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History of 20th August

- ◆ **1828** : The first session of **Raja Ram Mohan Roy's** Brahma Samaj was held in **Calcutta** (now Kolkata).
- ◆ **1940** : **Internationally** renowned environmentalist **Rajendra Kumar Pachauri** was born.
- ◆ **1944** : India's ninth Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** was born.
- ◆ **1994** : **America** announced the end of its 28-year-old policy of providing shelter to **Cuban refugees**.

Current Affairs Related to 20th August 2024

- ◆ **Jio Parsi Yojana portal will enable Parsis to apply, check their application status** and provide financial assistance online through direct benefit transfer mode. The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the Jio Parsi Scheme to reverse the declining trend of the Parsi population. Under this scheme, efforts are being made to stabilize the Parsi population by adopting scientific protocols and structured interventions to reverse the declining trend of their population.
- ◆ **RBI has formed an expert committee to benchmark its data.** This committee has been constituted by RBI under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor Michael Devvrat Patra. It has been formed to benchmark the data regularly disseminated by RBI against global standards. The committee is expected to submit its report by the end of November 2024. There are 10 members in the committee. The committee members included R.B. Burman, Sonnalde Desai, Parth Ray, Bimal Roy, Paul Schreiber, Sudarshan Sen, Bruno Tissot, Munish Kapoor and O.P. Malls are included.
- ◆ **Union Minister released version 2.0 of Floodwatch India Mobile Application.** The upgraded version of the Floodwatch India mobile application aims to provide a comprehensive and detailed overview of the flood situation across the country. This new version of Floodwatch India App is developed by Central Water Commission. The earlier version was providing flood forecasts from 200 monitoring stations. Version 2.0 of the app provides information from additional 392 flood monitoring stations. The total number of stations has increased to 592.
- ◆ **The Supreme Court decision upheld the right of mineral-rich states to receive** taxes and royalties from the Center and mining companies on lands bearing minerals till 1 April 2005.
- ◆ **GM India has launched its EV deployment program in partnership with electric transport company** Gentry. The company aims to have a fleet of 10,000 electric vehicles by 2025. Assembly India recently said that under Zentari Green Mobility Business, the company will support the purchase and expansion of Electric Society over the next three years.
- ◆ **National Payments Corporation of India incorporated Bharat Interface for Money** as a wholly owned subsidiary. The new entity is known as NPCI BHIM Services Limited. Lalitha Nataraj will be the Chief Executive Officer of the new subsidiary.
- ◆ **An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** and the Small Business Administration of the United States Government to promote cooperation on small and medium-sized enterprises. The MoU was signed between S C L Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME, and Isabel Casillas Guzman, SBA Administrator, Government of the United States of America, in New Delhi. This MoU provides a framework for both parties to discuss MSME related issues and explore possibilities of cooperation.
- ◆ **Rahul Naveen, a 1993 batch Indian Revenue Service officer, has been appointed as the new director** of the Enforcement Directorate. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Naveen for a period of two years. Prior to this appointment, Naveen was serving as Special Director of the Enforcement Directorate. Rahul Naveen joined ED as special director in November 2019.
- ◆ **The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation organized the 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations.** The theme of this conference was Strengthening the State Statistics System using data for decision making. Many topics of common interest between the Central and State Government departments were discussed during the conference.

National & International Current Affairs

1. When is Indian Renewable Energy Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 20th August (B) 21st August
(C) 22nd August (D) 23rd August

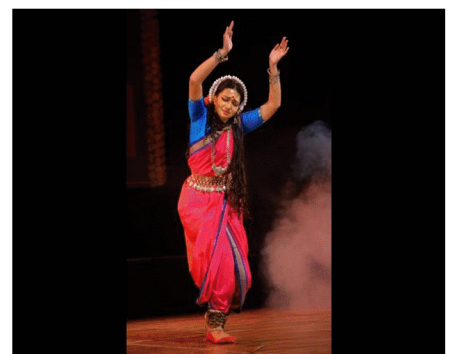
(A) Indian Renewable Energy Day is celebrated every year on 20 August to raise awareness about the development of renewable energy in India. This campaign was celebrated in 2004. This day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Natural resources like oil, coal and gas etc. are used to generate electricity.



