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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19 March 2024

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD REPORT, 2023

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD REPORT, 2023". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "INTERNAL SECURITY" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

International Narcotics Control Board has released its Annual Report, 2023, in which it emphasised that the proliferation of online drug trafficking has heightened the accessibility of illicit drugs in the market.

KEY POINTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD REPORT

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) report paints a complex picture of the global drug landscape, highlighting both shifting production and trafficking patterns as well as emerging threats in the online space.

SHIFTS IN THE GEOGRAPHY OF DRUG PRODUCTION

- **Afghanistan:** A significant decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation and heroin production offers a glimmer of hope. However, this could lead to a shift in production to other regions, requiring continued vigilance.
- **Asia:** South Asia's potential role as a transit route for Afghan-made methamphetamine to Europe and Oceania raises concerns about a new front in the global drug trade. Additionally, the Pacific Islands are transitioning from mere transit points to destinations for synthetic drugs, posing a significant challenge for their limited resources.
- **America:** North America continues to grapple with an opioid crisis fueled by synthetic opioids, while South America experiences a surge in coca bush cultivation, the key ingredient in cocaine. This highlights the need for multifaceted approaches that address both production and demand across the hemisphere.
- **Africa:** West and Central Africa are emerging as crucial transit regions for cocaine trafficking, demanding enhanced cooperation between countries in the region to disrupt these illicit networks.

EMERGING CHALLENGES: THE RISE OF ONLINE DRUG TRAFFICKING

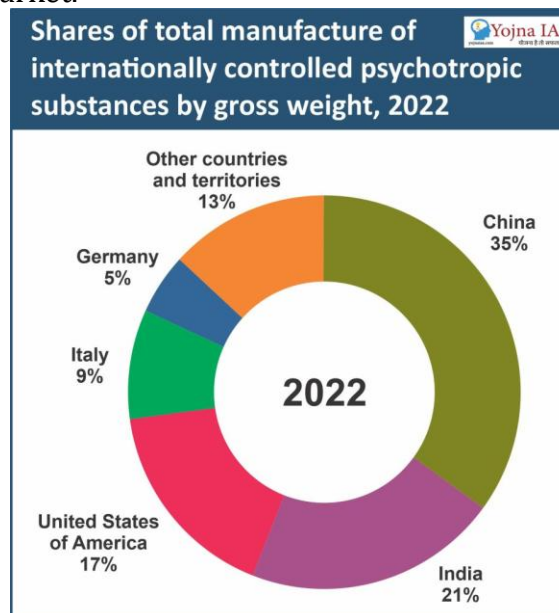
The INCB report emphasises the growing threat of online drug trafficking. Drug traffickers are exploiting the anonymity and ease of access offered by the internet to expand their reach and evade detection. This poses several challenges:

- **Increased Availability:** Illicit drugs of all kinds are readily available on the internet, creating a new avenue for addiction and overdose risks, particularly among young people.
- **Criminal Exploitation of Platforms:** Criminal groups are taking advantage of legitimate e-commerce platforms, social media, and the dark net to market and sell illegal drugs.
- **Challenges in Prosecution:** The use of encryption methods, anonymous browsing tools, and cryptocurrencies by criminals makes it difficult for law enforcement agencies to track and prosecute online drug trafficking activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The INCB report doesn't solely focus on the problems; it offers a roadmap for tackling these challenges through a multi-pronged approach:

- **Harnessing Technology for Good:** Governments and law enforcement agencies can collaborate with social media platforms to utilise their reach for drug prevention campaigns and raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.
- **Telemedicine and Online Pharmacies:** Properly regulated use of telemedicine and online pharmacies could improve access to healthcare and treatment services for people struggling with drug dependence.
- **International Cooperation:** The report emphasises the importance of international collaboration between governments, international organisations, and the private sector. Sharing information, developing coordinated strategies, and working together to identify new online threats are crucial for effectively combating this evolving form of drug trafficking.
- **Strengthening International Controls:** The INCB recommends placing specific precursor chemicals under stricter international control to disrupt the production of illicit drugs before they reach the online market.



