

Current Affairs: November, 2017



Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Under the Deen Dayal SPARSH yojana, it is proposed to award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as a hobby.

Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX. The amount of Scholarship is to be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month.



DRDO Successfully Test-Fire 'Anti-Airfield Glide Bomb'



Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon



Global Gender Gap 2017

Ranking by Regions

Country	Overall rank	Overall score
Bangladesh	47	0.719
Maldives	106	0.669
India	108	0.669
Sri Lanka	109	0.669
Nepal	111	0.664
Bhutan	124	0.638
Pakistan	143	0.546

Source: WEF



Remunerative Approaches For The Agriculture and Allied sectors Rejuvenation

RKVY- RAFTAAR



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1. Prabal Dostyk 2017

It is a military exercise between India and Kazakhstan. The first edition of this exercise was held in Karangada in Kazakhstan and this year it is being held in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

2. RKVY-RAFTAAR

Cabinet Committee on economic Affairs has approved the continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana as RKVY- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation for 3 years 2017-2020. Rs15,722 crore worth of funds will be distributed among the ratio 60:40 between center and states and 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States.

3. Blackbuck conservation reserve

A wildlife conservation reserve dedicated exclusively to the Blackbuck is coming up over 126 hectares in the Trans-Yamuna region of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. Some Sanctuaries are inhabited by Blackbuck like Velavadar Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, Ranibennur Black Buck sanctuary in Karnataka, Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in Maharashtra, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar.

4. Global Gender Gap Index 2017

India Slipped 21 places below and ranked at 108 on World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index, due to low wages and lesser participation of women in economy. Iceland, Norway and Finland are the top 3 while it is also good to see Rwanda at 4th and Nicaragua at 6th and Slovenia at 7th and Philippines at 10th position.

5. Deen Dayal Sparsh Yojana

Ministry of Communications launched Scholarship Program for School children across India called SPARSH(Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as Hobby). It is for classes 6th to 9th and scholarship is 6000 Per annum.

6. Jnanpith Award 2017

Krishna Sobti has been awarded who is Hindi Fiction writer and an Essayist. She won Sahitya Akademi Award in 1980 for Novel Zindagi Nama and got Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 1996.

7. DRDO Tests SAAW

DRDO successfully tested a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon from IAF Aircraft. It is 120 kg smart class air to ground targeting weapon and is a high precision guided bomb.

8. **India's GI Tags of 2017**

Andhra Pradesh – Banganpalle Mango, Durgi Stone Carvings, Etikopakka Toys, Tirupati laddu

West Bengal- Tulapanji rice, Gobindbhog rice, Banglar Rosgulla, Darjeeling Tea

Tamil nadu – Mamallapuram Stone Sculptures

Telangana – Pochampally Ikat

Nagaland - Chaksheshang Shawl

Maharashtra - Nagpur Orange

Kashmir - Pashmina Shawl

Himachal Pradesh - Kangra Paintings (Total 33 items of India)

9. **Nirbhay Missile**

India Tested indigenously developed sub sonic cruise missile. It has range of 1000 kms, it can carry 200 to 300 kg of Warheads, at speed of 0.6 to 0.7 Mach.

10. **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**

Chennai was included in the list after, Jaipur and Varanasi. The list has 180 cities in 72 countries. Alba City of Italy is on top of list. UCCN was developed in 2004 to promote coordination with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable Urban development.

11. **IRRI Philippines named after Modi**

PM visited Los Banos Philippines, and inaugurated the Shri Narendra Modi Resilient Rice Field Laboratory. IRRI was setup in 1960 and it has worked for livelihood and nutrition of poor and abolishing poverty and malnutrition.

12. **Sagar Kavach**

Odisha and West Bengal governments will organize a joint security exercise, to tighten coastal security mechanisms of their 630 km coastline. This is the first such attempt by Odisha.

13. **ETF Bharat 22**

Government has announced the launch of ETF Bharat 22 which are the 22 stocks of companies that govt. plans to disinvest. Exchange Traded Fund is a slice of fund, issued units are listed on exchanges for anyone to buy or sell quoted price.

14. **Hunar Haat 2017**

Ministry of Minority Affairs organized “Hunar Hat” and USTTAD scheme to help master artisans and display rich culture and Heritage.