2. When is Goodwill Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 17th August (B) 19th August
(C) 20th August (D) 22nd August

(C) Sadbhavna Diwas is celebrated to promote national unity, peace, empathy and communal harmony among Indians of all religions. In English, Sadbhavana means goodwill. The main theme of Sadbhavana Day is to encourage national unity and social harmony among people of different religions and cultures.



3. Which bank has recently launched a special Primus Credit Card for the HNIs?

- (A) Axis Bank (B) HDFC Bank
(C) Yes Bank (D) ICICI Bank

(A) Axis Bank, one of India's largest private banks, has launched an ultra premium credit card named Primus in collaboration with Visa, a leader in digital payments. Primus has been specially designed keeping the rich class in mind. The Super Premium Card Primus will be available to select ultra high net worth Axis Bank customers through invitation only.



4. Which state has recently declared the ancient Ratnagiri rock art as a protected monument?

- (A) Uttarakhand (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Karnataka (D) Maharashtra

(D) The Government of Maharashtra has declared the geoglyphs and petroglyphs at Ratnagiri as protected monuments under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960. According to the notification issued by the Culture Department, the group of petroglyphs at Deud in Ratnagiri belongs to the Mesolithic era. Geoglyph and petroglyph are different types of ancient art.



5. Which country has recently started the third phase trial of dengue vaccine 'Dengioli'?

- (A) India (B) China
(C) America (D) Japan

(A) ICMR and Panacea Biotech have started Phase 3 clinical trials of India's first indigenous dengue vaccine, Dengiol. The trial will evaluate the efficacy of India's indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, Dengiol, developed by Panacea Biotech. The first participant in this trial was vaccinated at Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak.



6. Who has recently been appointed as the new Union Home Secretary?

- (A) Bob Rai (B) Shubham Shukla
(C) Govind Mohan (D) None of these
(C) Govind Mohan, a 1989 batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, has been appointed as the new Home Secretary. He will replace Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam, Meghalaya cadre. Who was appointed as the Union Home Secretary in August 2019. Govind Mohan did his schooling from St. Joseph's, Dehradun and St. Francis College, Lucknow.



7. Who has recently declared monkeypox as a global health emergency?

- (A) UNICEF (B) WHO
(C) UNESCO (D) None of these
(B) In view of the increasing monkeypox virus infection in the world, the World Health Organization has declared this virus a global public health emergency. This disease has reached India's neighboring country Pakistan. According to the World Health Organization, Mpox or Monkeypox is also a disease spread by a virus like Covid.



8. Recently India and which country have signed an MoU to increase MSME cooperation?

- (A) America (B) France
(C) Germany (D) Japan
(A) India and the US signed a historic agreement to boost cooperation in the MSME sector. This agreement is an important step to strengthen cooperation between businesses and entrepreneurs of both the countries and is being considered an important milestone for the economic growth of both the countries. Under the agreement, India and the US will make joint efforts to encourage the growth, innovation, and sustainable development of MSMEs.



9. Recently IIT Gandhinagar has collaborated with which IIT to develop cNARMADA has launched ?

- (A) IIT Delhi (B) IIT Indore
(C) IIT Kanpur (D) IIT Delhi
(B) IITGN and IIT Indore jointly established SCENARMADA to assess the river ecosystem. The Narmada River Basin Management Center has been established on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. IITGN joins hands with Indian Institute of Technology Indore to conduct status assessment and management plan of Narmada River Basin.



10. Where has DRDO successfully tested long range glide bomb 'Gaurav' recently?

- (A) Gujarat (B) Maharashtra
(C) Kerala (D) Odisha
(D) Recently, DRDO conducted the first flight test of Long Range Glide Bomb Gaurav off the coast of Odisha, which was completely successful. LRGB Gaurav is an air launched 1000 kg class glide bomb, capable of hitting targets at long ranges. After launch the glide bomb moves towards the target using a highly accurate hybrid navigation scheme with a combination of INS and GPS data.

