



Current Affairs - July to December 2018

Month Type



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

Persons

1. Obituaries (Dec 2018) -

- George H .W. Bush - Former USA President.
- Arun Kumar Shaw - Swimmer (Seven-time former national champion).
- Jagdish Thakkar - Senior journalist and Public Relations Officer (PRO) in PM office.
- Lyudmila Alexeyeva - Noted Russian rights activist and former Soviet dissident.
- Mushirul Hasan - Noted Historian. He has extensively written on India's Partition.
- Thoppil Ajayan - National award winning Malayalam film director.
- Nancy Wilson - 3 times Grammy award winner american jazz singer.
- Pandit Arun Bhaduri - Noted classical singer. She is named as one of masters of Bengali songs and bhajans.
- Tulsi Giri - Former Nepalese Prime Minister.
- Tulsi Ramsay - Filmmaker. He is noted for directing old Bollywood Horror flicks.
- Sulagitti Narasamma - Padma Shri awardee Noted Social worker.
- Dipali Borthakur - Noted Assamese singer, also known as the "Nightingale of Assam".
- Prabhanjan - Noted Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner.
- Dwijen Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra Sangeet singer.
- Jai Narain Prasad Nishad - Former Union Minister, served as Minister of state, Environment and Forests (IC) during 1996-97.
- Hamidi Kashmiri - Noted Urdu Literataur.
- Mrinal Sen - Noted filmmaker.
- Lawrence Gilman Roberts - American Scientist, known for development of ARPANET, called early Internet.
- Norman Gimbel - the Oscar and Grammy-winning American lyricist.
- Nirendranath Chakraborty - Noted Bengali poet.
- Shehu Shagari - 2nd President of Nigeria.

2. Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30, 2018) -

- Hu Wei, Vice Minister of General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) Visited India. A protocol on Hygiene and Inspection requirements for the export of Fish Meal and Fish Oil from India to China was signed, enabling India to commence export of fish meal and fish oil to China.
- Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu visited India.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon (Central Africa), Regis Immongault Visited India.
- Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid Visited India.

3. 3 Indian-Americans named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in US. They are Divya Nag, Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande.

4. Amnesty International took away its highest honour, the 'Ambassador of Conscience' award, from Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, over her indifference to atrocities committed by the Myanmar military against and increasing intolerance of freedom of expression.

5. Chagari Praveen Kumar is appointed as acting Chief Justice of Andhra High Court. Andhra HC is newly created and 25th High Court in India.

6. ▶ Colin O'Brady (USA) became first person to complete a solo journey across Antarctica, unaided and unsupported, after finishing a two-month expedition.
7. ▶ Controversial Candidate Brett Kavanaugh Sworn In as a US Supreme Court Judge After Senate Confirmation.
8. ▶ Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President M Karunanidhi (Tamilnadu) became first Indian political figure to lead a party for 50 years, Elected as DMK chief in 1969.
9. ▶ Former Indian cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu (Bhutan). The basic aim of challenge was to identify innovative solutions to promote practice of hand washing with soap.
10. ▶ Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif has been sentenced to 7 years in jail and son-in-law captain (retired) Safdar awarded 1 year jail term, along with fine of £8 million on Mr. Sharif and £2 million on Ms. Maryam (His Daughter).
11. ▶ Govt. released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Rajkumar Shukla, who drew attention of M K Gandhi to plight of peasants suffering under an oppressive system established by European indigo planters in Champaran (Bihar). He made great contribution in launch of Champaran Satyagraha in 1917.
12. ▶ India's Aadi Sai Vijaykaran won Junior Debate Championship at World Scholar's Cup at Yale University (USA), becoming first Indian to do so.
13. ▶ India's Prabhat Koli became first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France in cold weather. He covered 25 km in 6 hours and 54 minutes.
 - ▶ He had earlier crossed English Channel when he was 16.
14. ▶ Indian Australian Sashi Cheliah won Masterchef Australia Title, fetching prize money of \$250000.
15. ▶ Indian Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua climbed Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand. Its highest peak in Iran and also a potentially active volcano, with elevation of 5609 metres.
16. ▶ Indian Navy's Abhilash Tomy will be Asia's only attendant in Golden Globe Race (GGR) that commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in France. Participants are required to sail around the world, single-handed and non-stop. Boat technology newer than 1968 is not permitted, hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.
 - ▶ GGR is conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of UK to commemorate 50 years since world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 onboard Indian built boat, Suhaili.
17. ▶ Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe - second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea (4367 metres). Satya now scaled 5 of 7 volcanic summits. He will now set out to summit Mt Wilhelm (highest mountain of Papua New Guinea with height 4509 Metres).
18. ▶ Indian poet Abhay K became first Indian poet invited to record his poems at Library of Congress in Washington D.C.
19. ▶ Ishwar Sharma, 8-year old Indian-origin boy in England, who is currently under-11 UK national yoga champion has been named the 'British Indian of the Year'. He recently won a gold medal for Great Britain at the World Student Games 2018 in Winnipeg, Canada.
20. ▶ Kerala government approved Compensation worth 50 Lakh for Former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan, in compliance with a September 14 Supreme Court order, that required awarding the compensation to him for being falsely implicated in 1994 espionage case.
21. ▶ Maharashtra's 20-year-old cyclist Vedangi Kulkarni completed 29,000-km distance required to qualify as bicycling across globe in 159 days. She reached Kolkata after pedalling up to 300 km a day in 14 countries across 159 days.
22. ▶ Mukesh Ambani (chairman of Reliance Industries)' topped 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for 7th consecutive year, with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crores.
23. ▶ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became first person from whom honorary Canadian citizenship has been taken back, for her role in gross human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims. The honour was bestowed on Suu Kyi in 2007.
24. ▶ Nehal Chudasama declared as winner of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Miss Universe 2018, to represent India at Miss Universe 2018 pageant in Bangkok (Thailand) in December 2018.
25. ▶ Obituaries (August 2018) -
 - ▶ Jalees Sherwani - Noted Bollywood Sreenwriter.
 - ▶ Umbayee - Noted Malayalam Ghazal singer.
 - ▶ Krishna Shripadrao Deshpande - Noted library scientist.
 - ▶ Muthuvel Karunanidhi - Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, served for over five terms between 1969 and 2011.
 - ▶ Sumatheendra R. Nadig - Noted Kannada poet.
 - ▶ Jarrod Lyle - Noted Australian golfer.
 - ▶ Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul - Noted Indian Origin British writer who won 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature. He was born in Trinidad in a family with Indian roots.

