

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MONTH: DECEMBER 2018

- India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity:WWF
According to recently released Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature, India is among nations that face grave danger. It is due to over exploitation of natural resources and agriculture.
- Indian Army has selected Russia's Iгла-S missile system as choice for its multibillion dollar contract for man-portable air defence system (MANPADS)
- West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed West Bengal Land Reforms Bill (Amendment), 2018 to give land rights to enclave dwellers in North Bengal.
- Four new species of horned frogs:
Team of biologists has discovered four new species of horned frogs from Himalayan regions of North East India. The team also comprised Mr. S.D. Biju, famously known as the 'Frogman of India.'
- Punjab becomes third state in the country after Maharashtra and Gujrat to ban hookah bars or lounges.
- Uttar Pradesh Govt. has decided to rename the newly -built 'Ekana International Stadium' in the capital city, Lucknow after former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The stadium, with a seating capacity of around 50,000 will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.
- ISRO successfully launches communication satellite GSAT-29:
It was launched successfully by the second development flight of GSLV-Mark III – D-2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre(SDSC) SHAR – Sriharikota.
GSLV means: Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
This will be used to launch Chandrayaan-2 and Gaganyaan missions.
- ISRO's manned mission Gaganyaan is expected to lift off three Indian Astronauts into space for a seven day trip to the Low Earth Orbit. The mission is slated for 2022.
- 'World Diabetes Day' is observed every year across the world on 14th November to raise awareness about Diabetes. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018-2019 is "The Family and Diabetes. It has been chosen to raise awareness and promote role of family in management, care, prevention and education of diabetes.
- Newly appointed Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa ended his 5 decade long association with Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and joined newly found Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP).
- The first global cooling innovation summit was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by union environment minister Mr. Harsh Vardhan. The two days summit was first of its kind solutions-focused event organised to explore concrete means and pathways to address climate threat that comes from the growing demand of room air-conditioners.
- Uttar Pradesh government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad division as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively.
- The world's largest dome was inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni-Kalbhor, Pune (Maharashtra). It was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu along with Peace Centre on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- Union government will set up first of its kind institute of inter-faith studies in Punjab to promote Brotherhood and diversity. It is been established as part of yearlong activities to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of first Sikh guru and founder of Sikh religion, Guru Nanak Dev.
The Government will also develop Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab where Guru Nanak is believed to have spent most of his life. The area will be developed as heritage city incorporating, 'Pind Babe Nanak da'. Moreover high powered telescope will be installed on Indian side to view Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan where the sixth guru spent his last days.
- India international cherry blossom held from 14th to 17th November in Shillong, Meghalaya, organised by the government of Meghalaya's forest and environment department as well as by the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) in collaboration with Indian council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- The 'Signature Bridge' as the new Landmark of New Delhi connects the city Wazirabad across the river Yamuna to the inner city. It shortens the travel time between North and North East Delhi it was inaugurated on 4th November 2018. It took 14 long years in the making.
- Statue of unity: It is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres. It is a colossal statue of Indian statesman and independence activist. It is located in Gujrat, India and has become one of the major tourist attractions in Gujarat. It was inaugurated on 31st October 2018 presided over by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- ISRO to set up space museums across the country including Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram, to educate and inform the masses about space technology and advancement in the space sector.
- Shirdi trust gives Rs. 500 crore loan (interest free) and blessings to Maharashtra Project. It is Nilwande irrigation Project to meet the drinking water needs of most tehsils in Ahmednagar district.
- India, China and Russia trilateral after 12 years. Leaders of these three nations have called for reforming multilateral institutions including the U.N. and W.T.O (World Trade Organisation), for global growth and prosperity.
- Mr. Sunil Arora is the current and 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is a retired 1980 batch I.A.S. of Rajasthan **cadre**.