



EDITORIAL: INDIAN EXPRESS

GENERAL STUDIES 2: GOVERNANCE

DATE: 18.03.2025

TOPIC: LANGUAGE

We need Hindi as a lokbhasha, not a rajbhasha

Rethinking Hindi's Role as Rajbhasha

- The article challenges the idea of Hindi being the official language (rajbhasha) of India.
- It suggests removing Hindi's privileged status to help it connect with other Indian languages and end the distraction of "Hindi imposition."
- This could address the dominance of English and promote greater intellectual independence.

The Counterproductive Hindi Policy

- The Hindi policy over the last 75 years has had negative effects.
- Despite having over 60 crore speakers, Hindi's potential as a bridge language has been wasted.
- Hindi's focus on purity and superiority has caused resentment, weakening national unity.
- Hindi's rajbhasha status has created contradictions, causing tensions with other languages, especially under BJP's promotion of Hindi.

English Hegemony and Hindi's Cultural Decline

- English has become the dominant language of power in India, even among Hindi speakers.
- English-medium education is now aspirational, and Hindi is increasingly undervalued.
- Hindi literacy is poor, even in Hindi-speaking regions, with rural students struggling to read basic Hindi.
- Hindi lacks intellectual infrastructure like quality textbooks and influential media, while English enjoys cultural prestige and financial backing.

The Misconception of Hindi Dominance

- Hindi's dominance is limited and has not been forcibly imposed on non-Hindi speakers.
- The real harm has been within the Hindi belt itself, where regional languages have been absorbed by Hindi.
- There is some truth to the charge of Hindi imposition, particularly in government mandates and Sanskritized names, which have caused resentment among non-Hindi speakers.

Proposal for Language Equality

**P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY | 1447/C, 3rd floor, 15th Main Road,
Anna Nagar West, Chennai-40. Ph.No.044-42323192, 9445032221
Email: plrajmemorial@gmail.com Website: www.plrajiacademy.com
Telegram link: <https://t.me/plrajiacademy> YouTube: P L RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY**



PL RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

MAKING YOU SERVE THE NATION

- All 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule should be given equal official status.
- September 14 (Hindi Diwas) should be renamed Bhasha Diwas to celebrate linguistic diversity.
- Hindi promotion efforts should be stopped at the national level and left to Hindi-speaking states and voluntary initiatives.
- A national mission should promote all Indian languages, including documented “dialects.”
- Education should be provided in a child's mother tongue, whether it is a Scheduled or non-Scheduled language, to empower regional languages and encourage multilingual culture.

Conclusion

- Hindi should be seen as a people’s language (lokbhasha) rather than an official language (rajbhasha).
- Freeing Hindi from its official status would allow it to grow alongside other Indian languages.
- Addressing this imbalance will allow for meaningful discussions about English’s linguistic imperialism.
- Promoting linguistic equality will strengthen national unity and intellectual independence.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/yogendra-yadav-writes-we-need-hindi-as-a-lokbhasha-not-a-rajbhasha-9891513/>