



### Current Affairs - February to July 2018

Month  Type



- 91 Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **Persons on Visit/In News**

#### Persons

- ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
- ▶ 25-year old Prakriti has been inducted as first direct-entry combat officer in Indo-Tibetan Border Police. ITBP is last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after government allowed it in 2016.
- ▶ 4th International Young Chef Olympiad (YCO) concluded in New Delhi with Lai Jia Yi from Malaysia winning top spot and Indian student chef Surya Sekhar Roy Choudhury claiming 2nd position. It is Touted as *World's biggest culinary battle of student chefs*.
- ▶ According to *World Leaders on Facebook* study by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, Indian PM Narendra Modi is most 'liked' world leader on Facebook. With 4.3 Crore Followers, he is way ahead of USA President Donald Trump (2.3 Crore Followers).
- ▶ Actress Sonakshi Sinha joins UNESCO to promote safe & secure online environment for children and help empower our future digital citizens.
- ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointed Taniya Sanyal as country's first woman firefighter.
- ▶ Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos becomes the richest man in the world with a net worth of USD 141.9 Billion according to Forbes world's billionaire list.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh government appointed shuttler Kidambi Srikanth as a Deputy Collector in Group-1 service, After he won title at Indonesian Championship in June 2017.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Avani Chaturvedi became first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo, after She flew a MiG-21 bison. She belongs to first batch of female pilots, besides Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh, who were inducted into IAF in 2016.
- ▶ British actress Millie Bobby Brown became youngest person in list of world's 100 most influential people by TIME. 4 Indians featured on this list - Virat Kohli, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Actor Deepika Padukone and Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Former Indian pacer Venkatesh Prasad resigned as chairman of junior national selection committee.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Former President Pranab Mukherjee will be conferred an honorary D.Litt by Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST).
- ▶ Four year old Ayan Gogoi Gohain of Assam is honoured as *Youngest Author of India* title by Indian Book of Records, for his book 'honeycomb', published in January 2018.
- ▶ French swimmer Ben Lecomte began his expedition to become first person to swim across Pacific Ocean, starting from Japan. He will swim for eight hours a day for more than six months as he heads towards US west coast, during approx 8850 kilometres long swim.

18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ India's Priyanka Das from Assam has been appointed as ambassador for 'promote science' initiative in France to encourage girls to pursue scientific careers.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ Indian-origin lawyer Person Gobind Singh Deo become first Sikh in Malaysia to be appointed as a Cabinet minister, after being allotted communications and multimedia portfolio. Another Indian-origin lawmaker M Kulasegaran has been appointed as human resource minister.
24. ▶ Indo-UK 8 year old girl Sohini Roy Chowdhury entered UK's Mathletics Hall of Fame, online mathematics-based competitive tool aimed at primary school pupils.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ Karan Johar became first Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at Madame Tussauds Museum London (UK).
27. ▶ Monti Rajkhowa became first Assamese to scale Mount Kanchenjunga, 3rd highest mountain in world (8586 Metres).
28. ▶ NASA named seven hills on planet Mars after 7 crew members, including India-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla, of Space Shuttle Columbia who lost their lives while returning from their mission on February 1, 2003.
29. ▶ Nepali woman Nima Jangmu Sherpa created world record by scaling 3 highest mountains in a single climbing season within 25 days - Kanchenjunga (8586 metres), Nima summited Lhotse (8516 metres) and Everest (8848 metres).
30. ▶ Obituaries (April 2018) -
  - ▶ Efraim 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.
31. ▶ 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.

32. ▶ 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

33. ▶ Obituaries (June 2018) -

- ✍ Timothy Pereira - Former Indian footballer.
- ✍ Urmila Singh - Former Himachal Pradesh governor.
- ✍ L.P. Shahi - Congress leader and former Union Minister (Appointed Education & Culture Minister in 1985).
- ✍ Narayan Prasad Singh - Odisha's Noted lyricist, popularly known as *Rasaraj*.
- ✍ David Douglas Duncan - Noted World War II photographer (USA).
- ✍ Maria Bueno - Noted Brazilian tennis player.
- ✍ Shahjahan Bachchu Noted Bangladeshi writer.
- ✍ Mulubha Jadeja - Former Saurashtra Cricketer.
- ✍ Adiraju Venkateswara Rao - Noted Telugu journalist and writer.
- ✍ Nerella Venumadhav - Noted Telugu Mimicry Artist from Telangana.
- ✍ Puan, world's oldest Sumatran orangutan passed away in Perth Zoo (Australia), at age of 62 years.
- ✍ Jamsheed Marker - Noted Pakistani diplomat who holds Guinness World Record for *World's longest-serving ambassador* and also being the *ambassador to more countries than any other person*.
- ✍ Kim Jong-pil - Prime Minister of South Korea.
- ✍ Donald Hall - Noted American poet and writer.
- ✍ Peter Thomson - Noted Australian golfer.
- ✍ B Sujatha Devi - Malayalam Poetess.

