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A look back at 2018

If 2017 was described as the year of natural disasters, terrorism and political chaos, 2018 was more of the same, possibly even more extreme as Brazil's new president added to the wave of populism sweeping the world with more than the UK's summer heatwave getting everyone hot under the collar.

Summer in the UK was the joint hottest on record with the heat wave throughout June and July raising temperatures to more than 35° C/95° F. This heat was also being felt by the UK government trying to stay calm over a Brexit shambles which turned into a farce by the end of the year with eight ministers resigning.

Donald Trump, Russia and Korea were never far from the headlines along with regular mass shootings and refugee issues. The EU wide General Data Protection Regulation came into effect causing an extreme overreaction in some countries as the usual chancers/consultants attempted to exploit it by scaring companies into check ups etc, while others stopped routine communications just in case.



Dingli acquires a 25 percent stake in aerial lift manufacturer **MEC** in a deal worth \$20 million.



Manitowoc wins another stage in its legal battle with **Sany** for theft of trade secrets.

Tadano acquires Benelux distributor **Waterland Trading**.

A heat wave in parts of North America killed 33 in Quebec, while wild fires also featured prominently in Greece and California, killing almost 200 and destroying more than 19,000 homes.

On a brighter note a global audience of 1.9 billion people watched the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel in Windsor and the Winter Olympics held in South Korea saw a combined North/South Korea team march together at the opening ceremony.

The cranes, access and telehandler markets were again generally busy although the continued economic uncertainty in some areas restricted major capital investment.

Here are some of the industry and world news highlights.

Kobelco merges its European crane and excavator companies.

Kevin Reilly - the crane operator involved in the fatal crawler crane overturn in New York in 2016 - launches a \$2.5 million defamation lawsuit against the investigators that found him guilty of causing the incident.



Kobelco announces a new 300/350 tonne crawler crane - the CKE3000G - the largest in the CK/CKE/CKS series.



C&a look back 2018

Private equity firm **Stratford Cambridge** acquires a controlling interest in US low level platform manufacturer **Custom Equipment**. The Kissinger family retains a 20 percent stake.

Barneveldse Kraanverhuur (BKV) of the Netherlands takes the 250th **Liebherr** MK 88 four axle mobile self-erecting tower crane.

UK tower crane company **Bennetts** takes delivery of the first four tonne, topless **Jost** JTL 68.4s hydraulic luffing jib crane.



UK rental company **Elevation** places a £2 million order for **Niftylift** hybrid boom lifts 'to meet growing demand for cleaner, quieter equipment'.

Dinolift and its North American distributor **Reachmaster** end their exclusive distribution agreement.



US-based **GMG** launches the 15ft 1530-ED scissor lift and its first mast boom, the 10 metre VM26-J.

Böcker launches the 12 tonne AK 52 aluminium truck mounted crane on a three axle, 26 tonne truck with rear axle steering.

Magni telehandlers opens a new UK subsidiary having ended its distribution agreement with **Forkway** group.

Raimondi launches the 18 tonne LR330 luffing jib tower crane with new triangular jib design.



Ruthmann appoints **Snorkel UK** as the **Bluelift** spider lift distributor for the UK.

Hinowa announces a new 32.5 metre spider - the Lightlift 33.17 Performance IIS - its largest machine to date.

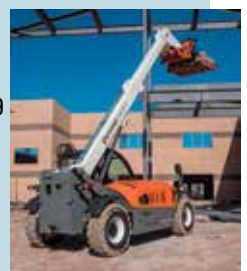


Potain launches the MCH 125 hydraulic topless luffing jib crane, first spotted as a prototype at Bauma China 2016.

Aluminium crane manufacturer **Klaas** launches three new truck cranes and a new hybrid power concept.



Snorkel launches the 2.6 tonne/5.8 metre SR5719 compact telehandler - built by **Faresin**.



Teupen returns to independent distribution in the UK and Ireland with the appointment of **Alfa Access Services**.

Ruthmann announces details of a new 31 metre **Bluelift** spider lift, the SA31.





Grove launches the updated six axle 300 tonne GMK6300L -1.



20.2
March/April
industry news

Niftylift launches a lighter weight, electric version of its 33ft HR12 articulated boom lift - the HR12L - available with Lithium ion or AGM batteries.



