme of "Education for All." Students actively engaged in discussions about the role of literacy in socio-economic development and the need for multilingual education in India.

6. Radio Jingles and Short Films:

- Community radios and local cinemas played radio jingles and short films focused on the ULLAS program and the importance of literacy. Loudspeaker vans also broadcast literacy messages in local languages, reaching remote areas.



Key Outcomes of Literacy Week

1. **Ensuring Awareness:** Awareness activities like rallies and workshops spread knowledge about ULLAS, emphasizing education as a right and vital for personal and societal growth.
2. **Community Mobilisation:** Engagement from students, teachers, and officials in local events highlighted literacy as a shared responsibility, fostering ongoing community-driven educational efforts.
3. **Environment Building:** Integrating environmental initiatives with literacy efforts promoted the idea of education as a means for responsible citizenship and societal improvement.
4. **Increased Usage of ULLAS App:** Literacy Week promoted the ULLAS app, significantly increasing its usage for accessing literacy resources, aligning with modern educational practices.
5. **Holistic Impact:** The week advanced ULLAS's goals by enhancing awareness, community mobilization, environmental consciousness, technology engagement, and access to educational resources, supporting universal literacy.
6. **Nationwide Participation:** The event saw widespread participation across India, showcasing a collective commitment to achieving literacy and educational inclusivity.













