



Current Affairs - February to July 2018

Month

Type



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Meetings




- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018, with Theme *Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti*.
- ▶ 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 Ministerial Meet Hosted by India in New Delhi.
- ▶ 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 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 along with.
 - ▶ During this, Telangana government signed MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in state.
- ▶ 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Chicago (US) in September 2018, with theme *Sumantrite Suvikrante - think collectively, achieve valiantly*. It is organised by World Hindu Foundation to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago address on September 11, 1893. Tulsi Gabbard, first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress is named as Chairperson of WHC 2018.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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)

15. ▶ 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).
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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).
19. ▶ 6th biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore with theme *Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration.*
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ An anti-doping sports conference named *Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?* conducted to address the issue of doping, at Oslo (Norway).
22. ▶ An informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting held in New Delhi with Representatives from 50 countries attending it.

23. ▶ Canada and European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada.
24. ▶ China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao (Shandong Province) in June 2018.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ First international conference on *Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership* held in Kathmandu (Nepal).
31. ▶ Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at Canberra (Australia), attended by J P Nadda (Minister for Health and Family Welfare) on India's behalf.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ 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 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.
35. ▶ 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).
36. ▶ India hosted 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) in New Delhi.

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. ▶ International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini (Nepal), with theme *Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace.*
39. ▶ 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.*
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting held in Jurmala (Latvia). With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair NSG.
43. ▶ World Ocean Summit 2018 held in Mexico's Riviera Maya.

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