

8TH MAY, 2020



IASBABA'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS (CAP) - TO THE POINT!



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Topics to be covered

1

1. Indian Space Programme
2. New currency of Iran
3. Styrene gas leak
4. Three studies of Ministry of AYUSH
5. Soil Health Card

China's new large rocket makes maiden flight



BEIJING, MAY 05, 2020 16:52 IST

UPDATED: MAY 05, 2020 22:21 IST

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The Long March 5B carrier rocket takes off from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Wenchang, Hainan Province in China on May 5. | Photo Credit: CHINA DAILY

The successful flight inaugurates the “third step” of China’s manned space program, which is to construct a space station

China on Tuesday successfully launched a new rocket and prototype spacecraft, state media said, in a major test of the country’s ambitions to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the Moon.

Also read: [Cost is key: Chinese space firm revs up for reusable rocket race](#)

‘The Long March 5B’ rocket took off from the Wenchang launch site in the southern island of Hainan and eight minutes later an unmanned prototype spaceship successfully separated and entered its planned orbit, according to the Xinhua news agency. A test version of a cargo return capsule also separated from the rocket, Xinhua added.

The spaceship will one day transport astronauts to a space station that China plans to complete by 2022 – and eventually to the Moon. It will have capacity for a crew of six.

Return on Friday

The spaceship and capsule are slated to return to a landing site by Friday after completing their test flights, Ji Qiming of the China Manned Space Agency told a press conference. Leader of the command headquarters for the flight mission Zhang Xueyu said the launch had “strengthened confidence and determination” for the next stages of China’s space programme.

The United States is so far the only country to have successfully sent humans to the Moon. But Beijing has made huge strides in its effort to catch up, sending astronauts into space, satellites into orbit and a rover to the far side of the Moon.

The successful maiden flight of the 54-metre Long March 5B – which has a take-off mass of about 849 tonnes – should reassure China, following failures of the 7A model in March and 3B model in April. “The new spaceship will give China an advantage in the area of human spaceflight over Japan and Europe,” said Chen Lan, an independent analyst at GoTaikonauts.com.

Assembly of the Tiangong space station is expected to begin this year and finish in 2022. China plans to send an astronaut to the Moon in about a decade and then build a base there.



INDIAN SPACE PROGRAMME

3

- ▶ INCOSPAR – 1962
- ▶ Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station
- ▶ ISRO – 1969, HQ – Bangalore
- ▶ Department of Space – 1972
- ▶ Aryabhata – 1975
- ▶ INSAT – 1983
- ▶ Remote Sensing sat. – 1988
- ▶ Launch Vehicle Technology - SLV, ASLV, PSLV, GSLV, GSLV Mark III, SSLV
- ▶ VSSC - design & development of LV
- ▶ LPSC, ISRO propulsion complex

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Iran approves plan to cut four zeros from falling currency

 **REUTERS**

MAY 05, 2020 22:38 IST
UPDATED: MAY 06, 2020 00:56 IST

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Currency makeover: A dealer selling different denominations of Iran's rials in Tehran earlier this year. | Photo Credit: ARASH KHAMOOSHI



NEW CURRENCY OF IRAN

5

- ▶ American sanctions & economic mismanagement
- ▶ High Inflation
- ▶ Replacement of Rial
- ▶ Toman, 1 toman = 10,000 Rial
- ▶ Guardian council

Ministry of Home Affairs

PM reviews Vishakhapatnam Gas Leak Incident

All out efforts are being made to tackle the situation on ground

Posted On: 07 MAY 2020 5:35PM by PIB Delhi

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, chaired a high-level meeting today morning to take stock of the steps being taken in response to the Vishakhapatnam gas leak incident. He discussed at length the measures being taken for the safety of the affected people as well as for securing the site affected by the disaster. The meeting was attended by Shri Rajnath Singh, Defense Minister, Shri Amit Shah, Home Minister, Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai and Shri G. Kishan Reddy, besides other senior officers.

[Home](#) / [Explained](#) / Vizag gas leak: What is styrene gas?

