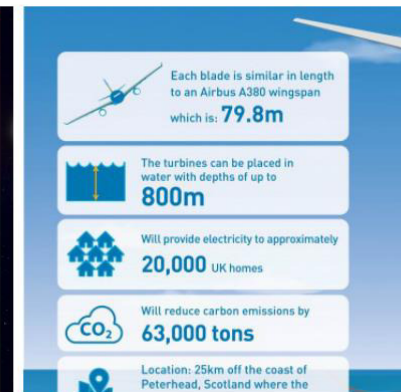


Current Affairs: July, 2017



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1. National Bio-Pharma Mission

It is a joint Industry-Academia mission to accelerate bio-pharmaceutical development in India. It was launched by Cabinet Minister for Science and technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The program in India called Innovate in India got an investment of 250 Million \$ from which 125million \$ was from World Bank.

2. India develops QR-SAM

A quick reaction surface to air missile has been developed by DRDO to enable forces with the capability of engaging multiple target at once. It has a strike range of 25 to 30 kms and is an all weather weapon system.

3. Largest Global Skill Park of India

Union Minister of State for Skill development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Pratap Rudi and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chauhan laid the foundation stone of India's biggest Global Skill Park in Bhopal. It will train more than 1000 students every year and give certification and placement opportunities.

4. Merit App and E-Bidding Portal

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines launched an app called MERIT(Merit Order Dispatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency) and e-Bidding portal for states to select independent power producers for procurement of power and suitable transferring their coal to utilize flexibility in use of domestic coal.

5. No Detention Policy

Government has decided to do away with the No Detention Policy as it faced severe criticism and poor results. New report of TSR Subramanian Committee recommends detention at 5th and 8th standard and also remedial coaching and two extra chances.

6. JIGYASA

It is a student-scientist connect programme launched in CSIR Delhi and KV Schools. In this, students will work and interact on mini science projects in KV Schools.

7. Digital Initiatives for e-Education

SWAYAM- Massive Open Online Course which would target those students who could not complete their studies and those who wished to upgrade their knowledge, but not big courses like Engg, medicine, architecture, physio, dental etc.

SWAYAM PRABHA – 32 DTH channels to transmit high quality educational content. 4hrs of new content everyday especially for those in 9th to 12th standard and preparing for IIT.

National Digital Library – e-library containing 6.5 million books

National Academic Depository – For authenticating all certificates issued by Institutions.

8. MALABAR 2017

Joint Naval Exercise by India, US and Japan. 21st edition to be held in 2017 in Bay of Bengal.

Earlier it was a bilateral exercise but later Japan became a permanent member in 2015. Past non permanent members are Australia and Singapore.

9. India's first world Heritage City

Ahemdabad, founded by emperor Ahmed Shah, is a 606 year old city and has become India's first World Heritage City. World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO announced it in a meeting in Krakwo, Poland.

10. Japan's Men-Only Island gets UNESCO's Heritage Tag

Okinoshima is manned by Shinto Priest and men only can visit the shrine of Island's Goddess and for that they must dip naked in the Sea of Japan, then visit the shrine.

11. India to buy SPKIE missile from Israel

SPIKE is a fourth generation Anti-tank Guided missile and Indian made NAG is a third generation anti-tank guided missile, called as Prospina. Israel's company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems makes SPIKE missile.

12. Elevate 100 Scheme

It is in State Of Karnataka where Govt . will find and identify 100 most innovative startups and give funds and technical support.

13.DART Mission by NASA

Double asteroid Redirection Mission (DART) is the First Asteroid deflection mission. NASA will use its kinetic impactor technique to shift the direction of asteroid which will make a distant earth approach in 2022 October, and then another in 2024. Asteroid is Didymos A and B.

14.Creative India : Innovate India Scheme

It is a scheme to increase IPR awareness. Intellectual Property Rights(IPR) are essential in fields of Authors, Artists, Students, Youth for their innovations. It is aimed to have workshops/seminars and held by CIPAM (Cell for IPR Promotion and Management). CIPAM is under DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

15.HEBRON recognized as World Heritage Site

Hebron is a city on the West bank, sacred to both Jews and Muslims, is recognized by UNESCO as 'Endangered Palestinian Heritage Site'. UNESCO is the Cultural Agency of UN and 195 members and headquarters in France, Paris.

