



### Current Affairs - March 2018 to May 2018

Month  Type



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

#### Persons

- ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
- ▶ 25-year old Prakriti has been inducted as first direct-entry combat officer in Indo-Tibetan Border Police. ITBP is last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after government allowed it in 2016.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointed Taniya Sanyal as country's first woman firefighter.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh government appointed shuttler Kidambi Srikanth as a Deputy Collector in Group-1 service, After he won title at Indonesian Championship in June 2017.
- ▶ Australian Steve Plain became fastest climber to scale highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest. He began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled in 126 days.
  - ▶ Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai become youngest person to scale six peaks over 8000 metres when he summited Kangchenjunga (Sikkim), third highest mountain in world. He intends to become youngest person in world to scale all 14 above 8000 metre-peaks. His next is Shishapangma (8013 metres) in Nyalam County, Tibet.
  - ▶ Also, Sangeeta Bahl became oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest, at 53 years of age.
- ▶ British actress Millie Bobby Brown became youngest person in list of world's 100 most influential people by TIME. 4 Indians featured on this list - Virat Kohli, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Actor Deepika Padukone and Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal.
- ▶ Former Indian pacer Venkatesh Prasad resigned as chairman of junior national selection committee.
- ▶ India Post issued a special stamp to pay tribute to noted British theoretical physicist and Stephen Hawking, who passed away recently. 'A Brief History of Time', 'The Universe in a Nutshell', 'On the Shoulders of Giants' are some of the popular books written by Stephen Hawking.
- ▶ Indian Express List 2018 of Top 100 Influential Indians -
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi retained top spot. BJP President Amit Shah is 2nd, with UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi at No. 5 as most powerful woman on list.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Karan Johar became first Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at Madame Tussauds Museum London (UK).
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Obituaries (April 2018) -
  - ▶ Efraim Rios Montt - Noted military dictator of Guatemala. He was accused of a mass genocide.
  - ▶ Munin Barua - Noted Assamese film-maker.
  - ▶ Ray Wilkins - Noted England Footballer.
  - ▶ S. Nihal Singh - Noted journalist.
  - ▶ Ram Kumar - Noted painter. Hwa was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2010.

- ✍ TVR Shenoy - Noted journalist and columnist passed. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003.
- ✍ Rajinder Sachar - Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice.
- ✍ Bhimsain Khurana - Noted animation expert
- ✍ Nabi Tajima - The world's oldest person (117 year old) from Japan. Another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, is now world's oldest person (117 Years).
- ✍ James Ajongo - South Sudan military chief who died during a visit to Egypt.
- ✍ Avicii - Noted Swedish dance music star.

15. ▶ Obituaries (March 2018) -

- ✍ Davide Astori - Noted Italian international footballer.
- ✍ Litterateur Prafulla Das -Noted Odia Litterateur.
- ✍ Pyare Lal Wadali - Noted Sufi singer.
- ✍ Shammi -Noted Bollywood actress.
- ✍ Narendra Jha - Bollywood Actor.
- ✍ John Sulston - Noted British genome scientist.
- ✍ Stephen Hawking - Noted British theoretical physicist and cosmologist. He was well known for his work on black holes and relativity.
- ✍ Ken Dodd - Noted British comedian.
- ✍ Kedarnath Singh - Eminent Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee.
- ✍ M Sukumaran - Noted Malayalam writer.
- ✍ Sunil Sharma - Noted journalist.
- ✍ Les Payne - Noted American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner.
- ✍ C.V. Rajendran - Noted Tamil film director.
- ✍ Ghulam Muhammad Mustafa - Noted Journalist.
- ✍ V. Sriharsha - Noted Journalist.
- ✍ Seo Minwoo - Noted South Korean pop singer.
- ✍ R K Dorendra Singh - former Manipur Chief Minister.

