

SC Questions English as 'Non-Native' in Three-Language Scheme

Supreme Court questioned CBSE's classification of English as 'non-native' in its three-language scheme.

The three-language scheme is a language policy in India for school education, promoting the study of three languages.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** questioned the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**'s classification of English as a "non-native language".
- This classification was made within the context of the **three-language scheme** for **school education**.
- **Justice Bagchi** stated that the term 'native' used by the **CBSE** was "colonially loaded" with meaning.
- **English** has been spoken in India for over **300 years** and is used for **official communication** in at least **five States**.
- The push for the **three-language scheme** aligns with the **Constitutional goal** to use **Indian languages** for **official purposes**.
- The **Supreme Court** raised this question on Tuesday, **July 14, 2026**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 343 of the Indian Constitution states that the **official language** of the **Union** shall be **Hindi** in **Devanagari** script.

Article 344 provides for the constitution of a **Commission** and a **Committee of Parliament** on **official language**.

Article 345 deals with the **official language** or languages of a **State**.

Article 348 specifies the language to be used in the **Supreme Court** and **High Courts** and for **Acts, Bills**, etc.

The **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution lists **22 official languages** of **India**.

The **three-language formula** was first recommended by the **Kothari Commission (1964-66)**.

The **National Policy on Education (NPE)** of **1968** and **1986** endorsed the **three-language formula**.

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** also reiterates the importance of the **three-language formula**.

The **Official Languages Act, 1963**, provided for the continued use of **English** for **official purposes** of the **Union** even after **1965**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: High

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