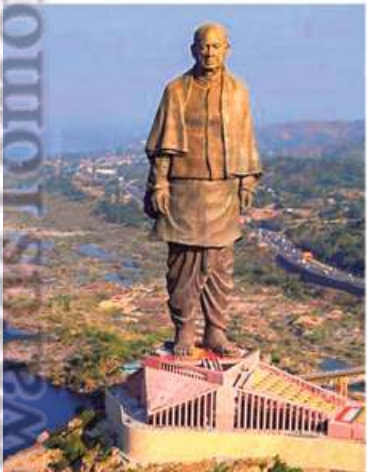


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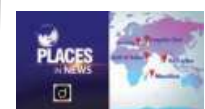
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NATIONAL

JANUARY

Jan. 1: A youth is killed and many injured in clashes after violence breaks out during the bicentenary celebrations of the 1818 Bhima-Koregaon battle at Koregaon in Pune, Maharashtra.

Tamil actor Rajinikanth launches a website and an app to enrol members for his party.

Jan. 3: Normal life is hit in several parts of Maharashtra following a bandh.

Jan. 4: A Delhi court declares businessman Vijay Mallya a proclaimed offender in a FERA violation case of 1995.

Transport corporation staff go on a flash strike across Tamil Nadu.

Jan. 6: RJD chief Lalu Prasad is awarded a three-and-a-half year jail term in a fodder scam case by the special CBI Court in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Jan. 7: Sahitya Akademi awardee Indira Parthasarathy is chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural The Hindu Lit for Life-Tamil festival in Chennai. Writer Imayam bags the Jayakanthan prize for contemporary literature.

Saudi Arabia gives nod to India's plan to ferry devotees to Jeddah for Haj via the sea route.

Jan. 9: The Supreme Court makes it optional for cinema halls to play the national anthem before every show.

Jan. 10: The Centre allows overseas airlines to own up to 49% of Air India under the approval route and permits 100% FDI in single brand retail under the automatic route.

Jan. 11: The transport strike in Tamil Nadu comes to an end.

The Supreme Court appoints former Delhi High Court judge Justice S.N. Dhingra to head its SIT on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Jan. 12: Four senior judges of the Supreme Court publicly accuse the CJI Dipak Misra of selectively assigning cases to judges of his choice, at a press conference in New Delhi.

ISRO workhorse PSLV-C40 puts in space the Cartosat 2 series satellite and 30 others from seven countries after lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Jan. 15: Deepak Unnikrishnan is presented *The Hindu* Prize, 2017 for his novel *Temporary People* by Brit-



Tear gas being fired to disperse a mob at Aurangabad, Maharashtra, that was protesting against the killing of a youth at Bhima-Koregaon near Pune.

ish novelist Sebastian Faulks. Tamil writer and playwright Indira Parthasarathy receives The Hindu Tamil Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jan. 16: The Centre announces the withdrawal of Haj subsidy.

Jan. 17: Sensex closes above the 35,000-mark for the first time ever spurred by surge in banking stocks.

Jan. 21: The Union Law Ministry appoints Om Prakash Rawat as Chief Election Commissioner. Former Finance Secretary, Ashok Lavasa, is named Election Commissioner.

Jan. 23: A candlelight march by Karni Sena activists in protest against *Padmaavat* release turns violent in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Three dozen vehicles are torched and theatres, multiplexes and two malls vandalised in Memnagar and on SG Highway.

Jan. 24: A special CBI Court in Ranchi awards a five-year jail term to RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav in the third fodder scam case.

The Multiplex Association of India decides not to screen *Padmaavat*.

Jan. 25: Music composer Ilaiyaraaja, Indian classical musician Ghulam Mustafa Khan and P. Parameswaran, a senior RSS ideologue from Kerala are chosen for Padma Vibhushan award.

Former Russian Ambassador Alexander Kadakin (posthumous), cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, actor Manoj Joshi, billiards champion Pankaj Advani, U.S. academic Ved Prakash Nanda, historian R. Nagaswamy, painter Laxman Pai, among Padma Bhushan awardees.

Tennis player Somdev Devvarman, badminton player Kidambi Srikanth, yoga teacher V. Nanammal from Coimbatore, 'Plastic Man of India', R. Vasudevan, Romulus

Whitaker, founder of the Madras Snake Park, prominent among 73 Padma Shri awardees.

Jan. 26: The leaders of 10 ASEAN countries are hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as chief guests at the parade marking 25 years of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, as India celebrates its 69th Republic Day in New Delhi.

Jan. 30: Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee is presented the Knight of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian award, at a function in Kolkata.

Jan. 31: Kerala youth Sreejith ends his 782-day stir in front of the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram after the CBI records his statement on the alleged custodial death of his brother Sreejeev on May 21, 2014.

People throng planetariums across the country to witness the rare phenomenon of a super moon, a blue moon and an eclipse.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, presents the 2018-19 Union Budget, the main features being Ayushman Bharat and a dedicated 'Affordable Housing Fund.' Reintroduces the long-term capital gains tax and standard deduction.

The Congress wins the bypolls to the Alwar and Ajmer Lok Sabha seats and Mandargarh Assembly seat in Rajasthan. In West Bengal, Trinamool bags both the Uluberia Lok Sabha seat and Noapara Assembly seat.

Feb. 3: Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal is conferred with the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the valedictory of the Mumbai International Film Festival 2018.

Feb. 7: The Supreme Court cancels 88 iron ore mining leases in Goa.

Feb. 8: The Competition Commission of India imposes a fine of ₹136 crore on Google for unfair trade practices.

Feb. 10: Two soldiers are killed and nine injured after a heavily armed group of fidayeen storms a camp housing families of the Army's 36 Brigade in Jammu's Sunjuwan area. Two militants die in the retaliatory fire.

Feb. 11: The death toll in the militant attack on the Sunjuwan camp goes up to six, with the recovery of the bodies of three soldiers and a civilian. A third militant is shot dead.

Feb. 12: A constable is killed and a policeman injured as paramilitary personnel foil a fidayeen attack on the CRPF's 23 Battalion headquarters in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Feb. 14: The Punjab National Bank reports the unearthing of unauthorised transactions worth ₹11,500 crore in the Kala Ghoda branch in south Mumbai, in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges. The CBI and the ED register cases against Mumbai-based billionaire diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

Feb. 16: A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court reduces Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water from 419 tmcft to 404.25 tmcft. Karnataka will now get 284.75 tmcft, against 270 tmcft earlier. Directs the government to create an implementation mechanism.

Feb. 18: Seventy-nine % voting is registered in Tripura Assembly polls.

Feb. 19: Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi becomes the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo, when she flew an MiG-21 Bison from IAF's Jamnagar base in Gujarat.

Feb. 20: The Government opens up commercial coal mining for Indian and foreign firms in the private sector.

Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash is allegedly assaulted by AAP MLAs at a meeting at the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence.

Feb. 21: Veteran Tamil actor Kamal Haasan launches his party, Makal Needhi Maaiam (People's Justice Centre), at a function in Madurai and unveils the flag.

Feb. 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the Amma two-wheeler scheme meant for working women on the occasion of the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalithaa's 75th birth anniversary celebrations in Chennai.

Feb. 27: Meghalaya and Nagaland register 85.7% and 75% polling respectively in the Assembly elections.

Feb. 28: The CBI arrests Karti Chidambaram at the Chennai Airport on charges that he took a bribe of \$1 million for scuttling a probe against INX Media for violation of FIPB conditions in 2007.

MARCH

March 3: The BJP wins the Tripura Assembly polls. Hung Assemblies in Meghalaya and Nagaland.

March 4: Manik Sarkar resigns

as Tripura Chief Minister.

The PNB scam is pegged at ₹13,578 crore, with the bank filing a supplementary complaint with the CBI against Mehul Choksi, his firms for an additional amount of ₹942.18 crore.

March 5: The Centre gives environment clearance for the Neutrino Observatory at Pottipuram village in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

March 6: Conrad Kongkal Sangma, is sworn in as Meghalaya Chief Minister.

Nagaland Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang resigns.

March 7: A CBI special court in Thiruvananthapuram frees Fr. Jose Poothrukayil in the murder of Sister Abhaya at a convent in Kottayam in 1992. The other two accused, Fr. Thomas Kottoor and Sister Stephy are ordered to face trial.

The Union Cabinet approves easing the cap on spectrum holding by telcos.

Architect Balkrishna V. Doshi, a pioneer of low-cost housing design, becomes the first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize.

March 8: Union Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Minister of State for Science and Technology Y.S. Chowdary of the TDP resign.

The Supreme Court sets aside Kerala High Court order annulling the marriage of Hadiya to Shafin Jahan after her conversion to Islam.

Ottamuri Velicham, directed by Rahul Riji Nair is adjudged the best film at the Kerala State Film Awards for 2017. Lijo Jose Pellissery is named best director (*Ee. Ma. Yau*). Indrans bags best actor award (*Aloorukkam*) and Parvathy best female actor (*Take Off*).

Neiphiu Rio is sworn in as Nagaland Chief Minister.



Nirav Modi



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March 9: A five judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upholds passive euthanasia and the right to give advance medical directives or 'Living Wills' to smoothen the dying process.

Biplab Kumar Deb is sworn in as Tripura Chief Minister.

March 11: At least 20 trekkers are killed after falling down into a 70-foot gorge while trying to escape a forest fire in Kolukkumalai area close to Kurangani hill in the Bodi hills of Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

March 13: Foreign law firms or foreign lawyers cannot practise law in the country either on the litigation or non-litigation side, rules the Supreme Court.

March 14: The Samajwadi Party wrests both the Gorakhpur and Phulpur Lok Sabha seats in U.P. from the BJP. In Bihar, the RJD retains the Araria Lok Sabha seat. The RJD and the BJP retain their seats in the Assembly byelections in Jehanabad and Bhabua respectively.

