

Current Affairs: May, 2017



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1. IIT Roorkee students make a low cost solar cell by using Jamuns

They have used naturally occurring pigment found in Jamun as photo-Sensitizer for Dye Sensitized Solar cells (DSSC) or Gratzel Cells. These cells use a TiO₂ Anode with Dye molecules absorbing sunlight and electrolyte for regenerating the dye and cathode.

2. TEJAS Express launched

India's premium high speed train with all the ultra-modern amenities like on-board Infotainment, Wi-Fi, CCTV, smoke detection facilities etc. Its speed may vary in the ranges of 120-130 KMPH. Rail coach factory, Kapurthala has manufactured the coaches with Automatic doors. It will operate between Mumbai and Goa.

3. Brahmos III version tested

Indian Army successfully test fired the land attack version of BrahMos Cruise Missile in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is in a land to land configuration and launched from a Mobile Autonomous launcher (MAL) to demonstrate accuracy and Precision. It is based on P-800 Oniks missile.

4. World's highest Railway Bridge

A bridge is about to be constructed on Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir which will be 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower. It is designed to withstand winds of up to 260KMPH and 1.315 km long. It is a link in 111 km Katra and Banihal stretch.

5. THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)

It is an anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by US. It can shoot down short, medium and long range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase. The missile has no warhead, but uses the kinetic energy to destroy the incoming missile.

6. India's First Bio-Refinery

Union Ministry of Road and Transport Highways inaugurated the country's first bio-refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass. The project is at Rahu district in Pune. It uses agro-residue like rice and wheat straw Cotton stalk cane trash Corn cobs to turn them into Ethanol.

7. CORPAT (India – Indonesia Exercise)

The 29th series of India-Indonesia Coordinated patrol will take place from 9 to 25th May 2017 at Port Blair under aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command. It takes place twice a year near International Maritime boundary line to keep this part of Indian Ocean safe.

8. **Index-2017 and Simbex 2017**

INS Sahyadri and INS Kamorta will visit Singapore from May 12 to May 21 to participate in International Maritime Review and IMDEX-17. IMDEX is a maritime defense Community which provides platform for exchange of ideas and business and Naval Engineering. SIMBEX will be an exercise with Singapore navy and Air Force with Indian Ships & Aircraft.

9. **Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP) as a Leprosy Vaccine**

It is a non-pathogenic bacteria and in its heat killed form, it helps in improving up the body's immunity. It has been recognized by Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

It has been isolated at India (Indicus) and discovered by Pran Talwar (Pranii) and Characterization at National Institute of Immunology.

10. **Tiger Census**

A survey conducted in four national parks in Manas National Park, Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park and Nameri National Park. The survey showed that tiger population has slightly grown in 2 out of 4 parks. There is a group called **Tiger Range Countries** where tigers are – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, India, China, Russia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and North- Korea.

11. **NASA's New Frontiers Programs**

It is a series of space explorations Mission being conducted by NASA to study several solar system bodies. 3 missions are active- New Horizons (launched in 2006 and reached Pluto in 2015), Juno (launched in 2011 and entered Jupiter in 2016), Osiris Rex (launched in September 2016 towards Asteroid Bennu and will return with a sample to earth in 2023).

12. **World Thalassemia Day May 8**

India is Thalassemia Capital of the world with 40 million carriers and 1 lakh patients. It is a genetic blood disorder that characterizes abnormal Production of Haemoglobin in the body. It can lead to Iron Overload and bone deformities and heart diseases etc.

13. Nalband Mutation Disease

Agra or Nalband Mutation is a neurodegenerative disease caused by mutation in the gene MLC-1 in the chromosome 21. It is found among Nalband Communities in Agra.

Polymelia It is a rare birth defect in which individual has more than usual number of limbs. It is also called as hydra syndrome. Generally the extra limb is smaller or deformed.

14. Mahatma Bunkar Bima Yojana

Scheme is to provide handloom weavers insurance cover in case of natural death (60,000rs.) and accidental death (Rs. 1,50,000), total disability(1,50,000), partial disability(75000). Also a scholarship of Rs. 300 per quarter per child is given to students studying in class IX to XII. Benefit only to 2 children.

15. WannaCry Ransom ware

Indian Government's Cyber Security Unit CERT-In has issued alert about WannaCry Ransomware attacks all over the country and world. It has hit in more than 100 countries like UK and US. Attacks on old OS systems like Windows XP or Windows 7 and it locks the system and demands in about\$ 300 in crypto currencies like Bitcoin is made.