- ✍ Somnath Chatterjee - Former Lok Sabha speaker.
- ✍ Nicholas Bett - former 400m hurdles world champion from Kenya.
- ✍ Balramji Dass Tandon - Incumbent (Current) Governor of Chhattisgarh. Anandiben Patel (Governor of Madhya Pradesh) has been named as Acting Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- ✍ Ajit Wadekar - Former Cricketer.
- ✍ Hakam Singh - Former Track Athlete. He had won gold medal at 1978 Asian Games in 20 kilometre race walk.
- ✍ Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Former Prime Minister of India.
 - ✍ He was Prime Minister thrice in 1996 (13 days), 1998-1999 and 1999-2004 (making him first non-Congress leader to have completed full term as Prime Minister).
 - ✍ During his second term as PM, he ordered thermonuclear tests in May 1998 which were seen as strategic masterstroke to blunt Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. He was awarded the India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna' in 2015. His birthday is celebrated as Good Governance Day (GGD) by the Central Government since 2014. He was also honored by Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Sanmanona (Bangladesh Liberation War honour) in 2015.
 - ✍ His poetry collection is released in his book Meri Ekyavan Kavitaeyin (My 51 Poems). During his stint as PM, India won Kargil war Against Pakistan. Some Other notable books of Shri Vajpayee were -
 - ✍ Meri Sansadiya Yatra
 - ✍ Meri Ekyavan Kavitaeyin (poetry)
 - ✍ Sankalp Kaal
 - ✍ Shakti-se-Shanti
 - ✍ Four Decades in Parliament
 - ✍ Mrityu Ya Hatya
 - ✍ Amar Balidan
 - ✍ Kaidi Kaviraj Ki Kundalian
 - ✍ New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy
 - ✍ Jan Sangh Aur Mussalman
 - ✍ Sansad Mein Teen Dashak
 - ✍ Amar Aag Hai
 - ✍ Kya Khoya Kya Paya
 - ✍ Kuchh Lekh Kuchh Bhaashan
 - ✍ Vichar-Bindu
 - ✍ Bindu-Bindu Vichar
 - ✍ Gathbandhan Ki Rajneeti
 - ✍ Nayi Chunouti : Naya Avasar
 - ✍ Na Dainyam Na Palaynam
- ✍ Kofi Annan (Ghana) - Former United Nations Secretary General.
- ✍ Aretha Franklin - Noted US Singer.
- ✍ Uri Avnery - Noted Israeli journalist and peace activist.
- ✍ Chemmanam Chacko - Noted Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee.
- ✍ Kuldip Nayar - Noted journalist and former Rajya Sabha member.
- ✍ Debu Bose - Noted Odia actor.
- ✍ John McCain - Noted US Senator and a celebrated Vietnam war hero.
- ✍ Gopal Bose - Former Bengal cricketer.
- ✍ K K Haridas - Noted Malayalam film director
- ✍ Nandamuri Harikrishna - Telugu actor and Politician.

26. ▶ Obituaries (July 2018) -

- ✍ JG Nadkarni - Ex Indian Navy chief
- ✍ M.M. Jacob - former Meghalaya Governor
- ✍ Kabutari Devi - Noted Kumaoni folk singer
- ✍ Kavi Kumar Azad - Actor
- ✍ J N Sadhu - Noted Journalist
- ✍ Kalpesh Yagnik - Noted journalist

- 🔗 M.N. Vyasa Rao - Kannada poet and lyricist.
- 🔗 Gopal Das Neeraj - Noted Hindi poet.
- 🔗 Basabi Nandi - Noted Bengali actress.
- 🔗 Swapan Sarkar - Noted Sports journalist.
- 🔗 Chiyo Miyako - World's oldest person (117 years)
- 🔗 Ramapada Chowdhury - Noted Bengali author

27. ▶ Obituaries (November 2018) -

- 🔗 Stan Lee - Noted American comic book writer. He was Marvel Comics' primary creative leader.
- 🔗 Lalan Sarang - Noted Marathi actress.
- 🔗 M.P. Awati - 1971 War Hero. He commanded a naval unit of Eastern Fleet that led to destruction of an enemy submarine.
- 🔗 K P S Srivastava - Noted Journalist.
- 🔗 Vinod Agrawal - Noted Bhajan singer.
- 🔗 Anant Kumar - Serving Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. After his demise, DV Sadananda Gowda got additional charge of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Narendra Singh Tomar was assigned Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- 🔗 Roshan Lal Sethi - Noted Sports journalist.
- 🔗 Chitta Jena - Noted Odia singer.
- 🔗 Banamali Maharana - Noted Odissi percussionist. He was known for expertise in Mardala Instrument.
- 🔗 Kuldip Singh Chandpuri - Noted war veteran of 1971. He led India in famous battle of Longewala in Rajasthan in which just 120 Indian men defeated over 2000 Troops strong contingent of Pakistani Army.
- 🔗 TS Kanaka - Asis'a first woman neurosurgeon, and third woman neurosurgeon in world.
- 🔗 Alyque Padamsee - Padma Shri awardee Indian Theatre Personality and Ad Film Maker.
- 🔗 Ustad Imrat Khan - Classical Singer. He was noted for sitar and surbahar expertise.
- 🔗 Sandeep Michael - Former Indian hockey player.
- 🔗 William Goldman - Oscar-winning American screenwriter author.
- 🔗 MH Ambareesh - Kannada actor and former union minister.
- 🔗 Fahmida Riaz - India-born Pakistani poet and human rights activist.
- 🔗 C. K. Jaffer Sharief - Former Union Railway Minister.
- 🔗 Mohammed Aziz - Playback Singer.
- 🔗 Bernardo Bertolucci - Oscar Winning Italian filmmaker.
- 🔗 Irvatham Mahadevan - leading scholar on Indus Valley and Tamil Brahmi scripts.

