

# WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2018

**1 Feb 9-25, South Korea:** The *Winter Olympics* has thawed relations between the two Koreas, with both marching together under a united flag in Pyeongchang. Seoul views the thaw as a “precious chance” for the U.S. and North Korea to discuss the North’s weapons programs

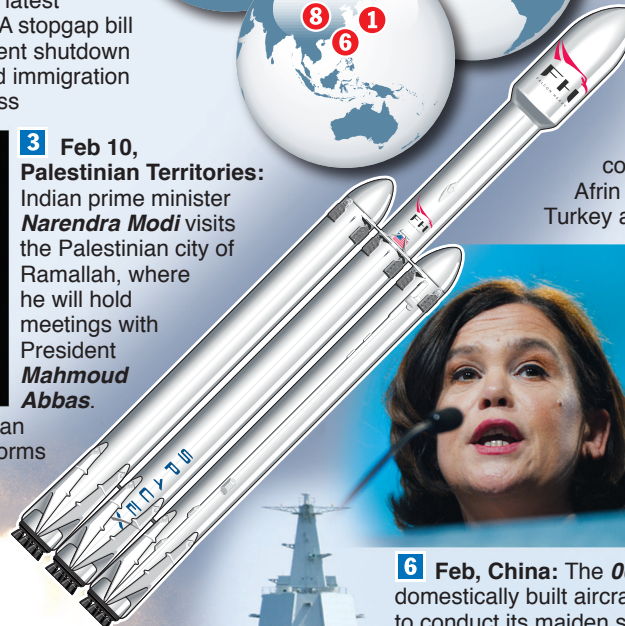


**2 Feb 8, U.S.:** Washington faces another funding cliff with the latest deadline for a spending bill. A stopgap bill ended a three-day government shutdown in January, but spending and immigration disputes still rage in Congress



**3 Feb 10, Palestinian Territories:** Indian prime minister **Narendra Modi** visits the Palestinian city of Ramallah, where he will hold meetings with President **Mahmoud Abbas**.

The first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Palestine forms part of a three-nation tour aimed at strengthening India’s outreach to the Arab world



**7 Feb, U.S.:** The **SpaceX Falcon Heavy**, the rocket designed to carry humans to the Moon and Mars, is due to lift off on a first demonstration flight from Cape Canaveral, carrying a cherry red **Tesla** as its payload



**4 Feb 14-15, Belgium:** A new headache for NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels is the exploding conflict in the Kurdish enclave of Afrin in Syria, that puts NATO allies Turkey and the U.S. on opposite sides



**5 Feb 10, Ireland:** **Mary Lou McDonald** succeeds **Gerry Adams** as president of **Sinn Fein**, the party that wants to end the partition of Ireland. Unlike Adams, party leader since 1983, McDonald has no paramilitary background and is seen as offering Sinn Fein a way to soften its image

**6 Feb, China:** The **001A**, the country’s first domestically built aircraft carrier, is expected to conduct its maiden sea trials. China plans to have four aircraft carrier battle groups in service by 2030



**8 Feb 16, China:** The **Year of the Dog** in the Chinese Zodiac looms as an expensive time for people born under the sign of man’s best friend