



Maharashtra Mandates Marathi Language Use

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Why in News?

Maharashtra has **mandated the use of Marathi language in all official communication** across government, semi-government, local self-government bodies, and government-aided offices.

- The **Marathi Language Policy**, approved in **2024**, recommends the **use of Marathi in all public affairs**.

Note:

- **Marathi** was designated as the **official language of Maharashtra in 1960**.
- In 2024, **Marathi** achieved the status of a **classical language**.
- India has **2 official Languages (Hindi and English)** and **22 Scheduled Languages** as per the **Eighth Schedule** to the Constitution of India.
 - It includes **Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu**.
 - **Part XVII** of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages in **Articles 343 to 351**.

Mandatory Regional Languages in Other Indian States

- **Tamil Nadu:** Tamil is **mandatory for government communication**, and passing a Class 10 Tamil exam is required for government jobs.
- **Karnataka:** Kannada is **compulsory in government offices and business signboards**, with a law mandating 60% of signboard space in Kannada.
- **Jharkhand:** Jharkhand mandated knowledge of **regional and tribal languages** for government jobs, requiring candidates to score **at least 30% in languages like Mundari, Santhali, Ho, or Kurukh**.
- **West Bengal:** Encourages hiring candidates **fluent in Bengali** for government jobs.

What are the Key Constitutional Provisions Related to Official Language?

- **Article 345:** **Article 345** of the **Constitution** states that a **state legislature can choose one or more languages** to be used for official purposes.
 - This includes the **language or languages already spoken in the state, or Hindi**.
- **Article 347:** **Article 347** of the Constitution deals with the **recognition of languages spoken by a section of a state's population**.
 - It allows the **President to officially recognize such languages** if a **substantial portion of the state's population requests it**.
 - This provision allows the **inclusion of regional languages into the official framework**

of the state, ensuring linguistic inclusivity.

- **Article 350A: Article 350A** of the Constitution requires **states to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue** for children from **linguistic minority groups**. This applies to **primary education**.
- **Article 351: Article 351** of the Constitution provides for the **promotion of the spread of Hindi** as a **link language without** overriding the linguistic rights of states to promote their official languages.

Committees and Commissions Related to Languages of Union

- **The Official Languages Commission (1955):** It was established under the Chairmanship of **B.G. Kher**, that **examined the issue of the use of Hindi and English as the official language of the Union** and made recommendations for the transition to Hindi.
- **Parliamentary Committee of Official Language (1976):** The **Parliamentary Committee of Official Language (1976)** recommends **replacing English with Hindi in institutions and Central services exams**.
 - However, these proposals have not been fully implemented due to resistance, especially from non-Hindi speaking states.

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SCHEDULES IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Originally (1949), the Constitution had 8 schedules. Now, it comprises 12 Schedules; various amendments carried out since 1951 have added 4 Schedules (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th).



First Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 1 & 4
- Ⓒ States and Union Territories with their territorial jurisdiction

Second Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 59, 65, 75, 97, 125, 148, 158, 164, 186 & 221
- Ⓒ Emoluments, allowances and privileges of various constitutional posts (President, Governor, Judges of the SC & High Courts, CAG etc.)

Third Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 75, 84, 99, 124, 146, 173, 188 & 219
- Ⓒ Forms of oaths or affirmations (Union ministers, MPs, Judges of the SC & High Courts, CAG etc.)

Fourth Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 4 & 80
- Ⓒ Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha

Fifth Schedule

- Ⓒ Article: 244
- Ⓒ Administration and Control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes

Sixth Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 244 & 275
- Ⓒ Administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram

Seventh Schedule

- Ⓒ Article: 246
- Ⓒ Union List (98 subjects), State List (59 subjects), & Concurrent List (52 subjects)

Eighth Schedule

- Ⓒ Articles: 344 & 351
- Ⓒ 22 recognised languages by the Constitution

Ninth Schedule (1st Amendment Act, 1951)

- Ⓒ Article: 31-B
- Ⓒ Validation of certain acts and regulations

Tenth Schedule (52nd Amendment Act, 1985)

- Ⓒ Articles: 102 & 191
- Ⓒ Anti-defection law

Eleventh Schedule (73rd Amendment Act, 1992)

- Ⓒ Article: 243-G
- Ⓒ Powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats

Twelfth Schedule (74th Amendment Act, 1992)

- Ⓒ Article: 243-W
- Ⓒ Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities



UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements:(2021)

1. 21st February is declared to be the International Mother Language Day by UNICEF.
2. The demand that Bangla has to be one of the national languages was raised in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Q2. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to (2021)

- (a) dance forms of Northwest India
- (b) musical instruments
- (c) pre-historic cave paintings
- (d) tribal languages

Ans: (d)

Q3. Which one of the following was given classical language status recently? (2015)

- (a) Odia
- (b) Konkani
- (c) Bhojpuri
- (d) Assamese

Ans: (a)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/maharashtra-mandates-marathi-language-use>