Former Union Telecom Minister Dayanidhi Maran and his brother and Sun group chairman Kalanithi Maran are discharged by a Special CBI Court in Chennai from the illegal telephone exchange case.

March 15: Rebel AIADMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran floats a political party, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam and unveils flag at a public meeting at Melur, Madurai.

March 16: The Telugu Desam Party moves a no-confidence motion against the government after quitting the NDA.

Social activists and researchers from Maharashtra, Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang, are presented the first-ever BusinessLine Changemakers Awards, in New Delhi.

March 20: The Supreme Court expresses serious concern over the misuse of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and introduces the provision of anticipatory bail and rules against automatic arrest of anyone booked under the law.

March 22: Parliament passes the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 paving the way for doubling the limit of tax-free gratuity to ₹20 lakh.

March 23: The Delhi High Court quashes a notification issued by President Ram Nath Kovind disqualifying 20 AAP MLAs for holding offices



Trekkers being rescued from a forest fire in the hills above Kurangani, a tourist spot in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

of profit as parliamentary secretaries.

March 24: RJD chief Lalu Prasad is sentenced to 14 years in prison in the fourth fodder scam case, by a Special CBI Court in Ranchi.

March 27: "Honour killing guillotines individual liberty, freedom of choice and one's own perception of choice," says the Supreme Court and upholds choice of consenting adults to love and marry as part of their fundamental rights.

March 29: ISRO places GSAT-6A, a communication satellite in orbit after launch on board a GSLV F-08 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

APRIL

April 1: ISRO begins operations to correct glitch, after the GSAT-6A satellite goes silent on Day Two of the launch after the second firing of the on-board engine.

April 2: At least nine people are killed and hundreds injured in violence across several States in North India during a nationwide bandh called by Dalit groups against the alleged dilution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

April 3: The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu observes a State-wide fast demanding the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board.

April 5: Actor Salman Khan is sentenced to five years in jail by a court in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, for poaching two black buck on the night of October 1-2, 1998.

Normal life is partially hit in Tamil Nadu during the DMK-led Opposition-sponsored bandh demanding the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board.

April 6: Five YSRC MPs hand over resignations to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

April 7: A sessions court in Jodhpur, Rajasthan grants bail to actor Salman Khan.

April 8: A minor girl from Unnao, along with her family members, threatens to commit suicide outside U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's residence over the police failure to act on her complaint against the BJP MLA from Bangermau, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, of gang-raping her on June 17, 2017.

April 9: The father of the girl from Unnao dies in judicial custody almost a week after he was thrashed by supporters of the BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar.

A person's right to choose a religion and marriage is an intrinsic part of her meaningful existence, holds the Supreme Court in its 61-page judgment in the Hadiya case.

An eight-year-old girl from the nomadic Bakherwal community, abducted on January 10 and allegedly raped by six men and killed later, was held captive in a temple in Rasana village, Kathua, reveals the chargesheet filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Jammu. The body was recovered on January 17.

April 10: The IPL match between CSK and KKR is held in a tense atmosphere in Chennai, with thousands of people blocking all roads leading to the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in protest against the delay in the formation of the Cauvery Management Board.

April 11: Owing to security concerns, the remaining six IPL matches are moved out of Chennai.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launches the Bhuseva project in Vijayawada.

April 12: The 1,425kg navigation satellite IRNSS-II is launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

April 13: The CBI arrests BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar.

Actor Vinod Khanna is posthumously awarded the Dada Saheb Phalke Award at the 65th National Film Awards function in New Delhi. Sridevi is posthumously honoured with the Best Actress Award for her role in the rape revenge drama *Mom*. Best Actor Award goes to

Riddhi Sen for role in Bengali film *Nagar Kirtan*. Rima Das' Assamese film *Village Rockstars* is adjudged Best Feature Film.

April 16: All the five accused in the May 18, 2007 blast at the Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad, including Naba Kumar Sarkar alias Swami Aseemanand, are acquitted by a special NIA court in Hyderabad.

April 19: The Supreme Court concludes that there is no foul play in judge B.H. Loya's death on December 1, 2014 in Nagpur.

April 20: The Congress and six other Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha move an impeachment motion against CJI Dipak Misra on grounds of "misbehaviour."

The Gujarat High Court acquits former Minister Dr. Maya Kodnani who was sentenced to 28 years in jail by a trial court in connection with the February 28, 2002 Naroda Patiya massacre case. Upholds the conviction of 12 persons, including Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangi.

April 21: The Union Cabinet approves the promulgation of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance providing for death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years.

Senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha quits the party.

April 22: Sitaram Yechury is re-elected CPI(M) general secretary for a second term at the end of the five-day 22nd Party Congress in Hyderabad.

April 23: Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu rejects the impeachment motion against CJI Dipak Misra.

April 25: Self-styled godman Asaram Bapu is convicted of rape and sexual assault of a teenage girl at his ashram in Manai village near Jodhpur, Rajasthan on August 15, 2013 and sentenced to life imprisonment till death by a Special SC/ST Court.

April 27: The Madras High Court dismisses plea seeking disqualification of O. Panneerselvam and 10 other AIADMK MLAs for having voted against a no-confidence motion moved by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on February 18, 2017.

Indu Malhotra takes oath as Supreme Court judge, becoming the first woman to be appointed to the post directly from the Bar.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal stays an order of

the CCI imposing a penalty of ₹136 crore on Google.

MAY

May 1: Maharashtra becomes the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts).

May 2: Gangster Chhota Rajan and eight others are sentenced to life imprisonment in the June 11, 2011 murder of journalist Jyotirmoy Dey in Mumbai by a special court. Journalist Jignesh Vora is acquitted.

May 9: U.S. retail giant Walmart agrees to pay \$16 billion for a 77% stake in Indian e-commerce startup Flipkart.

May 12: A record 72% voting registered in the Karnataka Assembly polls.

May 14: The Centre files the draft Cauvery water management scheme in the Supreme Court.

The CBI files the first chargesheet in the PNB scam before a Special CBI Court and names former CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian, Nirav Modi and 20 others.

At least 20 people are killed and hundreds injured during voting in the West Bengal panchayat polls.

May 17: BJP state president B.S. Yeddyurappa takes oath as the 29th Chief Minister of Karnataka. In a pre-dawn hearing, the Supreme Court refuses to stay the swearing-in.

The ruling Trinamool Congress sweeps the West Bengal panchayat polls.

May 19: B.S. Yeddyurappa resigns as Karnataka Chief Minister without facing the floor test.

May 20: Kerala Health Department confirms Nipah virus infection in the State with the blood samples of two people who had died in Kozhikode district a fortnight ago testing positive. Another of the family



Indu Malhotra

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from Sooppikkada village too had died.

May 21: The Nipah toll goes up to four with the death of Lini, a nurse attached to the Perambra taluk hospital in Kozhikode.

INSV Tarini becomes the first Indian vessel with an all-women crew to successfully circumnavigate the world and is received at the INS Mandovi jetty at Verem in north Goa.

May 22: At least 13 people, including Snowlin, a 17-year-old girl, are killed in police firing after a section of participants in a massive rally to the Collectorate seeking closure of the Sterlite Copper, a Vedanta group firm in Thoothukudi, resorts to violence.

May 23: H.D. Kumaraswamy is sworn in as the 30th Chief Minister of Karnataka, heading a JD(S)-Congress coalition government.

May 24: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board orders closure of the Sterlite Copper unit and cuts power supply to the plant.

Nipah Virus claims one more life in Kerala's Kozhikode district, taking the death toll to 12.

May 28: Sterlite Copper, the Vedanta Group's Copper smelter plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu is sealed.

May 30: The chargesheet is filed in the journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh murder case by the Special Investigation Team and it names Naveen Kumar as the key accused.

May 31: A united Opposition wrests the Kairana and Bhandara-Gondiya Lok Sabha seats from the BJP, which manages to retain Palghar while its ally NDPP bags the lone Nagaland seat. The Opposition parties win 10 Assembly seats across the nation and the BJP only a single seat in Uttarakhand.

JUNE

June 1: All five accused in the July 7, 2013 Bodh Gaya serial bomb blasts case are awarded life sentence by a special NIA court in Patna, Bihar.

June 4: Kalpana Kumari from Sheohar in Bihar emerges all-India topper in the NEET securing 691 marks out of 720.

June 5: The Tamil Nadu government announces decision to ban plastic products except as packing material for milk, curd, oil and medical products from January 1, 2019.

June 6: The Pune police arrests



Anti-Sterlite protesters taking out a march towards the Thoothukudi District Collectorate in Tamil Nadu.

five people – Sudhir Dhawale, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut, Rona Wilson and Surendra Gadling – after raids in Delhi, Mumbai and Nagpur, in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon violence on January 1.

June 8: Two Guwahati-based youth – Nilotpal Das and Abhijeet Nath – are bludgeoned to death on suspicion of being child-lifters, by tribal villagers at Panjuri Kachari-gaon in Karbi Anglong district.

June 10: Pranav Goyal of Panchkula, Haryana, tops the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) for admissions to the IITs by scoring 337 out of 360.

June 14: President Ramnath Kovind rejects the Tamil Nadu government's request to release the seven prisoners convicted of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on May 21, 1991.

Veteran journalist and Editor of *Rising Kashmir* newspaper Shujaat Bukhari is shot dead close to his office at Pratap Park in Srinagar.

The first Division Bench of the Madras High Court delivers a split verdict in a batch of cases filed by 18 AIADMK MLAs challenging their disqualification by the Speaker on September 18, 2017. Cases to be heard afresh before a third judge.

June 18: Survey by the Tamil Nadu Revenue Department officials for the eight-lane Salem-Chennai green corridor begins amid protests.

June 19: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti resigns after the BJP pulls out of the alliance with her Peoples Democratic Party that has ruled the State since March 2015.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ends nine-day sit-in at the Raj Niwas after bureaucrats attend meetings called by Ministers.

June 20: Governor N.N.Vohra

takes charge in Jammu and Kashmir and places the Assembly under suspended animation.

