



National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2021

For Prelims: National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2021, Schedule caste, Scheduled Tribe, Part IV of Indian Constitution, Article 45, Article 39 (f), Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), RTE) Act, 2009, 42nd Amendment, 86th Amendment in 2002, Article 21-A

For Mains: Education, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** released the **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report**.

- The **Triennial Survey** was conducted in November 2021.
- **About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts** from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021.

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The Learning Curve

34 lakh students assessed in November 2021

- Class-wise varied indicators
- On parameters such as reading small texts, solving simple problems, and knowledge about fundamental rights and their violations



Class in progress: Survey captures Covid disruptions.

REPORT CARD: HOW STATES FARED

■ 2017 national avg ■ 2021 national avg

CLASS III

EVS

Rajasthan	75	68
Punjab	70	62
Kerala	69	

LANGUAGE

Punjab	75	68
Kerala	70	62
Rajasthan	69	

MATHS

Punjab	70	64
Rajasthan	65	57
Kerala	60	

CLASS V

EVS

Punjab	59	57
Rajasthan	57	48
J&K	54	

LANGUAGE

Punjab	69	58
Rajasthan	63	55
J&K	61	

MATHS

Punjab	57	53
Rajasthan	53	44
J&K	48	

CLASS VIII

LANGUAGE

Punjab	67	57
Chandigarh	64	
Rajasthan	61	53

MATHS

Punjab	50	42
Chandigarh	46	36
Rajasthan	46	

SCIENCE

Punjab	50	44
Chandigarh	50	39
Rajasthan	47	

SOCIAL SC

Punjab	49	44
Chandigarh	48	39
Rajasthan	49	

What is the National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2021?

▪ About:

- It is a **nationwide survey to assess the learning outcomes** and health of the education system.
 - It is the **largest, nationwide, sample-based education survey** conducted across India.
- It is undertaken by the **Ministry of Education**.
 - The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted NAS 2021.
 - The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) designed an assessment framework and tools for NAS-2021.
- It provides a **system-level reflection on the effectiveness of school education**.
 - It **collects information on relevant background variables** such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.
- It **covers the whole spectrum of schools** including Government schools (both State and Central government), Government-aided schools, and Private schools across India.

▪ Medium and Grades:

- The **NAS 2021 was conducted in 22 mediums of instruction** that covered English,

Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Manipuri, Mizo, Punjabi, Odia, Telugu, Tamil, Bodo, Urdu, Garo, Konkani, Khasi, Bhutia, Nepali, and Lepcha.

- It was conducted in different subjects for different grades. The subject and grades wise break up is below:
 - **Grade 3 and 5:** Language, EVS, and Mathematics
 - **Grade 8:** Language, Science, Mathematics, and Social Science
 - **Grade 10:** Language, Science, Mathematics, Social Science, and English
- **Objective:**
 - To **evaluate children's progress and learning competencies** as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
- **Significance:**
 - It will help to **unravel the gaps in learning and will support state/UT governments in developing long term, mid-term and short-term interventions** to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on NAS 2021 data.
 - The findings of NAS 2021 will help in **diagnosing a systematic understanding of the consequences** that prolonged closure of schools has had on the learning of students in terms of their socio-emotional and cognitive development.
 - NAS findings will **help in capacity building for teachers**, officials involved in the delivery of education.

What are the Key Highlights of the NAS 2021?

- **National Average:**
 - The national average **percentage of students for class third was 59%**, which declined by 10% to 49% in class fifth.
 - It further **declined to 41.9% in class eight and then 37.8% in class 10.**
 - The **performance recorded a decline in almost all subjects.**
 - For instance, the **mathematics score nationally was 57% in class third**, dropping by almost 10% to 44% in fifth, and to 36% in class eighth, and 32% in class 10th.
 - The **language score nationally was 62% in class third**, and dropped to 52% in class fifth, and to 53% in class eighth.
 - For science, the national score declined from 39% in class eighth to 35% in class 10.
- **Rural and Urban Areas:**
 - The **average performance of schools in rural areas remained “significantly below”** those urban areas in same states and union territories (UTs).
- **Social-Group Wise Performance:**
 - The performance of students from the [schedule caste \(SC\)](#)/ [schedule tribe \(ST\)](#)/ [Other Backward Classes \(OBC\)](#) categories **remained lower than that of students from the general category.**
- **Gender-wise Performance:**
 - The **average performance of girls remained better than the boys in almost all subjects** across the classes, both nationally and at state level.
- **Perception of Students about Learning:**
 - The perception of students about learning at home during the [pandemic](#) when the schools remained closed, and 78% of students termed it as burdensome with a lot of assignments.
 - **At least 38% of students faced difficulties** in learning at home, while 24% said they did not have digital devices at home.

How did the States Perform?

- The **majority of the states performed significantly below the overall national score**, some states such as Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Punjab performed better than the national average.
- **Delhi's performance in class eighth and class 10** was better when compared with the national average.
- **Punjab has scored highest in all subjects for classes 3, 5 and 8.**

What is the Status of Education in India?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Part IV of Indian Constitution**, Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), has a provision for state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education.
 - The 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976 moved education from the State to the Concurrent List.
 - The 86th Amendment in 2002 made education an enforceable right under Article 21-A.
- **Related Laws:**
 - **[Right To Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#)** aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
 - It also mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **[National Education Policy 2020](#)**
 - **[Samagra Shiksha \(SS\) 2.0](#)**
 - **[NIPUN Bharat Mission](#)**
 - **[PM Poshan Scheme](#)**
 - **[Unified District Information System for Education \(UDISE\)](#)**
 - **[Performance Grading Index](#)**

[Source: IE](#)

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