



Hindi as Compulsory 3rd language in Maharashtra

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has made **Hindi a compulsory third language for Classes I to V** in Marathi and English medium schools, aligning with **the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Key Points

▪ 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 **preschool 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.

Hindi Language

- **Articles Related to Hindi:** **Article 210** states that the **language** to be used **in the legislature can be the official language of the state, Hindi, or English**.
 - [Article 351](#) states that it shall be the **duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language**, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
- Hindi is one of the 22 languages listed in the [eighth schedule](#) of the Constitution of India and It is not a [classical language](#).
 - The language is named after the **Persian word 'Hind'** meaning '**land of the Indus River**' and is a descendant of Sanskrit.

