



# Daily Current Affairs



## To The Point

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## 1 Incorporating Sexual Equality into School Curriculums

**Context:** The **Supreme Court** has recently emphasized the need to include **sexual equality** in school syllabuses. Alongside **moral and ethical training**, students should be educated on **respectful behavior towards women**, fostering a more **equitable and just society**.



### Why is Sexual Equality Important?

#### Breaking Patriarchal Norms:

- India continues to struggle with **deep-rooted gender biases** that restrict opportunities for women across various sectors.

#### Boosting Economic Growth:

- The **gender gap in education and employment** negatively impacts economic development.

#### Bridging Educational Disparities:

- According to **NFHS-5**, while **70.3% of females** are literate, the literacy rate among **males is 84.7%**, highlighting the urgent need for gender-inclusive education.

#### Encouraging Women's Workforce Participation:

- Only **37% of Indian women (aged 15 and above)** participate in the labor force, compared to **73% of men**, showing a stark imbalance in employment opportunities.

#### Upholding Constitutional Rights:

Articles **14, 15, and 21** of the **Indian Constitution** guarantee **gender equality**, and embedding it in education aligns with these fundamental rights.

#### Preventing Gender-Based Violence:

- Early education on **gender equality** can help curb **harassment, discrimination, and violence against women**, fostering a **safer and more inclusive society**.

#### Challenges to Achieving Sexual Equality:

##### Traditional Patriarchal Mindset:

- Societal norms and cultural biases** continue to reinforce gender stereotypes, limiting opportunities for women.

##### Gaps in Gender-Sensitive Education:

- Many schools **lack gender-inclusive curricula and teacher training**, making it difficult to impart effective gender equality education.

##### Workplace Inequalities:

Women still face **pay gaps, lack of leadership representation, and gendered career restrictions**, hampering their professional growth.

##### Rising Cases of Gender-Based Violence:

- Despite legal protections, **sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and crimes against women** remain widespread concerns.

##### Influence of Digital Media:

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The **objectification of women in media** and the surge in **cyber abuse** contribute to gender discrimination and reinforce harmful stereotypes.

### Global Efforts Toward Gender Equality:

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5:

- Aims to **achieve gender equality** and **empower all women and girls** globally.

#### Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995):

- An international commitment by the **United Nations** to promote **gender equality** and **women's rights**.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Encourages governments worldwide to adopt **legal protections** and **policy reforms** against gender-based discrimination.

#### India's Initiatives to Promote Gender Equality:

##### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):

- Encourages the **education and empowerment** of the girl child to challenge **gender biases**.

##### National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- Recognizes **gender inclusion** as a top priority and promotes **gender sensitization programs**.

##### Nirbhaya Fund:

- Supports **safety and security initiatives** aimed at protecting women from violence.

##### Digital Literacy Program for Women:

A part of **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)**, this initiative helps women access **e-governance services** and participate in the **digital economy**.

##### One Stop Centre Scheme (Sakhi Centres):

- Provides comprehensive **support for women facing violence**, including **police assistance, medical aid, legal counseling, psycho-social support, and temporary shelter**.

#### Final Thoughts:

Integrating **sexual equality education** into school curricula is a **powerful step toward social progress**. A well-structured, **gender-sensitization program** can transform **mindsets**, leading India toward a **more inclusive, equitable, and respectful society**.



## 2 India and China's Efforts to Strengthen the G20 Amid Global Challenges

**Context:** India's **External Affairs Minister** highlighted the collaborative efforts of **India and China** in safeguarding the integrity of the **G20**, despite increasing **global polarization**.



### Key Discussions Between India and China:

- **Bilateral Relations:** Both nations discussed various issues, including developments along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- **Resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage:** Talks were held on reviving this significant religious journey.
- **Trans-Border River Talks:** Discussions focused on water-sharing and management between the two countries.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** Improving **flight operations** and easing **travel restrictions** were also on the agenda.

### Origins and Evolution of the G20:

- **Established in 1999** in response to the **Asian financial crisis (1997-1998)** as an informal forum for **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors**.
- Initially focused on **macroeconomic policies**, but later expanded to cover **trade, climate change, health, agriculture, energy, and anti-corruption**.
- **Membership:** Consists of **19 countries**—Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UK, and the US—along with two regional organizations, the **European Union (EU)** and the **African Union (AU)**.
- **Presidency Rotation:** The **G20 does not have a permanent secretariat**; instead, the **presidency rotates annually** among member nations.

