

A political gimmick

Sir, - The recent decision of the Union Government to telecast Urdu news on Doordarshan has given rise to many questions. Though Urdu is one of the 15 official languages recognized under the constitution of India, it is neither an official language of any of the Indian states nor is it a regional Indian language. Then why should Urdu get the special importance which is not given to other regional languages? If Urdu is preferred considering that it is the language spoken by one of the largest communities in India then I would like to point out that Urdu speaking people can as well understand Hindi. Doordarshan so far hasn't made any purposeful attempt to arrange for Sanskrit news, while they are considering Urdu news telecast.

Many of the regional Doordarshan kendras have already been telecasting Urdu programmes. For example, Bangalore Doordarshan has been broadcasting a 30-Minute Urdu programme every Friday while the other languages such as Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam are not given such importance though they have a large representation in Bangalore City. Sanskrit, as usual, is sidelined here in comparison to Urdu, which has been allotted a meager 15-minute weekly programme. The present decision of the Government is a clear indication of its political tactics keeping an eye on the vote bank.

4th Oct 1991

Indian Express

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