

## Daily Mains Practice Answer 17-09-2026

**Q. How did the Constituent Assembly reconcile the demand for Hindi as the language of the Union with the concerns of non-Hindi-speaking regions? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)**

**Directions:** Intro----Measures suggested-----Conclusion.

### Introduction:

About Hindi /official language.

The Constituent Assembly resolved the intense debate by adopting a consensus-based compromise, balancing national integration with regional concerns.

### Main Body

#### Key measures/provisions

- Hindi, Union's official language - Hindi in Devanagari script adopted as the official language of the Union (deliberately avoided calling it the national language).
- Gradual transition from English - English was permitted to continue for 15 years for official purposes, to give non-Hindi regions time to adjust.
- Protection of linguistic diversity - The Constitution recognised 14 other languages in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule & allowed States to adopt regional languages or English for their internal affairs.
- Consensus over majoritarianism - Leaders like S.P. Mookerjee and Rajendra Prasad emphasised a consensus-based language settlement acceptable to linguistic minorities, rather than simple majority rule.
- Munshi-Ayyangar Formula - The compromise was embodied in Articles 343-351, balancing the aspiration for an Indian language with the practical and cultural concerns of non-Hindi regions.
- Post-1965 accommodation - Resistance emerged in non-Hindi-speaking States; Parliament retained English alongside Hindi through the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- International Numerals - The Assembly adopted the international form of Indian numerals instead of Devanagari numerals, satisfying a major demand of South Indian members.

### Conclusion:

Give a balanced & positive conclusion.

The Assembly's approach reflected the principle of "unity in diversity"—promoting Hindi without imposing linguistic uniformity, retaining English and protecting the autonomy and interests of non-Hindi-speaking regions.

