

Week 1 Current Affairs Update

1st- 7th May 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

‘AYURAKSHA’ – BY ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA) AND DELHI POLICE



Date: 2nd May 2020

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Delhi Police organized AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personnel.

Key Points:

- The programme was titled as AYURAKSHA “Corona Se Jung- Delhi Police Ke Sang”.
- The aim behind launching this programme to fight against corona through simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.
- The programme was launched under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Under this initiative Delhi Police will be undertaking the proposal for maintaining the health of front line COVID warriors personally through Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.

YASH Programme



Date: 2nd May 2020

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)'.

Key Points:

- YASH programme is a comprehensive and effective science and health communication effort for promoting grass-root level appreciation and response on health and would help to save and shape the lives of people at large and build confidence, inculcate a scientific temper, and promote health consciousness among them.
- Under the programme, strategies have been worked out to involve academic, research, media, and voluntary organizations to facilitate necessary actions and emergency preparedness of society to address the challenge.
- The programme is aimed at minimizing risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities, promoting public understanding of common minimum science for community care and health safety measures like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing, maintaining desired collective behavior, and so on.

FREE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME



Date: 3rd May 2020

Maharashtra Government has decided to grant free health insurance scheme to all citizens.

Key Points:

- The health insurance scheme will be granted under Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.
- The decision was taken amidst the outbreak of Coronavirus.
- By granting free health insurance schemes to all citizens, Maharashtra Govt has become the first state in India to do this.
- Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance. Documents

such as ration cards and domicile certificates are essential to apply for the scheme.

- Also, the government of Maharashtra has signed an MoU with the General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA) for the treatment of COVID-19 patients at private hospitals in Pune and Mumbai.

AYUSH KAVACH APP

Ayush Kavach - COVID



Date: 7th May 2020

Ayush Kavach mobile app has been launched by the state government of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:

- The app provides health-related tips and information about Ayurveda medicine on novel coronavirus infection.
- Ayush Kavach mobile app will help people access prescriptions to strengthen their resistance through the ancient mode of Yoga and Ayurveda of India.
- The app is developed by the Ayush Department of Uttar Pradesh in view of the COVID-19 health crisis.

AGRICULTURE

‘KISAN SABHA APP’

NEXT IAS



KISAN SABHA APP

Date: 3rd May 2020

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi has developed Kisan Sabha App with an aim to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management systems.

Key Points:

- The Kisan Sabha App is a one-stop solution for farmers, transporters, and other entities engaged in the agriculture Industry.
- It provides the most economical and timely logistics support to the farmers and helps them to provide timely delivery of their produce at the best price and thus increase their profit margins by minimizing the interference of middlemen and directly connecting with the institutional buyers.
- Kisan Sabha app works for people in the agriculture services sector such as dealers of fertilizers and pesticides, transporters, cold stores, and warehouse owners, and mandi dealers who can reach out to more farmers for their services.

TRADE & COMMERCE

‘BHARATMARKET’



Date: 3rd May 2020

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has decided to launch ‘Bharatmarket’ which is a national e-commerce marketplace.

Key Points:

- ‘Bharatmarket’ will be used for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.
- The national e-commerce marketplace will integrate capabilities of various technology companies to provide end-to-end services in the logistics and supply chains from manufacturers to end consumers, including deliveries at home.
- Bharatmarket will include nationwide participation of all retailers and aims to bring 95% of retail traders onboard the platform, who would be handling the portal.
- The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has received support and guidance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for this initiative.

The Agro MSME Policy



Date: 5th May 2020

Union Minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari announced an Agro MSME Policy that will focus on entrepreneurship development in rural, tribal, agricultural, and forest areas for manufacturing products using local raw material.

Key Points:

- An Agro MSME policy will be launched to focus on export enhancement and import substitution to replace foreign imports with domestic production.
- It will be also focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, research skill and experiences to convert the knowledge into wealth.
- It will aim to provide a further extension of the moratorium, payment of salaries to workers during lockdown from their ESI and Provident Fund, a helpline for MSMEs, strengthening access to finance, etc.
- An Agro MSME policy is launched to focus and uplift the MSME sector which is affected during lockdown amidst COVID-19.

