

CBSE's 3-language formula from Class 6; two levels of maths, science for Class 9

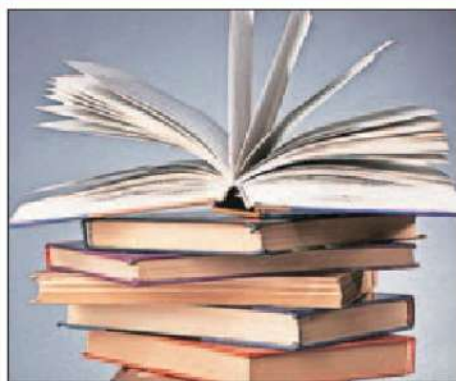
NEW DELHI, Apr 3 (PTI)

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rolled out its new curriculum, launching a phased implementation of the three-language formula from Class 6 and a two-level system of mathematics and science for Class 9 starting in the 2026-27 academic session, officials said on Friday.

While the three-language formula mandated under the new National Education Policy (NEP) will be implemented from 2026 for Class 6, introduction of the two-level system of mandatory standard and optional advanced courses in mathematics and science will be done for Class 9.

"Languages are organised

NEW CURRICULUM



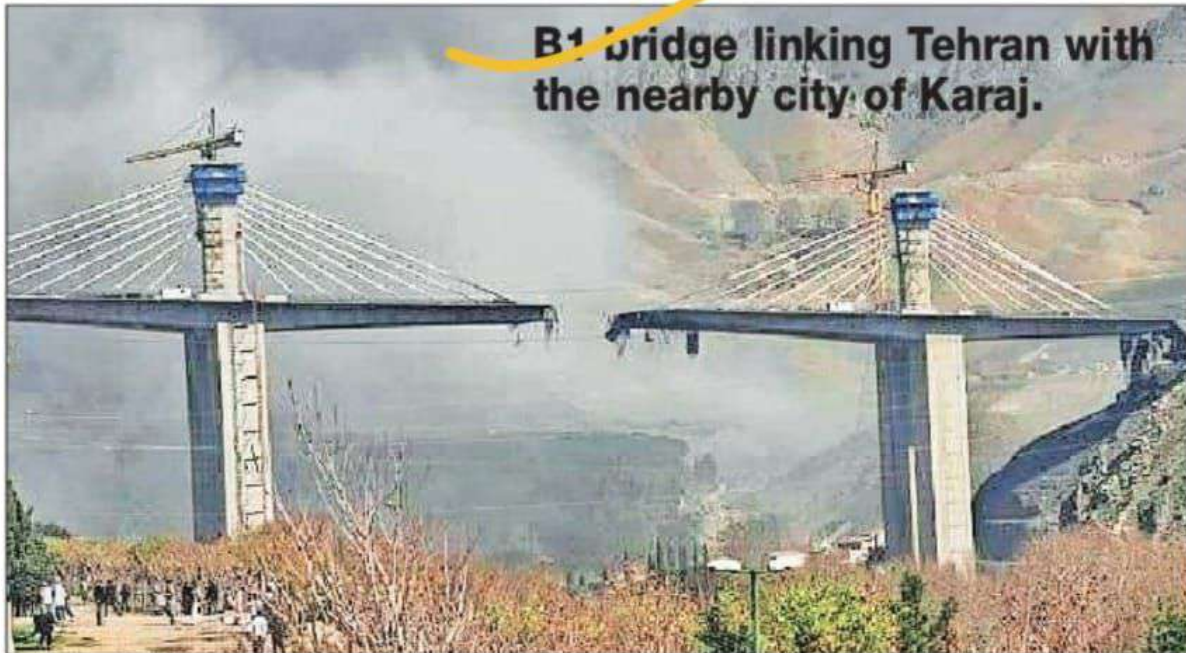
through a structured three-language framework across stages: R1, R2 and R3. As per recommendations of new National Curriculum Framework (NCF), two of these three languages must be native to India. In continuation of the board's phased implementation of multilingual

education, a third language will be made mandatory from Class 6 with effect from the academic session 2026-27, ensuring that every learner studies at least two Indian languages," a senior board official said.

"While it is desirable that the same scheme of languages is adopted, under exceptional circumstances for students returning from foreign schools where the third language studied till Class 8 or 9 is not available in domestic schools, such students may be exempted as per approved norms. However, such students will be required to study the total number of subjects as stipulated in the scheme of studies," the official added.

