



Current Affairs - December 2017 to May 2018

Month Type



- [93 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - Persons on Visit/In News](#)

(Showing **61** Important Ones)

Persons

- ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
- ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
- ▶ Australian Steve Plain became fastest climber to scale highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest. He began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled in 126 days.
 - ▶ Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai become youngest person to scale six peaks over 8000 metres when he summited Kangchenjunga (Sikkim), third highest mountain in world. He intends to become youngest person in world to scale all 14 above 8000 metre-peaks. His next is Shishapangma (8013 metres) in Nyalam County, Tibet.
 - ▶ Also, Sangeeta Bahl became oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest, at 53 years of age.
- ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.
- ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
- ▶ India Post issued a special stamp to pay tribute to noted British theoretical physicist and Stephen Hawking, who passed away recently. 'A Brief History of Time', 'The Universe in a Nutshell', 'On the Shoulders of Giants' are some of the popular books written by Stephen Hawking.
- ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
- ▶ Indian Express List 2018 of Top 100 Influential Indians -
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi retained top spot. BJP President Amit Shah is 2nd, with UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi at No. 5 as most powerful woman on list.
- ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ▶ Mihai Tudose resigned as Prime Minister of Romania (Southeastern Europe).
- ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
- ▶ Obituaries (April 2018) -
 - ▶ Efrain Rios Montt - Noted military dictator of Guatemala. He was accused of a mass genocide.
 - ▶ Munin Barua - Noted Assamese film-maker.
 - ▶ Ray Wilkins - Noted England Footballer.
 - ▶ S. Nihal Singh - Noted journalist.
 - ▶ Ram Kumar - Noted painter. Hwa was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2010.
 - ▶ TVR Shenoy - Noted journalist and columnist passed. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003.
 - ▶ Rajinder Sachar - Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice.
 - ▶ Bhimsain Khurana - Noted animation expert

- 📌 Nabi Tajima - The world's oldest person (117 year old) from Japan. Another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, is now world's oldest person (117 Years).
- 📌 James Ajongo - South Sudan military chief who died during a visit to Egypt.
- 📌 Avicii - Noted Swedish dance music star.

13. ▶ Obituaries (Feb 2018) -

- 📌 Francisco Nunez Olivera (France) - World's oldest man.
- 📌 Kalamandalam Geethanandan - Noted Ottanthullal (A dance form of Kerala) artist.
- 📌 Louis Zorich - Noted American Actor.
- 📌 Lakshmi Devi - Noted Telugu actor.
- 📌 Madavoor Vasudevan Nair - Noted Kathakali maestro.
- 📌 John Mahoney - Noted American Actor.
- 📌 Johann Johannsson - Noted Golden Globe awardee Icelandic musician.
- 📌 Asma Jahangir - Noted Pakistani human rights activist.
- 📌 Chandrasekhar Rath - Noted Odia author.
- 📌 Parbati Ghose - First female filmmaker of Odisha.
- 📌 Sudha Karmarkar - Pioneer of Children's Theatre.
- 📌 John Gavin - Noted American Actor.
- 📌 Bevan Congdon - Former New Zealand cricketer.
- 📌 Muzaffar Hussain - Noted Scribe, writer and journalist.
- 📌 Ruud Lubbers - Longest serving prime minister of Netherlands.
- 📌 Rev. Billy Graham - Noted Christian evangelist.
- 📌 Ram Swarup Sharma - Padma Shri Awardee from UP for Folk Art *Rasa Lila*.
- 📌 Gundu Hanumantha Rao - Noted Telugu actor.
- 📌 Kunhiraman Panoor - Noted Malayalam writer.
- 📌 M S Anantharaman - Noted violinist.
- 📌 Sri Devi - Noted Bollywood Actress.
- 📌 Neelabh Mishra - Noted senior journalist.
- 📌 Nanette Fabray - Noted America Actress. She had won 3 Emmy awards and received SAG Life Achievement Award in 1987.
- 📌 T.S.R. Subramanian - Former Cabinet Secretary.
- 📌 Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal - Kanchi Shankaracharya (69th pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam).
- 📌 Kanakalata Mohanty - Noted Odia writer.
- 📌 Penny Vincenzi - Noted British novelist.

