

September - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court of Mexico has decriminalised abortion and ruled that criminal penalties on terminating pregnancies are unconstitutional.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that, Indian Railways must pay compensation to passengers if trains run late.
- ❖ The Assam government has unveiled an electric vehicle (EV) policy for phasing out vehicles running on fossil fuels by 2030.
- ❖ India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
 - This is the highest air purifier tower of the country.
- ❖ China endorses the Taliban government in Afghanistan and announces USD 31 million aid to Afghanistan.
- ❖ Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni, under whose captainship India had won the first T20 World Cup, will return to Team India as the team mentor for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2021.
- ❖ The Union approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russian on cooperation in the field of Geosciences.
- ❖ The actress Tamannaah Bhatia launched her book 'Back to the Roots'.
 - She has co-authored the book with celebrity lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho.
- ❖ The Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team.
 - He had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.

TAMIL NADU

HRCE Announcements

- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) will start 10 more colleges at a cost of ₹150 crore at Kolathur, Kilpauk, Vilathikulam, Thoppampatti, Anaikattu, Kalasapakkam, Thirukattupalli, Lalgudi, Kadayam and Thiruchengode.
- ❖ Old-age home at a cost of ₹5 crore will be set up in Chennai, Palani and Tirunelveli.



- ❖ If the marriage is conducted in the marriage hall temple, they need to pay just maintenance change.
- ❖ Tonsuring heads too would be free and the amount will be paid by the temple administration.
- ❖ Temple priests and workers will get new clothes for Pongal.
- ❖ It will soon introduce whole day 'annadhanam' at the famous Arulmigu Mariamman Temple in Samayapuram near Tiruchi.
- ❖ It will become the second major shrine in Tiruchi district to provide annadhanam for the whole day to devotees after Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam.
- ❖ Besides Samayapuram temple, the scheme is to be implemented at the Sri Subramanya Swamy temples at Tiruthani and Tiruchendur.
- ❖ Annadhanam was started at the Samayapuram Sri Mariamman temple in 2002.
- ❖ The Minister announced ₹150 crore for renovating Tiruchendur temple and ₹125 crore for improving infrastructure in Bhavani Amman temple in Periya palayam.
- ❖ Temples in Palani, Samayapuram, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruthani and Rameswaram will get ₹250 crore for creating amenities.
- ❖ The state government will melt into gold bars the tiny bits of jewellery offered by devotees at temples run by the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department and deposit them in banks to raise funds for development projects and welfare schemes at the temples.
- ❖ Big temples such as Tiruthani, Palani, Samayapuram and Tiruchendur would top in the stock of gold jewellery
- ❖ 2,000 kg of gold jewellery could get converted to gold bars.
- ❖ The department had been doing this exercise from 1978 till 2010.

IREDA and TANGEDCO

- ❖ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has entered into a pact with Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).
- ❖ It is for providing technical expertise in developing of renewable energy projects and raising of funds.
- ❖ The Tangedco has planned to augment its renewable energy sources by 25,000 MW in the next 10 years.
- ❖ This includes 20000 MW solar energy, 3000 MW of hydro power and 2000 MW electricity generated by gas turbines.

- ❖ Its own generation from thermal power stations is only 4320 MW as against the average demand of 15,000 MW.