16.Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre

A scheme is launched in Hyderabad for skill development and Certificate courses in GSTaccounting etc. for youths belonging to minority communities, It is launched by Union Ministry of Minority Affairs.

17.Satellite Rukmini

Rukmini is the first military communication satellite developed by ISRO for Armed Forces and primarily for Indian Navy. Its official name is INSAT-4F and is in Geo-stationary Orbit at altitude of 36000 kms. And it can surveil region from Persian Gulf to Malaysia in the Indian Ocean Region.

18.Smallest star of the universe discovered

Scientists have discovered a star slightly larger than Saturn at about six hundred light years away. Researchers of Cambridge University in UK have called it EBLM J0555-57AB.

19.Saraswati : A super cluster discovered

Indian Astronomers discovered an extremely large supercluster of Galaxies which is as big as 20 million billion suns, it has been named as

Saraswati. It is 4000 million light years away than earth. Our own galaxy is part of Laniakea Supercluster.

20.Eco-Bridge comes up in Telangana

It is the first state to have eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor. Tadoba-Andhari Reserve in Maharashtra is linked with forests in Telangana. Tadoba is in Chandrapur, Maharashtra and is oldest and largest national park.

21.Operation Muskan

It is an initiative started by Railway Police to trace missing and destitute children and reunite them with their parents. It is under supervision of Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Main aim is to prevent Child Trafficking and rescue children.

22.Maharashtra Social Boycott Bill

Maharashtra is first state in India to create a bill against social boycott. President has assented to the bill. Punishment includes a fine of 5 lakhs and/or imprisonment upto 7years or both.

23.Veblon Goods and Giffen Goods

Veblon goods are those whose demand increases as their price increases because they are exclusive and appear as a status symbol. It violates the law of demand. Also Giffen goods are opposite of Veblon as their value decreases as purchasing power increases and as a result their demand decreases. Their examples are cheap food crops.

24.Juno spacecraft reaches Jupiter's Red Spot

As a part of New Frontiers program of NASA in 2011, Juno was launched to measure Jupiter's composition, gravity, magnetic field and polar magnetosphere. Red Spot of Jupiter is 16000 km wide storm seen since the 1830's and at least a 350 year old.

25.World Population day

July 11 has been designated by UN as World Population Day and this year's theme is 'Access to Family Planning'.

26. Indian Railways wins Golden Peacock Award

Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF) has won the Golden Peacock Award for Eco Innovation for the year 2017. Railways has substituted diesel with CNG in DEMU trains, which has been done for the first time in the world.

27. India celebrates Falun Gong

It is a meditative and qigong exercise with moral philosophy centered on truthfulness, compassion and forbearance. It is banned in China and India will celebrate it on July 15.

28. SVAROP Project for Cow Derivatives

Govt. has setup a 19 member panel including 3 members of RSS and VHP to carry out research on '*Panchgavya*'. The derivatives are Cow Dung, Cow Urine, Milk, Butter, curd.

SVAROP stands for Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya, a project by DST, CSIR in Collaboration with IIT Delhi.

29. World's First Lethal laser Weapons System

US Navy test fired the laser from a warship in Persian Gulf. The laser successfully destroyed the UAV and moving surface targets. It travels at the speed 50,000 times the speed of an incoming Intercontinental ballistic missile.

30. India's first Solar Powered local train

It is a 1600 horsepower train with solar system and panels and has been manufactured at Integral coach Factory in Chennai. It is fitted by Indian railways organization of Alternative Fuel.

31. Jiyo Parsi Publicity Scheme -II

It is launched by ministry of Minority Affairs and it aims to reverse the declining trend of Population by adopting a scientific protocol and stabilize the population of Parsis. Its phase 1 was launched in 2013.

32. Sprites – World's smallest Spacecraft

They are miniature Satellites of 3.5 cm * 3.5 cm and weigh just 4 grams and are powered by Sun. Starshot wants to make a 1gram sprite and launch them directly in space with a 1 billion watt laser.

