Odisha launches 'NIPUN' app for foundational learning

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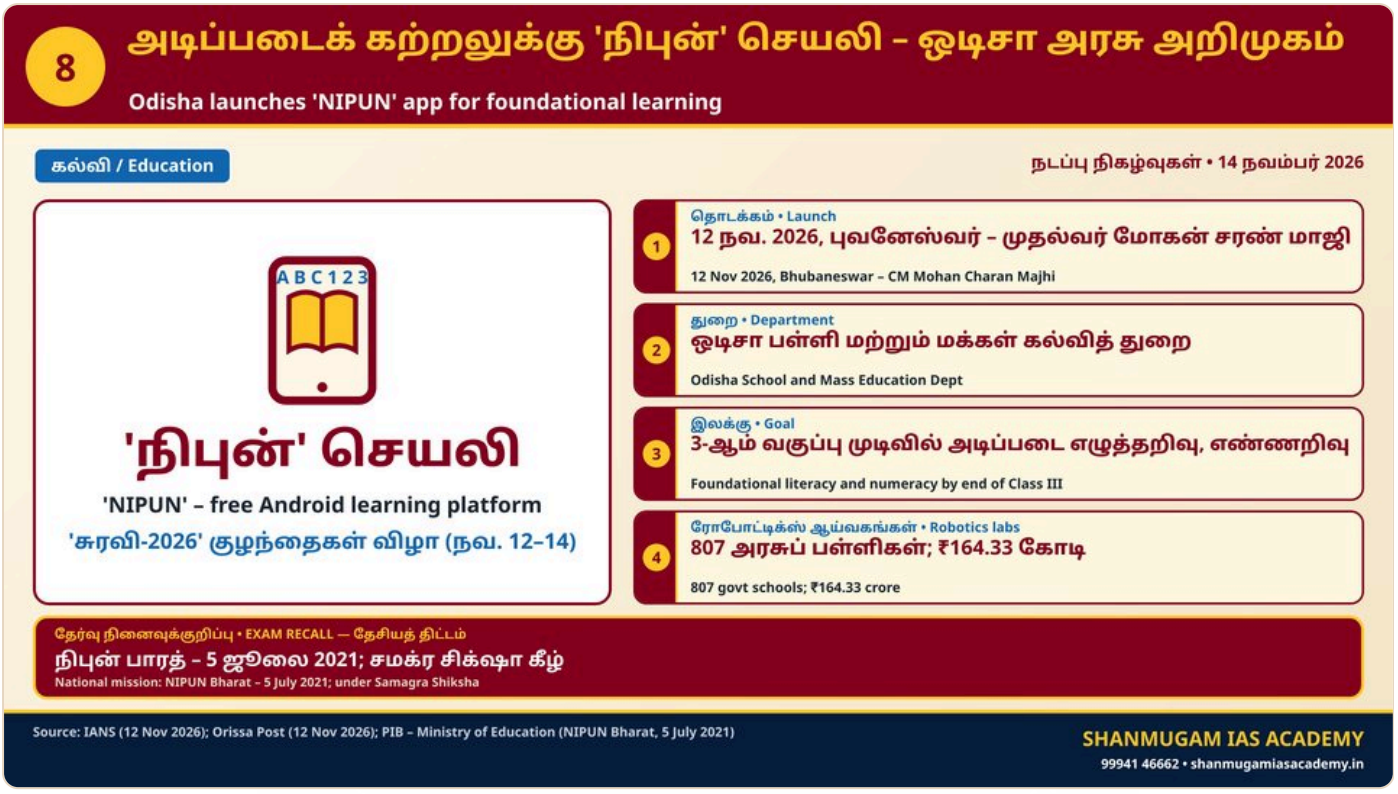

News

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the 'NIPUN' mobile app in Bhubaneswar on 12 November 2026. It was released at the opening of 'Suravi-2026' (12–14 Nov), the three-day children's festival of the State School and Mass Education Department. The app is a free, Android-based learning platform meant to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) among primary schoolchildren. It supports the 'Nipun Odisha' mission, which aims to make every child able to read, write and do basic arithmetic by the end of Class III; reports say the mission works through classroom monitoring and child-wise learning assessment. At the same event, robotics labs set up in 807 government schools at a cost of ₹164.33 crore (for Classes 6–10) were also launched. Chief Minister's Education Awards (Mukhyamantri Shikhya Puraskar) for 2024 and 2025 went to 375 individuals and institutions; under the Chief Minister's Odia Language Scholarship, 7,350 meritorious students will get ₹7,500 a year. The festival's theme was 'Samruddha Bhasha, Samruddha Odisha' (Prosperous Language, Prosperous Odisha), with over 2,500 students taking part; the robotics labs teach robotics, coding, AI, machine learning and 3D printing.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
App	'NIPUN' – free Android learning platform
Launch	12 Nov 2026, Bhubaneswar – CM Mohan Charan Majhi