28. ▶ Obituaries (October 2018) -

- 🔗 Otis Rush - Noted Chicago blues guitarist (USA).
- 🔗 Balabhaskar - Noted violinist.
- 🔗 Thampi Kannanthanam - Noted Veteran Malayalam film personality.
- 🔗 Will Vinton - Oscar-winning American animator.
- 🔗 Natwar Thakkar - Noted Eminent Gandhian social worker from Nagaland.
- 🔗 Montserrat Caballé - Noted Spanish Opera singer.
- 🔗 Pradip Chowdhury - Noted journalist and former News Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI).
- 🔗 M N Paloor - Noted Malayalam poet.
- 🔗 G.D. Agarwal - Environmentalist. He was on a fast for last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga.
- 🔗 Annapurna Devi - Noted musician. She was daughter and disciple of Noted sarod player Allauddin Khan, and married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.
- 🔗 Kishour Giri - Assamese singer and music director.
- 🔗 Paul Allen - co-founder of Microsoft.
- 🔗 N D Tiwari - Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- 🔗 Osamu Shimomura - Japanese-born Marine biologist. He won Chemistry Nobel Prize in 2008, for discovery of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies.
- 🔗 Madan Lal Khurana - Former Delhi Chief Minister
- 🔗 Qazi Abdus Sattar - Urdu writer. He won Padma Shri in 1974 and was first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978.
- 🔗 Yeshwant Deo - Noted Marathi musician.

29. ▶ Obituaries (September 2018) -

- 📌 Tarun Sagar - Noted Jainism monk.
 - 📌 Bhagwati Kumar Sharma - Noted Gujarati author and journalist.
 - 📌 Burt Reynolds - Noted American Actor.
 - 📌 Rita Jitendra - Noted Writer from J & K.
 - 📌 Vijay Shankar Vyas - Noted agricultural economist. He worked with two Prime Ministers (*Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh*) as a member of their Economic Advisory Councils (EAC).
 - 📌 Goura Chandra Mohapatra - Noted Freedom fighter from Odisha.
 - 📌 Brij Katyal - Noted Bollywood Storywriter.
 - 📌 Satya Prakash Malaviya - Former Union petroleum minister. He served as petroleum minister in cabinet headed by former PM Chandra Shekhar.
 - 📌 Anna Rajam Malhotra - India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence.
 - 📌 Captain Raju - Noted Malayalam actor
 - 📌 Ganpatrao Andalkar - former Asian Games champion Wrestler.
 - 📌 Kalpana Lajmi - Filmmaker.
 - 📌 Biswanath Dutt - Former BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) president.
 - 📌 Tran Dai Quang - Serving President of Vietnam.
 - 📌 Jasdev Singh - Noted Commentator (primarily cricket).
 - 📌 Kavita Mahajan - Noted Marathi writer, novelist and translator.
 - 📌 Pandit Tulsidas Borkar - Noted harmonium artist.
30. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (July 2018) -
- 📌 David Davis - Brexit Secretary (UK).
 - 📌 Mohammed Kaif - Noted Indian cricketer.
 - 📌 Tushar Arothe - Indian Women's Cricket Team Coach. Ramesh Powar has been named as interim coach of women's cricket team.
 - 📌 Parvinder Awana - Delhi Cricketer.
 - 📌 Tim Cahill - Noted Australian Footballer.
 - 📌 Renu Satti - Paytm Payments Bank CEO.
31. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (October 2018) -
- 📌 Igor Akinfeev - Russian footballer.
 - 📌 Mile Jedinak - Australian footballer.
 - 📌 Nick Compton - England Cricketer Retires.
 - 📌 John Terry - England Footballer.
 - 📌 Meng Hongwei - resigned as President of International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).
 - 📌 Indian American Nikki Haley resigned as United States Ambassador to the United Nations (UN).
 - 📌 Abdur Rehman - Pakistani Cricketer.
 - 📌 Praveen Kumar - Indian Cricketer.
 - 📌 MJ Akbar - resigned as Union minister of state for external affairs. He is facing allegations of sexual harassment.
 - 📌 Rangana Herath - Sri Lankan Cricketer.
 - 📌 Dwayne Bravo - West Indies Cricketer (Trinidad).
 - 📌 Anupam Kher - Chairan of Film & Television Institute of India Pune.
32. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (September 2018) -
- 📌 Alastair Cook - England Cricketer. He is overall 5th and England's top scorer in test cricket, with 12472 runs.
 - 📌 Rudra Pratap Singh - Indian Cricketer.
 - 📌 Morna Nielsen - New Zealand Female Cricketer.
 - 📌 Sardar Singh - Former India Hockey Player and captain.
 - 📌 James Foster - England Cricketer.
 - 📌 Paul Collingwood - England cricketer.
 - 📌 Shaida Mohammad Abdali - Afghanistan Ambassador to India.
 - 📌 Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger - Co-founders of Social Media app Instagram.
 - 📌 Ramesh Bawa - IL&FS Financial Services Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - 📌 Russia's Mikhail Youzhny (nicknamed 'Colonel'), retired from professional tennis, with 499 career wins.
 - 📌 Jiwanjot Singh Teja - National compound archery coach. He resigned following denial of Dronacharya award.

33. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired -
- ▶ Mario Gomez - Noted German Footballer.
 - ▶ David Silva and Gerard Pique - Spanish Footballers.
 - ▶ Paresh Sukthankar - HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director.
 - ▶ Sriram Kalyanaraman - National Housing Bank (NHB) Managing Director.
 - ▶ MD Ranganath - Infosys' Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
 - ▶ Mitchell Johnson - Australian cricketer.
 - ▶ Usha Ananthasubramanian - Fired on her last day in office as Allahabad Bank's MD and CEO, in relation to PNB scam.
 - ▶ Jhulan Goswami - Indian women Cricketer (from T20 Internationals).
 - ▶ Subramaniam Badrinath - Indian Cricketer
34. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired in November 2018 -
- ▶ Azhar Ali - Pakistani Cricketer.
 - ▶ John Hastings - Australian cricketer.
 - ▶ Ambati Rayudu - Retired from First Class Cricket, including Ranji Trophy, to focus on limited-overs cricket.
 - ▶ Former Australia captain Mark Taylor resigned from Cricket Australia board.
 - ▶ Jeff Sessions - United States Attorney General.
 - ▶ Binny Bansal - Flipkart co-founder.
 - ▶ Ashok Chawla - Chairman of Yes Bank.
 - ▶ Joe Cole - England Footballer.
 - ▶ Munaf Patel - Indian Cricketer.
 - ▶ Isobel Joyce and Cecelia Joyce - Ireland Female Cricketers.
 - ▶ Erik Solheim - UN's environment chief.
 - ▶ Didier Drogba - Ivorian Footballer.
 - ▶ R. Chandrashekhar - Yes Bank independent director.
35. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (December 2018) -
- ▶ Gautam Gambhir - Indian cricketer.
 - ▶ Paul Polman - Resigned as CEO of Unilever (consumer goods firm).
 - ▶ Urjit Patel - Resigned as Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Mr. Patel is First RBI governor to resign before completion of term, which was to end in September 2019.
 - ▶ Upendra Kushwaha - Resigned as Minister of State in Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 - ▶ Ananth Narayanan - Resigned as CEO of Fashion e-tailer Myntra, with his position set to be abolished. Flipkart's Amar Nagaram appointed as head of Myntra.
 - ▶ Dharmesh Mehta - Resigned as MD & CEO of Axis Capital. Salil Pitale and Chirag Negandhi appointed as Joint MD and Co-CEO of the entity.
 - ▶ Surjit S Bhalla - resigned as Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. Council is headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy.
 - ▶ Charles Michel - Resigned as Belgian Prime Minister.
 - ▶ Anup Kumar - Indian Kabaddi player and former World Cup-winning captain.
36. ▶ Poland's Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain, the 8,611-metre high K2 peak in Pakistan. K2 also known as "Savage Mountain" is considered to be a more challenging climb than world's highest peak, Mount Everest.
37. ▶ Polish-born scientist Marie Curie (first to win two Nobel Prizes) has topped a BBC History magazine poll, which listed "100 women who changed the world". Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi ranked 49th. The list also featured Indian poet Sarojini Naidu.
38. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind nominated 4 names to Rajya Sabha. Nominations are Farmer leader Ram Shakal, Author Rakesh Sinha, Sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra and classical dancer Sonal Mansingh.
- ▶ As per Article 80 (Part V) of Constitution, President can nominate 12 members in Rajya Sabha. These persons should have special knowledge or practical experience in the field of Art, Science, Literature and Social Service.
39. ▶ Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani named as richest Indian for 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 Billion, according to Forbes magazine. He is also year's biggest gainer, adding USD 9.3 billion to his wealth. Wipro Chairman Azim Premji retained 2nd spot, followed by Arcelor Mittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal at 3rd place.
40. ▶ Satyarup Siddhanta become 2nd Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado (6893 m), highest volcano in world on Argentina-Chile border.

41. ▶ Shivangi Pathak, who recently became youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest, has now scaled Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in 3 days. Tanzania Mount Kilimanjaro measures 5,895 meters in height.
42. ▶ The city of Paris will take back Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary freedom of Paris award, over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. She has already been stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's 'Ambassador of Conscience Award'.
43. ▶ US private space firm SpaceX signed world's first private passenger to fly around Moon aboard its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) launch vehicle. Japanese billionaire (founder of fashion giant Zozo), Yusaku Maezawa will be the first Moon tourist on SpaceX's Lunar BFR Mission.
44. ▶ Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath created a Record in State's History as he became First CM to visit all 75 districts of state in first 16 months of his rule.
45. ▶ VD Dogra became first serving Indian Army officer and only General across world to have completed a gruelling 'Iron Man' competition held in Austria. It consists 3 consecutive events - 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon), to be completed within 17 hours. Actor Milind Soman was first Indian to complete this challenge, in 2015.
 - ▶ Also, Anju Khosla (52 years age) became oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon.
46. ▶ Visits From India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
 - ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited 3 central Asian nations - Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan AND Uzbekistan.
47. ▶ Visits From India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -
 - ▶ Kiren Rijij, Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (AMCDRR 2018) held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), with theme *Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development*.
 - ▶ Union Minister of State for HRD, Satya Pal Singh attended 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town (South Africa). In this meeting of BRICS, India was allotted key theme of 'Digitization in Education'.
 - ▶ Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited UK. An MoU for enhancing bilateral cooperation in legal affairs was signed, for promoting greater co-operation between judicial and legal professionals in both countries.
 - ▶ Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan visited Switzerland for attending 3rd Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) meet in Geneva, oorgznied by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).
 - ▶ Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha visited Oceanic Nation Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), as first ever ministerial visit from India to RMI. India committed to extend grant of USD 300,000 for a Water and Sanitation Project Proposal of Aur Atoll in RMI.
48. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20, 2018) -
 - ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Vietnam and Australia.
 - ▶ Vietnam - 4 cooperation agreements signed -
 - ▶ Cooperation in Ministries of Communications.
 - ▶ Cooperation among Department of Foreign Affairs.
 - ▶ Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in Hanoi and New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.
 - ▶ Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
 - ▶ Australia - 5 Cooperation Agreement signed -
 - ▶ Welfare of Differently abled persons, bilateral investment, scientific collaboration and innovation.
 - ▶ Agreement between Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University Guntur and University of Western AustraliaPerth for cooperation in agricultural research and education.
 - ▶ Joint PhD agreement between Indraprashta Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Brisbane.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Singapore -
 - ▶ He attended 33rd ASEAN Summit, 13th East Asia Summit , 16th ASEAN-India Summit and 2nd RCEP Summit. Also, Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States also held their third "Quadrilateral" meeting in Singapore.
 - ▶ He attended 3rd Singapore Fintech Festival and launched Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform through which ASEAN financial institutions, innovators and users would connect with Indian users. APIX aims to connect companies to financial institutions globally and become a banking solution for two billion people without bank accounts worldwide.
 - ▶ He invited South African president Cyril Ramaphosa to be chief guest at 2019 Republic Day parade of India.

