

Daily Current Affairs

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New Classical Languages

- Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to confer the **status of classical language** to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali languages.
- The classical languages serve as a custodian of India's ancient cultural heritage, embodying the essence of each community's historical and cultural milestone.

5 more Classical languages

- Linguistic Experts Committee: criteria for "Classical language"
 - (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years
 - (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers
 - (iii) Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence
 - (iv) The classical languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with its later forms of its offshoots

5 more Classical languages: Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali

In addition to already notified: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia

- The government had decided to create a **new category of languages** as "classical languages" on **October 12, 2004**, declaring **Tamil as a classical language**.
- Among the criteria for the status of classical language are the high antiquity of its early texts, recorded history over a thousand years, and a body of ancient literature.
- The literary tradition of the language must be original and not borrowed from another speech community. The inclusion of languages as classical languages **will create significant employment opportunities**, particularly in academic and research fields. The preservation, documentation, and digitisation of ancient

texts in these languages will generate jobs in archiving, translation, publishing, and digital media.

Language	Date of Notification
Tamil	12/10/2004
Sanskrit	25/11/2005
Telugu	31/10/2008
Kannada	31/10/2008
Malayalam	08/08/2013
Odia	01/03/2014

National Mission On Edible Oils

- The government has also approved the **National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)** for 2024-25 to 2030-31 with an outlay of **10 thousand 103 crore rupees**.
- This has been done with an aim to make **India self-reliant in oilseed production** in the next seven years.



- Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the **newly approved NMEO-Oilseeds will focus on** enhancing the production of key primary **oilseed crops** such as rapeseed mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesamum.
- He added that it will also **focus on increasing collection and extraction efficiency** from secondary sources like cottonseed, rice bran, and tree-butter oils. Mr Vaishnaw said that the mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from **39 million metric tonnes in 2022–23 to 69.7 million metric tonnes by –31**.
- He said that together with NMEO-OP (Oil Palm), the mission targets to increase domestic edible oil production to **25.45 million metric tonnes by 2030–31**, meeting around 72% of the projected domestic requirement. Mr Vaishnaw said that the mission will harness the ongoing development of high-quality seeds by using cutting-edge global technologies such as genome editing.
- Mission aims to significantly **enhance domestic oilseed production**, advancing the goal of self-reliance in edible oils, thereby reducing import dependency and conserving valuable foreign exchange while **boosting farmers' incomes**.
- This mission will also accrue **significant environmental benefits in the form of** low water usage, improved soil health, and making productive use of crop fallow areas.



CABINET DECISION 03-10-2024

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS – OILSEEDS (NMEO-OILSEEDS)

- Mission will be implemented over a **seven-year period, from 2024–25 to 2030–31**
- Total financial outlay of **₹ 10,103 crore**
- It aims to increase primary oilseed production from **39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31**
- It will introduce **SATHI Portal** enabling States to coordinate with stakeholders for timely availability of quality seeds
- It seeks to expand oilseed cultivation by an additional **40 lakh hectares**

International Energy Efficiency Hub

- Union Cabinet has approved the **signing of a letter of intent** enabling India to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub. It is a global platform dedicated to **fostering collaboration and promoting energy** efficiency worldwide.
- This move solidifies India's commitment to sustainable development and aligns with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By joining the Hub, India is taking a significant step towards a **more sustainable future**.



- The country's participation in this global platform will help accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and improve energy security.
- Briefing media after the meeting, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Ashwini Vaishnaw** said that this decision will help India gain access to an exclusive 16-nation group sharing strategic energy practices and innovative solutions.
- He added that as a **member of the Hub, India will benefit** from opportunities for collaboration with other member states, sharing its own expertise and learning from international best practices. Mr. Vaishnaw said that the country will also contribute to global efforts to address climate change by promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices.
- **As of July 2024, sixteen countries, including** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the United Kingdom, have joined the Hub.

SCO Summit in Islamabad

- External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar will lead** the Indian delegation to Islamabad for the **SCO Summit to be held in 15th and 16th October**. Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed this at a media briefing in Delhi this afternoon.
- **On Zakir Naik's visit to Pakistan**, Mr Jaiswal said India is not surprised that a fugitive from Indian justice has received a high level welcome in Pakistan. He termed it as disappointing and condemnable.



