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LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION POLICY WHY IS THE TWO-LANGUAGE POLICY IMPORTANT?

- » Hindi, Sanskrit, English
- In Ireland, its ancient language 'Irish' was accepted as the national language and English as the official language.
- Similarly, some members in the Constituent Assembly argued that Sanskrit should be declared as the national language of India.
- Ultimately, 'Hindi' in the Devanagari script was accepted as the official language of India.
- Hindi was declared not as the national language, but only as the official language for administrative purposes.
- On the basis that importance should also be given to Sanskrit, it was included as a recognized language in the Eighth Schedule.
- As far as English is concerned, according to Article 343, it was accepted as an associate official language along with Hindi. At the same time, the use of English was limited to a time period of 15 years.
- According to Article 348 in the same Part XVII of the Constitution, English was accepted as the language for the Supreme Court, High Courts, and legislative bills, and an indefinite time period was granted for its use.
- According to Article 343, the purpose of allowing English to continue as the associate official language of the Central Government for only 15 years after India became a Republic that is, until 1965 was to learn Hindi within those 15 years and completely phase out English.
- » Constitutional Imperative
- At the same time, a safety feature was also included in it. That is, if English was required even after 15 years, it could be extended through an Act of Parliament.

THE WORLD'S HOTTEST CITY IS UTTAR PRADESH'S BANDA

- ♦ Banda district in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh emerged as the hottest area in India last Monday.
- ♦ The day time temperature there was recorded at 47.6 degrees Celsius, reaching the highest temperature in the world.
- ♦ This district has recorded its highest temperature in the month of May in the last 75 years.
- ♦ The 49.2 degrees Celsius recorded on June 10, 2019, remains the highest temperature in the history of Banda district.
- ♦ However, the new change that has occurred now is that this city is frequently touching 47 and 48 degrees Celsius. Due to the dry rocky terrain, disappearing green cover, relentless sand smuggling, and drying rivers, Banda district is turning into a man-made heat island.

- Following this guideline, the Official Languages Act 1963 was brought in, paving the way for the continuation of English.
- It is also true that Article 348 was helpful for the creation of this Act. This also served as a protection for non-Hindi speaking people.
- Until the Parliament enacts an alternative law to Article 348, the continuation of English in education / language policy is a constitutional imperative.
- While conflicting arguments on the language issue continued, the Constituent Assembly left many complex issues to the hands of time without taking clear decisions, stating 'as Parliament may decide'.
- In many places in the Constitution, the phrase 'until Parliament by law provides' was used, thereby handing over sovereignty to the future so that future generations could decide according to their needs.
- That 'flexible' decision taken by the members of the Constituent Assembly that day is the root cause for a diverse India to remain united.

» Kothari Commission

- In 1965, when Hindi alone was about to become the official language, the Kothari Commission (1964-66) proposed the three-language formula as a compromise solution to defuse the burning political crisis.
- Even the Kothari Commission did not openly state that 'Hindi will be forcibly imposed'. It put forward the argument that 'A language is needed for national integration. That will be Hindi. We are bringing it through the three-language formula'.
- But, non-Hindi speaking people considered this policy as an unequal burden and this decision as a completely impractical practice.
- After linguistic states were created in the year 1956, and the respective state language became the official language of that respective state according to Constitutional Article 345, Articles 343, 348, and the Official Languages Act 1963 (Amendment Act 1967) had already determined the administration / link language.
- Although the three-language formula of the Kothari Commission is reflected in the 2020 Education Policy, many changes have taken place since its recommendations.
- Although the National Education Policy gives priority to mother-tongue education, it recommends learning Hindi and a foreign language as link languages.
- The 1976 rules framed for the Official Languages Act 1963 (amendment up to 2011) have clarified the link language between states. Tamil Nadu has also been exempted from these statutory rules.
- The assurance given by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in Parliament that 'English will continue as long as non-Hindi speaking people want it' has received legal recognition through the Official Languages Act Amendment (1967).
- As a solution has been reached for the link language policy due to this, one argument is that the interference of language policy in education policy is unnecessary.
- Intellectual Constituent Assembly experts themselves felt it was right for 'education' to be in the State List, and placed education in the State List. However, during the Emergency in 1976, education was transferred to the Concurrent List.
- Even when education was in the State List, during Anna's regime, the Central Government's three-language formula was rejected and the two-language policy (Tamil - English) was legally established.

Today News...

- After a policy has been formulated for the state, a different policy should not be imposed in the form of a national policy. If necessary, the national policy can be an advice provided to the states.
- » To Protect Democracy...
- Whichever national party is in power at the Center, their objective is always to try to create a national identity using education.
- Regarding education, the situation where the advice of the Central Government was a moral guide changed, and after 1976, it began to change into an administrative command.
- This has to be viewed as an act of indirect interference in the autonomy of states.
- The educational language policy of the Central Government can only be seen as a history that started as a logical and legal compromise effort and turned into the snatching of state power.
- If education returns to the State List, the education system can be designed better according to the needs of the respective states.

13-NATION JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE BEGINS IN MEGHALAYA

- The joint military exercise named 'Pragati 2026' has commenced at the Umroi Military Station in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- Thirteen countries, including India, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, are participating in this exercise.
- This exercise is to be conducted for a period of 2 weeks, focusing on counter-terrorism operations in partially mountainous and dense forested areas.
- The objective of this exercise is to strengthen security relations through joint training and cultural exchange.
- PRAGATI, in short, stands for the cooperation of regional militaries for growth and transformation in the Indian Ocean Region. This exercise is conducted with a spirit of equality, friendship, and mutual respect.
- It has been stated that this exercise paves the way to engage in professional exchanges of ideas, learn from mutual experiences, and establish close military relations.

30% RESERVATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS IN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES AND LEGAL POSTS

- Until now, no woman lawyer has been appointed as the Attorney General of India or the Solicitor General of India.
- Similarly, there are no women among those appearing as Additional Solicitor General in various High Courts.
- Therefore, it was requested that the Central and State governments and public sector undertakings should be ordered to provide at least 30 percent reservation for women lawyers in all government committees and legal posts, from Supreme Court committees to local legal aid committees.