- PM Narendra Modi Visited Maldives, to attend swearing in ceremony of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih as new President of Maldives.
- 49. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 21-30, 2018)
 - First India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held at St. Petersburg in Russia. Indian side was led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
 - Nitin Gadkari (Minister for *Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Visited Nigeria for Attending Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi. Kenya hosted conference with Canada and Japan as co-hosts.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Laos.
 - Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited Russia.
- 50. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mauritius. She Inaugurated Panini Language Laboratory at Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius. She also attended 11th World Hindi Conference being held in Mauritius, in its capital Port Lois. Theme of Conference was *Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*.
- 51. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
 - Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik visited Netherlands for 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC), organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Nepal (Kathmandu) -
 - Participated in 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Meet. Theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'.
 - BIMSTEC is regional grouping of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. It was established on 6 June 1997 through Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 - Members - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand.
 - India and Nepal signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
 - Also, PM Modi inaugurated 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal.
 - 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee held in Nairobi (Kenya). It was attended by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu.
 - Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu attended 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Vietnam and Cambodia. She attended 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi (Vietnam). Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures".
 - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Thailand.
 - G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting held in Salta (Argentina). India was represented by Minister for Electronics and IT & Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- 52. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
 - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited USA.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited UAE for 12th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation. During this meet, India and UAE signed an agreement on Currency Swap worth INR 3500 crores, along with MOU for Development Cooperation in Africa.
 - Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Japan.
- 53. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2018) -
 - Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Tanzania and Kenya.
 - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited USA, focusing around US-India Defence partnership.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind visited Myanmar.
 - He dedicated - India assisted project 'Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education' (CARE) - to the people of Myanmar.
 - 2 MOUs signed -
 - MOU on training of Myanmar judicial officers in India.
 - MOU to enhance cooperation in science and technology.

Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Visited Saudi Arabia. India and Saudi Arabia signed bilateral annual Haj 2019 agreement.

54. ▶ Visits from India (July 11 - 20, 2018)

8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting held at Durban (South Africa). Indian delegation was led by J P Nadda (Minister of Health and Family Welfare).

Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu visited Oman for participating in 8th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Muscat.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Bahrain.

Ghana's Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchway Visited India. 2 Agreements were signed -

On exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

Establishment of a joint commission

Home Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Bangladesh -

Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad and Bangladesh Police Academy for cooperation in training, management and exchange of trainers and trainees .

6th meeting of India-Bangladesh Home Minister level talks held in Dhaka.

Revised Travel Arrangement 2018 (RTA 2018) was also signed, amending earlier RTA 2013. HM Rajnath Singh also announced withdrawal of e-token system for submission of Visa applications.

55. ▶ Visits from India (July 21 - 30, 2018)-

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited African Nations Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa -

Rwanda -

India and Rwanda signed 8 agreements. Including -

Cooperation in - Agriculture and Animal Resources, Defence, Cultural Exchange Program for 2018-22, Agricultural Research, Leather and Allied Sectors, Trade Cooperation Framework and 2 Lines of Credit for each \$100 Million for

Development of industrial parks and Kigali Special Economic Zone.

3 agricultural projects in Rwanda.

Mr. Modi became first Indian PM to visit Rwanda.

PM Modi also gifted 200 cows to villagers in Rweru Model Village, as a part of Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme.

Uganda -

India extended 2 lines of credit to Uganda – one of \$141 million (around Rs 968 crore) for electricity lines and another of \$64 million (Rs 439 crore) for agriculture and dairy production.

India and Uganda exchanged 4 MoUs covering Defence Cooperation, Visa exemption for Diplomatic and official passport holders, Cultural Exchange Programme and Material Testing Laboratory.

India will open 18 new embassies across Africa.

Unveiled a statue of *Loh Purush* Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (first home minister of India) in Kampala (Capital of Uganda).

South Africa -

Attended 10th BRICS (Brazil, Russian, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg. This year's theme is *BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution*. It was 2nd time South Africa Hosted this event. PM Modi also held bilateral talks with leaders of Russia, Turkey, Angola and Argentina.

Next (11th) BRICS summit will be hosted by Brazil in 2019.

MOUs signed with South Africa -

Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.

Setting up of *Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills* in South Africa.

Cooperation in Exploration and uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

56. ▶ Visits from India (July 21 - 31, 2018) -

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended Global Disability Summit held in London (UK).

57. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10, 2018) -

18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting held in Durban (South Africa), attended by VK Singh (Minister of State for External Affairs) on India's Behalf. Bangladesh was appointed as Vice Chairman of Indian Ocean Rim

Association (IORA) for 2019-21 and eventually as Chairman for 2021-23. 'Be the Legacy' internship programme announced to be launched on July 18, 2019, 101st birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.

