



Current Affairs - May to July 2018

Month Type



- ▶ **48 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - Persons on Visit/In News**

(Showing **36** Important Ones)

Persons

- ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
- ▶ Actress Sonakshi Sinha joins UNESCO to promote safe & secure online environment for children and help empower our future digital citizens.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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

10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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

12. ▶ 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.

13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.

20. ▶ 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.

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

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

22. ▶ 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.

23. 🇮🇳 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.

24. ▶ 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.

25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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 Jashvantsinh Sumanbhai 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, India's *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.

27. ▶ 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.

28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ Visits to India (July 11 - 20, 2018)
- ✍ Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, Navy Chief of Nigeria Visited India.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ Visits to India (June 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff Rajendra Chhetri visited India.
 - ✍ Singapore trade and industry minister Mr. R Iswaran Visited India. During this Visit, Andhra Pradesh Govt. announced set up of startup area with joint collaboration with Singapore, with signing of a Concession and Development agreement (CADA).
 - ✍ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will partner with Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) at National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) for implementation of skill development initiatives of India.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ Visits to India (June 21 - 30, 2018)
- ✍ Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development Desmond Lee visited India. During his visit, Andhra Pradesh Government signed MoU with Singapore to accelerate construction work of its new capital, Amravati.
 - ✍ United States Permanent Representative to United Nations, Nikki Haley visited India. Haley, daughter of Sikh immigrants from Punjab, is the first Indian-American to serve in a Cabinet-level position in any US presidential administration.
 - ✍ UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India. He announced to set up a consulate of United Arab Emirates in Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - ✍ Suhrob Kholmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan visited India.
 - ✍ Chakra Pani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visited India. He participated in India-Nepal "New Partnership in Agriculture" meet in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Danny Faure, President of Seychelles Visited India -
 - ✍ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended \$10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles, as first tranche of the \$50 million sanctioned by Exim Bank to Seychelles.
 - ✍ 6 MoUs signed between India and Seychelles -
 - ✍ Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of small development projects through local bodies, educational and vocational institutions.
 - ✍ Twinning Agreement on Establishment of and Cooperation between Panaji (Goa) and Victoria City of Seychelles
 - ✍ Cyber Security.
 - ✍ Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Seychelles for 2018-2022.
 - ✍ Technical Agreement on Sharing White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and National Information Sharing and Coordination Center of Seychelles.

 MoU between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles.

 Seychelles gifted pair of Giant Aldabra tortoise to India as a goodwill gesture, both aged about 20 years. Aldabra Giant Tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) is endemic to Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles, and is one of largest species of tortoises on planet.

 India gifted a second Dornier aircraft to the Seychelles to help it enhance maritime reconnaissance and maintain security in that part of the Indian Ocean region.

34. ▶ Visits to India (May 1 - 10, 2018) -


 Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko Visited India. He attended 9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Indo-Japan Startup Hub was also inaugurated in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB).

 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dacic Visited India.

 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov Visited India.

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


 Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsler 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.

36. ▶ Visits to India (May 21 - 31, 2018)

 Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Visited India. She jointly (with Indian PM Narendra Modi) inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan (West Bengal).

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