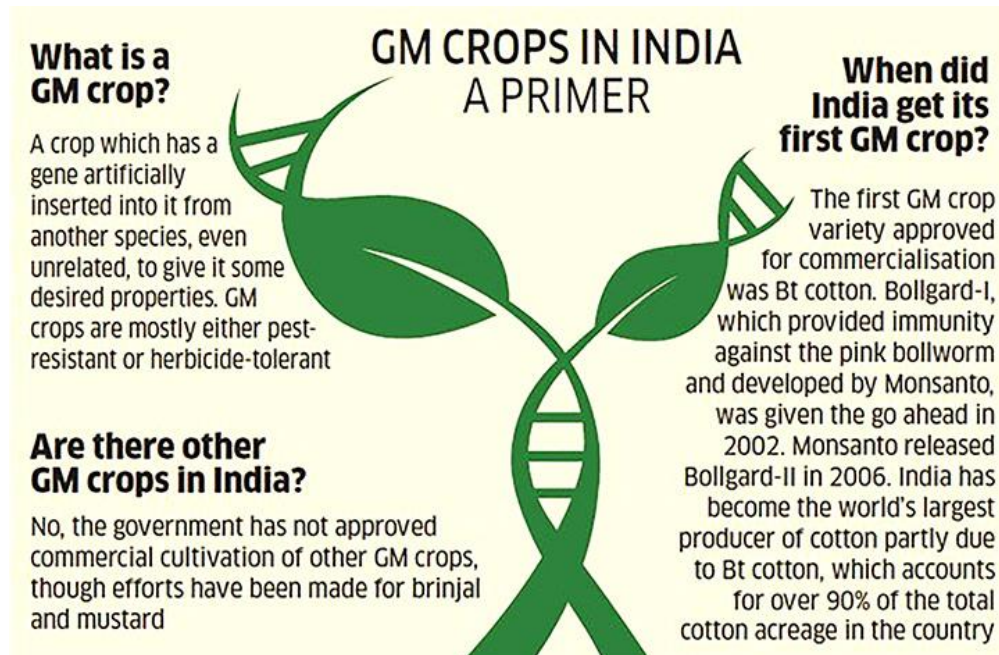
Information and Publicity announcements

- ❖ The Minister for Information and Publicity M P Saminathan announced these measures in the Tamilnadu State Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ He announced setting up of a Journalists' Welfare Board.
- ❖ Kalaigiar Ezhudhukol Award will be awarded to journalists who contribute to the upliftment of the downtrodden
- ❖ Statues of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and former President A P J Abdul Kalam will come up at the prestigious Queen Mary's College and Anna University in Chennai respectively.
- ❖ It is significant as Abdul kalam mentored students at the institute by staying in a hostel room before his ascension to Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2002.
- ❖ Statues of freedom fighters Veerapandia Kattabomban, and Marudhu Brothers will be installed in Gandhi Mandapam, Guindy at Chennai.
- ❖ The bust of Anjalai Ammal and Keezhapaluvur Chinnasamy will come up at Cuddalore and Ariyalur respectively.
- ❖ A statue will be erected at the Government Guest House in Chepauk in memory of Dravidian stalwart V R Nedunchezian, who had served in the cabinets of C N Annadurai, M Karunanidhi, M G Ramachandran, and J Jayalalithaa.
- ❖ The Statues in memory of Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy, Moovalur Ramamirthan, and Dr Mu Varadarasanar will come up at Pudukkottai, Mayiladuthurai, and Ranipet districts.

NATIONAL

GM soy meal

- ❖ India allowed imports of GM soy meal for the first time to help the poultry industry.
- ❖ Besides the Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai, traders could now import soy meal via the Mumbai Sea Port, the Tuticorin Sea Port, and the Visakhapatnam Sea Port.
- ❖ The imports could take place from countries like Argentina, Europe and the US
- ❖ Soymeal is a protein-rich solid leftover raw material after extracting oil from soyabean seed.
- ❖ There are three types of GM foods, one with Genetically Modified Organism (GMO), second with Living Modified Organism (LMO) and third with Non-Living Modified Organism (NLMO).
- ❖ The soymeal is NLMO.



What is a GM crop?
A crop which has a gene artificially inserted into it from another species, even unrelated, to give it some desired properties. GM crops are mostly either pest-resistant or herbicide-tolerant

When did India get its first GM crop?
The first GM crop variety approved for commercialisation was Bt cotton. Bollgard-I, which provided immunity against the pink bollworm and developed by Monsanto, was given the go ahead in 2002. Monsanto released Bollgard-II in 2006. India has become the world's largest producer of cotton partly due to Bt cotton, which accounts for over 90% of the total cotton acreage in the country

