



Current Affairs - December 2017 to May 2018

Month Type



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Meetings

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meeting held in Beijing (China). It was attended by India for the first time with Defence Minister Raksha Mantri attending on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ India agreed to participate in Its first ever Joint Peace Mission with Pakistan, as a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia to be held in September 2018 under aegis of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). It aims to enhance counter-terror cooperation among 8 SCO member countries.
- ▶ 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting will be held in New Delhi in April 2018. India will host this in association with China and South Korea.
- ▶ 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meet Hosted by India in New Delhi.
- ▶ 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing (China) in August 2018. It will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from over 10 countries.
- ▶ 2018 World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi), with theme *Partnerships for a Resilient Planet*.
- ▶ 22nd World Information Technology Congress (WITC) 2018 held in Hyderabad (Telangana), with theme *Future Enterprises*. India is hosting WITC for first time. Further, 26th Nasscom India Leadership Forum (ILF) was also held alongwith.
 - ▶ During this, Telangana government signed MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in state.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Chicago (US) in September 2018, with theme *Sumantrite Swikrante - think collectively, achieve valiantly*. It is organised by World Hindu Foundation to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's his toric Chicago address on September 11, 1893. Tulsi Gabbard, first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress is named as Chairperson of WHC 2018.
- ▶ 2nd meet of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Santiago (Chile). During this, China invited Latin American and Caribbean countries to join its 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, to deepen economic and political cooperation. CELAC was formed in Venezuela in 2011 and it does not include USA and Canada.
- ▶ 34 leading global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, Cisco, and Oracle signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord in Geneva (Switzerland) to work together on cybersecurity issues. Four Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord are -
 - ▶ Protect users and customers everywhere.
 - ▶ Oppose cyberattacks on innocent citizens and enterprises.
 - ▶ Empower users, customers and developers to strengthen cybersecurity.
 - ▶ Partner with each other and like-minded groups to enhance cybersecurity.
- ▶ 3rd United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) held in New Delhi, conducted by Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with USA.
- ▶ 4 day Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in New Delhi.
- ▶ 48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos (Switzerland) -

- 🔗 Theme for event was *Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World*.
 - 🔗 PM Narendra Modi Visited On India's Behalf, along with several other union ministers. He became First Indian PM to Visit Davos WEF Meet in past 20 years, after H D Deve Gowda's Visit in 1997.
 - 🔗 World Economic Forum (WEF) launched Global Centre for Cybersecurity to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches. Headquartered in Geneva, centre will become operational from March 2018.
 - 🔗 Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with 24th Crystal Award at WEF Meet in Davos, for his *leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India*
 - 🔗 During this Visit, India and Vietnam signed MOU for cooperation in field of Information and Broadcasting and space. India and Vietnam also launched first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to highlight bilateral ties between them, with theme *ancient architecture*.
 - 🔗 India announced to host informal Ministerial meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in March 2018 in New Delhi.
15. ▶ 4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held in New Delhi .ASEAN stands for *Association of SouthEast Asian Nations*.
 16. ▶ 4th Edition of Global Exhibition on Services held in Mumbai.
 - 🔗 In India, services sector contributes 61 % in gross value added. India's global services exports stood at 3.4 % in 2016, aimed to be 4.2 % by 2022.
 - 🔗 Champion Services Sectors scheme was also launched on the occasion. 12 identified sectors where Government wants to give focused attention for promoting their development includes *Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT&ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services*.
 - 🔗 Fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of Champion Sectors.
 17. ▶ 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be organized in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in February 2018, by Tata Steel and Indian Institute of Metals.
 18. ▶ 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), co-organized by Ministry of Housing and Affairs, Japan's Environment Ministry, and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). Theme was *Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency– A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities*.
 - 🔗 Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with objective of integrating 3Rs– reduce, reuse and recycle in policy, planning and development.
 19. ▶ 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*.
 20. ▶ An informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting held in New Delhi with Representatives from 50 countries attending it.
 21. ▶ 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).
 22. ▶ Canada and European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada.
 23. ▶ China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao (Shandong Province) in June 2018.
 24. ▶ Chinese electronic firm Huawei unveiled *Balong 5G01* as world's first 5G chip at Mobile World Congress 2018 in Barcelona (Spain). It offers 3GPP standard 5G connectivity and provides downlink speeds of up to 2.3Gbps.
 25. ▶ European Union and UN co-chaired a 2 day international conference in Brussels (Belgium), aiming to pump financial aid for Syrians and garner political support for UN-led intra-Syrian talks.
 26. ▶ First African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) held in Abuja (Nigerian capital), hosted by US and Nigeria Armies. It brings together land force chiefs from across Africa, aimed at improving security and stability across continent.
 27. ▶ First Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg (Germany) in September 2018, with participation of over 100 countries. Summit will combine 2 main conferences - WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky.
 - 🔗 India has 33GW installed capacity of wind energy, ranking 4th after China, US and Germany. Government targets 60 GW of wind energy by 2022.
 28. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.