🔗 Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited African Nations Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi -

🔗 Botswana -

🔗 An MoU was signed for waiving Visa for Diplomatic Passport holders.

🔗 Botswana decided to join India based International Solar Alliance.

🔗 Zimbabwe -

🔗 India announced \$310 million loan to Zimbabwe to finance a rehabilitation project for a thermal power plant that would entail upgrading the station and extending its lifespan. A fund of \$2.9 million will also be extended to upgrade the Indo-Zim Technology Centre, which India had gifted to the African country.

🔗 India and Zimbabwe signed six signed agreements, including on mining, Information and communications technology (ICT), visa waiver and traditional medicine.

🔗 Malawi -

🔗 India and Malawi have signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful

🔗 India will also extend a new Line of credit of 215 million US dollars to Malawi for 18 water projects.

🔗 Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited France to represent India at events commemorating centenary of signing of the armistice ending World War I. He inaugurated first India-bult war memorial in northern France, to pay tribute Indian soldiers who sacrificed lives during World War I.

58. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -

🔗 Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visited France. She participated in the 1st India-France Ministerial level annual defence dialogue in Paris.

🔗 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Astana (Kazakhstan). India was represented by Minister of State (MoS) Human Resource Development Satyapal Singh.

🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Tajikistan capital Dushanbe to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government Council Meeting.

🔗 Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu visited Azerbaijan to attend 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC).

🔗 President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan (Central Asia). 9 MOUs were signed on the occasion, for cooperation in Political relations, Strategic research, Agriculture Renewable energy, Traditional medicine, Space technology, Youth affairs, Disaster Management AND Culture. India also announced grant of USD 20 Million to Tajikistan for implementation of development projects of Tajikistan.

59. ▶ Visits from India (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -

🔗 Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama (Bahrain). India will be the chair of Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.

🔗 External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Qatar and Kuwait.

🔗 India and Qatar established a joint commission to review all bilateral matters, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

🔗 Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Japan -

🔗 Attended 13th annual bilateral summit of India –Japan -

🔗 Agreed for a 2+2 dialogue between our foreign ministers and defence ministers to further work towards world peace.

🔗 India-Japan Business Platform will be established to enhance the development of industrial corridors and industrial network in the region.

🔗 6 MOUs were signed -

🔗 Food Safety

🔗 MoU between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and NEXI, Japan

🔗 MoU between CSIR India with Hiroshima University and University of Tokyo (Japan) for Research Partnership.

🔗 MoU between National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) India, and Shizuoka University (Japan) for Academic and Research exchanges.

🔗 MoU between Sports Authority of India (SAI) India and University of Tsukuba (Japan) for academic exchanges and sports cooperation.

✍ Other Important Agreements -

✍ Joint Venture Agreement between State Bank of India (SBI) and SBI Payment Services Pvt. Ltd and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd.

✍ India and Japan signed an agreement for \$75-billion bilateral currency swap, representing increase of 50 % percent over last currency swap arrangement between the two countries. This will enable agreed amount of foreign capital being available to India for use as and when need arises.

✍ Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA), submitting instrument of ratification. As of now, 70 countries have signed ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it.

✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Indonesia.

✍ Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary Visited Czech Republic for attending 11th session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC).

60. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018)

✍ India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul (Afghanistan). Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

✍ Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting.

✍ Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Satya Pal Singh visited Mendoza (Argentina), for G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting. It was first ever meeting of Education Ministers in history of G-20.

✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Vietnam and Cambodia.

✍ In Vietnam, She inaugurated 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi.

✍ In Cambodia, She signed 2 MOUs - 1st MOU is on Restoration and preservation of world heritage site of an 11th century temple of Lord Shiva called 'Temple of Preah Vihear' in Cambodia's Preah Vihear. 2nd MOU is on cooperation between India's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR).

✍ Indian Air Force Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Myanmar and Malaysia.

✍ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited USA to address 2nd World Hindu Congress held in Chicago, on occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at Parliament of the World's Religions on Sep 11, 1893.

✍ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment visited Seoul (Korea), to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.

✍ Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das visited China. He invited China to participate in food processing summit, which will be organised by Jharkhand Government in November.

✍ President Ram Nath Kovind Visited European Nations Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic.

✍ Cyprus -

✍ India and Cyprus have signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in field of environment.

✍ India and Cyprus agreed to revise Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed between India and Cyprus in 2016 to further enhance investment cross flows.

✍ Bulgaria -

✍ India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, science and technology cooperation and Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.

✍ Czech Republic -

✍ 5 Agreements signed -

✍ Cooperation between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Czech Academy of Sciences

✍ Visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders

✍ A work plan to support Indo-Czech projects in diverse areas of science and technology.

✍ Cooperation in laser technology between ELI Beamlines and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

✍ Cooperation between Haryana Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences.

61. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -

✍ Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Rhode Island (USA).

✍ India and Niger signed an MoU for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey (Niger). It was signed during External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Niger (Western Africa).

✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Russia for participating in 23rd meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC).