(Contd on page 5)

US strikes key Iran bridge, Trump warns 'much more to follow'



B1 bridge linking Tehran with the nearby city of Karaj.

WASHINGTON, Apr 3 (IANS)

US FORCES struck a key highway bridge in Iran, escalating tensions as President Donald Trump warned there was “much more to follow” and urged Tehran to make a deal.

The strike hit the B1 bridge linking Tehran with the nearby city of Karaj. A US military official said the attack targeted “a planned military supply route for Iran’s missile and drone forces.”

Iranian state media said the bridge was not yet operational and not being used by the military. Officials said at least eight people were killed and dozens wounded, including civilians
(Contd on page 5)

Iran targets Kuwait desalination plant, oil refinery



DUBAI, Apr 3 (AP)

IRAN fired on targets on Friday across the Middle East, damaging a desalination plant and setting a refinery ablaze in Kuwait, while American and
(Contd on page 5)

Food prices to rise globally if West Asia crisis stretches beyond 40 days: FAO

NEW DELHI, Apr 3 (IANS)

WORLD food commodity prices rose in March for the second month in a row, largely due to higher energy prices linked to the conflict escalation in West Asia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said on Friday.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a basket of globally-traded food commodities, averaged 128.5 points in March, up 2.4 percent from February and 1.0 percent above its level a year ago.

“Price rises since the conflict began have been modest, driven mainly by higher oil prices and cushioned by ample global cereal supplies,” said FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero.

“But if the conflict stretches beyond 40 days with high input costs with current low margins,



farmers will have to choose: farm the same with fewer inputs, plant less, or switch to less intensive fertiliser crops. Those choices will hit future yields and shape our food supply and commodity prices for the rest of this year and all of the next,” Torero added.

The FAO Cereal Price Index increased by 1.5 per cent from the previous month, driven primarily by higher world wheat prices, which rose 4.3 per cent

due to drought-related deterioration of crop prospects in the United States of America and expectations of reduced plantings in Australia due to higher fertiliser costs.

Global maize quotations edged up slightly, as ample global availability offset concerns over fertilizer affordability and indirect support from greater ethanol demand prospects linked to the rising energy prices.

India's new N-powered Sub INS Aridaman commissioned



Indian Navy's INS Aridaman, third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, ahead of its commissioning ceremony.

(PTI)

NEW DELHI, Apr 3 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday commissioned its new indigenously-built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine INS Aridaman into service, further strengthening the naval component of nuclear triad, authoritative sources said.

India's nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) programme is a closely guarded project. INS Arihant was the first boat under the SSBN project that was followed by another boat, INS Arighat.

India is among a select group of countries that possess nuclear-powered submarines.

The countries that have such

assets are the US, Russia, the UK, France and China.

INS Arihant is India's first home-made nuclear submarine.

It was launched in July 2009 and was quietly commissioned in 2016. The navy commissioned its second indigenous SSBN, INS Arighaat, in August 2024. The SSBN stands for ship submersible ballistic nuclear or nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

INS Aridaman has been commissioned after months of sea trials. It is learnt that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the commissioning ceremony at a naval base in Keralam.

UNSC to vote today on resolution on Strait of Hormuz

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 3 (PTI)

THE UN Security Council will vote on a draft resolution proposed by Bahrain on Saturday on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, even as permanent members China and Russia voiced opposition to earlier versions of the text that would have allowed use of force by countries.

The draft Security Council resolution affirms that the Strait of Hormuz is open for all transit passage. No state has the right to close or control it. It authorises States to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure transit passage and deter any acts to impede international navigation through the Strait. It also provides a clear legal basis for all States to mobilise and support safe passage while following international law and international humanitarian law.

The draft resolution says that countries using this authorisation must notify and report to

the UN, ensuring transparency and adherence to international law. It creates a monitoring mechanism with monthly reporting by the UN Secretary-General so the UN Security Council can take further action based on new developments, the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN said.

Bahrain, supported by the GCC and Jordan, has proposed the Security Council resolution on the Strait of Hormuz, which will be put up for a vote in the 15-nation Security Council on Saturday. Bahrain is currently the President of the Council for the month of April. It is learnt that an initial version of the draft resolution had language that would have allowed countries "to use all necessary means" in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to ensure passage in the crucial chokepoint.