ENVIRONMENT

‘IDEATHON’



Date: 4th May 2020

The National Mission for Clean Ganga operating (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) launched “IDEAthon” titled “The future of River Management”.

Key Points:

- The webinar was launched to explore how the COVID-19 crisis can shape River Management strategies for the future and created the participation of various expertise across the globe to discuss strategies.
- It aimed to create awareness about the ecological importance and economic potential of the rivers to help the cities.
- IDEAthon had created a framework called River Management in a city’s Urban river management plan and examined and studied how the social angle of rivers can be leveraged to address other crises.
- NMCG has developed a template for an Urban River Management Plan with the National Institute of Urban Affairs.

SOCIAL

“THE SARAS COLLECTION” LAUNCHED ON GEM PORTAL



Date: 5th May 2020

The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched “The Saras Collection” on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.

Key Points:

- “The Saras Collection” is an initiative of GeM and the DeenDayalAntyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The collection will display daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs).
- It aims to grant market access to Central and State Government buyers by SHGs.
- The products of SHGs will be categorized in 5 groups namely, handicrafts, handloom and textiles, office accessories, grocery and pantry, and personal care and hygiene.

MUKHYA MANTRI SHAHARI ROJGAR GUARANTEE YOJNA



Date: 5th May 2020

The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to launch an employment guarantee scheme called “MukhyaMantri Mantri Shahari Rozgar Guarantee Yojna” with an aim to improve the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus.

Key Points:

- The Yojna will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.
- People employed under the scheme will also be imparted training to increase their skills as and when required.
- Also, the HP government has provided Rs 2,000 to about one lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Board.

‘SURAKSHIT DADA-DADI & NANA-NANI ABHIYAN’ CAMPAIGN



Date: 7th May 2020

NITI Aayog in partnership with Piramal Foundation launched the ‘Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan’ campaign to ensure the well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points:

- The campaign creates awareness about various aspects of senior citizens’ health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioral changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic.
- It has been launched in 25 Aspirational Districts across Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- As the senior citizens are more vulnerable to COVID-19, they are being given special attention under the scheme.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

BAMBOO CONCLAVE 2020



Date: 6th May 2020

The Bamboo Conclave 2020 was recently held via video conference and was addressed by Dr. Jitendra Singh who is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

Key Points:

- The conference was attended by the union ministry of agriculture and other stakeholders.
- The Minister discussed India's Post-COVID economy which will provide an opportunity for India to emerge as an economic power with the support of its Bamboo resources.
- The conclave also focused on the promotion of bamboo manufacturing and trade and also focused on working out the feasibility of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in this sector.

INTERNATIONAL

REPORTS & INDICES

GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT (GRID) 2020



Date: 1st May 2020

Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) released its Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020.

Key Points:

- As per the report 5 million people were displaced in India in 2019, which is the highest in the world, due to disasters, including cyclones and monsoon floods.
- As per the report, Political and electoral violence, mostly in Tripura and West Bengal accounted for more than 7,600 in the first half of the year.
- Conflict and violence triggered about 19,000 new displacements and 2,89,000 people were evacuated in Gujarat in June ahead of cyclone Vayu in 2019. Also, Cyclone Bulbul in Odisha and West Bengal triggered 1,86,000 displacements.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

USAID TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION TO INDIA TO FIGHT COVID-19



Date: 2nd May 2020

An Aid agency of United States-The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced to provide an additional \$3 million to India, for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Key Points:

- The fund will be utilized under Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.
- Through the PAHAL project, USAID aims to support the National Health Authority (NHA) in establishing a financing facility that can mobilize resources from the private sector to assist over 20,000 health facilities enrolled under the health scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- USAID has provided \$5.9 million to assist India in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic so far.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

VIRTUAL SUMMIT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)



Date: 4th May 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Key Points:

- The aim behind this summit was to enhance the coordination of the member states in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The summit identified measures for enhanced coordination among NAM members in their common fight against COVID-19.
- The online session concluded with a political declaration of the movement “uniting against COVID-19.”
- The summit was conducted under the Presidency of Azerbaijan.

CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE



Date: 7th May 2020

European Union and its partners hosted the Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference.

Key Points:

- 40 countries were part of this online summit.
- The conference aimed to raise €7.5 billion in initial funding in global cooperation.