State/UT Glimpses







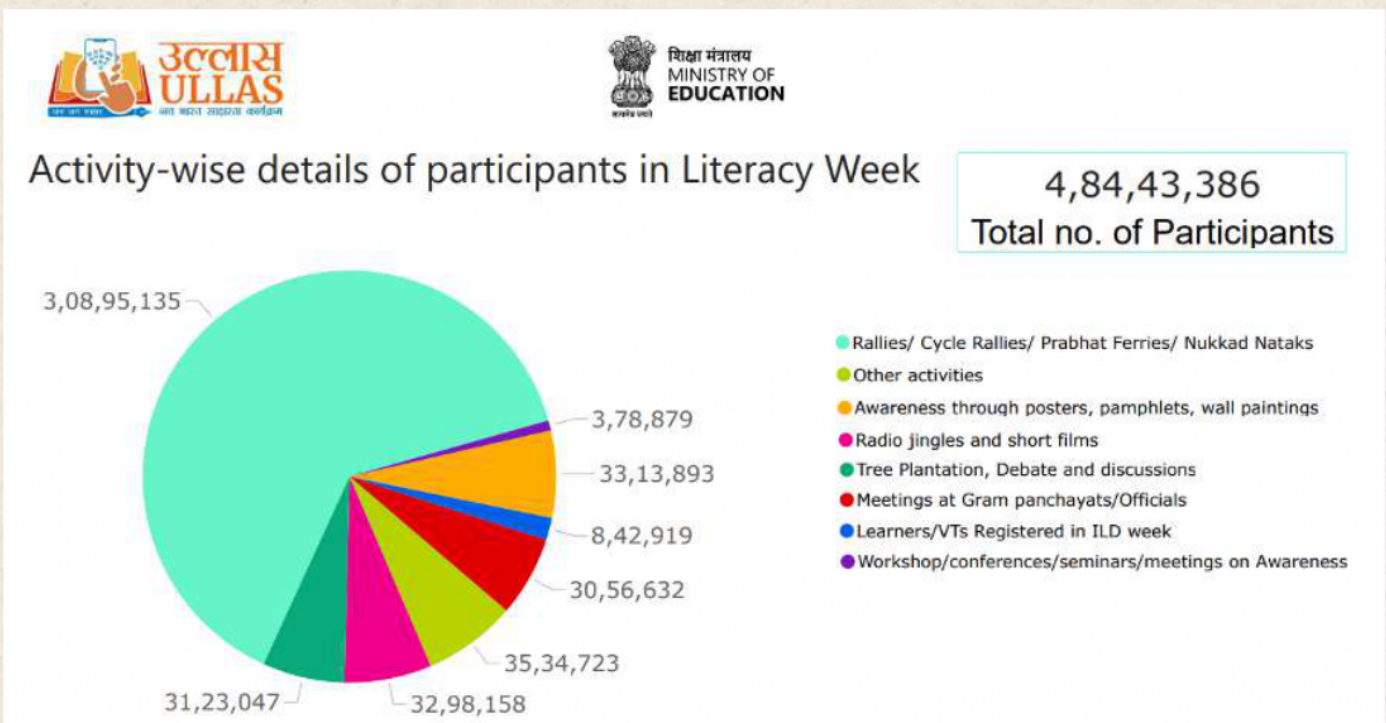




Media Coverage



Key Figures of Participants during Literacy Week



Sr. No.	Name of State/UT	Participants
1	Madhya Pradesh	**2,97,80,835**
2	Uttar Pradesh	**99,62,000**
3	Chhattisgarh	**53,34,775**
4	Jammu and Kashmir	**12,64,137**
5	Tamil Nadu	**7,18,561**
6	Rajasthan	**6,59,820**
7	Kerala	**2,60,100**
8	Karnataka	**1,42,769**
9	Gujarat	**1,32,233**
10	Odisha	**1,31,225**
11	Punjab	**27,710**
12	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	**21,000**
13	Meghalaya	**1,954**
14	Arunachal Pradesh	**1,678**
15	Puducherry	**1,500**
16	Manipur	**1,012**
17	Sikkim	**959**
18	Nagaland	**763**
19	Himachal Pradesh	**355**
Total		**4,84,43,386**

International Literacy Conference
SPECTRUM OF LITERACY

An International conference titled "Spectrum of Literacy" was organized in collaboration with UNESCO on the eve of International Literacy Day, on September 7th, 2024, at CIET, NCERT, New Delhi.

The International conference was divided into three sessions:

- Inaugural Session
- Exploring the 'Spectrum of Literacy' in India
- International perspective on Literacy

Objectives of International Literacy Conference- Spectrum of Literacy

- **Highlight National and International Perspectives on Literacy**: To bring together key national and international leaders, policy-makers, and educators to share insights and experiences on literacy programs, emphasizing the need for global cooperation and local action.
- **Showcase ULLAS and India's Literacy Initiatives**: To talk about the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram and discuss its impact on promoting adult literacy and foundational literacy, highlighting the Ministry of Education's efforts in achieving 100% literacy in India.
- **Facilitate Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Literacy**: To foster collaboration among government officials, academics, and international organizations like UNESCO in discussing comprehensive strategies to advance literacy, lifelong learning, and community involvement.
- **Examine Global Best Practices in Literacy and Lifelong Learning:** To learn from international experts on successful literacy models and lifelong learning systems from countries like Germany, Israel, and New Zealand, emphasizing how global strategies can be adapted to local contexts.
- **Promote Lifelong Learning and Digital Literacy:** To discuss the evolving definition of literacy in the digital age, focusing on the importance of lifelong learning, digital literacy, and the integration of technology into adult education.
- **Encourage Global Policy Dialogue on Literacy:** To promote discussions on literacy policies at the international level, facilitating dialogue on sustainable literacy systems, gender equity in education, and the role of governments and global institutions like UNESCO in literacy promotion.

Inaugural Session



The conference started with a welcome address by Dr. Preeti Meena, Director, DoSEL. She welcomed all the dignitaries, participants, and virtual attendees to the "Spectrum of Literacy" International Conference under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, on the eve of International Literacy Day 2024.She also welcomed Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, whose leadership continues to inspire progress in education.

She said that the theme, "Spectrum of Literacy," emphasizes our collective dedication to addressing literacy in all its forms-traditional, digital, financial, legal, and lifelong learning-highlighting its role in global participation and empowerment. Literacy challenges are global, not confined to any single country. She added that this conference brings together experts from across the world to exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions that transcend borders. ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram is focused on empowering adults aged 15 and above with essential literacy and life skills, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to society and national development. Later, she invited all the participants to actively engage in discussions and work together towards building inclusive, equitable, and sustainable societies through literacy.



Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DoSEL, Ministry of Education delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the significance of the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. She introduced the new definition of 'Literacy' which is the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, i.e to identify, understand, interpret and create, along-with critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy, etc. She also reflected on the latest literacy rate of 80.3% as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Report 2022-23 conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation as compared to 73.94% as per census 2011.