34. ▶ Obituaries (March 2018) -

- 📌 Davide Astori - Noted Italian international footballer.
- 📌 Literateur 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.

35. ▶ 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

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

37. ▶ Pakistan Peoples Party's Krishna Kumari will become country's first woman Hindu Parliamentarian (MP).

38. ▶ Pallavi Durua of Koraput district in Odisha is crowned first Tribal Queen at Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap, was organised by SC & ST department of Govt of Odisha.


39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (June 2018) -
- 🔗 Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana - Madagascar's Prime Minister.
  - 🔗 James Sutherland - Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer.
  - 🔗 Mike Hesson - New Zealand cricket coach.
  - 🔗 Giorgi Kvirikashvili - Georgia's prime minister.
  - 🔗 Peggy Whitson - Noted NASA Astronaut. She spent more 665 days off earth, most by an American.
  - 🔗 Mehbooba Mufti - Jammu & Kashmir's Chief Minister. After BJP pulled out of an alliance with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), causing government to fall apart. After this, President Ram Nath Kovind imposed Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, as 8th time in four decades J&K was put under Governor's rule and third time under Current Governor N N Vohra.
  - 🔗 Arvind Subramanian - Chief Economic Advisor of India.
  - 🔗 Brian Krzanich - Removed as CEO of Intel Corp. after his past consensual relationship with an employee.
  - 🔗 Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrested Bank of Maharashtra CMD Ravindra P. Marathe in a case of INR 3000 crores fraudulent loans extended to Pune DSK Group.
41. ▶ 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
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (April 2018) -
- 🔗 Morne Morkel - South African cricketer.
  - 🔗 Julio Cesar - Brazilia Footballer.
  - 🔗 Aditya Ghosh - Airline IndiGo CEO. Rahul Bhatia has been named Interim CEO.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ Pune Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross Bangla Channel (Water stretch from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh). He accomplished this by completing swim of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes.
47. ▶ Pune-based swimmer Rohan More became first Asian (9th globally) to swim across Ocean Seven. He swam across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands of New Zealand in 8 hours and 37 minutes.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling (from Sikkim Democratic Front) became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000. Chamling became Chief Minister in December 1994 and serves till Date.

51. ▶ South Africa's President Jacob Zuma resigned, after ruling party African National Congress (ANC) threatened to eject him from office. Further, Hailemariam Desalegn resigned as Prime Minister of Ethiopia (Horn of Africa).
52. ▶ Sports Persons in Forbes India 30 Under 30 list 2018 - Jasprit Bumrah and Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket), Savita Punia (women's hockey team goalkeeper), Heena Sidhu (Shooting).
53. ▶ Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg became first director whose films have earned over \$10 billion Globally.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Russia to attend *VII Moscow Conference on International Security*.
  - ▶ External Affairs Minister Susma Swaraj Visited Japan for 9th India-Japan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue.
  - ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Azerbaijan to participate in Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku. On this occasion, India and Azerbaijan signed 2 MOUs for visa waiver for diplomatic, official and service passports holders and cooperation between diplomatic training institutes.
  - ▶ Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Visited South Korea. India and SK signed mutual recognition of certificate of competency of seafarers to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships.
  - ▶ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited 3 African Nations - Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. It is first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland.
    - ▶ Equatorial Guinea -
      - ▶ President Kovind was conferred with *Condecoracion*, highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by government of Equatorial Guinea. He was bestowed with *medal of the Gran Colar de la Independencia* by Equatorial Guinea government.
      - ▶ 3 MOUs signed - AYUSH and traditional medicine, medicinal plants, An action plan for Information and Communication Technology.
    - ▶ Swaziland -
      - ▶ President Kovind inaugurated Information Technology Centre located in Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).
      - ▶ India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver.
      - ▶ President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, highest civilian honour of Swaziland.
      - ▶ President Kovind announced to donate \$1 million to support Swaziland's national disaster management agency
      - ▶ India will establish a Centre of Agricultural Excellence in Swaziland.
      - ▶ India donated US \$1 million to support Swaziland's National Disaster Management Agency as well as food grains.
    - ▶ Zambia
      - ▶ India and Zambia signed four agreements - double taxation avoidance; on mutual visa waivers for officials and diplomats, judicial cooperation and on Entrepreneurship Development Institute that India will build in Zambia.
      - ▶ India will provide USD 100000 towards construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Lusaka (capital of Zambia).
      - ▶ India gifted medicines and medical equipment worth USD 3 million to Zambia.
57. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -
- ▶ Minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar Visited Southeast Asian nation Timor Leste. MoU was signed in field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to people of Timor Leste.
  - ▶ P.P. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law & Justice Visited USA and Caribbean Nations St. Vincent & Grenadines, Barbados.
  - ▶ Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Visited Washington D.C. (USA) for BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. It was held in sidelines of IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Urjit R. Patel, RBI Governor Visited IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C on India's Behalf.
    - ▶ During BRICS Finance Ministers Meet, India pressed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an independent credit rating agency.
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Sweden, United Kingdom and Germany -