15. **Technological Innovation Support Center**

Department Of Industrial policy and Promotion and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed an Institutional Agreement with Anna University to establish India’s Second Technological Innovation Support Centre at Anna University. TISC help innovators with Knowledge, resources about IPR.

16. **COBOTS**

They are supportive robots to humans.

17. **COP23**

Global Climate Change Conference held in Bonn. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) hosted the 23rd annual Conference. COP23 held to further the provisions Paris Agreement is for all the member countries to come together and adapt to impact.

Transport Decarbonisation Alliance It is an alliance that has been declared at the current Bonn session which intends to facilitate a shift to sustainable fuels. This envisions a framework for getting cities to commit to eco friendly mobility,

18. **White Tiger Spotted in Nilgiris**

Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve was constituted by UNESCO in September 1986 under Man and Biosphere Programme. It is a part of Western Ghats which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012.

19. **BRAHMOS missile to be test fired from Sukhoi-30MKI Fighter Jet**

It will provide Indian Air Force to be capable of attacking targets protected by Powerful Air Defence Assets. Brahmos is Short Range Ramjet Supersonic Cruise Missile that can be launched from Submarine, Ships, Aircraft , or land.

It is co-developed by India and Russia, with a range of 290 km and is called world's fastest Anti-ship cruise missile.

20. **Sri Kasi Visweswara Temple**

The Archaeological department has excavated the parts of the temple that remained buried. The 800 year old temple belongs to the kakatiya period in the Medak District of Telangana. Rudramadevi of Kakatiyas ruled from 1262 to 1289 AD.

21. **2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival**

It was recently organized in Meghalaya to boost tourism. Shillong is famous for Wild Himalayan Cherry and Prunus Cerasoides.

22. **GENE Silencing Technique**

It is a technique that aims to reduce or eliminate the production of a protein from its corresponding gene. It is generally described as the Switching off of a gene by a mechanism other than genetic modification. It occurs when RNA is unable to make a protein during translation.

23. **Groundnut free from Aflatoxin Contamination**

Researchers at International Crop Research Institute for the Semi- Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Hyderabad have recently used Gene silencing technique to keep groundnuts free of Aflatoxin Contamination. It is a toxin produced by Aspergillus fungi, and scientists prevented its production to avoid any infection.

24. **Bandhan Express Flagged**

It is cross border Passenger Train between India and Bangladesh. It connects Kolkata and Khulna, and will be the 2nd train to run after Maitree Express, which connects Kolkata and Dhaka. Maitree was flagged off in 2008, 43 years after 1965 war.

25. **Birth Anniversary of Sitara Devi**

She was an Eminent Dancer of Classical Kathak Style of Dancing. Rabindranath tagore described her as Nritya Samragini meaning the Empress of Dance. She is called as Kathak Queen.

26. **Tholapavakoothu**

It is a unique shadow puppet theatre from Kerala. It is an ancient Ritualistic Art form dedicated to Bhagwati. It is performed using leather puppets at the specially constructed theatre called Loothu Madam in front of the Bhagvati temple. It is believed to have originated in 9th century A.D.

27. Autumn Leaf Butterfly

It resembles a leaf found in the autumn with an orangish tinge. It was spotted for the first time in years in Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS), Tamil Nadu.

28. UNESCO ASIA PACIFIC Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

Sri Ranganathswamy Temple in Srirangam has won the award for 2017. It has become the first temple in Tamil Nadu to be given the prestigious awards from UN Body. Mumbai's Christ Church and Royal Bombay Opera House were the other monuments in India that received Award of Merit this year.

29. Uluru

It is the world's largest Monolith and a giant Red Rock located in central Australia. It is called as Ayers Rock. It is sacred to Anangu Aborigines of the region. Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park is listed as UNESCO World Heritage site.

30. Mirabai Chanu Wins World Weightlifting Championship

She is the first Indian in over two decades to claim a gold medal at World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA. Olympic Bronze medalist Karnam Malleshwari won this prize twice earlier in 1994 and 1995.

31. North Korea tests Hwasong-15 Missile

It is an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) and a guided missile designed to deliver nuclear warheads, although they could deliver other payloads. ICBMs have a range of 5500 kms and above.