Prof. Dinesh Saklani Director, NCERT, highlighted that literacy encompasses more than just the ability to read and write; it also involves the holistic mental education of learners. He further emphasized that volunteerism mirrors the socialization we engage in daily, as it involves disseminating essential information and sharing valuable thoughts, education, and practices with others.



Smt. Joyce Poan, Chief of Education Sector, UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia, underscored the critical importance of literacy worldwide in her address. She noted that approximately 254 million adults globally lack basic education and literacy skills. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, it is imperative that we collaborate to ensure that all students and learners can realize their fundamental rights to quality education, including the ability to read and write and to utilize local languages to reach their fullest potential. She emphasized that language and learning are inherently interconnected.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, DoSEL, Ministry of Education, in his keynote address mentioned how the definition of literacy now includes critical life skills, like digital, financial, and legal literacy, etc in addition to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Literacy should help people navigate through life, he emphasised. He said that ULLAS is the framework under which we must work to bring down the literacy gap between the urban and rural populations and between males and females. Literacy is to become a powerful force of change and we must carefully negotiate with the strategies and frameworks that underpin our efforts, he said.

While highlighting this year's theme of International Literacy Day, 'Promoting Literacy Through Multilingualism', he mentioned that one of the central pillars of the National Education Policy 2020 is multilingualism. Learners learn best when they are taught in their Mother Tongue, he added. He underscored the importance of educating women so that their representation increases in the workforce.

Prof. Usha Sharma, In-Charge, National Centre for Literacy, NCERT delivered her vote of thanks to all the distinguished guests who attended the conference in hybrid mode.

Session -I Exploring the 'Spectrum of Literacy' in India'

The first session was chaired by Dr. Amarendra P. Behera, Joint Director, CIET, NCERT. He noted that this session would focus on the diverse perspectives of literacy within India and invited all the dignitaries on the dais to share their views and insights on the theme "Spectrum of Literacy".



Ms. Kesang Sherpa, Member Secretary, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) emphasized that knowledge is power, information is liberating, and education is the foundation of progress in every family. She described ULLAS as an empowering program for the country.

As per NCTE's mandate, which focuses on teacher education institutions, including B.Ed., M.Ed., and other integrated teacher education programs, it has issued directives to all pupil teachers to actively involve under the ULLAS scheme as a coursework for which they will get credits. Currently, over 18 lakh students have joined this initiative, committing to teach at least 8-10 non-literate individuals as part of the ULLAS scheme. Dr. M.K.S. Sundaram, Principal Secretary, Basic Education Department, UP highlighted that the term "spectrum" encompasses a range of literacy types, including financial, digital, legal literacy, and future-oriented skills such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). He noted that the literacy rate exhibits three primary disparities: the first is between rural and urban areas; the second is gender disparity between males and females; and the third is the variation from state to state.

In Uttar Pradesh, he mentioned that initiatives have been undertaken to involve students from Class 6 onwards, encouraging them to ensure that they make at least one person literate each year. To support this effort, appreciation certificates and credits are awarded. Shri Sundaram also noted that Uttar Pradesh is addressing the literacy needs of captive audiences in jails. Prof. Jai Prakash Dubey, Professor, Department of Adult Continuing Education and Extension, emphasized that literacy plays a pivotal role in the lives of individuals. He described the ULLAS scheme as particularly significant, highlighting its focus on continuity, multilingualism, and its commitment to the needs of a literate society.

Session -II International Perspective on Literacy



Session-II of the conference focused on international perspectives on literacy, and was chaired by Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE, New Delhi. He emphasized that literacy is an integral component of social development, enabling non-literates to gain socio-economic and pedagogical benefits. Prof. Sitharam commended two key aspects of the ULLAS scheme: first, its integration of critical skills such as digital, financial, and legal literacy, which are highly relevant to students in the current context of the country; and second, its emphasis on volunteerism, highlighting its importance in society.

He informed that credits will be awarded to students of AICTE for teaching non-literates as Volunteer Teachers. He invited all the dignitaries from UNESCO to share their insights and perspectives on literacy from an international viewpoint.