## UK Visit -

-  PM attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.
  -  India and 3 other countries (*Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malta*) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.
-  UK formally joined International Solar Alliance, founded by India and France. It was announced at an event called *Financing the Green Revolution*.

## 10 MOUs Signed -

-  UK-India Cyber Relationship framework aimed at having a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace
  -  MoU to enable United Kingdom to support India in sustainable management of water resources in Ganga river basin.
  -  MoU on agreement on Skill Development, vocational education and training.
  -  Agreement for regulation of safe nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes.
  -  MoU on skill development, vocational education and training to promote collaboration and capacity-building.
  -  MoU on cooperation in the animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors.
  -  MoU on exchange of information for combating international criminality and tackling serious organised crime.
  -  addendum covering research in humanities and social sciences has been added to 2004 Newton-Bhabha MoU.
  -  MoU to enable development of evidence-based guidelines for integrating Ayurvedic principles and practices with modern medicine.
  -  MoU to strengthen institutional cooperation in sustainable urban development and enhance cooperation in Smart Cities Mission.
-  Additionally, India's NASSCOM and TechUK launched new UK-India Tech Alliance, aimed at increasing collaboration on skills and new technologies, assisting policy development and encouraging innovation and lay groundwork for roadmap which will be jointly presented in June 2018.

## Sweden Visit -

-  India and Sweden hosted India-Nordic Summit titled *India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity*.
  -  Nordic Nations are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, including Greenland and Faroe Islands.
  -  Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and North Atlantic.
-  An India-Sweden Joint Action Plan was decided with target areas -
  -  Innovation.
  -  Trade and investment.
  -  Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport.
  -  Smart, sustainable and renewable energy.
  -  Women's skills development and empowerment - Encourage women empowerment by skilling employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women through projects like "Kraftsamla", undertaken by Swedish and Indian actors in Pune, Maharashtra.
  -  Defence
  -  Space and science
  -  Health and Life Sciences

## MOUs -

-  With Sweden
  -  Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.
-  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.

#### 58. ▶ 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 Empowering 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\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees.

59. ▶ 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.

60. ▶ 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.

61. ▶ 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.

62. ▶ 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?*.

63. ▶ 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.

64. ▶ 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.

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

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

66. ▶ Visits from India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -

✍ Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Brazil.

✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited South Africa. She participated in BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting and IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting during her visit.

✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited China -

✍ India and China signed 2 MoUs related to sharing of Brahmaputra river data and supply of non-Basmati rice. Under MoU, China will provide India hydrological data of Brahmaputra River in flood season crucial to predict floods.

✍ Attended 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao. SCO has 8 Members Including India and Pakistan.

✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore -

✍ Indonesia -

✍ India and Indonesia signed 15 MoUs in fields of economic co-operation, defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health, among others.

✍ India and Indonesia agreed to Jointly develop strategic Indian Ocean Port.

