



Current Affairs - October to December 2018

Month Type



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(Showing **88** Important Ones)

Appointments

- ▶ 85-year-old Paul Biya won Cameroon (Central Africa) presidential elections for seventh time. First elected as the President in 1982, Biya is sub-Saharan Africa's oldest leader.
- ▶ A.M. Naik has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ▶ Adel Abdul Mahdi Appointed as new Prime Minister of Iraq.
- ▶ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been appointed as President of Mexico for 6 years.
- ▶ Andry Rajoelina won presidential elections of Madagascar (East Africa).
- ▶ Arun Kumar appointed as Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ▶ Arvind Saxena has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ▶ Asim Kumar Roy appointed Lokayukta of West Bengal for 3 years.
- ▶ Atul Sahai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PSU New India Assurance.
- ▶ Bank for International Settlements (BIS) appointed Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia and Pacific.
- ▶ C A Kuttappa appointed as India's chief boxing coach.
- ▶ Finance Ministry appointed CBDT member Akhilesh Ranjan as Convenor of Task Force that is drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law).
It was constituted in November 2017 to review Income-tax Act 1961 and to draft new direct tax law in consonance with economic needs.
- ▶ Former Indian diplomat Preeti Saran has been elected unopposed to an Asia Pacific seat on United Nation's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- ▶ Gafur Rakhimov (Uzbekistan) elected as President of International Boxing Association (AIBA).
- ▶ Government appointed UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey as new revenue secretary, succeeding Hasmukh Adhia. Also, Sumanta Chaudhuri is appointed as new Coal Secretary.
- ▶ Government appointed Krishnamurthy Subramanian as new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for 3 years, replacing Arvind Subramanian.
- ▶ Government Appointed R N Ravi as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be 3rd deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval after former Rajinder Khanna and Pankaj Saran.
- ▶ Government appointed A. N. Jha as New Finance Secretary.
- ▶ Government appointed Arti Chhabra Srivastava as first full-time Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of SEBI for 3 years.
- ▶ Government appointed Ashok Kumar Gupta as Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI), replacing Sudhir Mital.
 - ▶ Competition commission was established in October 2003 and became fully functional in May 2009.
 - ▶ It consists of Chairperson and 2 - 6 Members. Presently, Chairperson and four Members are in position.
- ▶ Government appointed Brijendra Pal Singh as President of FTII Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council.
- ▶ Government appointed K Dash, Akhilesh Ranjan and Neena Kumar as new members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
 - ▶ Current Chairperson of CBDT is Sushil Chandra.
- ▶ Government appointed M Nageswara Rao as interim Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ▶ Government appointed Nageswara Rao Guntur as Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
- ▶ Government appointed Pranab K. Das as Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), replacing S. Ramesh.
- ▶ Government appointed Pravin Srivastava as Chief statistician of India (CSI), replacing TCA Anant.
- ▶ Government appointed Rakesh Sharma as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of IDBI Bank.

