



Atal Residential Schools

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced a major expansion of [Atal Residential Schools](#) to enhance educational opportunities for [underprivileged students](#).

Key Points

- Currently, there are **18 Atal Residential Schools**.
 - The expansion will be in phases, with schools planned for **57 districts** in the next academic session, extending to **350 tehsils** in the third phase, **825 development blocks** in the fourth phase, and [Nyay panchayat](#) level in the fifth phase.
- **School Features:**
 - Named after former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the schools are designed to set a benchmark for [inclusive education](#) and to [combat illiteracy](#) and deprivation.
 - The new schools will cater to students from **classes 1 to 12** and include [Bal Vatikas](#).
 - Schools are directed to hold biannual meetings with parents to keep them informed.

Bal Vatikas

- Bal Vatika is an **early childhood education program** that aims to help children aged **3-6 years** develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically.
- The program focuses **on play-based learning** and is designed to create an **inclusive and welcoming environment** for children.

Nyay Panchayat

- A Nyaya Panchayat is a judicial system in the **panchayati raj system of India** that resolves disputes **at the village level**. Nyaya Panchayats are considered the most basic level of the Indian judicial system.
- Some of the functions of Nyaya Panchayats include:
 - **Resolving disputes:** Nyaya Panchayats resolve minor civil and criminal disputes.
 - **Providing justice:** Nyaya Panchayats provide low-cost and quick justice.
 - **Punishing offenders:** Nyaya Panchayats can raise small fines and punish offenders. However, they do not imprison people.
 - **Decentralizing democracy:** Nyaya Panchayats help to decentralize the democratic system.