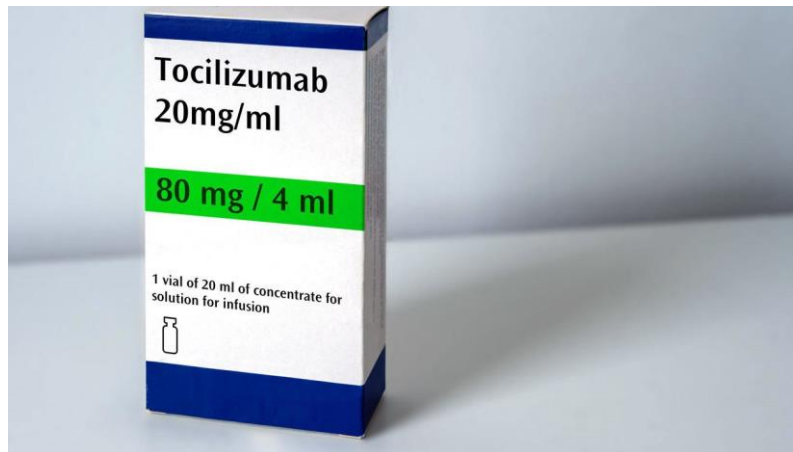
Are there other GM crops in India?
No, the government has not approved commercial cultivation of other GM crops, though efforts have been made for brinjal and mustard

GM crops

- ❖ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- ❖ GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.
- ❖ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.

- ❖ Use of the unapproved GM variant is punishable under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

Tocilizumab



- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the generic version of Tocilizumab for emergency use for the treatment of Covid-19 among adult patients.
- ❖ It is produced by the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Hetero.
- ❖ The medicine would be available under the brand name of Tocira.
- ❖ Hetero's Tocilizumab is the bio-similar version of Roche's Actemra/RoActemra.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

A promotional banner for Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021. The banner features the text 'Participate in India's largest sanitation survey' and 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'Launch - 9th September'. The banner also includes logos for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Government of India, and the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 initiative. At the bottom, there are three focus areas: 'Solid and Liquid Waste Management', 'Menstrual Hygiene Management', and 'ODF Sustainability & ODF Plus Implementation'. The background of the banner shows a blurred image of people and sanitation facilities.

- ❖ It will be launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase -2, as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ The Survekshan 2021 aims to assist in the acceleration of ODF plus interventions and results in India.
- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) had earlier commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019.

PRANA portal

- ❖ The Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav launched a portal called PRANA portal.
- ❖ It will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ It aims to comply with India's commitment to ensure clean air and blue skies to everybody.
- ❖ The Non-attainment cities are those cities that failed to meet the National air quality standards in a five-year period.
- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) seeks to achieve 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter (PM10 as well as PM2.5) concentrations in India by 2024.

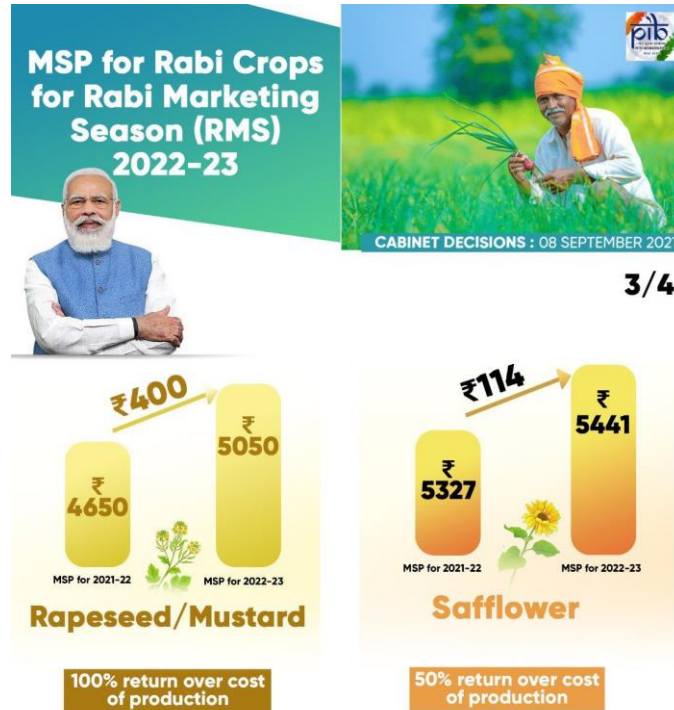


Deity is owner of land attached to temple

- ❖ According to supreme court bench, Deity is the owner of land attached to a temple.
- ❖ A priest cannot be treated as Bhumi swami (owner of land).

- ❖ The priest holds the land just for the management of property of the temple.
- ❖ Priest is only a grantee to manage the property of the deity.

