



### Current Affairs - September 2017 to February 2018

Month  Type



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#### 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).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2018 World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi), with theme *Partnerships for a Resilient Planet*.
- ▶ 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 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.

14. ▶ 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*.
15. ▶ 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP-24) meet held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) with theme *Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development*.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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*
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 3 day International Hindu Conference held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism*.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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*.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held in New Delhi .ASEAN stands for *Association of SouthEast Asian Nations*.
25. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 will be hosted by India in New Delhi in November 2017.
26. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) hosted by New Delhi with theme *Cyber4All*.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul (South Korea) with Theme *Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity*.
29. ▶ 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be organized in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in February 2018, by Tata Steel and Indian Institute of Metals.
30. ▶ 8th Conference of SAARC Nations' Speakers and Parliamentarians held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ 9th CMS *Vatavaran* global film festival on environment and wildlife held in New Delhi with Theme *Conservation 4 Water*.
32. ▶ 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)



- ▶ 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 as President.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ 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.*
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
60. ▶ International Dam Safety Conference held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
61. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 15 day meeting started in Geneva (Switzerland).
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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.

69. ▶ South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) organized *Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit* at Kathmandu, (Nepal).
70. ▶ UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Vancouver (Canada).
71. ▶ 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.
72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ 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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