✍ India and Indonesia will set up a task force to enhance connectivity between Andaman (India) and Sabang (Indonesia).

✍ Malaysia -

✍ PM Modi met his newly elected 92-year-old Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad. Discussed issues of Bilateral Co-operation and Mutual Interest.

✍ Singapore -

✍ India and Singapore signed 14 MOUs in a business cum community event called 'Anushasanam'.

- ✍ Key fields under which agreements were exchanged are - Naval cooperation, Economic co-operation, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Combating Narcotics smuggling & Human Trafficking, Personnel Management and Public Administration, Planning.
- ✍ Attended Annual Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security meet of 28 Asia - Pacific Nations.
- ✍ Conferred Padma Shri award to former Singaporean Diplomat Tommy Koh. Koh served as Singapore's ambassador to US and the UN, and as president of Third United Nations Conference on Law of Sea in 1981 and 1982.
- ✍ An orchid is named as 'Dendrobium Narendra Modi' as a special gesture for PM Modi during his visit.
- ✍ Unveiled a plaque dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi at Clifford Pier in city-state, where his ashes were immersed.
- ✍ Launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI. With this, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS). It would create multi-billion dollar transactions as some five million Indians travel to and transit through Singapore, internationalising RuPay beginning with first cross border usage.
- ✍ India signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing with Singapore. This is first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. It paves way for our healthcare service providers to institutionally access markets abroad.
- ✍ India and Singapore concluded 2nd Review of India Singapore CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement).

✍ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended an Informal Meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministers in Paris.


#### 67. ▶ Visits from India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Nitin Gadkari (Minister for *Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Road Transport & Highways and Shipping*) visited Tajikistan (Central Asia) to represent India in high-level Conference on *International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028*.
- ✍ Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Visited OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Forum in Vienna (Austria). Theme of the Seminar is 'Petroleum – cooperation for a sustainable future'. Mr. Pradhan also visited Germany.
  - ✍ OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 15 nations, headquartered since 1965 in Vienna (Austria). 15 OPEC members account for 44 % of global oil production and 81.5 % of world's proven oil reserves.
- ✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Vietnam -
  - ✍ She inaugurated first Representative Office of Navratna Defence Public Sector Unit Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi (Vietnam).
- ✍ Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu visited USA.
- ✍ Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis visited USA -
  - ✍ He met World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva at Washington DC and asked for World Bank's assistance for Rural transformation through sustainable livelihood in 10,000 villages and A multimodal transport corridor in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
  - ✍ Ford Motor Company submitted a proposal of 50 million USD for setting up a Centre of Excellence for integrated mobility in Maharashtra.
  - ✍ Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province signed a pact to increase economic cooperation.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited European Nations Italy, France, Luxembourg and Belgium.
  - ✍ India will construct a war memorial at Villers Guislain in France as tribute to Indian soldiers who died in World War I.
  - ✍ 2018 marks 20th year of India's Diplomatic relations with France and 70th year of India's Diplomatic relations with Luxembourg.
  - ✍ It was First ever official visit by an India Minister of External Affairs to Luxembourg.
- ✍ President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Greece, Suriname and Cuba -
  - ✍ Greece -
    - ✍ He attended Greece-India Business Forum in Greek Capital Athens.
    - ✍ Stated that India is on its way to become a 5 trillion USD Economy by 2025.
  - ✍ MOUs -
    - ✍ Cooperation in Fields of Standardization.
    - ✍ Cooperation in Diplomatic Training and.
    - ✍ Programme of Cultural Cooperation for 2018-2020.

 Cuba -


 2 MoUs signed - Traditional Systems of Medicine AND deepen collaboration in biotechnology.

 Suriname -


 India announced \$51 Million aid to Suriname for several developmental Projects -

 20 Million USD for setting up a solar project to provide clean energy to a cluster of 49 villages in Suriname.


 27.5 Million USD to support a power transmission project in PikinSaronarea

 3.5 Million Dollars 3.5 million for maintenance of Chetak helicopters.

 India - Suriname MOUs -

 To establish a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Suriname.


 MoUs in fields of elections, diplomatic academies partnership, employment for spouse of diplomats.

 Twinning Agreement Cities of Panaji (Goa) and City of Victoria of Seychelles.

