



Current Affairs - June to November 2018

Month Type



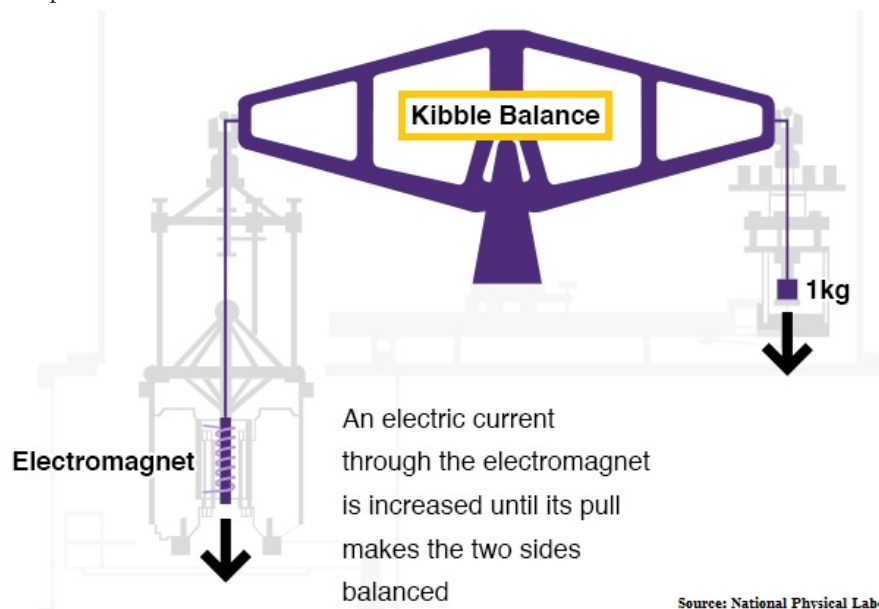
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(Showing **56** Important Ones)

Meetings

- ▶ India and Australia held their 2nd edition of '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra.
- ▶ 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar (Punjab) in January 2019, with theme *Future India: Science & Technology*. It will be organised by Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).
- ▶ 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave Held in New Delhi, with theme *Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy*.
 - ▶ Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that Kaiga Atomic Power Station (Karnataka) unit has set world record among PHWR for operating uninterrupted for 895 days.
 - ▶ Cabinet also recently approved construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
- ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018, with Theme *Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti*.
- ▶ 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus held in Singapore. Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited on India's Behalf.
- ▶ 16th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA16) held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ India aims to achieve 175 GW of installed capacity of renewable energy generation by 2022.
 - ▶ WGIA is an initiative of Japan, to improve quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience. 15 countries are WGIA members.
- ▶ 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver (Canada).
- ▶ 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held in Bali Nusa Dua (Indonesia). Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs) Attended the meets. G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting was also held on the sidelines of IMF /World Bank annual meets in Bali.
- ▶ 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) held in Beijing (China), organized by International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University. Theme of this quinquennial (once in five year) event was *Learning To Be Human*.
- ▶ 26th meeting of General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) held in Versailles (France). It was notable as members voted for redefinition of 130 years old *Le grand K – the SI unit of kg* in terms of the fundamental Planck's constant(h). New definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.
 - ▶ CGPM comprises 60 countries including India and 42 Associate Members.
 - ▶ Out of five draft resolutions, revision of International System of Units and the definition of timescales are important. Definition of seven base units namely, second, metre, kilogram, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela has been changed from being linked to artefacts to being based on the fundamental constants on nature.
 - ▶ Definition of **kilogram** changed from being mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to Planck constant which is a physical constant. Definition of **metre** changed to link it to the speed of light. Similarly, there is a change in the definition of time also. Units are expected to be stable in the long term, internally self-consistent and practically realisable.
 - ▶ International prototype of kilogram (IPK) is kept at BIPM, Paris and serves as international standard of kilogram. It is made of 90% platinum and 10% iridium and is a cylinder of 39 mm diameter and 39 mm height.

