Madras High Court Advocates Association Challenges 1965 Union Cabinet Decision on Court Language

The Madras High Court Advocates Association filed a public interest litigation challenging the 1965 Union Cabinet decision to retain English as the exclusive common language for the Supreme Court and all High Courts.

A legal challenge concerning the constitutional validity of using English exclusively in higher judicial forums while demanding the authorization of regional languages, including Tamil, in judicial proceedings.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Madras High Court Advocates Association** (MHAA) filed a public interest litigation before the court challenging the historical **1965** Union Cabinet decision.
- The petitioner contended that restricting regional languages in High Courts violates **Articles 14, 19, and 21** of the Indian Constitution.
- The existence of the 1965 Cabinet decision came to light only in **2025** through information obtained under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.
- The litigation seeks to strike down the continuation of English as the sole common language, advocating for **Tamil** and other regional languages in judicial administration.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 348 of the Indian Constitution deals with the language to be used in the Supreme Court and in High Courts and for Acts, Bills, etc.

Article 348(2) empowers the Governor of a state, with the previous consent of the President, to authorize the use of Hindi or any other regional language for official proceedings in the High Court.

Official Languages Act, 1963 governs the use of English and Hindi for official purposes of the Union and in Parliament.

Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which has been expanded by the Supreme Court to include various socio-cultural rights.

The **Right to Information Act** was enacted by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came into full force on **12 October 2005**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 348 of the Indian Constitution regulates the language used in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Group 1 and Group 2 questions on constitutional provisions, judicial language, and fundamental rights.

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