68. ▶ Visits from India (June 21 - 30, 2018) -

 Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani visited Israel and created a joint working group (JWG) between Gujarat and Israel in fields of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors

 15th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) held in Canberra, Australia. It was attended by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu during his visit to Australia.


 Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar visited Australia to attend 4th Meeting of Australia-India Education Council (AIEC).


 Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended a series of 'Incredible India road shows' in United States of America.


 5th 2 plus 2 vice-ministerial level dialogue between India and Japan held in Japan. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra


 India and USA will hold 1st 2+2 Dialogue in Washington, DC in July 2018. India will be represented by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

 Home Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Mongolia.

 He jointly launched construction of Mongolia's first oil refinery, a long-awaited project that is funded by India and designed to end the country's dependence on Russian fuel.


 The refinery, in southern Dornogovi province will be capable of processing 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil per year. It is planned for completion in late 2022, will meet all of the nation's demand for gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel and LPG.

 Cost of project is estimated at \$1.35 billion, and it will include a pipeline and its own power plant. Its financing is part of \$1 billion soft credit line agreement between Mongolia and Export-Import Bank of India, made during 2015 visit by PM Narendra Modi.

 Sunil Lanba, Chief of Indian Navy will visit Bangladesh. He inaugurated first Indian Navy - Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) which is being instituted as an annual feature between the navies of both countries.


 Nitin Gadkari (*Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping*) Visited Dushanbe (Tajikistan Capital). He stated that India will make Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019.


69. ▶ 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.


70. ▶ 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.

71. ▶ 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 Jsvantsinh 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.

72. ▶ 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.

73. ▶ 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.

74. ▶ 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.
- 75. ▶ 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.
- 76. ▶ 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.
- 77. ▶ 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.
- 78. ▶ 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.
- 79. ▶ 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.
- 80. ▶ 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.

81. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)

- ✍ Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.

82. ▶ 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.

83. ▶ Visits to India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff Rajendra Chhetri visited India.
- ✍ Singapore trade and industry minister Mr. R Iswaran Visited India. During this visit, Andhra Pradesh Govt. announced set up of startup area with joint collaboration with Singapore, with signing of a Concession and Development agreement (CADA).
  - ✍ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will partner with Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) at National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) for implementation of skill development initiatives of India.

84. ▶ Visits to India (June 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ United Kingdom Minister of State for Countering Extremism and Minister for Equalities, Baroness Williams of Trafford Visited India.

85. ▶ Visits to India (June 21 - 30, 2018)

- ✍ Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development Desmond Lee visited India. During his visit, Andhra Pradesh Government signed MoU with Singapore to accelerate construction work of its new capital, Amravati.
- ✍ United States Permanent Representative to United Nations, Nikki Haley visited India. Haley, daughter of Sikh immigrants from Punjab, is the first Indian-American to serve in a Cabinet-level position in any US presidential administration.
- ✍ UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India. He announced to set up a consulate of United Arab Emirates in Hyderabad (Telangana).
- ✍ Suhrob Kholmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan visited India.



- ✍ Chakra Pani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visited India. He participated in India-Nepal “New Partnership in Agriculture” meet in New Delhi.
- ✍ Danny Faure, President of Seychelles Visited India -
  - ✍ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended \$10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles, as first tranche of the \$50 million sanctioned by Exim Bank to Seychelles.
  - ✍ 6 MoUs signed between India and Seychelles -
    - ✍ Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of small development projects through local bodies, educational and vocational institutions.
    - ✍ Twinning Agreement on Establishment of and Cooperation between Panaji (Goa) and Victoria City of Seychelles
    - ✍ Cyber Security.
    - ✍ Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Seychelles for 2018-2022.
    - ✍ Technical Agreement on Sharing White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and National Information Sharing and Coordination Center of Seychelles.
    - ✍ MoU between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles.
  - ✍ Seychelles gifted pair of Giant Aldabra tortoise to India as a goodwill gesture, both aged about 20 years. Aldabra Giant Tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) is endemic to Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles, and is one of largest species of tortoises on planet.
  - ✍ India gifted a second Dornier aircraft to the Seychelles to help it enhance maritime reconnaissance and maintain security in that part of the Indian Ocean region.

86. ▶ 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 (IFEP) 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.

87. ▶ 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.

88. ▶ 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.


89. ▶ 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.

90. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -

-  Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar 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.

91. ▶ 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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