28. ▶ Government appointed Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), which will function as an independent regulator for auditing profession.
29. ▶ Government appointed S. S. Deswal as Director General in Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He will also hold additional charge of post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
30. ▶ Government appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as full-time Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED), for 2 years.
31. ▶ Government appointed Shaktikanta Das as new (25th) Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for 3 years term. This appointment is made after Urjit Patel Resigned as RBI Governor recently. Mr. Patel is First RBI governor to resign before completion of term, which was to end in September 2019.
32. ▶ Government appointed Shekhar Mande as Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary in Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
33. ▶ Government appointed Sudhir Bhargava as New Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four new information commissioners - Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Suresh Chandra.
34. ▶ Government appointed Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India (*second-highest ranking law officer of government*) till June 2020.
 - ▶ Attorney General for India is Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. Currently the post is held by K. K. Venugopal.
35. ▶ Government appointed Vijay Kumar Dev as Chief Secretary of Delhi.
36. ▶ Govind Mathur appointed as the acting chief justice of Allahabad High Court.
37. ▶ Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Ambassador of India to USA, replacing Navtej Sarna.
38. ▶ India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi elected as Vice-Chair of United Nations (UN) Panel of Auditors. CAG of UK was also appointed as Chair of Panel for another term (2019).
39. ▶ India's Raninder Singh become first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Also, Pawan Singh become first Indian to be elected one of 7 member's of Judges Committee of International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
40. ▶ India's Srinivasan Swamy appointed as chairman and world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) for 2 years.
41. ▶ India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will resign as Economic Adviser to Kerala CM.
42. ▶ Indian American Neil Chatterjee is appointed as chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
43. ▶ Indian National Congress announced that Bhupesh Baghel will be new chief minister of Chhattisgarh and Ashok Gehlot will be New Chief Minister of Rajasthan, after Congress won recent assembly elections 2018 in both states. All New CMs of 5 States who recent went for state assembly elections -
 - ▶ Madhya Pradesh - Kamal Nath (Indian National Congress)
 - ▶ Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot (Indian National Congress), Sachin Pilot (Deputy CM)
 - ▶ Telangana - K Chandrasekhar Rao (President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)). Its his 2nd consecutive term as CM.
 - ▶ Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel (Indian National Congress)
 - ▶ Mizoram - Zoramthanga (Mizo National Front (MNF)), Tawnluia (Deputy CM)
44. ▶ International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) elected South Korea's Kim Jong-yang as its next president.
45. ▶ Iraq's parliament elected Kurdish politician Barham Salih as new president.
46. ▶ Jair Bolsonaro won Brazil's presidential elections, securing over 55 % votes.
47. ▶ Jalaj Srivastava has been appointed the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
48. ▶ James Quincey appointed as 14th chairman of Beverages Major Coca-Cola, succeeding Muhtar Kent.
49. ▶ Justice Surya Kant appointed as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
50. ▶ Lotay Tshering is set to become new Prime Minister of Bhutan, after his party Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) won majority in National Assembly.
51. ▶ Maeen Abdulmalik has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Yemen (Middle East).
52. ▶ Mahesh Y Reddy appointed as its Secretary General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
53. ▶ Michael D Higgins re-elected as President of Ireland for his 2nd term, receiving 56 % of votes.
54. ▶ Misc. Appointments (Nov 2018) -
 - ▶ MSG Menon appointed as Director General (Wks & Cer) of IAF.
 - ▶ P S Rajeshwar appointed as 12th Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, COSC.
 - ▶ Vishvesh Chaube appointed as new Member (Engineering) in Railway Board.
 - ▶ Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi appointed as Judges in Supreme Court.

- ✎ Sanctioned strength of Supreme court judges is 31. Current strength is 28.
 - ✎ Sanjay Kumar Verma appointed as next Ambassador of India to Japan.
 - ✎ Dinkar Asthana appointed as next Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic.
 - ✎ Nina Tshering La appointed as next Ambassador of India to Democratic Republic of Congo
 - ✎ Gaddam Dharmendra appointed as India's Ambassador to Iran.
 - ✎ American multinational investment bank Citigroup appointed John Dugan as its new chairman.
 - ✎ Electric carmaker Tesla appointed Robyn Denholm as Chairman, after Elon Musk resigned from Post.
 - ✎ Indian-American Sikh businessman Harry Singh Sidhu been elected as Mayor of Anaheim city in California (US).
 - ✎ Lok Sabha Secretary General Snehlata Shrivastava got one-year extension in her tenure.
 - ✎ Apple appointed Ashish Chowdhary as its India operation head.
 - ✎ Abhay Kumar appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Madagascar.
 - ✎ Abhay Thakur appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Nigeria.
 - ✎ Stephen Barclay has been appointed as new Brexit Secretary by British Prime Minister Theresa May.
 - ✎ Ministry of Woman and Child Development (WCD) nominated three members to National Commission for Women (NCW) - Chandramukhi Devi, Soso Shaiza, and Kamlesh Gautam. New appointments now leave two positions vacant in NCW. Rekha Sharma is current chairperson of NCW.
 - ✎ Ms Nina Tshering La appointed next Ambassador of India to Republic of Congo (Central Africa).
 - ✎ Google appointed Kerala-born former Oracle product chief Thomas Kurian as head of its cloud division.
 - ✎ Hospitality chain OYO Hotels appointed Aditya Ghosh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its India and South Asia operations.
 - ✎ Messaging Platform WhatsApp appointed Abhijit Bose as its India head.
 - ✎ State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) appointed Sidharth Rath as its Managing Director (MD) for India Operations.
 - ✎ LG Electronics appointed Brian Kwon as new president for its Mobile Business.
 - ✎ Earl Eddings named as Chairman of Cricket Australia (CA).
55. ▶ Mizo National Front (MNF) President Zoramthanga sworn-in as new Chief Minister of Mizoram, after his party won recent state assembly elections 2018.
 56. ▶ Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad elected as new President of Hockey India (HI).
 57. ▶ National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye is appointed chairman of working committee and director on board by international industry body – World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).
 58. ▶ New Chief Justices of 4 High Courts Appointed -
 - ✎ Sanjay Karol - Tripura
 - ✎ Amreshwar Pratap Sahi - Bihar
 - ✎ SK Seth - Madhya Pradesh
 - ✎ Govind Mathur - Uttar Pradesh
 59. ▶ P.V Bharathi is appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of PSB Corporation Bank.
 60. ▶ Pankaj Sharma appointed as ambassador and India's permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, replacing Amandeep Gill.
 61. ▶ Patrick Shanahan appointed as acting Defence Secretary of USA, replacing Jim Mattis who resigned recently.
 62. ▶ Pranoy Kumar Musahary has been appointed as chairperson of Meghalaya's first Lokayukta.
 63. ▶ President Ramnath Kovind appointed Madan Bhimarao Lokur as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA).
 64. ▶ President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), K Chandrasekhar Rao, sworn-in as Chief Minister of Telangana for 2nd consecutive term, after his party won recent state assembly elections 2018.
 65. ▶ Priyank Kanoongo appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
 66. ▶ Punjab government banned sale of weedicide glyphosatem which is cancer causing, According to Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh. Systemic herbicide is a group 2A cancer causing material and has potential to damage the human DNA. Punjab is 4th State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to regulate sale of herbicide.
 67. ▶ RBL Bank appointed Vikas Muttoo as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its subsidiary Swadhaar Finserve.
 68. ▶ Ramon Laguarta took charge as chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo. He succeeded India-born Indra Nooyi, who remained PepsiCo CEO for for 12 years.
 69. ▶ Ramphal Pawar has been appointed as Director in NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau).

