



Tulu Language

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Why in News

The **Tulu speakers**, mainly in **Karnataka and Kerala**, have been **requesting the governments to give it official language status and include it in the eighth schedule to the Constitution**.

In 2020, there was a demand to include Tulu in the new **National Education Policy** (NEP).

Official Language or Languages of a State

- **Part XVII of the Indian Constitution** deals with the official language in **Articles 343 to 351**.
- **Article 345** of the Constitution says “the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State”.

Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

- The **Constitutional provisions** relating to the Eighth Schedule **occur in Article 344 (1) and 351 of the Constitution**.
- The **languages listed under Eighth Schedule** are:
(1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.
- Languages are added through **Constitutional Amendments**.

Key Points

- **About 'Tulu' Language:**

- Tulu is a **Dravidian language** spoken mainly in two coastal districts **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka** and **Kasaragod district of Kerala**.

This region is informally known as **Tulu Nadu**. There has been a demand for separate statehood for Tulu Nadu.

- As per the **2011 Census** report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.
- The **oldest available inscriptions** in Tulu are from the period **between 14th to 15th century AD**.
- Tulu was **introduced as a language in school by the Karnataka Government** a few years ago.

- **Tulu Art and Culture:**

- Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like **paddana**, and traditional folk theatre **yakshagana**.
- Tulu also has an active tradition of cinema with around **5 to 7 Tulu language** movies produced a year.

- **Case for Recognition:**

- **Article 29 of the Constitution:** It deals with the "**Protection of interests of minorities**". It states that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.

- **Yuelu Proclamation:**

- The Yuelu Proclamation was **adopted at the first international conference on language resources protection** in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province **in 2018 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)**.
- It calls upon the international community, states, governments and non-governmental organizations, among others, to reach a consensus on the **protection and promotion of linguistic diversity** in the world.

- **Advantages of Recognition under Eighth Schedule:**

- Recognition from the **Sahitya Akademi**.

Sahitya Akademi is also called India's **National Academy of Letters**, which preserves and promotes literature contained in different Indian languages.

- Translation of Tulu literary works into other languages.
- Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) could speak Tulu in Parliament and State Assemblies, respectively.
- Option to take competitive exams in Tulu including all-India competitive examinations like the Civil Services exam.
- **Special funds** from the Central government.
- Teaching of Tulu in primary and high school.

Source: IE