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## Editorial Notes.....



*In a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2016, the year 2019 was proclaimed as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Language is pivotal in the areas of human rights protection, good governance, peace building, reconciliation, and sustainable development.*

*Ethnologue states that a little over 7000 languages are spoken in the world today. Around a third of these are endangered, with less than 1000 remaining speakers. More than half of the world's population speaks only 23 languages. According to UNESCO, approximately 600 languages have disappeared in the last century, and they continue to disappear at a rate of one language every two weeks. Up to 90 percent of the world's languages are likely to disappear before the end of this century if current trends are allowed to continue.*

*The aim is to "draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels." In the same document, the UN expresses "deep concern about the vast number of endangered languages, in particular, indigenous languages, and stressing that, despite the continuing efforts, there is an urgent need to preserve, promote and revitalize endangered languages." In the resolution, the UN stresses the need to strengthen the commitment of the UN's Member States to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples into development policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels.*

*It is through language that we communicate with the world, define our identity, express our history and culture, learn, defend our human rights and participate in all aspects of society, to name but a few. Through language, people preserve their community's history, customs and traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking, meaning and expression. They also use it to construct their future. Indigenous languages are a significant factor in a wide range of indigenous issues, notably education, scientific and technological development, biosphere and the environment, freedom of expression, employment and social inclusion. However, many indigenous peoples continue to be confronted with marginalization, extreme poverty and other human rights violations. The linguistic rights of indigenous peoples must be an integral part of the human rights agenda. **Conserve our Traditional Languages.***

**Vijikumar.S**  
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