29. ▶ First international conference on *Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership* held in Kathmandu (Nepal).
30. ▶ Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at Canberra (Australia), attended by J P Nadda (Minister for Health and Family Welfare) on India's behalf.
31. ▶ Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Department of Commerce along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and World Bank Group.
32. ▶ India and France co-hosted first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit at Rashtrapati Bhavan Convention Centre in New Delhi. It was attended by 21 heads of government and several top. Its focus was to mobilise \$1 trillion of investments needed by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy. Key Takeaways Include -
 - ▶ 10-point action plan presented by India.
 - ▶ Common risk mitigation mechanism announced by France.
 - ▶ Delhi Solar Agenda that states that countries will pursue increased share of solar energy in final energy consumption in their respective national energy mix to tackle global challenges of climate change.
 - ▶ India will give \$1.4 billion in aid to 15 other developing nations for 27 more solar projects. France will provide €700 million in loans and support by 2022 to emerging economies for solar energy projects.
 - ▶ During 1st ISA Summit, ISA Signed Joint financial partnership Declarations with African Development Bank (AfDb), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Green climate fund (GCF), and New Development Bank (NDB).
 - ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) is headquartered in Gurugram (India) and Upendra Tripathy is current Chief of ISA.
33. ▶ India attended meeting of international military cooperation departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for first time, in Beijing(China).
34. ▶ India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi, organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with theme *Telling our Stories- Asia and More*.
 - ▶ Established in 1977, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media. It is hosted in Kualampur (Malaysia).
35. ▶ India hosted 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) in New Delhi.
36. ▶ 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.
37. ▶ India will host first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit in March 2018 in Delhi.
 - ▶ International Solar Alliance is a treaty based inter-governmental alliance. It comprises of 121 solar energy abundant nations located between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. It aims to make solar energy affordable.
38. ▶ India-ASEAN commemorative summit meeting held in New Delhi to mark Silver jubilee (25 Years) of India-ASEAN partnership.
 - ▶ A day before, India - ASEAN business and investment conference was held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Bharat-ASEAN Maitri Park in Delhi.
 - ▶ ASEAN consists of 10 countries - *Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei*.
39. ▶ International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini (Nepal), with theme *Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace*.
40. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
41. ▶ International Dam Safety Conference held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
42. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted *International Solar Alliance Forum* at Future World Energy Summit (WFES) 2018 in Abu Dhabi (UAE). It is ISA's first global Outreach Program after it came into force On 6th December 2017, upon being ratified by 15 Nations. Some key announcements were made during the event -
 - ▶ Raj Kumar Singh (*Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy*) stated that India will achieve its target of 175 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity well before 2020. India will set up of a \$ 350 million solar development fund for solar projects financing.

✎ Upendra Tripathy (Interim DG of ISA) informed that 2nd RE-INVEST meet will be held in India in April 2018, and over 100 projects shall be signed by ISA by April 2018.

✎ YES Bank committed financing solar projects of over \$5 Billion. While CLP and NTPC announced partnership with ISA and committed contribution of \$1 million each to ISA fund corpus. Yes Bank also tied up with *Amplus Energy Solutions* to co-finance solar energy projects in India.

43. ▶ 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.

44. ▶ World Ocean Summit 2018 held in Mexico's Riviera Maya.

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