

### THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA - THE CENTRE-STATE FAULTLINE

#### The Three-Language Formula:

- **About:** It is an **educational policy** in India, first introduced in **1968** and reinforced by NEP 2020, requiring students to learn three languages: English, Hindi (or another Indian language in non-Hindi states), and the regional/mother tongue.
- **Objective:** It promotes -
  - **National integration:** Encourages understanding and communication across linguistic borders.
  - **Linguistic/ cultural diversity:** Promotes the study of both regional languages and the English language for global connection.
  - **Multilingualism:** Fosters the development of multiple language skills from a young age.

#### Key Points of Contention:

- **Three-language formula:** Debate over flexibility vs hidden compulsion, and uniform implementation across states.
- **Fiscal federalism:**
  - Allegation by Tamil Nadu that the centre is using funds as a tool of coercion. For example, withholding about ₹2,200 crore under Samagra Shiksha.
  - Raises issue of conditional transfers vs state autonomy.
- **Implementation gaps:** Questions raised are availability of qualified language teachers, infrastructure and funding clarity, and actual implementation in Hindi-speaking states.
- **Institutional bias:** Concerns over the limited teaching of southern languages in central institutions (e.g., Kendriya Vidyalayas), and unequal promotion of classical languages.

#### Underlying Themes:

- **Federalism vs centralisation:** Debate reflects tension between cooperative federalism, and centralising tendencies of the Union.

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- **Linguistic identity and politics:** Language seen as a marker of cultural identity, and a tool of political mobilisation.
- **Education as a concurrent subject:** Highlights friction in policy design (Centre) vs implementation (States).

#### Challenges and Way Forward:

- **Trust deficit:** Between Centre and States. Strengthening cooperative federalism - institutional dialogue via the Inter-State Council, and the GST Council-like consultative mechanisms in education.
- **Lack of transparent implementation data:** Publish State-wise data on language implementation, teacher recruitment and fund allocation.
- **Politicisation of education policy:** Fiscal neutrality - decouple education funding from political compliance. Ensure predictable and rule-based transfers.
- **Inadequate teacher capacity and institutional readiness:** Ensuring policy flexibility - genuine state-specific adaptations in language policy, and avoiding one-size-fits-all frameworks.
- **Risk of homogenisation vs preservation of diversity:** Promoting true multilingualism - encouraging reciprocal language learning, and expansion of non-Hindi languages in northern states.

#### Conclusion:

- The controversy goes beyond language—it reflects a deeper contest over the nature of Indian federalism and cultural pluralism.
- While the Centre emphasises national integration through multilingualism, states like Tamil Nadu stress autonomy and linguistic identity.
- A **balanced approach**—grounded in dialogue, flexibility, and mutual respect—is essential to ensure that education policy strengthens, rather than strains, India's unity in diversity.

### AMARAVATI AS ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL - 2026 AMENDMENT BILL KEY PROVISIONS

- The state of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014 through the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, leading to the creation of Telangana and residual Andhra Pradesh.
- As per the Act, Hyderabad was designated as the joint capital for both states for a period of up to 10 years.
- After this transition period ended in June 2024, Hyderabad became the exclusive capital of Telangana, requiring Andhra Pradesh to establish its own capital.
- Following bifurcation, the Andhra Pradesh government under N. Chandrababu Naidu identified Amaravati as the new capital and began developing it as a greenfield capital city.

#### **Evolution of Capital Debate in Andhra Pradesh**

- The capital issue in Andhra Pradesh has been politically contested.
- After coming to power in 2019, the YSR Congress Party proposed a **three-capital model** with Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Amaravati as the legislative capital, and Kurnool as the judicial capital.
- However, in 2022, the Andhra Pradesh High Court ruled that the capital could not be shifted from Amaravati, citing a lack of legislative competence to reverse earlier policy decisions.
- Subsequently, with the return of the National Democratic Alliance government, the state reaffirmed its commitment to Amaravati as the sole capital.

#### **Key Features of the Amendment Bill**

- The **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, introduces specific legal provisions to resolve the capital issue.
- The Bill amends Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. It explicitly recognises Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.

- It inserts the phrase “at Amaravati” to formally designate the capital location. It also clarifies that Amaravati includes areas notified under the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Act, 2014.
- Importantly, the Bill gives retrospective effect from June 2, 2024, the date when Hyderabad ceased to be the joint capital.

### Rationale Behind the Amendment

- The amendment was considered necessary to remove ambiguity regarding the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- Since the original 2014 Act governs the creation and structure of the state, any change in capital status requires modification of this central legislation.
- The state government argued that statutory recognition would ensure policy stability and prevent future governments from altering the capital location arbitrarily.
- Thus, the amendment aims to provide long-term certainty in governance and infrastructure planning.

### Implications of Declaring Amaravati as Sole Capital

- The decision has multiple governance and economic implications.
  - **Administrative Clarity.** It resolves long-standing uncertainty regarding the capital location.
  - **Investor Confidence.** Clear policy direction is likely to boost infrastructure investment in Amaravati.
  - **Urban Development.** Focused development of a single capital can enhance efficiency in planning and execution.
  - **Political Stability.** It reduces the scope for future policy reversals on the capital issue.
- At the same time, concerns regarding regional balance and equitable development across the state remain relevant.

### FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index rose in March 2026, largely due to higher energy costs linked to the escalating conflict in the Middle East.

- It is a **measure of the monthly change** in international prices of a basket of **food commodities**.
- It consists of the average of **five commodity group price indices** (cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar), weighted with the average export shares.
- **Base year:** 2014-16.

### What is Food and Agriculture Organization?

- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- Its goal is **to achieve food security for all** and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

**Members:** It consists of **195 members** – 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

- Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

**Reports published by the FAO:** The State of the World's Forests (SOFO), The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

- **Headquarter:** Rome (Italy)

### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



Recently, the Indian Permanent Mission to New York with the board of directors of the United Nations Development Partnership Fund, reviewed the whole gamut of the fund's operations.

- It was **established in 2017**, with \$150 million, **led by the Government of India**.
- The Fund supports **Southern-owned and -led, demand-driven and transformational sustainable development projects** across the developing world.

**Focus:** It focuses on **least developed** countries and Small Island **developing States**.

- United Nations agencies implement the Fund projects in close collaboration with partnering Governments.
- The fund is a notable example of **South-South cooperation** with the system.
- Its **thematic reach spans all 17 SDGs**, with several initiatives addressing more than one Goal.
- These include **climate resilience, environmental sustainability**, renewable energy, gender equality, health and pandemic response, education and skills, livelihoods, infrastructure, water and sanitation, and agricultural development.

Under this, the **Commonwealth Window of this Fund** aims to catalyze the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in the developing countries of the **Commonwealth of Nations**.

- Commonwealth of Nations is a **voluntary association** of independent and equal sovereign States comprised mainly of **former territories of the British Empire**, including India.
- It is managed by **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**,

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#### YUVA SANGAM

- Yuva Sangam is a youth exchange programme that brings young people from different parts of the country together.
- **Focus:** It is designed for those aged 18–30 years, including students, National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan volunteers, and young professionals.
- It is anchored by the Ministry of Education and implemented through Higher Education Institutions.
- It creates a structured platform for youth engagement across regions.
- It was launched under the Government of India's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative.
- It supports the experiential learning approach of the National Education Policy 2020, where learning extends beyond classrooms into real-world contexts.
- The programme is structured around the five thematic pillars — the 5 Ps:
  - Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions & Culture), Pragati (Development & Governance), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-People Connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology & Innovation)

#### SĀDHANA SAPTAH INITIATIVE



- It is an initiative under Mission Karmayogi, also known as the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building
- The Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement (Sādhana) Saptah aims to foster skills necessary for citizen centric governance.
- It is organised by the Department of Personnel and Training, Capacity Building Commission and Karmayogi Bharat.
- The initiative brings together Central Ministries, States, U T's & training institutions on a common platform to promote responsive and citizen centric governance.

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- It is structured around three Sutras: **Technology, Tradition and Tangible Outcomes**, with a focus on building skills required for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
  - It provides **multiple learning opportunities** through curated courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform, Samuhik Charcha sessions, thematic webinars and hands on workshops conducted by training institutions.
  - These activities focus on competencies such as **leadership, communication, data analysis**, project management and digital governance.

#### JIYO PARSI SCHEME



- Jiyo Parsi is a **flagship Central Sector Scheme** of the Government of India aimed at arresting the **declining population of the Parsi community**.
- It was **launched in 2013-14** and seeks to stabilize and increase the Parsi population through structured interventions and scientific support.
- The scheme provides:
  - **Medical Assistance for fertility** treatment and pregnancy-related care
  - **Health of Community support** including financial assistance for childcare and care of dependent elderly
  - **Advocacy initiatives** such as counselling, awareness campaigns, and outreach programmes
- The Scheme will be implemented through **the State Governments** with the assistance of respective Parsi Institutions.
- Eligible Parsi couples would be **provided financial assistance** under the various components of the schemes through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode**.
- The State Governments would get the necessary verification, including biometric authentication of all beneficiaries done.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs

### PROJECT CHETAK



- It was **raised in 1980** in the strategically **important western sector of India**.
- It has played a vital role in **developing and maintaining infrastructure in Rajasthan, Punjab, and the northern parts of Gujarat**.
- The project has played a vital role in connecting border areas and contributing to national security and regional development, it said.
- It is one of **the largest BRO projects** in terms of geographical area.
- It supports the **defence forces by maintaining key feeder roads** towards the International Border with continuous efforts underway to upgrade them to National Highway Double Lane specifications, said the statement.
- **Motto:** ‘Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas’

### Key Facts about Border Roads Organisation

- It is a **road construction executive force** in India that provides support to the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- BRO was entirely brought under the **Ministry of Defence in 2015**.
- **Establishment:** It was formed in 1960 to secure India’s borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and northeastern states of the country.
- It develops and maintains road networks in **India’s border areas and friendly neighboring countries**.
- BRO specialises in **constructing and maintaining** Roads, Bridges, Tunnels, Airfields and Marine Works across some of the world’s most challenging terrains.
- **Motto:** Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work).