MSP for Rabi



- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the MSP for all mandated Rabi crops for the Rabi Marketing Season 2022-23.
- ❖ MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- ❖ Currently, it fixes MSPs for 23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- ❖ It is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- ❖ The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced that MSP would be kept at levels of 1.5 the cost of production.
- ❖ The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

75% quota for locals

- ❖ Jharkhand State aims to provide 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000.

- ❖ Once notified, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, to pass such a law.

Best Tourism Villages

- ❖ Meghalaya's Whistling village, Kongthong, has been nominated by the Ministry of Tourism for the UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation) 'Best Tourism Villages' award.
- ❖ The two other villages in India that have also been nominated for UNWTO 'Best Tourism Villages' award are - Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh and Pochampally in Telangana.



NSCN Agreement

- ❖ A ceasefire agreement has been signed between the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Khaplang (K) led by Nikki Sumi for one year.
- ❖ The main objective of the organization is to establish a sovereign Naga State "Nagalim".
- ❖ It will consist of all the areas that have been inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India as well as Northwest Myanmar.

Emergency Landing Facility

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer in Rajasthan.

- ❖ For the first time, a National Highway will be used for the emergency landing of aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).



100-day plan for Civil Aviation

- ❖ The 100-day plan for boosting India's civil aviation sector will begin with the construction of 4 new airports across Kushi nagar, Agartala, Dehradun, and Jewar in the next 100 days.
- ❖ The first airport will be in Kushi nagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Kushi nagar will become the focal point of the Buddhist circuit.

India's first bio-brick based building

- ❖ India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- ❖ The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.
- ❖ The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat.
- ❖ It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.

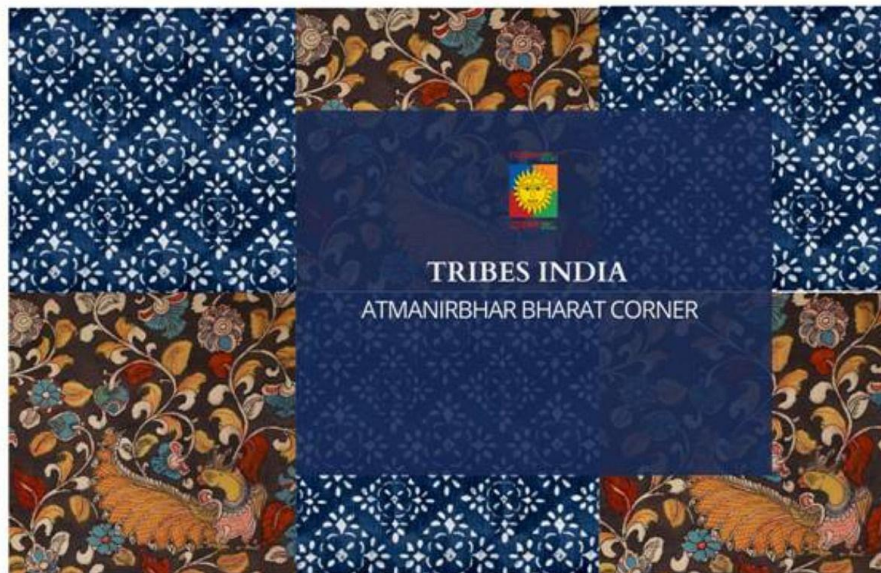
5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

- ❖ The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) and first global parliamentary summit on counter terrorism is organised at Vienna, Austria.

- ❖ Both the events in Vienna are being organised by the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria with the support of the United Nations.
- ❖ It will be the first physically attended global parliamentary event post Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Om Birla and the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha attended these events.



Atma Nirbhar Bharat corners



- ❖ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is setting up an Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.

- ❖ The first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The 75 countries include Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, Singapore, Russia, the US, Indonesia, Greece and Cyprus among others.

INTERNATIONAL

Abdala and Soberana



- ❖ Cuba has become the first country in the world to vaccinate children as young as two years old.
- ❖ However, the jabs given to the children are homegrown which has not been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ Cuba completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines.
- ❖ The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international and scientific peer review.
- ❖ They are based on recombinant protein technology — the same used by the United States' Novavax and France's Sanofi.
- ❖ Novavax and Sanofi are also awaiting the WHO approval.
- ❖ Unlike many other shots in use, recombinant vaccines do not require extreme refrigeration.