14. ▶ Obituaries (March 2018) -

- 📌 Davide Astori - Noted Italian international footballer.
- 📌 Litterateur Prafulla Das - Noted Odia Litterateur.
- 📌 Pyare Lal Wadali - Noted Sufi singer.
- 📌 Shammi - Noted Bollywood actress.
- 📌 Narendra Jha - Bollywood Actor.
- 📌 John Sulston - Noted British genome scientist.
- 📌 Stephen Hawking - Noted British theoretical physicist and cosmologist. He was well known for his work on black holes and relativity.
- 📌 Ken Dodd - Noted British comedian.
- 📌 Kedarnath Singh - Eminent Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee.
- 📌 M Sukumaran - Noted Malayalam writer.
- 📌 Sunil Sharma - Noted journalist.
- 📌 Les Payne - Noted American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner.
- 📌 C.V. Rajendran - Noted Tamil film director.
- 📌 Ghulam Muhammad Mustafa - Noted Journalist.
- 📌 V. Sriharsha - Noted Journalist.
- 📌 Seo Minwoo - Noted South Korean pop singer.
- 📌 R K Dorendra Singh - former Manipur Chief Minister.

15. ▶ Obituaries (May 2018) -

- 📌 Ashok Mitra - Noted economist, served as former finance minister of West Bengal and Economic Adviser during Indira Gandhi's prime ministerial tenure.
- 📌 Kottayam Pushpanath - Noted Malayalam novelist.
- 📌 Keyur Bhushan - Noted freedom fighter & writer.
- 📌 Ravinder Sharma - Noted artist and philosopher, Founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.
- 📌 Arun Date - Noted Marathi singer.
- 📌 Arjun Hingorani - Noted Filmmaker.
- 📌 Dave Michener - Noted American animator.
- 📌 Gurukrushna Goswami - Noted Odia lyricist.
- 📌 Rajinder Pal - Former cricketer.
- 📌 Anne V. Coates - Noted Oscar Winning British film editor.
- 📌 Nandram Das Bairagi (*known as Balkavi Bairagi*) - Noted Hindi film lyricist.
- 📌 Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani - Noted Telugu novelist.
- 📌 E C G Sudarshan - Great theoretical physicist.
 - 📌 Had been teaching at University of Texas for over 40 years.
 - 📌 Has been credited with numerous contributions to field of theoretical Physics including *Optical coherence, Sudarshan-Glauber representation, V-A theory, Tachyons, Quantum Zeno effect, Open quantum system, Spin-statistics theorem, non-invariance groups, positive maps of density matrices, quantum computation among others.*
 - 📌 Was given Padma Vibhushan honour in 2007 and had several other decorations to his name.
- 📌 David Goodall - Australia's oldest scientist. Aged 104, He opted for euthanasia in Switzerland to end his life.
- 📌 Yamunabai Waikar - Noted Lavani singer.
- 📌 Balakumaran - Noted Tamil writer
- 📌 Vinod Bhatt - Noted Gujarati writer.
- 📌 Alan Bean - Former US astronaut, who was 4th man to walk on Moon.
- 📌 Madala Ranga Rao -Noted Telugu actor and producer

16. ▶ Obituaries -

- 📌 Neeraj Vora - Noted actor and Director.
- 📌 AS Anand - Former Chief Justice of India.
- 📌 Johnny Hallyday - France's Noted rock star, known as *French Elvis*.
- 📌 Abi (*Habeeb Ahmed*) - Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
- 📌 Ja Ra Sundaresan - Noted Tamil journalist.
- 📌 Shashi Kapoor - Noted Bollywood actor
- 📌 Purabi Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra sangeet singer
- 📌 Laloo Chiba - Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin
- 📌 Adithyan - Noted South Indian music director .
- 📌 Sukharanjan Sengupta - Noted journalist
- 📌 Batuk Gathani - Noted Journalist
- 📌 Lalji Singh - Noted Scientist (pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India.
- 📌 Keely Smith - Noted American Jazz and Pop Singer.
- 📌 Bruce McCandless - Noted NASA astronaut (first person to fly in space without tethers)
- 📌 Banwari Lal Joshi - former UP and Uttarakhand Governor.
- 📌 Robbie Malinga - Noted South African musician.
- 📌 Bob Givens - Noted American Animator (creator of Bugs Bunny)
- 📌 Ashok Kumar Mattoo - Noted sports administrator, served as President of IABF (Indian Amateur Boxing Federation) and was first President of Hockey India.
- 📌 Partha Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali actor.
- 📌 Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali singer.
- 📌 Hoshang Dadiba Amroliwala - First Class cricketer (Mumbai).
- 📌 Sue Grafton -Noted mystery author (USA).

