

## **1. INDIA PAVILION INAUGURATED AT VIDEOCITTA 2018 IN ROME FILM FESTIVAL**

- India was a partner country at Videocitta 2018, an event focusing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc. It was organized along with Rome Film Festival and Mercato Internazionale dell' Audiovisivo (MIA) (the International Audio Visual Market).
- India's participation at Videocittà 2018, Rome was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and coordinated on Ministry's behalf by FICCI.
- The agenda of the delegation from India this year is to showcase diversity in films while furthering collaborations with other countries.
- India Pavilion at Videocittà 2018 showcased Indian films' heritage, ease of film shooting in India, promoted film shooting locations in India, International Film Festival of India, Indian Cinema from different regions, Audio Visual Co Production between India and Italy.
- Daily cultural performances related to Indian classical dances, performances based Indian films, yoga sessions, vocal performances, and screening of Indian films across regions were organised in the India

## **INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave an ex-post facto approval for moving a resolution in the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA.
- Opening the membership of the ISA will put solar energy in global agenda with the universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy.

## **About International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit, and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015. The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016.
- Most of the countries either lie completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. The countries that do not fall within the Tropics can also join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- India has pledged a target of installing 100GW by 2022 and reduction in emission intensity by 33–35% by 2030 to let solar energy reach to the most unconnected villages and communities and also towards creating a clean planet.

## **2. OPERATION GREENS**

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) approved the operationalization strategy for Operation Greens.
- In the budget speech of 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations, agro-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.

### **Objectives of “Operation Greens”:**

- Enhancing value realisation of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crop farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/connecting them with the market.
- Price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, and creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres.
- Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain with firm linkages with production clusters.
- Setting up of a market intelligence network to collect and collate real time data on demand and supply and price of TOP crops.

## **3. MULTI MODAL TERMINAL (MMT) ON RIVER GANGA AT VARANASI**

- This is the first of the three Multi Modal Terminals and two Inter Modal Terminals being constructed on the river.

### **About MMT**

- The MMTs are being built as part of the Government’s Jal Marg Vikas project that aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia for navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight, by maintaining a draught of 2-3 metres in this stretch of the river and setting up other systems required for safe navigation.
- The objective is to promote inland waterways as a cheaper and more environment friendly means of transport, especially for cargo movement. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the implementing agency of this project.

### **Features of Varanasi Mutli-Modal Terminal (MMT):**

- Jetty: Length 200 m x Width 42 m with berthing and mooring facility
- 02 Mobile Harbour Cranes
- Approach Road
- Internal Road
- Stone Pitching Works and bank protection
- Shell structure of ancillary buildings, worker amenity building ready

#### **4. SIMBEX 18**

- Bilateral Exercise between Indian & Republic of Singapore Navies – SIMBEX 18 - marks Silver Jubilee this Year.
- The 25th edition of SIMBEX, an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise” was held in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- The 25th edition witnessed a diverse range of exercises at sea ranging from live weapon drills including multiple missile firings, Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT) and Medium Range Gun/Antisubmarine Rocket firings among others.
- Both the countries have been conducting joint naval exercises and training since 1993 near Andaman and Nicobar Islands and also expanded their cooperation in fighting terrorism.

#### **5. INSPIRE 2018**

- This was the second edition of INSPIRE organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank. The three-day symposium focused on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India.

##### **About:**

- Innovations in the field of energy efficiency are critical to meet our GHG (greenhouse gases) emission targets and the Government has taken several initiatives in this regard.
- INSPIRE 2018 has been organised in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI).
- The event brings together policy-makers, influencers, innovators, thought leaders, researchers, leading energy-efficient companies, government agencies, business leaders and other stakeholders to deliberate on key energy policies, market transformation strategies, and sustainable business models that will help leverage the full potential of energy efficiency and bring its multiple co-benefits to the fore.

#### **6. SAMUDRA SHAKTI** *Compete with Confidence*

- INS Rana (of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command) is on deployment to the South East Asia and arrived at the port of Surabaya (Indonesia) to participate in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’.
- INS Rana at Surabaya participated in Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise

##### **About:**

- The aim of the exercise was to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
- The exercise started with a Harbour Phase scheduled from 12 to 15 Nov encompassing planning and briefing on various activities, professional interactions, cross deck visits, sports fixtures and social interactions.
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## **CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER - 2018**

- This was progress to a Sea Phase from 16 to 18 Nov and included operations such as Joint Manoeuvres, Helicopter Operations, Surface Warfare exercise, ASW exercise and anti-piracy exercises.
- The visit of the ship aimed to promote India's solidarity with Indonesia towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and to strengthen existing bonds between the navies of the two nations.

