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World Biofuel Day 2020: August 10



World Biofuel Day is observed annually on **August 10** to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day honours the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel (inventor of the diesel

engine) who ran an engine with peanut oil in 1893. In India, the day has been celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 2015. **Webinar Organized with the theme “Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat”** If the 3 major areas of Biofuel namely, Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas are exploited then India can reduce its dependence on import of crude to a very large extent and import of gas.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 – August 9



AUGUST 9
International Day
of the World's
Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations (UN's) International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is annually observed on 9th August by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with the UN and its member states to

promote the rights of the indigenous population around the world. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People also known as **World Tribal Day**.

ii. The **First** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated on 9th August **1995**.

iii. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples **2020 theme** – “COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience”.

Nagasaki Day 2020 – August 9



The 9th August of every year is observed as **Nagasaki day** all over the world to promote peace and to create awareness about the hazards of nuclear weapons. The 9th August 2020, Marks the **75th anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan.

History:

On 9th August 1945, three days after the bombing on Hiroshima, The United States dropped the Atomic bomb code named “**Fat Man**” over the city of Nagasaki, Japan which instantly killed around 74,000 people.

PM Narendra Modi Launched Submarine Cable Connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicate to the Nation, submarine **Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)** connecting Chennai, Tamil Nau and Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) through video conferencing. This connectivity will enable

delivery of faster mobile and landline telecom services to A&NI, at par with other parts of India. The Submarine OFC cable has been laid at a cost of about **Rs 1224 Crore**.

- The foundation stone foundation for **2,312-kilometer Chennai – Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI)** was laid by PM Narendra Modi on 30th December 2018 at Port Blair.
- The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep (Havelock), Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat.
- **Key Points:**

- -The submarine OFC link will deliver bandwidth of 2 x 200 Gigabits per second (Gbps) between Chennai and Port Blair, and 2 x 100 Gbps between Port Blair and the other islands.
- -4G mobile services, which were constrained due to limited backhaul bandwidth provided via satellite
- -The project funded by the Government of India (GoI) through the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** is under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.
- -Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) executed this project while Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) are the Technical Consultants.
- **–Airtel becomes first telecom to launch ‘Ultra-Fast 4G’ services in Andaman and Nicobar**

PM Launched Financing Facility of Rs.1Lakh crore Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund & Rs 17000 Cr As 6th Installment of PM-KISAN



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore via video conferencing. In this regard, the first sanction of over Rs. 1000 Crore was made to over 2,280 farmer societies.

The duration of the scheme is **10 years** i.e. from FY2020 to FY2029.

- Notably, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be sanctioned in partnership with multiple lending institutions; 11 of the 12 Public Sector Banks have already signed MOUs with the **Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)**.

Fund Usage: This fund will be used towards creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets such as cold storage, collection centres, processing units, etc. These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce, reduce wastage, and increase processing. **Rs. 17000 Crore transferred to nearly 8.5 Crore farmers under PM-KISAN as 6th instalment**

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna (PM-KISAN):

PM-KISAN is CSS under which an income support of Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments is provided to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ownership of up to 2 hectares

Piyush Goyal and Pralhad Joshi Dedicated the Over Video Conference



Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry and Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines dedicated the **Railway Museum at Hubballi** to the

Nation in the event over a video conference presided by Suresh Angadi Channabasappa, Minister of State for Railways.

The Railways Museum at Hubballi is the **first of its kind** in North Karnataka and the **second** in the Southern Western Railways after the historic Rail Museum at Mysuru.

Aim of the Museum:

To preserve and portray the heritage of various branches of the Railways and to showcase the evolution of the railways.

About Hubballi Railway Museum:

- i. The museum is located next to the second entry of Hubballi railways station which holds the historic items of the railway heritage from the past.
- ii. The museum is a monument illustrating the transformation of the railways from the steam era to the modern bullet train era and the progress on the permanent way, rails, sleepers, track fitting, telecommunication, electric items and other technologies.

Def. Minister Rajnath Singh Restricted Import of 101 defence items

Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) decided to restrict import of 101 weapons and military platforms, the embargo on which is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024, in order to boost indigenous defence manufacturing on the lines of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. The announcement for the same was made by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- In this regard, the Defence Industry will receive contracts worth almost Rs 4 lakh crore within the next five to seven years. Of these, items worth almost **Rs 1,30,000 crore each** are anticipated for the Army and the Air Force, while items worth almost **Rs 1,40,000 crore** are anticipated by the Navy over the same period.
- The focus behind this decision is to adopt the technologies designed and developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces in the coming years.
- **Important Points to be noted:**
- -MoD has set a goal of a turnover of **USD 25 billion** (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next 5 years that included an export target of **USD 5 billion** (Rs 35,000 crore) worth of military hardware.
- -Notably, India is **2nd** among the top three importers of military hardware in the world for 2015-19, first being Saudi Arabia and 3rd Egypt, as per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) annual report on "Trends in international arms transfers 2019" in March 2020.
- – Indian armed forces are projected to spend around **\$130 billion** in capital procurement in the next five years.

PCA to Name Mullanpur Stadium After Late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh

Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is set to name its new stadium in **Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Punjab** after the late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh. PCA President Rajinder Gupta proposed the idea to name the stadium and it had been approved.

i. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh played a test match for India against England in 1934.

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz Becomes New Prime Minister of Peru; Succeeds Pedro Cateriano



President of Peru (Republic of Peru) Martin Vizcarra appointed Walter Roger Martos Ruiz, the former defense minister and retired army general, as the country's new Prime Minister. He succeeds **Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido**. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.

- The president also appointed attorney Luis Inchistategui as head of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Mohamed Ould Bilal Appointed as Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Mauritania



Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani has named **Mohamed Ould Bilal** as the **16th Prime Minister** of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on August 06, 2020.

i. Mohamed Ould Bilal belongs to the political party of **Union for the Republic (UPR)**. He has served as Political Advisor and headed several

state agencies.

ii. Bilal's predecessor Ismail Ould Cheikh Sidiya and his entire government resigned on 6th August, 2020 amidst an investigation into high-level corruption charges against them.

About Mauritania:

Capital – Nouakchott

Currency – Ouguiya

Books Titled 'Corona Kavithakal' 'Republic Day 2020' and 'Thus Speaks the Governor' Authored by Mizoram Governor Released

Books authored by Mizoram Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai titled '**Corona Kavithakal**' was released by Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga.

Meanwhile '**Republic Day 2020**' and '**Thus Speaks the Governor**' were released by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajai Lamba through a video message. These books are part of his recently penned books (at least 13), which include collections of poems in English and Malayalam in English and Malayalam since March i.e., during the lockdown.

Key Info

i. Ten of his poems, including "Corona Kavithakal" in Malayalam, are related to COVID-19.

ii. His other poems include Vayojanam (Elderly), Wuhan, Mahamari (Pandemic) and Oh, Mizoram (a collection of poems in English- which will be included in the book Oh Mizoram) among others.

PS Sreedharan Pillai's Writing Skills

He published his 1st book in 1986. He published 105 books before becoming governor.

Till now he has written at least 121 books of different categories, including poetry.