INITIATIVES TAKEN BY INDIA TO ADDRESS DRUG ABUSE

India has a well-established legal framework and a multi-pronged strategy to combat drug abuse:

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985:** This act forms the legislative backbone of India's fight against drug trafficking and abuse. It strictly regulates the production, possession, sale, and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA):** Launched in 2020, this national campaign adopts a three-pronged approach: supply control by the Narcotics Control Bureau, outreach and awareness efforts led by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and treatment programs provided by the Health Department. This collaborative effort aims to address all aspects of the drug problem, from prevention to treatment and rehabilitation.
- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction:** Launched in 2018, this comprehensive plan focuses on prevention through education and awareness campaigns, early identification of drug use, and providing accessible treatment and rehabilitation services for those struggling with addiction. Additionally, it emphasises capacity building of service providers, ensuring they have the necessary skills and resources to handle drug-related issues effectively.
- **International Cooperation:** India actively participates in international treaties and conventions aimed at combating drug trafficking, such as the UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. This demonstrates India's commitment to working with the international community to address this global challenge.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

- The international fight against drug trafficking receives crucial support from the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**. Established in **1968**, this independent body acts as a **watchdog for the implementation of United Nations drug control conventions**.
- **Headquartered in Vienna, Austria**, the INCB monitors compliance and offers guidance to member states. India actively participates in this global effort through its own **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air'.
2. The UNCAC is the ever-first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument.
3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.
4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

How many of the statements above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three

(d) All four
ANSWER: B

Q2. Which initiative launched in 2020 aims to address drug abuse in India through a three-pronged approach?

- (a) National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction
- (b) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985
- (c) International Cooperation on Drug Trafficking
- (d) Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA)

Answer: D

MAIN PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. How does the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985 contribute to India's efforts in combating drug trafficking and abuse?

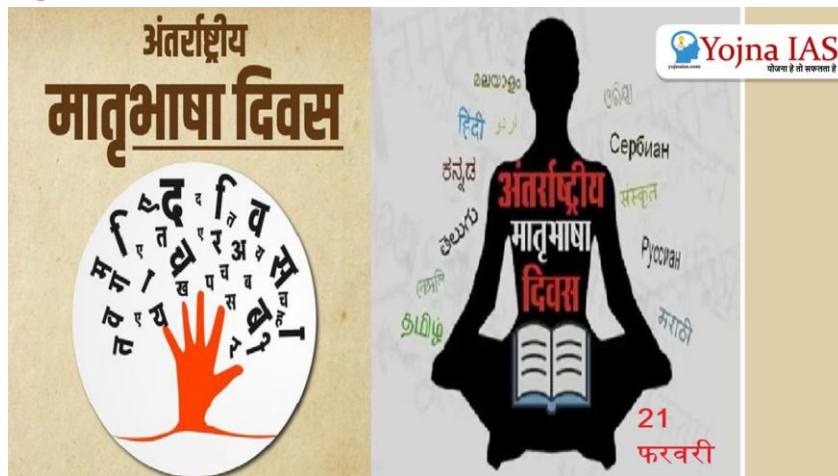
Himanshu Mishra

THREE – LANGUAGE FORMULA IN THE CONTEXT OF ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

SOURCE – THE HINDU AND PIB.

