



## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS Paper - II

- Free education: Centre told to reply on the contempt petition
- India is 'partly free', says U.S. thinktank
- 'Linguistic barriers to education must go'
- Reservation in Pvt. jobs: trade body asks Lal govt. for a relook at the legislation



## Free education: Centre told to reply on the contempt petition

‘Private schools throwing out many EWS students every year after Class 8’

### Highlights:

1. The Delhi High Court asked the Central government to respond to a contempt petition against the authorities for not taking a decision on extension of free education under the Right To Education (RTE) Act to children of Economically Weaker Section (EWS) beyond Class 8 and up to Class 12 in school.
2. Justice Najmi Waziri questioned the Ministry of Education as to why the decision has not been taken to extend the RTE Act, despite the court’s directions passed in 2019.
3. Due to inaction on the part of the Centre, private schools across India are throwing several EWS students out every year after they pass Class 8.
4. The High Court had in December 2019, asked the Centre to take a decision on the extension of free education to EWS children even after attaining the age of 14 years or beyond.
5. The plea sought initiation of contempt proceedings against authorities for their alleged deliberate disobedience of the judgment.

## India is ‘partly free’, says U.S. thinktank

Freedoms in India have reduced, according to a report from a U.S. think tank, Freedom House, resulting in India being classified as ‘partly free’.

### Highlights:

1. India’s score was 67, a drop from 71/100 from last year (reflecting 2019 data) downgrading it from the free category last year (based on 2020 data).
2. The private media are vigorous and diverse, and investigations and scrutiny of politicians do occur. However, attacks on press freedom have escalated dramatically recently, and reporting has become significantly less ambitious in recent years,” the report said, citing the use of security, defamation, sedition and contempt of court laws to quiet critical media voices.



3. “Separately, revelations of close relationships between politicians, business executives and lobbyists on one hand and leading media personalities and owners of media outlets, on the other, have dented public confidence in the press,” the report said.

## ‘Linguistic barriers to education must go’

Prime Minister says national education policy focuses on learning in local languages.

### Highlights:

1. The country’s education system should break through linguistic barriers in order to ensure that those in rural areas or from poor homes were not deprived of opportunities to let their talent flourish, Prime Minister said.
2. Addressing a webinar on education initiatives in the Union Budget, he stated that the focus on learning in local languages was one of the most important improvements being brought through the new National Education Policy.
3. There was no lack of talent in the country, and those who knew only their own languages should not be excluded from its development journey. It was important to work in mission mode to ensure that the talent of those from rural areas or from poor families were not allowed to die, but were rather given opportunities to bloom, he urged.
4. For building an Atmanirbhar Bharat, it is important that the youth have self-confidence. Self-confidence comes when youth have faith in their education, skills and knowledge.
5. It was the responsibility of all academics and language experts to make sure that the best content in the country and the world were available in Indian languages. This was definitely possible in this era of technology.

### The National Language Translation Mission

This must be done from primary to higher education, with content creation in Indian languages for all subjects, whether medical, engineering, technology or management. The National Language Translation Mission was also key to ensuring this, he noted.



## Reservation in Pvt. jobs: trade body asks Lal govt. for a relook at the legislation

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Wednesday urged the Haryana government to “relook” at the legislation that provides for reservation in private jobs for local candidates, saying reservation impacts productivity and competitiveness.

### Highlights:

1. The industry body said it hopes the State government re-looks at the legislation. With Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’, we look forward to an integrated and mobile labour market within the country.”
2. Haryana Governor has given assent to the Bill providing 75% reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the State. The quota will initially apply for 10 years, according to the Bill. The Bill covers private companies, societies, trusts and partnership firms in the State.
3. Apart from tackling unemployment among local people, the State government said the law will discourage the influx of migrants seeking low-paid jobs, which has a significant impact on local infrastructure and leads to the proliferation of slums.