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## History of January 20

- ◆ **1957** : After India imposed economic sanctions, South Africa announced that it would not provide facilities to Indian ships.
- ◆ **1817** : Hindu College was established in Calcutta.
- ◆ **2006** : Nepal and India extended the period of transit treaty by 3 months.
- ◆ **1971** : Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh emerged as union territories.

## Current Affairs Related to 20 January

- ◆ The International Labor Organization has released a report named World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2024. ILO claimed in its report that the global unemployment rate is expected to increase to 5.2 percent in the year 2024. According to the study, the labor market outlook and unemployment are expected to worsen, and an additional 2 million workers are expected to seek employment in 2024. The International Labor Union makes rules to protect the interests of laborers and workers on an international basis. It is a specialized organization of the United Nations.
- ◆ The definition of people with political influence has been changed by the Reserve Bank of India. This move will make it easier for these people to carry out various banking transactions including obtaining loans. RBI has made some changes in Know Your Customer rules. Earlier criteria for PEPs were simple and lacked clarity on definition. PEPs were facing difficulties in obtaining loans or opening bank accounts.
- ◆ A bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 was signed between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The agreement was signed in Jeddah between Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani and Saudi Minister of Haj and Umrah Affairs Dr. Tawfiq bin Fauzan Al Rabia. Of these, 1,40,020 seats are reserved for pilgrims through Haj Committee of India, which will benefit first-time Haj pilgrims in 2024. 35,005 pilgrims will be allowed to proceed through Haj group operators.
- ◆ The counter drone system developed by DRDO is production ready and has been demonstrated to the armed services and other internal security agencies with some orders already placed. DRDO is now focusing on high-end unmanned aerial vehicles, while the industry has capabilities in small drones. DRDO is creating drone based systems and anti drone systems based on the requirements of user agencies.
- ◆ The Central Government has nominated IAS officer Senthil Pandian C as the Ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva. The appointment follows the conclusion of Brajendra Navneet's tenure as India's Ambassador to the WTO on March 31, 2024.
- ◆ The Government of Maharashtra has established an important new wildlife habitat in Sangli district, aptly named the Atpadi Conservation Reserve. Spread over 9.48 sq km, this reserve gives priority to the protection of the endangered canid family including wild dogs, wolves, jackals and foxes. Strategically located, Atappadi bridges the distance between the Maini Conservation Area and Madhok Bird Sanctuary, thereby promoting a protected wildlife corridor.
- ◆ West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee has launched a comprehensive social welfare scheme called Yogashree. The initiative aims to provide free training modules for SC and ST students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations. This step has been taken ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, which shows the government's commitment towards educational empowerment. Yogashree scheme involves the establishment of fifty training centers across the state.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the US has designated China, North Korea, Pakistan and others as countries of particular concern for serious religious freedom violations. This decision is consistent with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which emphasizes the commitment to advance freedom of religion globally.
- ◆ Mulugu district of Telangana has become the stage of an unexpected archaeological revelation. After a natural disaster a team of amateur historians found a collection of Palaeolithic quartzite tools that has not only enthralled the local community but has also pushed back the understanding of human community in Telangana and Central India.



## National & International Current Affairs

**1. When is Penguin Awareness Day celebrated every year?**

- (A) 20th January (B) 21th January  
(C) 22th January (D) 23th January

**(A)** Penguin Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 20 January. Since humans do not typically live in penguins' natural habitats, the species' annual population declines may go unnoticed. These days are a great effort to raise awareness about this important issue.



**2. What percentage of stake will LIC buy in the recently promoted National Housing Bank company?**

- (A) 5% (B) 8%  
(C) 10% (D) 11%

**(C)** Life Insurance Corporation of India said its board of directors has approved purchasing up to 10 percent stake in the company promoted by National Housing Bank. LIC said in a communication to the stock market that the board of directors has approved the proposal to invest up to 10 percent of its share capital in a new company promoted by NHB.



**3. How many crore rupees has Gensol Engineering recently allocated for Gujarat EV plant?**

- (A) Rs 1,000 crore (B) Rs 2,000 crore  
(C) Rs 3,000 crore (D) Rs 5,000 crore

**(B)** Recently, Gensol Engineering, a leading company in the sustainable energy sector, has entered into an important venture by entering into a strategic partnership with the Government of Gujarat. This collaboration is an important step towards taking the country's journey towards a sustainable future. The MoU was formalized as part of the investment promotion activities associated with the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024.



**4. Recently, which country's Changi Airport has received the title of the world's best airport?**

- (A) Spain (B) Italy  
(C) Britain (D) Singapore

**(D)** Singapore's Changi Airport recently reclaimed the title of World's Best Airport for 2023 at the prestigious Skytrax Awards, cementing its reputation for excellence in air travel. Changi Airport regained its position as the best in the world after losing the title to Qatar's Hamad International Airport the previous two years.



**5. Which bank recently introduced Samman Rupay Credit Card for government employees?**

- (A) IndusInd Bank (B) Axis Bank  
(C) UCO Bank (D) RBI

**(A)** IndusInd Bank has launched this credit card by the name of Samman Rupay Credit Card. The bank has introduced it keeping in mind the needs and usage of government employees. A special thing about this card is that it is also UPI enabled. For this, the bank has recently partnered with National Payments Corporation of India.





**6. Recently Basavaraju S has been appointed Secretary to the Chief Minister of which state?**

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Madhya Pradesh  
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Chhattisgarh

**(D)** Recently, Indian Administrative Service officer Basavaraju S. Has been appointed Secretary to Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai. Basavaraju has also been given additional charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department and Urban Administration and Development Department. He is an IAS officer of 2007 batch.



**7. Who has recently been appointed Director General in the Defense Ministry?**

- (A) Arindam Bagchi (B) Randhir Jaishwal  
(C) Sameer Kumar Sinha (D) None of these

**(C)** Recently, Sameer Kumar Sinha, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Assam Meghalaya cadre, has been assigned the important post of Additional Secretary and Director General in the Defense Ministry. His extensive experience and background make him the perfect choice for this important role.



Samir Kumar Sinha, IAS

**8. Where has the Indian Navy recently unveiled the indigenous Drishti 10 UAV?**

- (A) Mumbai (B) Hyderabad  
(C) New Delhi (D) None of these

**(B)** Indian Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar inaugurated the indigenously built Drishti 10 Starliner unmanned aerial vehicle. Whose capacity is 36 hours. The UAVs are manufactured by Adani Defense and Aerospace and the flag-off ceremony was led by the chief guest Admiral R Hari Kumar Chief of Naval Staff.



**9. Recently the High Court of which state banned mining activities near KRS reservoir?**

- (A) Karnataka (B) Maharashtra  
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Andhra Pradesh

**(A)** The Karnataka High Court banned all mining activities within a 20-km radius of the Krishnarajasagar dam in Mandya district. The Central Mining and Fuel Research Institute is currently conducting the dam safety survey. All mining activities will remain banned until the study is completed by experts.



**10. Which country's World Cup winning football player Mario Zagallo has passed away recently?**

- (A) Germany (B) France  
(C) China (D) Brazil

**(D)** Footballer Mario Zagallo, who won two World Cups for Brazil as a player and one each as a coach and assistant coach, has passed away. He was 92 years old. Zagalo was the first person to win the World Cup as a player and coach.

