

1. Maharashtra Scraps Three-Language Policy in Primary Classes Amid Controversy



The three-language policy of Maharashtra in first five classes has been abolished due to the rampant criticisms of political parties, activists and academicians. A committee implemented by the state decided on whether and where the policy ought to be reintroduced. It is a welcomed verdict to opponents of Hindi imposition. Nevertheless, the issue concerning the role and further implementation of the panel still exists. The decision leads to regional sensitivities concerning language in the education policy.

Context

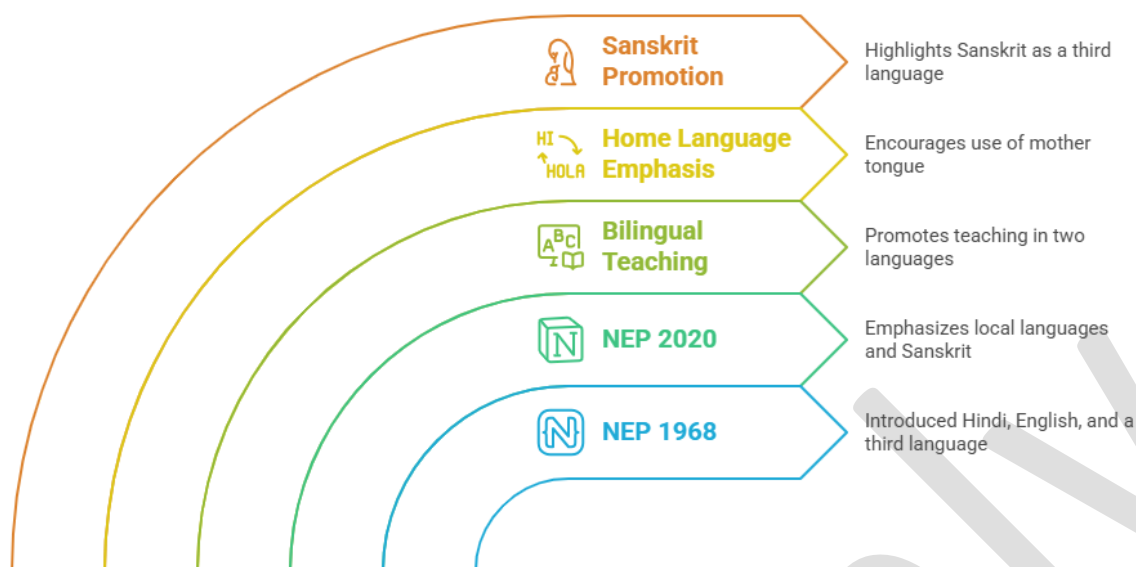
- After continuous protest, Maharashtra has now scrapped the three-language policy in primary school level education and has set up a committee to re-examine its future applicability, grade level at which this can apply.

Key Highlights

What is the Three-Language Policy?

- NEP 1968: Enforcement Hindi, English and third language (South Indian in the Hindi states and vice versa).
- NEP 2020: Maintains the formula with some flexibility two local languages of Indian origin and one of the regional ones or Sanskrit.
- Encourages both-languages teaching and emphasis on home language/mother tongue and English.
- Stresses out Sanskrit as a third language.