Chief Economic Adviser Aravind Subramanian resigns.

June 21: Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahjan, accepts the resignation of five YSR Congress MPs.

June 22: The Centre notifies the formation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

June 23: Mumbai becomes the first major city to impose a tough plastic-free regime.

June 25: Heavy rain lashes Mumbai bringing life to a standstill. Santacruz records 231mm and Colaba 99mm rainfall. Malad West registers around 300mm.

June 26: The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopts a special resolution urging the Centre to keep the Dam Safety Bill, 2018, in abeyance.

June 27: The Centre decides to scrap the UGC and replace it with a Higher Education Commission of India.

June 29: Sterling Biotech Limited, a pharmaceutical company in the Nilgiris, is served with a closure notice by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for flouting environmental norms.

JULY

July 1: Five persons are beaten to death by a mob which assaults a group of 78 people on suspicion of being child-lifters at the tribal Ranipada hamlet in Sakri tehsil in Maharashtra's Dhule district.

Eleven members of a family are found dead at their home in Sant Nagar area of North Delhi's Burari.

July 2: The Cauvery Water Management Authority, at its first meeting in New Delhi, directs Karnataka to release 34 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu.

July 3: Mumbai receives 131mm rainfall in 24 hours throwing life out of gear.

July 4: Delhi Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal is bound by the "aid and advice" of the Arvind Kejriwal government, says a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announces an annual dope test for all government staff, through every stage of service.

July 10: The Madras High Court confirms the death sentence on

Chennai youth Daswant imposed by a Mahila Court in Chengalpattu on February 19, 2018 for the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl at an apartment in Mugalivakkam on February 5, 2017.

July 11: A Delhi Court sentences former Navy Officer, Captain (retd.) Salam Singh Rathore to seven years in jail in the 2005 Navy war room leak case. Commander (retd.) Jar-nail Singh Kalra is acquitted.

The Telecom Commission approves Net neutrality.

July 17: Seventeen persons are held for sexual assault on an 11-year-old hearing-challenged girl in an apartment in Ayanavaram, Chennai between January 15 and July 5.

July 18: The Enforcement Directorate files a chargesheet against 34 persons accused and also against firms in the ₹3,700 crore AgustaWestland VIP chopper deal.

The Lok Sabha passes the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Lok Sabha passes the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill.

The Union Cabinet gives its nod for the withdrawal of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017.

July 20: The BJP-led NDA government defeats the no-confidence motion moved against it by the Opposition and initiated by the Telugu Desam Party after a 12-hour debate in the Lok Sabha.

July 21: Rakbar Khan, a Muslim youth from Kalgaon village in Haryana's Nuh district, is lynched on suspicion of cow smuggling in a forest area at Lalwandi village in Ramgarh of Rajasthan's Alwar district.

Malayalam writer S. Hareesh withdraws his novel *Meesha* being serialised in the *Mathrubhumi* weekly following threats in social media over a conversation between two characters.

July 22: The western Odisha town of Burla gets 622mm rainfall beating a 36-year record in State.

July 23: The rape of at least 34 girls at a shelter in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, is brought to light in a social audit report prepared by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in May 2018, after inspection of homes across the State in 2017.

The Lok Sabha passes the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill.

July 24: The Lok Sabha passes the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

July 25: The Madras High Court sets aside an order, passed by a Special CBI Court in Chennai on March 14, discharging former Union Minister Dayanidhi Maran, his elder brother Kalanithi Maran, and five others from the BSNL illegal telephone exchange case.

July 26: The West Bengal Assembly passes a resolution to change the name of the State as Bangla in three languages – Bengali, English and Hindi.

The Lok Sabha passes the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018.

July 30: More than 40 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam are left out of the complete draft National Register of Citizens published in Guwahati.

The Lok Sabha passes the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, that provides for death sentence to rapists of girls aged under 12.

AUGUST

Aug. 2: The Lok Sabha passes by a two-thirds majority the Bill extending constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.

Aug. 3: The Madras High Court orders suspension of the Justice R. Regupathi Commission of Inquiry probing the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Assembly-cum-Secretariat complex by the DMK regime between 2006 and 2011.

Aug. 6: The Lok Sabha passes the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.

Aug. 7: M. Karunanidhi, 94, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and DMK president, passes away at



Rising Kashmir Editor Shujaat Bukhari.

Kauvery Hospital in Alwarpet, Chennai where he was being treated for 11 days. The State government announces seven-day mourning. The Centre announces a state funeral.

Aug. 8: Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi is buried on the Marina with full State honours. Both Houses of Parliament are adjourned for the day.

Aug. 9: National Democratic Alliance candidate and Janata Dal (United) MP Harivansh is elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman.

Kerala is battered by torrential rain triggering flash floods and landslides. Twentytwo people are killed, 17 in Idukki and Malappuram districts. Sluice gates of 24 dams are opened.

The Supreme Court finalises the new Constitution for the BCCI. Rejects the 'one state-one vote' recommendation of the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee.

The Hindu Playwright Award 2018 is presented to Annie Zaidi for her play *Untitled-1* at the launch of the 14th edition of The Hindu Theatre Fest in Chennai.

Aug. 10: The Supreme Court admits the CBI plea against the acquittal of dentist couple Rajesh and Nupur Talwar in the 2008 murder of their daughter Aarushi and domestic servant Hemraj, by the Allahabad High Court in October 2017.

Aug. 13: The government dismisses Usha Ananthasubramanian, former MD of Punjab National Bank. Gives sanction for her prosecution.

Aug. 15: Kerala receives 127.8mm rainfall, the highest on a single day this monsoon season Thirty-five dams, barrages opened.

Aug. 16: Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 93, dies at the AIIMS, New Delhi.

Aug. 17: Atal Bihari Vajpayee is accorded a state funeral at Smriti Sthal in New Delhi.

Aug. 18: *The Hindu* announces The Hindu Photojournalism Awards to be presented in five categories.

The L&T board gives nod for ₹9,000-crore buyback proposal.

Aug. 20: Rail and road services are partially restored in Kerala. Toll up to 223.

Aug. 21: The Supreme Court scraps the use of NOTA (none of the above) option for Rajya Sabha polls.

Aug. 24: Kerala Chief Minister



Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.

Pinarayi Vijayan seeks allround support to rebuild state. Puts loss of lives at 372.

Aug. 26: The Crime Branch CID of the Tamil Nadu police cracks the looting of ₹5.75 crore from the Salem-Chennai Express on August 18, 2016 and says it is the handiwork of a Madhya Pradesh gang.

Aug. 27: The nation's first-ever bio jet fuel-powered flight is operated on the Dehradun-Delhi route.

Aug. 28: M.K. Stalin takes charge as DMK president at the party's general council meeting in Chennai.

The Maharashtra police arrests Telugu poet Varavara Rao, activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira, trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj and civil liberties activist Gautam Navlakha for their 'links' to the Communist Party of India-Maoist, after co-ordinated crackdown across six States.

Aug. 29: Nandamuri Harikrishna, son of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao and former Rajya Sabha MP dies in an accident at Anneparthi in Nalgonda district, Telangana.

Aug. 31: Mobile operators Vodafone India and Idea Cellular complete merger and the entity is named Vodafone Idea Ltd.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the India Post Payments Bank in New Delhi.

Sept. 6: The Supreme Court decriminalises homosexuality. Declares Section 377 "irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary."

The Telangana Assembly is dissolved by Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan.

India and the U.S. sign a landmark defence pact, at the end of the inaugural '2+2' Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi.

Sept. 12: The Supreme Court quashes the Kerala Professional Colleges (Regularisation of Admission in Medical Colleges) Ordinance, 2017.

Sept. 14: Former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan is a victim of trumped-up charges of spying by the Kerala police, says the Supreme Court and orders Kerala to pay compensation of ₹50 lakh.

Sept. 20: The first-of-its-kind sex offenders' registry is launched in New Delhi.

Sept. 21: The special investigation team of the Kerala police probing the alleged rape of a nun arrests Jalandhar Bishop Franco Mulakkal in Kochi.

Sept. 22: The first case of Zika virus infection surfaces in Rajasthan.

Sept. 23: Kidari Sarveswara Rao, Araku MLA and Siveri Soma, a former MLA, both of the TDP, are killed by Maoists near Livitiput village in Dumbbriguda mandal in the Visakhapatnam agency area.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Ayushman Bharat, at a function in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Sept. 26: The Supreme Court upholds the constitutional validity of Aadhaar. Not mandatory for opening bank accounts, it rules and declares seeding of Aadhaar with SIM cards as unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court upholds plea for live-streaming of its proceedings.

An ordinance is issued dissolving the MCI and replacing it with a seven-member Board of Directors.

Sept. 27: Adultery not a crime, holds the Supreme Court and strikes down Section 497 of the IPC.

Sept. 28: Women of all age groups can enter and pray at the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, says the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court dismisses a curative petition by Karnataka, challenging the abatement of its appeal against the acquittal of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in a disproportionate assets case.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1: The government takes over the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services group and appoints Uday Kotak, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as non-executive chairman.

Oct. 3: Ranjan Gogoi is sworn in the 46th Chief Justice of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred the Champions of the Earth Award by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at a ceremony in New Delhi.

The Supreme Court upholds the validity of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017.

Oct. 4: Chanda Kochhar quits as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank. Sandeep Bakshi is named her successor.

Oct. 5: India and Russia sign a ₹40,300-crore contract for five S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile systems in New Delhi.

Oct. 11: Sixtyone people are killed as Cyclone Tidi batters Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha's Gajapati and Ganjam districts.

Oct. 15: The Kerala High Court grants bail to Bishop Franco Mulakkal.

Oct. 16: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet adopts a proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.

Oct. 17: Over 200 protesters and 12 police personnel are injured in violence at Nilackal and Pampa as the Sabarimala temple reopens.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar quits the Cabinet.