### Interesting Facts About G20:

- The **G20 unites the world's largest economies**, facilitating discussions on **economic, political, and social issues**.
- Before the **African Union (AU)** joined, the G20 accounted for **85% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population**.

### India's Role in the G20:

- **G20 Leadership in 2023:** India showcased its ability to foster **global consensus** through the **Leaders' Declaration**.
- **Inclusivity at the Core:** India ensured that **public concerns** were represented through **11 Engagement Groups**, including **youth, women, the private sector, and civil society**.
- **Commitment to Sustainable Development:** India prioritized **Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) – "No Poverty"**, aligning with global development objectives.
- **Voice of the Global South:** India represented **developing nations**, advocating for their interests and challenges on a global platform.



### Why G20 Matters for India:

- **Economic Strength:** India's diverse and growing economy positions it as a key contributor to **global policymaking**.
- **Foreign Investments:** The G20 forum enhances India's ability to **attract investments**, fostering **job creation, technological advancements, and infrastructure growth**.
- **Inclusive Growth:** India's leadership in the G20 aims to deliver **tangible benefits**, including **higher investments, employment opportunities, and poverty alleviation**.

### Challenges India Faces in G20 Leadership:

- **Navigating Global Tensions:** Balancing relations between major powers like the **US, China, and Russia** is a complex challenge.
- **Sustainability vs. Growth:** India's **industrialization** must align with its **climate commitments**, requiring strategic planning.
- **Developed vs. Developing Nations:** Bridging the divide between **advanced economies and emerging markets** remains a key hurdle.

### The Road Ahead for India:

India's participation in the **G20 strengthens its global standing** and enhances its **leadership in international affairs**. Despite existing **challenges**, India's active role offers **immense opportunities** to **drive global change, accelerate economic growth, and champion the interests of developing nations**.

As India rises on the **global stage**, its leadership in the **G20 will bring widespread benefits** to **citizens, farmers, workers, and the middle class**, ensuring **inclusive and sustainable prosperity** for all.

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## 3 Indian Army Boosts Air Defence to Counter Drone and Aerial Threats

**Context:** With the **increasing use of drones** and evolving **security threats**, the **Indian Army** is taking major steps to **strengthen its air defence systems**. **Low-flying aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** pose new challenges that demand **advanced defence solutions**.



### Key Developments in Air Defence:

- **Contract for Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM):** Expected to be finalized within **4-5 months**, this **indigenously developed missile system** by DRDO has a **30 km range** and is a top priority for the Army.
- **Upgrades in Akash Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM):**
  - Three regiments of **Akash SAM** are already in service.
  - Two regiments of the **enhanced Akash-NG** have been contracted.
  - New **prototypes** for trials are expected within **45 days**.
- **Drone Warfare Challenges:** Lessons from the **Ukraine war** have demonstrated the increasing role of **drones in modern combat**, making **air defence adaptation** crucial.

### Understanding Drones and Their Military Applications:

Drones, also known as **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**, are **pilotless aircraft** used for various applications, from **military missions** to **civilian operations**.

### Military Uses of Drones:

- **Surveillance & Reconnaissance:** Used for **intelligence gathering** without endangering human pilots.
- **Precision Strikes:** Armed drones like the **MQ-9 Reaper** can carry **missiles** and conduct **targeted airstrikes**.
- **Real-time Battlefield Intelligence:** **Advanced sensors** provide **live combat updates**.
- **Psychological Warfare:** Continuous **UAV surveillance** can create **fear and deterrence**.
- **Logistics & Resupply:** Used to deliver **supplies to troops** in remote areas.
- **Law Enforcement & Border Security:** Assist in **crowd monitoring**, **surveillance**, and **rescue operations**.

### Why India Needs Stronger Aerial Defence:

- **Rising Drone Intrusions:** **Adversaries** have used **drones to drop weapons** and conduct **surveillance along India's borders**.
- **Threats to Critical Installations:** UAVs have been detected near **military bases** and **vital infrastructures**, raising concerns about **potential attacks**.
- **Enhanced Warfare Tactics:** Drones equipped with **loitering munitions**, **spy cameras**, and **disruptive technology** present new **security risks**.
- **Espionage & Smuggling:** Civilian drones are increasingly misused for **spying**, **smuggling**, and **unauthorized surveillance**.



