



Maithili Missed Classical Status

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Maithili** was not granted [classical status](#), despite recurring demands, as the **Bihar government** did **not formally submit the proposal**.

Key Points

- **Recommendation Process:**
 - **Classical status for languages** is recommended by a [Linguistics Expert Committee](#) with representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, **chaired by the [Sahitya Akademi](#) president**.
 - After the committee's recommendation, Union Cabinet approval and a gazette notification are required.
- **Maithili Proposal Technicality:**
 - Although the **Maithili Sahitya Sansthan in Patna** prepared a proposal for **Maithili's classical status**, the Bihar government did **not forward it to the Union Home Ministry** as required.
- **Cultural and Linguistic Importance of Maithili:**
 - According to the [2011 census](#), India has approximately 12 million Maithili speakers.
 - Recognized in the [Eighth Schedule](#) since 2003, Maithili is an **optional subject in the Union Public Service Commission** exam and has **official language status in Jharkhand as of 2018**. It is **widely spoken in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal**.
- **Political Advocacy for Maithili's Status:**
 - The **Janata Dal (United)** has consistently supported Maithili's classical status.
 - Maithili's **1,300-year literary heritage** and ongoing evolution are highlighted as grounds for its classical status.
- **Recent Classical Language Recognitions:**
 - In October 2024, **Assamese, Bengali, and three other languages were granted classical status**, following **proposals** from respective state governments.
 - Previously, Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit were considered by the committee, with only **Sanskrit recognized in 2005**.
- **Benefits of Attaining Classical Language Status:**
 - Recognized classical languages **receive Ministry of Education support**, including **two annual awards to honor distinguished scholars**.
 - A **Centre of Excellence** is established for dedicated studies, and professional academic chairs are set up at central universities.

Maithili Language

- Maithili is a language **spoken in Bihar** belonging to the **eastern sub-group of the Indo-Aryan branch**. **Bhojpuri and Magadhi** are closely related to the language.
- The language is claimed to have **developed from the Magadhan Prakrit**.
 - It was the literary language of all of eastern India during the medieval period.
- It was **popularised in the 14th century by poet Vidyapati** and solidified the importance of the language in literature.
- Maithili language has been accorded **Constitutional status in 2003** and it became one of the **22**

languages mentioned in the **8th Schedule of the Constitution**.

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