



Sanskritii IAS



THE HINDU



The Indian EXPRESS

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS

1st June 2026

TOPICS:-

1. Language decorum

(GS Paper II Governance)

2. Prisons in India continue to be overcrowded by undertrials

(GS Paper II Governance)

3. The cloud is the new frontier of digital sovereignty

(GS Paper III Science and Technology)

DELHI CENTRE:
636, Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi-110009

PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:
1/1/8A, Stanley Rd,
Maharana Pratap Chauraha,
Civil Lines, Prayagraj, UP - 211002

 **9555-124-124**

 **sanskritiiias.com**

1. LANGUAGE DECORUM

(GS Paper II Governance)

This editorial 'Language decorum' was published in **The Hindu** on 1st June 2026, highlights the need to keep **school language policy** flexible, consultative and free from cultural confrontation.

Policy Push and Institutional Concerns

- CBSE mandated **three languages** for Class 9 from July 1, 2026, citing alignment with **NEP 2020** and National Curriculum Framework 2023.
- The policy requires at least two **Indian languages**, allowing foreign languages only as a third language if first two are Indian, or as an optional fourth subject.
- CBSE exempted the third language from the **Class 10 Board** examination, yet internal assessment marks would appear on the final certificate.
- CBSE had earlier deferred the requirement to **2029-30**, but the sudden rollback created confusion over policy intent and implementation readiness.

Legal Challenge and Constitutional Questions

- The Supreme Court issued notices to the **Union Government**, CBSE and NCERT, while declining an immediate stay due to public-interest concerns.
- Petitioners argue that language is a matter of **personal choice**, and compulsory imposition conflicts with flexibility promised under NEP 2020.
- The plea questions whether CBSE, as an **executive body**, can impose a sweeping educational mandate without clear parliamentary backing.

Implementation Burden and Educational Impact

- Parents and teachers fear added pressure on students just before **Board examinations**, despite the third language being excluded from Class 10 Boards.
- School administrators flagged shortages of trained **language teachers** and suitable textbooks, weakening practical readiness for nationwide enforcement.
- Turning education into a **cultural battleground** may undermine India's ambition to develop advanced human resources through stable schooling.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

Linguistic Federalism and Cooperative School Governance

- **Federal sensitivity:** Language policy must respect India's linguistic diversity, because Tamil Nadu's two-language model reflects a distinct federal context.
- **Parental choice:** School language planning should protect student and parent choice, since Kendriya Vidyalaya transfers already create language-learning disruptions.

- **Pedagogical readiness:** Any language reform needs trained teachers, graded textbooks and bridge material, as Sanskrit and regional-language vacancies often show.
- **NEP alignment:** The **National Education Policy 2020** supports multilingualism, but its spirit rests on flexibility, not rigid enforcement.
- **Cultural harmony:** Language learning should build mutual respect among communities, avoiding past fears linked to perceived Hindi imposition.
- **Implementation sequencing:** A phased rollout with pilots, teacher training and feedback loops can prevent stress, as seen in competency-based curriculum reforms.
- **Learning outcome focus:** Language policy should improve comprehension and communication, not become symbolic politics, as ASER flags basic reading gaps.

2. PRISONS IN INDIA CONTINUE TO BE OVERCROWDED BY UNDERTRIALS

(GS Paper II Governance)

This editorial ‘Prisons in India continue to be overcrowded by undertrials’ was published in **The Hindu** on 1st June 2026, highlights persistent **prison overcrowding** in India driven by undertrial concentration, capacity gaps and staff shortages.

Overcrowding Despite Capacity Expansion

- India’s prisons had **1,331 jails** with capacity for 4.53 lakh inmates in 2024, but the inmate population crossed **5.11 lakh**.
- Prison capacity rose only **24%** between 2015 and 2024, despite renovations and expansions across 268 prisons and 120 new prisons.
- More than half the **States/UTs** had occupancy above 100% in 2024, showing capacity expansion has not matched inmate pressure.
- Delhi recorded India’s highest **occupancy rate** at 194% in 2024, though lower than its 200% level in 2023.
- Jammu and Kashmir’s overcrowding rose sharply from **78%** in 2015 to 148% in 2024, while Chhattisgarh fell from 234% to 127.6%.

Undertrials as the Core Driver

- Overcrowding is largely driven by **undertrials**, who formed about 73% of India’s prison inmates in 2024.
- The undertrial share remains above the **pre-COVID** period, though lower than the 2021 peak of about 77%.
- Convicts declined from **32%** of prison inmates in 2016 to 26.6% in 2024, highlighting the shifting inmate composition.

- About 14 States/UTs had undertrial shares above the national average, with Delhi and Bihar crossing 87%.
- Delhi, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa and Maharashtra had very high **undertrial populations**, intensifying local overcrowding pressures.

