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11:00 AM | BY - PRESHIKA MA'AM



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Important words used in editorial

Decorum - propriety, etiquette, decency, civility, politeness

Comprehensive - extensive, thorough, complete, inclusive, exhaustive

Logistical - organizational, operational, strategic, systematic,
structural

Preparedness - readiness, preparation, alertness, equipment, Foresight

Petitioner - appellant, applicant, suitor, claimant, plaintiff

Inconvenience - trouble, disturbance, annoyance, bother, irritation

Hardship - difficulty, adversity, suffering, affliction, trouble, *Tribulation, misery*

Enforce - implement, impose, execute, apply, administer

Contentious - controversial, debatable, disputed, quarrelsome

Disregard - indifference, neglect, apathy, oversight, disdain

*Lack of
care/concern*

Alignment - adjustment, agreement, coordination, integration, Union

Native - indigenous, local, aboriginal, original

Meagre - scanty, sparse, insufficient, *scarcity*

Exempt - excuse, exclude, release, free

Assess - evaluate, judge, estimate, analyze, appraise

Defer - postpone, delay, suspend, put off, adjourn

Abrupt - sudden, sudden, precipitous, blunt, sharp

Camouflage - disguise, conceal, mask, cover, hide

Turnabout - reversal, U-turn, change, flip-flop

Impose - force, inflict, levy, enforce, thrust

Statute - law, legislation, act, decree, enactment
↳ law/order

Sweeping - wide-ranging, extensive, comprehensive, radical, broad
↳ exhaustive
thorough

Important idioms and phrases used in the editorial

Take up - to start dealing with or discussing a matter

Point out - to draw attention to a particular fact or mistake

Language decorum: On the three-language formula in CBSE schools School education should not be the site of a cultural battle. The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union Government, the CBSE, and the NCERT, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a three-language formula in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026. On May 27, while hearing petitioners challenging the CBSE move, the Court declined to grant an immediate stay on the policy but acknowledged that concerns over "hardship and inconvenience" warranted review. The Court will hear arguments on July 15 and 16. The casual manner in which the government is using the CBSE to enforce its contentious language policy once again shows complete disregard for students, teachers, and parents. On May 15, the CBSE had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. At least two of the three must be native Indian languages. Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject. In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the CBSE exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

Barely weeks earlier, the CBSE had stated that the third-language requirement would be deferred until the 2029-30 academic year. The abrupt turnabout can only be explained as a political decision.

The move is being challenged in the Court on multiple grounds, including constitutional ones. The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state. It is also being pointed out that the NEP 2020, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State. The petitioners also argue that the CBSE, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the NEP says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute. Parents and teachers are alarmed about the added pressure on students just before their Board examinations. School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks. Turning school education into a cultural battleground is not helping India's ambition to become a global reservoir of advanced human resources. The Centre should course-correct before the Court takes up the case again.

1. Which of the following best captures the editorial's primary criticism of the CBSE's decision?

- (a) The policy promotes foreign languages at the expense of Indian languages.
- ☒ (b) The decision was implemented hastily without adequate consideration of practical and educational challenges.
- (c) The Supreme Court lacks jurisdiction to review educational policies.
- (d) The policy completely abolishes flexibility in language learning across all classes.

2. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT cited as a concern raised by stakeholders regarding the implementation of the three-language formula?
- (a) Shortage of qualified language teachers.
 - (b) Lack of suitable textbooks.
 - (c) Additional burden on students before Board examinations.
 - ~~(d) Reduction in the number of science and mathematics periods~~

3. The phrase "The abrupt turnabout can only be explained as a political decision" implies that the author believes the change in CBSE's stance was:

(a) based on extensive educational research.

(b) necessitated by judicial intervention.

(c) motivated primarily by political considerations rather than academic concerns.

(d) demanded unanimously by parents and teachers.

4. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?

- (a) The Court ~~has already~~ declared the three-language ~~mandate unconstitutional~~.
- (b) The NEP 2020 ~~explicitly~~ mandates compulsory ~~study of three Indian~~ languages.
- (c) The implementation of the policy may face administrative ~~difficulties~~ due to inadequate ~~preparedness~~.
- (d) Most CBSE ~~schools currently possess~~ sufficient ~~resources to implement~~ the policy immediately

5. The author's tone throughout the passage can best be described as:
- (a) ~~Appreciative and optimistic.~~
 - (b) ~~Neutral and descriptive.~~
 - ☒ (c) ~~Critical and cautionary.~~
 - (d) ~~Humorous and satirical.~~

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