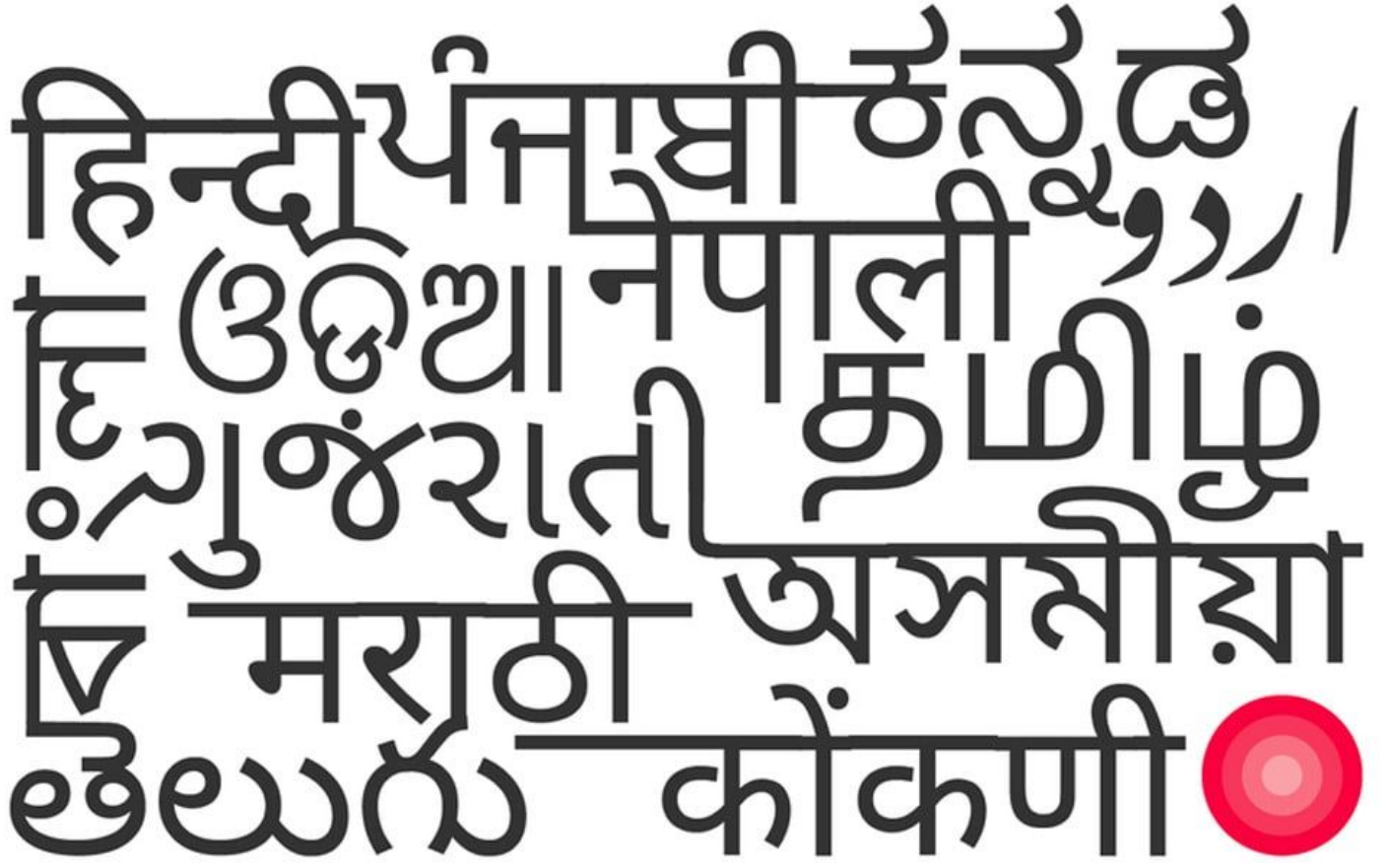


Mother Tongue Survey of India

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What's in today's article:

- Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) - About, number of mother tongues in India, mother tongue in education

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has completed the Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) with field videography of the country's 576 languages.

Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)

- It is a project that surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades.
- It also documents the linguistic features of the selected languages.
- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will be documenting and preserving the linguistic data of the surveyed mother tongues in audio-video files.

Number of mother tongues spoken in India

- According to the 2011 linguistic census data released in 2018, there are more than 19,500 languages and dialects spoken as mother tongues in India.
- These 19,500 languages were further grouped into **121 categories** of mother tongue after linguistic scrutiny and rationalising.
- According to 2011 linguistic census data, Hindi is the most spoken mother tongue by 52.8 crore people of the country, accounting for 43.6 per cent of the population.
- Following that, 9.7 crore people or 8 per cent of the population spoke Bengali, making it the country's second most popular mother tongue.
 - It should be noted that mother tongue is a designation given to a language by the respondent of the survey.
 - It need not be identical with the actual linguistic medium.

Mother tongue in education

- In September 2022, President Murmu emphasised that talent development in science, literature and social sciences can be more effective if taught in one's mother tongue.
- In July 2022, Union Home Minister said that pursuing education in a language other than one's mother tongue prevented 95 per cent of Indians from achieving their true potential.
- Keeping this in mind, the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**, aims to promote mother tongue and regional languages.
- The new **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** for the foundational stages (ages 3 to 8) of education has recommended that mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction in schools for children up to eight years of age.
 - The new NCF, launched by Education Minister last month, deals with pre-school and classes I-II.
 - It emphasises the virtues of the mother tongue as the primary medium of instruction.

Linguistic Survey of India (LSI)

- LSI is a regular research activity in the country since the 6th Five Year Plan.
- The primary objective of the present Linguistic Survey of India is to present an updated linguistic scenario.

- It further aims to provide necessary inputs to the social/educational planners in respective States for their planning to attain the envisaged goals.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mother-tongue-survey-of-india-2/>

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