

Date: 14-Sept-2016

**Demand to Declare all the 22 languages in 8th schedule as
Official Languages of the Union of India**

Democracy will succeed only when the distance between the people and the administration is reduced as much as possible. If the language of administration is different than the language of the people, it increases the distance between the two.

Under the current political setup of India, though often called as federal in nature, majority of services are still provided by the Union Government of India. The Postal Department, PSU Banks, Insurance Companies, Railways, Air Services, Taxes and many such services are all provided by the institutions affiliated to the Union Government of India. All these institutions touch the life of the common man every single day in one way or another. This being the case, it is only natural for the native language of the respective states to be used primarily in all such services.

However, the Union Government of India has declared only Hindi and English as the official languages. Hence, all the administration of Union Government and its affiliate institutions are carried out in Hindi and English only. Even if the offices are located in non-Hindi states, the respective language of the states is not made use of.

Only remedy for this undemocratic practice is to declare all the 22 languages in the 8th schedule as the official languages of the Union Government. 22 official languages would render redundant the articles 343-351 of the constitution of India that mandates preferential treatment to only Hindi among several languages of India.

Campaign for Language Equality and Rights (aka CLEAR) has been demanding that all the scheduled languages be declared as official languages of the Indian Union. It is our firm belief that linguistic equality is the bedrock upon which a thriving union can be built.

Today, 14th of September, is observed as Hindi day by all the union government affiliated institutions. On this day in the year 1949, Hindi was recognized as one of the official language of the Union Government of India. On this day, we want to reiterate our demand to declare all the languages in the 8th schedule as official languages of the Union of India.

Sd/-

Dr. Joga Singh (Punjab), **Mr. Senthil Nathan** (Tamil Nadu), **Mr. Anand Guru** (Karnataka),
Mr. Rawail Singh (Delhi), **Dr. P. Pavithran** (Kerala), **Dr. Deepak Pawar** (Maharashtra),
Dr. Garga Chatterjee (West Bengal), **Mr. Saket Sahu** (Odisha), **Mr. Priyank KS** (Karnataka)