

Today in history on 20 SEP

➤ 1388: Death of Firoz Tughlaq III, Sultan of Delhi.

Death of Firoz Tughlaq III, Sultan of Delhi in the year 1388. Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq was a Muslim ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, who ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1351 to 1388. After the death of Firoz Shah Tughlaq, Abu Bakr Shah took power in the year 1389, but he also died within a year.



➤ 1831: The first steam-powered bus was built.

The first steam-powered bus was built in 1831. In 1831, Gordon Bronze of Britain built the first steam-powered bus. This slow-moving bus could carry 30 passengers at a time. The first bus service in our country was started in Mumbai.



➤ 1983: APPLE communication satellite stopped working.

In the year 1983, APPLE communication satellite stopped working. In 1981, India launched APPLE satellite. It was the country's first communication satellite. The INSAT series is the largest domestic communication system in the Asia Pacific region. It is used in broadcasting, telecommunications, meteorology and search and rescue operations.



➤ 1995: 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly begins.

The 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly begins in 1995. It took place on 1995 at United Nations Headquarters in New York City during the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six organs of the United Nations and is the only comprehensive institution in which all UN member nations are equally represented. This assembly meets every year with representatives from all member countries. One of these representatives is elected as the President. Since the General Assembly is the only major organ in which all member countries are involved, its conferences are mostly a forum for controversy.



➤ 2021: Charanjit Singh Channi became the 16th Chief Minister of Punjab.

In the year 2021, Charanjit Singh Channi became the 16th Chief Minister of Punjab. 'Charanjit Singh Channi is a Punjabi politician and has been the Chief Minister of Punjab. He is a member of the Indian National Congress. He has been a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly since 2007 and has also been the President of Kharar Municipal Council twice. Punjab has had fifteen Chief Ministers since 1947. The first was Gopi Chand Bhargava of the Indian National Congress party, who was sworn in on 15 August 1947, when India gained independence from the British.



NEWS on 20 SEP

Centre Asks Platform Aggregators to Register Workers on e-Shram Portal

The Indian government has mandated that platform aggregators onboard themselves and their gig workers onto the e-Shram portal, an initiative aimed at providing unorganised labour with access to various social security schemes. This step is crucial to ensure workers' access to social welfare benefits and to maintain an accurate registry of beneficiaries.



ICC introduces equal prize money for men's and women's cricket World Cups

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that men's and women's cricket teams will receive equal prize money in all World Cup events, starting with the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Set to take place next month in the UAE, this tournament will make cricket the first major team sport to offer equal prize money across genders.



India's Exports Shrink 9.3% in August, Trade Deficit at 10-Month High

India's exports fell 9.3% in August to \$34.7 billion, with the trade deficit hitting a 10-month high of \$29.7 billion as imports surged to \$64.4 billion. Factors such as softening oil prices, reduced demand from China, and global recession contributed to the slowdown in exports. Imports grew 3%, driven by a sharp increase in gold inflows ahead of the festive season and reduced import duties on gold.



➤ Banks and FIs to Invest Rs 32.5 Trillion in Renewable Energy by 2030

At the 4th RE-Invest Summit, hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), leading renewable energy (RE) developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions pledged close to \$386 billion (Rs 32.45 trillion) to develop RE projects by 2030. India aims to build 500 gigawatts (Gw) of RE capacity by 2030, but commitments from the solar power industry have reached 570 Gw. Reliance Industries (RIL) leads the pack with a 100 Gw commitment, followed by NTPC (41.3 Gw) and ReNew (40 Gw).

aiming for a just and orderly energy transition. This agreement emerged from a meeting between Indian Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and US Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, Geoffrey Pyatt, held during GasTech 2024 in Houston. The two leaders discussed expanding collaboration between their nations' institutions and companies, focusing on advancing both conventional and renewable energy sectors.



➤ India and US Explore Enhanced Energy Cooperation

India and the US have committed to deepening their bilateral cooperation across the energy value chain,

➤ Swachh Bharat Mission poised to enter its next decade and SHS launched

In 2014 Honorable Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, it has a transformative impact in our society. This year it will mark its 10th anniversary and this year Swachhata hi Seva 2024 campaign embraces the theme of 'Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata'.



