



National Achievement Survey 2021

Why in News

Recently, **the Union Government has conducted the National Achievement Survey (NAS) across India**, assessing about 38 lakh students from 1.23 lakh schools in 733 districts in 36 States and Union Territories.

- The survey was **last conducted in 2017** and was scheduled to take place in 2020. However, due to the Covid situation, it was postponed until this year (2021).

Key Points

▪ 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 provide **structured feedback on student learning levels at District, State, and national levels**. These inputs are **used for policy planning and designing pedagogical interventions** to improve quality and ensure equity in learning.

▪ Significance:

- It will help in assessing the learning interruptions and new learnings during the Covid-19 pandemic which will in turn help to take remedial measures.
- 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**.
- It will help at **resolving the learning gaps of students** and **devising education policies**, learning, and teaching practices.
- Through its diagnostic report cards, NAS findings **help in capacity building for teachers, officials involved** in the delivery of education.

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: TH](#)

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