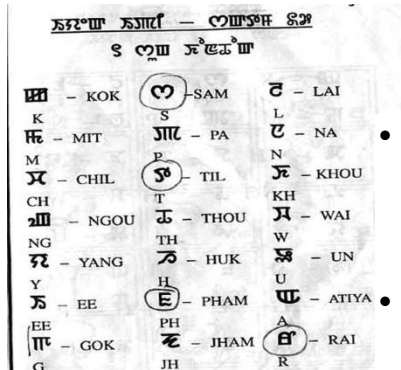


### MEITEI SCRIPT

Newspapers in Manipur are working towards replacing the Bengali script that's currently in use with Meitei or the Manipuri script.



Meitei Mayek - Phonetic Values		
𑜀 - KOK	𑜁 - SAM	𑜂 - LAI
K	S	L
𑜃 - MIT	𑜄 - PA	𑜅 - NA
M	P	N
𑜆 - CHIL	𑜇 - TIL	𑜈 - KHOU
CH	T	KH
𑜉 - NGOU	𑜊 - THOU	𑜋 - WAI
NG	TH	W
𑜌 - YANG	𑜍 - HUK	𑜎 - UN
Y	H	U
𑜏 - EE	𑜐 - PHAM	𑜑 - ATIYA
EE	PH	A
𑜒 - GOK	𑜓 - JHAM	𑜔 - RAI
G	JH	R

#### About:

- The Meitei script was once patronised by Meitei rulers but which fell into disuse with the advent of Hinduism and eventually disappeared.
- The earliest epigraphic record of the script is a stone inscription from Khoibu village which was erected on the orders of

Meidingu Kiyamba (1467-1508).

- The Meitei Mayek or Meitei script evolved with time and this led to conflict between various proponents. The inscriptions on the coins of the 7th and 8th Century were perhaps in the 18-letter script, which, with the advent of Hinduism in the 17th century during the reign of Meidingu Pamheiba (1709-1748), was perhaps expanded to the 36-letter script.
- With the advent of Hinduism, Bengali scripts became so popular that stone inscriptions in the 18th and 19th century were in Bengali script.

#### Recent developments

- The Manipur Official Language Act, 1979, was enacted with the definition of Manipuri language as “Meiteilon written in Bengali script and spoken by the majority of Manipuri population”
- By an Amendment Act of 2021, the definition of “Manipuri language” was modified as “Meiteilon in Meetei Mayek and spoken by the majority of Manipur population” with a proviso that for 10 years, both the Bengali and Meitei Mayek scripts shall be allowed.

### BADRI COW

To increase the productivity of indigenous Badri cow, Uttarakhand Government is now planning for its genetic enhancement.



About

- The Badri breed derived its name from the holy shrine of Char Dham at Badrinath.
- It is found only in the hill districts of Uttarakhand and was earlier known as the ‘pahadi’ cow.
- The cattle breed is small in size with long legs and varied body colours— black, brown, red, white or grey.
- The USP of the Badri cow’s produce is indigenouness and environment (in the Himalayas), as it eats medicinal herbs and is far away from toxic pollution, polythene and other harmful things that cows in the plains are subject.
- As the cow grazes only on herbs and shrubs available in the mountains, its milk has rich medicinal content and high organic value.
- This cattle of Uttarakhand clinched the coveted title of being the first certified cattle breed of Uttarakhand after National Bureau Of Animal Genetic Resource included it as Badri breed.

## G HAR PORTAL

Recently National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), has developed and launched this portal.



About:

- The portal - “GHAR - Go Home and Re-Unite” will be a platform for information on children from every district to smoothen the process of their repatriation and restoration.

**Salient features of the portal**

1. **Digital tracking and monitoring** of children who are in the Juvenile Justice system and have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District.
2. **Digital transfer of cases** of children to the concerned Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee of the State. It will help in speedy repatriation of children.
3. Where there is a requirement of a translator/interpreter/expert, request will be made to the concerned State Government.
4. **Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Officers** can ensure proper restoration and rehabilitation of children by digitally monitoring the progress of the case of the child.
5. A **checklist format** will be provided in the forms so that the children who are being hard to repatriate or children who are not getting their entitled compensation or other monetary benefits can be identified.
6. **List of Government implemented schemes** will be provided, so that at the time of restoration the Child Welfare Committees can link the child with the schemes to strengthen the family and ensure that child remains with his/her family.

### **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**

- The Act provides for protection of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration.
- **The Child Welfare Committees** have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection for the best interest of the children.
- **Every State Government has to constitute a District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)** for every district to take up matters relating to children.
- To ensure effective coordination in the Child Safety, Protection and Development; **District Magistrates have been made the head of DCPU**s. DMs have been empowered to review the functioning of DCPU and CWCs at regular intervals to ensure prompt decisions

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### **PM STREET VENDOR'S ATMANIRBHAR NIDHI SCHEME**

The Centre has recently extended the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme beyond till December 2024.

## About:

- The government has also introduced third loan of upto Rs 50,000 in addition to first and second loans of Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000, respectively.
- PM SVANidhi was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- **Scheme Benefits**
  - Vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
  - On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis.
  - There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.
  - The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
  - The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- **Implementation agency:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Recently, The President of India graced and addressed the Human Rights Day celebration, organised by the National Human Rights Commission.



## About:

- Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December.