## India's Strategy to Strengthen Air Defence:

- **Advanced Defence Systems:**
  - Deployment of **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)** and **smart ammunition**.
  - **Counter-drone systems** and **modern anti-aircraft weapons** are being introduced.
- **Technological Innovations:**
  - Development of **radar systems** and **anti-drone weaponry** to **detect, track, and neutralize** aerial threats.
- **Regulatory Measures:**
  - **Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)** for drone operations.
  - **Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023**, effective from **September 27, 2023**, aims to **liberalize and expand** drone usage while ensuring security.
- **Indigenous Defence Technology:**
  - **DRDO** and **Indian defence agencies** are working on **homegrown solutions** to tackle drone threats.
  - Focus on **developing missile systems, electronic warfare tools, and AI-driven counter-drone technologies**.

## Conclusion:

Drones have **revolutionized warfare and civilian industries**, but they also pose **significant security risks**. As **aerial threats evolve**, India is taking **decisive steps** to fortify its air defence systems with **cutting-edge technology, strategic policies, and indigenous innovations**. Strengthening **drone countermeasures** will be crucial for safeguarding **national security and critical assets** in the future.

## 4 I&B Ministry Issues Advisory on 'Obscene Content' in Digital Media

**Context:** The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has issued an advisory to OTT platforms and social media following complaints about the spread of obscene, vulgar, and pornographic content online.

**Understanding OTT Platforms:**

**Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms** deliver movies, TV shows, and other video content directly through the internet, bypassing traditional cable or satellite networks. These platforms have gained immense popularity but have also sparked concerns over unregulated content.



**Key Highlights of the Advisory:**

The I&B Ministry has directed OTT platforms to strictly follow the Code of Ethics under the IT Rules, 2021, ensuring age-based classification and content restrictions.

The advisory cites multiple laws governing online content, including:

- Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986
- Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), 2023
- POCSO Act
- IT Act, 2000

**Grievance Redressal Mechanism under IT Rules, 2021:**

The IT Rules, 2021, have a three-tier mechanism to handle complaints regarding OTT content and digital news:

- **Level I: Self-Regulation by Publishers**
  - Platforms must appoint a **Grievance Officer** to resolve complaints within **15 days**.
  - Content must comply with the **Code of Ethics** and **age-based classification**.
- **Level II: Oversight by Self-Regulatory Bodies (SRBs)**
  - **SRBs monitor publisher actions** and review complaints.
  - They must be **registered with the I&B Ministry**.
- **Level III: Government Oversight**
  - The **I&B Ministry** can issue **warnings, advisories, or take action** against violations.
  - A **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)** reviews unresolved complaints.

**Challenges in Regulating OTT Content:**

Despite the new regulatory framework, several challenges remain:

- **Balancing Freedom of Expression and Regulation**
  - **Article 19** of the Indian Constitution guarantees **freedom of speech**, but restrictions exist for **morality and decency**.
  - **Overregulation** may stifle creativity and lead to **self-censorship**.
- **Subjective Interpretation of Content**
  - Different audiences perceive **offensive content differently**, leading to **inconsistent rulings**.
- **Global Jurisdiction Issues:**
  - **International OTT platforms** struggle to align their policies with **Indian content regulations**.





- **Fear of Government Overreach:**
  - **Ambiguity in content restrictions** raises concerns about **political bias and censorship**.
- **AI-Based Moderation Challenges:**
  - **Automated systems** may misinterpret **cultural sensitivities**, leading to **unfair content removals**.

### Laws Governing Obscene Content Online:

Several laws **govern online content and obscenity**, imposing **strict penalties** for violations:

- **Section 294 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:**
  - Penalizes **selling, importing, exporting, advertising, or profiting from obscene content** (including digital material).
  - The content must be **lascivious or excessively sexual** to be deemed illegal.
- **Section 67 of the IT Act, 2000:**
  - **Publishing or transmitting obscene material electronically** is punishable with up to **3 years of imprisonment and a 5 lakh fine** for first-time offenders.
- **Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986:**
  - Prohibits **depiction of women in an indecent manner**.
- **IT Rules, 2021:**
  - Mandates a **Code of Ethics for OTT platforms**.
  - Introduces **age-based content classification** and **access control for adult-rated material**.
- **POCSO Act:**
  - Aims to **protect children from exposure to sexual content and online exploitation**.