13th BRICS Summit

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India chaired the 13th BRICS Summit virtually.
- ❖ The Indian Chair of BRICS in 2021 also coincides with the 15th anniversary of BRICS.
- ❖ The theme for the 13th BRICS Summit 2021 will be 'BRICS@15: Intra BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation, and consensus.
- ❖ The leaders of the five nations will deliberate on significant regional and global issues, including Afghanistan.
- ❖ This will also be the second time that Prime Minister Modi chairs the BRICS summit after in 2016 Goa Summit.
- ❖ BRICS is the grouping of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- ❖ In BRICS, originally the first four were grouped as BRIC before South Africa was inducted in 2010.

Key Takeaways

<p>Reforming Multilateral System</p> <p>Leaders endorsed the joint statement on strengthening and reforming the multilateral system adopted by five foreign ministers, and agreed on the principles of strengthening and reforming the multilateral system</p>	<p>UNSC Reforms</p> <p>Summit called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations, including instilling new life in the discussions on reforming the UN Security Council</p>	<p>Space & Climate Cooperation</p> <p>Agreement on space agencies and remote sensing will help enhance research capabilities in global climate change, disaster management, environment protection, prevention of food and water scarcity. Leaders expressed commitment to fully implement UNFCCC, its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Agriculture Cooperation</p> <p>Agricultural Research Platform launched; Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation adopted</p>	<p>Green Tourism</p> <p>Green tourism to promote measures which can shape a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive tourism sector</p>
<p>Focus Areas</p> <p>Intra-Brics trade to boost cooperation among customs departments</p> <p>New Development Bank's progress in Expanding membership: Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay</p>				

2021PJ1

- ❖ The Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA has marked the 1,000th Near-Earth Asteroid named '2021 PJ1' as it passed Earth.
- ❖ The asteroid was not a threat to Earth but it was a historic event.
- ❖ The Near-Earth Asteroids and comets are collectively referred to Near-Earth Objects (NEOs).

- ❖ The first radar observation of the asteroid '1566 Icarus' was conducted in 1968.

Naval exercise with Morocco



- ❖ India which has been at the forefront in developing a Maritime Domain Awareness network in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) recently conducted bilateral naval exercises with Morocco and Algerian navies.
- ❖ According to the Indian Navy, INS Tabar made a port call at Casablanca in Morocco.
- ❖ Morocco is strategically located in the Maghreb region and is the largest country of Africa.
- ❖ INS Tabar (F44) is the third of the Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan-2

- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft has completed 9,000 orbits around the moon.

- ❖ It has detected minor elements of manganese and chromium through remote sensing for the first time from the surface of the moon.
- ❖ The discovery was clearly a surprise as these elements are less than one weight percentage on the moon.
- ❖ The two elements, Chromium and Manganese, were detected at few places during the intense solar flare events.
- ❖ So far, the presence of these elements on the lunar surface was only known through soil samples which were collected during the earlier missions.
- ❖ ISRO Chief K Sivan, also the Secretary of the Department of Space, released the science and the data product documents from the mission.

ENVIRONMENT

Sharks' status

- ❖ According to a new red list by IUCN, world's sharks and rays have been witnessing declines in their populations since 2014.
- ❖ Sharks are now threatened with extinction.
- ❖ About 37% of sharks and rays across the world are considered endangered as of 2021.

