

Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, & Bengali



Key Points:

- ❖ The government of India has accepted the recommendation of the Linguistic Expert Committee and conferred the status of classical language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali languages.
- ❖ With the inclusion of these languages, the total number of classical languages in India is now 11.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval to accord classical status to these languages on 3 October 2024.
- ❖ Tamil was the first language to be accorded classical language status in India in 2004.

Criteria for being Classical Language

- ❖ **The Union Ministry of Culture set up a Linguistic Expert Committee under Sahitya Akademi in 2004 to set the criteria for recognising an Indian language as a classical language.**
- ❖ The criteria have been revised from time to time, and the present set of criteria are as follows:
 - ❖ Antiquity: Language's early texts/recorded history must be 1500- 2000 years old.
 - ❖ Language shall have ancient literature/texts considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
 - ❖ Language must include knowledge texts, especially prose texts, poetry, and epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
 - ❖ Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from their current form or discontinuous with later forms of their offshoots

Classical Languages in India

Since 2004, the central government has declared eleven languages as classical languages.

Serial Number	Language	Date of Notification	State in which they are mainly spoken
1	Tamil	12/10/2004	Tamil Nadu
2	Sanskrit	25/11/2005	
3	Telugu	31/10/2008	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
4	Kannada	31/10/2008	Karnataka
5	Malayalam	08/08/2013	Kerala
6	Odia	01/03/2014	Odisha
7	Marathi	3/10/2024	Maharashtra
8 and 9	Pali and Prakrit	3/10/2024	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
10	Bengali	3/10/2024	West Bengal
11	Assam	3/10/2024	Assam

Impact of being made a classical language

- ❖ The likely impact after a language is declared as a classical language is as follows:
 - ❖ The Union Ministry of Education institutes National Awards for the classical languages.
 - ❖ A University or Center is set up for classical languages, or the ministry sets up a dedicated chair for the language in Universities to promote classical languages.
 - ❖ It also creates significant employment opportunities, especially in academics and research.
 - ❖ The need for preservation, documentation, and digitisation of ancient texts in these languages will generate jobs in archiving, translation, publishing, and digital media.

Did Russia use 'father of all bombs', the ODAB-9000 vacuum bomb, on Ukraine?



Key Points:

- ❖ ODAB-9000 is a 'vacuum bomb', considered the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the world. It packs a nasty punch, with an explosive power equivalent to 44,000 kilogrammes of TNT or Trinitrotoluene.

- ❖ It falls under the category of 'thermobaric' weapons that can create a wave of blasts by using oxygen from the air.
- ❖ This gives them the moniker 'vacuum bomb' and makes them capable of wreaking havoc in large swaths of territory while suffocating the living beings in the impact area.
- ❖ Trinitrotoluene (TNT) is a yellow, odorless, crystalline solid that is highly explosive and man-made. TNT is used in military and industrial applications, including filling shells, grenades, and bombs
- ❖ If the reports are confirmed, this would be the first recorded use of ODAB-9000 in combat, but the jury is divided on this.
- ❖ The internet seems to be on a guessing game whether Russia indeed used the superbomb ODAB-9000, or a less lethal variety of it, or something altogether different. According to some reports, what was used in Vovchansk, located in the Kharkiv region, maybe a smaller bomb, the ODAB-1500.
- ❖ There were some who suggested that the weapon used could have been an FAB-3000. FAB-3000, which is a Russian acronym that translates into "High-Explosive Aviation Bomb", is no mean beast either. It's a powerful weapon that can engage in long-range precision strikes on fortified positions.
- ❖ The United States on April 13, 2017, dropped a massive GBU-43 bomb in eastern Afghanistan against a series of caves used by Islamic State militants. According to the Afghanistan officials, the bomb killed over 30 Islamic State militants in the area.
- ❖ The Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb (MOAB) also known as the 'mother of all bombs' is the largest non-nuclear bomb ever deployed in combat by the United States.

NMEO-Oilseeds approved to make India self-sufficient in Edible Oils



Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of India has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) to make India self-sufficient in edible oils.
- ❖ India is the world's largest importer of edible oils and meets around 60-65 per cent of its requirements through imports. India sources most of its palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, while Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Ukraine are the major sources of soy oil and sunflower oil.
- ❖ In 2022-23, 40 to 45 per cent of India's edible needs were met through domestic production, while it imported 16.5 million tonnes of edible oils.
- ❖ The government of India has imposed a 20% import duty on edible oils to increase the domestic production of edible oils and protect domestic oil producers.