- ✈ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu Visited Russia.
- ✈ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting in Mar del Plata (Argentina).
- ✈ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited European Nations Serbia, Malta and Romania -
 - ✈ Romania -
 - ✈ Romania agreed to take lead to re-start negotiations on India-EU-BTIA (Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement)
 - ✈ Romania will open a Consulate in Chennai
 - ✈ India Opens Ayush Information cell in Romania
 - ✈ Malta -
 - ✈ 3 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed in fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.
 - ✈ Serbia -
 - ✈ India and Serbia signed agreements on cooperation in plant protection and plant quarantine and on-air services. India and Serbia are observing 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.
- 62. ▶ Visits from India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -
 - ✈ Senior security officials from Iran, Russia, China, India and Afghanistan attended a meeting in Tehran (Iran). National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Visited on India's Behalf.
 - ✈ USA and India formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis. Event was attended by Health Minister J P Nadda on India's Behalf.
 - ✈ It includes Soumya Swaminathan (Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) at World Health Organisation (WHO)) and Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of TB Activists.
 - ✈ USAID will make initial US \$30 million commitment, subject to approval of the US Congress.
 - ✈ Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Bangladesh.
- 63. ▶ Visits from india (Oct 1 - 10, 2018) -
 - ✈ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Kazakhstan (Central Asia).
 - ✈ President Ra Nath Kovind Visited Tajikistan -
 - ✈ Signed MoUs in various fields including political relations, strategic research, agriculture, renewable energy, traditional medicine, space technology, youth affairs, Culture and Disaster Management.
 - ✈ Indian grant of 20 million US dollars was announced for Tajikistan to finance development projects.
 - ✈ Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary Visited Nigera for Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership held in Abuja, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-EXIM Bank.
- 64. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 21 - 31, 2018) -
 - ✈ Andrus Ansip (European Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission) Visited India. .
 - ✈ Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte Visited India. He attended India-Italy Technology Summit at New Delhi.
 - ✈ Sri Lankan prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India, as his fifth official visit to India since taking office in 2015.
 - ✈ Rajiv Gauba (Home Secretary) Visited Myanmar, to attend 22nd National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar.
 - ✈ Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Croatia Marija Pejcinovic Burić Visited India, with 2 agreements signed to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation.
 - ✈ China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi Visited India. India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation, as first such agreement to be signed between the two countries.
- 65. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
 - ✈ Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President-elect of 73rd United Nations General Assembly visited India.
- 66. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -
 - ✈ Itsunori Onodera, Defence Minister of Japan Visited India. He attended India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue.
- 67. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 21 - 31, 2018) -
 - ✈ China's Defence Minister Wei Fenghe Visited India (New Delhi). India and China decided to work towards a new bilateral MoU on Defence Exchanges and Cooperation to replace MoU signed in 2006.
 - ✈ Defence Minister of Japan, Itsunori Onodera visited India.
- 68. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 01 - 10, 2018) -
 - ✈ Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Mozambique (East Africa), Jose Condungua Antonio Pacheco Visited India.
 - ✈ Foreign Minister of Romania, Teodor Melescanu visited India.

Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid visited India.

Chairman of 'Duma' of Russian Parliament (Counterpart of India's Lok Sabha), Vyacheslav Volodin Visited India. He attended 5th Meeting of India-Russia Parliamentary Commission in New Delhi.

69. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2018) -

Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea, Ms. Kang Kyung-wha Visited India, for 9th India-Korea Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi. India and South Korea agreed to raise bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by 2030.

Minister of Trade of Turkey, Rushar Pekcan Visited India.

Nepal Minister for General Administration and Federal Affairs, Lal Babu Pandit Visited India.

Thailand Navy Chief Luechai Ruddit Visited India.

Patrick Matibini, Speaker of National Assembly of Zambia visited India. Zambia approved its membership of India led International Solar Alliance.

Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark, Anders Samuelsen Visited India.

Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Visited India.

India signed mega supercomputer *Bull Sequana* deal with France, to procure supercomputers worth INR 4,500 crores into India. Contract will last for 3 years for developing Bull Sequana (high-performance supercomputers), with computing power of over 10 petaflops.

Achmad Taufiqorrochman, Chief of Indonesia Coast Guard (called BAKAMLA) visited India, for 6th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi.

Maldives President Ibrahim Solih Visited India -

India announced a \$1.4 billion package for Maldives, to meet its capital requirements.

4 agreements signed - Facilitation of Visa Arrangements, Cultural Cooperation, Mutual Cooperation to Improve Ecosystem for Agribusiness AND Cooperation in field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics.

Maldives announced to re-join the Commonwealth AND joining Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) family.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited India for 18th meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC), held in New Delhi.

Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea, Kang Kyung-wha visited India for attending 9th India-ROK Joint Commission meeting, held in New Delhi.

70. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2018) -

Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lotay Tshering Visited India.

India announced to contribute INR 4500 crores to Bhutan for 12th five-year plan.

2018 also marks 50th (Golden Jubilee year) of establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.

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Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China Visited India, to attend first-ever meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, held in New Delhi.

71. ▶ Visits to India (July 01 - 10, 2018) -

Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya Visited India.

Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited India.

Bernard Makuza, President of Senate of Rwanda (East Africa) Visited India.

Rajya Sabha, for first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a MOU with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue, when it signed MoU with Upper House of Rwanda's Parliament (Senate).

Vice president (currently Venkaiah Naidu) is Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India. He was accompanied with Korean Science and Technology Minister Yiu Young Min and Kim Hyun-chong, Korean Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy.

He, Jointly with Indian PM Narendra Modi inaugurated New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida (Uttar Pradesh). With investment of INR 5000 Crores, it is largest Mobile Phone Manufacturing facility in world in terms of number of units produced. It will create 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually. Samsung provides 70,000 direct and indirect jobs in India.

4th India-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting held in Delhi. To increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030, India and South Korea signed 11 MoUs, including agreement to discuss upgrade of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Signed MoUs -

Joint Statement on Early Harvest Package of the Upgraded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Trade Remedies.

