

# 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution

The Union Minister of Education recently discussed the measures to stimulate the official languages included in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution undertaken by the Indian Government. The 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution constitutes the following 22 languages:

Official Languages According to Schedule 8 of Indian Constitution	
Assamese	Manipuri
Bengali	Marathi
Bodo	Nepali
Dogri	Odia
Gujarati	Punjabi
Hindi	Sanskrit
Kannada	Santhali
Kashmiri	Sindhi
Konkani	Tamil
Maithili	Telugu
Malayalam	Urdu

## 22 Official Languages of India with their States

Previously, there were 14 official Indian languages in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. Now, the total languages in the schedule 8 of Indian Constitution have been increased to 22. The list of languages is given below.

22 Official Language of India with States		
Year of Recognition	Total Official Language of India	Popular in Indian State
1,950	Assamese	Assam
1,950	Bengali	West Bengal
1,950	Gujarati	Gujarat
1,950	Hindi	North India

1,950	Kashmiri	Jammu & Kashmir
1,950	Kannada	Karnataka
1,950	Malayalam	Kerala
1,950	Marathi	Maharashtra
1,950	Odia	Odisha
1,950	Punjabi	Punjab
1,950	Sanskrit	Karnataka (Shivamogga District)
1,950	Tamil	Tamil Nadu
1,950	Telugu	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
1,950	Urdu	Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh
1,967	Sindhi	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh
1,992	Konkani	Goa
1,992	Manipuri	Manipur
1,992	Nepali	Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
2,004	Bodo	Assam and Meghalaya
2,004	Dogri	Jammu and Himachal Pradesh
2,004	Maithili	Bihar and Jharkhand
2,004	Santhali	West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha

## Chronology of Languages Under 8th Schedule

Below are the official Indian languages counted later after many amendments and modifications. The latest revision was done in 2003 and the earliest was performed in 1967.

Schedule language	Amendment in Indian Constitution
Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, and Maithili	92nd Amendment Act of 2003
Konkani, Nepali, and Manipuri	71st Amendment Act of 1992.
Sindhi	21st Amendment Act of 1967.

## Aim of 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution

The main objective of the **Eighth Schedule** is to sustain the nation's diversity. Making any state language official enables them to make progress and embrace diversification. Therefore, India does not have a national language. The primary goals of the **Schedule 8** are as follows:

- Allow entry of native individuals to the Government in their indigenous language.
- Provide similar expression to the multi-ethnic or multi-racial polity.
- Fosters trading business more efficiently through standard language backgrounds of the area.
- Offers secure scope to the diversity and varied languages in the country.

## Classical Languages in Schedule 8th of Indian Constitution

Six languages have earned the title of Classical languages of India. All classical Indian languages are included in the 8th Schedule of Indian constitution. Tamil was the first language to receive the classical language status in 2004, while Odia was the last one to receive the status in 2014. The languages that enjoy this status are:

Languages	Declared as Classical languages in
Tamil	2004
Sanskrit	2005
Kannada	2008
Telugu	2008
Malayalam	2013
Odia	2014

The languages regarded as Classical languages qualify some criteria listed by the Ministry of Culture; these include:

- The tradition of its publications is authentic and not taken from another speech community.
- High antiquity of its ancient texts or documented chronology over 1500-2000 years.
- It must have antique literature or text assumed a valuable origin by the orators.

### Advantages of Classical Language Promotion

The Human Resource and Development Ministry has the authority to declare a language as a classical language and offers certain benefits to boost it. The advantages are:

- Establishment of a centre of merit for studies in Classical languages.
- Provides two global awards to intellectuals achieving distinction in these languages.
- Requests UGC or University Grants Commission to assemble a minimum number of faculties for teaching classical languages in the central institutes.

## Articles Corresponding to 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution

There are an overall 12 Schedules in the Indian Constitution, and the Constitutional provisions relating to the eighth Schedule of Indian constitution are in articles 344(1) and 351.

- **Article 344:** Article 344(1) offers a constitution by the President for the Commission as soon as it expires after 5 years from the commencement date.
- **Article 351:** This article of the Indian Constitution encourages the Hindi language to be the medium of expression for all mixed Indian cultures.

