

STARS Program

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In News

The World Bank has approved a new project worth \$500 million to **improve learning outcome and governance of government schools in six Indian states**. The project, named STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program), will be **implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**, the flagship central scheme, **in partnership with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan**.

More About STARS Program

- India has, over the years, made significant strides in **improving access to education** across the country, **however, learning outcomes across age groups remain below par**.
- STARS will support India's renewed focus on addressing the learning outcome challenge and help students better prepare for the jobs of the future, through a series of reform initiatives.
- The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank, since 1994 and **prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than \$3 billion towards this goal**.
- The program will support **individualized, needs-based training for teachers** that will give them an opportunity to have a say in shaping training programs and making them relevant to their teaching needs.
- Among other things, the World Bank initiative will focus directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels by providing **customized local-level solutions towards school improvement**.

- STARS will help **improve learning assessment systems, strengthen classroom instruction, and remediation, facilitate school-to-work transition, and strengthen governance and decentralized management.**
- In line with the Sustainable Development Goal for education (SDG 4), the program will help **produce better data on learning levels by improving the National Achievement Survey (NAS).**
- The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a **final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of five years.**