

July – 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone for the state's first cultural university at Majuli.

TAMIL NADU

Private Universities in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Two bills adopting the establishment of Shiv Nadar University and Sai University were passed in the Tamilnadu assembly.
- ❖ Shiv Nadar University would be established by SSN Trust of Industrialist Shiv Nadar
- ❖ Sai University is the backed by NASSCOM founder – mentor K.V.Ramani.
- ❖ As per the provisions of the two bills adopted in the assembly, the two universities will be self- financing institutions and would be allowed to establish constituent colleges, regional centres, and additional campuses and study centres.
- ❖ The decision of the TN Government to establish two private universities assumes significance as there are currently no private universities in the state. The state government took over the control of Annamalai University, a reputed private university in 2013. However, there is any number of deemed universities in the state.
- ❖ The universities “shall reserve 35% of seats in each course of study for resident students of Tamil Nadu” and this shall be made following the communal reservation as per law in force.

ECONOMY

Nod for Chinese Bank

- ❖ Bank of China — one of the four biggest state-run Chinese lenders — has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open branches in India.
- ❖ The Beijing-based lender has a presence in 51 countries.

- ❖ The lender is categorised as a Global Systemically Important Bank (GISB) by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.
- ❖ Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) is the other Chinese lender that has presence in the country along with 44 other foreign banks.
- ❖ RBI had promised if foreign lenders adopt wholly-owned subsidiary route than they would be treated at par with domestic banks that enjoy liberalised branch licence regime.
- ❖ Foreign banks that operate through branch route face a restrictive regime as they have to take RBI's prior approval for opening each branch.

STATES

Transgender Judge in Assam

- ❖ Assam is all set to witness its first transgender judge, Swati Bidhan Baruah, who will mediate the cases in national Lok Adalat in Guwahati. She will mediate cases in a national Lok Adalat in Guwahati.
- ❖ Joyita Mondal of West Bengal is India's first transgender judge.
- ❖ The next transgender to be appointed as a judge was Vidya Kamble of Maharashtra.

Heritage Cabinet

- ❖ The Odisha government decided to set up a unique 'Heritage Cabinet' and an Odia Language Commission as part of its move to preserve the relics and monuments in the state and enrich its rich culture and language
- ❖ The decision was taken at the meeting of the state cabinet, which was held for the first time in Puri, instead of Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ It would be made mandatory for all shops and business establishments in the state to display signboards in Odia language within a stipulated time.
- ❖ World Odia Language Convention will be organised every five years.
- ❖ Grants provided for the revival and popularisation of 'Bhagabat Tungis', which are small huts in the villages where religious texts are narrated to the people.