- ✍ Replicas of IPK are made of the same material and used at BIPM as reference or working standards and national prototype of kilogram (NPK), kept at different National Metrology Institutes (NMIs).
- ✍ Having an artifact as the world standard for a measurement unit has two fundamental problems
 - ✍ It can change value over time but, without any way of knowing how it changes, as it's a standard.
 - ✍ It is difficult to bring every mass-measurement device to France every time it needs calibration. Thus, national standards labs have their own kilogram standards that they periodically bring to France for comparison against Prototype. NPK-57, kept at CSIR- National Physical Laboratory (India), is sent periodically to BIPM for calibration. Precise measurements help country in production of international quality products.
- ✍ *As per New Definition, The kilogram is defined by taking fixed numerical value of the Planck constant h to be $6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34}$ when expressed in the unit $J\ s$, which is equal to $kg\ m^2\ s^{-1}$, where the meter and the second are defined in terms of c and $\Delta\nu$.*
 - ✍ When it comes into force on May 20, 2019 (World Metrology Day), new kilogram definition will do away with comparisons to International Prototype. It will enable the national labs to create their own standard for the kilogram because it will be reproducible. Process for realising a kilogram will rely on a tool called *Kibble balance*.
 - ✍ Kibble balance is a self-calibrating electromechanical balance and provides measurements of mass, traceable in terms of electrical parameters and provides linkage of macroscopic mass to Planck constant(h). Nations Including UK, USA, Canada, Germany Have successfully developed Kibble balance for 1 kg with an uncertainty of measurement in order of 10^{-8} . NPL India is looking forward for development of 1 kg Kibble balance.
 - ✍ Pictorial Representation of Kibble Balance -










- ✍ Tool uses coils and magnets wherein current in the coil exerts a known force and that current can be measured to sufficient accuracy. Current can be used to derive an upward force from which the mass of an unknown object can be compared. When the forces are equal, mass of unknown object can be measured. Voltage and current measurements are based on Planck's Constant.
11. ▶ 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), organised by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research. Its a forum for discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion (reaction that powers Sun and stars) as a source of energy.
 12. ▶ 2nd India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). Theme was "New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate".
 13. ▶ 2nd International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank.
 - ✍ Awards were given to four pathbreaking innovations in clean energy and energy efficiency as part of #InnovateToINSPIRE, a first-of-its-kind energy innovation challenge.
 - ✍ To support investments in new, innovative and scalable business models, EESL and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of USD 13 million to establish an Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF).


- ▶ During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and GAIL signed MoU to develop natural gas based cogeneration and trigeneration projects in Commercial & Industrial Sectors in India.
- 14. ▶ 2nd conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana (Kazakhstan), by Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF. It commemorates 40 years of Alma Ata Declaration on Primary health care (Alma Ata Declaration was adopted at international conference on primary health care held in Kazakhstan in 1978). Theme is *The future of Primary Health Care*.
- 15. ▶ 32nd world conference of World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) held at Gurugram, (Haryana), as first Hosting of a WUWM conference by India. Theme is *The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities*.
- 16. ▶ 33rd ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations) Summit held in Singapore, with theme *Resilient and Innovative*. Other related summits including East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits also to be held along with.
 - ▶ India's Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended RCEP member countries meet in Singapore.
 - ▶ Also, Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States also held their third “Quadrilateral” meeting in Singapore.
- 17. ▶ 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on ‘Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons’ held in Seoul (South Korea). Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- 18. ▶ 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting completed in Bahrain’s capital Manama, with 19 new sites inscribed to World Heritage List. New Addition to List are -
 - ▶ Cultural -
 - ▶ **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (India)**
 - ▶ Aasivissuit – Nipisat, Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark)
 - ▶ Al-Ahsa Oasis, an evolving Cultural Landscape (Saudi Arabia)
 - ▶ Ancient City of Qalhat (Oman)
 - ▶ Archaeological Border complex of Hedeby and the Danevirke (Germany)
 - ▶ Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (Spain)
 - ▶ Göbekli Tepe (Turkey)
 - ▶ Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region (Japan)
 - ▶ Ivrea, industrial city of the 20th century (Italy)
 - ▶ Naumburg Cathedral (Germany)
 - ▶ Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (Republic of Korea)
 - ▶ Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Islamic Republic of Iran)
 - ▶ Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)
 - ▶ Natural sites -
 - ▶ Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains (South Africa)
 - ▶ Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault tectonic arena (France)
 - ▶ Fanjingshan (China)
 - ▶ Mixed sites -
 - ▶ Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the Jaguar” (Colombia)
 - ▶ Pimachiowin Aki (Canada)
 - ▶ Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley: originary habitat of Mesoamerica (Mexico)
- 19. ▶ 44th G7 summit held in Quebec (Canada). Its Joint Statement was rejected by USA Prez Donald Trump. Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States AND European Union. Next (45th) G7 Summit will be held in Nouvelle - Aquitaine (France).
- 20. ▶ 4th Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit will be held in Kathmandu (Nepal) in August 2018. Nepal is current chair of BIMSTEC. Other members - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar.
- 21. ▶ 4th edition of Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), to discuss state of elections and democracy in region. Theme of AESF-IV was *Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together*.
- 22. ▶ 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intersessional ministerial meeting held in Tokyo (Japan). It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) or comprehensive regional