Oct. 19: At least 59 people are killed and 57 injured as a train mows down a crowd of Dasara revellers that had strayed on to the tracks, at Joda Phatak in Amritsar, Punjab.

Oct. 23: The Supreme Court restricts bursting of crackers during Deepavali and other festivals to two hours. Bans online sale. Green crackers made mandatory for Delhi.

CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana are divested of their responsibilities. Joint Director M. Nageswara Rao is appointed interim Director.

Oct. 24: Malayalam author Benyamin is presented the inaugural JCB Prize for Literature, for his novel *Jasmine Days* at a function in New Delhi.

Oct. 25: Justice M. Sathyanarayanan of the Madras High Court upholds the validity of an order passed by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P. Dhanapal on September 18, 2017, disqualifying 18 AIADMK MLAs owing allegiance to Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam deputy general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran under the anti-defection law.

Oct. 26: Essar Steel goes to ArcelorMittal.

Oct. 27: A special court in Pune remands activists Sudha Bharadwaj, Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves in police custody.

Oct. 30: The Supreme Court modifies its order restricting the time for bursting crackers and allows the southern States to fix own two-hour slots.

Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur among seven indicted by the NIA for their role in the September 29, 2008 blast in Malegaon, Maharashtra that claimed six lives and left 101 injured.

Oct. 31: The Delhi High Court jails for life 16 former Provincial Armed Constabulary jawans for the killing of 38 Muslims on May 22, 1987 in the Hashimpura area in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils a 182-metre-tall 'Statue of Unity' of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on an islet, Sadhu Bet, overlooking the Narmada in Gujarat.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: The Supreme Court rejects a CBI plea to revive charges against the Hinduja brothers in the ₹64-crore Bofors guns payoffs case, 12 years after acquittal by the Delhi High Court.

The NGT stays implementation of the Neutrino project in the Pottipuram area of Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

Nov. 3: Karthik K.P., an Ayurveda doctor from Ernakulam, Kerala, is presented the 7th *The Hindu* and Saregama M.S. Subbulakshmi Award 2018 Voice of the Year at the Music Academy, Chennai.

Nov. 5: India declares its nuclear triad operational.

Nov. 6: Uttar Pradesh Chief Mi-



Relatives of the train mishap victims mourning at the accident site in Joda Phatak, Amritsar.

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nister Yogi Adityanath announces decision to rename Faizabad city as Ayodhya.

Nov. 9: The Madras High Court directs a special court for CBI cases to frame charges afresh against former Telecom Minister Dayanidhi Maran, his brother Kalanithi Maran and others in the illegal BSNL telephone exchange case.

Nov. 12: Over 76.42% polling is recorded in phase I of the Chhattisgarh Assembly polls.

Over 1,000 fireworks units in Sivakasi and other parts of the country announce an indefinite closure.

Nov. 13: The Supreme Court refuses to stay ruling allowing women of all age groups to offer worship at the Sabarimala temple.

Binny Bansal resigns as Flipkart CEO.

The government notifies the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Rules, 2018.

The Centre rejects Karnataka's suggestion to grant minority religion status to Lingayats.

Nov. 14: ISRO successfully launches the 3,423 kg GSAT-29 communication satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Nov. 15: Pune police file a chargesheet against lawyer Surendra Gadling, Nagpur University professor Shoma Sen, activists Sudhir Dhawale, Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson arrested on June 6 for their role in the Bhima-Koregaon clashes.

Nov. 16: At least 52 people are killed as Cyclone Gaja wreaks havoc in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram and Pudukottai districts of Tamil Nadu.

John Allen Chau, an American missionary is killed allegedly by the reclusive Sentinelese tribespeople when he tries to enter the North Sentinel Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Nov. 17: Revolutionary writer Varavara Rao, under house arrest for 79 days at his Ashoknagar residence in Hyderabad, is taken into custody by the Pune police.

Nov. 19: Three AIADMK men, serving life terms for setting ablaze a bus in Dharmapuri on February 2, 2000, resulting in the death of three students of the TNAU, Coimbatore, are granted remission and set free from the Vellore Central Prison.

Nov. 20: Andhra Pradesh Chief



Coconut trees uprooted by Cyclone Gaja at Pattukottai in Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.

Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Bhudhaar', an 11-digit unique code aimed at easy identification of land parcels, at a function at Undavalli, near Amaravati.

Over 71.93% voting in phase II of the Chhattisgarh Assembly polls.

Nov. 21: Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolves the State Assembly.

Nov. 22: The Supreme Court sets aside a Madras High Court direction to the CBSE to grant grace marks for 49 questions to students who took the NEET 2018 in Tamil for faulty translation.

Nov. 26: Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu lays the foundation stone for the Kartarpur corridor between India and Pakistan in Gurdaspur, Punjab.

Nov. 28: Madhya Pradesh registers a record 74.61% turnout in the Assembly polls. Mizoram records 80% polling.

Ukrainian film *Donbass* directed by Sergei Loznitsa wins the Golden Peacock at the 49th International Film Festival Of India in Panaji, Goa.

Nov. 29: ISRO's PSLV C-43 rocket puts into orbit Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS), and 30 small commercial satellites after liftoff from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The Maharashtra Assembly passes a Bill proposing 16% quota for Marathas.

Nov. 30: The Tamil Nadu government challenges the Central Water Commission order on the Mokedatu project in the Supreme Court.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1: Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat demits office.

Dec. 2: Sunil Arora takes over as the new CEC.

Train 18, India's first engine-less

train, breaches the 180 kmph speed threshold during a test run in the Sawai Madhopur section in Rajasthan, becoming the nation's fastest train.

Dec. 3: A Uttar Pradesh police inspector and a youth are killed as a mob attacks an outpost at Chingrati in Syana tehsil, Bulanshahr district, following rumours of alleged cow slaughter at Mahav village.

The board of Hindustan Unilever Ltd. approves the merger of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare India with the firm.

Dec. 4: British national Christian Michel James, wanted in the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter deal bribery case, is brought to Delhi after being extradited by the UAE.

Dec. 5: The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, is put in place by the Supreme Court.

Tamil writer S. Ramakrishnan bags the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2018 for his novel *Sancharam*.

The 5,854 kg communication satellite GSAT-11 is put into orbit after launch from the European Spaceport in Kourou, South America.

Dec. 6: A special session of the Tamil Nadu Assembly passes a resolution against permission to Karnataka to prepare a project report for a dam across the Cauvery at Mokedatu.

Dec. 7: Krishnamurthy Subramanian is appointed Chief Economic Adviser.

Rajasthan registers 74% turnout in the Assembly polls and Telangana 67%.

Dec. 10: RBI Governor Urjit Patel resigns.

Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Upendra Kushwaha quits the Cabinet.

Dec. 11: The Congress wins the Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi retains power in Telangana. The Mizo National Front is back in power in Mizoram after 10 years.

Shaktikanta Das is appointed RBI Governor.

Dec. 12: The Congress wins the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls after a see-saw battle with the BJP.

The Dam Safety Bill, 2018, is introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Dec. 13: The Madras High Court quashes GO on DVAC probe into 'irregularities' in the construction of the new Secretariat in Chennai.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao is sworn in

Telangana Chief Minister for a second term.

Dec. 14: The Supreme Court rejects pleas for probe into the Rafale jet deal.

Eminent novelist Amitav Ghosh is chosen for the 2018 Jnanpith Award.

Dec. 15: The NGT sets aside the Tamil Nadu government's order for the closure of Sterlite's copper smelter in Thoothukudi.

Mizo National Front president Zoramthanga is sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Mizoram.

Dec. 16: UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi unveils a statue of DMK leader M. Karunanidhi at the party headquarters in Chennai.

Dec. 17: The Delhi High Court sentences Congress leader Sajjan Kumar to life term for the murder of five Sikhs during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Kamal Nath takes office as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. Ashok Gehlot takes oath as Rajasthan Chief Minister and Bhupesh Baghel is sworn in as Chhattisgarh Chief Minister.

Dec. 18: Hamid Nehal Ansari, who had been missing in Pakistan since 2012, reunites with his family at the Attari-Wagah border crossing on repatriation after serving a three-year jail term.

In a first for India, all of Kerala's 519 captive elephants get unique DNA-based genetic IDs.

Dec. 19: The Lok Sabha passes a Bill banning commercial surrogacy.

GSAT-7A, a 2,250 kg communications satellite to primarily cater to the IAF's needs, is launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Dec. 20: The Lok Sabha passes the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018.

The government issues an order allowing 10 Central agencies to intercept and monitor information stored in any computer.

FinMin's Alternative Mechanism gives nod for Bank Of Baroda's merger with Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

Dec. 21: A special CBI court in Mumbai acquits all the 22 accused in the November 2005 Sohrabuddin Shaikh-Kausar Bi fake encounter case.

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court orders maintenance of status quo on the Sterlite plant reopening.

The Delhi High Court orders release of former Youth Congress leader Sushil Kumar Sharma, serving a life term for the murder of his live-in partner Naina Sahni in 1995.

Dec. 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 4.9 km Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest rail-cum-road span, across the Brahmaputra in Dibrugarh district, Assam.

Dec. 26: The NIA arrests 10 'members' of an IS-inspired module and foils terror strikes in Delhi.

International golfer Jyoti Randhawa is arrested for 'poaching' in a forest range in Uttar Pradesh.

President Ram Nath Kovind orders separation of the 'common' Hyderabad High Court into the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The government bars online retailers from selling products of firms in which they own a stake, effective February 1, 2019.

Dec. 27: Lok Sabha passes The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2018.

Dec. 28: The Union Cabinet gives nod for changes to the POCSO Act, 2012, making assault on boys punishable by death. Nod for the Gaganyaan manned space mission.

Dec. 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi renames three Andaman islands after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Dec. 31: Former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar surrenders in a Delhi court and is sent to jail.

A special court in Nashik acquits all seven persons, including prime accused Abdul Ladsab Telgi (now dead) in the fake stamp paper scam.

