

# Himachal Pradesh Declared Fully Literate: Meaning, ULLAS Programme & Literacy Trends

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## Fully Literate State in India Latest News

- Himachal Pradesh has been declared 'fully literate', joining Goa, Ladakh, Mizoram, and Tripura. However, 'fully literate' does not imply 100% literacy.
- It means the state has achieved a literacy rate above 95%, with Himachal recording 99.3%.
- Other states also fall in this category, though none have absolute universal literacy.

## Defining Literacy and Full Literacy in India

- The Ministry of Education defines **literacy as the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, including skills like digital and financial literacy.**
- A State/UT is considered 'fully literate' when it achieves 95% literacy.
- These definitions were issued in August 2023 for the ULLAS programme, launched in 2022 to promote adult education for those above 15.

- Aimed at achieving 100% literacy by 2030, ULLAS aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and India's National Education Policy 2020.

## ULLAS Programme

- **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** is a national adult education initiative launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Education.
- It targets individuals aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling, aiming to equip them with reading, writing, numeracy, digital skills, and financial literacy.
- The programme aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and the UN Sustainable Development Goal of achieving 100% literacy by 2030.

### Other adult literacy schemes

- In the 1960s-70s, the Centre and several states ran programs targeting literacy among farmers and women.
- The National Adult Education Programme was launched in 1978 to eliminate illiteracy in the 15-35 age group.
- The National Literacy Mission, which ran from 1988 to 2009, also targeted this age bracket.
- In 2009, the UPA government launched the 'Saakshar Bharat' (Literate India) scheme which it ran until 2018. Meant for people aged 15 and above, it also focused on functional literacy and numeracy.

## How Literacy is Attained under ULLAS

- Under the ULLAS programme, adults are taught basic reading, writing, and arithmetic (up to Class 3 level), along with practical skills like reading time, using calendars, handling money, writing cheques, and making safe digital transactions.
- Training is delivered via a mobile app or offline by students and community volunteers.
- Learners then take the **Functional Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**, a 150-mark test in their chosen language.
- Successful candidates are certified by the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** as having achieved foundational literacy and numeracy.

## Process of Becoming a 'Fully Literate' State

- To achieve the 'fully literate' tag, states first identify adults lacking literacy through door-to-door surveys or data records.
- These individuals are trained under the ULLAS programme and tested through the **Functional Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**.
- States where the number of illiterate adults is relatively small — due to already high literacy levels or smaller populations — achieve the milestone more quickly.
- For example, according to the 2011 Census, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Tripura already had literacy rates well above the national average of 74%.

## Measuring Literacy in India

- In the 2011 Census, literacy was defined as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language for those aged seven and above.
- The literacy rate stood at **80.9% for men** and **64.6% for women**, while adult literacy (15+) was 69.3%.
- Subsequent surveys have tracked progress. The **NSS 71st round (2014)** reported 71% adult literacy nationally, with Mizoram at 96%, Goa at 90%, Himachal at 83%, and Tripura at 86%.
- The **PLFS 2023-24** estimated a national literacy rate of 77.5%, with Mizoram (98.2%), Goa (93.6%), Tripura (93.7%), and Himachal (88.8%) among the top performers.
- However, 22.3% of Indians aged 15+ were still not literate, with the highest levels in Bihar (33.1%), Andhra Pradesh (31.5%), and Madhya Pradesh (28.9%).

**Source:** [IE](#) | [TH](#) | [NPI](#)

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