33. MUNTRA Tank by DRDO

Mission Unmanned TRAcked by DRDO Chennai Lab is an unmanned tank for surveillance, mine detection and recon in Bio-nuclear affected areas. CVRDE lab in AVADI Chennai made these tanks and are integrated with laser finder, radar, camera etc.

34.SAGAR-VANI App

It is launched by Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. Harshvardhan. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services(INCOIS) with Parent Ministry, MoES, will provide alerts on Potential Fishing Zones, Ocean Sate forecast, High wave alerts, and Tsunami Warnings.

35.World Hepatitis Day

28th July is the World Hepatitis Day and brings people together to raise awareness against the Global Burden of Viral Hepatitis. Hepatitis causes 1.34 million deaths every year and Hep-B/c cause 80% of the liver cancer in the world.

36.NAI ROSHNI Scheme

The scheme was to assist in the development of status of poor women in rural areas and Minority sections. It is for giving proper training to more than 50000 women and make them eligible to work . Also, crèche and meal arrangements will be provided.

37.Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme

Bonds are issued by RBI on behalf of GOI. They are able to be traded on Stock excahnges and as collateral for loans. Tenure is of 8 years with options to get out from 5th year. Limits for investment are 4kg for individuals and for Hindu undivided Family while 20kg for trusts and institutions.

38.SHACHI and SHRUTI launched

Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels made by Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited made them in Pipavav, Gujarat. They are for monitoring India's Exclusive economic Zone (EEZ) and take up Anti-piracy, fleet support Operations and ship protection. They have 76 mm Super rapid Guns and 2-30 mm AK0630 machine guns. They have diesel engines, fire control and Integrated ship management.

39.Wind Farm- Hywind

It is world's first floating wind farm and taller than UK's Big Ben tower and Located in Scotland. It can power 20,000 homes though it is merely a trail project and blades can work in 1km deep water.

40.Reputed Scientist Dr. Yash Pal passed away

He earned doctorate from MIT, USA. He was a professor at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay. Later he became chief consultant for Planning Commission in 1983. He was also chairman of UGC and was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1976, and 2nd Highest civilian Honour Padma Vibhushan in 2013. He contributed to teaching school children without burden on their capabilities, he worked on galaxies and cosmic rays and even a TV show, Turning Point was aired on Doordarshan, while he was a science communicator.

41.Former ISRO Chairman Prof. U R Rao passed away

He was ISRO chairman from 1984-1994 and was inducted in International Aeronautical federation's hall of fame in Guadalajara, Mexico. He won Padma Vibhushan in 2017, he was crucial in launch of 20 satellites including Aryabhata. He also worked at MIT and University of Texas at Dallas. He was inducted in 'Satellite Hall of fame' in Washington DC in 2013.

42.USS Gerald Ford Aircraft Carrier

US navy has inducted world's most advanced and world's largest Ford-Class Aircraft Carriers USS Gerald Ford CVN78. It is named after 38th president of USA. It weighs 1 lakh tonnes and 1106 feet long. It is powered by 2 nuclear reactors with 20 years running capability without refueling. It has electromagnetic launch systems as compared to earlier Big-Nimitz class carriers.

43.Swayam prabha

A scheme to train teachers offline as well as online by DTH television channels.

44.World Para Athletics Championships

Sundar Singh Gurjar won Gold in javelin throw and Amit Saroha won Silver in Club throw under F51 category. India's Karamjyoti Dalal won Bronze in Women's F55 category of Discus throw.

45. Riwatch Museum

Union Minister of state for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the 'Research Institution of world Ancient, traditional, Cultural and heritage' Museum at Roing, Arunachal Pradesh.

46. International Tigers day

7th International Tigers day is celebrated on 29th July. Slogan this year is 'Fresh Ecology for Tiger's Protection'. Conference of 13 countries took place in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2010.

47. Iran Launches Simorgh Rocket

It carried a 250 kg satellite in space and was launched from '*Imam Khomeini National Space Station in Semnan*'. Iran has a relatively young space program, while some have concerns that Iran may use this technology to make long range Missiles.