17. ▶ Obituaries in Jan 2018 -

- 📌 Radha Vishwanathan - Carnatic vocalist (daughter of legendary classical singer M S Subbulakshmi).

- ✍️ Anwar Jalalpuri - Noted Urdu poet.
- ✍️ Ambalavaner Sivanandan - Noted Sri Lanka novelist.
- ✍️ John Young - Noted American astronaut, who walked on Moon and was only agency astronaut to go into space as part of Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs.
- ✍️ Shrivallabh Vyas - Bollywood Actor.
- ✍️ Jerry Van Dyke - Noted American comedian and actor.
- ✍️ Peter Sutherland - Former Irish World Trade Organization (WTO) director general.
- ✍️ Shashikant Bhagwat - Noted sports journalist.
- ✍️ Saksham Yadav - Former Powerlifting world champion.
- ✍️ Baldev Raj - Noted Nuclear Physicist and Director of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).
- ✍️ Sukhchain Singh Cheema - wrestler and Asian Games bronze medalist.
- ✍️ Doodhnath Singh - Noted Hindi writer.
- ✍️ Charu Rohatgi - Noted TV Actress.
- ✍️ Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta - Sarod maestro.
- ✍️ Raghunath Jha - Ex-Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- ✍️ Gnani Sankaran - Noted Tamil writer and journalist.
- ✍️ NK Trikha - Noted Journalist.
- ✍️ W.B. Rao - Noted Hindi film cinematographer.
- ✍️ Jo Jo White - Noted USA Basketball (Basketball Hall of Famer).
- ✍️ Kashinath - Noted Kannada film actor.
- ✍️ Leslie Harding Pde - Noted Khasi author (Meghalaya).
- ✍️ Chandi Lahiri - Noted Cartoonist.
- ✍️ Hugh Masekela - Noted Composer and singer. Known as *father of South African jazz*.
- ✍️ Ursula K. Le Guin - Noted American Writer.
- ✍️ Sulaiman 'Dik' Abed - Former South African Cricketer.
- ✍️ Honsen Lyngdoh - Meghalaya's Noted philanthropist.
- ✍️ Jimmy Armfield - Noted England footballer.
- ✍️ Supriya Devi - Noted Bengali actress.
- ✍️ Chandrashekhar - Noted Kannada actor
- ✍️ Gurcharan Singh Kalkat - Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's Green Revolution.
- ✍️ Ingvar Kamprad - Noted Swedish Industrialist and World's 5th Richest Person with net worth of \$58.7 billion. He was founder of Furniture Giant IKEA.
- ✍️ Dinesh Nandan Sahay - Chhattisgarh's first Governor.
- ✍️ Daya Nath Singh - Noted journalist.

18. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.

19. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (Mar 2018) -

- ✍️ Ameenah Gurib-Fakim - President of Mauritius (Island Nation in Indian Ocean).
- ✍️ Robert Fico - Prime Minister of Slovakia (Central Europe).
- ✍️ Miro Cerar - Prime Minister of Slovenia (Central Europe).
- ✍️ Mukund Rajan - Tata Son's Chief Ethics Officer.
- ✍️ Tommy Haas - Noted German Tennis Player.
- ✍️ Kevin Pietersen - English cricketer, retired from all Formats of Game.
- ✍️ Htin Kyaw - Myanmar's President

20. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (May 2018) -

- ✍️ Emmanuel Issoze Ngondet - Prime Minister of Gabon (Central Africa).
- ✍️ AB de Villiers - South African Cricketer. Also Known as Mr. 360, He is Hailed as an All Time Great of the Game. He played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
- ✍️ Vikas Gowda - Noted discus thrower. He is first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in Discus Throw.

21. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (April 2018) -

- ✍️ Morne Morkel - South African cricketer.

- ✍ With Denmark -
 - ✍ In field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.
 - ✍ In fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
 - ✍ On Food Safety Cooperation between
 - ✍ Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education between.

- ✍ With Iceland -
 - ✍ Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and University of Iceland.
 - ✍ Agreements between India and Sweden Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future between Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

✍ Germany -

- ✍ The Visit to Germany was a brief stop over, to discuss issues of common interest and enhance co-operation.

30. ▶ Visits From India (Feb 11 - 20, 2018)

- ✍ Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley visited Saudi Arabia, to co-chair 12th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM).

- ✍ PM Narendra Modi completed his tri-nation visit to Palestine, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

- ✍ This is the first ever visit by an Indian PM to Palestine, and PM Modi's second visit to UAE and first to Oman.

✍ **Oman Visit -**

- ✍ India and Oman signed 8 MoUs in different areas. In Includes -

- ✍ Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matters.
- ✍ Agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, Special, service and official passports
- ✍ MOUs for co-operation in health, peaceful uses of outer space, Foreign Services, Academic and Scholarly areas, Tourism and Military Matters.
- ✍ India secured access to strategic Port of Duqm in Oman in Arabian sea for military use and logistical support. Following this, services of Duqm port and dry dock will be available for maintenance of Indian military vessels.
 - ✍ Port of Duqm is strategically situated on southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. It is straddled along critical sea lanes in Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden, located close to Chabahar port in Iran (developed by India open a trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan) and Gwadar Port in Pakistan developed by China as part of China–Pakistan Economic Corridor.

✍ **UAE Visit -**

- ✍ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of first traditional Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi (UAE), as first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East. It will come up on 55,000 square metres of land.

- ✍ India and UAE inked 5 MOUs -

- ✍ MOU between a consortium led by ONGC and Abu Dhabi national oil company for acquisition of 10% stake in offshore concession.
 - ✍ Under this, ONGC consortium of Indian state oil firms have acquired 10% stake in Abu Dhabi's offshore Lower Zakum Concession for \$600 million. With this deal, Indian oil and gas companies for first time have acquired stake in development of Abu Dhabi's hydrocarbon resources. It gives Indian oil companies, access to about 2 million tonnes of annual share from field, with term of 40 years.
- ✍ MoU aiming to institutionalize employment of Indian workers in UAE to safeguard their interests.
- ✍ MoU aiming at technical cooperation in rail sector, financial services, Securities exchanges.
- ✍ MoU between Jammu and Kashmir and DP World signed to establish multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu.

- ✍ 6th World Government Summit (WGS) 2018 held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai (UAE), with India as guest country.

- ✍ India's Aadhaar and Umang App won awards at 6th World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai.

- ✍ Umang App won in Best m-Government Service for Accessible Government Category. Umang stands for Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It provides users unified platform that combines government departments and services, facilitating transactions for citizens.

- ✍ Aadhaar won *Best Government Emerging Technology Award*.

- ✍️ Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched tests of world's first autonomous pods at World Government Summit, in cooperation with Next Future Transportation (US-Based).

✍️ **Palestine Visit -**

- ✍️ India and Palestine have signed 6 MoU s worth USD 40 million.
- ✍️ Setting up of India-Palestine Super-specialty hospital at Beit Sahour in Bethelhem Governorate at a cost of US\$ 30 million.
- ✍️ Construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowring women, "Turathi" at a cost of US\$ 5 million.
- ✍️ Setting up new National Printing Press at Ramallah at a cost of US\$ 5 million.
- ✍️ Construction of school in Muthalth Al Shuhada Village at a cost of US\$ 1 million
- ✍️ Construction of school in Tamoon village in Tubas Governorate in Palestine at a cost of US\$ 1.1 million.
- ✍️ Assistance of US\$ US\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees.

