



Current Affairs - August to October 2018

Month Type











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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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus held in Singapore. Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited on India's Behalf.
- ▶ 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*.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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".
- ▶ 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*.
- ▶ 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*.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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*.
- ▶ 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).
13. ▶ 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.
 14. ▶ 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.
 15. ▶ *2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030* held in New Delhi.
 16. ▶ *Indian Ocean: Defining our Future* Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), aimed at exploring strongest challenges in Indian Ocean region.
 17. ▶ 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).
 18. ▶ 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.
 19. ▶ 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 curret chief.
 20. ▶ Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, with theme *Connecting Farmers to Market*.
 21. ▶ 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.
 22. ▶ 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*.
 23. ▶ India hosted 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as partner country, in New Delhi.
 24. ▶ 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.
 25. ▶ 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*.
 26. ▶ 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.
 27. ▶ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) held at Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep, with theme *Reef for Life*.
 28. ▶ 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'.
 29. ▶ 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>
30. ▶ 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).
31. ▶ 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 Nirmala 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.
32. ▶ 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*.
33. ▶ 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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