70. ▶ Ranil Wickremesinghe appointed as Prime minister of Sri Lanka by President Maithripala Sirisena, bringing an end to the weeks-long political crisis in country.
- ✎ Mr. Wickremesinghe was removed as Prime minister in October and was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa who resigned after failing to garner a majority in Parliament.
71. ▶ Sahle-Work Zewde is appointed as first-ever female President of Ethiopia (East Africa).
72. ▶ Sajjan Jindal (JSW Steel CMD) elected as treasurer of World Steel Association (WSA), during its general assembly in Toyko (Japan). Tata Steel MD T V Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief L N Mittal are appointed as members, while Andre Johannpeter elected as Chairman.
73. ▶ Salome Zurabishvili to become First woman to be appointed as President of Georgia, after she won Georgia's presidential elections.
74. ▶ Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as ICICI Bank's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, After Chanda Kochhar resigned from the post.
75. ▶ Sandip Somany has been appointed as President of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) for 2018-19. While, Uday Shankar is appointed as is Vice President of FICCI.
76. ▶ Sanjay Verma is appointed as India's new Ambassador to Spain.
77. ▶ Shalindra Kumar appointed as Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.
78. ▶ Sheikh Hasina won her 3rd consecutive term and fourth overall, as Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
79. ▶ Sprinter Hima Das appointed as first ever youth ambassador of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India. She was the first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere (Finland). In 2018 Asian Games, she won silver medal in 400 m.
80. ▶ Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena removed Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister of Sri Lanka, amid Political Turmoil because of Differences between President Sirisena and PM Vikramasinghe. Mahinda Rajapaksha is appointed as new Prime Minister.
81. ▶ Sunil Arora appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner of India, replacing OP Rawat.
- ✎ Election commission of India contains 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners. 1 Seat of Election commissioner is held by Ashok Lavasa and Other is currently vacant.
82. ▶ Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi recommended names of 5 Chief Justices to High Courts of -
- ✎ Bombay - NH Patil
- ✎ Calcutta - DK Gupta
- ✎ Uttarakhand - Ramesh Ranganathan
- ✎ Gauhati - AS Bopanna
- ✎ Sikkim - Vijai Kumar Bist
83. ▶ Tanzanian biologist Joyce Msuya appointed as acting Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), after resignation of Erik Solheim.
84. ▶ UNICEF appointed India's Ravi Venkatesan as its special representative of young people, to provide strategic guidance and support UNICEF globally.
85. ▶ United Nations children's agency UNICEF appointed 14 year old Millie Bobby Brown as its youngest ever goodwill ambassador.
- ✎ Also, Singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as first 'Youth Advocate' of north eastern region by UNICEF to fight for child rights.
86. ▶ Voreqe Bainimarama re-appointed as Prime Minister of Fiji (Oceanic Nation).
87. ▶ WV Raman appointed as coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
88. ▶ Yes Bank named Brahm Dutt as bank's non-executive interim chairman, after Ashok Chawla resigned last month.

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