The Lok Sabha passes the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving to people after inaugurating the Bogibeel Bridge across the Brahmaputra river, in Dibrugarh, Assam.

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INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY

Jan. 1: California legalises recreational marijuana.

Jan. 2: Israel's Parliament passes legislation requiring a super-majority to cede control over any part of Jerusalem.

Jan. 3: World stocks hit fresh highs and Asian markets scale new peaks.

Jan. 8: An Italian appeals court in Milan acquits Giuseppe Orsi, former president of Finmeccanica and Bruno Spagnolini, former CEO of the firm's helicopters subsidiary AgustaWestland of bribery charges in the ₹3,600-crore deal to sell 12 choppers to India.

Jan. 9: The body of Zainab Fatima Ameen, a six-year-old child kidnapped six days ago, is found in a garbage heap in Kasur in Pakistan's Punjab province bearing signs of sexual abuse, triggering massive protests.

Jan. 11: Ecuador grants citizenship to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, holed up in the country's London embassy for over five years.

Jan. 12: U.S. President Donald Trump gives the Iran nuclear deal a final reprieve.

Jan. 15: The Communist Party of China names President Xi Jinping as the *lingxiu*, a status bestowed only on iconic leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Jan. 16: Bangladesh and Myanmar sign a deal to repatriate 650,000 Rohingya refugees, in Naypyidaw.

Jan. 20: The U.S. Government shuts down after the impasse over immigration and border security stalls a funding Bill in the Senate, a day earlier.

Jan. 22: Congress votes to reopen the U.S. government as Democrats drop objections to a temporary funding bill.

Jan. 23: Pakistan arrests Imran Ali, a serial killer, and key suspect accused of raping and murdering Zainab Fatima Ameen in Kasur, Punjab.

Jan. 24: An appeals court unanimously upholds the corruption conviction of Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, condemning him to 12 years in prison.

Jan. 27: At least 103 people are killed and 235 wounded after an explosives-packed ambulance is

blown up by Taliban-affiliated Haqqani Network in the Afghanistan capital Kabul.

Jan. 28: American singer-songwriter Bruno Mars, sweeps the 60th Annual Grammy Awards held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, winning six of them. Kendrick Lamar bags five awards, including the 'Best Rap Album' for *Damn*.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: Fidel Angel Castro Diaz-Balart, 68, the eldest son of the late Cuban President, Fidel Castro, and a nuclear physicist commits suicide, in Havana.

Feb. 2: The Maldives Supreme Court nullifies the convictions of exiled former President, Mohamed Nasheed and eight others. Orders reinstatement of 12 parliamentarians expelled for defection.

Feb. 3: The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency launches the world's smallest rocket from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Feb. 5: Maldivian troops arrest the Chief Justice and a judge after storming the Supreme Court premises. Hours later, former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom is arrested.

Samsung Group heir Jay Y. Lee in detention since February 2017 is freed.

Wall Street's Dow Jones and S&P benchmarks slump by 4.6 and 4.1, their biggest drops since August 2011. More than \$1 trillion is wiped from U.S. equities.

Feb. 6: Poland's President Andrzej Duda signs into law a controversial Holocaust Bill.

The order to free nine political prisoners, including former Maldives President, Mohamed Nasheed is annulled by three of the five Supreme Court Justices.

SpaceX successfully test-launches Falcon Heavy, the world's most powerful commercial rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S.

Feb. 8: Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader and former Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia, is jailed for five years for graft by a Special Judge's Court in Dhaka.

Over 170 persons are killed in the past four days, as Syrian regime war planes rain bombs on the rebel-held enclave of Eastern Ghouta, outside Damascus.

Feb. 9: U.S. Congress passes a



A student mourns the loss of her friend at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, U.S.

crucial federal spending Bill.

Scientists from Britain and the U.S. successfully grow human eggs to maturity outside the body, in a laboratory for the first time, and publish the results in the journal *Molecular Human Reproduction*.

Feb. 11: All 65 passengers and six crew members aboard a Russian passenger plane are killed as it crashes in Argunovo village in Ramensky district soon after takeoff from Moscow's Domodedovo airport.

Feb. 14: South African President Jacob Zuma is forced to resign.

At least 17 people are killed and 15 injured in a mass shooting by a former student, Nikolas Cruz, at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland near Miami, U.S.

Feb. 15: Cyril Ramaphosa is elected South African President by ANC legislators.

The U.S. Senate blocks several immigration proposals, leaving in limbo the fate of nearly two million migrants brought to the country illegally as children.

Feb. 16: Special Counsel Robert Mueller announces the indictments of 13 Russians and three firms for alleged interference with the 2016 U.S. presidential polls, handed up by a Washington grand jury.

Feb. 18: All 66 people on board an Iranian passenger plane are killed after it crashes into the Zagros mountains 45 minutes after takeoff from Tehran's Mehrabad airport.

Crime drama *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, bags five British Bafta film awards in London. Guillermo Del Toro gets best director award for *The Shape of Water*.

Feb. 21: Pakistan Supreme Court disqualifies former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from heading Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party.

Feb. 23: U.S. President Donald Trump imposes new sanctions on North Korea.

Feb. 24: At least 29 civilians are killed in air strikes in Eastern Ghouta, an enclave outside Damascus, Syria. Death toll touches 500.

Feb. 26: At least 55 people are killed and 500 wounded after a 7.5 magnitude earthquake strikes Papua New Guinea.

MARCH

March 2: World stocks plunge as U.S. President, Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, trigger fears of a global trade war.

March 4: Guillermo del Toro's fairy tale romance, *The Shape of Water*, wins top honours – best picture, best director statuettes for production design and test original score at the 90th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California. Christopher Nolan's World War II thriller *Dunkirk* picks up three awards.

A former Russian double agent, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter Yulia are found unconscious on a bench outside a shopping centre in Salisbury, U.K. Nerve agent Novichok use suspected.

March 5: Italian electorate delivers hung Parliament.

March 6: The Japanese Navy appoints Ryoko Azuma its first woman commander of a unit that includes Izumo, the country's biggest warship.

Gary Cohen, top economic adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump, resigns.

March 8: The U.S. imposes a 25% import tariff on steel and 10% on aluminium.

March 11: China's National People's Congress votes to remove limits on presidential tenure, enabling Xi Jinping to serve as President indefinitely. 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,' is included in the Constitution.

March 12: At least 49 passengers on board a US-Bangla Airlines flight are killed after it crashes while landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, and skids into a nearby football field.

March 13: U.S. President Donald Trump sacks Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. CIA Director, Mike Pompeo to replace him.

March 14: British Prime Minis-

ter, Theresa May, announces in Parliament decision to suspend all high-level bilateral contacts with Russia over the poisoning of Sergei Skripal.

Angela Merkel is re-elected German Chancellor for a fourth term.

March 15: The U.S. slaps sanctions on 19 Russian individuals and five groups for meddling in the 2016 presidential polls and for malicious cyberattacks.

March 16: Facebook suspends the account of Cambridge Analytica, the data firm that helped U.S. President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, for failing to delete user data.

March 17: China's Parliament unanimously elects Xi Jinping as President for a second consecutive term.

March 18: Vladimir Putin wins a fourth term as Russian President.

March 20: "China's President Xi Jinping takes office for the second term.

March 22: U.S. President Donald Trump directs imposition of 25% tariffs on Chinese products worth \$60 billion.

March 23: U.S. President Donald Trump signs a \$1.3 trillion federal spending Bill, averts shutdown.

March 24: Nearly 8,00,000 people take out rallies across the U.S. seeking tougher gun laws.

March 25: At least 64 people, many of them children, are killed in a blaze at the Winter Cherry shopping centre in the city of Kemerovo in Siberia, Russia.

March 26: The U.S. expels 60 Russian officials and orders closure of the consulate in Seattle.

March 29: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is re-elected for a second term following a three-day polling.



Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, the victim of a nerve agent attack.

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Britain starts the one-year countdown to Brexit.

Russia decides to expel 150 western diplomats, including 60 from the U.S., and close the U.S. consulate in St. Petersburg.

March 30: At least 18 Palestinians are killed and 400 injured as Israeli security forces fire on demonstrators, pressing for a right of return for refugees, along the Israel-Gaza border.

APRIL

April 2: Malaysian Parliament gives nod for a law that makes "fake news" punishable with a maximum six-year jail term.

April 6: The U.S. imposes sanctions on seven Russian oligarchs, 12 firms they own or control, 17 senior officials and a state-owned arms export company.

South Korea's former President Park Geun-hye, is jailed for 24 years for graft.

Israeli troops kill nine Palestinians and injure 491 people in the second mass protest in as many weeks along Gaza's volatile border.

April 8: Hungarian President Viktor Orban wins a fourth term in general elections.

April 11: All 257 people on board an Algerian military transport plane are killed after it crashes soon after take-off at Boufarik airbase, south-west of Algiers.

April 13: The Pakistan Supreme Court bans former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from contesting polls for life.

April 16: The 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service is bagged by the *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* magazine for their revelations of sexual harassment. The national reporting prize goes to *The Times* and *The Washington Post* for their coverage of U.S. President Donald Trump's possible ties to Russia.

April 19: Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez is sworn in as Cuba's President replacing Raul Castro.

April 22: At least 57 people are killed and 119 wounded following a suicide bomb attack by the IS outside a voter registration centre in the Afghan capital Kabul.

April 27: North Korean President Kim Jong-un and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, pledge to work for complete denuclearisation after a historic summit in the peace village of Panmunjom.

China and India are both impor-

tant engines for global growth, says President Xi Jinping after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan, China.

April 29: British Home Secretary Amber Rudd resigns. Sajid Javid, a South Asian, is appointed in her place.

April 30: At least 25 people, including 10 journalists are killed as two suicide blasts rip through Kabul, Afghanistan.

MAY

May 1: The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expels U.S. actor Bill Cosby and film director, Roman Polanski in the light of sexual assault cases against them.

May 2: Cambridge Analytica, announces it was "immediately ceasing all operations" and filing for insolvency in Britain and the U.S.

