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Daily News Analysis

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1. Adi Vani

- Prelims - Adi Vani
- Mains - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches Beta Version of Adi Vaani.

Adi Vani

- What is it?
 - Adi Vaani is **India's first AI-powered translator tailored for tribal languages**, designed as a foundational tool for a future large language model dedicated to preserving these languages.
 - Launched under the **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh** initiative, it aims to bridge communication gaps between tribal and non-tribal individuals while helping safeguard endangered languages using advanced AI.
- Access and Availability:
 - Currently available on the Play Store, with an iOS version to follow soon.
 - Also accessible via a dedicated web platform.
- Purpose & Development:
 - Developed by a consortium led by **IIT Delhi**, in collaboration with **BITS Pilani**, **IIIT Hyderabad**, **IIIT Nava Raipur**, and **Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** from Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya, the tool integrates advanced AI with community inputs.
- Goals:
 - Enabling **real-time text and speech translation** between Hindi/English and tribal languages.
 - Providing **interactive language-learning modules** for learners.
 - Digitizing and preserving tribal **folklore, oral traditions**, and heritage.
 - Supporting digital literacy, better **healthcare communication**, and civic inclusion.
 - Sharing information about government schemes and important speeches in tribal languages.



- **Beta Supported Languages:**

- **Santali** (Odisha), **Bhili** (Madhya Pradesh), **Mundari** (Jharkhand) and **Gondi** (Chhattisgarh)
- Future phases aim to include additional languages such as **Kui** and **Garo**.

- **Key Features:**

- **AI Models:** Uses No Language Left Behind (NLLB) and IndicTrans2 - optimized for low-resource tribal languages.
- **Community Engagement:** STRs, local experts, and communities contribute to data collection and iterative refinement.
- Text-to-Text, Text-to-Speech, Speech-to-Text, Speech-to-Speech translations.
- **Bilingual dictionaries** and curated language repositories.
- Subtitles for government communications (e.g., speeches, health advisories such as on sickle cell awareness), and information on government schemes, all rendered in tribal languages.

- **Significance:**

- **First of its kind** tool in India using AI to serve tribal languages.
- **Wide-ranging features:** Translation, learning, preservation, civic and healthcare communication.
- **Strong institutional backing** and a clear future roadmap for language expansion.
- **Cultural significance:** Emphasizes inclusion, empowerment, and national diversity. Digital preservation of tribal knowledge and cultural expressions.



2. Earthquake in Afghanistan

- **Prelims** - Earthquake in Afghanistan
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Why in the News?

- A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan with its epicentre about 27 km E-NE of Jalalabad, at a shallow depth of about 8–10 km.

Earthquake in Afghanistan

- **Causes of the Earthquake:**
 - **Tectonic Setting:** Afghanistan lies at the **collision zone of the Indian Plate and Eurasian Plate**.
 - ★ The convergence of the Indian plate with Eurasian plate leads to **compressional forces**, crustal deformation, and frequent seismic activity.
 - **Active Fault Lines:** The region has multiple **active thrust and strike-slip faults** (e.g., **Chaman Fault System, Pamir–Hindu Kush Seismic Zone**) and the recent quake's epicentre near **Jalalabad (Nangarhar province)** lies close to these fault networks.
 - The **Hindu Kush–Pamir ranges** are among the most seismically active regions in the world.
- **Impact of the Earthquake:**
 - **Casualties:** Over 800 people killed, and nearly 2,500–3,000 injured.
 - The quake flattened entire villages- particularly in the **Kunar** and **Nangarhar** provinces, including districts like **Nur Gul, Soki, Watpur, Manogi, Chapadare**- triggering widespread devastation.



Afghanistan



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Why in the news?

- An earthquake of 6.0 magnitude struck north-east Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

- Location:** Afghanistan is a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia.
- Capital:** Kabul
- Border Countries:** Pakistan, India, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China.
- Geography:** The country is **predominantly mountainous** where Hindu Kush mountain range passes through this country.
- Major River System:** Kabul River System
- Fact:** Afghanistan is **one of the Snow Leopard range country**.

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3. Geo-tagging of Buildings in Census 2027

- Prelims - Geo-tagging of Buildings in Census 2027
- Mains - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Centre is planning to Geo-tag all residential and non-residential buildings in the coming 2027 Census exercise.

