Three-language Formula

Why in news?

Tamil Nadu has rejected the three-language formula advocated in the National Education Policy (NEP 2020).

What does this rejection reiterate?

- By rejecting, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has only reiterated the State's unwavering position on an emotive and political issue.
- Tamil Nadu has a two-language policy that remains non-negotiable for almost the entire political class.
- This policy was implemented decades ago after a historic agitation against the imposition of Hindi.

Did the policy talk about any imposition?

- The policy said that no language will be imposed on any State.
- But, it has expectedly cut no ice with parties in Tamil Nadu, which have risen in near unison to oppose the proposal.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister appealed to the Prime Minister to allow States to follow their own language policy.
- In a State that resisted multiple attempts to impose Hindi since 1937, political parties are wary of any mandate to impart an additional language in schools.
- They fear this would eventually pave the way for Hindi to enter the State through the back door.
- Since 1985, the State has even refused to allow Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas to be set up as they teach Hindi.

What is the effectiveness of the two-language policy?

- The two-language policy of Tamil and English was piloted by former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai in 1968.
- It has thus far worked well in the State.
- In a liberalised world, more windows to the world are being opened up for those proficient in English, a global link language.
- The State's significant human resources contribution to the IT sector is attributed to its recruits' English fluency as much as to their technical

knowledge.

- There is an argument that Tamil Nadu is depriving students of an opportunity to learn Hindi, touted as a national link language.

What is the reality?

- The State's voluntary learning has never been restricted.
- The growth over the past decade in the number of CBSE schools, where the language is taught, would bear testimony to this.
- The patronage for the 102-year-old Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, based in Chennai, also proves this.
- In the Sabha's centenary year, Tamil Nadu accounted for 73% of active Hindi pracharaks (teachers) in South India.
- Out of necessity, many in the State have picked up conversational Hindi to engage with the migrant population.
- Only compulsion is met with resistance.
- India's federal nature and diversity demand that no regional language is given supremacy over another.

Source: The Hindu

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