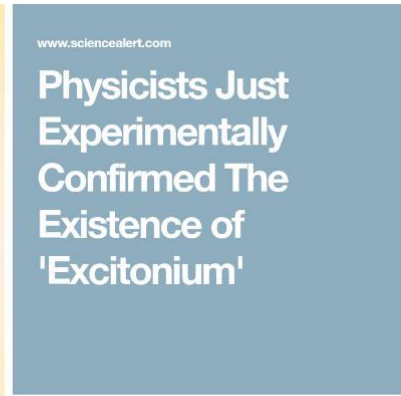


Current Affairs: December, 2017



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1. National Nutrition Mission

Union Cabinet approved the NNM with 3 years investment of 9000 crore INR with aim to reduce Malnourishment and Stunted Growth.

3 areas of focus are:

Stunting

Undernourishment

Low birth weight and Anemia

It is a Tri-ministerial Effort Ministry of Women and Child Development, M/o Health and Family Welfare, M/o Drinking Water and Sanitation

2. BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement

Bay of Bengal Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Agreement during meeting in Delhi to discuss modalities for Coastal Shipping.

Coastal Shipping – Shipping within 20 Nautical Miles of the Sea. It requires low cost and smaller vessels and easy to transport. BIMSTEC started in June 1997 by Bangkok Declaration, its Headquarters are in Dhaka Bangladesh.

3. Soil health Card Mobile App

On the 5th of December, World Soil day, SHC App was launched to benefit field level workers, and Capture GIS (Geographical Information services) coordinates. World Soil day was declared on 5th December 2014 in UN General Assembly. Soil Health Card Scheme of Govt. of India is in 75:25 ratio between centre and states.

4. MSME Sambandh Scheme

It is a public procurement Portal launched recently by the Government to Monitor the implementing the procurement of Medium Small Micro Enterprises by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE). Procurement Policy was launched in 2012 that makes it mandatory of CPSU to procure annual goal of at least 20%. It is to be noted that MSME is the 2nd highest employer after Agriculture.

5. Lakshya Scheme

Labour Room Quality Improvement Scheme. A mobile app for workers who manage normal & completed deliveries in peripheral areas. To reduce preventable maternal deaths and newborn deaths. To be implemented in Government hospital, community health centres.

6. China Launches Dark Matter particle Explorer

DAMPE is a satellite sent to look evidence of dark matter and has detected signals while measuring high energy cosmic rays. This could prove about Invisible matter.

Dark Matter – It is believed to a quarter of all Galactical and Universal mass. It is Unknown and yet to be detected.

7. Sentinel Satellite

It is a European Satellite to track levels of Air pollution around the World and it has sent images of pollution from Power Plants from India. It was launched on 13th October 2017 by ESA and EU in 824 km high Orbit. It has a sensor called *Tropomi* which basically is a spectrometer to measure reflected light.

8. Samsung makes Graphene Battery

By using Graphene in Li-ion batteries Samsung is able to get 5 times faster charging battery by using Graphene Ball and takes 12 minutes to fully charge.

Graphene was discovered in 2004 & is able to make smaller batteries and higher capacity. It is 1 atom thick of carbon matter.

9. Excitonium

New form of matter called excitonium is made of excitons, and they are unusual particles made of escaped electron & hole left behind in the metal. Technique that is used is M-EELS to study superconductor & superfluid.

10. Cites award for commendation to WCCB

India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been awarded Certificate of Commendation at 69th Standing Committee meeting of CITES at Geneva. WCCB- It was established in 2007 by Wildlife Protection Act 1972. To collate Intelligence on Wildlife Crime Activities and to Establish Crime Data Bank.

11. Save Kurma

It is an Operation by WCCB to protect Turtles named Kurma and Combat their Live Trade. The operation was conducted in last Month of 2016 and January 2017.

12.UN Environment Patron for Clean Air

PayTM Founder & CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been named UN Environment Patron for Clean Air. UN Campaign Breathe Life Campaign will work on promoting Policy and Citizen Action.

13.IUCN upgrades status for KIWI Birds

The New Zealand birds Ukarito Kiwi and Northern Brown Kiwi have been upgraded from Endangered to Vulnerable, after long term conservation efforts by their Govt.

14.ASEAN India Connectivity Summit

Theme is 'Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for ASIA in 21st Century' ASEAN was created in 1967 in Bangkok, It has 10 members, all from South East Asia and As Part of India's Act East Policy. To develop infrastructure road, shipping, finance, energy and Aviation.

15.AAROGYA 2017

It is the First ever International Conference on Health and Wellness (AYUSH), held in New Delhi. It is an Exhibition and conference on Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Homeopathy, and Wellness. It is jointly organized by Ministry of AYUSH and M/o Commerce and Industry.

16.Minority Status for HINDUS

National Commission on Minorities formed 3 member Committee to look whether Hindus Should get minority status in 8 states i.e. J&K, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Lakshadweep.

National Commission on Minorities was setup in 1992. 6 communities are notified in the Gazette of India- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains.

17. India declared Free of infective Trachoma

India has achieved goal of elimination of infective Trachoma as specified by WHO in GET 2020 program. Trachoma is chronic disease of Eye & Cause of infective Blindness. It results due to poor sanitation and hygiene.

18. SANKALP Project

Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Project with World Bank. It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme for vocational training under National Skill development Mission 2015.

19. International Solar Alliance Ratified

19 countries have ratified ISA and it becomes first International Treaty based Intergovernmental Organization to be based in India. It is alliance of 121 countries situated between tropic of cancer and Capricorn. NISE HQ are in Gurugram, Haryana.

20. Venezuela's Own Cryptocurrency

Their Currency is called Petro and will develop a Block Chain type system pegged to country's vast resources of oil and gas.

21. Vigilant ACE

US- South Korea Aerial Drill against aggression by North Korea.

22. World AIDS Day

It is observed on 1st of December and for uniting people Against HIV. Founded in 1988, was first ever global Health day. HIV leads to Infection and results in AIDS. RDT or enzyme immunoassays tests are done to confirm infection.

23. Day for Persons with Disabilities

On 3rd December, Theme this year was – *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*. Declared by UN General Assembly on 1992, almost 10% of world's population lives with some kind of Disability.

24. Kapu Reservation Bill in A.P.

It will provide 5 reservation to Kapus which exceeds 50% norm and thus centre nod will be compulsory. Kapus are heterogenous peasant cast of AP.

25. Tuitial Hydroelectric Power Project

60MW HEPP is dedicated to the nation. It is biggest power project in State of Mizoram & flagship of India's 24*7 Affordable Clean Power for All. It is central Sector Project under NEEPCO.

26. SAHAYAM

It is a Search and Rescue Exercise by Indian Navy for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster relief. The area marked for it is SE Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands after Cyclone OCKHI came earlier.

27. AJEYA Warrior

Exercise between Indian Army and British held once every 2 years alternately in India and UK. It was held this year in Rajasthan.

28. ECUVERIN (Friends)

8th edition of India and Maldives Joint Military Exercise. Took place at belgavi, Karnataka.

29. Hamesha Vijayee

Indian Army Training Exercise in Rajasthan for Integrated Land-Air battle Scenarios.