Terex Cranes becomes the first crane manufacturer to implement steel surcharges following Donald Trump's 25 percent steel import tariffs.

Potain celebrates its 90th anniversary.

Boels Rental orders 3,000 **Skyjack** scissor lifts equipped with Skyjack's Elevate telematics solution.



Haulotte announces its Blue Orientation strategy with plans to drop all diesel machines as it launches its new Pulseo range starting with the 60ft HL20 LE Pro, all electric machine with built-in diesel recharging generator and five year warranty.

French manufacturer **Klubb** acquires **CPL**, its UK dealer for van mounted platforms.



Arnold Grootveld and **Jan Vriesinga** set up **Hoogwerkt**

- a new rental company in the Netherlands offering lithium powered booms, scissors, trailer lifts and spider lifts that can be towed on a two axle trailer.

JCB introduces a lithium ion battery option for five of its slab electric scissor lifts.



Manitou launches updated versions of its 46ft 160 ATJ and 52ft 180 ATJ RT articulated boom lifts.

Multitel Pagliero starts production of a new 16m Multitel 160 Hybrid truck mounted platform.

Cela launches an electric version of its 25 metre DT25 Spyder spider lift.

AA Access - part of the **High Access Maintenance** group - acquires Scotland's **Outreach Access** expanding operations north of the border.

Mammoet sets a record lift height of 217 metres for its PTC 200 DS heavy lift crane at Lotte Chemical's Mono-Ethylene Glycol project in Louisiana, USA.



20.3
May
industry news

Kato announces its new 13 and 20 tonne City cranes - the CR-130rf and CR-200rf.



Dutch rental company **Boels** acquires **Already Hire** in the UK and **Delta Rent** and **Amdyte** in the Netherlands. French rental group **Kiloutou** acquires German rental company **Butsch & Meier**.

Danish spider lift manufacturer **TCA Lift** changes its corporate name to **Falcon Lifts**.



Sennebogen launches a new heavy-duty telehandler with elevating cab - the 355 E - the first of a new range.



TH White - the **Palfinger** crane distributor for England and Wales - acquires the **Palfinger** dealer in Scotland - **Outreach Truck** - to form **Palfinger UK**.

Danish loader crane manufacturer **HMF** unveils the new HMF 1310R grab crane.



Tadano acquires a 14.9 percent stake in US boom truck and platform manufacturer **Manitex**.

Canadian manufacturer **Microcranes** launches the compact M1 Global lightweight modular mini crane with a 905kg lift capacity and a 6.7 metre tip height.



The first 50t **Comansa** 21LC750 is delivered to London's **City Lifting** for work on Terminal 2, Heathrow Airport.



Jekko starts shipping its second generation, six tonne SPK60.2 mini crawler crane with the first units going to customers in Hong Kong, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and the US.



20.4
June
industry news



JLG announces crawler versions of its redesigned 600 series straight telescopic boom lifts - the 60ft 600SC and 66ft 660SJC.

UK-based **Hawks Crane Hire** orders Europe's first 300 tonne **Kobelco** CKE3000G crawler crane.



Manitowoc unveils its new 100 tonne MLC100-1 crawler crane, replacing the **Kobelco** built 11000-1 as **Manitowoc** and **Kobelco** end their badging agreement for smaller capacity lattice crawler cranes.



Vertikal Days 2018 - held at Donington Park near East Midlands airport - is the largest so far in terms of exhibitors and visitor numbers.

UK rental company **Crane Hire Solutions** purchases a five tonne **Klaas** K900 RSX aluminium truck crane.

Colin Wood - the retired chief executive of the UK's **CPA** - receives the **European Rental Association's** Lifetime achievement award.

Finland's **RIM Wizard** appoints **Crowland Cranes** as its UK distributor.

UK-based **High Access Maintenance** merges with **Nationwide Window Cleaning** to form the **NSS** group.



Grove unveils the new 149 tonne, three axle GRT 9165 Rough Terrain crane.



C&a
20.5
July
industry news

Liebherr launches two new cranes at its customer Days event in Germany - the 230 tonne, long boomed LTM 1230-5.1 All Terrain and the 800 tonne LR 1800-1.0 lattice crawler crane.