### Supreme Court's Observations on Obscenity:

The **Supreme Court of India** has set important legal precedents regarding **obscenity in digital content**:

- **Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra (1964):**
  - Applied the **Hicklin Test**, defining obscenity as **content that corrupts or depraves susceptible minds**.
- **Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal (2014):**
  - Replaced the Hicklin Test with the **Community Standards Test**, considering societal norms while evaluating obscenity claims.
- **March 2024: SC Ruling on OTT Content:**
  - **Quashed proceedings** against "College Romance" creators, ruling that **use of profanity alone does not constitute obscenity**.
  - Reinforced that **content is deemed obscene only if it actively arouses sexual thoughts**.

### Conclusion:

The **OTT revolution** has transformed **digital entertainment**, but it has also sparked debates on **content regulation**. The **I&B Ministry's advisory** seeks to ensure **responsible content creation** without infringing on **freedom of expression**. However, **striking a balance** between **creative liberty** and **content restrictions** remains an ongoing challenge.

## 5 RBI's \$10 Billion USD-INR Swap Auction: Impact on Liquidity & Rupee Stability

**Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to conduct its **largest-ever \$10 billion USD-INR buy-sell swap auction** to tackle the **ongoing liquidity crunch** in the banking sector. This move is expected to **stabilize the rupee** and ensure **smooth currency flow** in the financial system.



### What is a USD-INR Buy-Sell Swap Auction?

A **Dollar/Rupee Buy-Sell Swap Auction** is a tool used by the **RBI to manage liquidity** in the financial system. It involves a **two-step process**:

1. **First Leg** – The **RBI purchases U.S. Dollars** from banks in exchange for **Indian Rupees**.
2. **Reverse Leg** – On a pre-agreed date, the **RBI sells back the dollars** to the banks at a **predetermined rate** along with a swap premium.

### Why is the RBI Conducting this Swap Auction?

- **Liquidity Management** – Helps inject or absorb **rupee liquidity** in the banking system.
- **Exchange Rate Stability** – Reduces **volatility** in the USD/INR market by **balancing dollar supply**.
- **Forex Reserve Optimization** – Ensures **efficient use of foreign exchange reserves**.
- **Impact on Inflation & Interest Rates** – Regulates **money supply**, indirectly affecting **inflation and borrowing costs**.

### Benefits of the USD-INR Swap:

- **Boosts Market Liquidity** – Ensures sufficient **funds for banks**, supporting **credit flow**.
- **Strengthens the Rupee** – Reduces pressure on the **currency during forex outflows**.
- **Predictability for Banks** – Helps banks manage their **forex positions and liquidity planning**.
- **Prevents Excessive Volatility** – Controls **sharp fluctuations in currency values**, enhancing investor confidence.

### Challenges & Risks:

- **Impact on Forex Reserves** – A large-scale swap could **reduce foreign exchange reserves**.
- **Global Uncertainties** – Effectiveness depends on **global market conditions and capital flows**.
- **Market Speculation** – If not executed strategically, it may trigger **unwanted currency speculation**.
- **Temporary Relief** – While useful for liquidity, it is **not a long-term solution** for structural financial challenges.

### RBI's \$10 Billion Swap Auction: Key Details:

- **Auction Date** – February 28, 2025
- **Spot Settlement Date** – March 4, 2025
- **Far-Leg Settlement Date** – March 6, 2028
- **Expected USD-INR Rate Movement** – May approach **86.30**

This auction aims to **stabilize the rupee** and **absorb foreign exchange pressures**, particularly amid **global economic fluctuations**.

**How the Swap Mechanism Works:**

1. **First Phase (Spot Leg)** – Banks **sell USD to the RBI** at the **FBIL Reference Rate** and receive **rupee liquidity** in their accounts.
  - **FBIL (Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited) Reference Rate** is the official benchmark for forex rates in India.
2. **Final Phase (Reverse Leg)** – After three years, banks **buy back USD from the RBI** by **returning rupees** with an **agreed swap premium**.

**Conclusion:**

The RBI's \$10 billion swap auction is a **strategic move** to **enhance liquidity, strengthen the rupee, and maintain exchange rate stability**. While it offers **short-term relief**, India's financial system must also focus on **long-term reforms** to ensure **sustained stability in forex markets and banking liquidity**.



