

Bhojpuri likely to be included in Eighth Schedule

Bhojpuri may get into the Eighth Schedule but it will not feature among the languages recognized by the [Union Public Service Commission](#) (UPSC) for its competitive exams. As the struggle for Bhojpuri-speaking people scattered among a huge swath enters its last lap, the UPSC has proposed a constitutional amendment to delink the new entrants to the Eighth Schedule from its scheme of exams. If ratified by Parliament, Bhojpuri will finally make to the list of the scheduled languages. Scheduled status brings certain advantages to a language. It makes it mandatory for the government to take measures for the development of a scheduled language so that it grow and become effective means of communication in due course of time. Bhojpuri - enlisted as mother tongue by over 3.3 crore people during the 2001 Census - in the list of scheduled languages. The 22 languages which are listed in the Eighth Schedule are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. While 14 of them have been under the Eighth Schedule even since Constitution came into force in 1950, Sindhi was added in 1967. Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992, whereas four others - Dogri, Bodo, Maithali and Santhali - were included in 2003.

Gandhi Jayanti: Ban on tobacco products in HP to come into force

The Himachal Pradesh government's decision to ban sale, storage and manufacture of Gutka, Kheni and other tobacco products will come into force from Gandhi Jayanti. The state government had taken the decision to ban Gutka and other tobacco products in July 2012. Its implementation was, however, deferred following representations by traders who demanded some more time to clear their stocks. The decision to ban Gutka and other tobacco products will be enforced from October 2 in the state. Himachal had already banned smoking in public places and state capital Shimla had been declared a smoke-free city.

Can transgenders be the third sex? asks SC

The Supreme Court asked the Centre and states what could be done to give back the historically and culturally deprived transgenders their fundamental rights and whether they could be categorized as the third sex after male and females. A bench comprising Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra termed the deprivation of transgenders as a serious matter and issued notices to the governments after hearing brief arguments from senior advocate L Nageshwar Rao, who appeared for the petitioner, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). Discharging its obligation under Section 4(d) of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, mandating the body to initiate 'social justice litigation', Nalsa said, "Transgenders are deprived of social and cultural participation, are shunned by family and society, have only restricted access to education, health services and public spaces, restricted rights to marry, right to contest elections, right to vote, employment and livelihood opportunities." "The transgender community, generally known as hijras in India. Committee of Nalsa, which was then headed by Justice Altamas Kabir who now is the Chief Justice of India, and got the go ahead for filing a social justice litigation in the Supreme Court to attempt getting justice to the deprived group. This is the second social justice litigation by Nalsa after the one filed by it for protection and rehabilitation of Vrindavan widows.

The new Malayali world of DNA

A Kochi-based laboratory has completed the full sequencing and analysis of the first Malayali personal genome, revealing the genetic diversity of the linguistic group and signalling a revolution in disease diagnosis and treatment. The study by SciGenom Laboratories established that the Malayali is genetically similar to the Caucasians more than any other race on earth. A detailed report on the analysis has been published after peer review by BMC Genomics, an international medical journal that identifies and pools research contributions in genomics. Investigators at SciGenom Labs had joined hands with Stephan C. Suschter's laboratory at Pennstate, USA, and others to analyse the genome sequencing data. The study revealed that the gene sequence of the Malayali varies from Chinese and African genomes but stands closer to the Caucasian, a term denoting the white race.

Telugu man nominated for Nobel prize

Malireddy Srinivasulu, a non-resident Indian settled in Colorado in the US, has been proposed to the Nobel Peace Prize by the US government. Dr. Srinivasulu, who did extensive research in food sector and brought in significant improvements in food production through his research findings, was born in Uppalapadu of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. It was a huge honour that his name was sent to the committee along with that of Microsoft Corporation Chairman Bill Gates, one of the world's wealthiest persons and the former US President Bill Clinton, Mr. Naidu said.

PTR competing for UNDP award

Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) and Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh have qualified as the finalists for the India Biodiversity awards. The award, instituted jointly by the government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will be presented at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held on October 17 in Hyderabad. The two reserves are competing for the prize under the Protected Area Category of the award, which carries a cash prize of Rs.50,000. The reserve is spread over an area of 925 sq.km.

IIPM bags award

Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bangalore, an organisation promoted by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has won the Asian Learning and Development Leadership Award 2012. The IIPM has been selected for the award under the category of 'Outstanding contribution to the cause of learning' by the jury of the Asian Leadership Award. The award was presented to the institute at a function held in Dubai.