Duration and Outlay of the NMEO-Oilseeds

- ❖ The duration of the scheme is seven years, from 2024-25 to 2030-31. The total outlay for the scheme is Rs 10,103 crore.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare will implement the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).

Aim of the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

- ❖ The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) will be operational, along with the National Mission for Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).

- ❖ The government of India launched the NEMO-OP in August 2021 to expand oil palm cultivation and boost Crude Palm Oil (CPO) production.
- ❖ Increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.
- ❖ Increase domestic edible oil production to 25.45 million tonnes by 2030-31, meeting around 72% of domestic requirements (along with NEMO-OP).
- ❖ Focus on increasing the production of primary oilseed crops such as Rapeseed Mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, and Sesamum.
- ❖ Increasing the efficiency of oil collection and extraction from secondary sources like Cottonseed, Rice Bran, and tree-borne oils.
- ❖ Ensure timely availability of quality seeds, and for this purpose, the Mission will introduce an Online 5-year rolling seed plan through the 'Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI)' Portal,
- ❖ Government will set up 65 new seed hubs and 50 seed storage units to improve the seed production infrastructure.
- ❖ 600 Value Chain Clusters will be developed across 347 unique districts, covering more than 10 lakh hectares annually, where high-quality seeds will be made available to the farmers.
- ❖ Oilseed cultivation area to be expanded by bringing four million hectares under cultivation by targeting rice and potato fallow lands and promoting intercropping and crop diversification

Central Govt Approves PM-RKVY and KY Schemes for Agriculture sector



Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of India has rationalised the various central sector schemes of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare into two main schemes:
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMRKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).
- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the plan in a meeting held in New Delhi on 3 October 2024.
- ❖ The PM-RKVY scheme focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture, while the KY will focus on food security and achieving agricultural self-sufficiency.
- ❖ Only those central sector schemes related to agriculture and implemented by the state government have been merged. The newly approved scheme will also be implemented by the State governments.

Outlay for the PM-RKVY and KY

- ❖ The total outlay for the centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY) is Rs.1,01,321.61 crore.
- ❖ The central government's share will be Rs 69,088.98 crore, and the state's share will be Rs 32,232.63 crore.
- ❖ The allocation for the PM-RKVY is Rs 57,074.72 crore, and the allocation for the KY scheme is Rs 44,246.89 crore.
- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)**
- ❖ The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched by the central government in 2007- 08.
- ❖ The scheme provides incentives to the state government to draw up comprehensive agriculture development plans to ensure more inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors.

- ❖ In the 2017 -18 fiscal year, the RKVY was converted into Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVYRAFTAAR) with a major focus on pre and post-harvest infrastructure, besides promoting agri - entrepreneurship, innovations and value addition.
- ❖ Now, it has been replaced by Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).

The PM-RKVY scheme comprises the following central government schemes :

- ❖ Soil Health Management,
- ❖ Rainfed Area Development,
- ❖ Agroforestry,
- ❖ Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana,
- ❖ Agricultural Mechanization, including Crop Residue Management,
- ❖ Per Drop More Crop,
- ❖ Crop Diversification Programme
- ❖ RKVY DPR component
- ❖ Accelerator Fund for Agri Startups

Krishonnati Yojana

- ❖ Krishonnati Yojana was launched in 2005, during the 10th five-year plan. It is an umbrella scheme of 12 schemes/missions of the central government and centrally sponsored schemes related to the agriculture sector.
- ❖ These schemes aim to develop the agriculture and allied sectors holistically and scientifically.
- ❖ It aims to increase farmers' income by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

Reason for Rationalisation of the Scheme

- ❖ According to the Government of India, the various central sector agriculture-related schemes have merged into two with the following objectives;
- ❖ Ensure convergence, avoid duplication and provide flexibility to States.

- ❖ Focus on Nutrition security, Sustainability, Climate resilience, value chain development & private sector participation.
- ❖ Give flexibility to the state government to draw a comprehensive strategic plan according to their requirements.
- ❖ The State government's Annual Action Plan (AAP) of States can be approved in one go rather than approving individual scheme-wise AAPs.

India to join the Energy Efficiency Hub to further low carbon economy



Key Points:

- ❖ The government of India has approved India's accession to the International Energy Efficiency Hub by giving its approval for signing the necessary 'Letter of Intent'.
- ❖ The approval was given by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting held in New Delhi on 3 October 2024.
- ❖ India's decision to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub is part of the government's effort to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy by developing technologies and products that are energy efficient and consume less energy.
- ❖ Joining the International Energy Efficiency Hub will help India gain access to a vast network of experts and resources in deploying energy efficiency,
- ❖ This will help India in its effort to become a low-carbon economy and address climate change by promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices.

Nodal Implementing Agency

- ❖ The government of India has designated the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as the Indian implementing agency for the International Energy Efficiency Hub.
- ❖ The BEE is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act of 2001 under the Union Ministry of Power.
- ❖ One of the BEE's main aims is to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy by promoting energy-efficient products.
- ❖ The headquarters of the BEE is in New Delhi.

About the International Energy Efficiency Hub (Hub)

- ❖ The International Energy Efficiency Hub is a voluntary collaboration of 16 countries to promote and strengthen their effectiveness in deploying energy efficiency.
- ❖ At the G20 Summit meeting hosted by Germany in Hamburg in 2017, Germany proposed the creation of an Energy Efficiency Hub to address global warming and climate change.
- ❖ The Energy Efficiency Hub was set up to develop energy-efficient technologies and products and popularise their use.
- ❖ The International Energy Efficiency Hub was formally launched in 2021 with its secretariat at the International Energy Agency (IEA) secretariat in Paris, France.
- ❖ Current Chairman: European Commission (2024)

Members of the International Energy Efficiency Hub

- ❖ Only the International Energy Association Members, International Energy Association countries and Clean Energy Ministerial Members are eligible to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub.
- ❖ Currently, 16 countries/organisations are members of the Hub: Australia, Brazil,

Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United States and the United Kingdom.

Prashant Kishor announces Jan Suraaj as a political party



Key Points:

- ❖ Political strategist-cum-activist Prashant Kishor launched his political outfit Jan Suraaj Party, two years after he embarked on a campaign in Bihar to mobilise support for a “new political alternative”.
- ❖ As a political party, Jan Suraaj would contest all 243 seats in the Assembly elections in Bihar, next year in October-November.
- ❖ His party would contest in the bypolls in four seats of Bihar which are likely to be held in November this year.
- ❖ The 47-year-old also named Manoj Bharti, a Madhubani-born former Indian Foreign Service officer, as working president of the party.
- ❖ Mr Bharti comes from the Dalit community, has been educated at IIT Kanpur and Delhi and was in the Indian Foreign Service. He was also Indian ambassador in four countries.

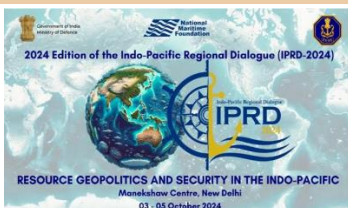
Vistara to get AI2 flight number after merger with Air India



Key Points:

- ❖ National carrier Air India said that flights operated by Vistara will start using the flight code 'AI2' after the merger of the two airlines next month.
- ❖ Currently, Air India uses the airline code 'AI' while Vistara uses 'UK.' Despite the integration on November 12, the Vistara experience will "remain the same."
- ❖ The merger involves Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, and Air India.
- ❖ Though the legal entities and Air Operator Certificates will become one on 12 November, the Vistara experience will remain.
- ❖ Vistara aircraft, crew and service will continue to operate as before, but with AI2XXX flight numbers bookable via airindia.com.
- ❖ In parallel, Air India's narrow-body fleet continue to be upgraded with new aircraft being delivered, legacy aircraft being refitted with entirely new interiors and Vistara's catering now also extended to Air India.

2024 edition of annual apex-level international conference IPRD to held in New Delhi



Key Points:

- ❖ The 2024 edition of the annual apex-level international conference of the Indian Navy, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), will be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the three-day conference is "Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific."
- ❖ IPRD is the principal manifestation of the Indian Navy's international engagement at

the strategic level, addressing holistic maritime security issues across the IndoPacific.

- ❖ This year's conference will focus on how traditional and newly identified marine resources are influencing contemporary geopolitics and how they will shape it in the future.

NITI Aayog launches first State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform



Key Points:

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched its maiden State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) in association with WE Hub and the Telangana government.
- ❖ An initiative to promote and support women entrepreneurs across various sectors by providing them access to resources, tools, and a network for enhancing their business growth, WEP thus far remained a scheme operated by the Centre.
- ❖ With over 30 thousand registered women entrepreneurs and associations, the WEP has over 400 mentors from different industry sectors.
- ❖ WE Hub Chief Executive Officer, Sita Pallocholla, has been appointed Mission Director of the WEP Telangana Chapter.
- ❖ WE Hub will be the nodal agency for all WEP activities in the State. The WEP will offer customised support like digital skilling, access to financial services, mentorship, and market linkages.

