



# What is IMLD ?

- International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21st February. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity all across the world.
- It was first announced by UNESCO on November 17, 1999. Since then it is being celebrated every year.
- International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

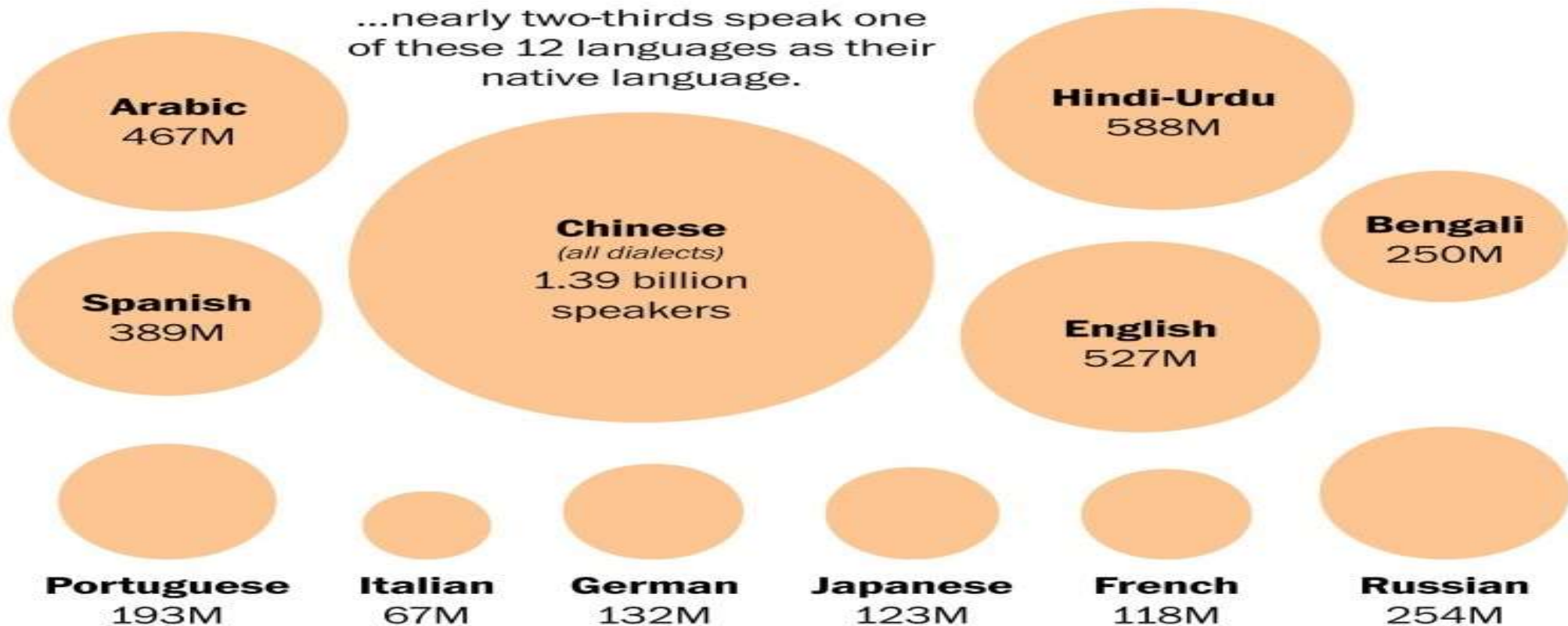
## 2020 Theme for IMLD



- The 2020 International Mother Language Day edition will contribute to promoting peaceful dialogue and social inclusion. The 2020 theme is "**Languages without borders**".
- Recognition of and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity contribute to strengthening the unity and cohesion of societies. These are foundations for more lasting peace both within and between societies, and led to UNESCO's decision to celebrate International Mother Language Day.

Of the **7.2 billion people** on Earth...

...nearly two-thirds speak one of these 12 languages as their native language.



Sources: Ulrich Ammon, University of Düsseldorf, Population Reference Bureau  
Note: Totals for languages include bilingual speakers.  
THE WASHINGTON POST

# தமிழ்

- **Tamil language**, member of the Dravidian language family, spoken primarily in India. It is the official language of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Puducherry (Pondicherry). It is also an official language in Sri Lanka and Singapore and has significant numbers of speakers in Malaysia, Mauritius, Fiji, and South Africa.
- In 2004 Tamil was declared a classical language of India, meaning that it met three criteria: its
  - ✓ origins are ancient;
  - ✓ it has an independent tradition; and
  - ✓ it possesses a considerable body of ancient literature.
- In the early 21st century more than 66 million people were Tamil speakers.



- English originated in England and is the dominant language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various island nations in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It is also an official language of India, the Philippines, Singapore, and many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa.
- English is the first choice of foreign language in most other countries of the world, and it is that status that has given it the position of a global lingua franca.
- It is estimated that about a third of the world's population, some two billion persons, now use English.



- At the beginning of the 21st century, French was an official language of more than 25 countries.
- In France and Corsica about 60 million individuals use it as their first language, in Canada more than 7.3 million, in Belgium more than 3.9 million, in Switzerland more than 1.8 million.



# हिंदी

- It is the preferred official language of India, although much national business is also done in English and the other languages recognized in the Indian constitution.
- In India, Hindi is spoken as a first language by nearly 425 million people and as a second language by some 120 million more.
- Significant Hindi speech communities are also found in South Africa, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Yemen, and Uganda.



# ગુજરાતી

- Gujarati is officially recognized in the Indian constitution and is spoken by more than 46 million people. Most of these reside in the Indian state of Gujarat.
- There are significant diaspora communities around the world, especially in the United Kingdom and the United States.
- It is usually written with a cursive form of Devanagari script.

