

संजय कुमार, भा.प्र.से  
सचिव

Sanjay Kumar, IAS  
Secretary



भारत सरकार  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

D.O. No. 14-1/2023-AE-2

Dear Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,

The Government of India has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram which aims to empower adults aged 15 years and above who could not get due schooling. The scheme being implemented during 2022-23 to 2026-27 has five components namely (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Basic Education, (iv) Vocational Skills, (v) and Continuing Education.

To showcase National and State level activities and achievements done under **ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India organised a two days ULLAS Mela on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi. Neo- literates and Volunteer Teachers who have demonstrated outstanding achievements under the program were honoured by dignitaries. Each State/UT showcased stalls featuring resource materials and exemplary/best case practices adopted for the effective implementation of ULLAS in their respective regions. Cultural performances centred on literacy and life skills were also presented in the ULLAS Mela by the States/UTs. **A report on ULLAS Mela is enclosed herewith for your perusal.**

Volunteerism remains, perhaps the most prominent, component of ULLAS and the glimpses of success were witnessed through the participation of the States/UTs in ULLAS Mela. **We may endeavour to create a social appetite for volunteerism.** I believe that organisation of ULLAS Mela in states shall create a social buzz locally for ULLAS through volunteerism and eventually the scheme's efficacy would be optimised, benefitting the nation's progress. The 2-day ULLAS Mela may serve as a template to the participating States/ UTs.


**I request all the States/UTs to organise ULLAS Mela with the same zeal and fervour in their respective State/UT in the month of June/ July 2024**, similar to the ULLAS Mela as mentioned above. States/ UTs may propose the budget for organising the ULLAS Mela in their Annual Work Plan & Budget for the FY 2024-25, within the framework of the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram during the Program Approval Board (PAB) meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024.

In the light of the above, I look forward to your continued support and cooperation for increased awareness and effective implementation of the ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram by organising the ULLAS Mela in States/UTs in the month of June or July, 2024.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

**Encl: As above**

  
(Sanjay Kumar)

**Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Education Secretaries (School Education) of all States and UTs.**

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Ministry of Education

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स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग

Department of School Education & Literacy

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REPORT ON

# ULLAS Mela



Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram  
Held on

**6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**



## ULLAS Mela: Celebrating Literacy and Lifelong Learning

### Introduction:

The ULLAS Mela, organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with CNCL-NCERT and EdCIL (India) Ltd., was a testament to the nation's commitment towards achieving 100% literacy through the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. Scheduled for the 6th and 7th of February, 2024 at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, the event promised to be a showcase of national and state-level activities and achievements under the literacy program.



The Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the two-day ULLAS Mela on the 6th of February, 2024, at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi. Accompanying him was Smt. Annapurna Devi, the Union Minister of State for Education, who graced the event as the Special Guest. The dignitaries, including Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the

Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Joint Secretary of DoSEL, Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Director of NCERT, Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, and In-charge of the Cell for National Centre for Literacy (CNCL), Smt. Usha Sharma, among others, were also present. The dignitaries took the opportunity to visit the exhibition stalls of CNCL, NCERT, and all the States/UTs, showcasing the resource materials developed by them.











## Purpose and Objectives:

The primary aim of the ULLAS Mela was to felicitate neo-literates and volunteer teachers who have made exemplary contributions to the ULLAS scheme. Additionally, the event sought to provide a platform for States and UTs to exhibit their achievements, share best practices, panel discussion with neo-literates and VTs, experience sharing by the registered VTs and learners; and launch of state-specific resources such as concise primers, additional TLMs, documentary films and other audio-visual resources. Cultural programs were also staged to celebrate the rich diversity of India's cultural heritage.





## Program Schedule:

The two-day event witnessed a plethora of activities aimed at promoting literacy and lifelong learning through ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. The schedule is at Annexure 1.

Here's a breakdown of the program schedule:

### Day 1: 6th February, 2024

**Inaugural Ceremony:** The event commenced with the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan ji, Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India along with Smt. Annapurna Devi, the Union Minister of State for Education, and other worthy dignitaries. The ceremony included the lighting of the lamp, Saraswati Vandana, and felicitation of dignitaries.



This was followed by the Welcome Address by Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DoSEL



Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, DoSEL, MoE then addressed the gathering.





**Felicitation:** Noteworthy individuals, including ULLAS neo-literates, volunteer teachers and winners of the poster making competition, were honoured for their outstanding contributions.