Mr. Nicholas Jonas from UNESCO Germany, gave a presentation on the topic “Spectrum of Literacy.” He articulated that literacy should be understood as a continuum of learning and proficiency within a lifelong learning framework. He emphasized the necessity of achieving specific literacy levels to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.6. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of various activities, including capacity building, online training on UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), and assessment and monitoring efforts aimed at improving literacy levels.

Prof. Iddo Gal, Department of Human Services, University of Haifa, Israel delivered a presentation on "Adult Numeracy within Adult Literacy," highlighting its critical importance. He expressed appreciation for the ULLAS scheme, noting that foundational numeracy is essential for learners to succeed in various areas, including the business world, agriculture, customer interactions, and numerous daily activities.

Prof. Gal emphasized the interconnectedness of literacy and numeracy, underscoring that both are vital for holistic development and practical application in learners’ life. He appreciated the Definition of Literacy by India.

Dr. Anke Grotluschen, Professor, University of Hamburg, Germany, emphasized that Artificial Intelligence can pose risks as well as serve as a valuable tool for individuals with low literacy skills. She highlighted the consequences of low literacy, including poor decision-making and challenges in personal relationships, among others. Additionally, she addressed critical issues related to adult literacy and the implications of artificial intelligence on literacy.

Dr. John Benseman, Academician at UNITEC offered valuable insights on "Literacy in Social Spaces." He emphasized that the quality of literacy programs significantly enhances teaching effectiveness and optimizes resource utilization. His perspective underscored the importance of creating enriching environments that foster effective literacy education within various social contexts.

The event concluded with a summary of the steps ahead.

The conference, underscoring the theme “Spectrum of Literacy”, reflected the broad and diverse challenges and opportunities in education globally. It concluded with a call to action to strengthen partnerships and collaborations to build a literate (Jan Jan Saakshar) and inclusive world.





Report on

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

"Promoting Literacy through Multilingualism"

8th September 2024 | Vigyan Bhawan

Introduction



The Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, in collaboration with UNESCO, celebrated International Literacy Day 2024 with great enthusiasm under the inspiring theme, "**Promoting Literacy through Multilingualism."** Held on 8th September 2024 at the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, the event was graced by distinguished guests, including the **Chief Guest Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, accompanied by Dr. (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar. Joining them were Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) as the Guest of Honour and Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Department of School Education & Literacy, and other esteemed dignitaries.**

The celebration underscored the vital role of linguistic diversity in advancing literacy across India's vast and culturally rich population. It highlighted ongoing efforts under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, an initiative by the Department of School Education & Literacy aimed at making Bharat 'Jan Jan Saakshar'. Literacy, long recognised as a cornerstone for national development, was reaffirmed as a catalyst for empowerment and social progress.

The day's proceedings were energised by inspiring speeches, the launch of innovative initiatives such as the ULLAS Film & DTH Channel, and vibrant cultural performances that reflected the essence of lifelong learning and growth. With a special emphasis on inclusivity and multilingualism, the event recognised and celebrated India's diverse linguistic landscape as a powerful tool in promoting education for all. As India marches forward on its journey of becoming a fully developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, the commitment to literacy remains at the heart of this mission, shaping the path for economic prosperity, social equity, and national empowerment.

Key Highlights of the Morning Session *(11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon)*

The program commenced at 11:00 AM with the gracious arrival of the **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar**, accompanied by Dr. (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar. The session was chaired by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Secretary, DoSEL, Shri Sanjay Kumar and Joint Secretary, DoSEL, Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi.



The atmosphere was charged with pride as the session started with the National Anthem, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and a soul-stirring Saraswati Vandana performed by the talented students of National Bal Bhawan.

The morning session was officially inaugurated with a warm welcome speech by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), who felicitated the Chief Guest and dignitaries. His remarks set the tone for an inspiring day focused on national literacy.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) , in his inaugural address, emphasised that India's literacy mission is not just a national cause, but a part of a global effort to ensure education for all. He highlighted the government's commitment to making education accessible to every corner of the country.

