



Current Affairs - October to December 2018

Month Type



- ▶ **34 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - Meetings and Summits**

Meetings

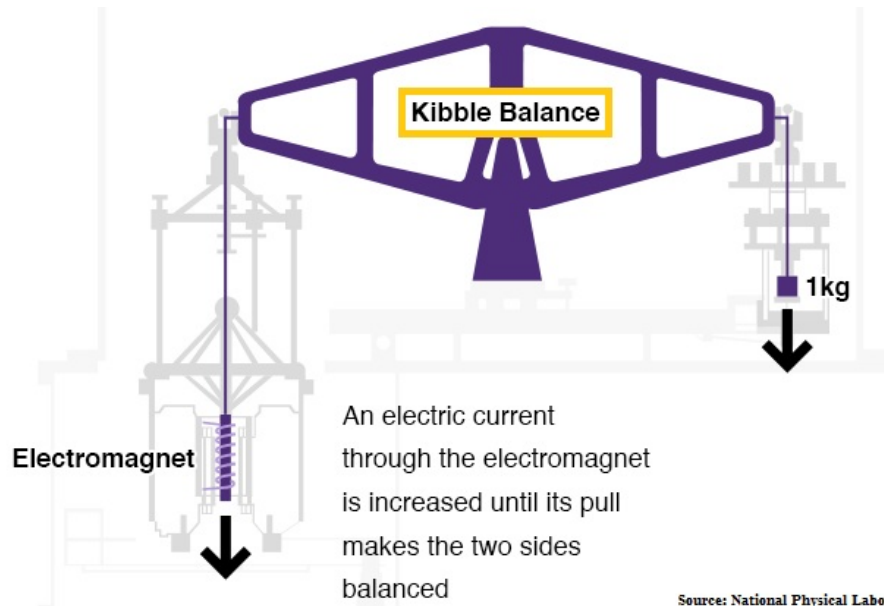
- ▶ India and Australia held their 2nd edition of '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra.
- ▶ 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave Held in New Delhi, with theme *Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy*.
 - ▶ 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.
- ▶ 175th Meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC) Conference & 5th OPEC and Non OPEC Ministerial Meeting held in Vienna (Austria).
 - ▶ Qatar announced to withdraw its OPEC membership with effect from January 1, 2019,
 - ▶ Next OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting will convene in Vienna, Austria in April, 2019.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2018 G20 Summit held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) -
 - ▶ It was 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20) Nations, and first to be hosted in South America. Theme of this year's summit was *Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development*.
 - ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be chief guest at India's 70th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2019. Mr Ramaphosa was invited to be chief guest by PM Narendra Modi during G20 summit in Buenos Aires (Argentina).
 - ▶ Mr Modi Announced that India will host G20 Summit In 2022, 75th year of Indian Independence.
 - ▶ During the G20 Summit, PM Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for 2nd Russia-India-China 'RIC' Trilateral Summit at leaders' level after 12 years.
 - ▶ G20 includes Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, UK, US and EU.
- ▶ 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Katowice (Poland). Main Objective of COP 24 is to finalise guidelines for implementation of Paris Agreement adopted in 2016, to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius.
 - ▶ India at COP 24 -
 - ▶ On Behalf of India, it was attended by Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.
 - ▶ India has ambitious goal of generating 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, with achievement of 72 GW renewable energy by 2018.
 - ▶ During COP-24, India has set up a Pavilion to create awareness about India's positive climate actions in various sectors of economy, themed as *One World One Sun One Grid*.