16. SPYDER Missile

India has successfully tested Short Range Python and DERby missile from test range in Odisha. It is an Israel made quick reaction surface to air missile to neutralize enemy targets up to a distance of 15 Km and at heights between 20 and 9000 meters. Indian built Akash Missile has longer range of 25 Km.

17. European XEFL Laser

It is the world's biggest laser, 3.4 Km long, underground, with wavelength of 0.8nm and 500 times shorter than that of visible light. It has repetition rate of 1 pulse per second to 27000 pulses per second and is able to film and photograph atoms and Bio-molecules to study illnesses and develop therapies.

18. **India's Tallest Flag** is installed at Attari on Indo Pak border and is 360 feet. Second tallest flag is 300ft at Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

19. Darwaza Band Karo

Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has started the campaign to encourage behavior change in men to make them use toilets as they were not using despite having a toilet in their own house.

20. Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar 2016

Satyabrat Rout, a professor from the Department of Theatre, SN School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for 2016. He is pioneer for visual arts and Scenography India Perspective.

21. European Extremely Large Telescope

Despite its name, it is coming up in South America, Chile in the Atacama Desert. At 3000 meter high mountain and to be ready in 2024, it will be largest instrument. It is funded by European Southern Observatory.

22. Cobra Lily

It is an Exotic Plant Species (*Arisaema Translucens*), has been rediscovered in Nilgiris after 84 years. It is known to the Toda tribals of Nilgiris. It shows early arrival of Monsoon. They are on the risk of Extinctions.

23. SHAKTI Scheme

Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India: to give coal at all plants across India, Cheaper and Affordable power to all. More linkages to supply and reduced tariff to be targeted.

24. India's longest Bridge

Bhupen Hazarika Bridge is our longest at 9.15 Km long on river Brahmaputra in Assam. It leaves only 100Km areal distance to India-China border and bridge can take Tanks Across too.

25. Southern bird Wing butterfly

It has been declared as State Butterfly of Karnataka and is largest butterfly in India. Earlier Maharashtra has chosen Blue Moron Butterfly as state butterfly as well.

26. Fish having only father's genes

Squalius Alburnoides is a fish that has properties of androgenesis by

which a father produces a clone of itself. It is found in Portugal or Spain.

27. India's First Under Water tunnel

It is to be built on the Hooghly River between Howrah and Kolkata. **Rachna**, a giant Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) was deployed to dig the underwater tunnel that runs length of 502 meters under the river. It is a depth of 30 meter below the riverbed. It is for the east west metro line, be ready by 2019.

28. Bacteria named after Dr. Abdul Kalam

A new bacteria called Solibacillus Kalamii has been discovered on the filters of International Space Station (ISS) and is unique and isn't on earth. It is solivbacillus, a spore forming bacteria.

29. Narmada Sewa Mission

Namami Devi Narmade Yatra has started in Anoopur District of Amarkantak hills and will be for conservation of river Narmada. Narmada is also called as Rewa and it flows from east to west. India has three major rivers that flow east to west i.e. Narmada, Tapti and Mahi.

30. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

It was started in 2003 with aim to close regional imbalances and gaps in affordable health services. The aims are to set up new AIIMS and upgrade Existing Medical Colleges.

31. India's new long range missile test facility

South Andaman's Rutland Islands has got clearance of National Board of Wildlife, which has been held up since 2012. Indigenous tribe Jangil and Jarawa habitate in Rutland Island.

32. Vastslaya matri Amrit Kosh

National human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre has been inaugurated by Min. of Health and Family Welfare. In collaboration with Norwegian Government, Oslo University and NIPI Newborn Project, is a national human milk bank to collect, pasteurize, test and safely store milk donated by lactating mothers and make it available for infants in need.

33. 3rd Gravitational Wave Detected

LIGO detectors in US have detected yet another merger of 2 two black

holes. It has also the alignment of the spins of black holes. Gravitational waves are the ripples in the fabric of Space time. They were first suggested by Albert Einstein in 1916. Indian LIGO site has been setup in Hingoli, Maharashtra.

34. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana

The National Urban Livelihood Mission is been renamed as Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - Rashtriya Shahri Ajeevika Mission. To form self-help group, building shelters, supporting street vendors, innovative support to rag pickers, differently abled.