



International Literacy Day (ILD) 2025

Why in News?

On 8th September 2025, the world will observe [International Literacy Day](#), highlighting the power of reading and writing as tools for human progress and change.

Key Points

- **About:** The roots of ILD trace back to the 1965 World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy in Tehran, Iran, which sparked the idea of a day dedicated to promoting literacy globally.
 - International Literacy Day, **proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966** and first observed on 8th September 1967, has since been celebrated annually as a global reminder of the transformative power of literacy.
- **Theme 2025:** This year's ILD focuses on **"Promoting literacy in the digital era."**
 - **Digital literacy** is the ability to access, evaluate, create, and communicate content online, enabling critical thinking, discerning credible information, and safely navigating **complex digital environments**, making it an essential skill today.

Literacy

- The **National Sample Survey (NSS)** defines literacy as the ability to read, write, and understand a simple message in any language.
- The term "universal" generally implies full or near-complete coverage, typically close to 100%.
- As per **UNESCO**, literacy extends beyond reading, writing, and counting; it's a continuous skillset involving identification, understanding, and communication, expanding to digital, media, and job-specific skills in our fast-changing, information-rich world.
- **Government Strategies to Enhance Literacy:**
 - [ULLAS \(Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society\)](#)
 - [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#)
 - [New India Literacy Programme](#)
 - [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#)
 - [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#)
 - [PRAGYATA](#)
 - [National Literacy Mission \(NLM\)](#)