- ✍ NABARD signed loan agreement worth USD 100 mn with Green Climate Fund (GCF) to boost rooftop solar power capacity projects through private sector participation. Total corpus of project is USD 250 mn, to be executed by Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd.
- ✍ Uttar Pradesh based startup HelpUsGreen honored by UN for its works to clean River Ganga by recycling tonnes of floral waste. UN presented the award to 14 other countries along with India at Nations Climate Action award ceremony during UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24).
 - ✍ HelpusGreen collects floral waste daily from the temples. These flowers are then recycled to produce charcoal free incense, organic vermicompost and biodegradable packaging material through Flowercycling technology. It cycled 11060 metric tonnes of temple waste, through women working with startup.
 - ✍ Over 800 million metric tonnes of flowers are used in temples and these flowers are thrown into Ganga river.
- ✍ Other Facts About COP 24 -
 - ✍ World Bank unveiled US \$200 billion in climate action investment for 2021 to 2025 to fight impact of climate change, comprising of approx 100 billion direct finance from World Bank.
 - ✍ Climate Change Performance Index 2019 was released on the sidelines of COP24 UN Summit in Katowice. The index was produced by the New Climate Institute, Climate Action Network and Germanwatch.
 - ✍ No countries were in top three ranks because none did well in all categories assessed.
 - ✍ Sweden topped the list with 4th rank, followed by Morocco in 5th position.
 - ✍ European Union as a whole rose from 21st to 16th place. But Germany fell from 22nd to 27th because of its reliance on lignite coal, a big source of greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ✍ Bottom ranked - Saudi Arabia (60), USA(59), Iran (58), Korea (57), Chinese Taipei (56),Australia (55),Canada (54),Russian Federation (52),Turkey (50),Japan (49).
 - ✍ India ranked 11th. China ranked 33. Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar were not assessed.
 - ✍ World Bank released report named *Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) 2018* . Number of countries with strong policy frameworks for sustainable energy more than tripled,from 17 to 59 in 8 years till 2017.
 - ✍ RISE 2018 charts global progress on sustainable energy policies and shows that policies matter – they are a leading indicator and building block of the world’s transition to sustainable energy.
 - ✍ *Katowice package*, the rulebook for implementation of 2015 Paris climate agreement, was signed during this conference.
 - ✍ One of key components is a detailed transparency framework to promote trust among nations. It sets out how countries will provide information about Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ✍ Sets a way to decide on ambitious funding targets from 2025 onwards from current commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion per year as of 2020 in support of climate action in developing countries.
 - ✍ Nations agreed to collectively assess effectiveness of climate action in 2023, and finalised procedure to monitor and report progress on the development and transfer of technology.
 - ✍ Countries can now establish the national systems that are needed for implementing Paris Agreement by 2020.
 - ✍ Main issues still need to be resolved such as use of cooperative approaches, and sustainable development mechanism. Resolution of these issues would allow countries to meet a part of their domestic mitigation goals through use of *market mechanisms*.
 - ✍ These negotiations will be taken up at UN climate change conference, COP25, set to take place in Chile in November 2019.
- ✍ About -
 - ✍ UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is international environmental treaty negotiated at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It is parent treaty of 1997 Kyoto Protocol which was ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties.
 - ✍ Objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHGs) concentrations at a level, to prevent dangerous human interference with climate system.
 - ✍ Conference of Parties (COP)COP is supreme decision-making body of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At COP, all parties review implementation of Convention and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of Convention.

8. ▶ 26th meeting of General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) held in Versailles (France). It was notable as members voted for redefinition of 130 years old *Le grand K – the SI unit of kg* in terms of the fundamental Planck’s constant(h). New definitions will come

into force on 20 May 2019.

- CGPM comprises 60 countries including India and 42 Associate Members.
- Out of five draft resolutions, revision of International System of Units and the definition of timescales are important. Definition of seven base units namely, second, metre, kilogram, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela has been changed from being linked to artefacts to being based on the fundamental constants on nature.
- Definition of **kilogram** changed from being mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to Planck constant which is a physical constant. Definition of **metre** changed to link it to the speed of light. Similarly, there is a change in the definition of time also. Units are expected to be stable in the long term, internally self-consistent and practically realisable.
- International prototype of kilogram (IPK) is kept at BIPM, Paris and serves as international standard of kilogram. It is made of 90% platinum and 10% iridium and is a cylinder of 39 mm diameter and 39 mm height.
 - Replicas of IPK are made of the same material and used at BIPM as reference or working standards and national prototype of kilogram (NPK), kept at different National Metrology Institutes (NMIs).
- Having an artifact as the world standard for a measurement unit has two fundamental problems
 - It can change value over time but, without any way of knowing how it changes, as it's a standard.
 - It is difficult to bring every mass-measurement device to France every time it needs calibration. Thus, national standards labs have their own kilogram standards that they periodically bring to France for comparison against Prototype. NPK-57, kept at CSIR- National Physical Laboratory (India), is sent periodically to BIPM for calibration. Precise measurements help country in production of international quality products.
- As per New Definition, The kilogram is defined by taking fixed numerical value of the Planck constant h to be $6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34}$ when expressed in the unit $J\ s$, which is equal to $kg\ m^2\ s^{-1}$, where the meter and the second are defined in terms of c and $\Delta\nu$.
 - When it comes into force on May 20, 2019 (World Metrology Day), new kilogram definition will do away with comparisons to International Prototype. It will enable the national labs to create their own standard for the kilogram because it will be reproducible. Process for realising a kilogram will rely on a tool called *Kibble balance*.
 - Kibble balance is a self-calibrating electromechanical balance and provides measurements of mass, traceable in terms of electrical parameters and provides linkage of macroscopic mass to Planck constant(h). Nations Including UK, USA, Canada, Germany Have successfully developed Kibble balance for 1 kg with an uncertainty of measurement in order of 10^{-8} . NPL India is looking forward for development of 1 kg Kibble balance.
 - Pictorial Representation of Kibble Balance -