**The Guest of Honour, Smt. Annapurna Devi, MoS** delivered the special address guiding the neo-literates, learners and volunteer teachers present over there.





**Launch Ceremony:** The following were launched at the click of the button by the Hon'ble Education Minister:

- ❖ ULLAS Concise Primer and Margdarshika developed by NCERT
- ❖ Guidelines for the Development of Primers
- ❖ Learning Outcomes and Pedagogical Process
- ❖ ULLAS Primers/Margdarshika (States/UTs)
- ❖ Jingle on ULLAS (NCERT)
- ❖ ULLAS: Documentary Film (MoE)





**Sharing of Experience:** One volunteer teacher and two learners shared their experiences of how they feel after connecting with the ULLAS program.

**Mandavi Soni**, a dedicated D.El.Ed student from Madhya Pradesh, delivered an inspiring speech that is certain to motivate others to join the scheme. In her address, she shared the challenges she faced and the profound impact of her efforts. Mandavi emphasized, “I came across numerous challenges during this journey. I went door-to-door to encourage non-literates to enrol in the scheme. Convincing villagers, whose mind-set is still traditional, was particularly difficult. Initially, they viewed me as eccentric. However, after persistent efforts, they understood my intentions and eventually joined the ULLAS scheme. It is delightful to see some villagers now coming to my home for education. This opportunity is a lifetime blessing, and I am grateful for it. My heartfelt thanks to the Prime Minister and Education Minister for launching schemes like ULLAS, which have provided me with this platform to become a Volunteer Teacher.”



**Somwati Behrwa**, a determined learner from Rajasthan, shared her inspiring journey. She recounted, “I come from an underprivileged family and got married at a very young age. Due to financial difficulties, I had to work as a labourer. It was there that I met a teacher named Sarita, who encouraged me to pursue education. Initially hesitant, I eventually took up her challenge to dedicate at least one hour daily to study. I enrolled in the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, which became a turning point in my life. Thanks to the program, I can now count money and handle small transactions. I feel a newfound sense of independence, knowing that I can now accomplish tasks I once relied on others for.”





**Balwinder Singh**, a learner from Punjab, expressed his joy in being a part of the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. He shared, “I come from a family where education was a luxury. Most of my relatives, including myself, couldn't attend school as we had to shoulder responsibilities at a young age. However, since joining the ULLAS scheme, I feel empowered. I can now confidently use a mobile phone, visit the bank to withdraw money, fill out a cheque, and even place online orders. These skills have opened up a world of possibilities for me. All thanks to the Prime Minister and Education Minister for introducing ULLAS to our lives.”





**Address by Hon'ble Chief Guest: Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan Ji, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**



**Vote of Thanks by Prof. Usha Sharma, In-charge CNCL, NCERT**





## Panel Discussion:

Learners and volunteer teachers from selected states engaged in a panel discussion to share their experiences. Volunteer teachers expressed what inspired them to be part of the scheme, how they teach them, what is their approach, etc. On the other hand, learners also shared their joy of learning after getting registered under ULLAS, how the program has changed their lives.



**Cultural Programs:** On both eventful days, the evening was transformed into a mesmerising spectacle as various States/UTs showcased their rich cultural heritage through vibrant performances, all centered around the theme of the ULLAS Scheme. The stage came alive with an array of colorful costumes and eye-catching props, creating a visual feast for the audience. Each participating team took the opportunity



to artistically convey the message of building a "JAN JAN SAAKSHAR" nation through Kartavyabodh, emphasizing the collective responsibility towards education and awareness. The performances were not just a display of talent but also a powerful means of communicating the importance of literacy and enlightenment in every individual's life. Through their artistry, the teams beautifully illustrated the journey towards a more informed and educated society, making the cultural segment an integral and memorable part of the event.

**The list of the participating States/UTs is as follows:**

Assam, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharastra, Pudducherry, Tamil Nadu, Ladakh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Karnataka





## Key Messages from Dignitaries:

**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship:** Addressing the attendees, Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri ji emphasised the crucial role of achieving 100% literacy in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. He highlighted how the ULLAS program is bringing new opportunities to individuals who previously lacked access to education, making them proficient in essential subjects alongside Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri ji urged widespread participation in the program, proposing that students could earn credit points under the new credit architecture by assisting others in becoming literate. He emphasized the importance of simplifying and enjoying the teaching and learning process, suggesting that teaching methods should be designed based on learners' preferences and needs. Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri ji also advocated for a knowledge distribution system based on sports, folk language, and daily work-related activities. He praised states that have adopted play-based models of learning, making education more accessible and enjoyable. Additionally, he suggested organising workshops for experts to develop resource materials and integrating them with skilling initiatives. He expressed that the scheme lays the foundation for a Viksit Bharat and underscored the crucial role that literacy plays in realising this vision, as envisioned by our respected Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Under the scheme, a dedicated app named ULLAS has been created. Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri Ji recommended that all States/UTs should use the app to register Volunteer Teachers and Learners.