May 4: Nobel Literature Prize 2018 is put off to 2019, after the Swedish Academy fails to contain a crisis stemming from the #MeToo campaign.

May 6: Lebanese cast votes in the first parliamentary election in nine years.

May 7: Vladimir Putin is sworn in as Russia's President for a fourth term at a ceremony at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.

May 8: U.S. President Donald Trump announces decision to pull out of the landmark nuclear deal with Iran and reimpose sanctions.

May 10: Mahathir Mohamad is sworn in Malaysian Prime Minister.

David Goodall, 104, a British-born Australian biologist, dies after an assisted suicide in Liestal, a town outside the city of Basel, Switzerland.

May 12: Iraqis cast votes in parliamentary election.

May 13: At least 13 people are killed and dozens injured after a family of six, including two daughters aged nine and 12 stages suicide bombings at three churches in Surabaya, Indonesia.

May 14: At least 61 Palestinians are shot dead and 2,700 injured by Israeli troops on the Gaza border.

May 16: Jailed Malaysian leader Anwar Ibrahim is granted a full pardon and freed.

May 18: At least 110 passengers on board a Cuban State airways plane are killed after it crashes soon after take-off from Havana's Jose Marti airport.

At least 10 people, including eight students and two teachers are killed



A woman behind the wheels in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, following the lifting of the ban on driving.

and 10 injured after Dimitrios Pagourtzis, a student, opens fire at the Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe city in Texas, U.S.

May 19: Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr's Marching Towards Reform bloc wins 54 of the 329 seats in Iraq's Parliament in a major upset.

Britain's Prince Harry marries Meghan Markle, former American actor at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Shoplifters* bags the Palme d'Or at the 71st Annual Cannes Film Festival in France.

May 20: The U.S. and China agree to back off from imposing tariffs on each other.

Nicolas Maduro wins a new six-year term in the Venezuelan presidential polls.

May 22: Polish author Olga Tokarczuk wins the Man Booker International Prize for works of translated fiction for *Flights*, at a function in London.

May 24: Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri is given a third term by lawmakers.

May 26: Irish republic votes by a landslide to legalise abortion.

May 30: India and Indonesia elevate their bilateral ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo in Jakarta.

The U.S. renames its Pacific Command as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, at the change-of-command ceremony in Hawaii.

May 31: Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi resigns.

JUNE

June 1: Spain's Parliament ousts Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in a no-confidence vote after his Popular Party is implicated in a corruption scandal.

Giuseppe Conte is sworn in Italian Prime Minister.

Nasir-ul-Mulk, is sworn in Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister hours after the President Mamnoon Hussain dissolves the Lower House of Parliament.

June 2: Pedro Sanchez is sworn in as Spain's Prime Minister by King Felipe VI in Madrid.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is sworn in for a second four-year term in Cairo.

June 5: Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein pleads not guilty to charges of rape and sexual assault at the Manhattan Supreme Court, after a grand jury indictment in two cases.

Kate Spade, 55, American fashion designer is found dead at her home on Park Avenue on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

June 8: Chinese President Xi Jinping presents the nation's first friendship medal to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at a function at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Anthony Michael Bourdain, 61, American celebrity chef and author, is found dead in his room at a luxury hotel, the Chambard, in France.

June 12: U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un pledge to move towards complete denuclearisation at a historic summit at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa, a resort island.

June 13: A court in the Maldives sentences former President Maumoon Gayoom to 19 months in prison for obstructing a probe into an alleged plot to oust President Abdulla Yameen.

June 14: Argentina's lower house of Congress casts a historic vote to legalise abortion during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Pakistani Taliban leader Mullah Fazhullah, responsible for the 2012 attack on Malala Yousafzai and the 2014 Peshawar school massacre, is killed in an air strike in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

June 15: U.S. President Donald Trump announces hefty tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports.

A federal court in Washington jails Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's campaign chairman in 2016, pending trial after being charged with witness tampering following a June 8 indictment.

June 19: U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley announces Washington's withdrawal from the UN Hu-

man Rights Council, accusing it of bias against Israel.

June 21: Iraq's Supreme Court orders a manual recount of the 11 million ballots cast in the May 12 legislative elections, after Parliament annuls the result.

June 24: Saudi Arabia lifts the ban on driving by women, in place since 1957.

June 25: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wins sweeping powers after his victory in landmark polls.

June 26: The U.S. Supreme Court upholds President Donald Trump's ban (imposed in September 2017) on travellers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

The EU (Withdrawal) Bill, becomes law after Queen Elizabeth II gives her assent.

A U.S. judge in San Diego issues a nationwide injunction directing the administration to reunite children separated at the U.S.-Mexico border with parents within 30 days.

June 27: Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics co. Ltd. settle a seven-year patent dispute.

June 28: Four journalists and a sales assistant of *The Capital* newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, U.S. are shot dead at the office by a gunman Jarrod Ramos.

JULY

July 1: Leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador wins Mexican presidential polls.

Massive protests rock Russia over the government move to raise the pension age to 65 for men and 63 for women.

July 2: Twelve boys and their assistant football coach are found alive by rescuers in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Thai-



U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un taking a stroll during a break in talks at their historic summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore.

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land's Chiang Rai province nine days after they went missing.

July 3: Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is arrested for wrongdoing at state fund 1MDB.

July 6: An anti-corruption court in Islamabad sentences former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to 10 years in prison over the purchase of four flats in London. His daughter Maryam Nawaz gets eight years and his son-in-law Captain (retd.) Muhammad Safdar one year.

The U.S. and China launch tit-for-tat 25% tariffs on \$34 billion of each other's imports.

Japan executes Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult, and six of his followers at a Tokyo detention house, for the March 20, 1995 sarin nerve agent attack on the Tokyo subway.

Britain's Cabinet gives nod for Brexit plan following a summit at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat.

July 8: Four of the 12 schoolboys stranded in the Tham Luang cave are rescued.

Canadian author Michael Ondaatje's novel, *The English Patient*, wins the Golden Booker Prize.

July 9: British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson resigns from the Theresa May Cabinet. Jeremy Hunt is appointed in his place.

Four more members of the "Wild Boars" football team are rescued.

July 10: All the remaining four members of the Thai football team and their coach are rescued.

July 13: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam are arrested at the Lahore airport.

At least 149 people are killed and 150 others injured in a suicide bombing on an election rally in Masing town, near the Balochistan capital Quetta in Pakistan.

Twelve Russian intelligence officers are indicted by a U.S. grand jury for interfering in the 2016 presidential election.

July 15: Maria Butina, a covert Russian agent is arrested by U.S. officials and charged with spying for Moscow.

July 16: U.S. President Donald Trump says he sees no reason to believe in Russian meddling in the 2016 polls after a historic summit with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland.

Christian Michel, a key accused in the AgustaWestland chopper deal is held in Dubai.

July 18: The EU slaps Google with a record €4.34 billion (\$5 billion) antitrust fine.

July 20: Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye is sentenced to eight more years in jail.

July 25: Pakistanis cast votes in election to the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies.

July 26: Japan executes six more Aum Shinrikyo members.

Facebook Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg loses \$16 billion as the market value of the social media giant goes down by more than \$100 billion in the biggest one-day wipeout in U.S. stock market history.

July 27: Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerges as the single largest party with 117 seats, in the National Assembly.

AUGUST

Aug. 1: Indian-origin mathematician Akshay Venkatesh, Caucher Birkar, Alessio Figalli, and Peter Scholze are named 2018 Fields Medal winners at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Aug. 3: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa narrowly wins the July 30 polls.

Aug. 4: At least 105 people are killed and thousands of buildings damaged after an earthquake rocks the Indonesian resort island of Lombok.

Aug. 6: Bangladesh Law and Justice Minister Anisul Huq announces the Cabinet decision to impose death penalty for deliberate road deaths, following students' protest.

Pepsico announces that CEO Indra Krishnamoorthy Nooyi is stepping down.

Aug. 7: The U.S. reimposes nuclear-related sanctions on Iran.

Aug. 8: Malaysia's former Prime Minister Najib Razak pleads not guilty to money laundering charges and is granted bail by court.

Aug. 9: Argentina's Senate votes against legalising abortion after a marathon session.

Aug. 12: NASA launches a \$1.5 million spacecraft, Parker Solar Probe, toward the Sun on a historic seven-year mission from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the U.S.

Aug. 13: At least 100 Afghan sol-



Volunteers rejoicing on hearing of the rescue of all the members of the football team from the Tham Luang cave, Thailand.

diers and 30 civilians are killed in four days of fighting in Ghazni.

The death toll in the earthquake on Lombok goes up to 436.

Aug. 18: Imran Khan is sworn in as Pakistan Prime Minister.

Aug. 19: Iraq's Supreme Court ratifies the May 12 parliamentary poll results.

Aug. 20: Greece emerges from the biggest bailout in economic history after nine years of creditor-managed austerity.

Aug. 24: Scott Morrison is sworn in as Australia's seventh Prime Minister in 11 years, after a party revolt unseats incumbent Malcolm Turnbull.

Aug. 26: Emmerson Mnangagwa is sworn in Zimbabwe President.

Aug. 31: Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk, and four others are presented with the Ramon Magsaysay awards at a function in Manila, Philippines.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2: A massive fire at Brazil's National Museum in Rio de Janeiro destroys much of its collection.

Sept. 3: A Myanmar court jails two Reuters journalists - Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo - for seven years after finding them guilty of breaching the Official Secrets Act.

Sept. 5: Britain charges in absentia two Russians with the attempted murder of a former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

At least 26 people, including two journalists from Tolo News are killed and 91 others injured following suicide attacks at the Maiwand sports club in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Sept. 7: Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma* wins the Golden Lion Award at the 75th Venice Film Festival in Italy.

Sept. 9: Arif Alvi is sworn in Pa-

kistan's 13th President at a ceremony in Islamabad.

Sept. 10: Swedish election results in a hung Assembly.