Nepal To Sell 40 MW Electricity To Bangladesh

- **Nepal, India and Bangladesh** signed a **tripartite agreement** allowing Nepal to sell **40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh** using the land and infrastructure of India. Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVTN) signed the agreement in Kathmandu yesterday.
- Earlier, in December 2023, Bangladesh had approved a proposal for a 40 MW **electricity purchase from Nepal** and the final inking of the agreement was delayed due to the toppling of Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh.
- According to the NEA, **electricity generated from 25 MW Trishuli and 22 MW Chilime hydroelectricity** projects will be exported to Bangladesh at the rate of 6.40 US cents.



- This agreement may facilitate about **Rs. 1.22 billion earning annually** for Nepal by exporting power to Bangladesh.
- **The meter of the energy export** will be in **Muzaffarpur, India**, and the losses up to that point would be borne by the NEA while losses from Mujaffarpur to the Bangladesh border would be the responsibility of the Bangladeshi company.
- **The tripartite power deal** is a milestone in Nepal's energy sector since Nepal's hydroelectricity is being exported to the third country for the first time in Nepal's history.
- **The signing of the MoU between Nepal and Bangladesh** in 2018 and the continuous efforts afterwards. Ambassador of India to Nepal Navin Shrivastav emphasized that **this is a landmark agreement** marking a significant step forward in promoting regional cooperation in power trade and also reflects India's commitment to deepening cross-border connectivity in South Asia.
- **NEA has set a target of exporting 10000 MW** of electricity to India and 5000 MW to Bangladesh.

India Rejects USCIRF Report

- **India has rejected** the report by the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom report**, terming it as malicious.
- The report by the US federal government commission alleged worsening of religious freedom in India and called for it to be designated as a **"Country of Particular Concern"**.



- In response to media queries regarding Country Update on India in the USCIRF report, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called **USCIRF a biased organization with a political agenda** which continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India.
- The spokesperson urged USCIRF to desist from such agenda-driven efforts and utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States.

‘Vatavaran’

- **International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife, Vatavaran** Was inaugurated.
- The **theme for the three-day film festival is “Wetlands for Life”**, focusing on the awareness and conservation of the wetlands eco-system.



- Director General of Forest in the Ministry of Environment, **Jitendra Kumar** highlighted that wetlands are very important to India due to their ecological and economic benefits.
- He added that around **6 per cent of Indians** are **directly dependent on Wetlands** for livelihood, which makes their conservation even more vital.
- Mr Kumar has hoped that the film festival can host discussions on meaningful issues and formulate conservation strategies.
- **Climate and Environment Head of the Department at the German Embassy** to India, Taina Dyckhoff said the bilateral cooperation between India and Germany has been very successful in Environment and Wetlands conservation. She said that film is an impactful tool to discuss such issues with the public.

PM-RKVY And Krishonnati Yojana

- Union Cabinet has recently approved the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare's proposal** to consolidate various **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** into two main umbrella schemes: the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)** and the **Krishonnati Yojana (KY)**.
- This strategic move aims to promote sustainable agriculture through PM-RKVY and enhance food security and agricultural self-sufficiency via KY. With a total **proposed expenditure of ₹1,01,321.61 crore**, these schemes will be executed by State Governments, ensuring continuity and effective implementation of existing initiatives.

PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY)

- Cabinet approves rationalization of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) operating under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's into **two-umbrella Schemes**
- **PM-RKVY** will promote sustainable agriculture, while **KY** will address **food security & agricultural self-sufficiency**
- Total proposed expenditure is **Rs.1,01,321.61 crore**
- States given flexibility to reallocate funds from one component to another based on their specific requirement



- Objectives of the Schemes
- PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY): Focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
- Krishonnati Yojana (KY): Aims at achieving food security and self-sufficiency in agriculture.
- Technological Integration
- Both schemes will leverage advanced technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their components, ensuring better outcomes for farmers.



- **The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RAFTAAR)** aims to enhance the economic viability of farming by supporting farmers, mitigating risks, and fostering agri-business entrepreneurship.
- Basic Features
- **Incentives for States:** Encourages increased public investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Flexibility and Autonomy:** Allows states to plan and execute agricultural schemes tailored to local needs and conditions.
- **Localized Planning:** Promotes the preparation of agricultural plans based on agro-climatic conditions and available resources.
- **Yield Gap Reduction:** Focuses on targeted interventions to close yield gaps in key crops.
- **Maximizing Farmer Returns:** Aims to improve profitability in agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Holistic Approach:** Addresses various agricultural components to achieve measurable improvements in production and productivity.
- **Funding Pattern**

- North East States: 90% funding from the central government and 10% from the state government.
- Union Territories: 100% funding from the central government.
- Other States: 60% funding from the central government and 40% from the state government.