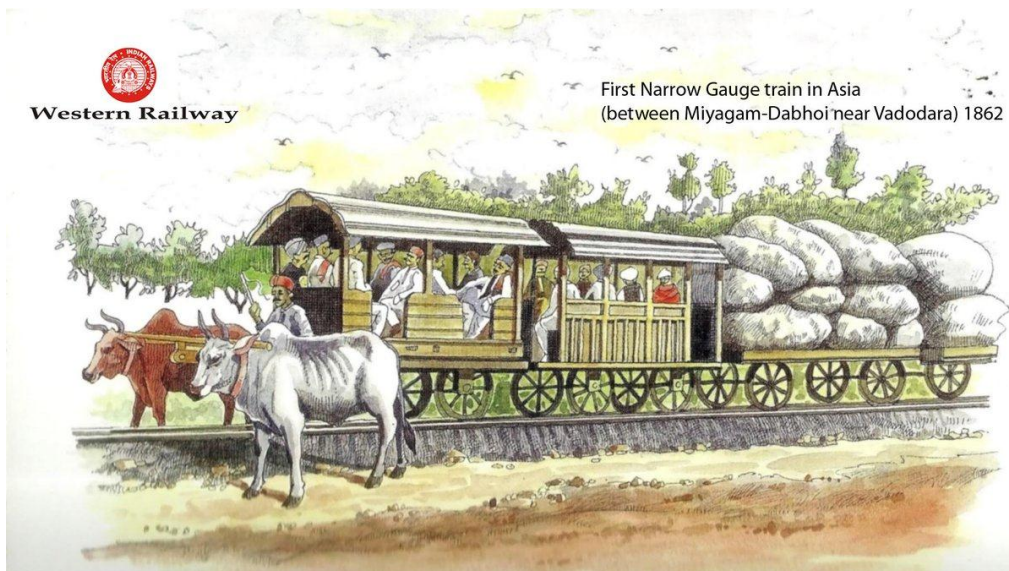
I Am Not Afraid of English

- ❖ The Haryana Education Department has launched "I am not afraid of English" initiative to promote English language right from Class 1 in the state's primary schools.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help the students to learn, read, write and speak English.
- ❖ The initiative has already been launched in 180 primary schools, in partnership with NGO 'Humana People to People India'.
- ❖ The 180 primary schools, where the initiative has been launched, have been made bag-free for children in Classes I and II, who have been provided lockers.
- ❖ Last year, the Uttarakhand Government too had launched a similar drive, changing the medium of instruction in 18,000 schools from Hindi to English in phases, starting from Class I.

MISCELLANEOUS

Oldest Narrow-Gauge Rail line

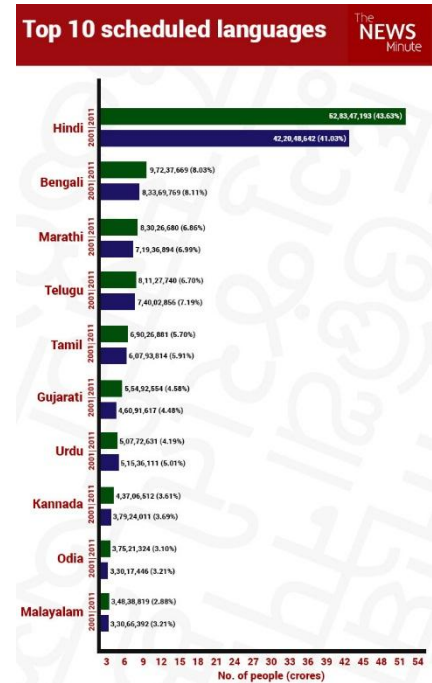
- ❖ The 33-km Dabhoi-Miyagam line, India's first narrow gauge railway stretch which started operations in 1862, will be closed forever.
- ❖ The line will soon be converted into broad gauge.
- ❖ The line was designed by a British engineer named A.W.Ford.



- ❖ Steam engines were deployed in the year 1863, when Maharaja Khanderao of Baroda State purchased three steam locomotives.
- ❖ The ministry of railways (Railway Board) had identified the Dabhoi-Miyagam line of Western Railway as one of the five narrow gauge lines that can be preserved for promoting heritage tourism in the country.
- ❖ The other lines which were identified for preservation are the Miyagam-Malsar line (38 km), the Charonda-Moti Karal line (19 km), the Pratap Nagar-Jambusar line (51 km) and the Bilmora-Waghi line (63 km).
- ❖ The five railway lines are collectively 204 km long in Gujarat, built by the erstwhile princely state of Baroda.

Sanskrit Speakers in India in 2011 Census

- ❖ Hindi and its various dialects continue to be the most spoken language in India, with more than 43% of the country declaring it their mother-tongue.
- ❖ While the speakers of several South Indian languages, and English, grow faster than the previous decades, they are losing their share in the overall percentage of speakers in the country.
- ❖ The Data was released by the office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Among India's 22 scheduled languages, Sanskrit is the least spoken.
- ❖ The ancient language speaking population is just 0.00198 per cent of India's total population of 121 crore.
- ❖ It is preceded by Bodo, Manipuri, Konkani and Dogri in terms of the number of speakers.
- ❖ English, an unscheduled language, is mother tongue to around 2.6 lakh people.



English as mother tongue - Top 5

The NEWS Minute

State	Number of People
Maharashtra	106,656
Tamil Nadu	24,495
Karnataka	23,227
West Bengal	14,945
Rajasthan	13,202

- ❖ The Census records a 'mother tongue' as the "the language spoken in childhood by the person's mother to the person".

Century's longest total lunar eclipse

- ❖ Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced that Century's (2001 AD to 2100 AD) longest total lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes will occur on July 27-28, 2018.
 - ❖ The entire eclipse will be visible from all parts of India.
 - ❖ It will also be visible in region covering Asia, Australia, and Russia – except northern part, Europe, Africa, east of South America and Antarctica.
 - ❖ Such long duration of total lunar eclipses earlier had occurred on July 16, 2000 for totality duration of 1 hour 46 minutes and on June 15, 2011 for totality duration of 1 hour 40 minutes.
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