



Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month Type



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(Showing 71 Important Ones)



Meetings

- ▶ 11th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Vienna Convention and 29th Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol held in Canada -
 - ▶ During this, UN Environment pledged \$540 million to developing countries to continue their work in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals, for 3 years starting from 2018. Funds will be provided through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol, which has disbursed over \$3.7 billion to developing countries since 1991 for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.
- ▶ 14th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (October 06, 2017). EU was represented by European Council President Donald Tusk. 3 MOUs were Signed on this occasion -
 - ▶ Implementing Arrangement for Indian Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe
 - ▶ Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
 - ▶ Joint Declaration between International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank
- ▶ 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit-2017 (GES 2017) held in Hyderabad (Telangana) -
 - ▶ It was jointly organized by NITI Aayog and USA Government.
 - ▶ Theme for 2017 GES is *Women First, Prosperity for All*.
- ▶ 105th Indian Science Congress will be held at Manipur University in Imphal (Manipur) in March 2018. The venue has been changed from Osmania University (Hyderabad) earlier.
- ▶ 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) held in Kathmandu (Nepal) with theme *Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia*.
- ▶ 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now*.
- ▶ 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties 12 (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Held in Manila (Philippines) with theme *Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that India will host next CMS Conference of the Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in 2020.
 - ▶ 34 species of vultures including 4 from India on their migratory routes were awarded highest protection by Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 2017 held in Manila.
- ▶ 13th Asia-Europe (ASEM) foreign ministers' meeting Held in Naypyidaw (Myanmar).
- ▶ 14th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Law conference and 11th SAARC chief justices conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka).
- ▶ 19th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meetings held in Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - ▶ RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (*Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam*) and six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (*Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand*).
- ▶ 21st World Congress of Mental Health organized in New Delhi, in association with World Federation for Mental Health. Theme of conference is *'Partnerships for Mental Health'*.
- ▶ 22nd World Petroleum Congress held in Istanbul (Turkey), attended by Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas) on India's Behalf.

13. ▶ 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Bonn (Germany). India is being represented by Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), who inaugurated Indian Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 with theme *Conserving Now, Preserving Future*.
14. ▶ 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP-24) meet held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) with theme *Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development*.
15. ▶ 25th National Children Science Congress (NCSC-2017) held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with theme *Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development* with special focus on persons with disabilities.
16. ▶ 2nd World Congress on Marxism will be held in Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme *Marxism and the current world and China*
17. ▶ 3 Day Organic World Congress 2017 organized by International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).
 - ▶ OWC is organized every 3 years in different countries with last edition held in 2014 in Turkey. 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states showcased 4,000 varieties of seeds.
18. ▶ 3 day International Hindu Conference held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism*.
19. ▶ 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) held in Paris (France). It was attended by Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ India has been re-elected to UNESCO's Executive Board. European Nation Finland has been elected to UNESCO's Executive Board after 20 years.
20. ▶ 42nd World Congress of International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) organised by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) in New Delhi with Theme *Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead*.
21. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 will be hosted by India in New Delhi in November 2017.
22. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) hosted by New Delhi with theme *Cyber4All*.
23. ▶ 61st IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) General Conference held at Vienna (Austria). It was attended by Sekhar Basu (Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary in Department of Atomic Energy) on India's Behalf.
24. ▶ 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul (South Korea) with Theme *Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity*.
25. ▶ 8th Conference of SAARC Nations' Speakers and Parliamentarians held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on India's Behalf.
26. ▶ 8th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in Manila (Philippines), attended by V.K. Singh (Minister of State for External Affairs) on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ MGC is an initiative by India and five ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. It is named after Ganga and Mekong which both are civilisational rivers.
27. ▶ 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress & Expo 2017 Organized in New Delhi, with Theme *Renewable Energy: What Works*.
28. ▶ 9th CMS Vatavaran global film festival on environment and wildlife held in New Delhi with Theme *Conservation 4 Water*.
29. ▶ 9th BRICS Summit 2017 in Xiamen (China) with Theme *BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future*. Documents signed -
 - ▶ Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation
 - ▶ BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation(2017-2020)
 - ▶ BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Co operation.
 - ▶ MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation.
 - ▶ Five banks of BRICS Nations (*Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa*) established credit lines in national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. Also, New Development Bank (NDB) approved 1.4 billion US dollar loans for sustainable development projects in India, Russia and China.
 - ▶ China will give \$76.4 million for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at BRICS countries' New Development Bank.
30. ▶ 9th Meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Kyrgyzstan. Home Minister Rajnath Singh Attended on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ ASEAN–India (Association of Southeast Asian Nations–India) Connectivity Summit (AICS) held in New Delhi with theme *Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century*.
32. ▶ An International Peace Conference held in Imphal (Manipur), to promote peace and harmony in the North Eastern region of India.