Slender Gecko in Goa

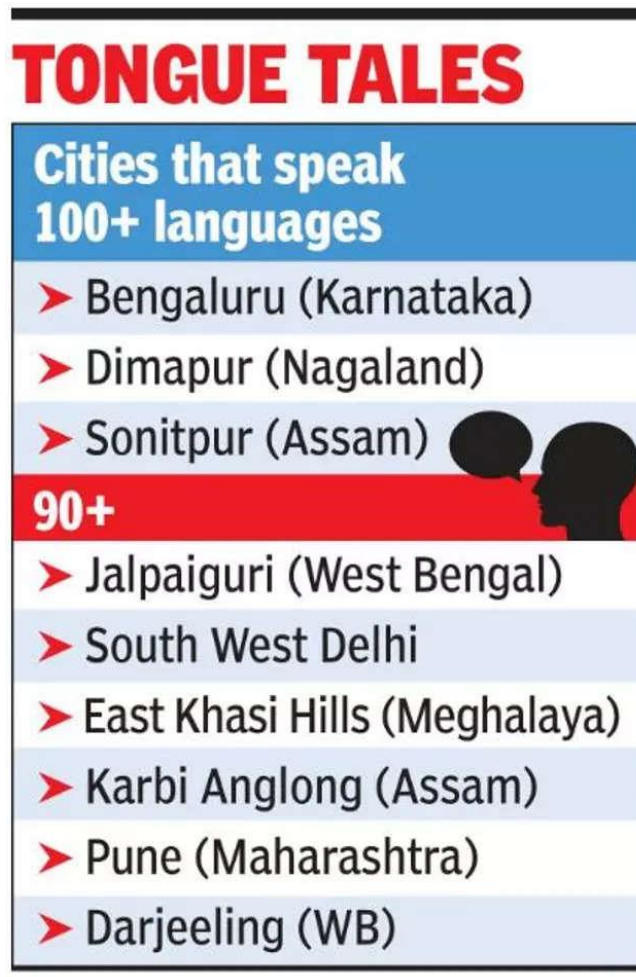


- ❖ A tiny slender gecko, *Hemiphyllodactylus goensis*, has been described by researchers as a new species from Goa and the northern Western Ghat region.
- ❖ It was published in *Zootaxa* "A new species of the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* Bleeker, 1860," a zoological journal.
- ❖ The Goan slender gecko is one of the smallest of the species in India.

- ❖ It is hardly 32mm in size that can sit on the human thumb.
- ❖ Hemiphylloclodactylus goaensis is only the eight Indian species of the genus and 44th globally.
- ❖ This is also the first species of animal described from Goa University.

STATES

Most Linguistically Diverse



- ❖ Bengaluru is the top district in India where the greatest number of languages are spoken.
- ❖ With 107 languages, Bengaluru has a diverse set of languages spoken in the district including 22 scheduled and 84 non-scheduled languages.
- ❖ In Bengaluru, 44.5 per cent of people speak Kannada, 15 per cent Tamil, 14 per cent Telugu, 12 per cent Urdu, 6 per cent Hindi and 3 per cent Malayalam.



- ❖ The other districts where more than 100 languages are spoken is Dimapur in Nagaland with 103 languages and Sonitpur in Assam with 101 languages.
- ❖ The least diverse districts included Yanam in Puducherry, Kaimur in Bihar, Kaushambi and Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh and Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In these districts, less than 20 languages were spoken.
- ❖ The data did not include dialects, but only scheduled and non-scheduled languages.

Online Game in Karnataka

- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet decided to ban online gambling or betting in the state by amending the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala have already banned online rummy game.
- ❖ But the Madras High Court in August 2021 struck down a recent amendment (2020) made to the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act of 1930.

Karbi Anglong Peace Accord

- ❖ It was signed between the government of India, government of Assam and six factions of the Karbi.
- ❖ As per the accord, the armed groups shall shun their path of violence within one month of the date of signing of this Accord.
- ❖ The Government of Assam will consider favorably a proposal of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) to notify Karbi as official language of KAAC.
- ❖ English, Hindi and Assamese will continue to be used as official languages.

Vatan prem Yohana

- ❖ It is a repackaged version of Madar-e-Vatan scheme by the government of Gujarat.
- ❖ Madar-e-Vatan has been renamed due to association of the title with Persian language.
- ❖ It is the biggest campaign for public participation in developmental works.
- ❖ Under the scheme, Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) and NRIs can contribute 60 percent of the cost of a village-level project.

Chhattisgarh domicile certificate

- ❖ Chhattisgarh has decided to issue the domicile certificate.
- ❖ It is an official document issued by the State Government of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It serves as proof of a person residing in a particular state.
- ❖ It will be issued to the students studying outside the state.

SPORTS

Durand Cup



- ❖ The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
- ❖ This is the oldest club football tournament in Asia.
- ❖ It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This tournament has been named after Mortimer Durand.
- ❖ He was the then Foreign Secretary in charge of India.

Guinness World Records – Ronaldo

- ❖ Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals scored in men's international football.

- ❖ Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals.