- Tool uses coils and magnets wherein current in the coil exerts a known force and that current can be measured to sufficient accuracy. Current can be used to derive an upward force from which the mass of an unknown object can be compared. When the forces are equal, mass of unknown object can be measured. Voltage and current measurements are based on Planck's Constant.

9. ▶ 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.

10. ▶ 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”.
11. ▶ 2nd International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018) held in New Delhi, organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank.
 - ▶ Awards were given to four pathbreaking innovations in clean energy and energy efficiency as part of #InnovateToINSPIRE, a first-of-its-kind energy innovation challenge.
 - ▶ To support investments in new, innovative and scalable business models, EESL and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of USD 13 million to establish an Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF).
 - ▶ During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and GAIL signed MoU to develop natural gas based cogeneration and trigeneration projects in Commercial & Industrial Sectors in India.
12. ▶ 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*.
13. ▶ 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*.
14. ▶ 33rd ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations) Summit held in Singapore, with theme *Resilient and Innovative*. Other related summits including East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits also to be held along with.
 - ▶ India's Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended RCEP member countries meet in Singapore.
 - ▶ Also, Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States also held their third “Quadrilateral” meeting in Singapore.
15. ▶ 3rd ‘MahaBiz 2018’ International Business Conference held in Dubai, (UAE), as a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
16. ▶ 42nd Indian Social Science Congress held at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), with theme *Human Future in Digital Era*.
17. ▶ 5th World Internet Conference (WIC) held in Wuzhen (China), to bring out mutual learning, cooperation and sharing in digital fields space.
 - ▶ During this event, Xinhua, China’s state-run press agency, unveiled world’s first artificial intelligence (AI) anchor that can read news in English and Chinese. They have been developed by Xinhua and Chinese search engine *Sogou*.
18. ▶ 80th Session of Policy Commission Meeting of World Customs Organization (WCO) held in Mumbai (Maharashtra), organised by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC).
 - ▶ During the event, An Agreement between India and Peru (South America) has been signed, for Co-operation in Customs Matters.
19. ▶ 2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: *Achieving the SDGs 2030* held in New Delhi.
20. ▶ *Indian Ocean: Defining our Future* Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), aimed at exploring strongest challenges in Indian Ocean region.
21. ▶ Asia Pacific Summit 2018 held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with Theme *Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values*. It was organised by South Korea-based Universal Peace Federation.
22. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit 2018 held in Papua New Guinea.
 - ▶ APEC is an inter-governmental forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies. India is not a member of APEC, although it has expressed its interest for Inclusion in APEC.
23. ▶ 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 current chief.
24. ▶ First ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) was launched in New Delhi to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy.
25. ▶ Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 held in New Delhi, with theme *Connecting Farmers to Market*.

26. ▶ India hosted 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as partner country, in New Delhi.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) held at Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep, with theme *Reef for Life*.
30. ▶ Meeting of BASIC countries organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in New Delhi. BASIC group consists of Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
31. ▶ National Children's Science Congress 2018 held at SOA (Deemed to be university) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), as 26th edition of National Science Congress. Theme of 26th National Children's Science Congress is *Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation*.
32. ▶ South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure held in New Delhi, organised by NITI Aayog in partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
33. ▶ 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).
34. ▶ 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*.

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