Jack Ma, Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's co-founder and executive chairman retires.

Sept. 12: The European Parliament gives nod for a controversial EU copyright law that gives more powers to news and record firms against Internet giants like Google.

Sept. 14: U.S. President Donald Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort pleads guilty in a federal court in Washington to charges of conspiracy against the nation and obstruction of justice.

Sept. 15: Typhoon Mangkhut tears through Philippines.

Sept. 19: The Islamabad High Court suspends the jail sentences handed to the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Captain (retd.) Muhammad Safdar.

Sept. 20: At least 207 people are killed after a ferry sinks in Lake Victoria, Tanzania.

Typhoon Mangkhut toll touches 95 in Philippines.

Sept. 23: Maldivians cast votes in presidential polls.

Sept. 24: A French shipping vessel *Osiris* rescues Indian Navy Commander Abhilash Tomy, stranded in the Southern Indian Ocean for the past three days after the mast of his boat *Thuriya* breaks while taking part in the Golden Globe Race, 2018.

The tit for tat tariffs by the U.S. and China take effect.

Sept. 25: Swedish Parliament ousts Prime Minister Stefan Lofven in a vote of no-confidence.

U.S. actor Bill Cosby is sentenced to between three and 10 years in jail by a judge in Pennsylvania for the 2004 sexual assault on Andrea Constand, a former Temple University administrator, in Philadelphia.

Sept. 26: Russian Parliament approves President Vladimir Putin's pension reform amendments.

Sept. 28: At least 832 people are killed and 534 injured after a powerful earthquake hits central Indonesia causing a tsunami that slams into Palu city on Sulawesi island.

Sept. 29: Tesla and its CEO Elon Musk agree to pay \$40 million to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to settle a lawsuit that was triggered by a tweet on financing to

take Tesla private. To relinquish role as chairman.

Sept. 30: Former Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and his son Faris Maumoon are freed on bail.

Canada and the U.S. reach a deadline deal on a new free trade pact that will include Mexico.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1: Two immunologists, James Allison of the U.S. and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, are awarded the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize.

A Swedish court hands down a two-year jail term for rape to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, at the heart of a Nobel scandal, for a 2011 incident.

Oct. 2: Arthur Ashkin of the U.S., Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of Canada win the Nobel Physics Prize.

A Saudi Arabian dissident journalist and columnist for *The Washington Post*, Jamal Khashoggi, is killed at the Kingdom's consulate in the Turkish capital Istanbul.

Oct. 3: Two Americans, Frances H. Arnold and George P. Smith, and a Briton, Sir Gregory P. Winter, are awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

Oct. 5: Denis Mukwege, a Congolese doctor, and Nadia Murad of Iraq, a Yazidi rights activist, are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak is jailed for 15 years for graft.

The Indonesian earthquake and tsunami toll touches 1,500.

Oct. 8: Americans William Nordhaus and Paul Romer are awarded the 2018 Nobel Economics Prize.

Oct. 9: Nikki Haley resigns as the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

Oct. 11: Malaysia decides to abolish the death penalty.

Asian indices Hang Seng and Nik-



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

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FREE DAF ANALYSIS Most probable questions framed by

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- | | | |
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kei shed 900 points each following massive selling in the stock markets across the globe.

Oct. 12: Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde wins the New Academy Prize in Literature.

Oct. 16: Northern Irish novelist Anna Burns is presented the Man Booker Prize for fiction 2018 for *Milkman*, at a function in London.

Oct. 17: Canada becomes the first industrialised nation to legalise recreational marijuana.

Mohammad Imran, convicted of killing eight children, is executed at a Pakistani prison.

Oct. 18: Three top provincial officials are killed and four persons, including the Governor Zalmay Wesa, are injured after a gunman opens fire at a meeting inside the Governor's compound in southern Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Oct. 20: U.S. President Donald Trump announces that Washington is pulling out of the landmark Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed on December 8, 1987 with the Soviet Union.

Riyadh admits to the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in a fight at its Istanbul consulate. Eighteen Saudi nationals are arrested and five senior officials sacked.

Afghans cast votes in parliamentary polls amid violence that claims the lives of at least 36 people.

Oct. 21: Afghans cast votes for a second day, even as 11 people are killed in a roadside bomb blast in the Nangarhar province.

Oct. 24: The European Parliament votes for an EU-wide ban on single-use plastics.

Oct. 26: The first national unity government in Sri Lanka falls, as President Maithripala Sirisena pulls out his United People's Freedom Alliance faction. Sacks Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa is sworn in Prime Minister.

Oct. 27: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena suspends Parliament.

At least 11 people are killed after a gunman, opens fire during Shabbat services at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, U.S.

Oct. 28: Former Army Captain Jair Bolsonaro is elected Brazilian President in the runoff election.

Oct. 29: All 189 people on board an Indonesian Lion Air jet are killed

after it crashes into the Java Sea soon after takeoff from Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport.

India and Japan sign a \$75 billion currency swap agreement in Tokyo. Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khalida Zia is sentenced to seven years in jail by a special court in Dhaka for misusing her power while in office to collect \$375,000 for the Zia Charitable Trust Fund.

Oct. 30: A Bangladesh court doubles the jail term of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia from five to 10 years for embezzling money meant for an orphanage.

The Maldives Supreme Court suspends former President Mohamed Nasheed's 13-year jail sentence handed down in 2015. It also overturns the disqualification of the remaining four of the 12 MPs.

Oct. 31: The Supreme Court of Pakistan acquits Asia Bibi, a Christian woman sentenced to death in November 2010 for blasphemy.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5: India, China, Japan among eight nations granted relief, as U.S. reimposes sanctions against Iran.

NASA's Voyager 2 probe launched in 1977 enters interstellar space.

Nov. 6: The Democrats manage to take the U.S. House of Representatives after eight years, winning 220 seats in the 435-member chamber, but the GOP retains its majority in the Senate bagging 51 seats in the mid-term polls.

Nov. 7: Twelve people are shot dead by Ian David Long, a former U.S. Marine, during 'college night' at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, Southern California.

Nov. 9: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena dissolves Parliament and calls for snap polls.

Nov. 13: The U.K. and EU negotiators agree on the text of a draft withdrawal agreement in Brussels.

Nov. 14: A majority of MPs in the Sri Lankan Parliament votes against the Mahinda Rajapaksa government in a no-confidence motion.

Nov. 15: Britain's Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, Works and Pension Secretary Esther McVey and four junior Ministers quit the May Cabinet following differences over the Brexit deal.

Saudi Arabia indicts 11 people accused of murdering journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The U.S. State Depart-



Debris being cleared after a tsunami hits Banten province, Indonesia.

ment sanctions 17 individuals.

Chaos in Sri Lankan Parliament as former President Mahinda Rajapaksa refuses to endorse the no-confidence motion on his address to Parliament and calls for snap polls.

Nov. 16: Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa loses a trust vote for the third time.

In a historic vote, the kilogram gets a new definition at the General Conference on Weights and Measures held at Versailles, France.

Nov. 17: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is sworn in Maldives President.

Nov. 19: Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. chairman Carlos Ghosn is detained in Tokyo after a probe reveals financial misconduct.

A federal judge in San Francisco issues a temporary restraining order on U.S. President Donald Trump's Nov. 9 proclamation denying asylum to those entering the nation illegally.

Nov. 22: Nissan Motor Co.'s board votes to oust Carlos Ghosn.

Nov. 25: Leaders of the 27 EU nations agree to the terms of the Brexit deal, at a summit in Brussels.

Russia seizes three Ukrainian naval vessels and 24 sailors off the coast of Crimea.

Nov. 26: The Maldives Supreme Court quashes former President Mohamed Nasheed's terrorism conviction in 2015 and overturns his 13-year jail sentence.

NASA's Mars rover InSight lands on the Red Planet.

Nov. 28: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan presides over the ground-breaking ceremony for the Kartarpur corridor in Narowal district, Punjab.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1: At least 412 people are ar-

rested as French police clash with "yellow vest" protesters around the Champs Elyses in Paris.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office as Mexican President.

Meng Wanzhou, CFO of Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies, is arrested in Vancouver, Canada.

Dec. 2: China and the U.S. agree to halt additional tariffs for 90 days.

Dec. 4: France suspends fuel tax rise for six months.

Dec. 8: China launches Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission to uncover moon's 'dark side' from the Xichang launch centre.

Vanessa Ponce de Leon, a Mexican model, is crowned Miss World 2018 at an event in China.

Dec. 10: The Westminster Magistrates' Court in London orders Vijay Mallya's extradition to India.

Congolese gynaecologist Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad are presented the Nobel Peace Prize at a function in Oslo.

Dec. 11: Jamal Khashoggi, two jailed Reuters reporters, Philippine writer Maria Ressa and *Capital Gazette* newspaper are chosen *Time*'s Person of the Year 2018.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer is granted bail.

Dec. 12: British Prime Minister Theresa May wins a vote of confidence in her leadership of the Conservative Party by 200 to 117.

Michael Cohen, former personal lawyer of U.S. President Donald Trump, is jailed for 36 months for financial crimes and lying to Congress by a federal court in Manhattan.

Dec. 13: President Maithripala Sirisena's move to dissolve Parliament and call for snap polls illegal, rules the Sri Lankan Supreme Court.

The Senate votes to end U.S. support for the Saudi Arabia-led war in Yemen.

The Yemeni government and Houthi rebels agree on a ceasefire in Hodeida port at peace talks in Sweden.

Dec. 14: Obamacare unconstitutional, rules a federal judge in Texas.

Dec. 15: Mahinda Rajapaksa resigns as Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

Dec. 16: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena reinstates Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister.

A 'rule book' is finalised at the climate talks in Katowice, Poland.

Dec. 17: Catriona Gray of the Philippines is crowned Miss Universe 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dec. 19: The U.S. decides to pull out troops from Syria.

Dec. 20: U.S. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis quits.

