

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 25, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Vellore spiny brinjal and Ramanathapuram mundu chilli - have been conferred the Geographical Indications (GI) tag for their unique physical and geographical characteristics.**



- ✓ With this, the total number of products that have earned GI recognition from Tamil Nadu has gone up to 45
- ✓ Karnataka has got maximum GI tags with 46, followed by Tamil Nadu in second place and Kerala in third position with 36 GI products
- ✓ Vellore Spiny Brinjal, known as Elavambadi Mullu Kathirikai in Tamil, is a rare, thorny native breed grown in Vellore district.
- ✓ It is oval in shape and has a glossy shade of violet mixed with pink colour with a tinge of green in the distal end.
- ✓ They are rich in protein (2%) and vitamin C content (10.5mg/100gm)
- ✓ It is considered tastier than other brinjal varieties and it requires adapted cultivation or farming techniques to produce a quality crop.
- ✓ It has high tolerance to drought and high temperature and is uniquely linked to the agro-climatic conditions in Vellore region.
- ✓ It has a unique power to resist pest and disease attacks.
- ✓ The thorns present in all parts of the brinjal plant, except the fruit, make the crop highly distinctive and recognizable.

- ✓ The fruit is soft and fleshy and it is a cluster-bearing variety that yields about 40-45 tonnes per hectare in a duration of 140-150 days.
- ✓ Government advocate and IPR Attorney P Sanjai Gandhi made the GI application for this brinjal on behalf of the South India Multi-State Agriculture Cooperative Society Limited based in Vellore
- ✓ The application for the pungent Ramanathapuram Mundu Chilli was made by Ramnad Mundhu Chilli Producer Company Limited.
- ✓ Mundu, which in Tamil means 'fat and round,' belongs to *Capiscumannum* species.
- ✓ It is a round shaped chilli popular in South Indian cuisine and used as food colourant.
- ✓ It has a dark shiny and thick skin and is a directly sown rain-fed crop grown.
- ✓ It is a low input crop as farmers use the seeds of their previous crop for next season and also highly tolerant to drought and salinity
- ✓ The chilli is grown mainly in Tiruvadana, RS Mangalam, Mudukulathur, Kadaladi and Kamuthi taluks of Ramanathapuram district.
- ✓ It has a continuous recorded history of cultivation in this district for over 200 years and is known for its rich taste and aroma.
- ✓ The dried pods are exported to Sri Lanka, Nepal, the USA, Europe, Thailand and Japan.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On February 24, the Global financial crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - suspended Russia's membership for its "illegal, unprovoked and unjustified" full-scale military invasion of Ukraine**
- ✓ According to FATF, the Russian Federation's actions unacceptably run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system.
- ✓ The global watchdog said it is also deeply concerned by the reports of arms trade between Russia and United Nations sanctioned jurisdictions, and malicious cyber-activities emanating from Russia.
- ✓ FATF is an inter-governmental organisation that deals with money laundering and terrorism financing prevention.
- ✓ It sets standards for more than 200 countries and jurisdictions and seeks to help authorities tackle serious crimes including drug smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has again abstained in the UN General Assembly resolution calling for Russia to end the invasion of Ukraine**

- ✓ The vote on the resolution sponsored by Ukraine and more than 65 co-sponsors took place on February 23, the eve of the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- ✓ It was titled 'Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine'.
- ✓ The resolution was adopted with 141 votes in favour and seven — including Russia, Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea, Mali, Nicaragua and Syria — voting against with 32 abstentions.
- ✓ Along with India, other notable abstentions were by China, Vietnam, South Africa, Cuba, Iran, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh
- ✓ This was the sixth resolution on Ukraine since the invasion that began on February 24 a year ago and India has abstained on all of them

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On February 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the inaugural session of the first finance ministers and central bank governors meeting of the G20 being held in Bengaluru**
- ✓ Addressing the gathering through a video message, the PM underlined that this is the first Minister-level dialogue under India's presidency
- ✓ The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors began their two-day meet on the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ During its first session, the meet deliberated on international financial architecture, sustainable finance and infrastructure
- ✓ This session was jointly steered by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das.