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**Smt. Annapurna Devi, Union Minister of State for Education:** The Minister of State congratulated neo-literates and volunteers for their efforts and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for envisioning NEP2020 and allocating budget provisions for adult literacy programs. She emphasised that beyond literacy, the program is equipping individuals with 21st-century skills necessary for everyday tasks such as online transactions and form filling. She commended the efforts of States and UTs for exhibiting their resource materials, inspiring others to participate in the literacy mission. She encouraged everyone to contribute to the literacy mission and fulfil the Prime Minister's resolution of Viksit Bharat.

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**Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DosEL), MoE:** In his address, Shri Sanjay Kumar underscored the importance of the National Education Policy 2020, highlighting its emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for every child. He emphasized the spirit of volunteerism in the ULLAS program and mentioned that over 40 lakh neo-literates have participated in evaluation for literacy. Shri Sanjay Kumar highlighted that ULLAS not only focuses on digital and financial literacy but also imparts important life-saving skills. As many adult education schemes have been introduced in the past but not resulted in the desired outcomes, there was an urgent need for a fresh approach and momentum. In response to this, ULLAS is all set to bring joy to the lives of those aged 15 and above who have been unable to fulfil their dream of attending school; implemented through hybrid mode using technology and employing 'Volunteerism' through 'कर्तव्य बोध' to inspire volunteers.

He urged everyone to identify individuals who missed the opportunity for literacy and support initiatives aimed at achieving 100 percentage literacy for all.

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**Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), MoE:**

In her address, she highlighted the significant progress of the ULLAS scheme. Substantial Teaching Initially known as NILP, under the stewardship of Hon'ble Education Minister, the scheme has evolved into ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, gaining renown as a substantial and impactful initiative.

Further, a dedicated app – ULLAS App has been developed. States/UTs have registered their learners and volunteer teachers on this platform. Today marks a proud moment, with over 1 crore learners and 30 lakh VTs registered on the ULLAS App. All States/UTs should ensure that all registrations occur through the app in the future.



Recognizing the States/UTs' desire to operate the scheme fully digitally or online, they have been given the flexibility to implement the scheme in online, offline, or hybrid modes upon request.

Schools and colleges' students can play a vital role in making ULLAS successful, recognising their responsibility towards the nation. Each student should strive to teach at least one learner, contributing to our goal of achieving 100 percent literacy. TEIs, with approximately 20 lakh students nationwide, have directed their students to teach a maximum of 8 to 10 students annually.

A special thanks was given to the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy for his expert guidance and direction. She laid out a plan of action that the remaining three years of the scheme should reflect three times the progress achieved so far.

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## Day 2: 7th February, 2024

**Visit to ULLAS Stalls:** Participants which included academicians from Delhi Schools/TEIs/HEIs explored the exhibits showcasing the achievements and resources of states/UTs and CNCL-NCERT. The States/UTs expressed appreciation on the TLM of each other and were also seen learning from each other.





**Best Practices Presentation:** States and UTs shared their best practices in literacy and education specially talking about the tasks/activities that they have undertaken under ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram and which are showing results.

