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Title : Need to confer the status of Classical language to Kannada.

SHRIANANTH KUMAR Sir, I would like to raise a very urgent matter of public importance regarding conferring the status of classical language to Kannada. Actually, the status of classical language is given on the criteria of high antiquity of early text and recorded history, ancient literature, original literary tradition and heritage and distinctness of form.

As you very well know and will appreciate also, the entire South Indian music is known as Karnataka music and Purandara Dasa is known as the *Pitamaha* of this music. In *Mahabharata*, there is a mention of Karnataka. Even Pandharpur Vitthala is known as Kannada Vitthala.

I would like to bring it to the notice of this august House that the earliest recorded word of Kannada language is 'Isila' occurring in the Brahmagiri rock inscription of King Ashoka. The date of this inscription is 252 B.C. D. Lewis Rice has published this Prakrit inscription in *Epigraphia Carnatica* in the year 1903.

Secondly, there is one stone inscription, known as Halmidi inscription, which is in a village Halmidi in Belur Taluk of Hassan District. The date of this inscription is 450 A.D. This inscription is completely in Kannada script.

Why I am raising this issue is, Pampa Bharatha, *Gadha Yuddha* of Ranna, Harischandra Kavya of Raghvanka, Kumaravyasa Bharatha, *Vachana Sahitya* and *Sharana Sahitya* of Basaveshwara and Sharanas, Dasa Sahitya of Purandar Dasa and Kanakdasa, Jaimini Bharatha of Lakshmisha and Prabhu Linge Leele of Bhima Kavi, all these literary works purport to say that Kannada language is a very ancient language with great heritage.

Up to 10th October, 2004, the conditionality to accord the classical language status was different. It was thousand years for Indian languages. Suddenly, the UPA Government has changed this criterion on 27.10.05. I would like to know the rationale behind it. I urge upon the Union Government to accord the classical language status to Kannada language as it is one of the ancient languages of India [\[R32\]](#).

Suddenly, the UPA Government has changed it on 27.10.2005. I want to know the rationale behind it.

I urge upon the Union Government to accord the classical language status to Kannada language because it is one of the ancient languages in India and it has more than two and half thousand years of pristine literature.