



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: CS9 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

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The National Hindi Diwas

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and topic details of the National Hindi Diwas.

Syllabus mapping:

GS-1- Indian Society: The unity and diversity of India.

For Prelims:

What is the official language and its constitutional provisions, difference between the official language and the national language? Schedule 8 facts and languages.

For Mains:

The evolution of Hindi official language of the union? What are the issues with the official language formula and government initiatives to promote the national language?

Why in the News?

Hindi Diwas is observed nationwide on 14 of September every year. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as the official language of India. Today, Hindi stands as one of the most widely spoken languages globally and serves as the mother tongue for over 520 million individuals.





The official language vs the national language vs classical Language

Aspect	Official Language	National Language	Classical Language
Definition	A language designated by a country's constitution or laws for official government functions.	A language that holds special status, representing the identity, culture, and unity of a nation.	A language that has a rich heritage and classical literature, recognized for its ancient historical significance.
Purpose	Facilitates communication and documentation in government affairs and legal processes.	Reflects the cultural and historical identity of the nation; may symbolize national heritage.	Preserves and promotes ancient literature, philosophy, and cultural heritage.

Usage	Used for administrative purposes, court proceedings, and formal state functions.	Often used in cultural, educational, and social contexts; promoted in media and public life.	Studied for academic and cultural purposes; often used in classical literature, religious texts, and historical studies.
Example	Hindi: Official language of India.	India does not have a national language.	Sanskrit: Recognized as a classical language of India with a rich historical and literary tradition.

Journey of Hindi as the official language:

The Official Language Committee, chaired by Shri K.M. Munshi and with Shri G.K. Iyengar as a key member, played a pivotal role in recommending Hindi as the official language of India. Their efforts were instrumental in shaping India's language policy, leading to the formal adoption of Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, on September 14, 1949.

Language Statistics from the 2011 Census of India

Most Spoken Languages:

1. Hindi: 41% of the population speaks Hindi, making it the most widely spoken language.
2. Bengali: 8.1% of the population speaks Bengali.
3. Telugu: 7% of the population speaks Telugu.
4. Marathi: 7% of the population speaks Marathi.
5. Tamil: 5.9% of the population speaks Tamil.

Linguistic Diversity: The 2011 Census recorded a total of 122 major languages and 1599 other languages spoken across the country.

Scheduled Languages: The Constitution of India recognizes 22 languages under the Eighth Schedule, which include Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Maithili, Santali, Nepali, Konkani, Sindhi, Dogri, Manipuri, Bodo, Sanskrit, and Kashmiri.



Government of India's Steps to promote Hindi Language:

Constitutional Position:

Part XVII: Constitution of India (Article 343-351)

Article 343: Designates Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.

Article 344: Provides for the creation of a Commission for the Promotion of the Official Language.

Article 345: Allows states to adopt Hindi or other languages for official purposes.

Article 346: Specifies Hindi as the official language of the Union for communication between the Union and the states.

Article 351: Mandates the promotion of Hindi as the link language and its enrichment by assimilating elements from other languages.

Non-Constitutional Measures

Official Languages Act, 1963: Provides for the use of Hindi and English in official communication and prescribes the procedures for the use of Hindi in the central government.

Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (Recognition) Act, 1956: Established a body to organize literary events, support authors, and promote Hindi literature.

NEP 2020: The NEP 2020, advocates for the three-language formula, and many states promote this formula.

Institutional Mechanism: under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the official language department is responsible for promoting Hindi as the official language.

Scheme and initiatives:

Official Language Policy: Outlines the implementation of Hindi in various government departments and institutions, encouraging its use in administrative functions.

Hindi Pakhwada: An annual observance from September 1st to September 15th aimed at promoting Hindi use in government offices and institutions.

Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar: Recognize individuals and organizations for their exemplary contributions to the promotion and use of Hindi in official communications.

Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar: Honors institutions and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in integrating Hindi in official and academic spheres.

Central Hindi Training Institute (CHTI): Provides Hindi language courses to improve proficiency among non-Hindi speakers, facilitating better use of Hindi in official settings.

Kantahastha Translation Software: Enhances the accuracy and efficiency of translating Hindi texts through advanced memory-based technology.

Hindi Shabd Sindhu - Version 2: Provide an updated and comprehensive Hindi dictionary to support language learning and usage.

World Hindi Secretariat (WHS): Promotes Hindi internationally and advocates for its recognition as a UN official language.

Use of Hindi in Digital Technology: Increases the accessibility of Hindi through Unicode support and digital platforms.