- The conference highlighted the requirement of inculcating responsibility globally to combat COVID-19.
- The conference focused on the need to develop and deploy effective diagnostic treatment and vaccines to cure COVID-19.
- Several world leaders and organizations pledged \$8 billion (around Rs.60,000 crore) to manufacture a vaccine to combat COVID-19, the diseases caused by the novel coronavirus. The fund will be used to fund laboratories across the world that have promising leads to research and develop a vaccine. Romania contributed \$200,000, Canada contributed \$850 million. Other top donors were Japan, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France, and Saudi Arabia.

SPACE

ARKTIKA-M: RUSSIA'S 1ST SATELLITE TO MONITOR ARCTIC CLIMATE



Date: 5th May 2020

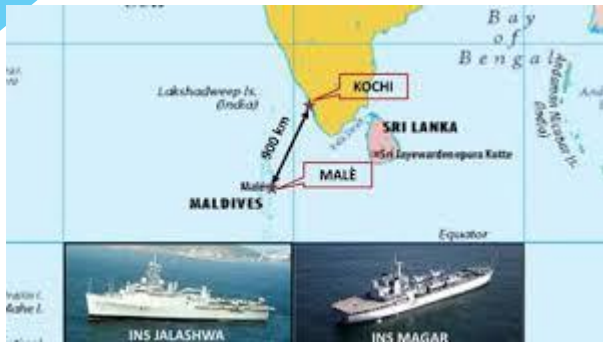
Russia will be launching its first satellite to monitor the Arctic climate and environment 1 this year.

Key Points:

- Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow improving weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.
- The Arktika M is a series of planned remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites which will be operated in a highly elliptical 12-hour orbit. These are being designed to monitor high-latitude areas of the Earth. Their payload will comprise MSU-GSM multi-spectral imager and transmitters for meteorological and rescue systems.

DEFENCE

OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU



Date: 6th May 2020

Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu to bring back the Indian citizens who are stranded overseas because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points:

- The Operation Samudra Setu means Sea Bridge.
- This operation is done by the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, and various other agencies of Central/State governments.
- As a phase I of this operation, Indian Naval Ships (INS) Jalashwa and Magar are presently proceeding to the port of Male, the Republic of Maldives to evacuate the people stuck there amidst of COVID-19.
- The evacuation process will start from 8th May 2020. In the first trip, a total of 1000 persons will be evacuated.

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PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

NEERAJ DHAWAN



Date: 4th May 2020

Why in news: Appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank.

Key Points:

- Neeraj Dhawan has been appointed as Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank for a tenure of three years.
- Mr Dhawan has replaced Ashish Agarwal.
- Before assuming the charge as CRO, Neeraj Dhawan has been serving in the financial services and banking industry. He has an experience of more than 29 years in this sector.

D P S NEGI



Date: 7th May 2020

Why in news: Appointed as the Director General of the Labour Bureau.

Key Points:

- D P S Negi took charge as the Director General of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

- Besides, Negi also assumed charge as Senior Labour & Employment Advisor of the ministry.
- He is an Indian Economic Services (IES) officer of the 1985 batch. Prior to this new assignment, Negi served as Advisor Finance (MSME).

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

TS TIRUMURTI



Date: 1st May 2020

Why in news: Appointed as the Next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

Key Points:

- The government has appointed T.S. Tirumurti as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.
- He will take over from Syed Akbaruddin, one of the country's most prominent diplomats, who is retiring.
- His appointment to the UN will come at an important time when India will be in the UN Security Council for a two-year term in 2021-22.
- Since 2018, he has been Secretary for Economic Relations, handling India's multilateral and bilateral commercial ties.

ISSUES

NATIONAL

SOCIAL

VIZAG STYRENE GAS LEAK REMINDS OF BHOPAL TRAGEDY



Date: 7th May 2020

The toxic styrene gas leaked from LG Polymers plant at RR Venkatapuram, Gopalapatnam in Visakhapatnam causing several deaths.