31. ▶ Visits from India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mongolia. She co-chaired 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Consultative Committee meeting.
- ✍️ Indian Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia Visited Nepal. During this Visit, India and Nepal agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018, during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.
- ✍️ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited China -
 - ✍️ India and China's first Informal Summit was held in Wuhan, to discuss measures for strengthening bilateral ties.
 - ✍️ PM Modi gifted to Xi Jinping (Chinese Premier), specially made prints of paintings by legendary Chinese artist Xu Beihong.
 - ✍️ India and China agreed to undertake joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.
 - ✍️ PM Modi laid emphasis on importance of people-to-people (P2P) contact through STRENGTH. S-Spirituality; T-Tradition, Trade and Technology; R-Relationship; E-Entertainment (Art, Movies, etc.); N-Nature conservation; G-Games; T-Tourism and H-Health and Healing.

32. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -

- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
- ✍️ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
- ✍️ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

33. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)

- ✍️ Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma visited Muscat (Oman) for 2nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture.

34. ▶ Visits from India (Feb 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Nepal.
- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Saudi Arabia, to attend opening ceremony of 32nd Al Jana-driyah festival in Riyadh.

35. ▶ Visits from India (Feb 21 - 28, 2018)

- ✍️ Satya Pal Singh, Minster of State in HRD Ministry visited Fiji to attend 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers on India's Behalf. Theme of Conference was *Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?*.

36. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 1-10, 2018) -

- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.
 - ✍️ Indonesia - Co-chaired 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.
 - ✍️ Singapore - Inaugurated Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries.
- ✍️ Union Minister (*Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Nitin Gadkari visited Singapore to inaugurate ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

37. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 11 - 20, 2018)

- ✍️ Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju Visited UK. On this occasion, India and UK signed 2 MoUs dealing with return of Indians residing in Britain as illegal migrants and sharing of criminal records and intelligence.
- ✍️ Minister for Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited Sri Lanka. During His Visit, India and Sri Lanka signed agreements for

- ✍ Collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector
- ✍ Connecting National Knowledge network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics
- ✍ Setting up of e-office system.

38. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 21 - 31, 2018) -

- ✍ India's Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar Visited Victoria (Seychelles). During this visit, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement that will allow India to build military infrastructure on Seychelles' Assumption Island. Note that Vijay Gokhale is now new Foreign Secretary of India.

39. ▶ Visits from India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ India won *Best Exhibitor Award* at ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet in Germany. India was represented by Minister of State (I) for Tourism K. J. Alphons.

40. ▶ Visits from India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Johannesburg (South Africa), He attended India-South Africa business summit.
- ✍ 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Manila (Philippines), Indian delegation was headed by Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs). Alongside, 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was also held.
- ✍ During this meet, ADB Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.

41. ▶ Visits from India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Shanghai Cooperation Organization's First Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan (China). India's Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons represented India at the conference.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar.
- ✍ Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya (China).
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Nepal -
 - ✍ Nepal announced to host 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC is sub-regional group of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. Nations are - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.
 - ✍ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India). Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
 - ✍ PM Modi laid foundation stone of 900-megawatt Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tumlingtar area in eastern Nepal. It is expected to bring in USD 1.5 billion foreign direct investment into Nepal. Nepal granted licence to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company, to generate power from Arun-III Hydropower Project. Project will also provide 21.9 (197 megawatts) of generated energy free of cost to Nepal.
 - ✍ India and Nepal also agreed to run a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
- ✍ Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan Visited UAE. During this,
 - ✍ Mr. Pradhan flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern (India), as part of an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
- ✍ Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Sri Lanka.
- ✍ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited South American Nations Guatemala, Peru and Panama, along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Jasvantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.
 - ✍ Guatemala -
 - ✍ MoUs signed in fields of wildlife protection, human resource training, education and exchanges between training institutes.
 - ✍ India and Guatemala agreed to support each other's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council. Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while India will do so for Guatemala for 2031-32.
 - ✍ Agreement signed for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.