Evolution of Language Policy in India



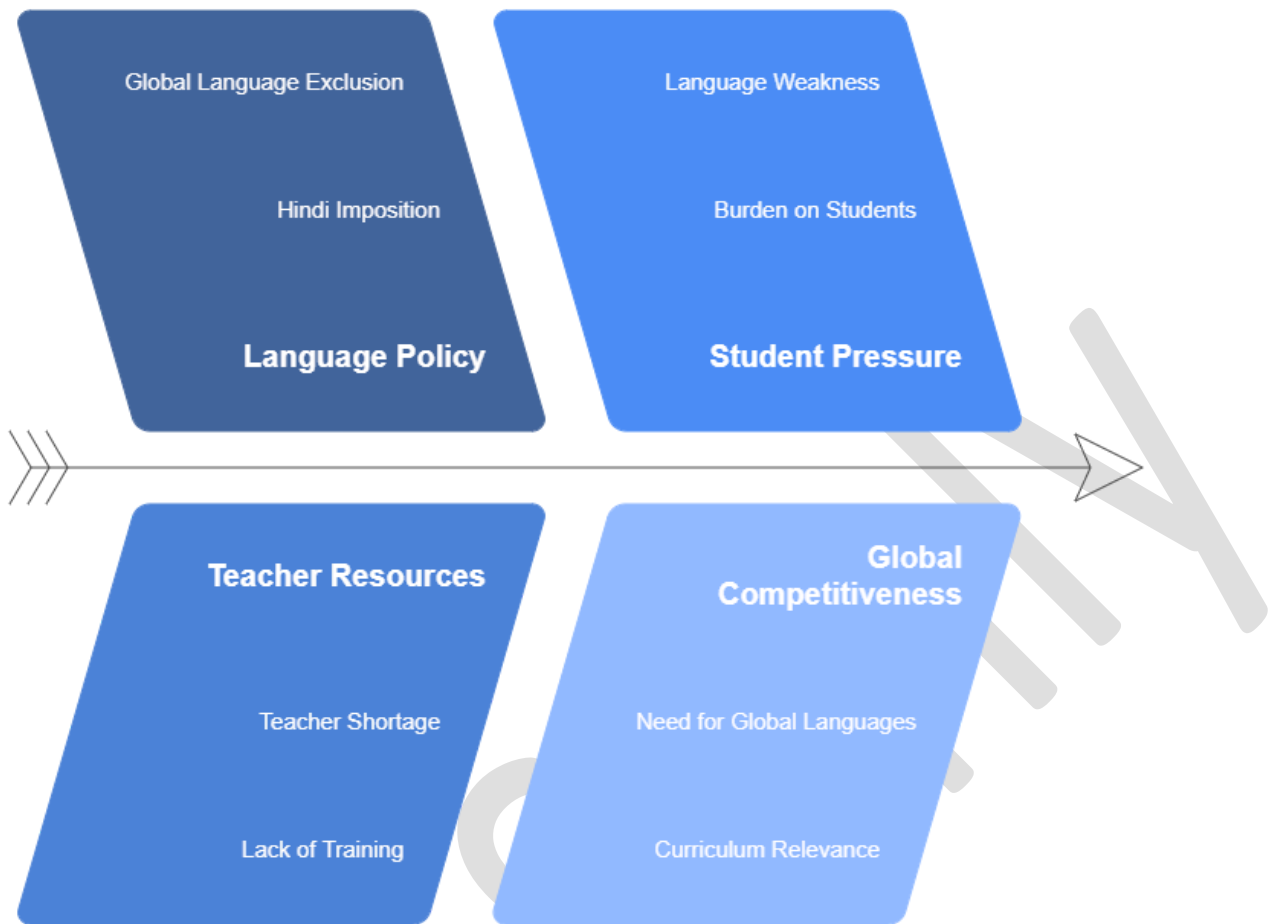
Significance of the Formula

- Multilingual Development: Enhances communication and thinking ability.
- National Integration: Promotes inter regional unity.
- Rapid Talking: Speaks in favour of employment in India.
- Empowerment of Regional Languages: This assists in the maintenance of local languages.

Issues with Implementation

- Hindi Imposition: Non Hindi states do not support compulsory teaching of Hindi.
- Teacher Shortage: Unavailability of adequate teachers in various languages.
- Student Pressure: Student pressure involves burdening on students, mostly language weak students.
- Global Competitiveness: The critics demand the inclusion of global languages as an alternative.

Challenges in Education Implementation



Schemes related to Third language Policy

Scheme Name	Description	Year of Start
Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	WEF inclusive quality education from pre-school to class XII, focusing on foundational literacy, numeracy, and supporting NEP 2020, including language education.	2018
PM SHRI Scheme	WEF transforms government schools into model schools, ensuring quality education and implementing the third language policy.	2022
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	WEF promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting language learning through educational reforms.	2016

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020	WEF framework for three-language formula, focusing on multilingual education to enhance linguistic proficiency across Indian languages.	2020
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	WEF improves secondary education quality in India with an emphasis on language education.	2009
Sanskrit Promotion Scheme	WEF promotes Sanskrit education, a key part of the third language policy.	2009
National Translation Mission	WEF encourages translation of regional languages to improve multilingualism and accessibility in education.	2008
Language Development Program	WEF promotes regional and indigenous languages, supporting the third language policy.	2006

