



### Current Affairs - December 2017 to February 2018

Month  Type



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

(Showing **32** Important Ones)

#### Persons

- ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
- ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.
- ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
- ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
- ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ▶ Mihai Tudose resigned as Prime Minister of Romania (Southeastern Europe).
- ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
- ▶ Obituaries (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.

9. ▶ Obituaries -

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

10. ▶ Obituaries in Jan 2018 -

- ✚ Radha Vishwanathan - Carnatic vocalist (daughter of legendary classical singer M S Subbulakshmi).
- ✚ Anwar Jalalpuri - Noted Urdu poet.
- ✚ Ambalavaner Sivanandan - Noted Sri Lanka novelist.
- ✚ John Young - Noted American astronaut, who walked on Moon and was only agency astronaut to go into space as part of Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs.
- ✚ Shrivallabh Vyas - Bollywood Actor.
- ✚ Jerry Van Dyke - Noted American comedian and actor.
- ✚ Peter Sutherland - Former Irish World Trade Organization (WTO) director general.
- ✚ Shashikant Bhagwat - Noted sports journalist.
- ✚ Saksham Yadav - Former Powerlifting world champion.
- ✚ Baldev Raj - Noted Nuclear Physicist and Director of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).
- ✚ Sukhchain Singh Cheema - wrestler and Asian Games bronze medalist.
- ✚ Doodhnath Singh - Noted Hindi writer.
- ✚ Charu Rohatgi - Noted TV Actress.
- ✚ Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta - Sarod maestro.
- ✚ Raghunath Jha - Ex-Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- ✚ Gnani Sankaran - Noted Tamil writer and journalist.
- ✚ NK Trikha - Noted Journalist.
- ✚ W.B. Rao - Noted Hindi film cinematographer.

- 📌 Jo Jo White - Noted USA Basketballer (Basketball Hall of Famer).
- 📌 Kashinath - Noted Kannada film actor.
- 📌 Leslie Harding Pde - Noted Khasi author (Meghalaya).
- 📌 Chandi Lahiri - Noted Cartoonist.
- 📌 Hugh Masekela - Noted Composer and singer. Known as *father of South African jazz*.
- 📌 Ursula K. Le Guin - Noted American Writer.
- 📌 Sulaiman 'Dik' Abed - Former South African Cricketer.
- 📌 Honsen Lyngdoh - Meghalaya's Noted philanthropist.
- 📌 Jimmy Armfield - Noted England footballer.
- 📌 Supriya Devi - Noted Bengali actress.
- 📌 Chandrashekhar - Noted Kannada actor
- 📌 Gurcharan Singh Kalkat - Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's Green Revolution.
- 📌 Ingvar Kamprad - Noted Swedish Industrialist and World's 5th Richest Person with net worth of \$58.7 billion. He was founder of Furniture Giant IKEA.
- 📌 Dinesh Nandan Sahay - Chhattisgarh's first Governor.
- 📌 Daya Nath Singh - Noted journalist.

11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.
  - 📌 Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in United States.
13. ▶ Sikh American Gurbir Grewal became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for post of Attorney General of New Jersey, nominated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.
14. ▶ 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).
15. ▶ Tracey Crouch is appointed as UK's first-ever minister for loneliness, charged to tackle loneliness and combat social isolation. This role has been created in memory of Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered in 2016.
16. ▶ 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\$ US\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees.

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

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.

- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).

- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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

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

#### 19. ▶ 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.

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

- Satya Pal Singh, Minister 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?*.

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

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

- Indonesia - Co-chaired 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.

- Singapore - Inaugurated Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries.

- Union Minister (*Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Nitin Gadkari visited Singapore to inaugurate ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

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

- Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju Visited UK. On this occasion, India and UK signed 2 MoUs dealing with return of Indians residing in Britain as illegal migrants and sharing of criminal records and intelligence.

- ✈ Minister for Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited Sri Lanka. During His Visit, India and Sri Lanka signed agreements for
  - ✈ Collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector
  - ✈ Connecting National Knowledge network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics
  - ✈ Setting up of e-office system.
- 23. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 21 - 31, 2018) -
  - ✈ India's Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar Visited Victoria (Seychelles). During this visit, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement that will allow India to build military infrastructure on Seychelles' Assumption Island. Note that Vijay Gokhale is now new Foreign Secretary of India.
- 24. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)
  - ✈ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
  - ✈ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
  - ✈ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.
- 25. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
  - ✈ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
  - ✈ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
  - ✈ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
  - ✈ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
    - ✈ Health Care.
    - ✈ Water Resources.
    - ✈ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
    - ✈ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
  - ✈ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
    - ✈ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
  - ✈ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)
- 26. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
  - ✈ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
  - ✈ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.
- 27. ▶ 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.
- 28. ▶ 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.
- 29. ▶ 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.

30. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 01 - 10, 2018)

- ✎ King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho (Southern African Nation) visited India.
- ✎ H Wiranto (Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs) visited India, To attend first bilateral security dialogue between India and Indonesia.

31. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 11 - 20, 2018)

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

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

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


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

- ✎ During this visit by Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Laos Government for providing SkyRev360, a e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system developed in collaboration with International Air Transport Association (IATA).

 During this Visit by Cambodian President Hun Sen, India and Cambodia signed MOUs in several Trades -

 Cultural Exchange Programme with Cambodia for Period 2018-2022.

 Criminal Matters and prevention of Human Trafficking.

 Credit Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and Cambodia for Line of Credit to finance *Stung Sva Hab Water Resource Development Project* for US\$ 36.92 million.

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