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World Organ Donation Day 2020: August 13



World Organ Donation Day is observed annually on **August 13** to motivate people to donate organs after death and to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India launched the 6th World and 1st ever Indian Organ Donation Day and Organ Donation

Congress in 2010 in New Delhi.

Organ Donation Week in Maharashtra

Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** asked all universities in the state to observe **Organ Donation Week** from **August 13 to August 20, 2020** to create awareness about organ donation among students, teachers, staff and the general public.

Organ Donation and Transplantation in India

- i. As per the reports, the number of transplants performed annually in India has been rising slowly around 5000 kidneys, 1000 livers and around 50 hearts.
- ii. India's current organ donation rate is 0.86 per million, which is very poor when compared to other countries
- iii. If India reaches a 1 per million donation rate, it will almost meet current demands for organs.

International Left handers Day 2020: August 13

The World Left-Handers-Day is observed every year on August 13 to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of Southpaws. Around 10 percent of the people worldwide are left-handed.

History:

i. It was first observed in 1976 by Dean R. Campbell who was founder of the Lefthanders International Inc.,

Objective:

- i. It is being created to celebrate sinistrality (the trait of the left side being more stronger than the right) and to raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages faced by the lefties in the world dominated by right-handers.
- ii. The day aims to spread awareness on issues faced by left-handers like emphasizing the importance of the special needs for left-handed children, and the likelihood for left-handers to develop schizophrenia.

Israel Successfully tested its Arrow-2 Ballistic Missile Interceptor



Israel Defence Minister Benny Gantz, announced that Israel has successfully tested their advanced missile defence system, Arrow-2, a ballistic missile interceptor, which serves as the top tier integrated Israeli shield built to withstand various missile salvos, was built with the support of the

United States of America.

Arrow-2:

- i. Arrow 2 is a multi-layered system designed and manufactured by **Israel Aerospace Industries** and **Boeing**, US based industry.
- ii. Arrow 2 is designed to defend the **short and mid-range rockets** and **long range missiles** was introduced in March 2000.
- iii. The Arrow-2 system along with the new generation Arrow-3 are a part of Israel's multi-layer defence doctrine which include **Iron Dome**, a short-range anti-rocket system, and **David's Sling**, a medium-to-long-range missile defense system, which can defend threats from **outside the atmosphere**.

Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Committed USD 25mn to Expand Unified Champion Schools to 6 countries Including India

Under the **Unified Champion School(UCS)** worldwide programme, the **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has committed USD 25 million to expand UCS(an initiative undertaken by the Special Olympics) to **6 countries namely, India, Argentina, Egypt, Pakistan, Romania and Rwanda** with an aim to empower intellectually disabled children. The 4 year project will create 120 UCS across 12 states in India, which will play a pivotal role to make Indian education system more inclusive.



Significance of UCS

- i. The initiative encourages and empowers young people with and without intellectual disabilities to create lasting social change through inclusion in education, which is in line with the theme of the International Youth Day 2020- "Youth Engagement for Global Action"
- ii. It will root the values of tolerance and inclusion in educational systems around the world.

It's growth within the UAE and around the world, will establish the legacy of the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, the 1st Special Olympics World Games hosted in the Middle East and North Africa region

Goa's Moira bananas, Harmal Chillies, Khaje gets GI tag



The Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) granted Geographical Indications(GI) to Goa's **Harmal Chillies** which are grown

only in Harmal village and adjacent areas of Pernem taluka (specifically in the coastal village of Arambol), **Moira bananas**, an unique banana grown in Moira village of Bardez taluka & Bicholim Taluka and **Khaje**, the traditional state sweet.

Application Filing

- i. The Bicholim- based All-Goa Khaje Producers Association (AGKPA) applied for the GI tag of Khaje through the department of science and technology in 2019.
- ii. Myndoli Banana Growers Association, Ibrampur, Pernem applied for the GI tag of Moira bananas.
- iii. The Harmal-Pernem Chilli Growers Association had made the application for the GI tag of Harmal Chillies

First-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be completed by 2023



First-of-its-kind **Katra (Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)-Delhi Express Road corridor** works have begun and it is expected to be completed by 2023. It was announced by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh. The express Corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Katra

and Delhi to around six and half hours, the total outlay of the project is Rs. 35,

000 crores. The Road Corridor will connect the holy cities of Amritsar, Punjab and Katra-Vaishno Devi, Jammu & Kashmir.

i. The other cities through which the corridor will pass include Jammu and Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Kapurthala & Ludhiana in Punjab.

ii. The Express Corridor is being built under the **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, which is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road & Highways project of the Government of India.

PM Narendra Modi Launched “Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest” platform of IT department



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform for “Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest” via video conferencing that provides faceless assessment and appeal and taxpayers’ charter, as a part of direct tax reforms.

Efforts by CBDT in Tax Reforms:

The focus of the tax reforms has been on reduction in tax rates and on simplification of direct tax laws. In this regard, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has carried out several major tax reforms in direct taxes in the recent years including:

- Reduction in Corporate Tax rates from 30% to 22% and for new manufacturing units the rates were reduced to 15%. Dividend distribution Tax was also abolished.
- With a view to provide for resolution of pending tax disputes the Direct Tax “**Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020**” was rolled out.
- **Document Identification Number (DIN)** wherein every communication of the Department would carry a computer generated unique document identification number.
- To increase the ease of compliance for taxpayers, IT Department has moved forward with prefilling of income tax returns.

Owing to continuous reforms, on the ease-of-doing-business front, India’s ranking had improved from 134th to 63rd position in 2019.