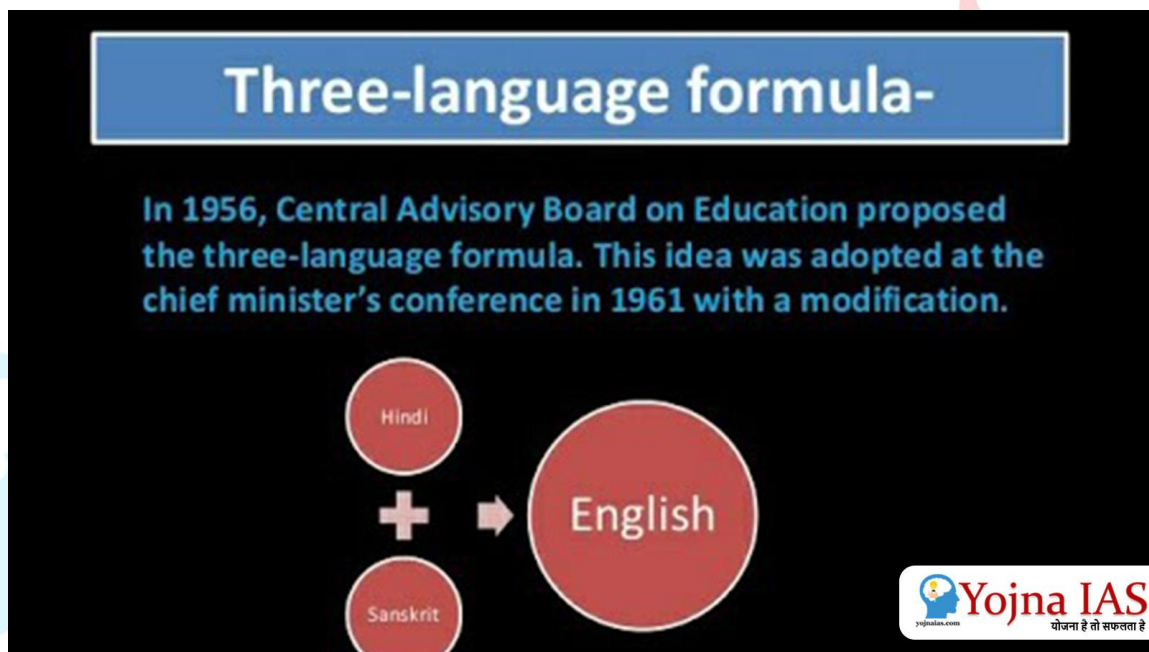
GENERAL STUDIES – INDIAN POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEM, MOTHER TONGUE, EIGHTH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, KOTHARI COMMISSION AND THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE RESOLUTION 1968 AND THREE – LANGUAGES FORMULA, NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020.

WHY IN THE NEWS ?



- Recently, The Home Minister of India, Amit Shah, while underlining the importance of mother tongue in the Parliament, stressed on the importance of imparting education to children in their mother tongue at the school level in India and called for the National Education Policy 2020 to be adopted by all the states of the country. Said.
- Recently, the whole world has celebrated every year on 21st February with the aim of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity in the world and to bring awareness towards the mother tongue is celebrated as '**International Mother Language Day**'.
- Some states of India, especially states like Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Tripura, have opposed the implementation of the three-language formula contained in the National Education Policy 2020 and have talked about forceful imposition of Hindi.
- According to the recently released UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages in many countries of the world, currently 577 languages are listed as critically endangered.