Dec. 22: At least 430 people are killed and 1,495 injured in the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra following a tsunami triggered by the eruption of the Anak Krakatoa volcano in the Sunda Strait.

The U.S. government shuts down after Congress adjourns without passing a federal spending bill.

Dec. 24: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is jailed for seven years in a graft case. Disqualified from holding any public office for 10 years.

U.S. stocks suffer their worst Christmas-eve loss in market history.

Dec. 26: Russia successfully tests the Avangard hypersonic missile.

U.S. adventurer Colin O'Brady becomes the first person to complete a solo unassisted trek across Antarctica.

Dec. 28: Russia arrests Paul Whelan, a former U.S. Marine in Moscow for 'spying.'

Dec. 29: Forty 'terrorists' are killed by the Egyptian police, after a blast in Giza kills three tourists and their guide a day earlier.

Dec. 30: The ruling coalition led by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League scores a landslide victory in the general election.

Dec. 31: Three people are injured in a stabbing attack at the Manchester Victoria railway station in the U.K.

At least 38 people are killed in a blast in an apartment in the Russian city of Magnitogorsk.

The U.S. and Israel officially quit UNESCO.



U.S. adventurer Colin O'Brady.

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OBITUARY

JANUARY

Jan. 2: Radha Viswanathan, 83, Carnatic singer and daughter of M.S. Subbulakshmi, in Bengaluru.

Jan. 5: John Young, 87, legendary U.S. astronaut, at his home in Houston, Texas, of pneumonia.

Jan. 15: Gnani, 64, journalist, theatre personality, in Chennai, following a cardiac arrest.

Dolores Mary Eileen O'Riordan, 46, Irish musician and Cranberries lead singer, in a London hotel.

Jan. 21: Khagen Das, 81, CPI(M) veteran and chairman of the Left Front Committee of Tripura, in Kolkata.

Jan. 23: Hugh Masekela, 78, "the father of South African jazz" and legendary trumpeter, in Johannesburg.

Jan. 27: Ingvar Kamprad, 91, founder of Swedish furniture major, Ikea, at his home in Smaland, Almhult, Sweden.

Jan. 29: Heinz Jakob "Coco" Schumann, 93, German jazz musician and Holocaust survivor, in Berlin.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 11: Asma Jilani Jahangir, 66, noted Pakistani lawyer and human rights activist, in Lahore.

Feb. 15: Morgan Richard Tsvangirai, 65, former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, at a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Feb. 19: M.S. Anantharaman, 94, noted violinist, in Chennai.

Feb. 21: William Franklin Graham Jr., 99, U.S. Christian evangelist, at his home in Montreat, North Carolina, U.S.

Feb. 24: Sridevi Kapoor Ayyappan, 54, multilingual actor, at a hotel in Dubai.

Feb. 28: Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, 83, 69th head of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, at a hospital in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.

MARCH

March 4: Javed Abidi, 53, convener of the Disabled Rights Group, of a chest infection, in New Delhi.

March 6: John Edward Sulston, 75, British scientist who helped decode the human genome, of stomach cancer, in Buckinghamshire, U.K.

March 10: Hubert James Marcel Taffin de Givenchy, 91, French fashion designer, at the Renaissance



Sridevi



Stephen Hawking



Somnath Chatterjee



V.S. Naipaul



Alyque Padamsee



Ambareesh

chateau near Paris.

March 11: Ken Dodd, 90, British comedian, in the Liverpool suburb of Knotty Ash, U.K.

March 14: Stephen William Hawking, 76, English theoretical physicist, at Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, U.K.

March 19: Sri Ranga Ramanuja Maha Desikan, 84, 11th pontiff of the Srirangam Srimad Andavan Ashramam, at a hospital in Chennai.

APRIL

April 1: C.V. Rajendran, 81, veteran Tamil film director, in Chennai.

April 2: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, 81, anti-apartheid activist and former wife of South African President, Nelson Mandela, at the Netcare Milpark Hospital, in Johannesburg.

April 14: Ram Kumar, 93, Indian artist, writer extraordinaire, at his residence in New Delhi.

April 20: Rajinder Sachar, 94, human rights activist and former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, at Fortis Hospital in New Delhi.

April 29: Lester James Peiris, 99, Sri Lankan filmmaker and a national icon, in Colombo.

MAY

May 1: Ashok Mitra, 90, former West Bengal Finance Minister, in Kolkata.

May 10: Neelu, 82, Tamil comedian, in Chennai.

May 14: E.C.G. Sudarshan, 86, eminent physicist, in Texas, U.S.

Tom Wolfe, 87, American journalist and novelist, in New York.

May 15: Balakumaran, 71, Tamil writer, in Chennai.

May 19: Reginald Grant Lucas, 65, Grammy-winning American musician, in New York City, U.S.

May 22: Philip Roth, 85, Ameri-

can author, at a hospital in Manhattan, U.S.

May 26: Alan Bean, 86, former Apollo astronaut and lunar module pilot for the second moon landing mission in November 1969, in Houston, Texas.

May 28: Serge Dassault, 93, French billionaire and aviation magnate, at his office in Paris.

May 29: Muktha V. Srinivasan, 88, renowned Tamil film director and producer, in Chennai.

JUNE

June 25: David Goldblatt, 87, South African photographer who "chronicled apartheid," of cancer, at his home in Johannesburg.

June 29: Stephen Ditko, 90, U.S. comic artist and co-creator of Marvel superheroes Spider-Man and Doctor Strange, is found dead at his home in New York City, U.S.

JULY

July 8: M.M.Jacob, 91, senior Congress leader, at a private hospital in Kerala's Kottayam district.

July 11: Sri Ranga Narayana Jeer, 89, the Jeer of the Srirangam Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple and 50th Pontiff of Sri Ramanuja Mutt, at a private hospital in Tiruchi.

July 12: Dada J.P. Vaswani, 99, spiritual leader, on the Sadhu Vaswani Mission premises in Pune, Maharashtra.

AUGUST

Aug. 11: V.S. Naipaul, 85, Trinidadian-British writer and Nobel laureate, at his home in London, England.

Aug. 13: Somnath Chatterjee, 89, former Lok Sabha Speaker, at a private hospital in Kolkata, due to multiple organ failure.

Aug. 16: Aretha Franklin, 76, American soul singer, of pancreatic

cancer in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.

Aug. 18: Kofi Atta Annan, 80, former U.N. Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Prize winner, at a hospital in Bern, Switzerland.

Aug. 20: Uri Avnery, 94, Israeli peace activist, lawmaker and journalist, at a Tel Aviv hospital.

Aug. 22: Gurudas Kamat, 63, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader, at a private hospital in New Delhi.

Aug. 23: Kuldip Nayar, 95, veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha member, after a brief illness, in New Delhi.

Aug. 25: John McCain, 81, Vietnam war veteran and six-term American Senator, of brain cancer, in Cornville, Arizona, U.S.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6: Burt Reynolds, 82, Hollywood actor, of a heart attack at a hospital in Florida, U.S.

Sept. 23: Kalpana Lajmi, 64, filmmaker, at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1: Charles Aznavour, 94, legendary French singer and actor, at his home in Alpiilles, France.

Oct. 6: Montserrat Caballe, 85, renowned Spanish soprano, at the Sant Pau hospital in Barcelona.

Oct. 12: Roelof "Pik" Botha, 86, former South African Foreign Minister, at his home on the outskirts of Pretoria.

Oct. 13: Annapurna Devi, 91, doyenne of Hindustani classical music, at a hospital in Mumbai.

Oct. 15: Paul Gardner Allen, 65, the co-founder with Bill Gates of Microsoft in 1975, of blood cancer, in Seattle, U.S.

Oct. 18: Narayan Dutt Tiwari, 93, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pra-

desh and Uttarakhand, at a hospital, in New Delhi.

Oct. 24: Na. Muthuswamy, 82, veteran theatre personality, in Chennai.

Oct. 27: Madan Lal Khurana, 83, former Delhi Chief Minister, at his home in west Delhi's Kirti Nagar.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 12: H.R. Ananth Kumar, 59, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, of lung cancer at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

Stan Lee, 95, American comic book writer and co-creator of Marvels' iconic superheroes, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, U.S.

Nov. 17: Alyque Padamsee, 90, ad guru and theatre doyen, at a hospital in Mumbai.

Nov. 24: M.H. Ambareesh, 66, noted Kannada actor and former Union Minister, at a hospital in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Nov. 25: C.K. Jaffer Sharief, 85, veteran Congress leader and former Railway Minister, at a private hospital in Bengaluru, of a cardiac arrest.

Nov. 26: Iravatham Mahadevan, 88, noted epigraphist, in Chennai.

Bernardo Bertolucci, 77, renowned Italian director, at his home in Rome, of cancer.

Nov. 30: George H.W. Bush, 94, former U.S. President, at his home in Houston, Texas.

DECEMBER

Dec. 10: Mushirul Hasan, 71, eminent historian, in New Delhi.

Dec. 13: Nancy Wilson, 81, Jazz legend, at her home in Pioneertown in California, U.S.

Dec. 16: Geeta S. Iyengar, 74, daughter of B.K.S. Iyengar and noted yoga exponent, at her home in Pune.

Dec. 21: Prapanchan, 73, Tamil writer, in Puducherry.

Dec. 22: Paddy Ashdown, 77, former U.K. Liberal Democrats leader, of bladder cancer.

Dec. 24: Nirupam Sen, 72, veteran CPI(M) leader and former Industries Minister of West Bengal, at a hospital in Kolkata.

Dec. 28: Amos Oz, 79, Israeli writer, of cancer in Tel Aviv.

Dec. 30: Mrinal Sen, 95, iconic Indian filmmaker, at his south Kolkata residence.

Dec. 31: Loknath, 92, veteran Kannada actor, in Bengaluru.

Kader Khan, 81, Hindi screenwriter, actor, in Canada.



Aretha Franklin



George H.W. Bush



Kofi Annan



Mrinal Sen



Kuldip Nayar



H.R. Ananth Kumar



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