- ✈ Indian agreed to Guatemala's request for supplying solar panels to its airports. An MoU has been signed for training training Guatemalan English Teachers in India.
 - ✈ Panama -
 - ✈ India will set up two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US \$10 million and US \$15 million each.
 - ✈ Signed agreements for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. An agreement on strengthening cooperation in agriculture was also signed.
 - ✈ Panama will support India's bid for -
 - ✈ Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2019-2021, for which elections will be held in October 2018.
 - ✈ Council of International Telecom Union (ITU), elections for which will be held in October – November 2018.
 - ✈ Peru -
 - ✈ Attended an event to mark 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru.
 - ✈ India and Peru signed agreement in field of Renewable Energy.
 - ✈ Raksha Rajya Mantri Subhash Bhamre visited Nauru (Oceania Nation).
 - ✈ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Durban (South Africa) to attend 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting.
 - ✈ During this meet, Indias *Green Good Deeds* societal movement to protect environment and promote good living, was included in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.
 - ✈ Harsh Vardhan Also attended 26th Environment Ministers Meet Of BASIC (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) Nations, held in Durban.
 - ✈ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited North Korea, as first high-level visit to North Korea from India in 20 years.
 - ✈ Health Minister J P Nadda visited Switzerland to attend 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, under theme *Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage*.
 - ✈ 71st World Health Assembly adopted resolution on Digital Health, initiated by India and co-sponsored by 20 countries. It paves way for WHO to establish global strategy on digital health, identify priority areas and engage nations to optimise their health systems in sync with global digital health agenda.
 - ✈ Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Israel. He attended a conference on *Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability*.
 - ✈ Minister of State for External Affairs, M.J. Akbar visited European Nations Austria and Slovak Republic. He met with President of STRATEGY (Society for Political & Strategic Studies), a leading think tank of Austria.
42. ▶ Visits from India (May 21 - 31, 2018)
- ✈ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Russia, To attend 1st India - Russia Informal Summit.
 - ✈ Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) visited Fiji (Oceania).
 - ✈ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences) visited Sweden and Denmark.
 - ✈ Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Smart Grid Workshop at Copenhagen (Denmark).
 - ✈ Attended 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Malmo (Sweden) -
 - ✈ On November 30th of 2015, 20 countries launched Mission Innovation (MI) as 5 year commitment to accelerate innovation and make clean energy widely affordable and accessible worldwide.
 - ✈ India announced setting up of First International Incubator for clean energy in public-private partnership at a total investment of US \$ 5 million in Delhi. This incubator will promote entrepreneurship in clean energy and provide opportunities to innovators across MI countries to test their technologies in local market.
 - ✈ India announced research programmes emanating out of MI centric funding opportunities in smart grids and off-grid access at investment of \$ 10 million.
 - ✈ After hosting 2 international MI workshops on Smart Grids and sustainable bio-fuels, India will host MI clean energy materials Workshop in October-November, 2018 at New Delhi.
 - ✈ India announced launch of Joint Virtual Clean Energy Centre with UK, with funding £ 5 million each (signed during PM Modi's recent Visit to UK).
 - ✈ An Indo US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre on energy storage and smart grids with a total investment of US\$ 30 million with matching share of both Governments and Consortia has been launched. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur will lead a pan-India consortia of technical institutes.
 - ✈ India also announced 3 dedicated MI funding opportunities on sustainable Bio-fuels, Carbon capture and Sunlight innovation challenge with investment of US \$ 11 million.

