

DAILY PT POINTERS

17 September, 2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 8

Why is T.N.'s education funding on hold?

Why has Tamil Nadu not received its Samagra Shiksha funds for this year? What are the conditions attached to the release of Tamil Nadu's education funds? How does the National Education Policy 2020 affect funding? Why is the three-language formula a contentious issue?

EXPLAINER

Priscilla Jehara

The story so far

Tamil Nadu is yet to receive this year's funds from the Union government under the flagship education scheme Samagra Shiksha. According to the State government, the Centre has linked these funds to the complete implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which includes provisions that the State has opposed, including the contentious three-language formula. The impasse has come to a head over the last two weeks, with a public war of words between the Centre and State erupting on X.

What is Samagra Shiksha and why has Tamil Nadu not gotten funds under it?

Samagra Shiksha is an integrated Centrally-sponsored scheme for school education from nursery till Class 12, with components for teacher training and salaries, special education, digital education, school infrastructure, administrative reform, vocational and sports education, with grants for textbooks, uniforms, and libraries, among others. The scheme's estimated outlay between 2021 and 2026 is ₹2.94 lakh crore, with the Centre and States contributing funds in a 60:40 ratio. For 2024-25, Tamil Nadu's allocation under the scheme amounts to ₹3,586 crore of which the Central share is ₹2,152 crore, with a first quarterly instalment of ₹573 crore, which has not yet arrived halfway through the financial year.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin accused the Centre of imposing a prerequisite for the fund's disbursement, namely, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for another Centrally-sponsored education scheme called PM Schools for



In limbo: The State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years. PH

model schools across the country to showcase the implementation of NEP 2020, and has a much smaller project cost of ₹27,360 crore. The Centre has sent at least 10 letters to Tamil Nadu from September 2022, asking the State to sign the MoU, which included an agreement to fully implement the NEP.

In March 2024, the State gave an undertaking that it would do so, with Tamil Nadu Education Minister Arbil Mahesh saying that this was because the PM Shri MoU was being linked to funding for the much larger Samagra Shiksha – the delayed third and fourth instalments from 2023-24, and the full funds for the current year. In July, the State signed a modified MoU, dropping the paragraph on NEP implementation, however, this was unacceptable to the Centre. In his August letter, Mr. Stalin noted that States which had signed the MoU had received the funds, and in a September post on X, accused the Centre of “denying funds to the best-performing States for refusing to bow to the NEP”.

The Union Education department has taken umbrage at this implication. In response to an article by *The Hindu*, a Ministry spokesperson said it was “misleading” and “incorrect” to suggest any such “quid pro quo”. However, the

medium of instruction till Class 5 and says that all school students should be taught at least three languages, of which two must be native to India. This

three-language formula recommendation has been in every NEP since 1968, and has been implemented in many States by teaching the local language, as well as English and Hindi, with Sanskrit also offered as an option, especially in Hindi-speaking States.

Tamil Nadu has had a long-standing opposition to this formula, dating back to social movements in the pre-Independence era. From a widespread agitation against mandatory Hindi in the 1930s to violent anti-Hindi riots in the late 1960s, to protests against the NEP and Navodaya schools in 1986, there has been a consistent political consensus on the issue.

Instead, the State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years, and they are free to choose Hindi or any other language as an optional third. “We embrace Tamil as a pillar of our identity while also ensuring future generations are equipped with English proficiency,” Mr. Mahesh said in a recent post on X.

NEP 2020 says that “there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State”, indicating that it is not mandatory to include Hindi as one of the three languages. However, this would still allow students to choose Tamil as a third language, to be studied for just a few years in middle school.

All major political parties in Tamil Nadu have rejected this formula on principle. When Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan asked whether this “principled” stance against NEP meant that Tamil Nadu was opposing education in the mother tongue including Tamil, Mr. Mahesh responded that the State's policy has “always prioritised inclusive learning with Tamil as a

medium of instruction till Class 5 and says that all school students should be taught at least three languages, of which two must be native to India. This

THE GIST

Tamil Nadu hasn't received its Samagra Shiksha funds for the current year.

Tamil Nadu rejects the NEP's requirement for teaching three languages, preferring its own two-language formula.

The disagreement over NEP compliance has led to heightened tensions and a public exchange between Tamil Nadu and the Centre.

- Tamil Nadu is yet to receive this year's funds from the Union government under the flagship education scheme Samagra Shiksha.
- According to the State government, the Centre has linked these funds to the complete implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which includes provisions that the State has opposed, including the contentious three-language formula.
- The Centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha of the Department of School Education and Literacy is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII. The scheme treats school education as a continuum and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).

The Hindu –Governance(GSII)-Page 8

How do emergency provisions impact Centre-State relations?