Key Highlights:

- The gas leaked from one of the unit's chambers at early morning on 7th May when people were asleep in the area surrounding the factory
- The locals in the area had reported throat and skin irritation and some toxic infection, then the administration and police came into action.
- The leaked gas formed toxic fumes which spread in nearby villages and hundreds of people living within a 5 km radius of the plant rushed outside in panic.
- Several people and the animals reportedly collapsed and were seen lying unconscious on the roads.
- The death toll was reported to be 13, and more than 1,000 people are undergoing treatment after gas exposure.
- The Styrene is a flammable liquid used to make polystyrene plastics, rubber and latex.
- Long-term exposure to styrene can have an effect on the central nervous system (CNS) peripheral neuropathy and even death.
- The incident reminds people of the gas leakage from the Union carbide factory at midnight of 3rd December 1984 in Bhopal which caused several deaths and disabilities.

SOCIAL

USCIRF ANNUAL REPORT 2020 PUTS INDIA INTO CPC



Date: 1st May 2020

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its Annual Report 2020 has downgraded the Indian ranking and put into the list of “Country of Particular Concern (CPC)”.

Key Highlights:

- This is the first time since 2004 that India has been placed in this category for engaging in and tolerating systematic, and ongoing religious freedom violations.
- The report has placed 14 countries Burma, China, Eritrea, India, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.
- As per the report, Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens seen as one of the reasons.
- The commission recommended that the United States (US) government take stringent action against India under the IRFA, 1998.
- The commission recommends imposing targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing their assets and/or barring their entry into the US.

SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES POSTPONED



Date: 4th May 2020

The management of the Commonwealth Youth Games took a major decision and postponed the games.

Key Highlights:

- Commonwealth Games Federation Executive Board decided to organize the games most probably in 2023.
- The 7th edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games was scheduled to take place from August 1 to 7, 2021, in Trinidad and Tobago.
- It was rescheduled because of clash of dates with the Tokyo Olympics.
- The Olympics was originally scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2020 but was rescheduled for next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The rescheduling of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics has now been rescheduled to the summer of 2021 during the original dates of the Youth Games.
- The president of the Commonwealth Games Federation said the decision was taken in the best interest of athletes and fans.

POLITY

REBRANDING OF TERRORIST GROUPS IN KASHMIR



Date: 3rd May 2020

The terrorist groups in Kashmir have changed their strategy and rebranded to escape the actions by Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Key Highlights:

- The newly formed group 'The Resistance Front' (TRF) is an amalgamation of existing terror groups operating in Kashmir,
- It is According to the assessment of the security establishment it is rebranded to give Pakistan deniability from action under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- The TRF is actively supported by Pakistan and consists of old terror groups such as Jais-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahidin, LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) , Al-Badr etc.
- This renamed terrorist organization has an active online presence and perhaps also being branded to attract international attention and appears to falsely show the projection of terrorism as a resistance movement run by Kashmiris.
- According to the International security experts there is a clear imprint of the ISI in the rebranding effort and that it is a play out of the strategy adopted from Myanmar.

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IDEAS

NATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

CMERI DEVELOPS HCARD ROBOT FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS



Date: 1st May 2020

The researchers at Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) develop a robotic assist frontline healthcare warriors who are involved in duty COVID-19 duty.

Key Highlights:

- Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device is helpful for frontline healthcare workers in maintaining physical distance from Corona virus patients.
- HCARD helps in decreasing the level of risk as it is device is equipped with various state-of-the-art technologies and works both in automatic as well as manual modes of navigation.
- HCARD can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station
- It have varied important features including navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines and food to patients, sample collection, audio-visual communication
- The 80 kg robotic device is developed with a cost of around Rs 5 lakhs .
- CMERI is one of the laboratories of the premier R& D organization of the country-Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- CMERI is also credited with developing Disinfection Walkway, Road Sanitizer Unit, Face Mask, Mechanical Ventilator and Hospital Waste Management Facility for covid-19 treatment and management.

HEALTHCARE

INDIAN START-UP DEVELOPS WASHABLE MASK



Date: 6th May 2020

An Indian start-up develops washable antimicrobial mask which can be used more than 50 times.