- economic integration agreement between 10-ASEAN countries and its six FTA partners (Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea).
23. ▶ 5th World Internet Conference (WIC) held in Wuzhen (China), to bring out mutual learning, cooperation and sharing in digital fields space.
 - ✎ During this event, Xinhua, China's state-run press agency, unveiled world's first artificial intelligence (AI) anchor that can read news in English and Chinese. They have been developed by Xinhua and Chinese search engine *Sogou*.
 24. ▶ 62nd General Conference of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) held in Vienna (Austria). On India's Behalf of Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Note that Now, K N Vyas has been appointed as new Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
 - ✎ Mr. Basu stated that India placed 4 more reactors under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, including 2 Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and two Pressurised Heavy Reactors being built with Indian technology.
 - ✎ Now, total 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be now under IAEA safeguards.
 - ✎ IAEA Safeguards are system of inspection and verification of peaceful uses of nuclear materials as part of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
 25. ▶ 6th biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore with theme *Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration*.
 26. ▶ 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.
 27. ▶ 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism held in Seoul (South Korea) , with theme *A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism*. The venue Next (8th) UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism 2019 will be Astana, Kazakhstan.
 28. ▶ *2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030* held in New Delhi.
 29. ▶ *Indian Ocean: Defining our Future* Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), aimed at exploring strongest challenges in Indian Ocean region.
 30. ▶ An anti-doping sports conference named *Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?* conducted to address the issue of doping, at Oslo (Norway).
 31. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit 2018 held in Papua New Guinea.
 - ✎ APEC is an inter-governmental forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies. India is not a member of APEC, although it has expressed its interest for Inclusion in APEC.
 32. ▶ Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
 33. ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) hosted 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Mumbai (First in India) -
 - ✎ Theme for this year's AIIB meet is *Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
 - ✎ With total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion, India is largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
 - ✎ Inaugural Asian Infrastructure Forum was also held launched, which will gather infrastructure practitioners in a practical and project-driven discourse, focused on matching innovative finance to critical infrastructure needs.
 - ✎ Exhibition titled *India Infrastructure Expo 2018* was also organized on sidelines of 3rd AIIB Meet.
 - ✎ AIIB -
 - ✎ AIIB is China led multilateral development bank set up in 2016. It has 83 member nations. India is second largest shareholder in AIIB (7.5 %), after China (26.06). It is headquartered in Beijing (China).
 - ✎ Jin Liqun (China) is current president of AIIB.
 34. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended and addressed 73rd session of UN General Assembly in New York (USA).
 - ✎ Antonio Guterres (Portugal) is Secretary-General of 73rd UN General Assembly.
 - ✎ India and G4 nations (Brazil, Germany and Japan) voiced concern over lack of substantive progress in the long-pending Security Council reform, saying it is time to initiate text-based negotiations to safeguard legitimacy and credibility of UNSC.
 - ✎ Also, J P Nadda (Minister of Health and Family Welfare) addressed *High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis* at 73rd session of UNGA. He stated that India commits to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030, by launching the TB Free India Campaign.
 - ✎ External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj also attended SAARC foreign ministers' meet on sidelines of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. She left the meeting early after delivering straight remarks on Pakistan.
 35. ▶ First Assembly of International Solar Alliance held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi). 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo) were also held alongside. Antonio Guterres (Secretary General of

United Nations), was present on this occasion.

 ISA is headquartered in Gurugram (Haryana), with Upendra Triathy as its current chief.

