



What Is Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)?

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



Foundational Literacy

The ability to identify letters (a, d, h), words (at, cat, ball); read them fluently with meaning



Foundational Numeracy



Being able to identify numbers such as 25, 82, 76, and solve basic maths problems like addition and subtraction

Why Does FLN Matter?

1

Grade 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

The **future of our children and India's ambition of maximizing its demographic dividend** depend on whether children attain these basic reading and maths skills by grade 3

4

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

FLN Levels in India Are Low

Grade 3 school students in rural India who cannot read grade 2 text*



Grade 3 school students in rural India who cannot do simple subtraction*



Learning Crisis Has Been Worsened by Covid-19

Percentage of children across grades 2-6 who have lost at least one specific language or mathematical ability due to school closures during the pandemic**



*ASER 2022

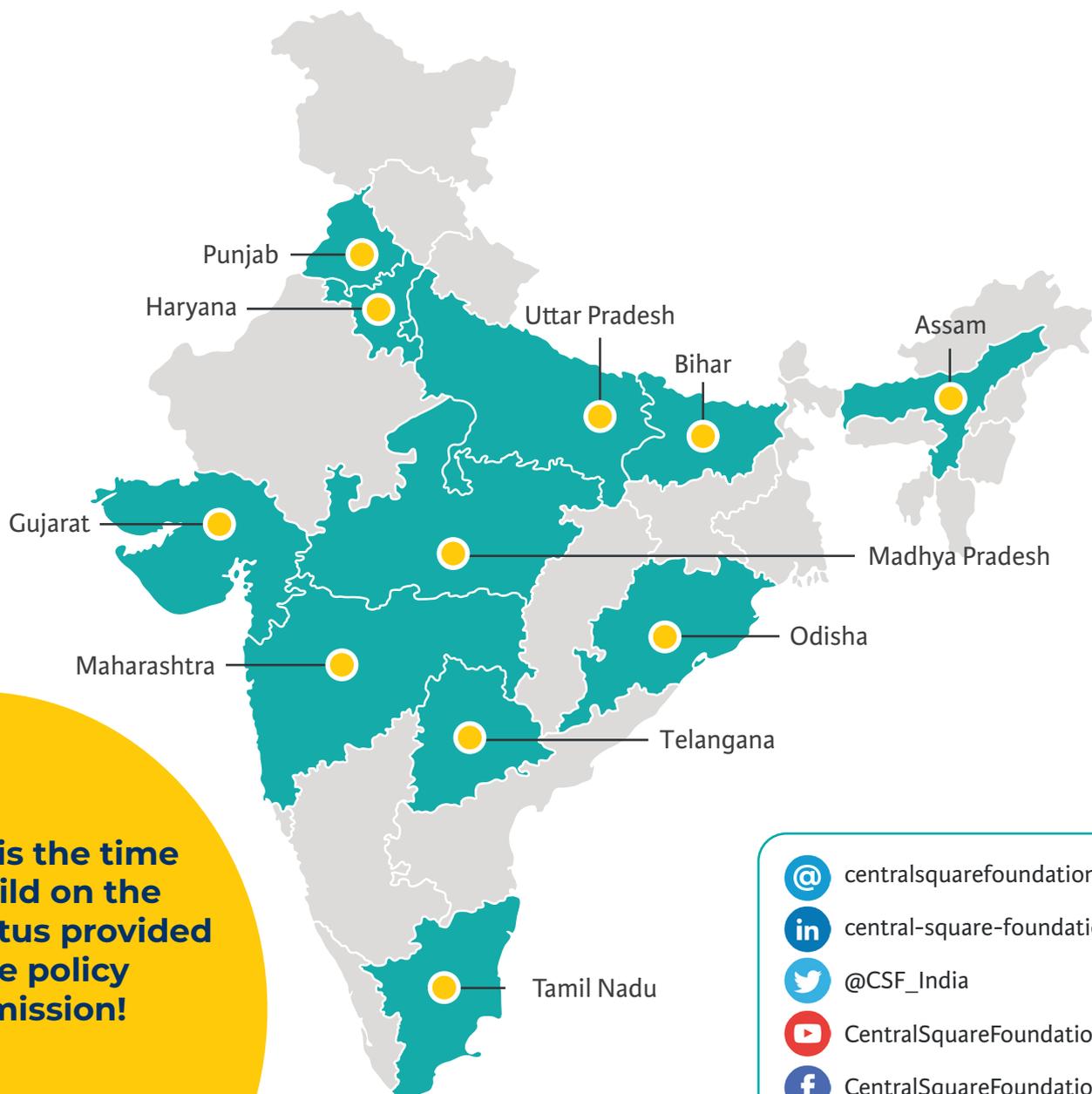
** Loss of learning during the pandemic (2021), Azim Premji University)

What India Is Doing to Improve FLN Skills

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 accords the highest priority to helping each and every child acquire FLN skills and calls it an 'urgent and necessary prerequisite to learning'. It says that 'the rest of this Policy will become rel-evant for our students only if this most basic learning requirement (i.e., reading, writing, and arithmetic at the foun-dational level) is first achieved'
- The Ministry of Education launched NIPUN Bharat (National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy) in July 2021, with the aim of equipping each and every child across India with FLN skills by 2026-27
- Over the course of the last two years, FLN has emerged as a key priority in school education, as many states have launched their individual NIPUN programmes

NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9

CSF is supporting 11 states to design and operationalise State-wide FLN missions



Now is the time to build on the impetus provided by the policy and mission!

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