### **7. INDRA 2018**

- INDRA 2018-joint military exercise between Indian and Russia on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) was conducted at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station on 18 November 2018.

#### **About:**

- Company sized contingents of the 5th Army of the Russian Federation and a Mechanised Infantry Battalion of Republic of India participated in the training exercise spanning for eleven days including induction and de-induction of the Russian contingent.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance interoperability of the two Armies in the peace keeping/ enforcement environment under the aegis of the UN.
- It focuses upon training on enhancing team building, special tactical level operations such as Cordon and Search, house intervention, handling and neutralisation of Improvised Explosive Devices and integrated employment of force multipliers.

### **8. MNRE circulates draft Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS)**

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in consultation with National Institute of Wind Energy Chennai, has prepared a draft of new Scheme called Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS) incorporating various guidelines of Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS).

#### **About:**

- The IWTCS is a consolidation of relevant National and International Standards, Technical Regulations and requirements issued by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), guidelines issued by MNRE and other international guidelines.
- It has also strived to incorporate various best practices from other countries to ensure the quality of the wind energy projects.
- The draft Scheme enlists the guidelines for the benefit of all the stakeholders from concept to lifetime of wind turbine, including Indian Type Approved Model (ITAM), Indian Type Certification Scheme (ITCS), Wind Farm Project Certification Scheme (WFPCS) and Wind Turbine Safety & Performance Certification Scheme (WTSPCS).



### **9. India GSLV MkIII-D2 successfully launches GSAT-29**

- India's GSAT-29 communication satellite was successfully launched by the second developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MarkIII (GSLV MkIII-D2) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

#### **Features of GSAT-29:**

- With a mission life of 10 years, GSAT-29 is the 33rd communication satellite built by ISRO. GSAT-29 is a multi-beam, multiband communication satellite.
- Its payloads are designed to mainly focus on connectivity to the users in the hilly and geographically inaccessible areas.
- Weighing 3,423 kg at lift-off, GSAT-29 is the heaviest satellite to be launched from India.
- It will be placed in a geostationary transfer orbit. At its closest point it will be 190 km above the Earth, and at its farthest it will be close to 36,000 km above the Earth. Subsequently it will be manoeuvred into a geostationary orbit, its final destination. Once placed, the satellite's solar panels and antennae will unfold and work will begin.
- For the first time, an optical communication payload will be utilised for data transmission at a very high rate.

#### **GSLV MK III**

- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle, weighing 640 tones. The first stage has two boosters with solid propellant, and the second is the core with liquid propellant. The cryogenic engine forms the final stage.
- The GSLV Mk III is the heaviest launch vehicle made in India.

#### **Significance:**

- The GSLV-GSAT launch enhances India's capacity to meet its communication needs. Both launcher and satellite has certain characteristics that make them unique. The launcher can carry payloads up to 4 tones to the geosynchronous transfer orbit and up to 10 tones to a low-earth orbit. The launch shows that ISRO has developed the capability to lift four-tone payloads using its new GSLV Mark -III rocket.
- The GSLV-III is also likely to be used in the Chandrayaan-II mission in the early months of 2019.
- GSLV MK III - The first successful experimental flight of the GSLV Mk III was in 2014 when it carried a dummy crew module as a payload.

### **10. DHARMA GUARDIAN 2018**

- The armies of India and Japan recently completed their first-of-its-kind joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' in Mizoram to build and promote relations between the forces of the two countries in addition to exchanging skills and experiences.

**About:**

- Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN - 2018, a joint military exercise between Indian & Japanese Armies held at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengete, Mizoram on 01 November 2018.
- The Japanese contingent was represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion, while the Indian side was represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles. Approximately one platoon strength each of both the battalions participated in this exercise.
- Both sides jointly trained, planned and executed a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats that may be encountered in urban warfare scenario. The exercise contributes immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's military.

**SOURCE:**

1. THE HINDU
2. PIB

