Updated Edition of the Constitution of India in All 22 Scheduled Languages

Prelims : *Current events of National and International Importance | Polity*

Why is in news?

On Constitution Day, 26 November 2026, Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan ***released updated editions of the Constitution of India in all 22 Scheduled Languages*** *at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.*

The Legislative Department stated that this is the first time since the Constitution came into force that an updated edition is available in ***all 22 Scheduled Languages****.*

About the initiative

- The initiative was undertaken by the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Secretary, Legislative Department and Department of Legal Affairs Dr. Rajiv Mani were present.
- The release builds on earlier efforts to publish updated versions in regional languages; Gujarati and Tamil editions were released in February 2026.
- The updated editions seek to make the constitutional text accessible to citizens across linguistic backgrounds, including rural communities, tribal communities and younger generations.

Constitutional and institutional context

- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution recognises 22 Scheduled Languages.
- ***Article 343*** deals with the official language of the Union; Article 345 empowers the Legislature of a State to adopt one or more languages in use in the State or Hindi as its official language, subject to constitutional provisions.

- Article 350 provides that every person is entitled to submit a representation for redress of grievances to an officer or authority of the Union or a State in any language used in the Union or the State, as the case may be.
- Article 350A concerns facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage for children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- Article 351 directs the Union to promote the spread of Hindi while drawing upon forms and expressions from other Indian languages.

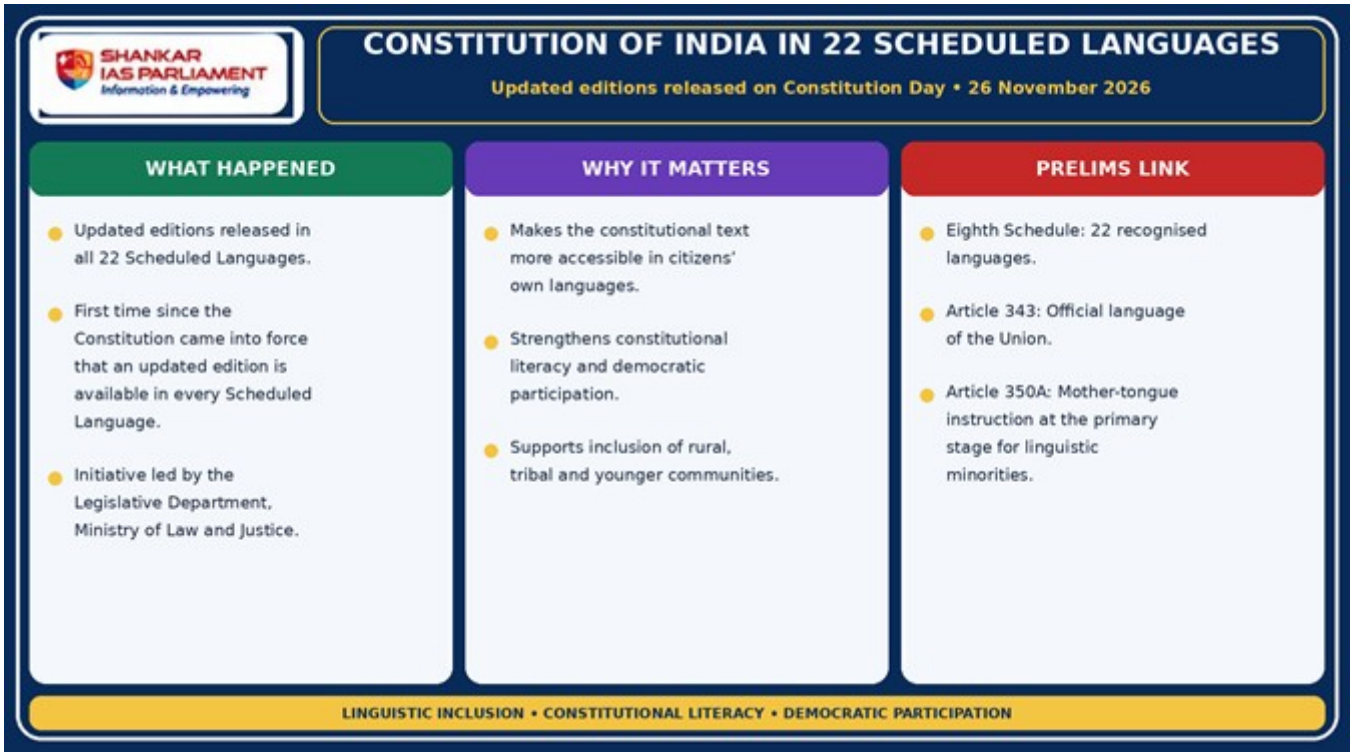
Significance

- Constitutional literacy: Enables citizens to engage directly with the text governing their rights, duties and institutions.
- Democratic inclusion: Reduces language barriers in understanding constitutional provisions and public institutions.
- Cooperative federalism and unity: Recognises linguistic diversity as a component of national integration, consistent with the ***spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat***.
- Access to justice: Greater familiarity with constitutional language can help citizens understand legal remedies and public entitlements.

Prelims watch-outs

- 22 languages are listed in the ***Eighth Schedule***; the list has expanded through constitutional amendments.
- Article 350A relates to mother-tongue instruction at the primary stage; Article 350B provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.
- Do not confuse the official language provisions in Part XVII with the Eighth Schedule.

Infographic | Constitutional language access



Reference

[PIB | Updated edition of the Constitution of India released in all 22 Scheduled Languages]