

Tulu Language (Yuelu Proclamation)

August 13, 2020

Why is it in the news?

There has been growing demand to include Tulu in the 8th schedule of the Constitution. At present, Tulu is not an official language in India.[According to the 2001 Census, India has 30 languages that are spoken by more than a million people each. Additionally, it has 122 languages that are spoken by at least 10,000 people each].

Constitutional Provisions

- Art 29: Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.
- Among the legion of languages in India, the Constitution has 22 languages that are protected in Schedule VIII of the Constitution.

Features of Tulu Language

- Tulu is a Dravidian language whose speakers are concentrated in two coastal districts of Karnataka and in Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- The Census reports 18,46,427 native speakers of Tulu in India. The Tulu-speaking people are larger in number than speakers of Manipuri and Sanskrit, which have the 8th Schedule status.
- Robert Caldwell (1814-1891), in his book, 'A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages', called Tulu as one of the most highly developed languages of the Dravidian family.

Advantages of 8th Schedule

- Tulu would get recognition from the Sahitya Akademi.
- Tulu books would be translated into other recognized Indian languages.
- Members of Parliament and MLAs could speak in Tulu in Parliament and State Assemblies, respectively.
- Candidates could write all-India competitive examinations like the Civil Services exam in Tulu.

Yuelu Proclamation

- It was made by UNESCO at Changsha, China in 2018.
- It declared that the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity helps to improve social inclusion and partnerships, helps to reduce the gender and social inequality between different native speakers, guarantee the rights for native speakers of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as well as non-official languages and dialects to receive education, enhance the social inclusion level and social decision-making ability by encouraging them to participate in a series of actions to promote cultural diversity, endangered language protection, and the protection of intangible cultural heritage.
- Placing of all the deserving languages of India on equal footing will promote social inclusion and national solidarity.