

Third language choice: Hindi in non-Hindi States, Sanskrit in Hindi-belt

Overview of the Issue

- The debate over the **three-language formula** remains contentious, particularly in **Tamil Nadu**, which has historically opposed its implementation.
- A key missing element in the discourse is **recent data** on language instruction in schools across different States.
- The **latest available granular data** comes from the **2009 All India School Education Survey**, which is outdated and not publicly accessible.

Key Findings from the 2009 Survey

- The survey reveals a **clear pattern** in third-language choices in both **Hindi and non-Hindi speaking States**.

A. Hindi-Speaking States (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand)

- **Hindi** is overwhelmingly the primary language of instruction.
- **Sanskrit** is the most common third language, despite the 1968 **National Education Policy (NEP)** recommending a **modern southern language** in Hindi-speaking States.
- Data Breakdown:
 - **Bihar**: 99.1% schools taught Hindi, 64% English, 56% Sanskrit, only 8% taught other languages.
 - **Uttar Pradesh**: 94% Hindi, 75.3% English, 65.2% Sanskrit, just 7% other languages.
 - **Uttarakhand**: 99.5% Hindi, 85.5% English, 79.4% Sanskrit, only 2.6% other languages.

B. Non-Hindi-Speaking States (Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, etc.)

- The third language tends to be **Hindi**, reflecting a default preference rather than enforcement.
- Data Breakdown:
 - **Gujarat**: 97% schools taught Gujarati, 20.9% English, 64% Hindi, only 2.2% other languages.
 - **Karnataka**: 97.5% Kannada, 86.2% English, 30.4% Hindi, only 15% other languages.
 - **Punjab**: 79.2% Hindi, less than 1% offered languages other than English and Punjabi.

The Table shows the share (in%) of schools that taught the regional languages, English, Hindi, Sanskrit and other languages in the primary stage, across select states, as of 2009

State	Regional	English	Hindi	Sanskrit	Others
Haryana	-	70.9	94.4	-	5.4
Himachal	-	68.3	97.3	-	1.5
Delhi	-	87.4	92.0	-	13.7
U.P.	-	75.3	94.0	65.2	7.0
Punjab	97.8	79.8	79.2	-	0.8
Uttarakhand	-	85.5	99.5	79.4	2.6
M.P.	-	52.5	99.1	1.2	10.9
Chhattisgarh	-	37.1	99.3	-	3.6
Gujarat	97.3	20.9	64.1	-	2.2
Rajasthan	-	52.5	98.7	-	5.8
Maharashtra	91.3	60.0	6.2	-	9.1
Arunachal	-	90.8	81.2	-	23.3
Assam	77.8	11.9	0.5	-	24.2
Manipur	86.3	86.5	35.2	-	27.6
Meghalaya	88.2	64.8	1.1	-	15.4
Mizoram	78.7	85.3	4.2	-	24.9
Nagaland	-	97.7	5.4	-	72.3
Sikkim	87.9	86.6	43.8	-	26.0
Tripura	98.5	79.7	0.5	1.8	18.3
Odisha	94.8	64.3	0.2	-	7.9
Bengal	94.2	86.5	2.0	-	3.5
Jharkhand	-	37.4	99	0.1	17.5
Bihar	-	64.0	99.1	55.9	8.4
Karnataka	97.5	86.2	30.4	-	15.0
Kerala	90.4	72.0	8.4	-	33.0
Undivided A.P.	94.3	83.1	6.3	-	7.2
Tamil Nadu	95.5	73.9	3.7	-	4.8

Others refer to languages other than English, Hindi, Sanskrit and the regional language in each state. The total in each row does not add up to 100 as one school can teach more than one language.