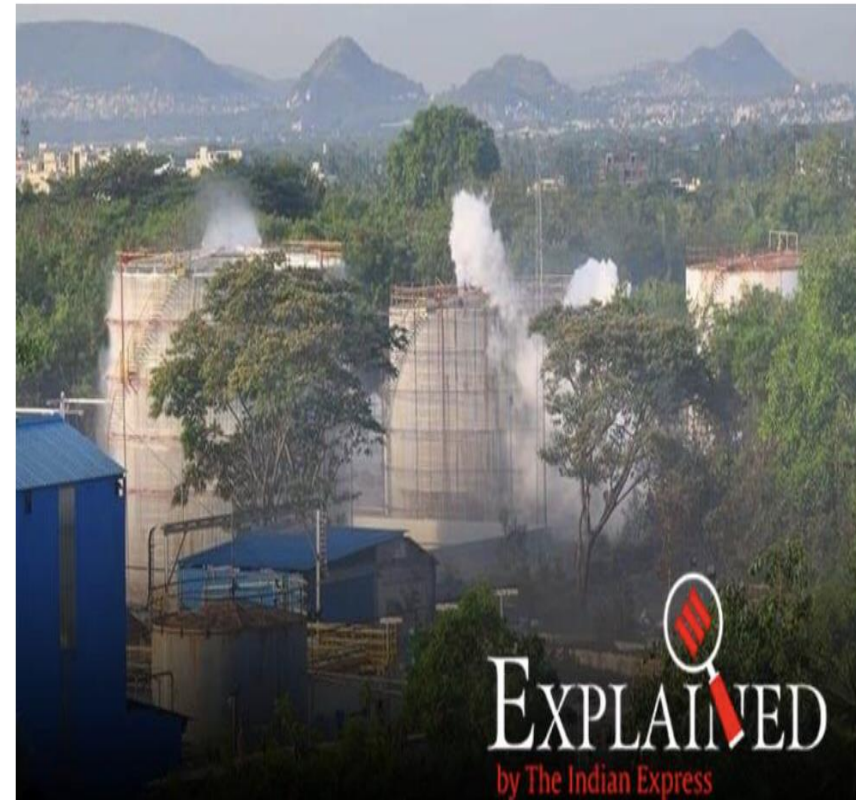
Vizag gas leak: What is styrene gas?

Vizag gas leak: There was 1,800 tonnes of styrene stored at the plant at the time of the leak.



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By: [Explained Desk](#) | New Delhi | Updated: May 7, 2020 9:14:36 pm



MORE EXPLAINED



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How In



STYRENE GAS LEAK

7

- ▶ Plant of LG
- ▶ About Styrene – flammable liquid
 - Used in manufacture : of Polystyrene plastic
 - Fiberglass
 - Rubber
 - Latex

Also found in Vehicle exhaust, cig. Smoke & natural foods

- ❖ Short term exposure
- ❖ Long term exposure
- ❖ Symptoms
- ❖ What caused the leak
- ❖ Bhopal Gas tragedy of 1984

Health and AYUSH Ministers formally launch inter-disciplinary studies involving AYUSH interventions for COVID 19 situation

Posted On: 07 MAY 2020 2:51PM by PIB Delhi

Health Minister Sh. Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State for AYUSH Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik jointly launched clinical research studies on Ayurveda interventions as an add-on to standard care to COVID 19 situation and Ayush Sanjivani application today at New Delhi. AYUSH Minister was participating in the programme through Video Conferencing from Goa.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Harsh Vardhan informed that through a graded, pre-emptive and pro-active approach, Government of India is taking several steps for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19. These are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said, “India has a history of traditional medicine since long and being the pioneer in the field of Ayurveda, the Ministry of AYUSH is working to address the COVID 19 pandemic problem in the country through clinical studies (prophylactic and add-on interventions) of AYUSH systems.

The Union Health Minister said that the Ayush Sanjivani mobile app developed by Ministry of AYUSH will be useful to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.

On this Occasion Shri Shripad Naik said that the Ministry of AYUSH has taken initiatives to address the COVID 19 pandemic problem in the country through clinical studies (prophylactic and add-on interventions) of AYUSH systems and also studying the impact of AYUSH based prophylactic interventions in high risk population. The ministry is also studying the impact of AYUSH advocacies and AYUSH measures for prevention of COVID 19 among the population.