16. ▶ 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

17. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.
18. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (Mar 2018) -
- ✍ Ameenah Gurib-Fakim - President of Mauritius (Island Nation in Indian Ocean).
  - ✍ Robert Fico - Prime Minister of Slovakia (Central Europe).
  - ✍ Miro Cerar - Prime Minister of Slovenia (Central Europe).
  - ✍ Mukund Rajan - Tata Son's Chief Ethics Officer.
  - ✍ Tommy Haas - Noted German Tennis Player.
  - ✍ Kevin Pietersen - English cricketer, retired from all Formats of Game.
  - ✍ Htin Kyaw - Myanmar's President
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ Persons Retired / Resigned (April 2018) -
- ✍ Morne Morkel - South African cricketer.
  - ✍ Julio Cesar - Brazilia Footballer.
  - ✍ Aditya Ghosh - Airline IndiGo CEO. Rahul Bhatia has been named Interim CEO.
21. ▶ Pune Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross Bangla Channel (Water stretch from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh). He accomplished this by completing swim of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes.
22. ▶ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling (from Sikkim Democratic Front) became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000. Chamling became Chief Minister in December 1994 and serves till Date.
23. ▶ Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg became first director whose films have earned over \$10 billion Globally.
24. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Russia to attend *VII Moscow Conference on International Security*.
  - ✍ External Affairs Minister Susma swaraj Visited japan for 9th India-Japan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue.
  - ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Azerbaijan to participate in Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku. On this occasion, India and Azerbaijan signed 2 MOUs for visa waiver for diplomatic, official and service passports holders and cooperation between diplomatic training institutes.
  - ✍ Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Visited South Korea. India and SK signed mutual recognition of certificate of competency of seafarers to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships.
  - ✍ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited 3 African Nations - Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. It is first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland.
    - ✍ Equatorial Guinea -
      - ✍ President Kovind was conferred with *Condecoracion*, highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by government of Equatorial Guinea. He was bestowed with *medal of the Gran Colar de la Independencia* by Equatorial Guinea government.
      - ✍ 3 MOUs signed - AYUSH and traditional medicine, medicinal plants, An action plan for Information and Communication Technology.
    - ✍ Swaziland -
      - ✍ President Kovind inaugurated Information Technology Centre located in Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).
      - ✍ India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver.
      - ✍ President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, highest civilian honour of Swaziland.
      - ✍ President Kovind announced to donate \$1 million to support Swaziland's national disaster mmanagement agency
      - ✍ India will establish a Centre of Agricultural Excellence in Swaziland.
      - ✍ India donated US \$1 million to support Swaziland's National Disaster Management Agency as well as food grains.
    - ✍ Zambia
      - ✍ India and Zambia signed four agreements - double taxation avoidance; on mutual visa waivers for officials and diplomats, judicial cooperation and on Entrepreneurship Development Institute that India will build in Zambia.

- India will provide USD 100000 towards construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Lusaka (capital of Zambia).

- India gifted medicines and medical equipment worth USD 3 million to Zambia.

25. ▶ Visits From India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -

- Minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar Visited Southeast Asian nation Timor Leste. MoU was signed in field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to people of Timor Leste.

- P.P. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law & Justice Visited USA an Carribean Nations St. Vincent & Grenadines, Barbados.

- Subhash Chandra Garg , Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Visited Washington D.C. (USA) for BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting. It was held in sidelines of IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Urjit R. Patel, RBI Governor Visited IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C on India's Behalf.

- During BRICS Finance Ministers Meet, India pressed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an independent credit rating agency.

- PM Narendra Modi Visited Sweden, United Kingdom and Germany -

- UK Visit -

- PM attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.

- India and 3 other countries (Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malta) participated creating in USD 5 million *Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility* which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve sustainable development goals. Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of Baroda, are facility managers for this fund. 31 Commonwealth nations classified as small states can avail this facility. Before it is available to all such nations, it will be rolled out on pilot basis in Bahamas, Botswana, Brunei, Dominica, Fiji, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles.

- UK formally joined International Solar Alliance, founded by India and France. It was announced at an event called *Financing the Green Revolution*.

- 10 MOUs Signed -

- UK-India Cyber Relationship framework aimed at having a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace

- MoU to enable United Kingdom to support India in sustainable management of water resources in Ganga river basin.

- MoU on agreement on Skill Development, vocational education and training.

- Agreement for regulation of safe nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes.

- MoU on skill development, vocational education and training to promote collaboration and capacity-building.

- MoU on cooperation in the animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors.

- MoU on exchange of information for combating international criminality and tackling serious organised crime.

- addendum covering research in humanities and social sciences has been added to 2004 Newton-Bhabha MoU.

- MoU to enable development of evidence-based guidelines for integrating Ayurvedic principles and practices with modern medicine.

- MoU to strengthen institutional cooperation in sustainable urban development and enhance cooperation in Smart Cities Mission.

- Additionally, India's NASSCOM and TechUK launched new UK-India Tech Alliance, aimed at increasing collaboration on skills and new technologies, assisting policy development and encouraging innovation and lay groundwork for roadmap which will be jointly presented in June 2018.

- Sweden Visit -

- India and Sweden hosted India-Nordic Summit titled *India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity*.

- Nordic Nations are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, including Greenland and Faroe Islands.

- Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and North Atlantic.

- An India-Sweden Joint Action Plan was decided with target areas -

- Innovation.