NSTL scientist gets award

Debashis Chakraborti, Associate Director of the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Vishakhapatnam, received the DRDO Scientist of the Year 2011 award from Minister for Defence A.K. Antony in New Delhi. Mr. Chakraborti received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the design and indigenous development of critical technology systems for torpedoes. He has developed a number of critical mechanical systems like shells to withstand deepwater pressure, launchers for torpedoes and decoys, recovery systems, etc.

India, Austria tie up to develop 'smart cities'

India will draw on the Austrian experience to develop "smart cities" with an overhauled gamut of service from city planning to urban transport and even Internet services. Union Urban Development Minister Kamal Nath announced the India-Austria collaboration to build a model smart city, which will serve as a template for replication. Mr. Nath said under the second phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the Centre will push for two smart cities in all States. Initially, mid-sized cities with a population of between half a million to a million will be selected for the transformation. Under the JNNURM II the Central Government proposes to have two smart cities in each State.

Saakashvili concedes defeat

A billionaire businessman, whose opposition coalition scored a surprising victory in Georgia's parliamentary election over President Mikhail Saakashvili's ruling party, has promised to normalise relations with Russia. With just over a third of the returns counted, the Georgian Dream coalition led by Bidzina Ivanishvili was leading with more than 53 per cent of the votes, as against less than 42 per cent for Mr. Saakashvili's United National Party. Under a constitutional reform pushed through by Mr. Saakashvili to retain power after he steps down next October, many of the President's powers in 2013 would devolve to the Prime Minister, who is chosen by Parliament. This is the first time in Georgia's post-Soviet history that a government change will come through election, rather than revolution. Mr. Saakashvili came to power through the peaceful Rose Revolution after a rigged parliamentary vote in 2003.

Nissan keen on offering Datsun at \$3,000: report

Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn wants to re-launch retro-brand Datsun with a price tag as low as \$3,000 when it hits the road in 2014, a report said. The company will target drivers in developing nations India, Indonesia and Russia offering the barebones model at prices that put it well below the current Nissan offerings. New brand would be one of Nissan's primary 'accelerators of growth', in the campaign to grab 8 per cent of the world market by 2016, up from 6 per cent at present. Datsun the first set of wheels for many adolescents was a big seller, especially in the United States, where its sporty, two-door hatchbacks became synonymous with fuel-efficiency during the 1970s oil crisis.

Tata Steel ties up \$6.6 b loan

Tata Steel has arranged a \$6.6-billion loan from a banking consortium to fund construction of a plant in the eastern region. State Bank of India and ICICI Bank are part of the consortium. In August, Tata Steel announced an 89 per cent slump in its first-quarter net profit from a year earlier, due to falling demand in its key European markets. Steelmakers globally have been suffering from a slowdown in demand as industrial growth loses pace in emerging economies such as India and China. Tata Steel, part of the sprawling Tata Group conglomerate, became one of the world's biggest steelmakers after buying Anglo-Dutch company Corus for \$13.7 billion in 2007. But its debt has ballooned to \$9.3 billion since its expansion.

Parekh panel on infra funding to submit report today

A high-level committee, headed by HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh, on Oct. 3 to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on funding the infrastructure sector. It has been estimated that the sector needs about \$1 trillion during the XII Plan. In July 2012, the government had appointed Deepak Parekh as the Chairman of the high-level committee on financing infrastructure, which was originally set up in November, 2010, under the chairmanship of former RBI Deputy Governor Rakesh Mohan. The committee was mandated to review the existing policies and suggest necessary changes in the investment framework in the high-priority infrastructure sector, besides assessing the financing requirement in ten key physical infrastructure electricity, roads as well as bridges, telecom, railways, irrigation, water supply as well as sanitation, ports, airports, storage, and oil as well as gas pipelines.

Global economy needs to create over 600 m new jobs: World Bank

The global economy needs to create an additional 600 million new jobs to absorb the increasing working-age populations, mainly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Bank said in its World Development Report 2013.

Samsung files lawsuit against Apple over latest iPhone

Samsung Electronics, has said it filed a new lawsuit against Apple Inc in a U.S. court, contending the iPhone 5 infringed on Samsung's patents.

Hard disk prices set to come down

Consumers and personal-computer (PC) makers will soon be able to heave a sigh of relief, as prices of hard disk-drives (HDDs) are expected to come down after floods in Thailand in 2011 sparked a major price-hike. HDDs play a major role in the broader PC market, which, in turn, affect customers and the profit margins of small and medium enterprises. EMC, which is a U.S.-based data-storage provider, is a major buyer of hard-disk drives and works with suppliers of different types of drives.

Davis Cup final in Prague

The 2012 Davis Cup tennis final between the Czech Republic and holder Spain from November 16 to 18 will be held in Prague.