MCQs on Current affairs 20 SEP

Q.1. When is the International Day of Peace (UN) celebrated?

- (a) 18 September
- (b) 19 September
- (c) 20 September
- (d) 21 September

Answer: (d) 21 September

The International Day of Peace is observed annually on September 21. The day is dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all countries and people. The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly voted unanimously to designate the day as a period of nonviolence and ceasefire.

Q.2. Recently, India's first Vande Metro has been renamed as what?

- (a) Namu Bharat Metro
- (b) PM Metro
- (c) Apni Metro Rail
- (d) Namu Bharat Rapid Rail

Answer: (d) Namu Bharat Rapid Rail

To boost the country's railway infrastructure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first Vande Metro (now renamed as Namu Bharat Rapid Rail Service) between Bhuj and Ahmedabad. According to Western Railway officials, the Ahmedabad-Bhuj Vande Metro service will stop at nine stations and cover a distance of 360 km in 5 hours 45 minutes at a maximum speed of 110 kmph.

Rashtrapati Nilayam to Host Bhartiya Kala Mahotsav in Late September

Rashtrapati Nilayam in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North-East Region and the Ministry of Culture will host the first edition of Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav from September 29 to October 6, 2024. The eight-day festival will showcase the rich and diverse cultural heritage of our north-eastern states. Visitors will be able to witness the art, culture, crafts and diverse cuisine of the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.



Q.3. Where will the 8th 'India Water Week' start recently?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (c) New Delhi

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the 8th India Water Week. The biennial four-day event is being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was also present on the occasion. India Water Week is organised on the lines of Stockholm Water Week, which focuses on issues of water management and cooperation. The International WASH Conference 2024 is also being organised along with the 8th India Water Week.

Q.4. Recently, the book 'Shri Ram in Tamil: An Inseparable Bond' written by whom has been released?

- (a) D K Hema Hari
- (b) D K Hari
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Both of the above

On an important day for Tamil literature and cultural heritage, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru R N Ravi presided over the release of an important book titled "Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An Inseparable Bond". Written by the eminent duo Dr D K Hari and Dr D K Hema Hari, this literary work explores the deep connection between Lord Rama and the land of Tamilagam, now known as Tamil Nadu.

Q.5. Recently, who has successfully conducted the first phase of field firing trials of the Indian light tank "Zoravar"?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) IAF
- (c) BEML
- (d) Indian Army

Answer: (a) DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the first phase of developmental field firing trials of the Indian Light Tank Zoravar. In a post on X, the PRO of Defence, Guwahati said, "DRDO successfully conducted the developmental field trials of the Indian Light Tank, Zoravar. Collaboration with Indian industry aids in the development of the domestic manufacturing ecosystem."

Q.6. Which country has recently launched "Chamran-1" satellite amid Western concerns over missile technology?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) UAE
- (d) Palestine

Answer: (a) Iran

Iran launched its Chamran-1 research satellite into orbit using a Qom-100 rocket developed by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The event is significant in Iran's aerospace programme as Western countries have often scrutinised it over concerns of ballistic missile development.

The Chamran-1 satellite, weighing 60 kilograms, was put into a 550-km orbit. Iranian media reported that the satellite is intended to test "hardware and software systems for orbital maneuvering technology". Ground stations confirmed initial signals from the satellite soon after launch, confirming its successful deployment.

Q.7. Where was the National Seminar on Disaster Management 'Exercise AIKYA' held recently?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Visakhapatnam
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Indore

Answer: (a) Chennai

A two-day national seminar, Exercise AIKYA, was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Army's Southern Command in Chennai. It aimed to improve disaster preparedness and promote collaboration among key stakeholders. The event included simulations, technology discussions and expert insights on disaster management roles. Participants included representatives from various sectors such as railways, transport, health and environment, as well as disaster authorities and the Indian Army. Officials from the IMD, Remote Sensing Centre and Central Water Commission also attended. Contemporary issues such as tsunami, floods and forest fires were reviewed, with a focus on prevention, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Q.8. India and which country have recently held the 7th round of 'Foreign Office Consultations'?

