What Is Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)?

It is the ability to read with meaning and perform basic math calculations by the end of Class 3.

The ability to read with meaning
- Reading words such as जल, घर, जल
- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) with comprehension (बागीचे मे एक पेड़ है)

Having a clear sense of numbers
- Recognising double digit numbers such as 37, 79, 92
- Knowing what’s bigger and what’s smaller
- Solving two-digit subtraction and addition problems such as 32-17 and 63-44

Why Does FLN Matter?

1. Class 3 is considered to be the inflection point by which children are expected to ‘learn to read’ so that later they can ‘read to learn’

2. Those who fail to attain these basic literacy and numeracy skills find it difficult to catch up in later years and risk dropping out of school

3. These skills enable children to learn more meaningfully in higher classes and acquire 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking

4. The future of our children and India’s ambition of maximising its demographic dividend depend on whether children attain these basic reading and maths skills by Class 3

Where Does India Stand vis-à-vis FLN?

- 72.8% children cannot read a simple class 2-level sentence
- 71.9% children cannot solve a basic subtraction problem by class 3
The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 accords the highest priority to achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy among all children by 2025. NEP advocates the launch of an urgent mission at the national level on FLN.

**NIPUN Bharat: National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy**

- The Ministry of Education is launching a national mission on FLN. The mission is called NIPUN Bharat — National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- The mission will cover the learning needs of nearly 5 crore children in the 3-11 age group.
- Teacher education and early grade curriculum will be redesigned for a renewed emphasis on FLN.

**5 crore children in the 3-11 age group will benefit from NIPUN Bharat**

**Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) with Comprehension: A Literacy Target**

- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) is the ability to accurately read a certain number of words per minute with comprehension.
- It is a cornerstone for building literacy skills.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently stressed the need to ensure that our children are able to read 30-35 words in a minute with comprehension, by the end of Class 3.

**What the National Education Policy 2020 Says About FLN**

- Must achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy among all children by 2025.