

International Current Affairs

1. Japan's new emperor **Naruhito** has formally ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne (replacing his father) Akihito.
Note: In a morning ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, today, Naruhito became the 126th Emperor of Japan. A new imperial era called Reiwa, which means order and harmony, has now begun. The emperor in Japan holds no political power but serves as a national symbol.
2. **Benjamin Netanyahu** sworn-in as Israel's new Prime Minister.
Note: Netanyahu's 'Likud party' won 35 seats in the election, the same as his main opponent from the centrist Blue and White alliance, led by former military chief Benny Gantz. Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu was born in Tel Aviv in 1949.
3. Nigerian Professor **Tijjani Mohammad Bande** has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
Note: Bande is the permanent representative of Nigeria to the UN. He holds an M.A in Political Science from the Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA (in 1981) and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Canada (in 1987). He was the Vice-Chancellor of **Usman Danfodiyo University**, Sokoto, between 2004 and 2009.
4. **European Union (EU)** has extended ban on selling arms to Myanmar.
Note: The Rohingya, described by the UN as the world's most persecuted people, have faced heightened fears of attack since dozens were killed in communal violence in 2012. In August 2017, almost 750,000 Rohingya refugees fled a military crackdown in northern Myanmar to cross into Bangladesh, where 300,000 members of the persecuted Muslim minority were already in camps.
5. **Netherlands** has emerged as the third **largest foreign direct investor** in India during 2017-18, with investments pegged at about USD 2.67 billion across sectors.
Note: The Netherlands was also the second largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth USD 12.8 billion in 2017. The objective of the dialogue was to strengthen the business partnership between India and the Netherlands in times of rapid technological changes.
6. The **Australian flight carrier** has operated the **world's first zero-waste commercial flight** from Sydney to Adelaide -- **Qantas**.
Note:
 - 'Qantas' disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle. The Australian airline Qantas has planned to eliminate 100 million single-use plastics by the end of 2020 and reduce 75% of airline's waste by the end of 2021
7. **Taiwan** has become the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.
Note:
 - Taiwan has approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the first place in Asia to pass gay marriage legislation.
 - The successful bill includes limited adoption rights for same-sex couples.
8. External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
Note:
 - India was an observer at the **SCO since 2005** and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.



- Along with **India, Pakistan** was also granted the **SCO membership** in 2017. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

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