RECENT STUDIES INVOLVING AYUSH INTERVENTIONS FOR COVID19 SITUATION

9

- ▶ Through clinical studies of AYUSH systems

- ▶ 3 studies : * Ayurvedic Intervention
 - *population based research
 - * Sanjivani App

- ❖ Ministry of AYUSH
- ❖ Various Schemes
- ❖ Zingivir

Union Agriculture Minister calls for farmers' movement on integrated soil nutrient management based on Soil Health Card

Launch mission mode awareness campaigns on increasing use of bio and organic fertilisers and reducing chemical fertilisers: Shri Narendra Singh Tomar

The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has called for making integrated soil nutrient management a farmers' movement. Reviewing the progress of the Soil Health Programme here today, he directed running mission mode awareness campaigns on increasing use of bio and organic fertilisers and reducing chemical fertilisers strictly based on recommendations of Soil Health Card.

During 2020-21, the major focus of the programme would be on mass awareness programme for farmers in over 1 lakh villages covering all districts of the country. Shri Tomar advocated the setting up of village level Soil Testing Labs by youth having education in agriculture, Women Self Help Groups, FPOs etc. He said the SHC scheme will focus on enabling employment generation after appropriate skill development.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare will launch a comprehensive campaign on soil test based rational application of fertilisers and promotion of organic farming including Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) for safe nutritious food in association with the Departments of Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Under the SHC scheme Soil Health Cards are provided to all farmers at an interval of 2 years. Launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on February 19, 2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan, these cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Deterioration of soil chemical, physical and biological health is considered as one of the reasons for stagnation of agricultural productivity in India.

Soil Health Card provides two sets of fertilizer recommendations for six crops including recommendations of organic manures. Farmers can also get recommendations for additional crops on demand. They can also print the card as their own from SHC portal. SHC portal has farmers database of both the cycles and is available in 21 languages for the benefit of the farmers.

A 2017 study by the National Productivity Council (NPC) found that the SHC scheme has promoted sustainable farming and led to a decrease of use of chemical fertilizer application in the range of 8-10%. Besides, overall increase in the yield of crops to the tune of 5-6% was reported due to application of fertilizer and micro nutrients as per recommendations available in the Soil Health Cards.

APS/PK/MS/BA



SOIL HEALTH CARD

11

- ▶ Farmer's movement to integrate Soil Nutrient Management
- ▶ Soil testing and importance of test based application of fertilisers
- ▶ More than 1 Lakh villages
- ▶ 2020 – 2021
- ▶ Soil Health Programme
- ▶ Soil health card



MCQs

12

1. Satellites used for telecommunication relay are kept in geostationary orbit. A satellite is said to be in such an orbit when :

- 1) The orbit is geosynchronous
- 2) The orbit is circular
- 3) The orbit lies in the plane of the Earth's equator
- 4) The orbit is at an altitude of 22236 km

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1, 3 and 4
- c) 2 and 4
- d) All of the above

Ans. A)



2. Recently, the official currency of Iran was changed, from Rial, to:

- a) Dinar
- b) New Shekel
- c) Dirham
- d) Toman

Ans.: D)



3. Consider the following statements about, Styrene Gas:

1. The gas affects the Central Nervous System of the body
2. It is a poisonous gas and can be fatal if inhaled in moderate quantity
3. Used in the manufacturing of Polystyrene plastic, fiberglass & Latex

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct:

- a) 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1 & 2
- c) 1 & 3
- d) 2 & 3

Ans.: C)



4. Consider the following statements:

1. National AYUSH mission was launched in 2014
2. National AYUSH mission is a centrally sponsored Scheme
3. National AYUSH mission was launched by Ministry of AYUSH that was formed in 2014

Which of the above statements are correct:

- a) 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1 & 3
- c) 1 & 2
- d) 2 & 3

Ans.: C)



5. Consider the following statements:

The nationwide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

1. Expanding cultivable area under irrigation.
2. Enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. Checking the overuse of fertilisers in farmlands.

Which of the above statement/s is/are is correct:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Ans.: B)



Thank You