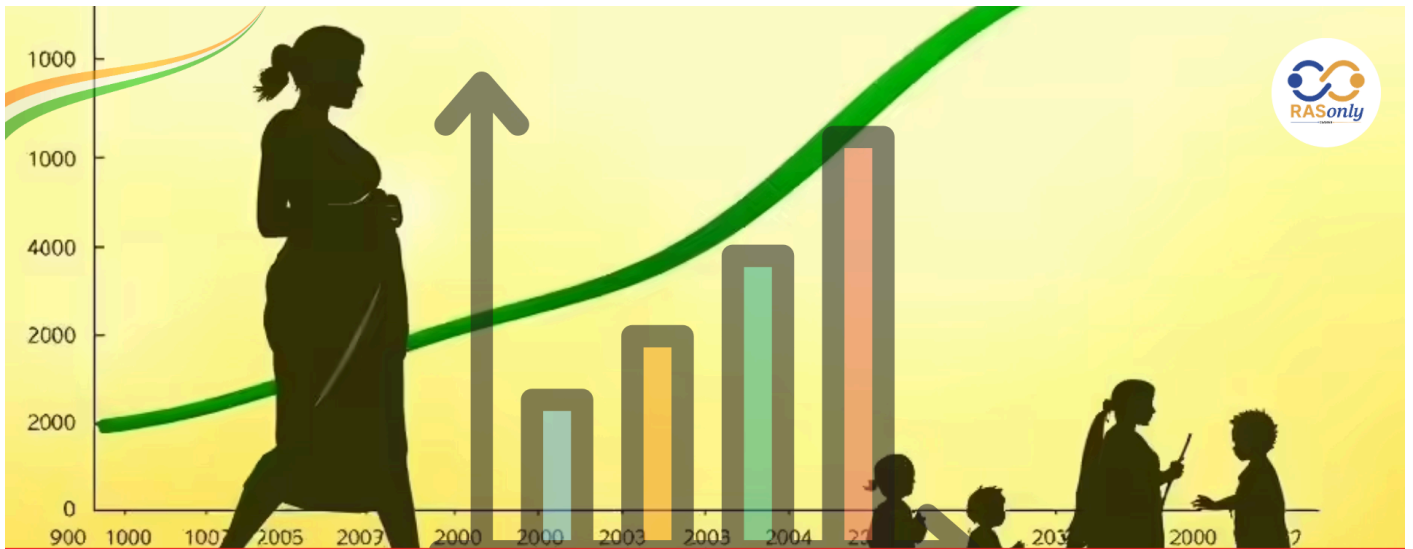
Way Ahead

- Constructive Centre-State Dialogue: To guarantee inclusiveness and tolerance of linguistic diversity.
- Considerate Implementation: Factor in work load, time of teachers , and regional preferences.
- **Preserve Samagra Shiksha Momentum:** Policy changes shouldn't derail broader educational reforms.

Conclusion

Even though the three-language formula is conceptually established in enhancing multilingualism and the cohesion of national unity, the practical implementation of this formula would require a certain correspondence with regional realities. The action of Maharashtra points to the difficulty of a blanket language policy in a multilingual nation. Flexibility, consensus and inclusion of development is what ought to be implemented in the future where quality of education and cultural sensitivity will be maintained simultaneously.

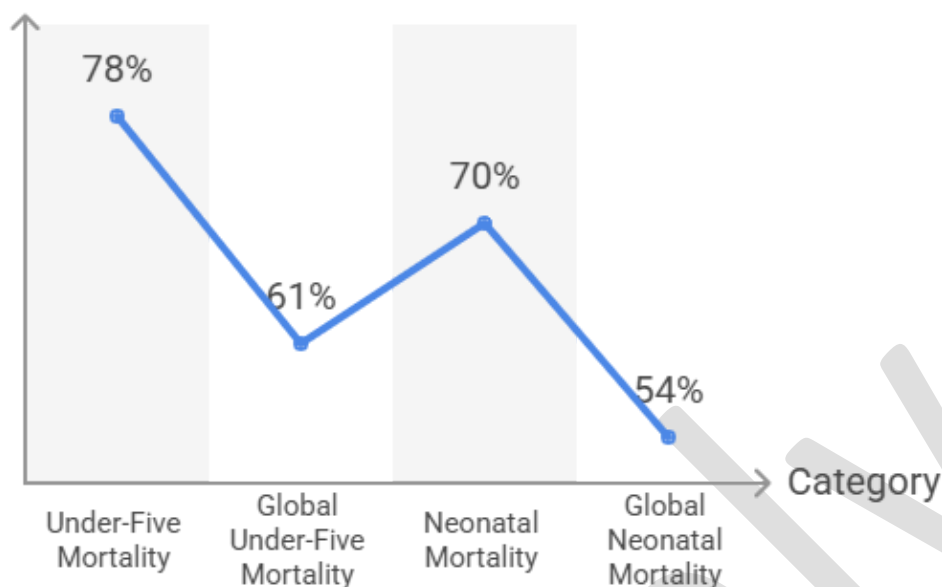
2. India Achieves 78% Decline in Under-Five Mortality, Surpasses Global Average



India Achieves 78% Decline in Under-Five Mortality, Surpasses Global Average

According to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 2024 report, India has reduced the number of deaths of children under the age of five by 78% compared to the 61 percent decrease globally. The neonatal deaths also reduced by 70% in India against the world average of 54%. India has a powerful Universal Immunization Programme, which is one of the keys to this success. Zero-dose children decreased in 2024 compared to 2023 and fell to 0.06%. Since 1971 there has been gradual development in infant mortality in India.