- Trade and investment.

- Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport.

- Smart, sustainable and renewable energy.

- ✎ Women's skills development and empowerment - Encourage women empowerment by skilling employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women through projects like "Kraftsamla", undertaken by Swedish and Indian actors in Pune, Maharashtra.

- ✎ Defence

- ✎ Space and science

- ✎ Health and Life Sciences

- ✎ MOUs -

- ✎ With Sweden

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

- ✎ With Denmark -

- ✎ In field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development.

- ✎ In fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

- ✎ On Food Safety Cooperation between

- ✎ Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education between.

- ✎ With Iceland -

- ✎ Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and University of Iceland.

- ✎ Agreements between India and Sweden Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future between Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

- ✎ Germany -

- ✎ The Visit to Germany was a brief stop over, to discuss issues of common interest and enhance co-operation.

26. ▶ Visits from India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018) -

- ✎ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Mongolia. She co-chaired 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Consultative Committee meeting.

- ✎ Indian Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia Visited Nepal. During this Visit, India and Nepal agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018, during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.

- ✎ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited China -

- ✎ India and China's first Informal Summit was held in Wuhan, to discuss measures for strengthening bilateral ties.

- ✎ PM Modi gifted to Xi Jinping (Chinese Premier), specially made prints of paintings by legendary Chinese artist Xu Beihong.

- ✎ India and China agreed to undertake joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.

- ✎ PM Modi laid emphasis on importance of people-to-people (P2P) contact through STRENGTH. S-Spirituality; T-Tradition, Trade and Technology; R-Relationship; E-Entertainment (Art, Movies, etc.); N-Nature conservation; G-Games; T-Tourism and H-Health and Healing.

27. ▶ Visits from India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ India won *Best Exhibitor Award* at ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet in Germany. India was represented by Minister of State (I) for Tourism K. J. Alphons.

28. ▶ 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.

29. ▶ Visits from India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ Shanghai Cooperation Organization's First Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan (China). India's Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons represented India at the conference.

- ✎ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar.

- ✎ Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya (China).

- ✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Nepal -
  - ✍ Nepal announced to host 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC is sub-regional group of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. Nations are - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.
  - ✍ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India). Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
  - ✍ PM Modi laid foundation stone of 900-megawatt Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tumlingtar area in eastern Nepal. It is expected to bring in USD 1.5 billion foreign direct investment into Nepal. Nepal granted licence to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company, to generate power from Arun-III Hydropower Project. Project will also provide 21.9 (197 megawatts) of generated energy free of cost to Nepal.
  - ✍ India and Nepal also agreed to run a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
- ✍ Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan Visited UAE. During this,
  - ✍ Mr. Pradhan flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern (India), as part of an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
- ✍ Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Sri Lanka.
- ✍ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited South American Nations Guatemala, Peru and Panama, along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Jsvantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.
  - ✍ Guatemala -
    - ✍ MoUs signed in fields of wildlife protection, human resource training, education and exchanges between training institutes.
    - ✍ India and Guatemala agreed to support each other's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council. Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while India will do so for Guatemala for 2031-32.
    - ✍ Agreement signed for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.
    - ✍ Indian agreed to Guatemala's request for supplying solar panels to its airports. An MoU has been signed for training training Guatemalan English Teachers in India.
  - ✍ Panama -
    - ✍ India will set up two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US \$10 million and US \$15 million each.
    - ✍ Signed agreements for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. An agreement on strengthening cooperation in agriculture was also signed.
    - ✍ Panama will support India's bid for -
      - ✍ Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2019-2021, for which elections will be held in October 2018.
      - ✍ Council of International Telecom Union (ITU), elections for which will be held in October – November 2018.
  - ✍ Peru -
    - ✍ Attended an event to mark 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru.
    - ✍ India and Peru signed agreement in field of Renewable Energy.
- ✍ Raksha Rajya Mantri Subhash Bhamre visited Nauru (Oceania Nation).
- ✍ Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Durban (South Africa) to attend 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting.
  - ✍ During this meet, Indias *Green Good Deeds* societal movement to protect environment and promote good living, was included in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.
  - ✍ Harsh Vardhan Also attended 26th Environment Ministers Meet Of BASIC (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) Nations, held in Durban.
- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited North Korea, as first high-level visit to North Korea from India in 20 years.
- ✍ Health Minister J P Nadda visited Switzerland to attend 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, under theme *Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage*.
  - ✍ 71st World Health Assembly adopted resolution on Digital Health, initiated by India and co-sponsored by 20 countries. It paves way for WHO to establish global strategy on digital health, identify priority areas and engage nations to optimise their

health systems in sync with global digital health agenda.

