Papua New Guinea has highest number of â€~living' indigenous languages in world

Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Country in Oceania has highest number of â€Tliving' indigenous languages in world (840). Living languages stands for languages that are still being used and spoken by people. India stands fourth in list with 453 languages.

In 2016, United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) highlighted that 40% of estimated 6,700 languages spoken around world were in danger o

f disappearing.

Contents

Ethnologue is a directory of languages which lists 7,111 living languages world wide.

According to Ethnologue-

3,741 languages (over half total) which have fewer than 1,000 speakers.

Some language families are very diverse and have several languages under them, but are spoken by only a small percentage of population. For example, Trans-New Guinea family, which has 478 languages, accounts for just 0.05% of total language e speakers.

Indo-European family has 445 languages including Spanish, English, German, Punj

abi and Bengali and has highest percentage of speakers- 46.31%.

Most Indian languages are derivatives of languages that are spoken in other par ts of Asia as well, for example- Sino-Tibetan languages are spoken across Northe ast India, China, Bhutan, Nepal and other South East Asian countries. One of out liers to this trend is Andamanese language family, which is confined to India al one.

Greenberg's Diversity Index

As per Ethnologue, â€~Greenberg's diversity index' is the probability that any two people of country selected at random would have different mother tongues

Value ranges from: 0-1, where  0' indicates no diversity i.e. everyone has same mother tongue and  1' indicates total diversity i.e. no two people will have same mother tongue. Therefore higher diversity index would mean more languages spread across country.

Most widely spoken languages worldwide: English, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic and Spanish are most widely spoken languages worldwide when only 1st-languages are considered. These 5 languages account for what is spoken by over 40% of people world wide.

Number of Languages by Region– Asia (2303) and Africa (2140) account for high est number of indigenous languages (over 70% of total), Pacific (1322) and Ameri cas (1058).

Widely English-speaking nations- United States (335 languages) and Australia (3 19) are among countries where highest number of languages are spoken this is bec ause they have small and rapidly declining pockets of indigenous language speaking populations.

Languages in Decline

As per UNESCO's †Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger†-

Since 1950 228 languages have become extinct.

About 10% of languages are classified †vulnerable', while another 10% are â € critically endangered'.

In India, 5 languages have become extinct since 1950, while 42 are critically endangered.

Several languages are now "endangered― and in case of languages such as Tiniguan (Colombian origin), there is just a single native speaker left.

The year 2019 is designated as United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages. It aims to promote native tongues in 5 key areas-

Parliament passes Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

Parliament passed Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 for speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from government reside ntial accommodations. The Bill amends Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 which provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises in certain cases.

The bill provides for strict provisions to evict illegal occupants from government property allotted to government officials and members of Lok Sabha and Rajya

Sabha.

Residential accommodation: It has been defined as occupation of public premises by person on grant of license for such occupation. Such license must be given f or fixed tenure or for period person holds office. A Further, occupation must be allowed under rules made by Central, State/UT government, or a statutory author ity (such as Parliament Secretariat, or Central Government Company or premises b elonging to state government).

Notice for eviction: It adds détailed provision laying down procedure for evict ion from residential accommodation. It empowers estate officer to issue written notice to person if he/she is in unauthorised occupation of residential accommod ation within three working days. This means that the bill now enables estate off icer to apply summary proceedings for evicting the unauthorised occupants after

a three-day notice.

Order of eviction: After considering the cause shown and making any other inqui ries, estate officer can give eviction order. If person fails to comply with ord er, then estate officer may evict such person from residential accommodation and take possession of it. For this purpose, estate officer can also use such for ce as required.

Also, estate officer now does not need to follow elaborate proceedings like ser ving notice, show cause, inquiry, rather he or she can initiate summary eviction

proceedings.

Payment of damages: If any person in unauthorised occupation of residential acc ommodation challenges eviction order passed by estate officer in court, then he is required to pay damages charges for every month of such occupation or accommo dation held during period of litigation.