The keynote address was delivered by the Hon'ble Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, who passionately spoke about the pivotal role of literacy in driving national progress. He called for collective action to raise the nation's literacy levels and stressed that every effort counts in this noble mission. The event was attended by around 1400 people which included representatives from UNESCO, learners, neo-literates, volunteers, educators, students from schools, HEIs, TEIs, States/UTs, etc.

Vision for a Literate India: International Literacy Day 2024

International Literacy Day (ILD) 2024 was celebrated with the mission of bringing India closer to its vision of full literacy, aligning with the broader goals of the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. This ambitious initiative aims to empower individuals not only through foundational literacy and numeracy but also by imparting critical life skills, such as digital, financial, and legal literacy. The celebration highlighted literacy as the bedrock of personal empowerment and national progress, stressing the importance of day-to-day skills alongside traditional education to ensure every citizen actively contributes to India's growth.

Inspired by the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.6, which aspires to full literacy by 2030, the theme of ILD 2024, "Promoting Literacy through Multilingualism," underscored the importance of learning in one's mother tongue. By embracing India's linguistic diversity, this approach enhances literacy efforts, connecting deeply with local cultures. The event reaffirmed that literacy is not just about reading and writing, but about empowerment, dignity, and active participation in an evolving digital world.

ILD 2024 stood as a powerful reminder of the national effort to make India Jan Jan Saakshar—where literacy is a basic human right and a vital tool for sustainable development, personal growth, and societal advancement.



Lighting of the Ceremonial Lamp and Saraswati Vandana





The International Literacy Day celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan commenced with National Anthem followed by the auspicious lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising knowledge and enlightenment. The students of National Bal Bhawan performed a soulful rendition of Saraswati Vandana, setting a spiritual tone for the day. This marked the formal inauguration of the event emphasising the significance of unity in the nation's literacy mission.

Felicitation of Chief Guests





The esteemed Guests, the Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Dr. (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) were felicitated by the Secretary, DoSEL, Shri Sanjay Kumar.Their presence highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to attain full literacy and stressed the importance of collective efforts in building a literate and empowered India.

Vice-President's Vision on International Literacy Day 2024



Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar
Hon'ble Vice President

The Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, in his keynote address, emphasized the transformative power of literacy in empowering individuals and driving national progress. He highlighted India's journey from 12% literacy at independence to its current strides to more than 80% literacy, stressing the need to bridge the remaining gap. Drawing parallels to the success stories of electrification and digital connectivity, he urged the audience to contribute to the mission by making at least one person literate every six months. He passionately remarked that literacy brings dignity, independence, and self-discovery, and that educating someone is a profound act of handholding and human resource development.

Shri Dhankhar also stressed that education is a treasure that no one can take away and that it grows when shared. He expressed confidence in India's potential to reclaim its status as an ancient center of learning like Nalanda and Takshashila. Appealing for the adoption of the National Education Policy (NEP) to all States/UTs, he called it a game-changer for the nation, empowering youth and promoting the importance of linguistic diversity. Reflecting on his experiences as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he highlighted the richness of India's languages and called upon everyone to make at least one person literate within six months. Finally, he lauded India's transformative progress in areas like rural development, electrification, and digital connectivity, while cautioning against those who tarnish institutions and urging them to recognize Bharat's impressive growth.

Call for Collective Responsibility in Achieving Literacy



Shri Jayant Chaudhary
Hon'ble Minister of State For Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (IC)

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), delivered an energising speech that focused on the values of integrity and public service, calling for proactive efforts by State governments and Union Territories to drive literacy forward. He stressed that literacy is the foundation of a developed India, contributing not only to economic growth but also to improved health outcomes and empowerment.

Shri Chaudhary highlighted the importance of reaching even the last mile in education, underlining how a higher literacy rate impacts society as a whole. He emphasised that literacy is not just a developmental goal but the very basis of Viksit Bharat, as it directly links to women's empowerment, GDP growth, and societal progress.