- ✍ Establishment of Future Strategy Group
 - ✍ Programme of Cooperation 2018-21
 - ✍ MoU between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and South Korean National Research Council for Science & Technology.
 - ✍ MoU on cooperation between Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRI).
 - ✍ Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bioeconomy.
 - ✍ ICT and Telecommunications.
 - ✍ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
 - ✍ Princess Suriratna (Queen Hur Hwang-ok) Memorial Project - A legendary Princess of Ayodhya, who went to Korea in AD 48 and married King Kim-Suro.
 - ✍ MOU Between Government of Gujarat and Korea Trade Promotion Agency (KOTRA).
 - ✍ Agreed to jointly establish 2 additional India-Korea Joint Network Centres in areas among 'Cyber Physical System- Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things focused on agriculture, energy, water and transportation and 'Semiconductor Electronics'.
 - ✍ A financing arrangement of 10 billion USD has been set by South Korea for infrastructure development in India.
 - ✍ India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre was Inaugurated, at National Small Industries Corporation premises in New Delhi.
72. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✍ Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.
73. ▶ Visits to India (July 21 - 31, 2018) -
- ✍ Sam Gyimah, Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation of UK Visited India for 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi.
74. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Mrs. Kim Jung-sook, First Lady of South Korea Visited India -
 - ✍ She was Chief Guest at Deepotsav event being organized by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and ceremony of new Memorial of Queen Suriratna (Heo Hwang-ok) in Ayodhya. Ayodhya and Korea have a deep historical connection through the legendary Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya, who traveled to Korea in 48 CE and married Korean King Suro.
 - ✍ MOU signed for cooperation in sports and Tourism.
75. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 11 - 20, 2018) -
- ✍ Minister for Public Service & Good Governance, Law & Justice of Tanzania, Haroun Ali Suleiman Visited India.
 - ✍ 9th Session of India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) held in New Delhi. Kosmosbek Cholpon Baev, Health Minister of Kyrgystan Visited India.
 - ✍ India and Morocco have signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, during India visit of Morocco Minister of Justice, Mohamed Aujjar.
76. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Malaysia's Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran Visited India.
 - ✍ Opposition leader of Canada, Andrew Scheer Visited India.
 - ✍ President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev Visited India. 17 MOUs were signed -
 - ✍ Visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders.
 - ✍ cooperation in field of tourism, military education, sphere of Law and Justice, agriculture and allied sectors, scientific-technical and innovation fields, health and medical science, combating illicit trafficking narcotic drugs, exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, Foreign Affairs.
 - ✍ MoU between Samarkand City of Uzbekistan and Municipal Corporation of Agra (Uttar Pradesh).
 - ✍ Establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan.
 - ✍ Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under President of Uzbekistan.
 - ✍ UN Secretary-General António Guterres (Portugal) Visited India.
 - ✍ Formally opened new UN House in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Participated in closing session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention. He will also meet with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan, before giving an address at the India Habitat Centre.
 - ✍ Took part in General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.
 - ✍ Russian President Vladimir Putin Visited India -

- ✍ Attended 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit 2018 in New Delhi.
- ✍ Attended AIM-SIRIUS Innovation Festival 2018 in New Delhi.
- ✍ India and Russia signed their biggest defence deal in over two decades for Five S-400 air defence systems with worth \$5.43 billion (Rs. 40,300 crores) -
 - ✍ The S-400 regiments will be delivered starting 2020 and are likely to be deployed to cover both the Pakistani and Chinese borders.
 - ✍ China was first foreign buyer Signed a \$3 billion deal for integrating Six S-400 in 2014.
 - ✍ U.S. warned deal could attract sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law that restricts defence purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea.
 - ✍ S-400 Air Defence System (Previously known as the S-300 PMU-3)
 - ✍ The S-400 uses four missiles to fill its performance envelope: the very-long-range 40N6 (400 km), the long-range 48N6 (250 km), the medium-range 9M96E2 (120 km) and the short-range 9M96E (40 km).
 - ✍ One S-400 can launch 160 guided missiles simultaneously, engage 80 targets at a time.(2 Missile to attack 1 target).
 - ✍ It can hit aircraft, cruise missiles and even fast-moving intermediate range ballistic missiles. The S-400 has three components — the missile launchers themselves, a powerful radar and a command centre.
 - ✍ The radar can track targets 600 km away. For example, S-400 systems deployed in India can track aircraft flying well outside the country's borders, which is a major threat deterrence to the enemy's air force.
- ✍ 8 MOUs signed -
 - ✍ Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MEA for the period 2019-2023
 - ✍ MoU between NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and Russian Creative school SIRIUS, to provide a platform for joint scientific and entrepreneurial efforts by youth of two nations.
 - ✍ MOU between ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in field of Human Spaceflight Programme.
 - ✍ ROSCOSMOS offered ride to Indian astronaut short visit to International Space Station (ISS) on board Soyuz spacecraft for short training mission in 2022.
 - ✍ Cooperation between Railways, Nuclear Field, Transport Education, MSME, Fertilizers Sector.

77. ▶ Visits to India (Oct 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Andreas Krause, Chief of German Navy visited India.
- ✍ Augustine P. Mahiga , Foreign Minister of Tanzania Visited India. He attended 9th Session of India - Tanzania Joint Commission Meeting.

78. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal Visited India.

79. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani visited India.
- ✍ India and Morocco signed revised Air Services Agreement, enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement. It was signed during Mohammed Sajid's Visit to India. He is Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy.
 - ✍ Mr. Mohammad Sajid also inaugurated India's First ever India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of Tourism.

80. ▶ Visits to India (Sep 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✍ Goa government signed agreement with Portugal in field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation for a period of 2 years. It was signed during Portugal's Minister of Environment Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes Visiting India.
- ✍ Sayyid Badr Saud Harib Al Busaidi, Defence Minister of Sultanate of Oman Visited India.
- ✍ India and Morocco have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security, during Visit of Moroccan Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudyi, to India. 2 MoUs signed - Cyber Security AND Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
- ✍ Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan, Shuhrat Sadikov Visited India. 2 MoUs signed
 - ✍ Strengthening e-Governance cooperation.
 - ✍ Declaration of Intent between CDAC India and Tashkent University of Information Technologies (Uzbekistan) for cooperation in capacity building in ICT sector.
- ✍ Queen Mother of Bhutan, Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Visited India.

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