



Current Affairs - October to December 2018

Month Type



- ▶ [37 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - Science and Technology.](#)

(Showing **14** Important Ones)

Science

- ▶ 4 new species of Indian horned frogs discovered from Himalayan regions of Northeast India, by team of researchers that comprised S D Biju, famously known as the 'Frogman of India'.
 - ✎ Scientists have named them as Himalayan horned frog (*Megophrys himalayana*), Garo white-lipped horned frog (*Megophrys oreocrypta*); Yellow spotted white-lipped horned frog (*Megophrys flavipunctata*) and Giant Himalayan horned frog (*Megophrys periosa*).
- ▶ GSAT-29 communication satellite successfully launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MarkIII (GSLV MkIII-D2) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
 - ✎ GSAT-29 satellite weighed 3423-kg.
 - ✎ GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ▶ As a first such mission, European and Japanese space agencies launched Bepi Colombo spacecraft, for a joint mission to Mercury, planet closest to the sun. Spacecraft will arrive at Mercury in 2025.
 - ✎ It has named after Italian scientist Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo. During its 5.2 billion miles journey, spacecraft will several fly-bys of Earth, Venus and Mercury, to slow down enough to avoid huge gravitational pull of Sun.
- ▶ CSIR Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with Trade name "Oneer™", transferred to Bluebird Water Purifiers.
 - ✎ This system will provide safe and clean drinking water at a cost of just 2 Paise / Ltr. Community level model is of 450 LPH capacity which can be scaled up to 5000 to 1 lakh L/day.
 - ✎ Smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments.
- ▶ China launched Chang'e 4, first-ever spacecraft that will attempt landing on far side of Moon, which always shows the same face to Earth as it's close enough to be locked by planet's gravitational field.
- ▶ India launched its latest communication satellite, GSAT-7A aboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F11) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
 - ✎ GSAT-7A is 39th Indian communication satellite of ISRO to provide services to the users in Ku-band over Indian region. It weighs 2250 KG.
 - ✎ GSAT-7A satellite is the heaviest satellite (2250 kgs) with an indigenously developed cryogenic stage that has been launched by GSLV.
- ▶ India will launch 2 Satellite Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) As a part of its proposed manned space mission, to improve data relay and communication links with its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.
 - ✎ IDRSS will reduce the dependence on the ground stations in tracking satellites. Communication and data transfer would be in real time as remote sensing satellites can relay data gathered to IDRSS satellites which in turn can transmit them to the ground.
 - ✎ IDRSS will be like a hub as it can receive commands from the ground stations and in turn relay the same to other satellites.
- ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Launched its heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite GSAT-11, from Spaceport in French Guiana (South America), on board Launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-246. It also carried South Korea's GEO-KOMPSAT-2A satellite.

- ✎ The 5,854-kg GSAT-11 will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band. It will boost broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible areas in India.
 - ✎ GSAT-11 was launched from French Guiana as its heaviest satellite of ISRO (5.86 ton) and cannot be carried by ISRO's GSLV Mk – III which has capacity to lift only up to four-ton class payloads.
9. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C43) launched 31 satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
- ✎ It Included India's Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) and 30 foreign satellites. HysIS is an earth observation satellite built around ISRO's Mini Satellite2 (IMS-2) bus weighing about 380kg. The mission life of the satellite is five years. Primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth's surface in both visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
 - ✎ Foreign Satellites belonged to Australia (1), Canada (1), Columbia (1), Finland (1), Malaysia (1), Netherlands (1), Spain (1) and USA (23). Satellites from Australia, Columbia, Malaysia and Spain were flown aboard PSLV for the first time.
 - ✎ In December 2018, ISRO has 2 more planned launches - GSAT 11 from French Guiana and GSAT 7A from Sriharikota. Next year, ISRO will have its long expected second mission to moon, Chandrayaan – II. GSAT-11 is being launched from French Guiana as its heaviest satellite of ISRO (5.86 ton) and cannot be carried by GSLV Mk – III which has the capacity to lift only up to four-ton class payloads.
10. ▶ NASA announced that first crewed test flight by a SpaceX rocket to ISS will take place in June 2019. SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for launch with a Crew Dragon capsule attached on top.
11. ▶ NASA has retired Kepler space telescope after it ran out of fuel needed for further science operations, bringing end of 9.5 year mission of Kepler space telescope in which it had discovered over 2,600 intriguing exoplanets from outside our solar system some.
- ✎ It was launched in 2009 on 3.5-year mission, but operated for 9 years. It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission. It was named after German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler.
12. ▶ Scientists at European Southern Observatory (ESO) discovered a galaxy proto-supercluster named "Hyperion", the largest and the most massive structure in early universe known so far. Hyperion was found using data from VIMOS Ultra-Deep Survey done by VIMOS instrument on European Southern Observatory's (ESO) Very Large Telescope in Chile.
- ✎ Hyperion's mass is estimated to be a million billion times that of our own Sun (nearly 1,048 Jupiters, or 333,000 Earths). v. Hyperion is located in the constellation of Sextans.
13. ▶ Scientists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and IISc Bangalore discovered 2 new species of lizards in Western Ghats. The Lizards are: Montane forest lizard and Spiny-headed forest lizard. They were wrongly identified under genus Calotes for over 150 years.
14. ▶ USA Scientists claimed to have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.
- ✎ It is controlled wirelessly by transmitter outside body that acts much like cellphone-charging mat. It operates for about two weeks before naturally absorbing into the body.
 - ✎ During its animal test on rats with injured sciatic nerves, it was found that this bioelectronic medicine device delivers regular pulses of electricity to damaged peripheral nerves in rats after surgical repair process. This results in accelerating regrowth of nerves.
 - ✎ Researchers envision that such transient engineered technologies can replace pharmaceutical treatments for a variety of medical conditions in humans.

Top

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