Key Highlights:

- This washable mask named 'NSafe' is reusable up to 50 launderings, thus greatly cutting down the cost of use.
- It has been developed by IIT-Delhi start-up 'Nanosafe Solutions'
- This antimicrobial and washable face mask 'NSafe' is developed by an IIT-Delhi start-up 'Nanosafe Solutions'.
- This mask is a triple-layered product consisting of inner hydrophilic layer for comfort, middle layer having antimicrobial activity and outer most layer having water and oil repellent behaviour.
- NSafe mask has 99.2% bacterial filtration efficiency along with breathability and splash resistance
- This unique product is useful especially during the current situation with face masks becoming mandatory to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic

ART & CULTURE

CHAK-HAO, GORAKHPUR TERRACOTTA & KOVILPATTI KADALAI -MITTAI GETS GI TAG



**Geographical
Indication (GI)
Tags**

अतुल्य भारत की अमूल्य निधि
Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India



Date: 2nd May 2020

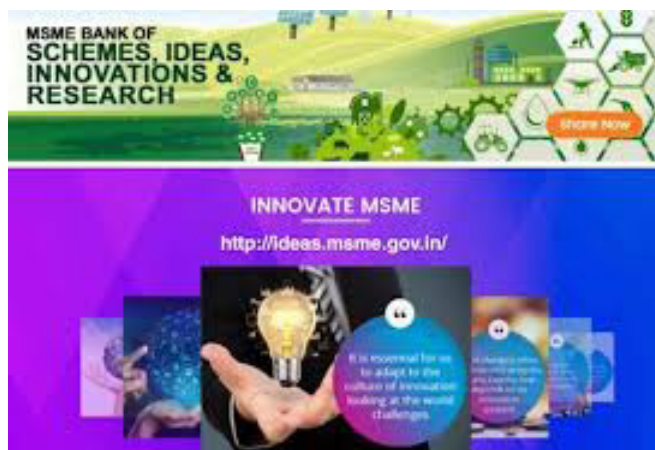
Chak-Hao, the black rice of Manipur, the terracotta work of Gorakhpur & Kovilpatti kadalai-mittai gets the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Key Highlights:

- The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- The GI tag is one of the Intellectual Properties (IP) rights and provides similar rights and protection to holders like Copyright, Patent, etc.
- The GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003.
- The black rice of Manipur -Chak-Hao is glutinous rice and cultivated in Manipur over centuries.
- It is characterized by its special aroma and offers various health benefits and managing diseases ranging from diabetes to atherosclerosis.
- Health Benefits- prevents and manages ailments such as atherosclerosis, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, hypertension, high cholesterol levels, arthritis, allergies, ageing signs and even cancer.
- Gorakhpur terracotta is traditional art form using natural color which stays fast for a long time.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a peanut candy manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- It is traditionally prepared during village festivals using palm jaggery and groundnuts from nearby districts

IT

IDEAS, INNOVATION & RESEARCH PORTAL ON MSMES LAUNCHED



Date: 2nd May 2020

Ideas, Innovation & Research Portal on MSMEs launched by Union Minister of Road transport & Highways and MSME

Key Highlights:

- The minister also launched the Bank of Schemes on the research portal.
- The Portal gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments and has the provision for uploading Ideas, Innovations & Researches in the sector.
- The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing.
- Inflow of venture capital, foreign collaboration etc. can also be facilitated through the portal
- The minister informed that the Users can share their ideas, innovation or Research on the platform which will be reviewed by the concerned Officer and publish them for public view.
- The portal has the facility to indicate the stage of Idea (Concept, Prototype or Commercialized) to make more user friendly.
- This will benefit the potential entrepreneurs as One stop compendium of Ideas, innovation and research ready for commercialization.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INDIAN SCIENTISTS FABRICATE WAFER-SCALE PHOTODETECTOR



Date: 7th May 2020

Indian scientists have fabricated an energy-efficient photodetector for security applications.

Key Highlights:

- The scientific team of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), fabricated this wafer-scale photodetector using gold – silicon interface, for security applications.
- The unique property of this photodetector is that It can help detect weak scattered light as an indication of unwanted activity and covers a broad spectral range from Ultraviolet (UV) to Infrared (IR)
- The detector exhibits a rapid response of 40 microseconds and can detect low light intensities The device
- The Photodetectors in general are the heart of any optoelectronic circuit that can detect light
- These types of devices are employed for a wide variety of applications ranging from controlling automatic lighting in supermarkets to detecting radiation from outer galaxy as well as security-related applications.
- The material cost and the intricate fabrication processes involved in realizing high-performance detectors make them unaffordable for day to day applications and the research team of JNCASR able to make it potentially affordable.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and situated in Bengaluru.

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