



Current Affairs - March 2018 to May 2018

Month Type



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Meetings

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 his toric 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.

10. ▶ An informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting held in New Delhi with Representatives from 50 countries attending it.
11. ▶ Canada and European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ First international conference on *Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership* held in Kathmandu (Nepal).
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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).
19. ▶ India hosted 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) in New Delhi.
20. ▶ International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini (Nepal), with theme *Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace*.
21. ▶ World Ocean Summit 2018 held in Mexico's Riviera Maya.

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