What is the federal structure of governance in India? How do Articles 355 and 356 affect federalism?

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The recent spate of renewed violence in Manipur has once again triggered the discussion around Centre-State relations and the use of emergency provisions by the Centre.

What is our federal set-up?

India is a federation with governments at the Centre and the States. The Seventh Schedule to the Indian Constitution distributes the power between the Union and States. Under this scheme, it is the domain of the State governments to maintain law and order in their respective States.

What are emergency provisions?

The emergency provisions are provided in Part XVIII of the Constitution. Articles 355 and 356 deal primarily with the affairs of government in a State under this part. Article 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to protect every State from external

also specifies that the Centre should ensure that every State government operate according to the Constitution. Article 356 allows for the imposition of the President's rule if a State's government cannot function in accordance with constitutional provisions. While in the U.S. and Australia, federal government functions also involve protecting States, their constitutions do not contain provisions for removing State governments.

B.R. Ambedkar explained the purpose of Article 355, keeping in mind the federal character of our polity, that if the Centre is to interfere in the State's administration under Article 356, it must be by or under some obligation which the Constitution imposes on the Centre. Hence, Article 355 was incorporated to check any arbitrary or unauthorised use of Article 356.

What have the courts ruled?

Dr. Ambedkar again in the constituent Assembly wished that Articles 355 and 356 would never be called into operation and would remain a dead letter. However,

principles and federalism that Article 356 was misused on several occasions removing elected governments that enjoyed majority in the States. Reasons varied from loss in Lok Sabha elections to deterioration of law and order in the States. It was only after the Supreme Court's categorical judgement in the S R Bommai case (1994) that such misuse was restricted. The court held that Article 356 should be imposed only in the event of a breakdown of constitutional machinery, as distinguished from an ordinary breakdown of law and order. It also held that the imposition of the President's rule is subject to judicial review and should not be misused for political reasons.

On the other hand, the scope of Article 355 has been widened by various Supreme Court rulings. In *State of Rajasthan Vs Union of India* (1977), the court had a narrow interpretation of Article 355 as justifying the employment of Article 356. However, in subsequent cases such as *Naga People's Movement of Human Rights Vs Union of India* (1998), *Sarbananda Sonowal Vs Union of India*

(1997), the legal position with respect to Article 355 has shifted. The scope of actions under this article has been widened to permit all statutorily and constitutionally available actions by the Union to discharge its duties of protecting the State and ensuring that its governance is in accordance with the Constitution.

What are the suggestions?

The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1987), the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002), and the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations (2010) have all opined that Article 355 not only imposes a duty on the Union but also grants it the power to take necessary actions for the effective performance of that duty. Imposition of the President's rule under Article 356 must be used as a last resort in situations of utmost gravity and urgency.

The situation in Manipur is grave. Large-scale violence against innocent civilians, women and children; looting of ammunition from police armoury; drone and missile attacks targeting civilians cannot be viewed as just an ordinary breakdown of law and order.

Constitutional as well as political expediency, considering that the same party is in power at the Centre and the State, has resulted in Article 356 not being invoked. However, under Article 355, all possible instructions and actions should continue to be pursued to restore normalcy at the earliest.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views

THE GIST

India's federal system divides powers between the Union and State governments, with States responsible for maintaining law and order.

Articles 355 and 356 of the Constitution allow the Centre to intervene in States under certain conditions. Article 355 mandates the Centre to protect States from internal and external threats, while Article 356 permits the imposition of President's rule if a State's government fails to function according to the Constitution.

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The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 9



Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh was found to be the most suitable for introducing the cheetahs because of its habitat and adequate prey base. PTI

What is the current status of the introduction of African cheetahs?

Project Cheetah has encountered significant setbacks, including prolonged captivity and cheetah fatalities; with long-term success hinging on finding sufficient habitat, scientific management, and community support, the project's future depends on overcoming these enormous challenges

Ravi Chellam

The Cheetah Action Plan (CAP) represents India's ambitious effort to introduce African cheetahs into its ecosystems, with a focus on both conserving the species and restoring the health of

were in their new environment. India has missed these timelines. The quarantine period in Kuno for all the cheetahs was longer than specified. Once the cheetahs were released into the bomas, they endured a prolonged period of confinement. In fact, the 12 surviving adult cheetahs of the 20 brought from

born to Jwala were found dead due to heat stroke. Between July 11 and August 2, 2023, two males from South Africa (one free-ranging and the other in captivity) and one female from Namibia (free-ranging) died. The official reason was that these cats contracted dermatitis, followed by myiasis and septicæmia. The

overall responsibility for guiding the project. The NTCA and the MoEFCC are the institutions responsible for all high-level decision-making, including negotiating with the African countries to procure the cheetahs.

