



"Pa Pa Pagli" Initiative (Dahod, Gujarat)

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Subject Preference: GS Paper II (Social Justice - Education) | GS Paper I (Society - Child Welfare)

- **The News (Dec 2025):** The "Pa Pa Pagli" (First Steps) project in the tribal-majority Dahod district has been hailed as a successful model for **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**. Supported by **UNICEF**, it uses play-based learning to improve cognitive outcomes for children aged 3–6.
- **Apt Topic: "Decentralized Implementation of NEP 2020"**
- **The 85% Rule:** The project is based on the neuroscientific fact that **85% of brain development** occurs before age 6. Traditionally, Anganwadis were "nutrition centers"; "Pa Pa Pagli" converts them into "pre-schools."
- **Tackling 'Learning Poverty':** Dahod is an **Aspirational District**. High dropout rates in tribal areas often stem from a "school-readiness gap." This project uses local toys, songs, and "Learning Corners" to bridge that gap.
- **Institutional Synergy:** It demonstrates the convergence of **ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services)** with the **NIPUN Bharat** mission (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy).