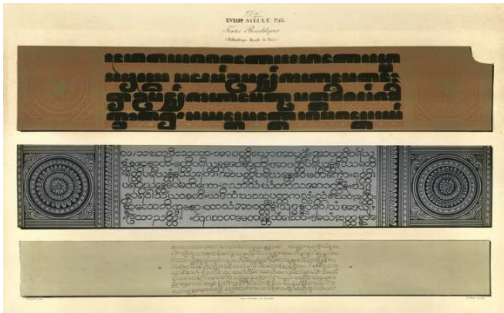


**5<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

## Centre Declares Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, And Bengali As Classical Languages

The Union Cabinet officially granted classical language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, recognizing their historical and cultural significance.



### Key Point

- ❖ This decision marks a significant addition to India's classical language list, which was first established on October 12, 2004, with the declaration of Tamil as a classical language.
  - ❖ The category was created to honour languages with a long and rich history, ancient literature, and cultural heritage.
  - ❖ A classical language has its literature and a significant and ancient corpus of written script.
  - ❖ Criteria for designating the Classical Language Status: The Ministry of Culture offers rules that must be followed 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.
- ❖ **Benefits of the Special Status:** Once a language is notified as a classical language, certain benefits are provided by the Education Ministry to promote it,
  - The HRD ministry conducts 2 major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the said languages.
  - A centre of excellence for studies in the classical language is set up.

- University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs in Central universities for the languages that get the classical tag.
- The University Grant Commission (UGC) also awards research projects for promoting these languages.

### Claudia Sheinbaum

Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico's first woman president.



### Key Point

- ❖ She replaced her popular predecessor Andrés Manuel López Obrador as head of state in the world's most populous Spanish-speaking nation.
- ❖ The 62-year-old scientist-turned-politician took the oath on the floor of Congress for a six-year term lasting until 2030.
- ❖ She pledged that the Mexican oil giant will look to maintain daily oil production at 1.8 million barrels, in line with current output.
- ❖ Recently Mexico became the first country in the world to permit voters to elect judges at every level.

### About Mexico

- ❖ Capital-Mexico City
- ❖ Currency-Mexican peso (MXN)
- ❖ President -Claudia Sheinbaum

### Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dharti Aaba Tribal Village Utkarsh Abhiyan in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.



### Key point

- ❖ Launched by: Ministry of tribal affairs
- ❖ Aim: To foster holistic development in tribal villages, bringing transformative changes to the socioeconomic landscape of the region.
- ❖ Total outlay: Rs 79,150 crore
- ❖ Coverage: Will cover around 63,000 villages in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks across 30 states and union territories.

### National Mission on Edible Oils—Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

The NMEO-Oilseeds, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to significantly increase oilseed production and reduce India's dependence on imports.



### Key Point

- ❖ The mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a financial outlay of Rs 10,103 crore, according to an official statement.
- ❖ The mission will focus on key oilseed crops, including rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesame, and will improve collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like cottonseed, rice bran, and tree-borne oils.
- ❖ The goal is to raise primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (in 2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.
- ❖ Alongside the National Mission on Edible Oils—Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), the NMEO-Oilseeds initiative targets increasing domestic edible oil production to 25.45 million tonnes by 2030-31, meeting approximately 72% of the projected domestic demand.

### International Energy Efficiency Hub

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved India's decision to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub by signing a Letter of Intent.



### Key Point

- ❖ This strategic move aligns with India's commitment to advancing sustainable development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through global cooperation.
- ❖ The International Energy Efficiency Hub (Hub) was established in 2020 as the successor to the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), in which India had previously participated.
- ❖ The Hub brings together governments, international organizations, and private sector entities to collaborate on promoting energy efficiency across the globe.
- ❖ With India's inclusion, the Hub now comprises 16 members, including countries like the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and Germany, and the European Commission.
- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory agency under the Ministry of Power, has been designated as the implementing body for India's participation in the Hub.

### Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

- ❖ It was set up on 1st March 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- ❖ Mission: To assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Act.
- ❖ Objective: Reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

### Short News

- ❖ The first-ever Kho Kho World Cup is scheduled to take place in India in 2025.
- ❖ Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja achieved a significant milestone, becoming the seventh Indian bowler to take over 300 Test wickets.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been banned from all forms of cricket for one year, of which six months will be suspended.
- ❖ Governor and Chancellor Shri Mangubhai Patel has appointed Prof. Arpan Bhardwaj as Kul Guru of Vikram University, Ujjain.
- ❖ The SARTHIE 1.0 initiative was recently launched by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) in collaboration with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to empower vulnerable communities in India.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways inaugurated the Oxygen Bird Park along the Nagpur-Hyderabad National Highway-44 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Little Prespa Lake, located on the Albanian-Greek border, is slowly disappearing due to rising temperatures and mild winters.
- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India launched the JanYojana Abhiyaan for preparation of Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) for 2025-26.
- ❖ Government Rolls Out Prime Minister's Internship Scheme On Pilot Basis, Targets 1 Crore Interns In 5 Years.
- ❖ India has rejected the report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report.

*Important Daily Current Affairs Question*

1. Which of the following is not a classical Language?

- (a) Bengali
- (b) Assamese
- (c) Marathi
- (d) Punjabi

Answer – (d)

2. Who among the following was elected as Mexico's first woman president.?

- (a) Claudia Sheinbaum
- (b) Olivia Sheinbaum
- (c) Isabella Sheinbaum
- (d) Stella Sheinbaum

Answer – (a)