- ✎ Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce and Industry) Visited Cambodia to attend Inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Business Conclave, held in Phnom Penh.
 - ✎ Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian (Spain).
 - ✎ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited island nation of Tuvalu (Oceania). He handed over a cheque of A\$ 66,705 (Australian Dollar) to Government of Tuvalu as a development partnership assistance from India.
 - ✎ Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba visited UK, to attend 3rd Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and UK.
43. ▶ Visits from India (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✎ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Mauritius and Madagascar.
 - ✎ Mauritius (Indian Ocean) -
 - ✎ India announced new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defence procurement by Mauritius. It offered a Multi-Purpose Offshore Patrol Vessel (MPOPV) to Mauritius to augment its security capacity.
 - ✎ Other Agreements Include -
 - ✎ Cooperation between Nalanda University in Bihar and Mauritius and establishment of an Ayurveda Chair at University of Mauritius
 - ✎ MoU between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in India and Public Service Commission of Mauritius.
 - ✎ President Kovind attended 50th anniversary celebrations of independence of Mauritius.
 - ✎ President Kovind inaugurated World Hindi Secretariat building in Port Louis (Mauritius).
 - ✎ Madagascar (East Africa) -
 - ✎ This is the first ever visit by a President or Prime Minister of India to Madagascar.
 - ✎ 2 bilateral agreements were signed, on defence cooperation and aviation cooperation.
 - ✎ President Kovind was conferred Grand Cross of the Second Class by President of Madagascar, as highest honour Madagascar bestows on a non-citizen.
 - ✎ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited USA.
44. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✎ Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli Visited India -
 - ✎ India and Nepal decided to develop inland waterways for cargo movement within Protocol to Treaty of Transit, recognizing untapped potential of inland waterways to contribute towards overall economic development of the region.
 - ✎ India agreed to build strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people (P2P) contact and bulk movement of goods.
 - ✎ India agreed to promote and co-operate in Agricultural development in Nepal.
 - ✎ Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy Visited India.
45. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -
- ✎ Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Morocco Visited India. On this occasion, India and Morocco signed MoU in field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.
46. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018)
- ✎ International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach Visited India, presented a memento to Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.
47. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)
- ✎ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 - ✎ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
 - ✎ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.
48. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
- ✎ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
 - ✎ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
 - ✎ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
 - ✎ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
 - ✎ Health Care.

- ✍ Water Resources.
 - ✍ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
 - ✍ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
 - ✍ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
 - ✍ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
 - ✍ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)
49. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
- ✍ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.
50. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Chief of US Air Force, General David L Goldfein Visited India. He flew a sortie in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and became first foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft.
 - ✍ Nepal's last monarch Gyanendra Shah visited India to attend International Gau Sambardhana Mahotsav in Odisha.
 - ✍ Sergey Beletskiy, Deputy Agriculture Minister of Russia Visited India for India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit in New Delhi.
51. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✍ Iran President Hassan Rouhani Visited India.
 - ✍ MOUs Signed during Visit -
 - ✍ Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income.
 - ✍ Exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports.
 - ✍ Instrument of Ratification of Extradition Treaty signed in 2008.
 - ✍ Cooperation in - Traditional Systems of Medicine, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Health and Medicine and Postal Departments.
52. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 21 -28, 2018)
- ✍ Spiritual leader Prince Karim Aga Khan visited India.
 - ✍ Mr. Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia visited India.
 - ✍ Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Visited India -
 - ✍ MOU signed with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to usher programme based research support in addressing developmental challenges.
 - ✍ India and Canada signed several agreements in different fields -
 - ✍ Co-operation in Sport, Higher Education, Intellectual Property Rights and Science, Technology and Innovation, Information Communications Technology and Electronics.
 - ✍ Terms of Reference for India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.
 - ✍ Canada's first franchise-based Twenty20 Cricket league *Global T20 Canada* has been announced. It will be functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto. It is designed by Mercuri Group with Cricket Canada. Cricket Canada became first Associate member of ICC to start a Twenty20 franchise league in North America market.
 - ✍ India's Mahindra Aerospace and Canada's Viking Air signed MoU to form a strategic alliance for making smaller aircraft to support regional air connectivity in India. Both companies will work together to boost market penetration in identified territories and provide multiple options to prospective customers based on specific operational requirements.
 - ✍ Baek Woon kyu, South Korea's Minister of Trade, industry and Energy Visited India for participating in Second India-Korea Business Summit organized in New Delhi.
 - ✍ King of Jordan *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* visited India.
53. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 01 - 10, 2018)
- ✍ King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho (Southern African Nation) visited India.
 - ✍ H Wiranto (Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs) visited India, To attend first bilateral security dialogue between India and Indonesia.
54. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✍ Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu Visited India. Several MOUs were signed during his visit -

- ✍ Cyber Security.
- ✍ Oil and Gas
- ✍ Air Transport
- ✍ Film-co-production
- ✍ Homeopathic Medicine
- ✍ Space
- ✍ During this Visit, central Delhi's Teen Murti Chowk is formally renamed as *Teen Murti-Haifa* after Israeli City Haifa.
- ✍ Both PMs dedicated to nation, the iCREATE facility located near Ahmedabad (Gujarat). *iCreate* is an independent Centre created with the objective of facilitating entrepreneurship through a blend of creativity, engineering and leveraging emerging technologies to deal with major issues such as food security, water, cybersecurity, IT and electronics, energy, bio-medical equipment etc.
- ✍ Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu also visited India-Israel Business Summit in Mumbai.

55. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 21 - 31, 2018)

- ✍ Heads of Government of 10 ASEAN Nations visited India to participate in India's 69th Republic day celebrations as Chief Guests.




















Visiting Delegates are -

Name	Nation
Hassanal Bolkiah	Brunei
Hun Sen	Cambodia
Joko Widodo	Indonesia
Thongloun Sisoulith	Laos
Najib Razak	Malaysia
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	Myanmar
Rodrigo Roa Duterte	Philippines
Lee Hsien Loong	Singapore
Prayuth Chan-ocha	Thailand
Nguyen Xuan Phuc	Vietnam

- ✍ During this visit by Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Laos Government for providing SkyRev360, a e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system developed in collaboration with International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ✍ During this Visit by Cambodian President Hun Sen, India and Cambodia signed MOUs in several Trades -
 - ✍ Cultural Exchange Programme with Cambodia for Period 2018-2022.
 - ✍ Criminal Matters and prevention of Human Trafficking.
 - ✍ Credit Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and Cambodia for Line of Credit to finance *Stung Sva Hab Water Resource Development Project* for US\$ 36.92 million.

56. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ President of Vietnam Tran Dai Quang Visited India. 3 MOUs were signed on this occasion -
 - ✍ Economic and Trade Cooperation, Agriculture and Nuclear Energy.
- ✍ King of Jordan *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* visited India. 12 MOUs were signed during this visit, Including -
 - ✍ Defence, Manpower, Mass Communication, Journalism, Health and Medicine, Cultural Exchange Programme, Visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders, Customs.
 - ✍ Twinning Agreement between Agra and Petra (Jordan)
 - ✍ MoU for setting up of a Hindi Chair at University of Jordan.
 - ✍ Long term supply of Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK
 - ✍ Setting up of the next generation Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jordan
 - ✍ He also attended conference titled *Islamic Heritage: Promoting Understanding and Moderation*, in New Delhi.
- ✍ French President Emmanuel Macron Visited India -
 - ✍ 14 Agreements were signed on this occasion -
 - ✍ Co-operation MOUs include - Solar Energy, Hydrography and Maritime Cartography, Nuclear Power, Space Exploration, Urban Development, Environment, Railways, Migration and Mobility, Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications.
 - ✍ Signed strategic pact providing for use of each other's military facilities including opening naval bases to warships. It will facilitate reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services between armed forces of India and France during authorised port visits, joint exercises.

-  Prevention of Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and Related Offences
 -  Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum.
 -  France will Invest 100 Million Euros in Smart City Project Under smart city mission.
 -  Indian and French companies exchanged 19 contracts and agreements worth over 13 billion euros in several sectors, during Indo-French Economic Partnership (IFEPP) ceremony in New Delhi.
 -  First ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit held in New Delhi.
 -  Indian PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated 101-megawatt solar power plant at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
57. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)
-  Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO Visited India. During this, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for co-operation in Health Sector.
58. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 21 - 31, 2018)
-  German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited India.
 -  Constantino Chiwenga, Vice President Zimbabwe Visited India.
 -  Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt Visited India for 7th Joint Commission Meet.
 -  China's Trade Minister Zhong Shan Visited India. China agreed to renegotiate bilateral trade and investment agreement and jointly prepared a road map to reduce massive trade imbalance in favour of China.
59. ▶ Visits to India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -
-  Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko Visited India. He attended 9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Indo-Japan Startup Hub was also inaugurated in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB).
 -  Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic Visited India.
 -  Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov Visited India.
60. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
-  Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binser Pandjaitan Visited India.
 -  Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte visited India. During his visit, Invest India (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Dutch Government launched Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink initiative, to further spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum was also inaugurated, to take forward MoU signed in June 2017.
 -  India and Netherlands also launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi, aiming to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
 -  Queen Maxima of Kingdom of the Netherlands visited India, as UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.
61. ▶ Visits to India (May 21 - 31, 2018)
-  Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Visited India. She jointly (with Indian PM Narendra Modi) inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan (West Bengal).

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