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bhutan

(d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (a) Argentina

India and Argentina have concluded their seventh round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) in Buenos Aires, a significant step towards strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. A wide range of topics were discussed in the talks held on Friday and key areas of cooperation were discussed.

Q.9. Recently, anti-apartheid activist 'Praveen Gordhan' of which country has passed away?

- (a) South Africa
- (b) Canada
- (c) America
- (d) Australia

Answer: (a) South Africa

South Africa's former Indian-origin finance minister Pravin Gordhan has died at the age of 75, his family announced. Gordhan was a prominent figure in South African politics since the country's transition to democracy in 1994, serving in various key positions in the government until his retirement in May.

Q.10. "Bhaskar Platform" has been launched recently by whom?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) RBI
- (c) DPIIT
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) DPIIT

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is going to launch a ground-breaking digital platform called Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) under the Startup India programme. The initiative aims to strengthen India's startup ecosystem by centralising and streamlining collaboration between key stakeholders such as startups, investors, mentors, service providers and government bodies. This is in line with India's vision to become a global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship, further boosting the country's commitment to the startup movement.

Q.11. Who has recently won the Best Actress (Critics) award at SIIMA 2024 (South Indian International Moving Awards)?

- (a) Aishwarya Rai
- (b) Kajol
- (c) Priyanka Chopra
- (d) Rani Mukerji

Answer: (a) Aishwarya Rai

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the Best Actress (Critics) award at the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024 for her role in Mani Ratnam's epic "Ponniyin Selvan 2". Aishwarya Rai Bachchan said, "Thank you very much SIIMA for honouring me with this award. It means a lot to me as this film was very close to my heart, Ponniyin Selvan directed by my guru Mani Ratnam. Honouring my work for Best Actress as Nandini in Ponniyin Selvan is truly celebrating the work of the entire team."

Q.12. Recently, Salima Imtiaz has become the first woman from which country to join the ICC umpire panel?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) America
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Maldives

Answer: (c) Pakistan

Salima Imtiaz has made history by becoming the first Pakistani woman to be nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced. The journey has been full of hard work and personal sacrifice, but now, standing on the cusp of this new chapter, it all feels worthwhile. This is not just my victory, it is a victory for every aspiring female cricketer and umpire in Pakistan.

Q.13. Recently, in which state did the Prime Minister of India inaugurate the "Tuticorin International Container Terminal"?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : (c) Tamil Nadu

The Tuticorin International Container Terminal was inaugurated in Tamil Nadu, which was described as a vital part of India's maritime infrastructure. The terminal enhances the capacity of V.O. Chidambaranar Port, contributing to India's goal of becoming a developed nation.

It has a deep draft of over 14 metres and a 300-metre long berth, which helps reduce logistics costs and save foreign exchange. The terminal promotes gender diversity, with 40% of the workforce being women. Tamil Nadu plays a key role in India's economic growth, with significant investments in port development, including the Outer Harbour Container Terminal. The port is also known for its role in green hydrogen and offshore wind energy. India's vast transportation network positions it as a key player in the global supply chain.

Q.14. Recently, in which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the Global Renewable Energy Investor Summit?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Gandhinagar
- (d) Surat

Answer: (c) Gandhinagar

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor Summit and Exhibition (RE-INVEST) at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The three-day summit will honour key contributors to India's remarkable achievement of over 200 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity. Shri Modi also visited the exhibition showcasing cutting-edge innovations from public and private sector companies, start-ups and leading industry leaders.

Q.15. Who has recently launched the Jan Sunwai portal to resolve complaints related to trade and industry?

- (a) Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (b) Amit Shah

- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (d) Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is also the MP from North Mumbai, launched the 'Jan Sunwai Portal', an online platform of the Department of Commerce, designed to streamline communication between stakeholders and officials. The portal will provide a direct channel for complaints related to trade and industry-related issues. Goyal chaired the third day of the Union ministry's trade board meeting in Mumbai.