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## Three-Language Policy Dispute: Tamil Nadu vs NEP 2020

**Context:** The Union Government has withheld 2,152 crore in Samagra Shiksha funds from Tamil Nadu due to the state's refusal to implement the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. While Tamil Nadu is open to the **PM SHRI scheme**, it firmly opposes the **three-language formula**, continuing to uphold its **longstanding two-language policy**.



The Centre insists on compliance, arguing for **constitutional alignment**, while Tamil Nadu has **rejected the mandate**, calling it an act of **coercion and overreach**.

### Understanding the Three-Language Formula in NEP 2020:

#### What Does NEP 2020 Say About Languages?

The **Three-Language Formula** has been part of India's education system since the **1968 NEP**. However, unlike previous versions, **NEP 2020 provides flexibility** in language selection instead of mandating Hindi.

#### Key Features of the Language Policy in NEP 2020:

- **State and Student Choice** – Schools and students can **choose their languages**, with at least **two** being Indian languages.
- **No Mandatory Hindi** – Unlike previous policies, NEP 2020 **does not enforce Hindi learning**.
- **Bilingual Education** – The policy promotes **teaching in the mother tongue or home language** alongside English.
- **Sanskrit as an Option** – Sanskrit is **emphasized** but remains **optional** under the framework.

### Tamil Nadu's Strong Opposition:

#### Decades-Long Resistance to Hindi Imposition:

Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed any **attempts to enforce Hindi**. The resistance dates back to **1937**, when the **Justice Party** opposed the introduction of **compulsory Hindi** in schools under **Rajaji's government**. The **policy was withdrawn** after intense protests that led to **the deaths of two activists, Thalamuthu and Natarajan**.

#### 1965 Anti-Hindi Agitation: A Turning Point:

In **1965**, widespread protests erupted in Tamil Nadu against the **move to make Hindi the sole official language**. The unrest led to **70 deaths** and was one of the most significant language-related agitations in Indian history.

### The Dravidian Movement and the Two-Language Policy:

- In **1968**, Chief Minister **C.N. Annadurai** led the **DMK government** in passing a resolution rejecting the **three-language formula**.
- Tamil Nadu **officially adopted the two-language policy – Tamil and English** – which has remained unchanged since.
- Successive governments, regardless of political affiliations, have **firmly opposed Hindi instruction** in state-run schools.

### Recent Opposition & Policy Revisions:

- In **2019**, Tamil Nadu's opposition forced the Centre to **remove the compulsory Hindi provision** from the **draft NEP 2020**, originally proposed by the **Kasturirangan Committee**.





- The state continues to **strongly resist** any effort to introduce Hindi **through national education policies**.

### Concerns Over Imposing Hindi:

#### Why Tamil Nadu Sees the Three-Language Policy as Hindi Imposition:

- **Fear of Hindi Becoming the Default Third Language** – Due to a shortage of **teachers for other Indian languages**, Hindi could become the **default choice**, even if it's not mandatory.
- **Centre's Push for Hindi in Non-Hindi States** – In **2019**, the government allocated **50 crore to recruit Hindi teachers** in non-Hindi-speaking states, reinforcing suspicions of **linguistic favoritism**.
- **Neglect of South Indian Languages in North Indian Schools** – While Hindi is promoted **nationwide**, there is **no similar initiative** to encourage **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, or Malayalam** in North Indian schools or **Kendriya Vidyalayas**.

### Finding a Middle Ground:

#### What's the Best Way Forward?

**Constructive Dialogue** – A **collaborative discussion** between the Centre and Tamil Nadu is crucial to resolving the issue.

- **Recognizing Tamil Nadu's Success** – The **two-language policy** has been **effective** in ensuring **high enrolment rates and low dropout rates**.
- **Balancing Federalism and Education Policy** – Education is in the **Concurrent List**, meaning **both the Centre and States should work together** instead of imposing policies unilaterally.
- **Unlinking Educational Reforms from Funding** – The **Samagra Shiksha funds** should not be used as a **bargaining tool**, as they are essential for **quality education in the state**.

Tamil Nadu remains **unwavering in its stance** on the **two-language system**, viewing the three-language formula as an **unnecessary disruption**. Instead of enforcing a **one-size-fits-all policy**, the Centre must **engage in meaningful negotiations** that respect **regional linguistic identities** while maintaining **national educational goals**.