Reduction Percentage



Reduction in Child and Neonatal Mortality

Context:

- Concerted efforts in the area of public health including immunization have improved the survival rates of children considerably and India is one of the world leaders in minimizing under-five and neonatal deaths.

Key Points

Major Achievements

- Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR):**
 - Indian degradation: 78%
 - Worldwide decrease: 61%
 - Its origin (Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 2024) will be 5,600.
- The rate of neonatal mortality (NMR):**
 - Indian decay: 70 percent
 - Worldwide degradation: 54 %
- Zero-Dose Children:**
 - The proportion share dropped by 0.11% in 2023 to 0.06% in 2024 representing high vaccine outreach.
- Roles of Universal Immunization Programme**



<https://t.me/+9dLgyy8BipQ3YjB>



HYPERLINK
["https://rasonly.com"](https://rasonly.com)
[ps://rasonly.com](https://rasonly.com)

- Coverage: Vaccinates 2.6 crore and 2.9 crore pregnant women and infants free of cost annually.
- Impact: Consulted as being one of the best public health measures used by child survival.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India

Long-Term Trend

Year	IMR (per 1000 live births)
1971	129
1981	110
1991	80
2011	44
2017	33
2019*	28.3 (World Bank)

State-wise IMR (Sample Registration System – Updated)

- Kerala: 7 (top performing big state)
- Nagaland: 4 (Top overall)
- Delhi: 13
- Madhya Pradesh: 48 (The highest in states)

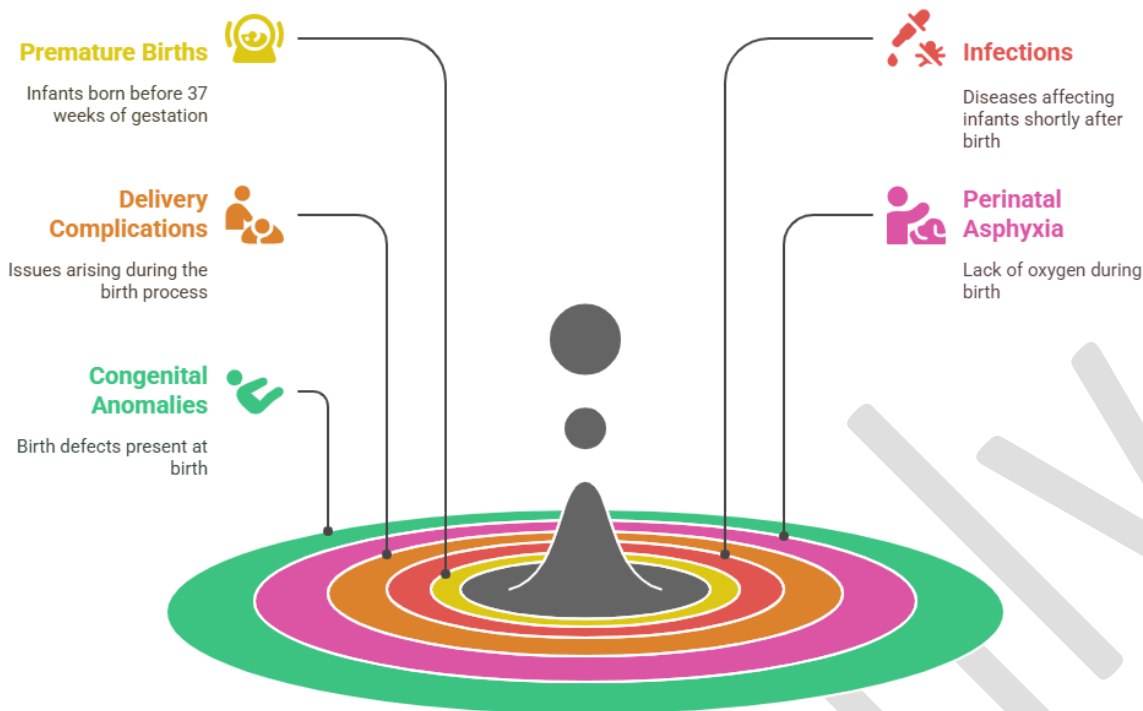
Gender Difference in IMR

- In most states, female infant mortality is above that of males with exception of:
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Delhi
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Uttarakhand

Direct Causes of Infantility

- Premature Births: Infants that are born earlier than 37 weeks of pregnancy hence having underdeveloped organs.
- Infections: Infections of infectious etiology in newborns, sepsis and pneumonia.
- Delay in Delivery: Delivery problems such as labor complications or the circumstances in which public care during birth is not provided.
- Perinatal Asphyxia: Inadequate oxygen at or around the time of birth, which causes brain damage and or death.
- Congenital Anomalies: This is the birth defect or malfunctions in organs or systems in the baby that influence survival.

