



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

Prelim Bits 02-07-2017

INAM-Pro +

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- INAM-Pro+ is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal launched by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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- INAM Pro is a common platform to bring cement buyers and sellers together and made it very convenient for the buyers to procure cement at reasonable rates in a transparent manner.

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- INAM-Pro+ is upgraded to include the A to Z of construction materials, equipments and services like purchase/hiring/lease of new/used products in the domains of construction materials viz, cement, steel, bitumen, stone aggregates, concrete, bricks, wood, sanitary items, paint etc.

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Zika Virus

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- Recently, one of the blood samples collected from Ahmedabad municipality tested positive for Zika virus.

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- Zika virus is a member of the virus family Flaviviridae.

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- It is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus).

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- Its name comes from the Zika Forest of Uganda, where the virus was first isolated in 1947.

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- It can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during

pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

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- There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika.

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- Zika infection during pregnancy can cause a birth defect of the brain called microcephaly and other severe brain defects. It is also linked to other problems, such as miscarriage, stillbirth, and other birth defects.

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- There have also been increased reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome, an uncommon sickness of the nervous system, in areas affected by Zika.

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Slum Yuva Daud

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- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting flagged off the 5 th Mega Slum Yuva Daud.

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- The Slum Yuva Daud is part of the Adopt Slum Campaign initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

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- It aims to involve youngsters in constructive activities to keep the away from anti-social evils such as drug abuse and violence and to utilize their power in for development.

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- The initiative also encouraged the youngsters to participate in sporting events, competitions to utilize their time and skills to achieve big in life.

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- “Adopt a Slum” campaign will involve groups like NSS, public schools, RWAs, NGOs and Rotary clubs etc.

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Solar Energy Production and Air Pollution

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- Recent study has revealed that global solar energy production is taking a major hit due to air pollution and dust.

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- The study shows airborne particles and their accumulation on solar cells is cutting energy output by more than 25 percent in certain parts of the world.

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- The regions hardest hit are also those investing the most in solar energy installations such as China, India and the Arabian Peninsula.

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- The human made pollutants composed of carbon and ion pollutants blocks more light efficiently than natural dust and contribute to more energy loss from solar production.

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- The Arabian Peninsula loses much more solar power to dust than it does human made pollutants. But the reverse is true for regions of China, and regions of India.

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