

20th August, 2021

1. World Humanitarian Day observed by UN on August 19

World Humanitarian Day was observed on August 19, 2021. Theme of the day for year 2021 is “The Human Race”.

This day was designated in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including the chief humanitarian in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day (WHD).

Each year, WHD focuses on a theme, bringing together partners from across the humanitarian system to advocate for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises, and for the safety and security of aid workers.

This year, highlight is on immediate human cost of the climate crisis by pressuring world leaders to take meaningful climate action for the world’s most vulnerable people.

2. President Ramnath Kovind gives assent to Constitution (105th Amendment) Act 2021

President Ramnath Kovind has given his assent to the Constitution (105th Amendment) Act 2021, which restores the power of State Governments to identify and specify Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs).

A notification to this effect was issued by Ministry of Law and Justice.

The Constitution (One hundredth and twenty-seventh amendment) Bill 2021 was passed by the Parliament on 11th of this month during the recently concluded monsoon session.

The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 2021 also got the assent of the President. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on 3rd of this month and by Rajya Sabha on 11th of this month.

3. Sanskrit week being celebrated from August 19 to 25

Sanskrit Week has been celebrated from today, August 19 to August 25. This Sanskrit Week is observed to promote and popularise the ancient language.

4. Delhi University scientists discover new species of frog in Arunachal Pradesh

A team of researchers from Delhi University (DU), along with biologists from the Wildlife Institute of India and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, USA, have discovered a new species of cascade frog in Arunachal Pradesh. It has been named after the indigenous Adi tribe and the hills they inhabit.

5. Assam govt renames ‘foreigner’ detention centres to ‘transit camps’

Assam’s detention centres, where “foreigners” are held in often poor conditions, will now be known as “transit camps”, as per an official notification.

An August 17 notification by Niraj Verma, Principal Secretary of Assam’s Home and Political Department, said “the nomenclature of detention care is changed to ‘Transit Camp’ for detention purpose” in partial modification of an earlier notification dated 17.06.2009.

6. DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of IAF against hostile radar threats

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.

Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats. The technology has been given to the industry for production in large quantities to meet the annual rolling requirement of the Indian Air Force.

The IAF has started the process of induction of this technology after completion of successful user trials.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has lauded DRDO, IAF and the industry for indigenous development of this critical technology terming it as one more step of DRDO towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat in strategic defence technologies.

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup Challenge 5.0

Defence minister Rajnath Singh launched fifth edition of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 5.0). The minister said, there is neither shortage of talents nor lack of demand for talents in the country.

The Defence minister said, the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) platform has

succeeded to a large extent in bridging the gap. iDEX4fauji is also a similar initiative, which gives an opportunity to the service personnel to showcase their talent in these fields.

8. Apurva Chandra appointed as Secretary in I&B Ministry

1988 batch Maharashtra Cadre IAS officer Apurva Chandra has been appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment. Currently, Mr Chandra is serving as Secretary in Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare was holding the additional charge of the post of Information and Broadcasting secretary for over a year now.

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