



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

Date – 14 September 2022

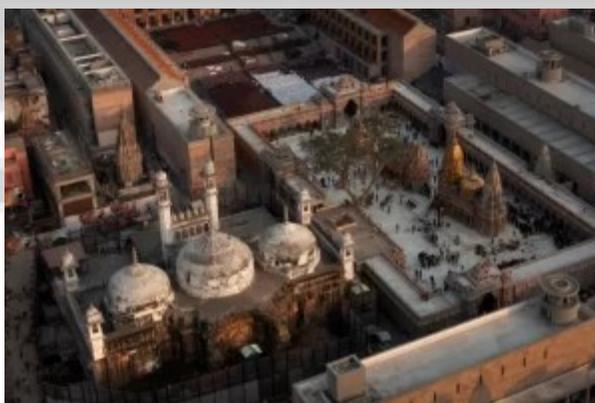
Court allows hearing of Hindu plea for the right to pray in Gyanvapi mosque

Prelim: International and national and Indian history and culture

Mains Examination: GS paper II: Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Why it is in the news?

Varanasi court allows hearing of Hindu plea for the right to pray in Gyanvapi mosque



The backstory :

- The Gyanvapi Mosque was built during the reign of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, in 1669,
- He ordered the demolition of the existing **Vishweshwar temple** at the site, and build a mosque in place of it.

- This is mentioned in the 1937 book, 'History of Benares: From the Earliest Times Down to 1937', by A S Altekar,
- The pedestal of the temple was not changed and served as the courtyard of the mosque.
- One of the walls too was spared, and it became the qibla wall of the mosque, a wall in a mosque that faces Mecca.
- Debris from the destroyed temple was used to build the mosque, evidence of which can still be seen.
- The name of the mosque is said to have derived from an adjoining wall, the Gyanvapi, or Well of Knowledge.
- An old sculpture of the Nandi bull inside the compound of the present Kashi Vishwanath Temple faces the wall of the mosque instead of the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.
- It is believed that Nandi is in fact, facing the sanctum sanctorum of the original Vishweshwar temple.

About the Temple

- For more than a century, after the mosque was built by Aurangzeb in 1669, there was no temple at the site.
- The present Kashi Vishwanath Temple was built by Rani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore, immediately to the south of the mosque, in the 18th century.
- It is a long belief of the Hindu community, the original lingam of the erstwhile Vishweshwar temple was hidden by the priest inside the GyanVapi well, during Aurangzeb's raid.

The present story -

- On August 18, 2021, in Varanasi court, five women filed a petition demanding to worship in the temple of Mother Makeup Gauri, a hearing to which the court constituted a commission to know more about the present situation of the Makeup Gauri Temple.
- In this regard, the court had asked the commission head, Vijay Shankar Rastogi, to give the survey report by video graphing the idol of Makeup Gauri and the Gyanvapi complex, brought a cause to outburst, raising questions about the impartiality of the court commissioner appointed by the Muslim side for the survey.
- Vijay Shankar Rastogi, appearing on behalf of Hindus, has submitted a map of the entire Gyanvapi complex as evidence in the court, which mentions the temples of Hindu deities around after the entrance of the mosque, as well as the Vishweshwar temple, Gyankoop, the big Nandi and the basement of the Vyas family. There has been a controversy over the survey and videography of this basement.
- In the meanwhile, the Muslim side says that no decision can be given on the dispute under the Religious Places Act of 1991.

What is The Religious Place Act of 1991 ?

The act states that, "An Act to prohibit conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August, 1947, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

