



Reference Number: 11951

Wednesday 08th March 2017

Dr Aman Puri
His Excellency, Consul General
Consulate General of India
20 Augusta Street
Birmingham, B18 6JL

Subject: Request to support Panjabi language

Dear respected Dr Puri,

I would like to draw your attention to the present situation of Panjabi language in the UK. The number of Panjabi language speakers, readers, listeners and writers have decreased significantly over the past few years in the UK. For this reason the UK Government had decided to abolish examination of Panjabi A Level from 2017. However, Panjabi language supporters are campaigning to increase this number and for the first time after eight years, the number of Panjabi GCSE and A Level student entries have increased in June 2016. Therefore, the UK Government cancelled the plan to abolish examinations of Panjabi A Level from 2017.

The BBC World Service also announced that they will launch BBC Panjabi TV service worldwide and BBC Panjabi Radio service worldwide. Panjabi language campaign stages, news and letters of these achievements can be seen at www.panjabi2021.co.uk.

In UK census 2001, Panjabi language was the second most spoken language in the UK. But unfortunately, Panjabi language became the third most spoken language in the UK census of 2011, after Polish. The Panjabi community working hard to bring Panjabi language back to the second most spoken language in the upcoming UK census of 2021.

The Panjabi community is overjoyed that you are the Consul General of India in Birmingham and we have great expectations from you. We would be grateful if you advise us in raising awareness for Panjabi language because you are also part of the Panjabi community. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

S. Harmeet Singh Bhakna
Director
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