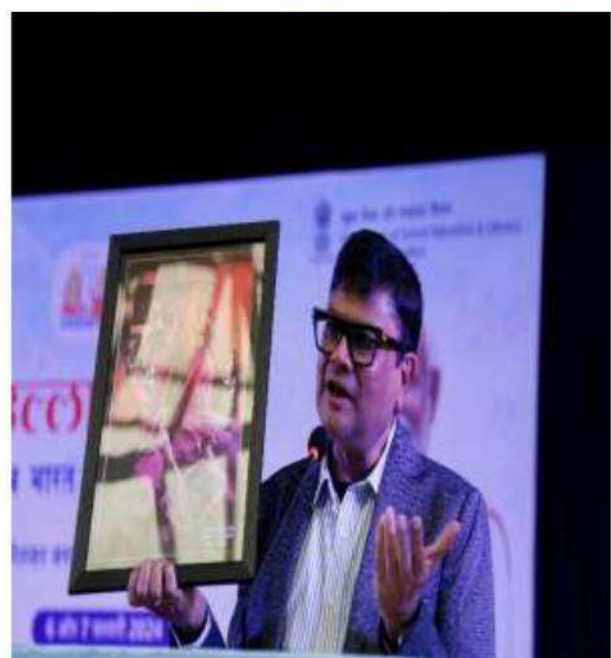




## Valedictory Program:

The two eventful days came to a close with the valedictory program chaired by Shri Sanjay Kumar Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education (MoE); Shri Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary, DoSEL, MoE; Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, (SS1 & AE); Ms. Preeti Meena, Director, Adult Education Bureau (AEB); and Prof. Usha Sharma from CNCL, NCERT.

The valedictory ceremony featured the formal felicitation of dignitaries, cultural performances by the States/UTs, addresses by the dignitaries, sharing of best practices by all States/UTs and culminated with the participants sharing their experiences.









## Annexure I

### Minute-to-Minute Programme of ULLAS MELA

Venue- Bal Bhawan, New Delhi

Dates – 6-7 February, 2024

DAY 1 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

10.30 AM-11.00 AM	Arrival of Chief Guest Inauguration of ULLAS Mela by Hon'ble Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan ji, and visit to exhibition by the States/UTs & CNCL
11.00AM-11.05AM	Lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries <i>Swasti Vachan</i> by Children of Bal Bhawan
11.05AM-11.10AM	<i>Saraswati Vandana</i> by Children of Bal Bhawan
11.10AM-11.15AM	Felicitation of Chief Guest and other dignitaries
11.15AM-11.20AM	Welcome Address by Ms. Archana Sharma Avasthi, Joint Secretary, DoSEL
	<b>Address by Special Guests</b>
11.20AM-11.30AM	Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, MoE
11.30AM-11.40AM	<b>Felicitation of :</b> ❖ ULLAS Neo-Literates from States/UTs ❖ 4 Winners of Poster Competition
11.40Am -11.50AM	<b>Address by Guest of Honor</b> Ms. Annapurna Devi , MoS
11.50 AM-12.05 PM	<b>Release/ Launch of :</b> ❖ <i>ULLAS Concise Primer &amp; Margdarshika</i> (NCERT) ❖ <i>Guidelines for the Development of Primers</i> (NCERT) ❖ <i>Learning Outcomes &amp; Pedagogical Process</i> (NCERT) ❖ <i>ULLAS Primers/Margdarshika</i> (States &UTs) ❖ <i>Jingle</i> on ULLAS (NCERT) ❖ <i>ULLAS: Documentary Film</i> (MoE)
12.05 PM-12.15 PM	ULLAS: Sharing of Experiences by 2 Learners and 1 VTs
12.15 PM- 12.35PM	<b>Address by the Hon'ble Chief Guest: Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan</b>
12.35 PM- 12.40 PM	Vote of Tanks by Prof. Usha Sharma, In-Charge, CNCL, NCERT
12.40 PM- 1.40 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00PM- 3.00 PM	Panel discussion with Neo Literates and Volunteer Teachers CNCL, NCERT
3.00 PM -4.00 PM	Cultural programme (5 states)



<b>Day 2 7 February, 2024</b>	
9.30AM -11.30 AM	Visit to ULLAS Stalls exhibits by the States/UTs & CNCL, NCERT
11.30 AM – 1.30 PM	Best Practices presentation by States and UTs
1.30 AM – 2.30 PM	Lunch
2.30 PM -3.30 PM	Cultural programmes (5 states)
3.30 PM – 5.00 PM	<b>Valedictory program</b>
3.30 PM – 3.35PM	Felicitation of Chief Guest and other Dignitaries
3.35 PM – 3.45PM	Welcome Address by Dr. Preeti Meena, Director, DoSEL, MoE
3.45PM – 4.05.PM (10 minutes for each)	Address by the Guest of Honour 1. Director, NCERT 2. Chairperson, NCTE
4.05 PM – 4.40 PM	ULLAS Mela: Sharing of experiences by the participants.
4.40 PM – 4.50 PM	Address by the Hon'ble Chief Guest: Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, DoSEL, MoE
4.50 PM -4.55 PM	Vote of thanks by Prof. Usha Sharma, In-Charge, CNCL, NCERT





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