India has contributed US \$5 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency fo r Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The contribution was provided in support of UNRWA's core programmes and services, including education, health c are, and relief and social services.

It is relief and human development agency of UN which supports more than 5 mill ion registered Palestinian refugees, and their descendants. It is only UN agency dedicated to help refugees from specific region or conflict. It is separate from UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Founded: It was established December 1949 following 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict

by UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 302 (IV).

Mandate: Its mandate is to contribute to welfare and human development of Pales tine refugees, who had fled or were expelled from their homes during 1948 Palest inc. were expelled from their homes during 1948 Palest

ine war as well during and following 1967 Six Day war.

Services: It originally offered services intended to provide jobs on public works projects and direct relief, but now it provides services like education, heal th care, and social services to population it supports. It also allows refugee s tatus to be inherited by descendants. Currently, it serves about 5.3 million refugees scattered around Middle East.

Areas of Operation: It provides aid in 5 areas of operation viz. Lebanon, Syria Jordan, Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Whereas, UNHCR pro

vides aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas.

Funded: It is funded by voluntary contributions from member states of UN. It al so receives some funding from regular budget of UN (mostly used for international staffing costs). India has increased its annual financial contribution to UNRW A from US \$1.25 million in 2016 to US\$ 5 million in 2018 and 2019.

8 August: India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement

Every year 8 August is celebrated in India as August Kranti Din, in which tribut e is paid to revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives in freedom struggle agai nst rule. Also teachings given by Father of the Nation (Bapu), Mahatma Gandhi ar e remembered.

8 August 2019 is being observed as 77th anniversary of August Kranti Din, which is considered as one of important milestones in history of freedom struggle of

our country.

Why 8 August? Every year 8 August is remembered as a conch shell of last battle for independence in Indian history. On this day in 1942, foundation of Quit Ind ia Movement, run by Mahatma Gandhi was laid, after which whole of India united a gainst British and British rule had to kneel down. Since Independence, 8 August is known as Revolution Day and ground in Bombay where it was started by hoisting flag is known as Kranti Maidan.

77 years of Quit India Movement (or August Movement): When British did not fulf ill their promise to liberate India even after taking help from India in 2nd wor Id war and when Cripps Mission (March 1942) also failed, then On August 8, 1942 Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement (or Bharat Chodo Andolan). The proposal for this movement was passed in Bombay session of All India Congress Committee on 08 August which paved way for a mass movement to attain independence. As Quit India Movement was launched in month of August, it is also known as August Movement or August Kranti. On 8th August 1942, as a precursor to India's independence, Quit India Movement was launched at Mumbai's historic Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan. Also Gandhiji gave the call to Do or Die in his Quit In

dia speech delivered at Gowalia Tank Maida, which inspired thousands of party wo

rkers but also created a frenzy among British who rushed to imprison entire Cong

ress leadership.

Only then Gandhiji was imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace in Pune and almost all lea ders were arrested. In such a situation, young leader Aruna Asif Ali hoisted Qui t India movement by hoisting tricolor at Gwalia Tank Ground in Mumbai on 9 Augus

------8 Aug 2019------

Top Current Affairs Today's News Headlines â€" 8 August 2019

Here are the top current affairs Today's News Headlines of 8 August 2019 for a Il competitive examinations of India. Contents

National Current Affairs Economy & Business Current AffairsMONETARY POLICY REVIEW MONETARY POLICY REVIEW

International Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs

Parliament passes bill increasing the number of judges in Supreme Court from 31 to 34 including the Chief Justice of India

Former External Affairs Minister and Delhi's ex-Chief Minister Sushma Swaraj

dies in New Delhi at the age of 67 Producer Director J. Om Prakash dies in Mumbai at 93

ISRO announces launch pf Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Tec hnology and Research

BSE Sensex: 36,691 (â€"286), NSE Nifty: 10,856 (â€"93)

India signs United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (U NISA)

RBI cuts repo rate to 5.4% from the current 5.75%

Reverse repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility stands revised to 5.15% Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate reduced to 6%

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decides to maintain the †accommodative†to maintain the †accommodative†to maintain the †accommodative†to maintain the †accommodativeâ€.

