



Sanskrit in Rajasthan's Pre-Primary Classes

Why in News?

Rajasthan is set to **introduce Sanskrit** as a **subject for pre-primary classes** in state government schools, **a first in the country**, aiming to teach the **ancient language to children aged 3 to 5**.

Key Points

- **Curriculum Development:** Sanskrit books tailored for pre-primary students have been developed by the **Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT)** and have been **approved by NCERT** and the **state government**.
 - These books are designed for use in both **Sanskrit** and **Hindi/English medium government schools**, demonstrating the initiative's inclusive approach.
 - Each book also includes a list of taught words in **Sanskrit, Hindi, and English**, along with space for children to write the words in their **mother tongue**.
 - The material includes **illustrations** of everyday items (**numbers, animals, birds**) with corresponding **Sanskrit** words.
- **State's Long-Term Vision:** Rajasthan currently has **2,369 Sanskrit schools**. The project will roll out in **three phases**:
 - **Phase 1:** Sanskrit will be introduced in **757 new pre-primary Sanskrit schools**, set to open within a month.
 - **Phase 2 & 3:** Sanskrit will be introduced in **962 Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools (MGEMS)** and **660 PM-Shree Schools** across Rajasthan by next year.
- **Alignment with NEP:** The books align with the **National Education Policy (NEP)** and include concepts such as **numbers, days of the week, body parts, and moral stories**.

Sanskrit Language

- It is an **Indo-Aryan language** and is considered to be **one of the oldest languages**, and is known as the **mother of most languages of India**.
- It is believed to have **originated in India around 3500 years ago** and is often referred to as **Dev Vani (the language of the deities)**.
- It is divided into **two parts** which are **Vedic** and **classical**.
 - **Vedic Sanskrit** is the **older and more archaic form of Sanskrit**, which is attested in the Rig Veda, the Upanishads, and the Puranas.
 - **Classical Sanskrit** is the later and **more standardised form of Sanskrit**, which is **based on the grammar of Panini** and used in literature, philosophy, science, and art.

Note

- Sanskrit is **among the 22 official languages** included in the **Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.
- It is also included **among 11 Classical languages** besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.
- In **2010, Sanskrit was declared the second official language of Uttarakhand**.
- In **Mattur village of Karnataka, everyone speaks in the Sanskrit language**.

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