

Today in History on 12 SEP

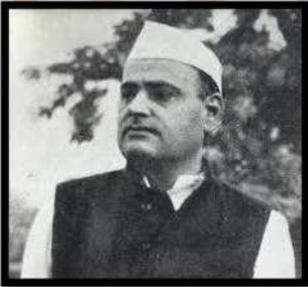
➤ 1624: First submarine test



The first submarine test took place in 1624. The first public test of a submarine took place in London,

demonstrated on the waters of the River Thames under the supervision of King James I. The vessel successfully operated between 12 and 15 feet below the surface and remained submerged for three hours while traveling from Westminster to Greenwich and back.

➤ 1912: Indian leader and journalist Feroze Gandhi was born



Indian leader and journalist Feroze Gandhi was born in the year 1912. His parents, Jehangir Faridoon and Ratimai (née

Commissariat), lived in the Naoroji Natakwala building in the Khetwadi locality of Bombay. He was a student of Ewing Christian College. In 1930, he left his studies to join the Indian freedom struggle. Later, in 1935, Gandhi moved to London to complete his education at the London School of Economics and obtained a B.Sc. degree.

➤ 1944: US Army entered Germany for the first time



The US Army entered Germany for the first time in 1944. Germany has been an important part of America's defense

strategy in Europe since the end of World War II. After the war ended, Germany was occupied by the Allies for 10 years. The US Army was a part of it. However, the number of the army gradually decreased.

➤ 1959: The then Soviet Union's rocket 'Luna-2' reached the moon



The Luna-2 spacecraft was launched on 12

September 1959 under the First Moon Landing Mission, which touched the surface of the moon on 14 September 1959. It is also called Lunik-2.

The Soviet Union i.e. Russia got this success after a lot of efforts. This was the second spacecraft launched under the Soviet Union's Luna Project. Luna-2 is considered to be the first

man-made object to successfully reach the moon.

➤ 2007: Russia tests non-nuclear vacuum bomb (eco-friendly bomb)



In 2007, Russia tests non-nuclear vacuum bomb (eco-friendly bomb).

The Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power (ATBIP), nicknamed "the Mother of All Bombs", is a Russian-designed, bomber-delivered thermobaric weapon. The weapon was claimed to be the world's most powerful conventional (non-nuclear) weapon, even more powerful than the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast, often informally called the "Mother of All Bombs" or MOAB. The FOAB was successfully field tested in the late evening of September 2007.

Important NEWS on 12 SEP 2024

➤ India Emerges as World's Second-Largest 5G Smartphone Market



In a significant development for the global telecommunications industry, Counterpoint Research has reported that India has surpassed the United States to become the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones. This shift underscores India's rapid technological advancement and the growing demand for high-speed connectivity across the nation.

➤ Amit Shah Re-Elected as Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language. Following the formation of the

new government, the committee held a meeting in New Delhi to reconstitute itself, leading to Shah's re-

election. He previously served as the Chairperson from 2019 to 2024. Shah expressed gratitude for the unanimous support and discussed his vision for Hindi's role in government and education.

Housing Finance Limited and Aadhar Housing Finance Limited were each fined Rs 5 lakh, while Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) faced a penalty of Rs 3.5 lakh.

➤ World Trade Centre to Anchor Ambitious AI City Near Hyderabad



The government of Telangana has taken a significant step towards establishing itself as a global AI hub by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the

World Trade Centres' Association for the creation of a World Trade Centre (WTC) within the proposed AI City near Hyderabad. This strategic move underscores Telangana's commitment to fostering innovation, attracting global investments, and positioning itself at the forefront of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

➤ RBL Bank Teams Up with IndianOil for New Credit Card



Private sector lender RBL Bank has launched a new credit card in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation, named 'Xtra Credit Card,' as

part of its strategy to moderately grow its credit card portfolio and enhance customer engagement. The move comes amid scrutiny from the RBI over the rapid growth of the riskier unsecured credit segment.

➤ Five Successful Years of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY)



Launched on September 12, 2019, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY) has provided social security to land-holding Small and

Marginal Farmers (SMFs) across India. This voluntary and contributory old-age pension scheme offers a fixed monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to eligible farmers after they turn sixty. Farmers contribute

