

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1944**  
ANSWERED ON - 17/12/2025

**Promotion of classical languages**

1944 Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken for the promotion and propagation of Classical Languages (Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia);
- (b) the details of language-wise levels of grants and expenditures on each of the six languages;
- (c) the number of the professional chairs of Classical Languages set up across various central Universities;
- (d) whether Government intends on taking special measures for the promotion of Telugu language and literature; and
- (e) whether Government plans to accord Classical status to the Pali language in light of its ancient origins and literary heritage?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) & (b): The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages including classical languages. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru a subordinate office under Ministry of Education works for the promotion of all Indian languages including four classical languages viz. Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia. Development and promotion of Classical Tamil is done by Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. Recently, Government of India has declared five new classical languages viz. Assamese, Marathi, Bengali, Pali and Prakrit. Funds are provided as per the requirement and utilisation. The details of funds allocated for the following Classical Languages are given below:

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)				
	Kannada	Tamil	Odia	Malayalam	Telugu
2021-22	106.50	1200.00	58.38	63.97	103.15
2022-23	171.75	1200.00	176.75	186.75	171.75
2023-24	154.50	1525.00	138.50	112.50	154.50
2024-25	86.00	1430.00	86.00	86.00	86.00
2025-26	106.50	1697.00	106.50	106.50	106.50

In addition to the above, the Government of India promotes Sanskrit language through three central universities and funds are provided to them as below for teaching and research in Sanskrit language leading to award of degree, diploma, certificate to students.

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
2021-22	31,730.16
2022-23	47,191.16
2023-24	51,309.35
2024-25	51,274.00
2025-26	53,450.00

(c) : At present there is no professional chair of classical languages across any central Universities.

(d) : CIIL through its Southern Regional Language Centre offers a ten month diploma course to learn Telugu language as a second language. For promotion of the Telugu language, CIIL has launched several schemes such as Linguistic Data Consortium of Indian Languages (LDC-IL), National Testing Services – I (NTS-I), National Translation Mission (NTM) and Bharatavani. For promotion of the Telugu classical language a Centre of Excellence has been established.

(e) : The Government of India has accorded the classical status to Pali language in October, 2024.

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