Shri Chaudhary pointed out the unique feature of the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, which runs on the spirit of volunteerism, community participation, and Janbhagidari. The program represents the beginning of a transformative journey for India. He stressed the importance of fostering a sense of duty, or Kartavyabodh, that aligns with the spirit of volunteerism and community participation. He thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership toward Viksit Bharat by 2047, emphasizing the critical role of literacy and skill development in creating an Atma Nirbhar (self-reliant) nation.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary also drew attention to the significant focus on regional languages, as articulated in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He said that language should never interfere with the educational journey and instead foster inclusivity, helping people make progress in various fields. He reiterated that literacy must be inclusive, with education accessible to all through Indian languages, reflecting the NEP's commitment to language diversity.

Shri Chaudhary urged every State and Union Territory to fully embrace the ULLAS scheme and work towards total literacy by 2030. He reminded the audience that this is not solely a government responsibility but a collective effort that requires the active participation of all citizens. Literacy, he emphasised, will be a leading force for India's transformation into a developed and self-reliant nation.

Commitment to Education for All



Shri Sanjay Kumar
Secretary, DoSEL, Ministry of Education

In his welcome address, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, emphasised the department's key role in advancing the ULLAS program and the broader mission of full literacy (Jan Jan Saakshar). He highlighted the critical importance of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN) and praised the volunteers, educators, and neo-literates for their contributions.

Shri Sanjay Kumar affirmed the alignment of ULLAS with the NEP 2020 and SDG 4.6, which envisions complete literacy for all. He further announced that India has achieved an 80.3% overall literacy rate, as per the PLFS Annual Report 2022-23, and is now moving towards 100% literacy.

He congratulated Ladakh for its achievement of over 97% literacy and urged students to seize the opportunity to actively contribute to nation-building by becoming a part of the literacy drive. He also stressed that the students of Schools, TEIs, and HEIs are the future torchbearers of the nation, and ULLAS offers them incredible opportunities to contribute towards the country's literacy development.

Shri Sanjay Kumar highlighted this year's ILD theme, 'Promoting Literacy through Multilingualism,' and underlined India's linguistic diversity as one of the country's greatest strengths in making education accessible to all. ULLAS primers have been adapted into 26 languages, furthering the commitment to inclusivity in education.

Reaffirming the nation's determination to achieve full literacy, he explained that the mission is not only about education but also about empowering individuals and igniting hope for a brighter future. He also informed the audience about the new definition of 'Literacy' and how 100% literacy can be achieved. A clear benchmark has been set within the Indian context, where attaining a literacy rate of 95% or above in any State/UT will be considered equivalent to full literacy.

Finally, Shri Sanjay Kumar emphasised that the world is rapidly changing, and lifelong learning equips individuals with the necessary skills to thrive in this ever-evolving landscape.

Message by Director-General UNESCO

Ms. Audrey Azoulay *(read by Mr. Jian Xi Teng, Program Specialist for South Asia)*



In her message, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, highlighted the global challenge of literacy, particularly for children who lack access to education in their mother tongue. She revealed the stark reality that 754 million individuals worldwide, two-thirds of whom are women, are still non-literate. The message called attention to the importance of multilingual education, emphasising that when children learn in their native languages, they stay in school longer and acquire better thinking skills. Ms. Azoulay emphasized that language serves as a bridge for intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and peace. She praised India's efforts under ULLAS for promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and urged the Indian government to continue its collaboration with UNESCO to further these efforts, which are crucial for achieving global literacy goals.

Launch of ULLAS DTH Channel



A major highlight of the event was the launch of the ULLAS DTH Channel by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Shri Jayant Chaudhary. This innovative initiative aims to extend the reach of literacy programs to millions of learners across rural and remote regions of India. **ULLAS DTH Channel no. 14** will broadcast educational content in multiple languages, making learning accessible to adult learners in underserved areas. This channel marks a significant step towards bridging the literacy gap and ensuring that the benefits of literacy reach every corner of the country.

Documentary on ULLAS





A special documentary showcasing the incredible journey of ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram was shown during the event. The film captured the milestones, challenges, and successes of the program, emphasising its role in transforming the lives of millions through literacy. It highlighted the immense social changes brought about by empowering individuals with foundational literacy & numeracy, financial and digital skills. Through inspiring visuals and narratives, the documentary demonstrated how ULLAS has become a cornerstone of **Viksit Bharat**, enabling people to fulfil their dreams and aspirations. The film also featured a compelling clip from the **Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan,** (part of his address during ULLAS Mela) further reinforcing the significance of this literacy Jan Andolan- ULLAS in creating a developed and inclusive India.