Geo-tagging of Buildings in Census 2027

- **What is it?:**
 - **Geo-tagging** is the process of assigning **unique latitude-longitude coordinates** to every building and mapping it on a **GIS (Geographic Information System)** platform.
- **Background:**
 - **Traditional method (Census 2011):** Houselisting relied on hand-drawn sketches and notional maps.
 - **Existing geo-tagging practice:** Limited to assets built under specific schemes (e.g., PM Awas Yojana Gramin/Urban).
- **Working of Geo-tagging:**
 - **Digital Layout Mapping (DLM):** Enumerators will use a digital tool to capture coordinates of each building during the **Houselisting Operations (HLO, 2026)**.
 - **Houselisting Blocks (HLBs):** Each village or town ward is divided into HLBs (well-defined areas with notional maps). Geo-referencing will create accurate digital boundaries of these blocks.
 - **Technology:** Web-based mapping application, satellite imagery, and administrative boundary overlays will be used.
- **Significance:**
 - First time geo-tagging is integrated into the Census process.
 - **Accuracy:** Replaces manual sketches with precise digital maps.
 - **Workload planning:** Helps estimate enumerators' work more effectively.
 - **Integration with Digital Census:** Forms the backbone of **India's first fully digital Census (2027)**.
 - **Policy utility:** Data can aid housing schemes, infrastructure planning, and urban development.
 - **Automatically generated digital maps:** Replaces manual sketches with precise GIS-derived layouts.



4. APK Scam in India

- **Prelims** - APK Scam in India
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Internal Security

Why in the news?

- Thousands of Indians are reported to be victims of the recent APK scam, which acts as a new kind of cyber security threat.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- **What is it?**
 - **APK Scam:** A scheme where malicious APKs, disguised as legitimate apps, are shared via messaging or impersonation to steal data or money.
 - **APK file:** Android Package Kit, used to install apps on Android devices.
- **Modus Operandi:**
 - **Social Engineering:** Fraudsters impersonate trusted entities - banks, government agencies, or police officers - using urgent messages about KYC, tax refunds, fines, etc.
 - **Malware Delivery:** Victims get sent malicious APKs through WhatsApp, SMS, or calls, often labeled with official logos or credible names.
 - **Permissions Abuse:** Once installed, the app may gain control of OTPs, messages, screen, data- enabling remote access & unauthorized transactions.
 - **Cross-State & Syndicated:** Operations often span multiple Indian states, coordinated by crime networks, complicating detection and prosecution.
- **Case Studies:**
 - Victims in Krishnanagar, in **Ahmedabad** received malicious KYC forms and RTO challan APKs via WhatsApp, resulting in large unauthorized fund transfers- **A scam of 7 Lakhs.**
 - A fake traffic challan APK installed via WhatsApp gave remote access to fraudsters, leading to high-value financial thefts of **1.6 lakhs in New Delhi.**
 - Shop owner in Kutch in **Gujarat** tricked into installing “RTO Traffic Challan 500” app, revealing Aadhaar and banking credentials; **₹10.81 lakh** was then siphoned off.
- **Institutional Response:**
 - **Bank Alerts:** HDFC Bank has issued formal advisories warning customers of APK scams, emphasizing that apps must only be downloaded from official sources and urging verification via secure channels.
 - **Best Practices Outlined by Banks:**



- ★ Avoid downloading APKs from unverified links.
- ★ Verify legitimacy directly with institutions if suspicious.
- ★ Prefer official app stores over third-party sources.

- **Precautionary and Preventive Measures:**

- **User Vigilance:**

- ★ Download apps only from trusted platforms (Google Play, app stores).
- ★ Avoid clicking links or installing APKs received via unsolicited messages.

- **Technical Safeguards:**

- ★ Scrutinize app permissions; deny any that are unjustified.
- ★ Use antivirus or mobile-security tools to scan APKs before installation.
- ★ Enable two-factor authentication on messaging apps like WhatsApp to prevent hijacking.

- **Verification Protocols:**

- ★ Do not rely on app screens alone; always confirm via bank's SMS or in-app notifications.
- ★ Reboot devices if a malicious app is suspected; restore via factory reset if necessary.

- **Reporting & Legal Recourse:**

- ★ Report incidents to banks, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, or local police.
- ★ Banks and security agencies to provide awareness campaigns and expedite response efforts.



5. Right to Education Act, 2009

- Prelims - Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009
- Mains - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court referred the question of whether minority educational institutions are entirely exempt from the purview of Right to Education act of 2009 to a larger bench.

