



LANGUAGE PROBLEM IN INDIA

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India is a multi-national, multi-lingual and multi-religious country. This fact was partly realized by the founding fathers of the constitution, when they were assigned the task of drafting it. But unfortunately full recognition to the fact that India before the partition was and continues to be after the partition a conglomeration of various nations and nationalities could not be accorded till this day. The problems that crop up time and again pertaining to the language issue have their root in the non-recognition of the above fact. The frequent demand for the recognition of certain languages and dialects as being raised at different points of time is just an indicator of the feelings of the people. As language happens to be the most important ingredient of the nationhood, the people want to live with their national identity and do not want to lose it at any cost.

Fortunately, the authorities of the Institute of Objective Studies realized this truth and decided to clinch the issue, when they organised a three-day seminar on the Language Problem in India in 1994. The seminar was a success in the sense that many scholars and experts from different parts of the country participated in its deliberations and many distinguished personalities including Hon. Mr. Arjun Singh, the then Union Minister of Human Resource Development, New Delhi addressed various sessions of the same. We are further fortunate in publishing the papers and proceedings of the seminar.

As many as twenty one papers dealing with various aspects of the problem say, National Language/Associate Language, state languages, regional languages, classical languages, dialect language relationship, demand of certain languages for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution and so on. We have also incorporated the Welcome Speech of Dr. Mohd. Manzoor Alam, the Chairman of the Institute, the Inaugural Speech of Hon. Mr. Arjun Singh, the Presidential Address of Jb. Hakim Abdul Hameed, the Keynote Address of Prof. Shakeel-ur-Rehman and so on. We have also added in the Appendices four matters equally important from the point of view of the seminar. These are Seminar Report, Statement adopted during the seminar, a list of Contributors and finally a list of Some Learned Scholars who participated in one form or the other in the deliberations of the seminar.

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The Editor: Former Professor of Pali and Sanskrit of Delhi University He did his D.Phil from the University of Calcutta in 1968,Ayurveda Ratna of Hindi Sahitya Sammelana, Allahabad in 1970.During his long span of teaching and research career ,Professor Singh delivered lectures on Vedic ,Buddhist ,Jaina and Lokayata Philosophical texts and supervised research works of roughly one hundred M,Litt,M.Phil and Ph.D scholars.He published as many fifteen books including " A critical Study of the Sohutarha Srighanacarasangraba - tika and BR Ambedkars conversion to Buddhism and its impact and about three scores of research papers in reputed academic journals. He presented papers and participated in discussions and debates. He is a life member of numbers of academic and semi academic bodies including the All India Oriental Conference Pune,Indian History Congress Delhi and Maha Bodhi Society of India Calcutta Prof. Singh founded and run an Educational Institution (Shri Bhagwan Deen Intermediate College in Allahabad District and Indraprastha Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies in Delhi. He is one of the founder member of the Institute of Objective Studies.

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