

Regarding need to include Rajbangshi language in 8th Schedule to the Constitution-Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): There is a long-standing demand of the Rajbangshi people for inclusion of the Rajbangshi (or Kamatapuri) language in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution. Rajbangshi language, culture, and heritage is followed by about 3 crores people across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. Rajbangshi is a trans-national community residing in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, maintaining a common cultural and linguistic identity. Rajbangshi is an official language by the Government of West Bengal and also the Government of Nepal. Eminent personalities from Rajbangshi community include: - Sahitya Akademi Awardee - Dr. Girija Shankar Roy. - Padma Shri awardees - Dr. Dharma Narayan Barma, Nagendra Nath Roy, Pratima Barua, Gita Roy Barman, Mangalakanti Roy. - ?Kamata Ratna? - Late Ambika Charan Choudhury, renowned author. Freedom fighters - Thakur Panchanan, Vir Chila Ray, Maharaja Nara Narayan, Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, and Maharaja Jagadwipendra Narayan have contributed to the Indian independence struggle. Upendra Nath Barman worked with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution and is one of the signatories. Given the historical and cultural contributions, Rajbangshi language must be recognized in 8th Schedule to the Indian Constitution. This will help in the preservation, promotion, and development of the Rajbangshi language for future generations.