

Three-Language Formula

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Three-Language Formula : A Federal Challenge in Indian Education

Context: Tamil Nadu's Opposition to the Three-Language Formula

Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed the **three-language formula**, adhering to a **two-language policy** (Tamil and English). This opposition is based on:

- **Linguistic identity:** Tamil Nadu sees Tamil as a **classical language** with a strong heritage.
- **Political history:** Anti-Hindi agitations since the 1930s strengthened resistance.
- **Federalism concerns:** The state views **language imposition** as a **threat to autonomy**.

The **three-language policy** has had **mixed implementation** across India, with variations in different states.

The Language Debate in India

- **Post-independence,** language policies have remained **contentious**.
- The **Constituent Assembly debated the national language issue**.
- **Hindi was adopted as the official language,** but English remained dominant.

The Three-Language Formula

- Introduced in **1968** under the **National Policy on Education (NPE)**.
- Mandates learning **three languages**:
 - **Mother tongue (regional language)**
 - **Hindi**
 - **English**
- **NEP 2020** retained this policy but did **not impose any language**.

Implementation Challenges

- **Hindi-speaking states rarely adopt a South Indian language.**
- **Private schools in North India neglect regional languages.**
- **Political resistance** makes uniform implementation difficult.

The Real Issue: Declining Language Standards

- **Focus on science and math coaching** sidelines language education.
 - **English-medium expansion** lacks **quality teaching**, affecting learning.
 - **Regional languages** suffer from **declining reading habits**.
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Conclusion

Tamil Nadu's opposition reflects **broader concerns over linguistic identity and federalism**. The real challenge is **not policy formulas but improving language education quality**. Strengthening **language teaching methods** is crucial for **better learning outcomes** and **national integration**.



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