



Current Affairs - May to October 2018

Month Type



- ▶ **85** 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).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Controversial Candidate Brett Kavanaugh Sworn In as a US Supreme Court Judge After Senate Confirmation.
- ▶ 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 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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ India's Priyanka Das from Assam has been appointed as ambassador for 'promote science' initiative in France to encourage girls to pursue scientific careers.
- ▶ Indian Australian Sashi Cheliah won Masterchef Australia Title, fetching prize money of \$250000.
- ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ Indian poet Abhay K became first Indian poet invited to record his poems at Library of Congress in Washington D.C.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ Monti Rajkhowa became first Assamese to scale Mount Kanchenjunga, 3rd highest mountain in world (8586 Metres).
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ Nepali woman Nima Jangmu Sherpa created world record by scaling 3 highest mountains in a single climbing season within 25 days - Kangchenjunga (8586 metres), Nima summited Lhotse (8516 metres) and Everest (8848 metres).
27. ▶ 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 Muktijuddho Sanmanona (Bangladesh Liberation War honour) in 2015.
 - ▶ His poetry collection is released in his book Meri Ekyavan Kavitatein (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 Kavitatein (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
- ✍ Vichaar-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.

28. ▶ 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

29. ▶ 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.

30. ▶ 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

31. ▶ 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.

32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ 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.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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.

48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ Visits From India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited 3 central Asian nations - Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan AND Uzbekistan.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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*.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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.

54. ▶ 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.

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

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

56. ▶ 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.

57. ▶ 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 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.

58. ▶ 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 visited 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.

59. ▶ 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.

60. ▶ 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 Jaspantsinh 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.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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.

63. ▶ 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).

64. ▶ 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.

65. ▶ 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.

66. ▶ 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.

67. ▶ 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.

68. ▶ 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.

69. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✍ Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President-elect of 73rd United Nations General Assembly visited India.

70. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✍ Itsunori Onodera, Defence Minister of Japan Visited India. He attended India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue.

71. ▶ 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.

72. ▶ 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 Narenra 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.
- 73. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)
 - Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.
- 74. ▶ 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.
- 75. ▶ 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 Visir, 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.
- 76. ▶ 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.
- 77. ▶ Visits to India (June 21 - 30, 2018)
 - Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development Desmond Lee visited India. During hs visit, Andhra Pradesh Government signed MoU with Singapore to accelerate construction work of its new capital, Amratvati.
 - 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 i Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - Suhrob Kholmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan visited India.
 - Chakra Pani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visted 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.
- 78. ▶ 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 Kutbiddinovich Alimov Visited India.

79. ▶ 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.

80. ▶ 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).

81. ▶ 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 deterrent 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.

82. ▶ 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.

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

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

84. ▶ 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 New Delhi, organized by Ministry of Tourism.

85. ▶ 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 Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Visited India.

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