- ✍ Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Israel. He attended a conference on *Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability*.
- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs, M.J. Akbar visited European Nations Austria and Slovak Republic. He met with President of STRATEGY (Society for Political & Strategic Studies), a leading think tank of Austria.

30. ▶ 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.

31. ▶ Visits from india (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)

- ✍ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Mauritius and Madagascar.
  - ✍ Mauritius (Indian Ocean) -
    - ✍ India announced new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defence procurement by Mauritius. It offered a Multi-Purpose Offshore Patrol Vessel (MPOPV) to Mauritius to augment its security capacity.
    - ✍ Other Agreements Include -
      - ✍ Cooperation between Nalanda University in Bihar and Mauritius and establishment of an Ayurveda Chair at University of Mauritius
      - ✍ MoU between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in India and Public Service Commission of Mauritius.
      - ✍ President Kovind attended 50th anniversary celebrations of independence of Mauritius.
      - ✍ President Kovind inaugurated World Hindi Secretariat building in Port Louis (Mauritius).
  - ✍ Madagascar (East Africa) -
    - ✍ This is the first ever visit by a President or Prime Minister of India to Madagascar.
    - ✍ 2 bilateral agreements were signed, on defence cooperation and aviation cooperation.
    - ✍ President Kovind was conferred Grand Cross of the Second Class by President of Madagascar, as highest honour Madagascar bestows on a non-citizen.
- ✍ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited USA.

32. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ▶ Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli Visited India -
    - ▶ India and Nepal decided to develop inland waterways for cargo movement within Protocol to Treaty of Transit, recognizing untapped potential of inland waterways to contribute towards overall economic development of the region.
    - ▶ India agreed to build strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people (P2P) contact and bulk movement of goods.
    - ▶ India agreed to promote and co-operate in Agricultural development in Nepal.
  - ▶ Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy Visited India.
- 33. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 11 - 20, 2018) -
  - ▶ Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Morocco Visited India. On this occasion, India and Morocco signed MoU in field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.
- 34. ▶ Visits to India (Apr 21 - 30, 2018)
  - ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach Visited India, presented a memento to Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.
- 35. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 1 - 10, 2018) -
  - ▶ President of Vietnam Tran Dai Quang Visited India. 3 MOUs were signed on this occasion -
    - ▶ Economic and Trade Cooperation, Agriculture and Nuclear Energy.
  - ▶ King of Jordan *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* visited India. 12 MOUs were signed during this visit, Including -
    - ▶ Defence, Manpower, Mass Communication, Journalism, Health and Medicine, Cultural Exchange Programme, Visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders, Customs.
    - ▶ Twining Agreement between Agra and Petra (Jordan)
    - ▶ MoU for setting up of a Hindi Chair at University of Jordan.
    - ▶ Long term supply of Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK
    - ▶ Setting up of the next generation Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jordan
    - ▶ He also attended conference titled *Islamic Heritage: Promoting Understanding and Moderation*, in New Delhi.
  - ▶ French President Emmanuel Macron Visited India -
    - ▶ 14 Agreements were signed on this occasion -
      - ▶ Co-operation MOUs include - Solar Energy, Hydrography and Maritime Cartography, Nuclear Power, Space Exploration, Urban Development, Environment, Railways, Migration and Mobility, Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications.
      - ▶ Signed strategic pact providing for use of each other's military facilities including opening naval bases to warships. It will facilitate reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services between armed forces of India and France during authorised port visits, joint exercises.
      - ▶ Prevention of Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and Related Offences
      - ▶ Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum.
      - ▶ France will Invest 100 Million Euros in Smart City Project Under smart city mission.
    - ▶ Indian and French companies exchanged 19 contracts and agreements worth over 13 billion euros in several sectors, during Indo-French Economic Partnership (IFEP) ceremony in New Delhi.
    - ▶ First ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit held in New Delhi.
    - ▶ Indian PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated 101-megawatt solar power plant at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- 36. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 11 - 20, 2018)
  - ▶ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO Visited India. During this, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for co-operation in Health Sector.
- 37. ▶ Visits to India (Mar 21 - 31, 2018)
  - ▶ German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited India.
  - ▶ Constantino Chiwenga, Vice President Zimbabwe Visited India.
  - ▶ Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt Visited India for 7th Joint Commission Meet.
  - ▶ China's Trade Minister Zhong Shan Visited India. China agreed to renegotiate bilateral trade and investment agreement and jointly prepared a road map to reduce massive trade imbalance in favour of China.
- 38. ▶ 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.

39. ▶ 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.

40. ▶ 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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