



Maharashtra Withdraws Mandatory Hindi Rule

Why in News?

On 22nd April 2025, **Maharashtra School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse** announced that the government would **no longer mandate Hindi for students**. According to him the Centre is simply implementing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and not imposing Hindi on the states.

Key Points

- **Government Resolution to Withdraw Hindi Mandate:**
 - The Minister announced that the government will issue a **Government Resolution (GR)** to remove the word 'mandatory' from the earlier directive making Hindi compulsory in **Classes 1 to 5**.
 - He assured that **new rules will be framed** after assessing **each school's student strength** and **availability of language teachers**.
- **Three-Language Formula:**
 - He reiterated that the **three-language formula will continue**, in line with the NEP 2020.
 - However, he stressed the **introduction of greater flexibility**, ensuring that **no language will be imposed on any state**.
 - Students will have the **freedom to choose the three languages**, as long as **two of them are native Indian languages**.
 - Schools must accommodate these choices based on available infrastructure and teachers.
- **NEP's Guiding Principles Emphasised:**
 - The Minister cited the **NEP 2020's emphasis on constitutional values, regional aspirations**, and the **need to promote multilingualism and national unity**.
 - He underscored that Hindi is not mandated by the Centre but can be an option like English, used for broader communication.

Three-Language Formula (Kothari Commission 1964)

- **First language:** It will be the mother tongue or regional language.
- **Second language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be other modern Indian languages or English. In non-Hindi speaking states, it will be Hindi or English.
- **Third Language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be English or a modern Indian language. In the non-Hindi speaking state, it will be English or a modern Indian language.

National Education Policy 2020

- **About:**
 - **The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** aims to address India's evolving development needs by overhauling the education system to meet 21st century goals and **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)**, while preserving India's cultural heritage.
 - It replaced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**, which was modified in 1992.
- **Salient Features:**
 - **Universal Access:** Focuses on providing access to education from pre-school through

secondary levels.

- **Early Childhood Education:** Transitions from the 10+2 to a 5+3+3+4 system, including children aged 3-6 in the school curriculum with an emphasis on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**.
- **Multilingualism:** Promotes using mother tongues or regional languages as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5, with options for Sanskrit and other languages. [Indian Sign Language \(ISL\)](#) will be standardised.
- **Inclusive Education: Emphasises support for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)**, children with disabilities, and the establishment of "Bal Bhavans."
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) Enhancement:** Aim to raise the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** from 26.3% to 50% by 2035, adding 3.5 crore new seats.
- **Research Focus:** Establishes the [National Research Foundation](#) to enhance research culture and capacity.
- **Language Preservation:** Supports Indian languages through the **Institute of Translation and Interpretation (ITI)** and strengthens language departments.
- **Internationalisation:** Encourages international collaborations and the entry of top-ranked foreign universities.
 - For example, in 2023 [UGC](#) released regulations to facilitate foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
- **Funding:** Targets increasing public investment in education to **6% of GDP**.
- **PARAKH Assessment Center:** Introduces [PARAKH](#) (**Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**) for competency-based and holistic assessments.
- **Gender Inclusion Fund:** Establishes a fund to promote gender equality in education and support initiatives for disadvantaged groups.
- **Special Education Zones:** Creates **Special Education Zones** to cater to the needs of disadvantaged regions and groups, reinforcing the commitment to equitable access to quality education.