- ✓ The second session of the meet focused on Financial Sector and Financial Inclusion
- ✓ It has to be mentioned that India has created a new system that allows G20 delegates to use the country's digital payments platform, UPI.
- ✓ A dinner event and specially curated cultural programmes were organised for the delegates, which showcased India's diverse cuisines and culture.
- ✓ There are around 500 delegates participating in the meet, hailing from G20 member countries, invitees and representatives of international organisations.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Comptroller and Auditor General G C Murmu - has been selected as external auditor of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva for a four-year term, till 2027.**



- ✓ The CAG is currently the external auditor of the World Health Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Atomic Energy Agency, Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Inter Parliamentary Union.
- ✓ The selection of the CAG was following a rigorous selection process that involved a selection panel where the ILO had invited bids from all countries.
- ✓ Based on the technical experience and other criteria, the ILO shortlisted three supreme auditors, India, Canada and the UK.
- ✓ The selection panel was impressed by the CAG's approach in developing a strategic partnership with ILO.

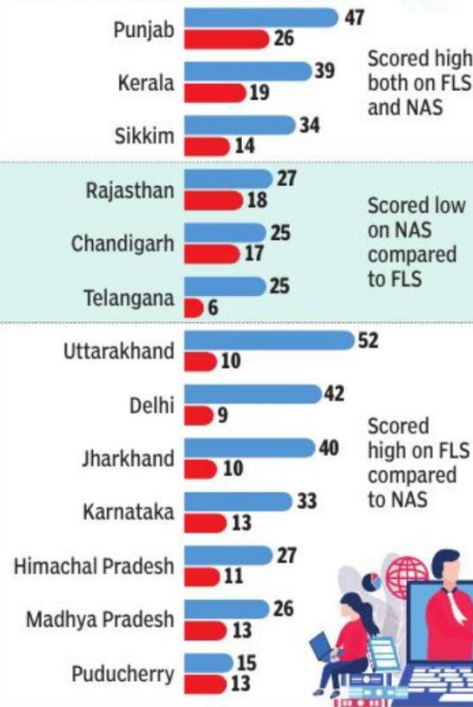
REPORT

- **Dr Bibek Debroy, chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister – released the second “State of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy 2022” report on February 24**
- ✓ The report is based on a survey conducted by Institute for Competitiveness, Stanford, across 86,000 class III students in 20 different languages across 10,000 schools in India
- ✓ It specifically highlights language as an important aspect and how vital it is in acquiring early literacy to the students
- ✓ In foundational literacy, Punjabi has the best performance with 51% of students whose medium of instruction was Punjabi exceeding global proficiency level and 6% students below partially global proficiency level.
- ✓ On the other hand, Tamil has the lowest performance with only 9% students exceeding global proficiency level when taught in the language and 48% students below partially global proficiency level.
- ✓ As per the survey, 30% students in six languages – Punjabi, Bengali, Mizo, Odia, English and Manipuri - exceed global minimum proficiency level, while Telugu has 30% students who meet global proficiency level.

ONLY 9% EXCEED GLOBAL PROFICIENCY LEVEL IN TAMIL

Foundational literacy and numeracy report 2022 by institute for competitiveness

■ **FLS 2022** | Percentage of students who Exceeds global proficiency in English
■ **NAS 2021** | Percentage of student's performance in advanced level in Language



Scored high both on FLS and NAS

Scored low on NAS compared to FLS

Scored high on FLS compared to NAS

Learning outcomes (FLS 2022)

- > Punjabi language has the **best performance with 51%** of the students exceeding global proficiency level
- > Tamil language has the **lowest performance with only 9% students** exceeding global proficiency level
- > Telugu & Mizo have **more than 30% students** who meet global proficiency level
- > Tamil, Konkani, Assamese & Bodo language have the **poorest performance with more than 30% of the students** under below partially global proficiency level

Digital divide

In India, between 2020 to 2022, only **41.3%** of schools had access to computers and **24.5%** to the internet

Highlights

- > In India, **92% of students lost** at least one specific language ability and **82%** lost at least one specific mathematic ability from the previous year (2021)
- > Across the world **40% of the children** are not taught in the languages they speak and understand on a regular basis

- ✓ Overall, 42% of the students surveyed across India meet the global minimum proficiency, and 37% partially meet the global minimum proficiency level in mathematics