Role of Hindi as a unifying factor in Indian society:

1. Bridging Linguistic Divides: India is home to hundreds of languages and dialects. Hindi, being one of the most widely spoken languages, serves as a common linguistic medium for people from diverse linguistic backgrounds, facilitating easier communication and interaction.

2. Symbol of National Unity: Hindi, as one of the official languages of India, is often associated with national identity. Its widespread use helps foster a sense of belonging and unity among Indians, creating a shared cultural and linguistic framework.

3. Standardized Education: Hindi is taught in schools across India, making it a common medium of instruction in many regions.

4. Official Communication: Hindi is used extensively in government documents, uniformity helps in streamlining government operations and making information accessible to a broader audience, enhancing administrative efficiency and inclusiveness.

5. National Celebrations: Hindi is often used in national celebrations, festivals, and public events. The use of Hindi in such contexts helps promote a shared cultural experience and strengthens the feeling of unity among citizens.

6. Workplace Communication: In many urban and professional settings, Hindi serves as a common language for communication among people from different regions. This facilitates collaboration and economic activities, contributing to a more integrated society.

7. Online Platforms: The rise of digital media in Hindi allows for the exchange of ideas and information across linguistic boundaries. Social media platforms and digital content in Hindi connect people from various regions, fostering a sense of community and shared experience.

Conclusion

While Hindi can act as a unifying factor, it is also important to respect and celebrate India's rich linguistic diversity. Balancing the use of Hindi with the preservation and promotion of regional languages ensures that the unity achieved through Hindi does not come at the expense of regional identities and cultural richness.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: September 14 is celebrated annually as National Hindi Day.

Statement-II: On September 14, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India officially adopted Hindi as the National language of the country.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

Answer: C

MAINS QUESTION:

Indian society is characterized by unity in diversity, with language being a prominent aspect of this diversity. Do you think that, in recent years, Hindi has become more popular not only as the official language but also as a widely spoken dialect across India?

(150 words 10 marks)

Prelims Bits: Organizations in the news.

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and topic details of the International organization in the news.

Syllabus mapping:

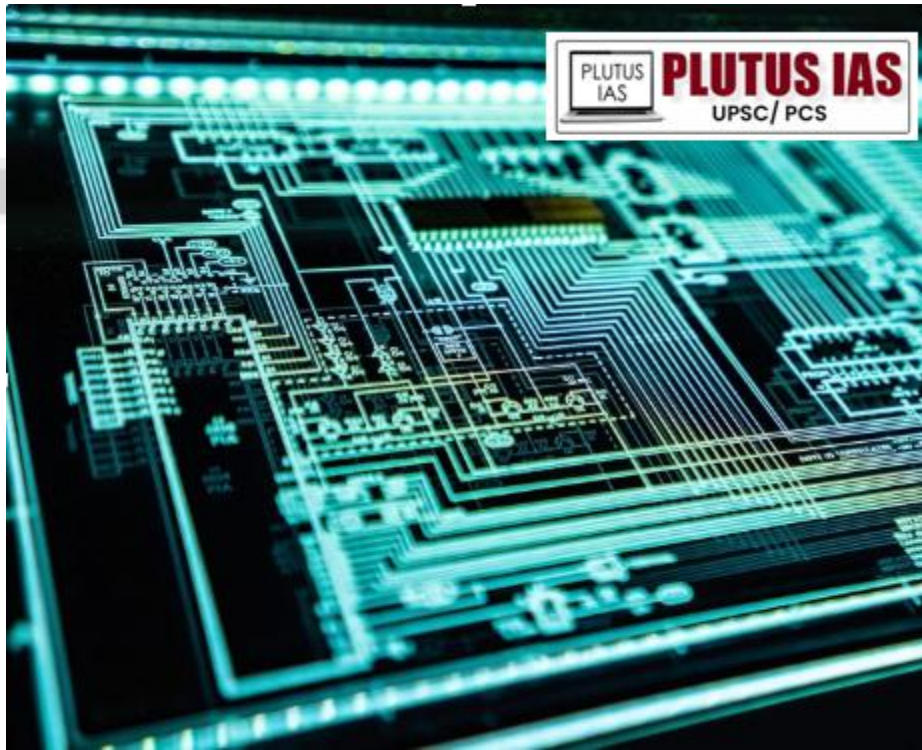
Various events of national national and international importance.

For Prelims:

What are the key facts related to the CHIP-4, GCC, and ICA and India's engagement with all these organizations?

