



# Hindi As Third Language in Maharashtra Schools

## Why in News?

The **Maharashtra government** has issued a new directive mandating the [teaching of Hindi as a third language](#) in Marathi and English medium schools from **Classes 1 to 5**.

## Key Points

- **Hindi as Third Language:**
  - The **revised government resolution (GR)**, stated that **Hindi will “generally” be the third language**.
  - The GR is part of implementing the **State Curriculum Framework for School Education 2024**, aligned with the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).
  - **Students can opt for another Indian language** if at least 20 students per grade in a school make such a request.
    - In that case, the government will provide either a language teacher or online instruction.
  - The directive makes **Marathi** compulsory across all school mediums and mandates inclusion of the medium of instruction, Marathi, and English under the **three-language formula**.
- **NEP 2020 and the Three Language Formula:**
  - **NEP 2020 Policy:** Mandates that students learn three languages, with at least two being Indian languages.
  - **Changes from Previous Policies:** Unlike the **NEP 1968**, which required Hindi, English, and a regional language, **NEP 2020** offers flexibility in language choices, allowing states and students to decide their language preferences.
  - **Regional Flexibility:** The policy promotes multilingualism by respecting cultural and regional diversity, giving states and students the freedom to select languages.

## Evolution of the Three Language Formula

- **Article 351 of the Constitution:** Directs the Union to promote the spread of the **Hindi language**.
- **Kothari Commission (1964-66):** Introduced the idea of the three-language formula, which was later included in the **National Policy on Education (1968)**.
- **NEP 1968:** Recommended the use of **regional languages** in primary and secondary education and advocated for their adoption at the university level as well.
- **1992 Programme of Action:** Suggested that the **mother tongue or regional language** should be the medium of instruction at the pre-school level.
- **Right to Education Act, 2009:** Stated that, whenever possible, the **medium of instruction** should be the child's **mother tongue**.
- **NEP 2020:** Advocates for using the **home language, mother tongue, local language, or regional language** as the medium of instruction at least until **Grade 5**, with a preference for extending this till **Grade 8** and beyond.

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