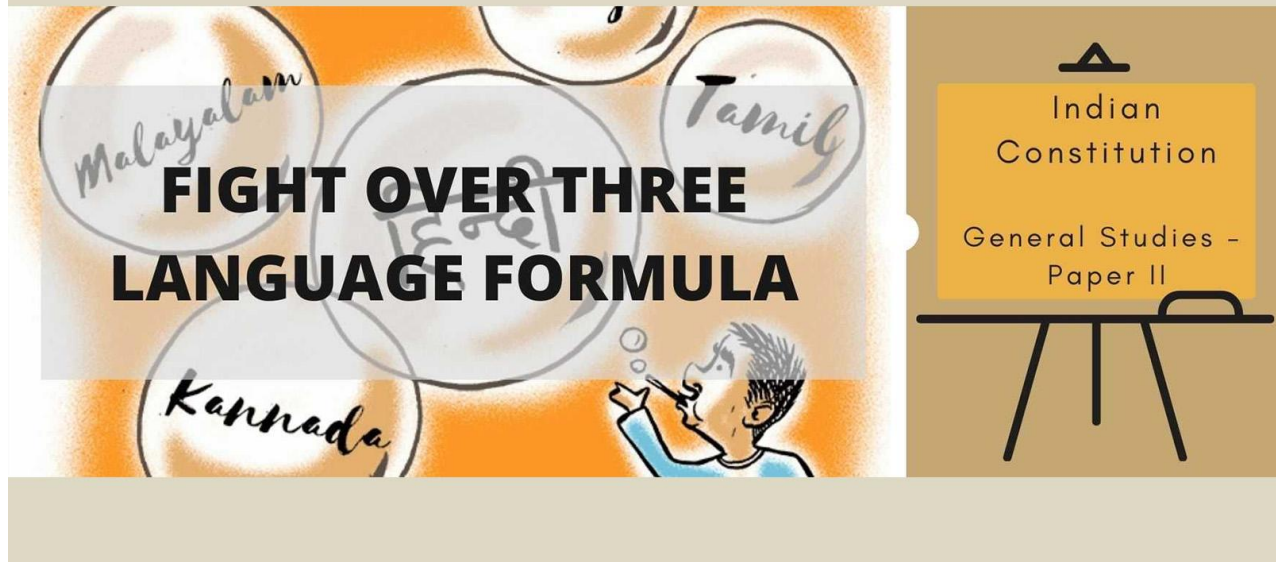
INTRODUCTION TO THE THREE LANGUAGE FORMULA :



After independence in India, the three language formula was first mentioned by the National Education Commission (Kothari Commission) in the policy of the year 1968. **Which are as follows**

- (1) First language- The first language to be studied is the mother tongue or regional language.
- (2) Second language – Hindi speaking state – Any other modern Indian language or English
Non-Hindi speaking states – Hindi or English
- (3) Third language – Hindi speaking state – Third language is English or any modern Indian language (which is not taken as second language).
Non-Hindi speaking states – Third language: English or any modern Indian language (not taken as second language)

KOTHARI COMMISSION AND THREE - LANGUAGES FORMULA (1964-1966) :



- The National Education Commission itself is known as Kothari Commission.
- It was presided over by Daulat Singh Kothari, who was the then Chairman of the University Grants Commission of India and also the Chairman of the National Education Commission, hence it is also known as Kothari Commission.
- It was an apex commission set up by the Government of India to examine and advise on all aspects of the educational sector in India.
- Kothari Commission itself had recommended that in Hindi speaking areas, in addition to Hindi and English, there should be provision for study of a modern Indian language or one of the languages of South India and in non-Hindi speaking states, there should be provision for study of Hindi along with state languages and English. Arrangements should be made. This system is known as the three-language formula.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE RESOLUTION 1968 AND THREE LANGUAGE FORMULA :

- To implement the recommendations of the Kothari Commission, a resolution was passed by the Parliament of India which was 'known as ' **Official Language Resolution 1968** '
- According to the Official Language Resolution 1968 – To maintain the spirit of unity and integrity of India and to facilitate communication among the people in different parts of the country, it is necessary to implement the three-language formula prepared by the Central Government of India in consultation with the State Governments. Will be fully implemented in all states.
- Therefore, in this resolution, it was passed that in addition to Hindi and English, in Hindi speaking areas, there should be a provision for study of a modern Indian language or one of the languages of South India and in non-Hindi speaking states, there should be a provision for study of Hindi along with state languages and English. Arrangements should be made.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY, 2020 AND THREE - LANGUAGE FORMULA :