The Wildlife Institute of India has been providing technical inputs and the

- Project Cheetah has encountered significant setbacks, including prolonged captivity and cheetah fatalities; with long-term success hinging on finding sufficient habitat, scientific management, and community support, the project's future depends on overcoming these enormous challenges
- Cheetahs are among the oldest big cat species and hold the title of the fastest land animals over short distances. Subspecies: There are five recognized subspecies: Northwest African cheetah, East African cheetah, South African cheetah, Northeast African cheetah, Asiatic cheetah
- Cheetahs inhabit various ecosystems across Africa and Iran. Mainly found in southern Africa, including countries like Algeria, Botswana, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.
- The Asiatic cheetah is restricted to Iran. Status in India: Extinct since 1952.

IUCN Status: All subspecies are listed as vulnerable, except for the Northwest African and Asiatic cheetahs, which are critically endangered

Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page9

SMART PRECISION HORTICULTURE PROGRAMME

Govt plans ₹6,000-cr scheme to boost precision farming

Likely to cover 15,000 acres in 5 yrs, benefit 60,000 farmers

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

THE CENTRE is contemplating to earmark ₹6,000 crore to promote precision farming, a modern approach that uses smart technology such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones and data analytics to boost production through maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.

Union Ministry of Agriculture is planning a Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under the existing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme, it is learnt.

It will cover 15,000 acres of land in five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29 and is expected to benefit about 60,000 farmers, sources said. At present, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), launched during Covid-19, has provisions for financing infrastructure projects for smart and precision agriculture.

Under AIF, individual farmers as well as farmers' communities such as Farmer Producer Orga-

EXPLAINED
E Positive impact

SMART AND precision agriculture maximises use of resources like water, fertilisers and pesticides to increase production quality and quantity, all while insulating farmers from vagaries of climate change and other uncertainties, besides ensuring sustainable farming.

nization, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and SHGs are eligible for loans with interest subvention of 3% for using technological solutions in farm practices. These practices include farm/harvest automation; purchase of drones, putting up specialised sensors on field; use of blockchain and AI in agriculture; remote sensing and Internet of Things (IoT).

Apart from offering financial support the Centre is also consid-

ering collaborating with the Netherlands and Israel, where tech-based modern farming solutions are being used, through Centres of Excellences (CoEs), the sources said. The number of CoEs is likely to be 100 in the next five years. Under Indo-Israel Agriculture Project, 32 CoEs have already been set up across 14 states.

The Centre has also set up 22 Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) across the country to test new technologies and modify them according to local needs.

According to the Ministry, these 22 PFDCs are located across State/Central Agricultural Universities, ICAR Institutes and IITs in TN, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Haryana, Telangana, West Bengal, Ladakh, UP, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur and Assam. Besides, funds are released to states/UTs for projects involving use of AI and machine learning, under schemes like the National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture.

- The Centre plans to allocate Rs 6,000 crore to promote precision farming.
- Precision farming involves the use of smart technology such as IoT, AI, drones, and data analytics.
- **Smart Precision Horticulture Programme:** Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.
 - Aims to cover 15,000 acres from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
 - Expected to benefit around 60,000 farmers.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** Provides loans with a 3% interest subvention for smart and precision agriculture technologies.
 - Supports automation, drones, sensors, blockchain, AI, and IoT in farming.

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page14

Kejriwal wants early elections to Delhi Assembly. What does the law say?

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

ARVIND KEJRIWAL is likely to submit his resignation as Chief Minister during a scheduled meeting with Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at 4.30 pm on Tuesday. Kejriwal told Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers on Sunday that he would give up his post and give an "agni-pariksha" to prove his innocence in the alleged excise policy corruption case, in which he was granted bail by the Supreme Court last week.

Kejriwal has asked for Assembly elections to be held in Delhi along with Maharashtra, where a new House must be elected before November 26. However, the term of the Delhi Assembly ends only on February 23, 2025.

Who decides when Assembly elections

will be held in Delhi?

Under Article 324 of the Constitution, the powers of superintendence, direction, and control of elections are vested in the Election Commission of India (ECI). The ECI works backwards from the date on which the five-year term of the existing House ends, ensuring that the election process is completed before then.

However, Section 15(2) of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, says the election cannot be notified less than six months before the end of the term of the Assembly — unless the Assembly is dissolved before it completes its term.

Can a Chief Minister force the ECI to hold an election before it is due?

Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution says the Governor "may from time to time" dissolve the Legislative Assembly. The Council of Ministers can recommend dissolution of



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal is likely to resign on Tuesday. #11

of the Assembly, whose term was to end in June 2019. The Governor accepted the recommendation, and Assembly elections were held in 2018.