Point	Details
Event	'Suravi-2026' children's festival (12–14 Nov)
Department	Odisha School and Mass Education Dept
Goal	Foundational literacy and numeracy by end of Class III
Robotics labs	807 govt schools; ₹164.33 crore
National mission	NIPUN Bharat – 5 July 2021; under Samagra Shiksha
NIPUN expansion	National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy

Background

- NIPUN Bharat: the Union Ministry of Education launched the NIPUN Bharat mission on 5 July 2021. Its goal is that every child aged 3–9 attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3 by 2026-27. It runs under the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha scheme through a five-tier structure – national, State, district, block and school. Learning targets called 'Lakshya Soochi' are set from Balvatika to Grade 3.
- National Education Policy 2020: NEP 2020 calls for attaining foundational literacy and numeracy as an 'urgent national mission'. It replaced the 10+2 pattern with a 5+3+3+4 structure, in which the 'Foundational Stage' (ages 3–8) covers three years of pre-school/anganwadi plus Classes 1 and 2, with stress on play- and activity-based learning.
- Odisha context: Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi is a former teacher; at the festival he told students that 'it is skills, not degrees, that provide the real guarantee of employment'. Odisha holds the 'Suravi' children's festival every year to showcase pupils' creative talent; this edition was held at the Unit-3 Capital High School ground, Bhubaneswar.

Tamil Nadu link: To make up the learning loss caused by the Covid lockdown, CM M.K. Stalin launched 'Ennum Ezhuthum', a foundational literacy and numeracy mission for Classes 1–3, on 13 June 2022 at the Panchayat Union Middle School, Azhinjivakkam, Tiruvallur district. Level-based workbooks named 'Arumbu–Mottu–Malar' (tiny bud–bud–flower) were prepared for Tamil, English and Mathematics, and about 92,000 primary teachers were trained.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the 'NIPUN' mobile app in Bhubaneswar on 12 November 2026. It was released at the opening of 'Suravi-2026' (12–14 Nov), the three-day children's festival of the State School and Mass Education Department.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

App: 'NIPUN' – free Android learning platform; Launch: 12 Nov 2026, Bhubaneswar – CM Mohan Charan Majhi; Event: 'Suravi-2026' children's festival (12–14 Nov); Department: Odisha School and Mass Education Dept.

What is the background to this news?

NIPUN Bharat: the Union Ministry of Education launched the NIPUN Bharat mission on 5 July 2021. Its goal is that every child aged 3–9 attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3 by 2026-27.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Centre's NIPUN Bharat mission is implemented under which centrally sponsored scheme?

A) PM POSHAN

B) PM SHRI

C) RUSA

D) Samagra Shiksha

Answer: D – Explanation: Samagra Shiksha – the integrated scheme for school education. NIPUN Bharat began on 5 July 2021; RUSA is for higher education.

2. Under NIPUN Bharat, foundational literacy and numeracy must be attained by the end of which grade?

A) Grade 3

B) Grade 5

C) Grade 2

D) Grade 8

Answer: A – Explanation: Grade 3 – by 2026-27; it covers children aged 3 to 9. Odisha's NIPUN app supports the same goal.

3. In which district was Tamil Nadu's 'Ennum Ezhuthum' mission launched in June 2022?

A) Villupuram

B) Madurai

C) Tiruvallur

D) Coimbatore

Answer: C – Explanation: Tiruvallur – CM Stalin launched it at Azhinjivakkam school, for Classes 1–3. 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' began in Villupuram.

4. The three learning levels in 'Ennum Ezhuthum' workbooks are named after what?

A) Seasons

B) Stages of a flower

C) Rivers of Tamil Nadu

D) Tamil months

Answer: B – Explanation: Arumbu–Mottu–Malar (tiny bud–bud–flower): practice matched to each child's level, with workbooks for Tamil, English and Maths.

5. In NEP 2020's 5+3+3+4 structure, what does the 'Foundational Stage' cover?

A) Classes 1 to 5

B) Ages 6 to 10

C) Pre-school + Cl 1–2

D) Classes 3 to 5

Answer: C – Explanation: Ages 3–8: three years of pre-school/anganwadi plus Classes 1–2. Then Preparatory (3–5), Middle (6–8) and Secondary (9–12).

Sources: IANS (12 Nov 2026) via English Punjab Kesari; Orissa Post (12 Nov 2026); PIB – Ministry of Education (NIPUN Bharat, 5 July 2021); Ministry of Education – NEP 2020 (education.gov.in); The Hindu / TN DIPR (Ennum Ezhuthum, 13 June 2022). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.