➤ RBI imposes penalties on Godrej Housing, HUDCO, and Aadhar Housing Finance

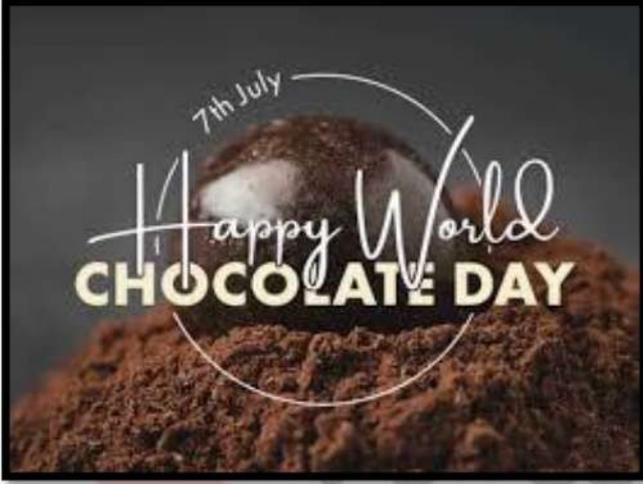


The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties on three Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for failing to comply with its directives on housing finance

companies. The penalties are as follows: Godrej

monthly to the pension fund, with matching contributions from the central government.

➤ International Chocolate Day 2024



International Chocolate Day is celebrated on September 13 annually. The day was established by the U.S. National Confectioners Association. It commemorates the birth of Milton S Hershey. He was an American chocolatier, businessman, and philanthropist. Centuries later, chocolate was assimilated into the Mayan culture as a beverage and for concluding important transactions.

Current affairs MCQS on 12 SEP 2024

Q.1. In which year was Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, which was in the news recently, launched?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2020

Answer: (b) 2015

The government introduced new rules for Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), which will come into effect from October 1, 2024. SSY, launched in 2015 under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign, is a small-deposit savings scheme for girl children. Parents can open an SSY account for their girl child, who should be below 10 years of age and a resident of India. The scheme allows a minimum deposit of ₹250 and a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh annually, with a deposit tenure of 15 years and maturity in 21 years. Partial withdrawals of up to 50% are allowed for education after the age of 18. SSY offers tax benefits under Section 80C and 10 of the Income Tax Act. The new rules require the guardianship to be transferred from grandparents to legal guardians or parents, else the account will be permanently closed.

Q.2. Who has recently launched a Braille insurance policy for visually impaired people?

- (a) Star Health
- (b) Max Life
- (c) LIC
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Star Health

Star Health Insurance has launched the industry's first insurance policy in Braille for visually impaired persons. The 'Special Care Gold' policy, created in association with the National Association of the Blind, offers special coverage for people with 40% or more disability. The initiative aims to provide inclusive health coverage and support services to a significant but underprivileged segment of customers.

Q.3. In which country, more than 14 people have died recently due to Super Typhoon 'Yagi'?

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) China
- (d) Japan

Answer: (c) China

At least 14 people were killed and 176 injured as Typhoon Yagi hit the country's northern region, Vietnam's state media reported. Authorities warned of heavy rains despite the storm's weakening strength. Vietnamese authorities described it as one of the most powerful storms to hit the region in the past decade. Yagi left more than 3 million people without power in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, about 116,192 hectares of which is used for growing rice and fruit. Hundreds of flights were cancelled after four airports were closed.

Q.4. Who has recently inaugurated the 'DIGI Travel' facility at 09 airports?

- (a) Ram Mohan Naidu
- (b) S Jaishankar
- (c) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (d) Ajit Bansal

Answer: (a) Ram Mohan Naidu

Union Civil Aviation Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Srikakulam Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu announced that Digi Yatra services will be expanded to nine new airports in the country. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader made this big reveal about Digi Yatra services on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). His post read, "We are happy to announce the expansion of Digi Yatra services to nine new airports in the country, enhancing the travel experience across India. Our commitment to integrating technology aims to make air travel more seamless and efficient for passengers."

Q.5. Where was the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India-Gulf Cooperation Council held recently?

- (a) Tehran
- (b) Dubai
- (c) Riyadh
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Riyadh

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar arrived in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, to attend the first meeting of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers. During this two-day visit, he will attend the conference

of foreign ministers of India Gulf Cooperation Council countries. He will also meet the foreign ministers of the member countries of the council. The Gulf Cooperation Council region has emerged as a major trading partner of India, where about 90 lakh Indians live.

Q.6. In which state was "Nuakhai Utsav" celebrated recently?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Assam

Answer: (a) Odisha

Nuakhai or Navakhai is an agricultural festival celebrated in India mainly by the people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh. Nuakhai is celebrated to welcome the new rice of the season. The new crop is worshipped and people celebrate it by eating the first rice of the harvest along with their families. Nuakhai Juhar is about sharing gifts with loved ones, wishing them on the occasion and coming together as a family as a symbol of unity.

Q.7. Which state governments have made NRC receipt number mandatory for Aadhaar card?