But Delhi is not a "full" state. In Delhi, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, applies. While Section 6(2)(b) of the Act says the Lieutenant Governor may from time to time dissolve the Assembly, even if a Chief Minister of Delhi recommends the dissolution of the Assembly, the final say is the Centre's (through the LG).

In any case, in the present situation, Kejriwal has only said he will resign as CM and asked for early elections — he does not appear to be planning to recommend the dissolution of the Assembly. His successor in the post could be announced after a meeting of AAP MLAs at the CM's residence on Tuesday morning.

What are the things the ECI looks at before deciding the election schedule?

The new Assembly (or Lok Sabha) has to be in place before the end of the current Assembly's term, which means the election process, including giving certificates of election to the winners and the completion of all formalities, has to be completed before that date.

The ECI works backwards from that date, planning the schedule based on the weather, availability of security forces, festivals, training of officers, procurement of EVMs, etc.

Before finalising the schedule, the ECI visits the state to take inputs from the administrative and police machinery. It also tries to club together voting in all states where polls are due around the same time.

What is the current state of preparedness for elections in Delhi?

Delhi is not preoccupying the ECI currently. The ECI is currently engaged in conducting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, where voting in the first phase will

take place on September 18. Two more phases will be held on September 25 and October 1.

Voting in Haryana will follow on October 5, and counting in both Haryana and J&K will be held on October 8.

Elections to the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assemblies are due next; the terms of these two Houses will end in November and January 2025 respectively.

Usually, a special summary revision of the electoral roll starts a few months before elections are due. The electoral roll of Maharashtra has already been published with the eligibility date of July 1, which means those who have turned 18 by that date have had a chance to enrol.

The rolls of J&K, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand were published in August. For all other states and UTs including Delhi, the annual revision with the eligibility date of January 1, 2025 will be published on January 6, 2025, as per instructions issued by the ECI.

Arvind Kejriwal is likely to submit his resignation as Chief Minister during a scheduled meeting with Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at 4.30 pm on Tuesday. Kejriwal has asked for Assembly elections to be held in Delhi along with Maharashtra, where a new House must be elected before November 26. However, the term of the Delhi Assembly ends only on February 23, 2025.

Do you know ?

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Welfare Schemes(GSII)-Page16

Ministry of Finance

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to launch NPS Vatsalya Scheme on September 18, 2024

Nearly 75 locations to virtually join the main launch in New Delhi

Children subscribers to be initiated into NPS Vatsalya with PRAN cards

NPS Vatsalya highlights Government of India's commitment to promote early start in securing financial future of children

Posted On: 18 SEP 2024 5:38PM by PIB Delhi

In pursuance of the announcement in the Union Budget 2024-25, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the NPS Vatsalya scheme on September 18, 2024, in New Delhi. School children will also join the launch.



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- NPS Vatsalya will allow parents to save for their children's future by investing in a pension account and ensure long-term wealth with the power of compounding. NPS Vatsalya offers flexible contributions and investment options, allowing parents to make investment of Rs. 1,000 annually in the name of the child, thus making it accessible to families from all economic backgrounds.
- This new initiative is designed to start early in securing financial future of children, marking an important step in India's pension system. The Scheme will be run under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Health(GSII)

Govt To Start Swacchata Hi Seva Abhiyan 2024 Across Country Today



The Swacchata Hi Seva Abhiyan 2024 begins today and runs until October 2. This year's theme is "Swabhav Swachhata-Sanskaar Swacchta."

The campaign features extensive cleanliness drives at sites like tourist spots, public buildings, and water bodies, involving activities such as shramdaan (voluntary labor) and collective action. Key components of this year's campaign include:

Cleanliness Target Units (CTU) Shramdaan Activities: Focused clean-up efforts.

Swachhata Mein Jan Bhaagidari: Encouraging public participation.

SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivar: Ensuring safety for sanitation workers.

The initiative will involve citizens, industries, NGOs, and various stakeholders, with participation from all states, Union Territories, Chief Ministers, and central ministries to promote nationwide cleanliness.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Governance(GSII)

PM To Launch Odisha Govt's Flagship Initiative Subhadra Scheme In Bhubaneswar



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Odisha government's Subhadra Scheme in Bhubaneswar, which is the state's largest women-centric initiative. The scheme will support over 1 crore women, providing ₹50,000 over five years through Aadhaar-linked DBT-enabled bank accounts, with the first transfer to over 10 lakh beneficiaries.
- Additionally, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for railway projects worth over ₹2,800 crore and National Highway projects exceeding ₹1,000 crore, aimed at improving infrastructure and connectivity in Odisha.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Miscellaneous

Booker Prize 2024 Shortlist Announced; Largest Number Of Women Represented This Year



- The Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English speaking world, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over five decades Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best sustained work of fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland. It is a prize that transforms the winner's career.
- The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a global readership and can expect a dramatic increase in book sales.