SC Rejects PIL Seeking Hindi as Official Language of Supreme Court

The Supreme Court dismissed a PIL seeking a commission to examine making Hindi an official language of the apex court.

Constitutional and legal framework governing the official language of proceedings in the Supreme Court and High Courts under Article 348.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- A **Supreme Court** bench comprising **Chief Justice Surya Kant**, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice V. Mohana dismissed the petition.
- The apex court held that language-related reforms are **administrative matters** and cannot be ordered through judicial rulings.
- The Bench observed that administrative consideration for translation and access to court judgments in **regional languages** is already underway.
- The **public interest litigation** had requested the **Union Government** to constitute an expert panel on Hindi language usage in the highest court.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 348(1)(a) mandates that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and every High Court shall be in **English** until Parliament provides otherwise.

Article 348(2) allows the **Governor** of a State, with the prior consent of the President, to authorize the use of Hindi or state official language in High Court proceedings.

Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with Official Language from **Article 343 to Article 351**.

Article 343 declares Hindi in **Devanagari script** as the Official Language of the Union.

The **Official Languages Act** was enacted in **1963** to provide for the continued use of English for official Union purposes alongside Hindi.

Tamil Nadu enacted the **Tamil Nadu Official Language Act** in **1956**, making Tamil the official language of the state.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 348 mandates that all Supreme Court proceedings must be conducted in English unless Parliament legislates otherwise.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Group 1, Group 2, 2A & 4 under Constitution of India - Official Language provisions and Judiciary.

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