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Classical language Status to Marathi



- A delegation led by Marathi Language Minister Subhash Desai is going to Delhi to get the status of a classical language for Marathi. Union Culture Minister G. Kisan reddy and minister of state Arjun Meghwal are scheduled to meet.
- The question of granting elite status to the Marathi language has been pending with the Centre for several years, and the state government has now started pursuing with the Centre for the same. In line with this, a public campaign has been launched under the guidance of Marathi Language Minister Desai.
- Dignitaries from all walks of life have been singled out and participated in this mass campaign to ensure that Marathi gets 'elite' status. This question is now in its final stages.
- The delegation includes Principal Secretary Bhushan Gagrani and writer-director Shrirang Godbole.

Six Classical Status.

Six languages in the country have got 'classical' status.

- Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013) and Oriya (2014).

Criteria

- - High antiquity of the early texts/ records in that language throughout one and a half to 2000 years.
- - A part of the ancient texts in that language is considered a valuable heritage for generations.
- - That language must have an original literary tradition; it should not be taken from other speaking communities.
- - Since classical language and literature are different from modern languages, there may be differences between the classical language and its later form or branches.

Source: Loksatta

National Digital University

Context: The concept was mentioned by the Prime Minister in a webinar on the positive impact of the Union Budget 2022-23. He urged all stakeholders to ensure that the digital university starts functioning at the earliest.



Key highlights

- Union Budget for 2022-23 aims to help implement the National Education Policy (NEP) effectively.
- The budget focuses on five aspects related to the education sector –
 - i. universalisation of quality education
 - ii. skill development
 - iii. urban planning and design
 - iv. internationalisation and AVGC (Animation Visual Effects Gaming Comic)
- A move to empower students with better medical and technical education has begun in many states in local languages.

Note: Education in the mother tongue is related to the students' mental development.

- NEP 2020 unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education by both the Central government and all State Governments.
- The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

NEP in higher education envisages to improve the quality of higher education and various schemes are in place to achieve the goal namely,

- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
- Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)
- Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN)
- Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT)
- Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)
- Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)
- National Digital Library, campus connect programme
- Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
- Impactful Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)
- Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)
- National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are being implemented to.

Note: Several initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement in higher and technical education.

Source: AIR

Thane-Diva railway lines

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated (via video conferencing) the newly constructed two additional railway lines between Thane and Diva on Mumbai's busy suburban rail network.
- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also attended the inaugural ceremony virtually.

Key Highlights

- The additional lines have been built at the approximate cost of Rs. 620 crore and has the following components:
 - i. 1.4 km long rail flyover
 - ii. 170-meter-long tunnel
 - iii. 3 major bridges
 - iv. 21 minor bridges

Note: PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity plays an important role in streamlining all processes from planning to execution of infrastructure projects necessary to build a modern 21st century India.

Source: AIR

“Corbevax”, COVID-19 vaccine for children between 12-18 years of age group



- Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted Emergency Use Authorisation to COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax for children between 12-18 years of age group.
- It is India's first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain protein sub-unit COVID-19 vaccine.
- It is developed by Biological E Ltd, the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company.
- Corbevax vaccine is administered through an intramuscular route.
- Two doses are scheduled 28 days apart and are stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius temperature.

Source: AIR

Attari-Wagah land border

Context: The first shipment of 10,000 tonnes of wheat from India for the people of Afghanistan will be dispatched via the Attari-Wagah land border crossing.



- The first shipment formally flagged off at Attari-Wagah in the presence of India and Pakistani officials and representatives of the World Food Programme (WFP), which is responsible for distributing the wheat in Afghanistan.
- The shipment is being sent after the Indian and Pakistan sides finalised modalities for transporting the wheat via Pakistan land routes after weeks of negotiations.
- The Indian government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WFP on February 12 for the distribution of food grains within Afghanistan
- The Indian side is also exploring the option of sending more wheat to Afghanistan via Iran's Chabahar port.

Source: AIR, HT

Bhasha Shahid Barkat memorial in Murshidabad

- West Bengal Government to build a memorial of Bhasha Shahid Barkat at his residence at Babla village in Salar, Murshidabad.



About Shahid Barkat

- In 1952, Abdul Barkat participated in the language movement demanding recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan.
- Abdul Barkat was injured during the procession that students mobilised on the premises of Dhaka Medical College hostel on 21st Feb, later he died.
- Posthumously he was awarded Ekushey Padak by the Bangladesh Government.

Source: AIR

Mekapati Goutham Reddy passes away



- Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy passed away in a private hospital in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The 50 years old Minister returned to India from Dubai Expo a day before.
- Goutham Reddy is credited to have designed the best industrial policy for Andhra Pradesh which help attract good investments to the state in the last two years.

Source: AIR

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won Airthings Masters



- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters competition.
- Praggnanandhaa won with black pieces in 39 moves yesterday to halt Carlsen's run of three straight wins.
- Airthings Masters, is a 16-player online rapid chess tournament.
- Praggnanandhaa has become only the third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna to beat Carlsen.

Source: AIR

Union Govt bars scholarships for studying Indian subjects abroad

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued fresh guidelines barring students from applying for the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS).
- The students are barred to study several humanities subjects, including Indian history, culture, and heritage, abroad.
- The final decision as to which topic can be covered under such category will rest with the election-cum-screening committee of NOS.

Source: AIR



“Eastern Bridge – VI” joint Exercise between Indian and Omani air forces



- Indian, Omani air forces joint exercises being held in Jodhpur from 21st Feb- 25th Feb 2022.
- Oman is one of India’s strongest defence partners in the Gulf region, and all three services have bilateral exchanges and exercises with Oman’s services.
- To strengthen the ties Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) began a bilateral joint exercise.
- It is the sixth edition of the exercise and is aimed to provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- Oman also provides operational support to the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea.
- India has access to the Duqm port, which has strengthened India’s capability and maritime strategy in the Indian Ocean Region, especially against China’s aggressive advance in the region.

India Eyes Strategic Heft Through Duqm



Source: Indian Express