36. ▶ Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, with theme *Connecting Farmers to Market*.
37. ▶ Global Climate Action Summit 2018 held at San Francisco in California (USA). During this, government functionaries of several Indian cities announced to scale up their actions to combat climate change and to protect people from hazardous climate impacts.
 -  Global Green Bond Partnership (GGBP) was launched on this occasion, to accelerate issuance of green bonds. Members of GGBP will work to scale green bond issuance primarily by sub-national entities and corporations.
 -  Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group announced that Mahindra & Mahindra will work towards being carbon neutral by 2040. M&M was first company in world to commit to double energy productivity by signing Climate Group's program 'EP100'. It was also first Indian company to announce its internal Carbon Price of USD 10 per ton of carbon emitted to fund investments required for carbon neutrality.
38. ▶ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar Inaugurated 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018), held in New Delhi. Focus of WOSA 2018 is on *CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION*.
39. ▶ Haryana Government will host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram in October 2018, to provide common unified structure of mandis all across world and take advantages of the improvements in mandis in the world for India's domestic requirements.
40. ▶ India hosted 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as partner country, in New Delhi.
41. ▶ India will host 4th edition of Global Partners' Forum in December 2018 in New Delhi, to will unite over 100 countries' representatives to discuss issues, strategies and solutions to women's, children's and adolescents' health.
42. ▶ Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) organized an international conference on recent advances in food processing technology, in Thanjavur (Tamilnadu), named 'iCRAFPT '18', Commemorating its golden jubilee. Theme of conference is *Doubling Farmers Income through Food Processing*.
43. ▶ Indus Food-II tradeshow will be held in Greater Noida (UP) in January 2019, organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI). Indusfood-II is an export focused annual F&B (Food and Beverage) trade fair. It will exhibit India's best food, beverages and agri products to global buyers.
44. ▶ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) held at Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep, with theme *Reef for Life*.
45. ▶ International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)'s 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology will be hosted by India in Navi Mumbai in October 2018. Focal theme is *25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 : with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods*.
46. ▶ International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 inaugurated in Kathmandu (Nepal), organised by South Asian Women Development Forum. Theme of summit is 'Equality begins with Economic Empowerment'.
47. ▶ Meeting of BASIC countries organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in New Delhi. BASIC group consists of Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
48. ▶ Most anticipated Bilateral Meeting for world peace, the USA-North Korea Meet held in Singapore.
 -  USA Prez Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un met in Singapore, after a round of negotiations and months of tensions among both parties.
 -  North Korea Pledged to give up its nuclear Program and destroy its Nuclear arsenal. It brings respite to whole world as North Korea.
 -  After successful USA-North Korea Peace summit, USA and South Korea suspended 2 exchange program training exercises.
49. ▶ NITI Aayog will organize *MOVE: Global Mobility Summit* in New Delhi in September, 2018, to help drive Government's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth and also speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy.
50. ▶ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting held in Jurmala (Latvia). With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair NSG.
51. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated *MOVE: India's ever first Global Mobility Summit* organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The focus of the summit is on raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility and bringing various stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility across different platforms.
 -  Earlier, NITI Aayog flagged off cycle rally *MOVE Cyclathon* to spread message of clean mobility to Indian public and promote cleaner, accessible modes of transport. It was held in run up to *MOVE: Global Mobility Summit* scheduled to be held in Sep 2018 in New Delhi.
 -  Earlier, NITI Aayog launched *Pitch to MOVE* mobility pitch competition, aiming to provide budding entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Winners will be felicitated during *Global Mobility Summit* to be held in New Delhi in September 2018.

 Pitch to MOVE aims to identify startups, which will help vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility in India. It is available at <http://mobilitypitch.movesummit.in>

52. ▶ South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure held in New Delhi, organised by NITI Aayog in partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
53. ▶ UNESCO MGIEP(Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh will hold TECH 2018, an international conference to showcase role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from "transmissive pedagogies" to "transformative pedagogies" to create peaceful and sustainable societies. It will be held in November 2018 at Novotel in Vizag (Andhra Pradesh).
54. ▶ USA Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis participated in inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, held in New Delhi. India was represented by Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defence Nirmla Sitharaman.
 -  During the summit, India and USA signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), to open up way for sale of more sensitive US military equipment to India. It will help India obtain critical and encrypted defence technologies from US.
 -  A Memorandum of Intent was concluded between US Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX).
 -  COMCASA is one of the four foundational agreements that a country needs to sign to become a major defence partner of USA. It has a lifespan of 10 years. Other three agreements are General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMoA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).
 -  Collaboration between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company for the establishment of 6 nuclear power plants in India.
 -  To grow bilateral trade to \$500-600 billion from the current \$125 billion,
 -  A tri-Services joint exercise with the United States off the eastern coast of India in 2019 was decided.
55. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Brussels (Belgium) to attend 12th ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) Summit 2018. Theme of Summit is *Global Partners for Global Challenges*.
56. ▶ World Hindu Congress (WHC-2018) was held Chicago, United States. It was organized to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago address on September 11, 1893. The theme of WHC-2018 was "Sumantrite Suvikrante" – think collectively, achieve valiantly". It was second edition of World Hindu Congress and was attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

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