



# Undermining Federalism: Central Funding, States, and Education

The Union Government's decision to withhold Tamil Nadu's central share of Samagra Shiksha funds for rejecting the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) has sparked a heated debate on federalism and education policy in India. This presentation explores the implications of this move, the ongoing dispute between the Centre and Tamil Nadu, and the broader issues of language policy and cooperative federalism in India's education system.





# The Samagra Shiksha Scheme

2018-19: Scheme Launched

Consolidated Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education programmes.

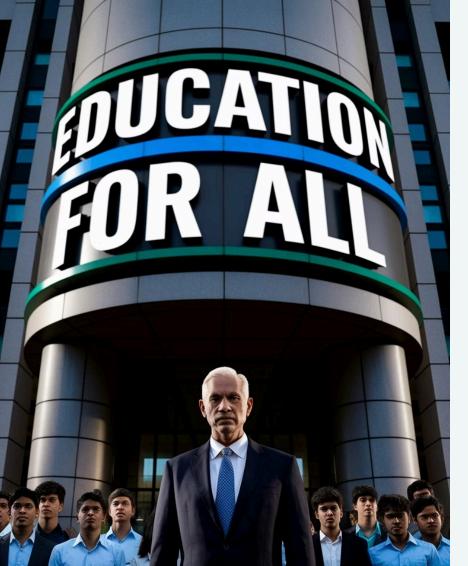
2 Objective

Ensure equitable access to quality education for all schoolchildren.

Current Impasse

Tamil Nadu flags non-disbursal of ₹2,152 crore, affecting 40 lakh students and 32,000 staff members.







## The Centre's Stance

Funds Withheld
Union Education
Minister
Dharmendra
Pradhan declares
funds will be
released only if
Tamil Nadu
implements NEP in
"letter and spirit".

Insists on adoption of three-language formula: Tamil, English, and a regional language.

3 Accusations

Accuses Tamil Nadu's leadership of being divisive and politically motivated.



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## Tamil Nadu's Response

#### **Language Policy**

Firm commitment to twolanguage policy of Tamil and English since 1968. Opposition to trilingual system dates back to 1937.

## Chief Minister's Stance

M.K. Stalin questions
constitutional mandate
for three-language policy.
Warns against blatant
coercion.

#### **Impact**

Funding shortfall severely strains school education infrastructure, affecting millions of students and staff.



## Historical Context of Language Policy

1 1937

Tamil Nadu's opposition to trilingual system begins.

1968

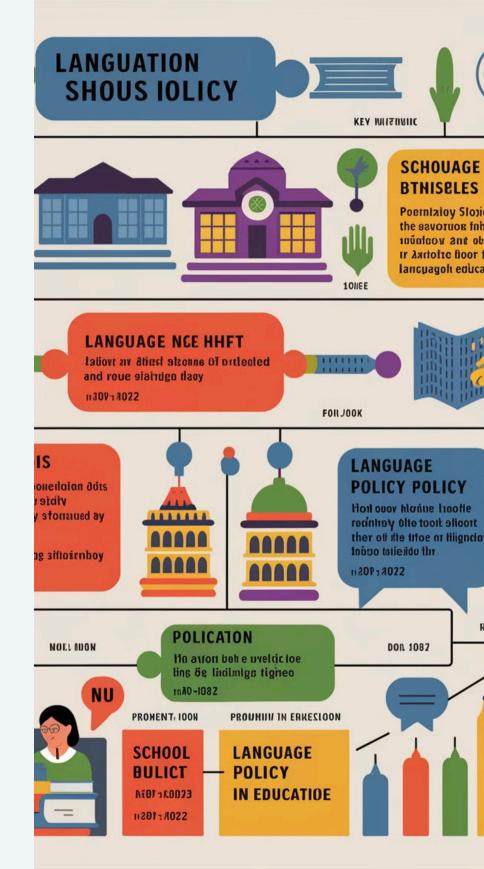
Tamil Nadu adopts two-language policy of Tamil and English.

3 2020

NEP introduced, reigniting language policy debate.

4 Present

Ongoing dispute over language policy and NEP implementation.





## **Constitutional Considerations**

#### **Concurrent List**

Education falls under the
Concurrent List of the
Constitution, requiring
flexibility and dialogue for
successful implementation
across diverse regions.

#### State Autonomy

Until now, successive Union Governments have respected Tamil Nadu's autonomy over its language policy.

#### **Cooperative Federalism**

A rigid, one-size-fits-all approach risks undermining cooperative federalism and fostering resentment among States.





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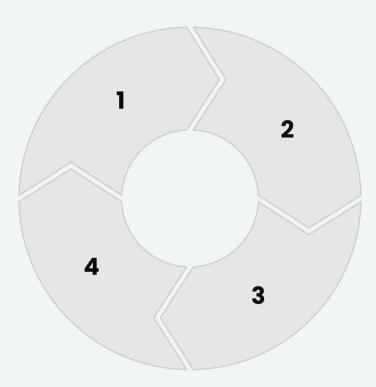


## **Implications for Federalism**

#### **State Autonomy**

Withholding funds challenges states' right to determine education policies.

Dialogue and Flexibility
Successful implementation
requires open
communication and
adaptability.



#### **Cooperative Federalism**

Rigid approach may foster resentment and undermine cooperation.

#### **Policy Implementation**

One-size-fits-all approach may not suit diverse regional needs.



## **Proposed Solutions**

1

**Delink Funding from NEP** 

Separate Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI scheme funding from NEP implementation.

2

**Performance Indicators** 

Tie funding to generic performance indicators instead of specific policy adoption.

3

**State Education Policy** 

Tamil Nadu to finalise and roll out its long-pending State Education Policy as a viable alternative to NEP.

4

**Dialogue and Compromise** 

Encourage open communication between Centre and States to find mutually acceptable solutions.



### **Stakeholders and Their Roles**



#### Central Government

Formulate national policies, provide funding, ensure equitable education access.



#### State Governments

Implement policies, manage schools, adapt national guidelines to local needs.



## Students and Parents

Primary beneficiaries, voice concerns, participate in education process.



#### **Educators**

Implement policies on ground, provide feedback, shape educational outcomes.

## Conclusion: The Way Forward

Balanced Approach
Strive for a middle
ground that respects
both national
objectives and state
autonomy in education
policy.

Open Dialogue

Encourage continuous communication between Centre and States to address concerns and find mutually acceptable solutions.

3 Flexible Implementation

Allow for regional adaptations of national policies to suit diverse needs and cultural contexts.





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