However, veto-wielding permanent members Russia, China and France are understood to

have opposed approval of the use of force. The final draft now has language that states are authorised to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure transit passage. The Council was originally scheduled to vote on the resolution on Friday, but the UN headquarters is closed on the occasion of Good Friday. The vote is scheduled for 11 am (local time) Saturday.

Last month, India had co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Security Council that condemned in the strongest terms the "egregious" attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan and demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Tehran while denouncing its threats of closure of the maritime chokehold the Strait of Hormuz.

The Security Council, under the Presidency of the United States in March, had adopted the resolution with 13 votes in favour, none against and abstentions by

veto-wielding permanent members China and Russia.

India co-sponsored the Bahrain-led resolution along with over 130 nations including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany,

Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen and Zambia.

With a little more time, we can open Strait of Hormuz: Trump

WASHINGTON, Apr 3 (ANI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday referred to the Strait of Hormuz as a potential "gusher" for the world and spoken about "opening it for the world."

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump wrote, "With a little more time, we can easily OPEN THE HORMUZ STRAIT, TAKE THE OIL, & MAKE A FORTUNE. IT WOULD BE A 'GUSHER' FOR THE WORLD???" President

DONALD J. TRUMP"

Trump's remarks come amid the conflict of US-Israel and Iran, that has entered its second month now.

Earlier on Friday, the spokesperson of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters issued a stern warning, emphasising that any assault on the country's bridges, power plants, or energy facilities will trigger severe retaliatory measures, reported state media Press TV.



INS TARAGIRI commissioned



Rajnath hails it as symbol of India's growing naval strength



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the commissioning of INS Taragiri in Visakhapatnam. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan also seen. (PTI)

VISAKHAPATNAM, Apr 3 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday highlighted the Indian Navy's indispensable role in securing commer-

cial shipping lanes and oil tankers against emerging maritime threats, pointing out that 95 per cent of the country's trade, including energy supplies, was conducted through sea. Speaking at the commissioning ceremony of indigenously built stealth frigate, INS Taragiri, here, he said the Navy continuously maintains its presence in the Indian Ocean--whether it is the Persian Gulf or the Malacca Strait. He said that the commissioning of INS Taragiri will further increase the Navy's power, values and commitment.

As the fourth platform under Project 17A, Taragiri is a 6,670-tonne warship built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, showcasing advanced design and engineering excellence. It comes equipped with, among others, BrahMos missiles.

The warship features a sleeker structure with a significantly reduced radar cross-section, enabling stealth operations and enhanced survivability in complex maritime environments. In his address, Singh praised the Navy for being at the forefront during crises. "Whenever there is a crisis, whether it is evacuation operation or providing humanitarian assistance, our Navy is always at the forefront. I feel our Navy is a symbol of India's values and commitment," he said. I believe the commissioning of INS Taragiri will further increase our Navy's power, values, and commitment," he said.

Myanmar's Parliament elects ruling General as President

- The move marks a nominal return to an elected government but is widely considered to be an effort to keep the Army in power

BANGKOK, Apr 3 (AP)

MYANMAR'S Parliament on Friday elected Min Aung Hlaing, a General who ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government in 2021 and kept an iron grip on power for the past five years, as the country's new President.

The move marks a nominal return to an elected government but is widely considered to be an effort to keep the Army in power after an election organised by the military that



Min Aung Hlaing

opponents and independent observers deemed neither free nor fair. Min Aung Hlaing was one of three nominees for the President's post, but was virtually guaranteed the job as lawmakers from military-backed parties and appointed members from the Army hold a commanding majority in

Parliament.

Aung Lin Dwe, Speaker of Parliament's combined upper and lower house, announced that Min Aung Hlaing won 429 out of the 584 votes. The two runners-up became Vice Presidents.

Min Aung Hlaing, who holds the rank of senior general, had earlier relinquished his post of the commander-in-chief because the constitution prohibits the president from simultaneously holding the top military position. A close aide, Gen. Ye Win Oo, took over the powerful job. The 69-year-old Min Aung Hlaing had been the military chief since 2011. Under a military-imposed constitution, he held major power even before overthrowing Suu Kyi's government.