33. ▶ An international conference to draw attention towards adverse effects of global warming in Hindu Kush mountain range - *Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future for Asia* organized in Nepal in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
34. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Da Nang (Vietnam) with theme *Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future*.
 - ▶ APEC is 21 Pacific Rim countries Grouping. APEC summit for 2018 will be held in Papua New Guinea.
35. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Russian port city of Vladivostok, to attend 3rd Eastern Economic Forum. Eastern Economic Forum includes representatives from Russia, Pacific Region and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
36. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Visited USA for participating in G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. He also participated in Annual Meetings of World Bank and IMF in Washington D.C.
37. ▶ First 5-day *International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017)* started in Jaipur (Rajasthan), organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with World Bank, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
38. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.
39. ▶ First edition of WINGS 2017 - *Sab Uden, Sab Juden* Expanding Regional Connectivity Event hosted in New Delhi.
40. ▶ First ever Conference of Partners NGOs organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi with theme *Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Children: Challenges and Way Forward*.
41. ▶ First ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - *India Mobile Congress 2017* held at Pragati Maidan, Led by Department of Telecom and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI),.
42. ▶ First-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BITFM) was held at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of AYUSH.
43. ▶ Global Clubfoot Conference organised by CURE India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi. Clubfoot is one of most common orthopaedic birth defects where one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards.
44. ▶ Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Conference held in New Delhi, jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme with Theme *Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation*.
 - ▶ During this, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) unveiled 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031, aimed at improving wildlife conservation. First action plan was released in 1983 to 2001 and 2nd from 2002 to 2016.
45. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 4 day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017)' in New Delhi. Main exercise will comprise of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR).
46. ▶ India and USA will co-host Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) at Hyderabad (Telangana) from 28-30 November, 2017.
47. ▶ India will conduct first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (DMEx-2017) in October 2017 in New Delhi.
48. ▶ India will host 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health in October 2017 with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health : the Future is Now*.
49. ▶ India will host 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai in June 2018, with Theme *Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
 - ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) also approved its first Loan to China as USD 250 million loan aimed at reducing its dependence on coal by building a natural gas distribution network for villages.
 - ▶ AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China) with Jin Liqun and President.
50. ▶ India will host Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017, world's largest conference on cyber space and related issues in New Delhi in November 2017. GCCS will take place outside Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations for the first time. Theme for 5th GCCS 2017 is *Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace*.
51. ▶ India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) signed IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries, during 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban (South Africa).
 - ▶ Each country will contribute US \$1 million annually to this fund which is managed by UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.
 - ▶ Meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on India's behalf.
52. ▶ India-ASEAN Youth Summit 2017 held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). It marks 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership with theme *Shared Values, Common Destiny*.
53. ▶ Indian Government and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organized International Conference on *Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations* with theme *Empowering Consumers in New Markets* in New Delhi.

India didn't invite Pakistan and North Korea to attend the same.

54. ▶ International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)'s Global Conference and General Assembly 2017 held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). During it, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) retained its seat as Director on Global Board of ICA, for 2nd time in a row.
55. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
56. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 15 day meeting started in Geneva (Switzerland).
57. ▶ International Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Forum (Summit 2017) held in Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek, Attended by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan on India's Behalf.
58. ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscow (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
59. ▶ Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers Held in China's Beijing (attended by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar) and 2nd Meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers held in Tianjin (China).
60. ▶ Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan visited Astana (Kazakhstan) to co-chair 13th Meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with Kazakhstan.
61. ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
62. ▶ Ministry of Culture and National Geographic Society hosted 4th international conference on *Dialogue of Civilizations – IV* in Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira. It was initiated by NGS in 2013 to promote knowledge about 5 ancient literate civilizations of world - Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, South Asia and Mesoamerica.
63. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest, and *Climate Change (MoEFCC)* organized Business and Climate Change Summit 2017.
64. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with USA will host 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) in Hyderabad (Telangana) in November 2017 with theme *Women First, Prosperity for All*. This is the first time GES is being held in South Asia.
65. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Germany, after 3-day visit to Israel.
 -  In Germany, he attended 12th G20 Summit held in Hamburg (Germany) with theme *Shaping an Inter-connected World*. 5 BRICS nations also had an informal meeting on sidelines of G20 Summit in Hamburg (Germany). Note that 9th BRICS Summit will be held in September 2017 in Xiamen (China).
66. ▶ PM Narendra Modi will be first Indian Prime Minister in past 20 years to attend annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos (Switzerland), to be held in January 2018.
67. ▶ South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) organized *Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit* at Kathmandu, (Nepal).
68. ▶ UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Vancouver (Canada).
69. ▶ UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP23) held in Bonn (Germany), presided over by Government of Fiji.
 -  It concluded with countries putting in place a roadmap for 'Talanoa Dialogue', a year-long process to assess countries' progress on climate actions. Talanoa is a traditional approach used in Fiji and other Pacific islands to engage in an inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue to resolve differences without putting any blame on any one.
 -  Next UNFCCC Climate Change Conference will be held in 2018 in Poland.
70. ▶ United Nations conference on nuclear energy held at Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), to engage in dialogue on role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demand, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. Iran has boycotted the conference.
71. ▶ World Youth Forum 2017 held in Egypt with Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attending on India's Behalf.

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