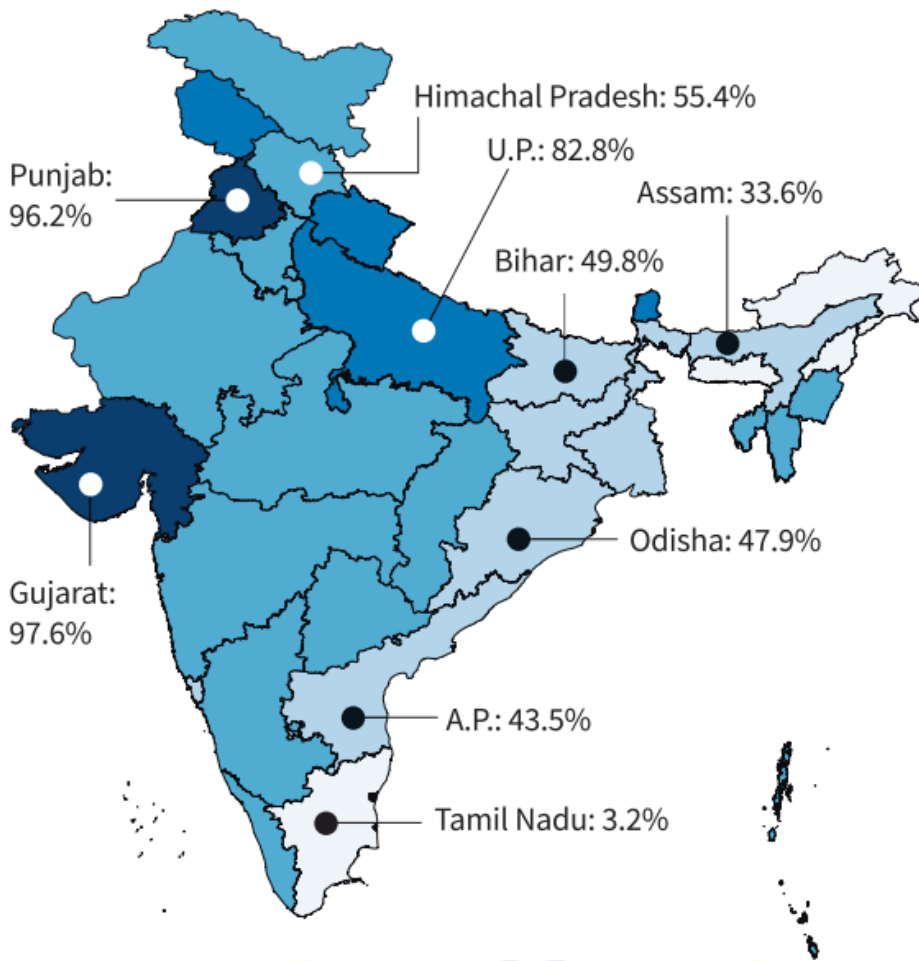
The All India School Education Survey (2009) includes govt./govt. aided, Private aided/unaided, recognised and unrecognised schools.

Supply-Side Constraints Impacting Third Language Choice

- **Availability of teachers** plays a crucial role in determining third-language choices.
- **Himachal Pradesh case study:**
 - Telugu, Tamil, and French had zero enrollments due to a lack of teachers.
 - Teacher vacancy rates:
 - 34% of **Punjabi** teaching posts vacant.
 - 71% of **Urdu** teaching posts vacant.
 - **Sanskrit: Only 9.8%** of 5,078 sanctioned teaching posts vacant → Indicates continued preference for Sanskrit.
- **Uttar Pradesh case study:**
 - **Minimal demand** for South Indian languages.
 - As per Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UP):
 - 1 student registered for **Malayalam**.
 - 3 students for **Tamil**.
 - 5 students for **Kannada**.
 - These students appear as **private candidates**, suggesting that their schools do not offer these languages.

Implementation Gaps in the Three-Language Formula

- Even among **States that agreed** to implement the **three-language policy**, actual execution is **uneven**.
- As of 2023-24 (LS reply data):
 - **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha: Less than 50%** of schools had implemented the three-language formula.
 - Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana: Less than 60% implementation.



MAP – State-wise share of school teaching three languages as of 2023-2024

(In the map, the darker the colour, the higher the share of schools that teach three languages)

Key Takeaways

- **Lack of supply & demand** plays a larger role than **policy enforcement** in determining language choices.
- In **Hindi-speaking States**, **Sanskrit dominates** as the third language, not a southern language as intended in the **1968 NEP**.
- In non-Hindi States, Hindi is the dominant third-language choice.
- **Teacher availability** heavily influences language choice—languages like **Tamil, Telugu, and French** are **absent** due to a **shortage of qualified teachers**.
- Recent, detailed data on **language instruction** is urgently needed to assess the current situation and policy effectiveness.

How did the Myanmar earthquake occur?

Cause of the Earthquake

- The earthquake originated in **central Myanmar**, about **20 km from Mandalay**, a seismically active region.
- It had a magnitude of **7.7** and struck at **12:50 pm local time**, followed by **strong aftershocks**, including one of **6.4 magnitude** just 11 minutes later.
- The event was triggered by movement along the **Sagaing fault**, a **major strike-slip fault** in Myanmar.
- The epicentre was **shallow (10 km deep)**, amplifying ground shaking.

Impact of the Earthquake

- **Widespread destruction**: Thousands of people died, and infrastructure, including **homes, bridges, mosques, and pagodas**, suffered severe damage.
- **Mandalay**, a city with **1.5 million people**, was among the worst-hit areas.
- The **southern Sagaing fault** saw the most destruction due to **thicker alluvial deposits**, which **amplified seismic energy**.
- The **total death toll** is estimated to exceed **10,000**, according to USGS models.