भाषा	प्रथम भाषा बोलने वाले	प्रथम भाषा बोलने वाली कुल जनसंख्या प्रतिशत में	दूसरी भाषा बोलने वाले	तीसरी भाषा बोलने वाले	कुल वक्ता	कुल जनसंख्या के प्रतिशत के रूप में कुल वक्ता
हिन्दी	528347193	43.63	139000000	24000000	692000000	57.1
अंग्रेज़ी	259678	0.02	83000000	46000000	129000000	10.6
बंगाली	97237669	8.3	9000000	1000000	107000000	8.9
मराठी	83026680	7.09	13000000	3000000	99000000	8.2
तेलुगू	81127740	6.93	12000000	1000000	95000000	7.8
तामिल	69026881	5.89	7000000	1000000	77000000	6.3
गुजराती	55492554	4.74	4000000	1000000	60000000	5
उर्दू	50772631	4.34	11000000	1000000	63000000	5.2
कन्नड़	43706512	3.73	14000000	1000000	59000000	4.94
ओडिया	37521324	3.2	5000000	390000	43000000	3.56
मलयालम	34838819	2.97	500000	210000	36000000	2.9
पंजाबी	33124726	2.83	2230000	720000	36600000	3
संस्कृत	0	0	1230000	1960000	3190000	0.19



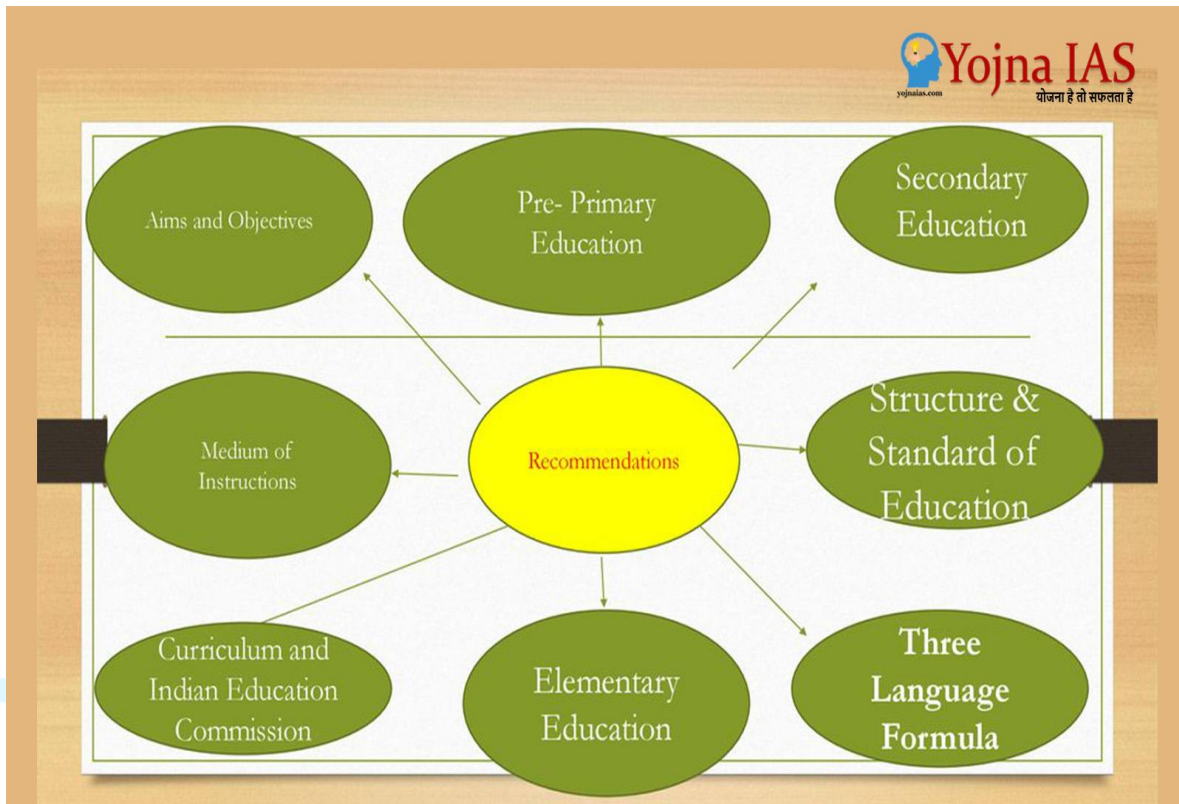
- For the new National Education Policy 2020, a committee was constituted by the Central Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Kasturirangan, President of the Indian Academy of Sciences Bangalore and General Secretary of the Indian Science Congress and a renowned scientist of India. Since the three language formula could not be fully implemented in practice, it was also mentioned in the new National Education Policy 2020 that the above mentioned three language formula will be implemented. Many states have objected to this and have also raised objections.

