

13 January 2025

Science and Technology

Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin research Facility



IIT-Madras has launched Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin research facility that could cater to Indian research and industry requirements.

Key Points

- ❖ This state-of-the-art facility is located at Discovery Satellite campus in Thaiyur.
- ❖ This facility has been established through the National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), a centre dedicated for technological innovations and the evolution of new ideas and breakthroughs in the port and maritime sector
- ❖ This is a unique facility that can address challenging problems in Indian ports, waterways and coastal Engineering.

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World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025



The United Nations (UN) released its flagship report, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025.

Key point

- ❖ The UN predicts India's economy to grow by 6.6% in 2025 and 6.7% in 2026, driven by strong consumer spending, increased investment, and robust infrastructure development.
- ❖ Inflation is expected to moderate: Consumer price inflation is projected to decrease from 4.8% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025, remaining within the RBI's target range.
- ❖ Global Economic Growth:
- ❖ South Asia: The region is expected to grow at 5.7% in 2025 and 6% in 2026, with India leading the performance.
- ❖ Global Growth: The global economy is forecasted to grow at 2.8% in 2025, unchanged from 2024.

Projected Gross Domestic Product



The first advance estimates of the annual gross domestic product (GDP) for the current fiscal year has been released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Key Points

- ❖ According to the first advance estimates, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow at 6.4 percent in the fiscal year 2024-25. Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.7 percent.
- ❖ In the previous fiscal year, the Provisional Estimate of GDP growth rate has been estimated at 8.2 percent, while the Nominal GDP growth rate is estimated at 9.6 percent.
- ❖ The Real Gross Value Added (GVA) has grown by 6.4 percent over the growth rate of 7.2 percent in FY 2023-24. Nominal GVA has shown a growth rate of 9.3 percent as compared to the growth rate of 8.5 percent in the previous financial year.
- ❖ The estimates highlighted that real GVA of agriculture and allied sectors is estimated to grow by 3.8 percent, a marked increase from the previous year's 1.4 percent.
- ❖ The construction sector and the financial, real estate, and professional services sectors are also expected to experience strong growth. The construction sector's real GVA is projected to rise by 8.6 percent. Similarly, the financial, real estate, and professional services sector is expected to grow by 7.3 percent.

Important Days

World Hindi day

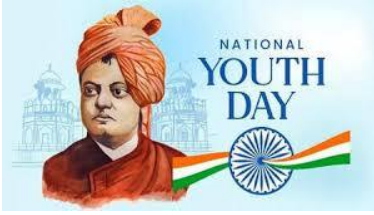


Sri Lanka had introduced its first Hindi certificate course from January 10 2025 in Colombo on the mark of the world Hindi day.

Key point

- ❖ The course is provided fully open by the Open University of Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, affiliated with the Indian High Commission.
- ❖ This was officially launched by the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha and the Deputy Minister of Education and higher education of Sri Lanka, Dr. Madhura Seneviratne.
- ❖ The program is one of the many projects, which the Ministry of External Affairs has taken to spread Hindi around the world.
- ❖ World Hindi Day is observed on 10th January every year since 2006.
- ❖ The date is observed to mark the use of Hindi for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly in 1949.
- ❖ The first global Hindi conference was organized on 10 January 1975 at Nagpur in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The 12th session of the World Hindi Conference convened in Fiji in February this year.
- ❖ World Hindi Day is celebrated since 2006 when the Indian government was led by Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- ❖ World Hindi Day is not to be confused with Hindi Diwas, which is observed on September 14 to celebrate the decision of the Indian government to accept Hindi written in the Devanagari script as the country's official language in 1949. Hindi Diwas was first celebrated in 1953.

National Youth Day



On the occasion of National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 on 12th January,

Key point

- ❖ The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue aims to break the 25 year old tradition of holding the National Youth Festival in a conventional manner.
- ❖ The 3,000 dynamic and motivated youth have been selected to participate in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, a meticulously crafted, merit-based multi level selection process to identify and showcase the most motivated and dynamic young voices from across the nation.
- ❖ It included three stages with participants ranging from 15 - 29 years.
- ❖ The theme for National Youth Day 2025 is "Arise, Awake, and Realize the Power You Hold." This theme emphasizes the empowerment of youth and encourages them to harness their potential to contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity.
- ❖ The Indian government declared this day as National Youth Day in 1984, with the first celebration taking place in 1985.
- ❖ The objective is to inspire and empower the youth by promoting Vivekananda's teachings, which emphasize strength, purity, patience, perseverance, and selfless service.

Miscellaneous

Classical language status to Marathi



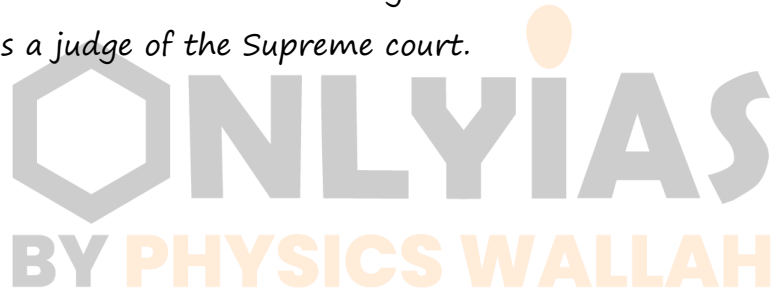
Months after granting classical language status to Marathi, the Union government issued an official notification to this effect on 7 January .

Key point

- ❖ Classical language status granted for five more languages i.e. Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit
- ❖ Earlier classical languages: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, and Odia.
- ❖ Indian classical languages, also known as Shastriya Bhasha, refer to languages with a deep historical background, rich literary traditions and a unique cultural heritage.
- ❖ These languages have significantly contributed to the intellectual and cultural development of the region, with their texts offering valuable insights into various domains like literature, philosophy and religion.
- ❖ Criteria For Classical Language Status: The Ministry of Culture has rules that must be followed in order to be classified as a classical language in India:
 - Ancient origin: The language should have high antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years.
 - Literary heritage: The language should contain a body of ancient literature or texts that is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
 - Originality: The literary tradition should be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
 - Discontinuity from modern avatars: The said language and literature should be distinct from its modern format with a marked discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Short News

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has selected Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) to establish South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL).
- ❖ On January 10, 2025, the Indian rupee reached a historic low of ₹86 against the US dollar, closing 14 paise lower than the previous day.
- ❖ The Z-Morh tunnel, set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, 2024, will enable a year-round strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ❖ In a climate milestone, 2024 was the first year when global temperatures exceeded the 1.5°C mark above pre-industrial levels, as reported by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- ❖ The Supreme Court collegium recommended Patna High Court Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme court.



Important Daily Current Affair Question

1. Which of the following institutes has launched Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin research facility?

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Guwahati
- C. IIT Indore
- D. IIT Bombay

Answer -A

2. World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 is released by which of the following organisations?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. World Bank
- C. United Nations
- D. International Monetary Fund

Answer -C

