

Supreme Court Asks CBSE to Drop Class 9 Third Language Mandate

The Supreme Court criticized CBSE's mandate for a third language in Class 9, citing increased student stress.

The three-language formula is an education policy promoting the study of three languages in schools.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) not to introduce a **third language** in **Class 9**.
- **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** stated this on **July 16, 2026**, highlighting the stress on students due to Board exams starting in **Class 8**.
- Justice Nagarathna suggested that the **third language** should be introduced in **Class 6** and discontinued in **Class 9**.
- The **three-language rule** was initially declared by **CBSE** in a circular issued on **May 15**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Supreme Court** exercises the power of **judicial review**, allowing it to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders.

Education was moved from the State List to the **Concurrent List** by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act** of **1976**.

The **three-language formula** was first recommended by the **Kothari Commission (1964-66)** to promote linguistic harmony.

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** reiterates the importance of the **three-language formula**, emphasizing flexibility.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) is a **national-level board** of education under the **Union Government of India**.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna was appointed as a judge of the **Supreme Court of India** in **2021**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court asked CBSE not to introduce a third language in Class 9 due to student stress.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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