According to the National Education Policy -

- Education in mother tongue or local or regional language – It states that the medium of instruction up to grade 5 will be the home or local or regional language or at least the mother tongue which may be extended to grade 8 or beyond.
- Study of 2 Indian languages – The student will have to study 2 Indian languages out of the three.
- While implementing the three-language formula, the aspirations of the state, the general public and the people will be kept in mind. No language will be imposed on any state.
- States, any region of India and even students are free to choose three languages.
- Students studying in class 6 or 7 can change one or more of those three languages.
- This will promote multilingualism and national unity.

- There is no specific language that can be imposed on any state. It is for the State to decide whether –
“ What is their preferred language? ”

IMPLEMENTATION OF THREE - LANGUAGE FORMULA IN THE NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 :



- Under the new National Education Policy 2020, a broad base has been provided for implementing the three language formula for imparting education at the school level in India. Following are the main points of this policy:

EMPHASIS ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION :

- This policy emphasizes the importance of early childhood education in helping children learn languages. It suggests that children between the age of 3 to 8 years should study in their native language or regional language.

RESILIENCE :

- This new policy allows a wide range of options for language learning. The third language can be English or any other language of the student’s choice, while the first two languages must be native Indian languages of their state or region. In non-Hindi speaking states, where there are concerns about the imposition of Hindi, this provision is unlikely to create opposition to this formula.

TEACHERS TRAINING :

- Under the policy, emphasis has been laid on the need for trained teachers to successfully implement the three language formula. It suggested that teachers should be given training in multilingualism and efforts should be made to find teachers fluent in local languages.

CHANGES IN THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM AND OVERALL EVALUATION METHOD OF STUDENTS :

- This as per the policy, students should be assessed on the basis of their command over all the three languages including English.

AVAILABILITY OF ONLINE TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS :

- To enable students to learn in their mother tongues, the policy encourages the creation of online resources and learning materials in native Indian languages.

PRESENT NEED OF TRILINGUAL FORMULA IN INDIA :



- According to the report of this committee, language learning is an important part of a child's cognitive development. Therefore, its primary objective at the school level in India is to promote multilingualism and national harmony across the country.

PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE - LANGUAGE FORMULA IN INDIA :

- States like Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Tripura are not ready to teach Hindi in their schools. Nor has any Hindi-speaking state included any South Indian language in its school curriculum.
- State governments in India often do not have sufficient resources available to implement the three-tier linguistic formula. Inadequacy of resources is also a significant hindering aspect in implementing the three-language formula at the school level in India.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION :

Languages of India

Schedule 8 of the Constitution of India

As per Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages

Sr.	Language	SR	Language	SR	Language
1	Assamese	8	Kashmiri	15	Odia
2	Bengali	9	Konkani	16	Punjabi
3	Bodo	10	Maithili	17	Sanskrit
4	Dogri	11	Malayalam	18	Santhali
5	Gujarati	12	Manipuri (Meitei)	19	Sindhi
6	Hindi	13	Marathi	20	Tamil
7	Kannada	14	Nepali	21	Telugu
22	Urdu				



