

1) **Nigeria** has announced that it is **free from Lassa fever outbreak**. The announcement follows the epidemiological review by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness of 2-21 days duration that occurs in West Africa.

**The Lassa virus** is transmitted to humans via contact with food or household items contaminated with rodent urine or faeces.

Person-to-person infections and laboratory transmission can also occur, particularly in hospitals lacking adequate infection prevention and control measures.

2) **The Pacific Islands Forum** has been granted approval to establish a Permanent Observer Office at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The Permanent Observer status would entrench the presence of the Blue Pacific region in, and strengthen its links to the United Nations organisations, including its specialised agencies, programmes, fund initiatives and joint programs.

3) Since 1999, May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day to mark India's technological advancements. **National Technology Day 2018 theme:** "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future".

**On May 11, 1998**, India detonated **three nuclear bombs in the Indian Army's Pokhran** Test Range. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam lead the Indian team of scientists to successfully test-fire the **Shakti-1 nuclear missile** at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range.

Hansa 3, India's first indigenous aircraft was first tested on the same day in 1998 in Bangalore.

4) The **Bangabandhu Satellite-1** mission will be the first to utilize Falcon 9 Block 5, the final substantial upgrade to SpaceX's Falcon 9

launch vehicle. **Falcon 9 Block 5** is designed to be capable of 10 or more flights with very limited refurbishment as SpaceX continues to strive for rapid reusability and extremely high reliability.

**Bangabandhu** is **Bangladesh's first communications satellite**. Built by **Thales Alenia Space**, a **Franco-Italian** aerospace manufacturer, it is designed to provide a wide range of broadcast and communication services throughout the country for the next 15 years.

5) NASA scientists have discovered a new type of **magnetic event in turbulent space** surrounding Earth. Scientists analysed the data obtained by the NASA's **Magnetospheric Multiscale** spacecraft (MMS) to find the new magnetic event in near-Earth environment.

Magnetic reconnection is one of the most important processes in the space — filled with charged particles known as plasma — around Earth. This fundamental process dissipates magnetic energy and propels charged particles, both of which contribute to a dynamic space weather system that scientists want to better understand, and even someday predict, as we do terrestrial weather. Reconnection occurs when crossed magnetic field lines snap, explosively flinging away nearby particles at high speeds.

6) **Mount Merapi**- It is an active stratovolcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, Indonesia. It is the most **active volcano in Indonesia** and has erupted regularly since 1548.

7) **Elysia chlorotica**: It is a **green sea slug** which can suck out an algae's plastids that generate energy from sunlight — and incorporate them into its own biology. In doing so, it becomes an animal with the photosynthetic ability of a plant.

**Elysia chlorotica** takes only the plastids, or the organelles that contain

chlorophyll and perform photosynthesis, from the algae. The slug then uses its own genome to keep the **plastids** operating within its own body throughout the rest of its life.