Governance Gaps and Reform Needs

- A Parliamentary Committee report on **prison reforms** noted that overcrowding strains resources, worsens living conditions and limits health and rehabilitation access.
- The same report recommended **new buildings**, barracks, prisons and other jails, along with access to free legal aid.
- Staff vacancies remain neglected, with 60% of sanctioned **prison staff** posts vacant in eight States/UTs.
- Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir had both high **occupancy rates** and high staff vacancies, weakening prison administration and inmate management.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

Bail Reform and Speedy Trial as Decongestion Tools

- **Article 21 focus:** Prison overcrowding is also a liberty crisis, as **Hussainara Khatoon** linked undertrial detention with speedy trial.
- **Bail jurisprudence:** The principle of “bail, not jail” must guide routine cases, as **Satender Kumar Antil** stressed arrest restraint.
- **Legal aid gap:** Poor undertrials remain jailed due to weak legal support, making NALSA-backed free legal aid central to decongestion.
- **Trial delay:** Slow investigation, delayed charge-framing and adjournments turn custody into punishment, as seen in long-pending district court cases.
- **Vulnerable prisoners:** Women, migrants, Dalits, Adivasis and the poor face deeper barriers when sureties, documents or local networks are required.
- **Technology support:** **E-prisons**, digital case tracking and video hearings can reduce delays if linked with accountable judicial follow-up.
- **Justice credibility:** Decongestion through bail and speedy trial strengthens trust by showing that courts protect both public safety and liberty.

3. THE CLOUD IS THE NEW FRONTIER OF DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

(GS Paper III Science and Technology)

This editorial ‘**The cloud is the new frontier of digital sovereignty**’ was published in **The Indian Express** on 1st June 2026, highlights India’s need to **secure digital sovereignty** by reducing dependence on foreign **cloud and AI** infrastructure.

Cloud Dependence and Sovereignty Risk

- Nayara Energy's Microsoft episode shows how **cloud dependence** can expose Indian firms to foreign sanctions, even when operations remain on Indian soil.
- Private digital infrastructure is controlled by **global firms**, making data, services and continuity subject to foreign laws, contracts and geopolitical pressure.
- Unlike private clouds, India's **DPI stack** is open, interoperable and non-extractive, with Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, ABDM and ONDC serving public purposes.
- India controls its **application layer**, but not the cloud and chip infrastructure on which these systems increasingly depend.

AI Infrastructure as the Next Vulnerability

- AI will deepen dependence because **LLMs** are becoming central to enterprise operations and government services.
- Most advanced models are controlled by **U.S.-China** firms, making Indian data, embedded values and guardrails vulnerable to external priorities.
- India's world-class **DPI model** operates mostly on foreign hyperscaler clouds such as AWS, Azure and Google Cloud.
- Much of the fintech and health-tech ecosystem builds on **DPI rails**, while renting infrastructure from foreign cloud providers.

Four Pillars of Digital Self-Reliance

- Data localisation is necessary but insufficient, as **sensitive data** must remain in India with Indian-controlled security, audit and termination conditions.
- India needs credible **domestic cloud** capacity through firms like RailTel and emerging data-centre investments, with backup for critical workloads.
- DPI logic must extend to **AI models**, making Indian solutions for agriculture, health, education and governance open, scalable and commercially viable.
- India's DPI partnerships across **Global South** regions should become a base for collective digital standards and rule-setting power.

Incomplete Sovereignty Agenda

- India's **DPI success** has built sovereign application-layer infrastructure, but cloud, AI and chips remain unresolved dependencies.
- The Nayara episode exposed a durable **geopolitical vulnerability**, proving that external control over infrastructure can affect domestic digital continuity.
- Real digital sovereignty by **2035** will depend on who controls the infrastructure, not merely who designs the applications built on it.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

Digital Public Infrastructure Security and Strategic Tech Autonomy

- **Critical infrastructure:** Cloud, AI and chips should be treated as strategic infrastructure, as UPI disruption can affect payments and welfare delivery.
- **Cyber resilience:** India needs redundancy, audits and incident response, as CERT-In handled over **29.44 lakh** cyber incidents in 2025.
- **Semiconductor linkage:** Digital sovereignty remains incomplete without secure chip supply chains, as the **India Semiconductor Mission** targets domestic fabrication and design.
- **Public procurement:** Government demand can support Indian cloud and AI firms if procurement rewards security, interoperability and domestic capability.
- **Data governance:** Sovereign infrastructure must pair control with privacy, as the **DPDP Act, 2023** protects personal data rights.
- **Innovation ecosystem:** Startups, academia and public institutions need shared compute, as **IndiaAI Mission** expanded affordable GPU access.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Digital self-reliance should not mean isolation, but partnerships where India retains critical layers and standards.