Effects in Bangkok

- Despite being **1,000 km away**, Bangkok experienced minor structural impacts:
 - A 33-storey high-rise collapsed during construction.
 - A **swimming pool on a high-rise building overflowed** due to **seismic seiches** (water oscillations triggered by seismic waves).
- The **long-period seismic waves** caused **tall buildings to sway**, amplifying the effects.

Why Eastern India Avoided Damage

- The energy released by the earthquake was directed in a north-south direction, following the trend of the Sagaing fault.
- **China's Yunnan province** (north of the fault) also escaped damage due to different geological conditions.
- Eastern India lies to the west of the fault - Less seismic wave impact

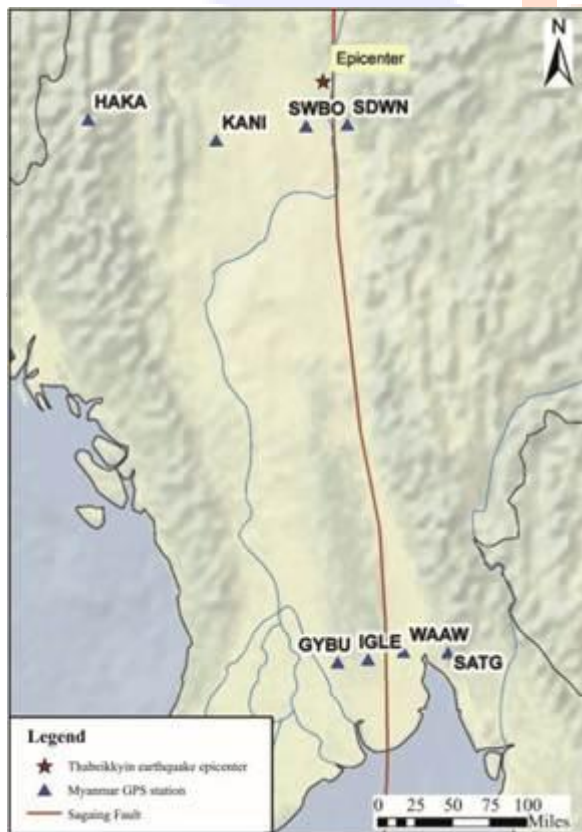
History of Earthquakes Along the Sagaing Fault

- The Sagaing fault runs 1,400 km, from the Andaman Sea to the Eastern Himalayan bend.
- It has experienced **several earthquakes** over the last century:

- **1930–1956:** Six earthquakes of **magnitude 7+**.
- **1839:** Ava earthquake (**magnitude 7.8**), killing 500+ people.
- **1927:** Strong quake felt north of Yangon.
- **1946:** Another **magnitude 7.7** event near Mandalay.
- **2016:** A destructive earthquake hit **Bagan**, an ancient city known for its Buddhist monuments.

Why Southeast Asia is a Seismically Active Region

- The plate boundary in Southeast Asia is among the **most tectonically active in the world**.
- It results from the **collision** of the **Indian and Eurasian Plates** about 40 million years ago.
- **Notable seismic events include:**
 - 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake (M 9.2) – triggered a transcontinental tsunami.
 - 1792 Megathrust Earthquake (M 8.5) – generated a tsunami in Bay of Bengal and caused soil liquefaction in Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- The **Indo-Burmese subduction zone** and the **Chittagong-Tripura fold belt** experience frequent seismic activity.



Geodynamics of the Sagaing Fault

- The **Sagaing fault** forms the boundary between:
 - **Central Myanmar Lowlands and Indo-Burman Range.**
- The Burma plate (Burma sliver) exists between the Indian Plate and the Sagaing Fault, due to strain partitioning at the subduction front.
- The fault is a **strike-slip fault**, accommodating **15-25 mm/year of lateral movement**, with an accumulated slippage of 100-700 km.
- It absorbs **50-55% of overall plate motion** in the region.
- Similar to the **San Andreas Fault (California, USA)**, it produces shallow **earthquakes (10-15 km depth)**.

Lessons from the 2025 Myanmar Earthquake

- Myanmar is struggling with the **aftermath**, worsened by **civil unrest**.
- The **Sagaing fault is highly active**, meaning future earthquakes are likely.
- India, being one of the **most earthquake-prone countries in South Asia**, should:
 - Implement scientific safety measures.
 - Strengthen seismic-resistant infrastructure.
 - Improve early warning systems and disaster response mechanisms.
 - Community preparedness programs

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