

Official Language

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to the Official Language. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Constitutional Provisions for Languages in India

1. Specific Constitutional Articles

- **Article 343:**
 - Declares **Hindi in the Devanagari script** as the **official language of the Union**.
 - It does **not** declare Hindi as the "National Language."
- **Article 344:**
 - Deals with the establishment of the **Official Language Commission** by the President.
- **Article 345:**
 - Provides the procedure for a **State legislature** to adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or **Hindi** as the **official language(s) of that state**.
- **Article 350-A:**
 - Mandates that every state shall endeavor to provide **adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue** at the **primary stage of education** to children belonging to linguistic minorities.
 - The President can issue directions to any state for this purpose.

- This article was inserted by the **7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956.**

2. Amendment of Language Provisions

- The provisions related to the official language of the Union (under the Official Language Act, 1963) can be amended by the Parliament by a **simple majority.**

The Eighth Schedule & Official Languages

1. Recognition and Number

- The **Eighth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution lists the **official languages of the Republic of India.**
- The current number of officially recognized languages in the Eighth Schedule is **22.**
- This number was raised from 18 to 22 by the **Constitution (92nd Amendment) Act, 2003.**



2. Chronology of Additions to the Eighth Schedule

- **Original (1950):** 14 languages.
- **21st Amendment Act (1967):** Added **Sindhi.**
- **71st Amendment Act (1992):** Added **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali.**
- **92nd Amendment Act (2003):** Added **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali.**

3. Examples of Languages in the Eighth Schedule

- **Included Languages (the full list of 22):** Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.
- **Languages NOT included (examples):** Angika, Bhojpuri, Rajasthani.

Official Language Commission and Committees

- The **First Official Language Commission** was established in **1955** under the chairmanship of **B.G. Kher**.
- A **Parliamentary Committee** under **Govind Ballabh Pant** was formed in **1957** to review the commission's report.

State-Level Language Initiatives

- **Uttarakhand** has given **Sanskrit** the status of the **second official language** of the state (since January 1, 2010).

Linguistic Demographics

1. Within India

- According to Census data, **Hindi** is the most widely spoken language as a mother tongue in India (approx. 41-44%).
- Among the 22 scheduled languages, after Hindi, **Bengali** is spoken by the largest number of people, followed by **Marathi** and **Telugu**.

2. Global Context

- Globally, some of the most spoken languages include **English**, **Mandarin Chinese**, **Hindi**, **Spanish**, and **French**.

Classical Languages of India

- The Government of India grants the "**Classical Language**" status to languages with an ancient literary heritage.
- The **six classical languages** of India and the year they were granted status are:

1. **Tamil** (2004)
2. **Sanskrit** (2005)
3. **Kannada** (2008)
4. **Telugu** (2008)

5. **Malayalam** (2013)
6. **Odia** (2014)

Miscellaneous Linguistic Facts

- **Brahui**, a language spoken in Baluchistan (Pakistan), belongs to the **Dravidian language family** (like Tamil, Telugu, etc.), making it a significant linguistic isolate in that region.

Know More About Official Language:

- [Official Language – Old Year Questions](#)
- [Official Language One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