Speech by Volunteer Teacher



Ms. Ankita Sanjay Shivatare

Maharashtra

Ms. Ankita Sanjay Shivatare, a volunteer teacher (VT) from Maharashtra, shared her inspiring journey as part of the ULLAS initiative. Reflecting on her experiences, she expressed pride in being a VT and spoke about the transformative power of education. According to her, witnessing the personal growth of her learners, from feeling unsure to becoming confident and independent, reaffirmed the importance of education. She recounted the touching moment when an elderly woman she had taught sent her a message for the first time after becoming digitally literate. This act of digital empowerment connected the woman with her children, bringing her immense joy. Ms. Shivatare encouraged others to join the ULLAS program, acknowledging the challenges but also the fulfilment it brings. She extended her gratitude to the educators, volunteers, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for making ULLAS possible, which she believes is not only changing lives but also shaping the future of the nation.

Speech by a Neo-literate

Smt. Rukaya Khatun

Jharkhand



Smt. Rukaya Khatun, a neo-literate woman from Jharkhand, delivered an emotional speech about her journey from illiteracy to independence. She shared how the death of her husband left her struggling to manage her household and business as vegetable vendor and tailor, as she had no literacy skills. After joining the ULLAS program, she not only learned how to read and write but also gained the skills to manage her business finances independently. Passing the FLNAT exam became a proud moment for her, and she credited ULLAS and Hon'ble Prime Minister for making her self-reliant. Her testimony highlighted the life-changing impact of literacy and inspired the audience to continue supporting the cause.

Cultural Performances by Neo-literates, Learners, and Volunteer Teachers







The cultural performances during the event reflected India's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. Neo-literates, learners, and volunteer teachers from various states showcased their talents, underscoring the transformative power of literacy. ***Saaksharta Lok Geet*** *from Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh captured the joy and pride of individuals who have gained literacy, while similar folk songs from Rajasthan and Punjab highlighted the communal celebration of education. These performances conveyed the message that literacy is not just an individual achievement but a collective victory for society.*

Vote of Thanks



The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education. She expressed her deep appreciation to the Hon'ble Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Minister of State for Education Shri Jayant Chaudhary for gracing the occasion and taking out valuable time for this important cause and raising the level of celebrations of ILD 2024. She expressed gratitude to Secretary, DoSEL for continual guidance and inspiration for the program. She thanked the UNESCO team for the message from the Director-General and support for the International Conference held on 7th September, 2024. Special thanks were extended to the State Govt. representatives, volunteer teachers, learners, and neo-literates present who have been the driving force behind the success of ULLAS. She also acknowledged the efforts of the NCERT, EdCIL, DoSEL, and the media in promoting literacy across the country. She again reiterated that ULLAS will get a fresh fillip by the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar who considered the occasion important enough to grace and give such a motivating speech.

Impact and Conclusion

The **International Literacy Day 2024** celebration at Vigyan Bhawan was a powerful testament to the nation's relentless pursuit of attaining Jan Jan Saakshar Bharat. Through initiatives like the launch of **ULLAS DTH Channel** and the efforts of volunteer teachers from across India, the event highlighted the transformative role that literacy plays in shaping communities and empowering individuals. The documentary on ULLAS and the inspiring testimonies from volunteer teachers and neo-literates underscored the profound impact that education can have on personal and societal growth.

The event was attended in huge numbers **by around 1400 participants** including officials, policymakers, educators, volunteer teachers, learners and neo-literates.

As India marches towards its goal of achieving 100% literacy by 2047, events like International Literacy Day serve as milestones, reminding us that the path to a developed nation lies in the hands of an educated and empowered populace. The celebrations concluded with a renewed sense of purpose, affirming that literacy is not just a tool for personal development, but the cornerstone of a stronger, more inclusive India.

सत्यमेव जयते

Department of School Education & Literacy
Ministry of Education
Government of India

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