

International Mother Language Day, 2022

February 21, 2022

In news- International Mother Language Day is observed worldwide on 21st February every year to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

About the day-

- The Day is part of a broader initiative to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by people of the world.
- The **idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day first came from Bangladesh.**
- The general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) **decided to celebrate February 21 as International Mother Language Day in 2000.**
- **The theme of 2022 is: “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”**, it focuses on potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.
- This year the Day will be celebrated as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- To mark the day, the Ministry of Culture organized a two-day programme in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office in physical and virtual format.

Mother tongues in India-

- According to census data, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongue.
- There are 121 languages which are spoken by 10,000 or more people in India.

- **The 121 languages are presented in two parts** – languages included in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, comprising 22 languages and **languages not included in the Eighth Schedule**, comprising 99 languages.
- **The scheduled languages, as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, are:** Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- Of these languages, **14 were initially included in the Constitution.** Sindhi language was added in 1967.
- Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992.
- **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.**