- Language and culture have a deep and complementary relationship because language and culture are not contradictory to each other but both are linked to the mutual identity of the people.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the provisions on the language of India.
- There are 22 official languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- Education in India is a state subject. Therefore, the states of India have the right to make policy for education at the school level.
- Article 29 of the Indian Constitution states that – No person shall be discriminated against on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them in India.
- This article states that – **“Any section of citizens “having their own distinct language, script or culture shall have the right to preserve it.”**
- **Article 343 :** This article of the Indian Constitution Belongs to the official language of the Union of India. According to this article, Hindi should be in Devanagari script and the international form of Indian numerals should be followed in terms of numbers. This article also states that English will continue to be used as the official language for the first 15 years after the adoption of the Constitution.
- **Article 346 :** This article provides for the official language for communication between the States in India and between the Union and the State. According to the article, for the said work **“Authorized”** Language will be used. However if two or more states agree that the language of communication between them will be Hindi, then Hindi can be used as the official language.
- **Article 347 :** Special provisions with respect to the language spoken by any part of the population of a State. This article empowers the President to select a language as the official language of a State and, if a substantial section of the population of a State desires that the language spoken by it be recognized by the State, he may direct Such language may also be given official recognition throughout that State or in any part thereof for such purpose as it may specify.

- **Article 350 (A)** : There is a provision under this article that Provides facilities for education in mother tongue at primary level.
- **Article 350 (B)** : This article provides for the appointment of a special officer for linguistic minorities in India. The special officer to be appointed for linguistic minorities will be appointed by the President. It will investigate all matters relating to the protection of linguistic minorities and submit its report directly to the President of India. The President of India can present that report before each House of the Parliament or send it to the respective State/State Governments.
- **Article 351** : Under this article of the Indian Constitution Provides power to the Central Government to issue directions for the development of Hindi language.

MOST ENDANGERED LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD :



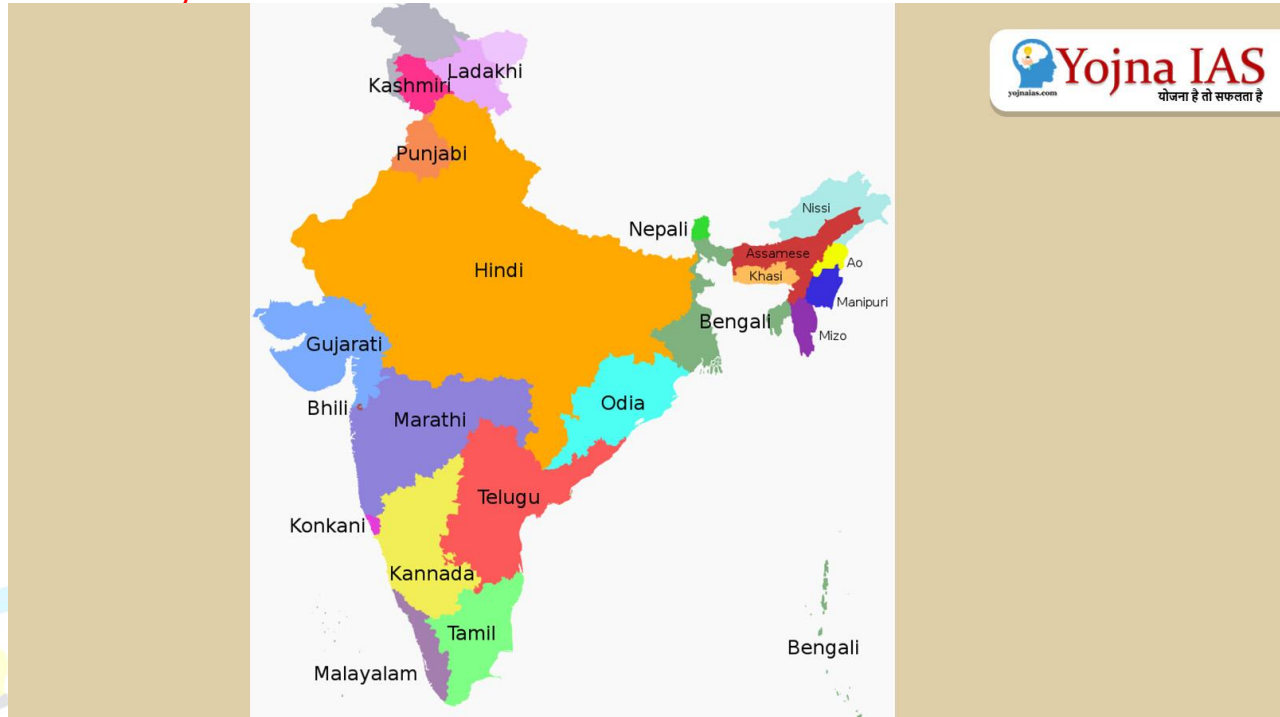
- Before any language or dialect becomes extinct, it goes through several stages. The first of these stages is potentially endangered, which occurs when a foreign language becomes the dominant language of business and education while the potentially endangered language continues to be spoken by both adults and children at home. As the dominant language makes the potentially threatened language less and less useful, the language moves into endangered status.