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

- What is it?:
 - Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was enacted to ensure free and compulsory education to children in the age group of 6 to 14.
- Key Features:
 - Free and Compulsory Education for children aged 6 to 14.
 - Neighborhood Schools must be provided within accessible distance.
 - 25% Reservation in private schools for children from economically weaker sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups.
 - No Capitation Fees or Screening Procedures allowed for school admissions.
 - Infrastructure Norms for schools, including classrooms, toilets, and playgrounds.
 - Pupil-Teacher Ratio requirements to ensure quality education.
 - No Detention Policy (initially) till Class 8, focusing on child progression.
 - Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system for student assessments.
 - Qualified Teachers only; mandatory teacher qualifications and training.
 - School Management Committees (SMCs) with parents and local authorities for school oversight.
 - Prohibition of Physical Punishment and discrimination in schools.
 - Special Focus on Marginalized Groups, including SC/ST, girls, and disabled children.



- **Significance:**

- **Universal Access to Education:** It guarantees free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14, ensuring that every child, regardless of their socio-economic background, has access to education.
- **Promotes Inclusivity:** The 25% reservation in private schools for children from economically weaker sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups fosters social inclusion, giving underprivileged children the opportunity to study alongside their peers.
- **Quality Education Standards:** The Act mandates specific norms related to infrastructure, pupil-teacher ratios, and teacher qualifications, aimed at improving the quality of education across public and private schools.
- **Elimination of Discrimination:** By prohibiting capitation fees, screening procedures, and physical punishment, the RTE Act works to create a learning environment free of discrimination and exclusion, especially for marginalized children such as SCs, STs, girls, and disabled students.
- **Focus on Child-Centered Learning:** The Act introduces a "no-detention policy" till Class 8, encouraging continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) to promote learning without fear of failure. This child-friendly approach supports holistic development.
- **Improves Literacy Rates:** With its emphasis on compulsory education, the Act contributes to improving literacy rates in the country, which is key to social and economic development.
- **Accountability:** By involving parents and communities through School Management Committees (SMCs), the Act makes schools more accountable to the people they serve, thereby encouraging transparency and active local participation.
- **Social Equality:** The RTE Act plays a crucial role in reducing inequality in access to education, especially for the rural poor, girls, and marginalized communities, which is essential for bridging the socio-economic gap in the long run.



→ **Empowering Future Generations:** By ensuring education for all, the Act empowers children to become informed and productive citizens, contributing to the country's economic growth and democratic strength.

- **Challenges of Right to Education:**

→ **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Many schools lack basic amenities like classrooms, toilets, and clean drinking water, affecting the quality of education.

→ **Teacher Shortage and Quality:** Insufficient number of qualified teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and poor training result in substandard education.

→ **Lack of Awareness:** Many communities, especially in rural areas, are unaware of their rights under the RTE Act, leading to low enrollment and retention rates.

→ **Funding Issues:** Insufficient and irregular funding from governments affects school operations, infrastructure development, and teacher recruitment.

→ **Quality vs. Quantity:** Emphasis on enrollment and retention often overlooks the need for quality education and improved learning outcomes.

→ **Private School Reservations:** Implementation of the 25% reservation for economically weaker sections in private schools is inconsistent, with resistance from schools and discrimination.

→ **Monitoring and Accountability:** Weak oversight and ineffective School Management Committees (SMCs) hinder accountability in schools.

→ **High Dropout Rates:** Socio-economic challenges, especially in rural areas, lead to high dropout rates, particularly among girls and marginalized groups.

→ **Exclusion of Pre-School and Secondary Education:** The RTE Act covers only children aged 6 to 14, leaving out critical early childhood and secondary education phases.

→ **Lack of Special Provisions for Disabled Children:** Infrastructure and resources for disabled children are inadequate, limiting their inclusion in mainstream education.

→ **Limited Focus on Learning Outcomes:** The Act focuses more on access to education than improving the quality of learning, leading to poor academic results.



- **Urban-Rural Divide:** Significant disparities exist between urban and rural schools in terms of resources, infrastructure, and educational quality.
- **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Cultural practices, gender bias, and socio-economic factors in rural areas continue to obstruct children's access to education.
- **Political and Administrative Hurdles:** Lack of coordination between government departments, political interference, and administrative inefficiencies slow down implementation.