All members of MPC voted to reduce the policy reporate

MPC members: Ravindra Dholakia, Michael Debabrata Patra, Bibhu Prasad, Shaktika nta Das, Chetan Ghate and Pami Dua

GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 lowered to 6.9% from 7% earlier GDP growth forecast in 1st half of 2019-20 in the range of 5.8 to 6.6%

GDP growth forecast in 2nd half of 2019-20 in the range of 7.3% to 7.5%

Consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation forecast at 3.1% during July-Septemb er 2019 and at 3.5-3.7% in October-March 2019-20

Pakistan expels Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria, downgrades diplomatic ti es with India

India contributes USD 5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees

Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea has the highest number of †livingâ€

[™] indigenous languages in the world (840)

Indian Grandmaster Surya Shekhar Ganguly wins Belt and Road China Hunan Interna tional chess tournament in China

Badminton player P. V. Sindhu is the only Indian in the list of 15 Highest-Paid

Female Athletes 2019 released by Forbes

India (150/3 in 19.1) beat West Indies (146/6) by seven wickets in the third T2 0 International at Providence, Guyana, to complete a 3-0 sweep; Deepak Chahar (3/4) is Man of the Match and Krunal Pandya is Man of the Series

South African bowler Dale Steyn retires from test cricket at 36 after picking 4

39 wickets in 93 Tests at an average of 22.9

Germany's Fiona Kolbinger wins the mixed annual 4,000km cycling Transcontinen tal Race (Bulgaria: July 27â€"France: August 5), becoming the first woman to do

------8 Aug 2019------

Rajya Sabha passes National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Rajya Sabha has passed National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Now it has to be passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to amend National Institute of Design Act, 2014, which declares National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad a s an institution of national importance.

It seeks to declare four National Institutes of Design (NID) in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) a

s institutions of national importance.

Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under Societies Registr ation Act, 1860 and do not have power to grant degrees or diplomas. Once these f our institutions are declared of national importance, they will be granted the p ower to grant degrees and diplomas. Significance of National Importance Tag

It will help to produce highly skilled manpower in design sector which in turn, will create job opportunities, both direct and indirect. It will also provide s ustainable design interventions for handloom, crafts, rural technology, small, m edium (SMEs) and large scale enterprises (LSEs); and outreach programmes for cap acity, capability and institution building.

-----8 Aug 2019-----

IIT Guwahati Researchers develop portable device to detect bacteria without lab tests

A team of researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) has de veloped portable diagnostic device to detect bacteria without cell culture or mi crobiological assays. Researchers team work has been patented as well as publish ed in July 2019 issue of Journal of Materials Chemistry of Royal Society of Chem

istry.

Function: This hand-held device is well equipped to detect bacteria instantaneo usly without need for lab tests. The device has a bio-compatible sensor that can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis. These rapid detection kits are like those used for blood sugar monitoring or pregnancy detection. Working Principle: It is Organic Field Effect Transistor (OFET)–based Bacteri a Sensor (or Bacterial Diagnostic device) which has been shown to have ability t o detect bacteria and distinguish between Gram positive bacteria (such as S pneu moniae) and Gram negative (such as the common E. coli) types. Currently detectio n of bacteria in body fluids is done in laboratories. OFET is an electronic devi ce that works on principle that charges in vicinity of channels of certain semic onductors can induce à current in them. Therefore, charges on surface of bacteri um, induces a current in OFET, which is registered and read.

OFET devices developed by IIT-G team consists of a unique and hybrid tri-layer dielectric system built on simple glass and flexible PET (a kind of plastic) sub strates, and can operate at ultra-low operating voltages.