In terms of language, before any language becomes extinct, it goes through the following stages:

1. **critically endangered language,**
 2. **Dying language,**
 3. **Extinct language.**
- According to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Endangered Languages, there are currently 577 languages listed as critically endangered. This classification means that there are only a few people in the oldest living generation who can speak or understand that language and many of these people are not even fully fluent in that language.
 - About 537 of the world's languages are considered critically endangered, meaning they are used only by the oldest surviving generation.
 - Of these 577 critically endangered languages, many have only one speaker left and many have become extinct many years ago.

- Some of the most criticized languages include Yamana (spoken in Chile), Taje (spoken in Indonesia), Pemono (spoken in Venezuela), Laua (spoken in Papua New Guinea), Kulon- Pازه (spoken in Taiwan), Caixana (spoken in Brazil), Dai Hoi (spoken in Brazil), Dumpelas (spoken in Indonesia), Bikya (spoken in Cameroon), and Apiaka (spoken in Brazil spoken). The sole remaining speaker of these languages has not, in many cases, been heard from for many years.
- In fact, some linguists believe that most of these languages have become extinct many years ago, with the exception of Kulon- Pازه, which is still spoken as a second language by a small population.

CONCLUSION / PATH TO SOLUTION :



- If the three language formula of the new National Education Policy 2020 is fully implemented in the education system of India, Hindi and other Indian languages will get an opportunity to prosper and multilingualism and cultural harmony will increase in India.
- In the context of the extinction of the language, the unity and integrity of the country can be ensured by the three-language formula and along with Hindi, other Indian languages will also develop as a language of communication among the people in different parts of the country.
- In the three-language formula, provision has also been made for the study of English language in Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking states. We all know that today the English language dominates all branches of knowledge and science in higher education and it is still lacking in Hindi and other Indian languages.
- Therefore, through the three-language formula, the subjects of all branches of knowledge in higher education can be translated into Indian languages and education can be provided to the students in their mother tongue or in the regional languages related to that state or even in Hindi language. The biggest example of which is the use of Hindi language as the language of medical studies in Madhya Pradesh.

- In the era of globalization, Hindi language or other Indian languages should also include words related to law or science and technology as core words so that the language can become more prosperous.
- If any language is spoken in the folklife or is used by the local people, then that language or dialect will always survive, otherwise the existence of that language may be in danger or may become extinct because Kabir, a thinker of folk sensibility, It is also said that – **“Well water is cultured, well water is flowing.”** Therefore, instead of getting involved in opposition to the linguistic power, we should accept the words of the folk language as it is and include them in the Indian language so that it can become more rich and useful to the people and its existence can also be preserved.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements regarding language.

1. The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with language, in which a total of 24 official languages are mentioned.
2. Article 351 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Central Government to issue directions for the development of Hindi language.
3. Inadequacy of teaching resources in India is also an important hindering aspect in implementing the three-language formula at the school level.
4. There is no relation between language and culture because language and culture are contradictory to each other.

Which of the above statement / statements is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 3
- (B) Only 2 and 4
- (C) Only 1 and 4.
- (D) Only 2 and 3

Answer - (D)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. What do you understand about the three - Language formula? Discuss logically how the three-language formula under the provisions of the National Education Policy 2020 strengthens India's democracy by tying together India's unity, integrity and cultural identities?

Akhilesh kumar shrivastav