ISSF Junior World Championship

- In shooting, the trio of **Mukesh Nelavalli, Raajwardan Patil, and Harsimar Singh Rattha** secured victory in the **men's 25-meter rapid-fire pistol** team competition at the ISSF Junior World Championship in Peru. This win also marks the 11th gold medal for India in the championship.
- India remained at the top of the medal tally with a total of 16 medals, which included one silver and four bronze. China are in second place with three golds and one silver.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What Initiative SEBI Launched To Enhance Foreign Investors' Experience In The Indian Securities Market

- A. FPI Outreach Cell
- B. Foreign Investment Desk
- C. SEBI Investor Helpline
- D. Foreign Investment Facilitation Cell

ANSWER: A

2. Theme Of 9th Ayurveda Day Announced By Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav

- A. Ayurveda for a Sustainable Future
- B. Ayurveda and Holistic Wellness
- C. Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health
- D. Ayurveda for Disease Prevention

ANSWER: C

3. Which Village In Manipur Awarded Title Of Best Heritage Tourism Village

- A. Andro
- B. Khonoma
- C. Mawlynnong
- D. Ziro

ANSWER: A

4. Who Is Set To Become Japan's Next Prime Minister

- A. Fumio Kishida
- B. Shigeru Ishiba
- C. Sanae Takaichi
- D. Yoshihide Suga

ANSWER: B

5. With Which Country India Signed BIT To Ensure Protection For Investors

- A. Russia
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Uzbekistan

ANSWER: D

6. Name Of The Agreement That India Signed At The UN General Assembly To Protect Marine Biodiversity On The High Seas

- A. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
- B. Global Ocean Protection Agreement
- C. Marine Ecosystem Conservation Pact
- D. High Seas Biodiversity Preservation Treaty

ANSWER: A

7. Where Is The Oxygen Bird Park (Amrit Mahotsav Park) Set To Be Inaugurated

- A. Nagpur
- B. Pune
- C. Mumbai
- D. Aurangabad

ANSWER: A

8. Where Did RBI Organize Conference On Governance In Small Finance Banks

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Delhi
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: B

9. In Which Indian State Is The Mao Naga Tribe Primarily Located

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Manipur

ANSWER: D

10. Who Became The First Indian To Secure Pole Position In The DTM (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters)

- A. Karun Chandhok
- B. Arjun Maini
- C. Narain Karthikeyan
- D. Karthikeyan Ganesh

ANSWER: B

11. What Is India's Rank In The International IP Index 2024

- A. 42nd
- B. 38th
- C. 45th
- D. 40th

ANSWER: A

12. What Is The Name Of The Tropical Storm That Is Heading Towards The Philippines And South Korea

- A. Krathon
- B. Hagibis
- C. Goni
- D. Rai

ANSWER: A

13. Which Company Received The "Best Display" Award At The UP International Trade Show 2024

- A. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. THDC India Limited
- D. NEEPCO

ANSWER: C

14. Blockchain Based Project Launched By NPCI

- A. Falcon
- B. Grape
- C. Pay See
- D. Orange

ANSWER: A

15. Who Has Been Elected As The New President Of The Indian Newspaper Society

- A. Rakesh Sharma
- B. Maniyankode Veerendrakumar
- C. R. Jagannathan
- D. Shreyams Kumar

ANSWER: D

16. Where Was The 70th Edition Of The Nehru Trophy Boat Race Held

- A. Alappuzha
- B. Kainakari
- C. Kochi
- D. Kollam

ANSWER: A

17. Which State Launched The 'Darshini' Scheme For Educational Student Tours

- A. Karnataka
- B. Telangana
- C. Tamilnadu
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

18. Which Company Has Launched India's Largest Renewable Energy Procurement Tender For Its Green Ammonia Project

- A. Hygenco Green Energies
- B. Reliance Energy
- C. Tata Power
- D. Adani Green Energy

ANSWER: A

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. Where Was India's First Supercapacitor Manufacturing Facility Inaugurated

- A. Kannur, Kerala
- B. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- D. Nashik, Maharashtra

ANSWER: A