- It commemorates the day in **1948** the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled. It guarantees the rights of every individual everywhere, without distinction based on nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status.
- Although the **Declaration is not a binding document**, it inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.
- **2022 Theme:** Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All

## ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT (ODOP)

Recently, the ODOP initiative operationally merged with ‘Districts as Export Hub (DEH)’ initiative of DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.



### About:

- ODOP was launched by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially, in rural areas.
- It aims to do this by **identifying, promoting and branding a product from one district**.
- Its objective is to **turn every district in India, into an export hub** through promotion of the product in which the district specialises.
- The initiative plans to accomplish this by **scaling manufacturing, supporting local businesses, finding potential foreign customers** and so on, thus helping to achieve the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ vision.
- The one district one product launch date is January 24, 2018, by the **Uttar Pradesh Government**, and due to its success, was later adopted by the **Central Government**.

- This initiative is carried out with the ‘**Districts as Exports Hub**’ initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is an important stakeholder. **In the scheme, the ODOP product is identified by the state for a district.** The criteria for ODOP identification are given below:
  - Percentage of ODOP produce relative to total agricultural produce of the district
  - Perishable nature
  - ODOP presence in the district relative to other districts
  - Recognisability of the district with the ODOP product
  - Processing level for ODOP in that district, other districts and states
  - Number of workers engaged in ODOP production and processing
  - Marketing linkages
  - ODOP processing infrastructure in the district

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## HOW THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED TO THE ‘TWITTER FILES’

### **In News:**

- The fresh revelations made in a follow-up to the ‘Twitter Files’, have been described as “disturbing” by the Indian government.
- Minister of state for electronics and IT said that Twitter Files revelations present evidence that the platform was being misused and the platform was acting absolutely discriminately against different people.

### **Twitter Files**

#### **About**

- Earlier, Elon Musk, Twitter's new owner, announced the publication of exclusive emails revealing some of the social media company's internal deliberations.
  - These deliberations were made over a disputed decision made in 2020 before the US Presidential elections.

- This revelation is being dubbed as Twitter Files. It showed internal conversations between certain top-level officials at Twitter.
- In other words, the Twitter Files are a series of Twitter threads based on internal documents shared by owner Elon Musk with freelance journalists Matt Taibbi and Bari Weiss in December 2022.

### Revelation made by Twitter Files:

- The files released in parts made some big revelation about:
  - The discussions that led to the banning of a New York Post story concerning the contents of current US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden.
    - The story contained unverified claims about Hunter Biden's business activities in Ukraine.
  - The teams of Twitter employees building blacklists, preventing disfavoured tweets from trending, and actively limiting the visibility of entire accounts or even trending topics—all in secret, without informing users.
    - These tools targeted right-wing voices more frequently and went against Twitter's stated policy of **not enforcing** shadow bans.
    - A **shadow ban** refers to partially blocking or blacklisting a user's profile to reduce visibility without their knowledge.
    - It may lead to less engagement with the account and low visibility of posts instead of an outright ban.
    - In other words, followers cannot see one's posts on a social media platform.
    - The decision by Twitter management to permanently suspend Trump's personal Twitter account.
  - More Twitter files are scheduled to be released later.

### Significance

- The saga does indeed point to questions of fairness and possible arbitrariness in content moderation.
- This includes who decides what is hateful and whether all content of similar degrees of illegality are acted on with uniform strictness.
- It highlighted the power large tech companies wield with little accountability.

- A free speech corporate mission, that Twitter often espoused, was evidently undermined when it banned the NY Post story from being linked to on its service.

## Criticism of Twitter Files

- **It could not create the impact it had hoped for**
  - The revelations did not have the effect experts had hoped for.
  - This is mostly due to one significant factor: the story provides no explanation for why that choice was made.
  - It confirms a number of **previously identified** available facts while failing to offer light on the issue of whether such choices were made due to political influence or control.
- **Personal information was made public**
  - The discoveries have also been criticized for making public the email addresses and other personal information of those participating in the process.
- **Concerns over safeguards in Twitter under Musk**
  - These episodes have also raised concerns over safeguards in Twitter under Musk.
  - The screenshots shared showed a dashboard that would allow anyone using the ability to access direct messages which people privately share with other users.
  - Twitter's direct messages are not encrypted in a manner that, for example, WhatsApp messages are, allowing the company to access these.

## Response from India

- **Weaponising misinformation is unacceptable**
  - Minister of state for electronics and IT said the revelations around visibility filtering were disturbing.
  - This revelation shows that the platform was not only actively involved in whose content went where but also involved in shaping end result conversation.
  - The fact that a few people were distorting the conversations happening on the platform and weaponising misinformation is unacceptable.
- **India has taken pre-emptive step**



- India was right in pre-empting these issues and framing the amended IT Rules which were notified a few weeks ago.
  - Under the amended rules, the government will appoint a grievance appellate committee that would have powers to oversee and overturn content moderation decisions taken by social media platforms.
  - The minister said that the formation of such committees will be fast-tracked in the light of the revelations.
  - **Safe harbours for Internet Intermediaries must be conditional**
  - Twitter Files have shown that it is very obvious that safe harbours for Internet Intermediaries must be conditional on them following a set of rules as India has done.
    - Safe harbour essentially offers legal immunity to social media firms from user-generated content on their platforms.
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