Need: Across the world bacterial infection is a common cause of morbidity and m ortality and even despite development of a range of antibiotics, challenge conti

nues to lie in diagnosing bacterial infection early on. Also,

Significance: Present techniques used are extremely time-consuming as cells de rived from a patient are cultured or grown in laboratories to detect and microan alyse bacteria. However, this new portable device, can instantly detect charges on cell walls of bacteria.

Application: This research has enabled rapid detection of bacteria, which is no t just important in healthcare but also in anti- bioterrorism measures as well a s environmental monitoring.

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United States designates China a †Currency Manipulator'

United States has designated China a "currency manipulator―, after countryâ€ TMs central bank allowed Yuan (Chinese Currency) to fall against dollar. This mov e could escalate tense trade relations between two nations.

Background

During US Presidential elections in 2016, US President Donald Trump had promise d to label China as a currency manipulator, but it was on hold until now as US D epartment of Treasury kept country on its watch list, declining to take any step . But now US Treasury Department has announced and determined that China is a â€ Currency Manipulator'.

US Aruguments:

US accused China of manipulating its currency to gain unfair competitive advant age in international trade and that China still targets on continuing to receive hundreds of billions of dollars which it have been taking from US with unfair t rade practices and currency manipulation.

Further US treasury department also alleged that China has a long history of fa cilitating an undervalued currency through sustained, large-scale intervention i

n FOREX market.

The Trigger: This recent action by US to designate China as a †Currency Manip ulator' came after China allowed its yuan to weaken past key 7-per-dollar leve I for the 1st time in more than a decade.

China Arguments:

As per Central Bank of China depreciation in its currency was due to effects of unilateralist and trade-protectionist measures and expectations for tariffs aga inst China.

Way Ahead: US will now engage with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to elimina te unfair competitive advantage created by China's latest actions. This move c ould further escalate tense trade relations between two nations.

-----8 Aug 2019-----

RACE: Rajasthan's New Higher Education Model

State government of Rajasthan has launched a new higher education model titled-Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE, for distribution of fa culties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources.

RACE model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit coll

eges that lack infrastructure.

Need: Even though sanctioned posts of teachers in government colleges are 6,500 , at present the posts falls short by about 2,000 teachers. Therefore until addi tional posts are created and new appointments made, RACE is expected to help cha nnelise resources and ensure quality education.

Working: Colleges in need will submit their requirement to nodal college in dis trict, which will send teachers on deputation, if needed, and provide facilities

like projectors, digital libraries, equipment and technicians.

With the adoption of this new model, all colleges would get equal opportunities

for imparting quality education.

RACE will give autonomy to small colleges and help them find solutions to their problems at local level. It will also help colleges situated in small towns fac ing shortage of faculties and infrastructure.

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8 Aug	2019	

Bangladesh- Russia signs uranium supply deal

Bangladesh signed deal with Russia for lifetime supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) in Bangladesh. Under the deal, Russia will supply nuclear fuel needed for plant during its entire life cycle. RNPP will co me into operation by 2022.

Deal was signed in Dhaka (Bangladesh capital) between Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL) Joint Stock Com pany, a Russian state-owned nuclear fuel firm. BAEC is tasked with implementing

project.

It is a framework agreement that focuses on pricing methodology. Through this a greement, both countries will work to determine prices of nuclear fuel, consider ing volatile global market which is marked by continuous changes.

RNPP Project:

In 2017, two countries (Russia and Bangladesh) have also signed spent fuel sent back agreement for management of nuclear waste of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).

Work on these two units of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP), each producing 1 200 MW of electricity is scheduled to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively

With power generation capacity of 1200 MW, each unit of power plant will have t o reload one-third (33%) of total required nuclear fuel in every 18 months (1.5 years), and 1st, 2nd and 3rd reload will be provided by Russian firm free of cos