India to host first-ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025



Key Points:

- ❖ The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup will be held in India next year and will feature 16 men’s and women’s teams from 24 countries and six continents.
- ❖ Kho Kho has its roots in India and this World Cup will highlight the rich cultural heritage and competitive spirit of the sport.
- ❖ Today, the sport that started in the mud and has gone to the mat now has a global presence with 54 countries playing the sport across the world.

ICC Women’s T20 World Cup begins in Sharjah



Key Points:

- ❖ The ninth edition of the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup begins in Sharjah, UAE. The opening match will feature Bangladesh against debutant Scotland.
- ❖ Captain Harmanpreet Kaur will be leading India’s campaign, starting against New Zealand. India is carrying a spin-heavy bowling arsenal to the stage.
- ❖ With Deepti Sharma, Radha Yadav, Sajana Sajeevan, Asha Sobhana Joy, Tanuja Kanwer, and Shreyanka Patil, the team has versatility and effectiveness in its ranks.

- ❖ Group B includes Bangladesh, England, Scotland, South Africa, and the West Indies. The Indian women’s team has yet to hold the trophy at an ICC event, making this tournament a significant opportunity for the Women in Blue.
- ❖ A total of ten teams will participate in the event, which will conclude on the 20th of this month.

Carlos Alcaraz defeats Jannik Sinner to win first China Open Title



Key Points:

- ❖ In tennis, second-seeded Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz beat defending champion and world No. 1 Jannik Sinner, winning 6-7 6-4 7-6 to claim his first China Open title.
- ❖ Meanwhile, China’s Zheng Qinwen stormed into the quarterfinals of the women’s singles after defeating Amanda Anisimova of the United States.
- ❖ Aryna Sabalenka secured her place in the quarterfinals by overcoming Madison Keys of the United States. Sabalenka will face the Czech Republic’s Karolina Muchova.

India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum



Key Points:

- ❖ India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), which will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide.
- ❖ The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of, international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence.
- ❖ Its members include national regulatory authorities of the U.S., Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The membership helps to harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces complexities for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations, and promoting convergence.

West Indies legend Dwayne Bravo announces retirement from all forms of cricket



Key Points:

- ❖ West Indies decorated all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after his farewell Caribbean Premier League (CPL) season was cut short due to an injury.
- ❖ Bravo, who is going to turn 41 next month, is the leading wicket-taker in the T20

format. Bravo retired from international cricket in 2021 and decided to end his time in the IPL.

- ❖ Bravo has finished his career by setting a benchmark in the T20 format across the globe, with 631 wickets in the format in 582 appearances.
- ❖ Bravo was set to retire from the CPL after the conclusion of the ongoing campaign.
- ❖ His accolades boast him as the most decorated player to feature in the tournament, lifting five titles, including three with the Trinbago Knight Riders.

Mankind Pharma secures CCI approval for ₹13,360-crore worth acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines

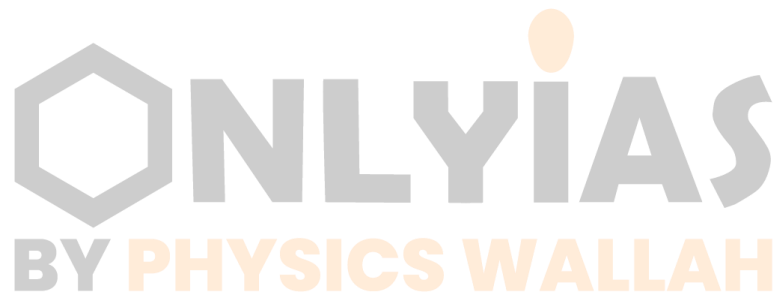


Key Points:

- ❖ A proposed acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines by Mankind Pharma for ₹13,630 crore was approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- ❖ Mankind Pharma had announced in July that it will fully acquire Bharat Serums and Vaccines from private equity firm Advent International for around ₹13,630 crore.
- ❖ The company has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in the Bharat Serums and Vaccines for an enterprise value of around ₹13,630 crore.
- ❖ Mankind is a public listed company and is engaged in developing, manufacturing, and marketing a diverse range of pharmaceutical finished dosage formulations (FDFs) across various acute and chronic therapeutic areas, as well as several consumer healthcare products such as condoms, emergency contraceptives, pregnancy tests, vitamins, minerals, nutrients, antacids etc.

❖ In India, the activities of BSV (including its wholly owned Indian subsidiary, BSV Pharma Private Limited, which is in the process of merging with BSV) are limited to developing, manufacturing, and marketing

a range of biological, biotech, and pharmaceutical products in the therapeutic areas of women's health, critical care, IUI-IVF, and emergency medicine.



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