

CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- The Tulu-speaking people are larger in number than speakers of Manipuri and Sanskrit, which have the Eighth Schedule status.
- There is also a statehood for Tulu Nadu demand in the regions where Tulu is spoken.

CHALLENGES FOR TULU LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 8TH SCHEDULE

- *The Tulu language has lost its prominence as a major language and its script is considered to be near extinct.*
- *There was also some confusion regarding the script of Tulu language, which closely resembles Malayalam.*
- *Most of the literature has been lost because of difficulties in preserving palm leaf scrolls, the earliest literature available is from the 15th century.*
- *Lack of serious literature in Tulu language*
- *Research in Tulu language and script has been sorely lacking.*
- Will lead to demand for inclusion of more languages in the 8th schedule of the Constitution.
- Tulu has not even been conferred State language status in Kerala.

BENEFITS OF INCLUDING TULU LANGUAGE IN 8TH SCHEDULE

- If included in the Eighth Schedule, Tulu would get recognition from the Sahitya Academy. Tulu books would be translated into other recognized Indian languages.
- Members of Parliament and MLAs could speak in Tulu in Parliament and State Assemblies, respectively.
- Candidates could write all-India competitive examinations like the Civil Services exam in Tulu.

VIII SCHEDULE - ARTICLES 344(1) AND 351 LANGUAGES

- The Constitutional provisions relating to the Eighth Schedule occur in **Article 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution.**
- **Article 344(1)** - *The President by order to constitute a Commission after every 10 years representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule. The Commission shall recommend to the President as to:*

Progressive use of Hindi Language for official purposes of the Union, restrictions on the use of English for official purposes of the Union, form of numerals to be used by Union etc. The Commission while making its recommendations should give due regard to industrial, scientific and cultural advancement of India, and the just claims and interests of persons belonging to the non-Hindi speaking areas in regard to public services.

- **Article 351** - *It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages.*
- Constitution enjoins that state would promote basic education in mother tongue.

DEMAND FOR MORE LANGUAGES TO BE INCLUDED IN 8TH SCHEDULE

- However, the Union must provide a way to include more languages in the VIII Schedule or provide certain alternative whereby these different languages get same protection which is being received by the 22 mandated languages.
- This is because many unscheduled languages have a sizeable number of speakers: Bhili/Bhilodi has more than 1 million speakers; Gondi has 29 lakh speakers; Garo has 11 lakh speakers; Ho has 14 lakhs; Khandesi, 18 lakhs etc.

INDIA NEEDS TO LEARN FROM THE YUELU PROCLAMATION

- **The Yuelu Proclamation of UNESCO** highlights that *protection and promotion of linguistic diversity helps to*
 - *improve social inclusion and partnerships*
 - *reduce the gender and social inequality between different native speakers*
 - *guarantee the rights for native speakers of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as well as non-official languages and dialects to receive education*