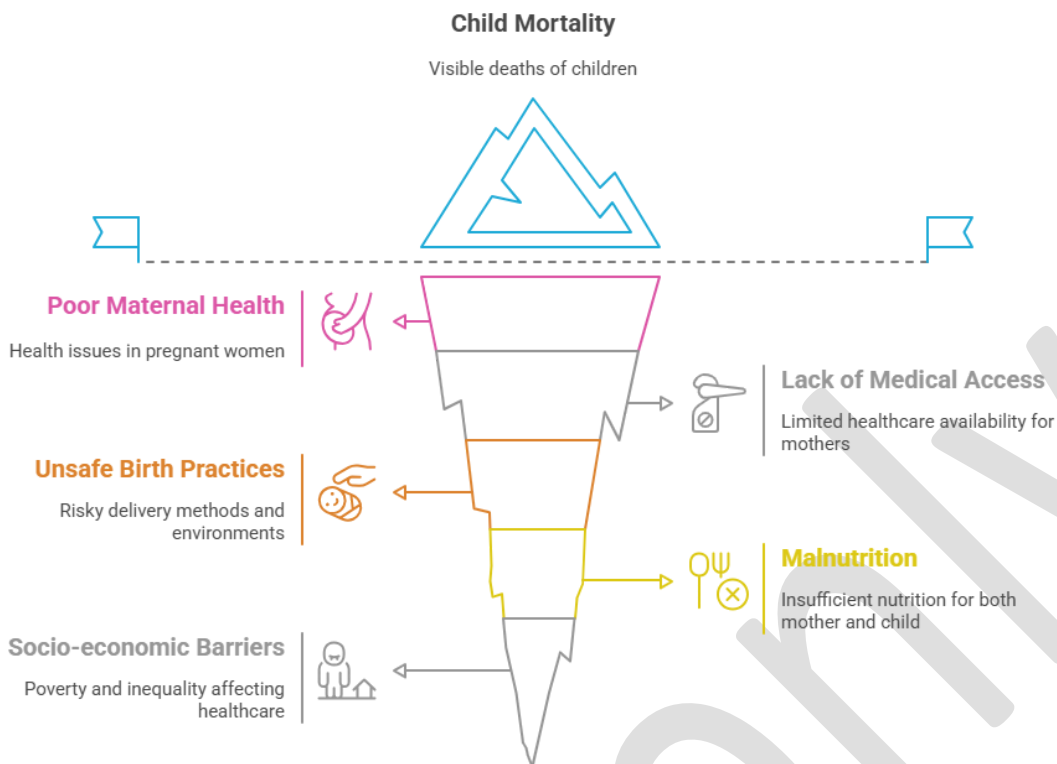
Direct Causes of Infant Mortality



Contributing Factors of Infant Mortality

- Health conditions in mothers such as hypertension or diabetes that affect the growth of the unborn baby.
- Medical Access: Lack of proper prenatal and postnatal care services to the mothers and the infants.
- Unsafe Birth Related Practices: Employment of abusive or unsanitary birth procedures; particularly within under-resourced regions.
- Malnutrition: Insufficient nutrition in pregnancy resulting in low birth weight and immune systems.
- Socio-economic Barriers: Poverty, low level of education, and inadequate system of healthcare service provision, which increase the risks of childbirth.

Child mortality is influenced by many hidden factors.



Relevant Schemes Supporting Maternal & Child Health

Scheme	Focus
Universal Immunization Programme	Free vaccines for infants and pregnant women
PM Matritva Vandana Yojana	Financial aid for maternal health
One Stop One Centre Scheme	Integrated support for women
Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra	Empowerment of rural women
Nai Roshni Scheme	Women leadership development
Bhasha Sangam & EBSB	Promote multilingual learning (indirect role)
Ujjawala Scheme	Prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation

Conclusion

The unprecedented reduction of under-five and neonatal death rates in India indicates that India is making a big effort toward the priority of maternal and child health by depiction of immunization and community health



awareness continual efforts. The gains are significant, however, whereas regional and gender disparity has become an aspect that requires further policy attention. India is in a better position to meet SDG goals of child survival even before the world through an upward campaign due to strengthened support through such programs as Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI.

RASonly