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Assam
- (d) Manipur

Answer: (c) Assam

All new Aadhaar card applicants in Assam will now have to submit the receipt number of their National Register of Citizens (NRC) application. This announcement was made by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He said that this move in the state will help in preventing illegal intruders. The new process will be implemented in the state from October 1. Tea plantation areas will be exempted from this. However, the 9.55 lakh people whose biometric information was locked during the NRC process will not have to go through this rule.

Q.8. Britain, European Union and which country have recently signed the world's first AI treaty?

- (a) Japan
- (b) America
- (c) Russia
- (d) China

Answer: (b) America

The US, EU and UK have signed the first legally binding international treaty on artificial intelligence, designed to balance AI innovation with the protection of human rights and democracy. Supported by more than 50 countries, the treaty ensures accountability for harmful AI impacts and promotes global cooperation.

Q.9. Andriy Sibiha has recently been appointed as the Foreign Minister of which country?

- (a) Poland
- (b) Ukraine
- (c) Germany
- (d) Spain

Answer: (b) Ukraine

Amid the ongoing war with Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has removed Dmytro Kuleba from the post of Foreign Minister. Kuleba is the same leader who had taunted India for buying cheap oil from Russia. Now Andriy Sibiha has been appointed the new Foreign Minister in place of Kuleba. The Ukrainian Parliament approved the appointment of the new Foreign Minister. The new Foreign Minister Sibiha is being described as a career diplomat of Ukraine. He has also worked in Zelensky's office for many years. He also has a good understanding of foreign policy and strategic partnerships.

Q.10. Who has recently won the 'US Open' title for the first time?

- (a) Coco Gauff
- (b) Aryna Sabalenka
- (c) Jessica Pegula
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Aryna Sabalenka

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus finally lifted the trophy in New York after years of intense competition when she defeated sixth seeded American Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in the US Open women's final. Sabalenka won her first title at Flushing Meadows, falling short in the final a year ago, having reached the semifinals twice before. She defeated Pegula in the final game, facing loud cheers for her hometown favorite at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Q.11. Which medal has Navdeep Singh won recently in the men's javelin throw event at the Paris Paralympics?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze
- (d) None of the above

Answer: 11. A

India's Navdeep Singh won gold in the men's javelin throw F41 category at the Paris 2024 Paralympics with a personal best throw of 47.32m to secure India's first medal in the category. Navdeep's medal-winning throw also surpassed the Paralympic record of 47.13m set by Sun Peng Glass of the People's Republic of China at Tokyo 2020.

Q.12. Which bank has recently launched the "Star Dhan Vriddhi Term Deposit Scheme"?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Bank of India
- (d) State Bank of India

Answer: 12. C

Bank of India (BOI) has launched a 333-day 'Star Dhan Vriddhi Term Deposit' scheme offering 7.9% per annum interest for super senior citizens. The bank has said that the 333-day Trinity Term Deposit is offered at 7.75% per annum for senior citizens and 7.25% per annum for others. Loan and premature withdrawal facilities are also available against the term deposit.

Q.13. Which country has recently emerged as the largest plastic polluter in the world?

- (a) India
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) China
- (d) Japan

Answer: (a) India

India has emerged as the world's largest plastic polluter, emitting 9.3 million tonnes (MT) of plastic annually. It now accounts for nearly a fifth of global plastic emissions, the study published in Nature shows. The figure also highlights a significant environmental concern, with India's plastic emissions leading other countries by a considerable margin. After India, Nigeria and Indonesia rank second and third in plastic emissions with 3.5 MT and 3.4 MT, respectively.

Q.14. How many medals did India win in the 2024 Paris Paralympics?

- (a) 15
- (b) 20
- (c) 25
- (d) 29

Answer: (d) 29

The 17th Paris Paralympics concluded with a ceremony at the Stade de France in Paris. The 18th Summer Paralympics will be held in Los Angeles, USA in 2028. India won a record 29 medals, surpassing the 19 medals won at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. China topped the

medal table with 220 medals, while India finished 18th. Harvinder Singh and Preeti Pal were the flag bearers for India at the closing ceremony.

Q.15. Who has been recently named as 'Finance Secretary'?

- (a) Arvind Vadhera
- (b) Shesh Bharat
- (c) Tuhin Kant Pandey
- (d) R K Bansal

Answer: (c) Tuhin Kant Pandey

Senior IAS officer Tuhin Kant Pandey appointed as new Finance Secretary. Tuhin Kant, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, is currently the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). He was posted in the Finance Ministry since 2019. Tuhin Kant Pandey hails from Punjab and has done his college studies from here. The official order was issued regarding the appointment, which said, "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Tuhin Kant Pandey, (IAS Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Ministry of Finance) as Finance Secretary. He will replace TV Somanathan who was appointed Cabinet Secretary only last month.