CHIP-4 Alliance

Recent Context: Recently India joined the US-led Chip 4 alliance which will boost semiconductor manufacturing in India.



Key Facts:

CHIPS Act: The CHIPS Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden in August 2022, is designed to enhance semiconductor production and research within the US. The Act also aims to reinforce collaborations with international allies, including India.

Members: United States, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, India (2024)

Formation: Proposed By: United States, Date: March 2022

Objective:

1. Enhance the "security" and "resilience" of global semiconductor supply chains.
2. Reduce dependence on semiconductor production in China.
3. Promote sustainable semiconductor manufacturing within member countries.
4. Industry Impact: Represents over 70% of the global semiconductor industry's value.

Key Goals:

1. Policy Cooperation: Align policies to support semiconductor production and supply chain stability.
2. Supply Chain Security: Improve the security and resilience of semiconductor supply chains.
3. Investment and Innovation: Encourage investment and innovation in semiconductor technologies.

Strategic Importance:

1. Aims to strengthen collaboration among leading semiconductor producers to address global supply chain challenges.
2. Seeks to secure and diversify semiconductor manufacturing sources to mitigate geopolitical risks.

Focus Areas:

1. Sustainable and efficient semiconductor production practices.
2. Joint efforts to advance semiconductor technology and infrastructure.
3. Coordinated response to supply chain disruptions and market fluctuations.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Recent Context:

India's Foreign Minister recently attended the trade meeting with the GCC country's ministers and aimed to enhance the trade ties between the GCC and India.



Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): Key Facts

Establishment: May 1981 **Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Member States: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman

Organizational Structure: Supreme Council, Ministerial Council, Secretariat General.

Objectives and Goals:

1. Economic integration among member states.
2. Coordination in political, economic, and cultural matters.
3. Promotion of common interests and goals within the region.

Key Initiatives:

1. Efforts to create a common market and customs union.
2. Collaborations on security and defense issues.
3. Joint ventures and investments across member states.

Presidency Rotation: The presidency of the GCC rotates annually among the member states in alphabetical order.

Major Achievements:

1. Establishment of a single economic market.
2. Coordination in regional security and defense.
3. Collaborative projects in various sectors including infrastructure, technology, and health.

India's Trade Relations with GCC

Trade Volume: The GCC is India's largest trading partner bloc, with bilateral trade valued at over USD 154 billion for the fiscal year 2021-22.

Oil and Gas Imports: GCC countries supply nearly 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of its gas imports. In 2021-22, India's crude oil imports from the GCC amounted to approximately \$48 billion, while LNG and LPG imports totaled around \$21 billion.

Investments: GCC investments in India are valued at over USD 18 billion, highlighting the significant economic ties between the two regions.

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) 1895:

Recent Context:

the ICA announced that India will hold the Meeting of the ICA for the first time in the history of the ICA in the month of November 2024.



Key Facts about the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

Foundation: Established in 1895

Purpose:

1. Promotes and supports cooperative enterprises worldwide
2. Advocates for cooperative principles and practices

Headquarters: Located in Geneva, Switzerland

Objectives:

1. Enhance cooperation among cooperatives
2. Develop and promote cooperative principles
3. Provide a global platform for cooperative enterprises

Core Principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic members control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

Organizational Structure:

General Assembly: The highest decision-making body

Board of Directors: Governs between General Assemblies

Sectoral Organizations: Focus on specific cooperative sectors (e.g., agriculture, consumer, worker cooperatives)

Global Reach: Represents around 3 million cooperatives

Membership: Approximately 1 billion cooperative members worldwide

Role: Apex body for cooperatives, providing a global voice, knowledge-sharing, and coordinated action

India and the ICA: The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is the primary body representing Indian cooperatives within the ICA.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS:

Q.1. With reference to the International Cooperative Alliance, Consider the following statement:

1. The ICA is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva Switzerland.
2. The objective of the ICA is to enhance collaboration in cross-country cooperatives.
3. The Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the representative of India at ICA meetings and conferences.

How many of the above-given statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q.2. Consider the following countries:

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. Iraq
4. Kuwait
5. UAE
6. Oman
7. Afghanistan

How many of the above-mentioned countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only four
- D. Only five

Q.3. Which of the following countries has enacted the CHIPS ACT to enhance the manufacturing and development of the cheaps?

- A. USA
- B. EU
- C. UK
- D. UAE

ANSWERS

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. A



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[Munde Dhananjay Navnath](#)