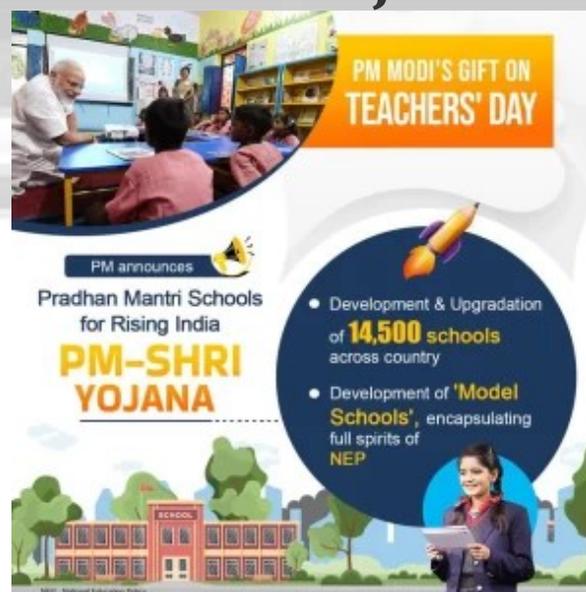
The provisions of **The Religious Place Act of 1991**

- **Section 3:** Section 3 of this Act, bars the conversion, in full or part, of a place of worship of any religious denomination into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or even a different segment of the same religious denomination.
- **Section 4(1):** It states that the religious character of a place of worship "shall continue to be the same as it existed" on 15th August 1947.
- **Section 4(2):** It says any suit or legal proceeding with respect to the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship existing on 15th August 1947, pending before any court, shall abate and no fresh suit or legal proceedings shall be instituted.
- **Section 5:** It specifies that the Act shall not apply to the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, and to any suit, appeal, or proceeding relating to it.

Farhin

PM-SHRI Yojana

PM announces PM-SHRI Yojana



Development and Upgradation of 14,500 schools cross India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana

Why in News: On the occasion of Teacher's Day today, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has announced development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana.

The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education. Shri Modi said that he is certain that the PM-SHRI schools will further benefit lakhs of students across India in the spirit of NEP.

The Prime Minister tweeted; "Today, on #TeachersDay I am glad to announce a new initiative – the development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana. These will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of NEP."

"The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education. Emphasis will be on a discovery oriented, learning centric way of teaching. Focus will also be on modern infra including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more."

"The National Education Policy has transformed the education sector in recent years. I am certain that the PM-SHRI schools will further benefit lakhs of students across India in the spirit of NEP." These will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of NEP.

In News

The Prime Minister has announced that under the PM SHRI Scheme, as many as 14,500 schools will be "upgraded" across India to showcase the components of the National Education Policy, 2020.

What is the PM SHRI scheme?

- 14,500 schools across states and Union Territories will be redeveloped to reflect the key features of the NEP, 2020 under the centrally sponsored scheme known as PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India).
- The plan was first discussed with the education ministers of states and UTs during a conference organized by the Ministry of Education in June at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- While there are exemplary schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas, the PM SHRI will act as "NEP labs".

Features of NEP in school education

- The NEP envisages a curricular structure and teaching style divided into various stages – foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary.
- The foundational years (pre-school and grades I, II) will involve play-based learning.

- At the preparatory level (III-V), light textbooks are to be introduced along with some formal classroom teaching. Subject teachers are to be introduced at the middle level (VI-VIII).
- The secondary stage (IX-XII) will be multidisciplinary in nature with no hard separation between arts and sciences or other disciplines.

How will PM SHRI schools be different from Kendriya Vidyalayas or Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas?

- Kendriya Vidyalayas or Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas come entirely under the Center's Ministry of Education and are fully funded by the Union government under Central Sector Schemes.
- While KVs largely cater to children of Union government employees posted in states and UTs, JNVs were set up to nurture talented students in rural parts of the country.
- In contrast, PM SHRI schools will be an upgrade of existing schools run by the Center, states, UTs and local bodies.
- This essentially means that PM SHRI schools can either be KVs, JNVs, state government schools or even those run by municipal corporations.

Where will the PM SHRI schools come up?

- The Center has not yet released the list of schools that have been chosen for this purpose though it has been announced that the PM SHRI schools will also "offer mentorship" to other schools in their vicinity.
- These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc.
- It shall also be developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.

What is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme?

- A centrally sponsored scheme is one where the cost of implementation is likely to split in the 60:40 ratio among the Union government and the states/Union Territories.
- For instance, the mid-day meal scheme (PM Poshan) or the PM Awas Yojana are examples of centrally sponsored schemes.
- In the case of the Northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and UTs without legislatures, the Centre's contribution can go up to 90 per cent.