

6th November 2024

Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

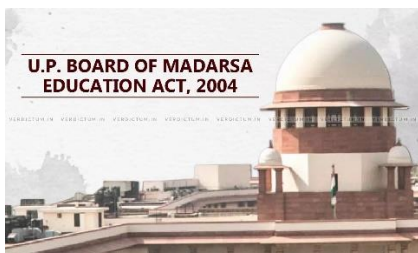
On 5th November 2024, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004.

Background

- ❖ The Allahabad High Court in March struck down the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004 saying the law was unconstitutional for validating a system of education which was grossly in violation of the principles of secularism.
- ❖ On April 5, the apex court stayed the HC verdict until it decided on the validity of the law.

SC Verdict

- ❖ Recent SC verdict is given by a **three-judge Bench presided over by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud** and comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.
- ❖ The Supreme Court said that the Allahabad High Court **erred in holding that the Madarsa law** had to be struck down for violating basic structure, which is the principle of secularism.
- ❖ SC verdict says that it **upheld the validity of the UP madrassa law** and moreover a statute can be struck down only if the State lacks the legislative competence.
- ❖ The SC said the legislative scheme of the law was to standardise the level of education being prescribed in madrassas.



- ❖ The Supreme Court, however, **held the Madarsa Education Act "unconstitutional" to the extent it regulates higher education in relation to 'fazil' and 'kamil' degrees** granted by Madrasas beyond class XII for being in conflict with the UGC Act.

What is the UP Madarsa Education Act?

- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh government drafted this act in 2004** to regulate and govern the functioning of madrasas across the state.
- ❖ It provides a framework for the **establishment, recognition, curriculum and administration of madrasas across the state**. It was established to oversee and supervise the activities of madrasas across the state.
- ❖ Madrasas are Islamic educational institutions that offer a combination of religious and secular education. The Act aimed to standardize this education while ensuring compliance with the curriculum set by NCERT.
- ❖ As a result of the Act, the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education was established, predominantly composed of members from the Muslim community. This board is responsible for developing **curriculum materials, conducting examinations, and overseeing the quality of education provided at madrasas**. It regulates various educational qualifications, ranging from 'Maulvi' (equivalent to Class 10) to 'Fazil' (equivalent to a Master's Degree).

Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Project

To improve the quality of air in the state the Uttar Pradesh state cabinet has approved the World Bank-aided Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Project.

Key Points

- ❖ It is India's first airshed-based project.
- ❖ It will be a six-year project (2024-2025 to 2029-2030) providing for airshed-based air quality management.
- ❖ The airshed pollution management approach will address two prime pollutants: **PM 10 and PM 2.5 across the state.**
- ❖ The project involving 13 government departments in eight sectors will get ₹2,741.53 crore from the World Bank and ₹1,119.00 crore from carbon financing.
- ❖ A special purpose vehicle (SPV) - Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Authority- would be set up for air quality management with monitoring of pollution from industry, transport, agriculture and animal husbandry, dust and waste, and targets set at national level to check the same would be achieved in UP. The authority would have a governing body, and an executive body.

An airshed refers to a geographic area where **air quality is influenced by similar factors, such as wind patterns and pollution sources.** Since pollution in one area can easily spread to neighbouring regions, an airshed approach promotes coordinated efforts across states.

Ken Canal System

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the revival of the Ken canal system.

Key Points

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the state government's proposal for **expenditure of ₹1191.51 crore for the revival of Ken canal system** under the Ken-Betwa link project.

- ❖ The Ken-Betwa link project is a multipurpose project in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh that will provide irrigation, hydropower and drinking water supply benefits to both the states.
- ❖ The project proposes to connect both the rivers through a link channel to flow the excess water of the Ken river into the Betwa.
- ❖ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Uttar Pradesh government, the Madhya Pradesh government and the Centre on March 22, 2021 for the implementation of Ken-Betwa link national Project.

Kendriya Hindi Samiti

Union Home minister Amit Shah chaired the 32nd meeting of the Kendriya Hindi Samiti in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ 'Kendriya Hindi Samiti' is the **highest body that provides guidelines for the promotion and progressive use of Hindi.**
- ❖ The Samiti's role is to coordinate the work and programs implemented by various ministries and departments of the Government of India for the development and promotion of Hindi.



- ❖ The Samiti has the authority to **appoint sub-committees and co-opt additional members** as needed to assist in its functioning.

- ❖ **Tenure:** The tenure of the Samiti is generally three years. The current Samiti was reconstituted on November 9, 2021.
- ❖ **Chairman and Members:** 'Kendriya Hindi Samiti', **chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, includes 9 Union Ministers, 6 Chief Ministers, the Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, and the three convenors, making a **total of 21 members**.

Namo Drone Didi

The Government has approved the Central Sector Scheme 'Namo Drone Didi' for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM, with an outlay of **Rs. 1261 Crores**.

Key Points

- ❖ The scheme aims to provide drones to 14500 selected Women SHGs during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes (application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides for the present). The major components of the operational guidelines are as under:
- ❖ The Scheme will be **governed at the Central level by the Empowered Committee of the Secretaries of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- ❖ The Implementation and Monitoring Committee will be headed by the Additional Secretary.
- ❖ Under the scheme, a **Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of ₹ 8.0 lakhs** will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones as a package.
- ❖ Under the scheme, not only the drones but drones as a package will be supplied.

Military Exercises

VINBAX 2024

- ❖ **Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise**



- ❖ On 4th November 2024, the **fifth edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX) 2024** started at Ambala, Haryana.
- ❖ The aim of VINBAX-2024 is to enhance the joint military capability of both countries.
- ❖ This edition marks a significant increase in the scope with Bi-Service level participation for the first time by personnel of the Army and Air Force from both countries.

Person In News- Worldwide

President Maia Sandu

- ❖ She has been re-elected as the **President of Moldova** for the second term.
- ❖ Moldova is a landlocked country bordering Ukraine and Romania.



Important News- Other States

Bihar	Women Asian Hockey Championship Trophy which will be held from 11th November to 20th November in Rajgir in Bihar.
Nagaland	Meluri, inhabited by the Pochury Naga tribe , has officially been declared as the 17th district of Nagaland.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Union Government has released **Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants for Rural Local Bodies in Haryana, Tripura, and Mizoram for 2024-25**. Haryana received Rs.194.867 crore, Tripura Rs.78.50 crore, and Mizoram Rs.35.50 crore.
- ❖ Film and Television Institute of India, FTII's student film **'Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know'** has qualified for the 2025 Oscars in the Live Action Short Film Category.



- ❖ This Kannada language short film directed by FTII student Chidananda S Naik is inspired by Indian folk stories and traditions. The film had earlier this year won the first Prize at the Cannes Film Festival's La Cinef Selection.
- ❖ Bengali is the only Indian language on New York's ballot papers.

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