Bronto Skylift unveils an all-new, 35 metre truck mounted lift - the S35EM.



CTE launches the 25m articulated Zed 25 HV truck mounted platform on a 3.5 tonne chassis.

Kobelco restructures in China, ending its joint ventures and moving from seven jointly held operations to three wholly owned subsidiaries.

Potain splits the manufacturing and product management of its European Self-erecting and top slewing crane operations.

Spanish tower crane manufacturer **Comansa** drops the Linden Comansa brand name focusing its marketing efforts on its original name of Comansa.



Haulotte sells its Italian access rental company **no.Ve.** to **Loxam**.

C&a look back 2018



The first 90 tonne **Grove** GRT8100 Rough Terrain crane manufactured outside of the USA rolls off the production line at the company's Niella Tanaro plant in Italy.

Ruthmann opens a sales office in North America - Ruthmann North America.

Magni telehandlers delivers its 2,000th 360 degree telehandler to German rental company **Gruma Nutzfahrzeuge**.

Irish rental company **Charleville Hire & Platform** orders the first two 2,600kg/5.79 metre **Snorkel** SR626 compact telehandlers in Europe.

Dutch Sales and rental group **Riwal** sells the world's first 135ft battery electric self-propelled boom lift to **Steiness Liftcenter** in Denmark.

Aichi takes on the distribution of large **Socage** truck mounted platforms in Japan including Socage's TJJ double jib truck mounted models from 39 to 54m.



German hoist manufacturer **Geda** develops an exclusive internal crane operator hoist/elevator for **Potain** - the Geda Potain Cab-In.



C&a
20.6
August/
September
industry news

HSS agrees the sale of **UK Platforms** to **Nationwide Platforms/Loxam** for €60.5 million.

Fassi acquires French aerial lift manufacturer **ATN** rescuing it from the insolvency process which it entered in February.



Klubb acquires French platform manufacturer **Egi** which produces fully insulated, live line and firefighting platforms up to 65m.

United Rentals acquires **BlueLine Rental** for \$2.1 billion in cash from private equity firm **Platinum Equity**.



Tracked scissor lift manufacturer **Almac** enters the self-propelled tracked boom lift market with the dynamic self-levelling 33ft **Jibbi 1250 Evo**.

Hiab acquires the **Effer** loader cranes business - valued at €50 million - from the **CTE** group.

Tadano and Indian equipment manufacturer **Escorts** form a joint venture to manufacture 20 to 80t Rough Terrain and truck cranes in India.

Boels Rental acquires two more companies in the UK - **Artisan Hire Centre** and sister company **SAS**.

Multitel Pagliero, **Ruthmann** and **Palfinger** unveil new hybrid truck mounted platforms at Platformers Days in Germany.

Palfinger unveils the three model PCC range of heavy duty tracked articulated spider cranes from 18.2 to 30 tonnes.



Link-Belt upgrades its TCC-1100 telescopic crawler increasing its capacity to become the 120 ton/110 tonne TCC-1200.

Japanese aerial lift manufacturer **Nagano** appoints three new European dealers - **Arbeitsbühnen Becker** in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, **Pfeifer** in the Netherlands and **Vertimac** in Belgium.

Genie starts production of the European version of the 65ft S-65 XC straight telescopic boom lift in Umbertide, central Italy.

Tadano launches a new 20t GR-200EX Rough Terrain crane designed for the Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific island markets.





C&a
20.7
October
industry news



Mammoet upgrades its 3,200 tonne, 200,000 tonne/metre PTC 200DS modular ring crane to the 210,000 tonne/metre PTC 210 DS.

Sinoboom opens a new European operation - in cooperation with **Liftstore** in Jawczyce, Poland - with another location to be opened in the Netherlands.

Comet and Hoogweker Centrum/Powerlift unveil the 31m 3117 Jib Compact truck mounted lift that can be driven on a 3.5t chassis B+E driving licence.



Klubb launches a full electric version of the 11.8 metre K26 mounted on a Renault Master ZE chassis with rear cutaway.

Link-Belt launches a new 90t Rough Terrain crane - the 100 RT - with a 47.2 metre full power boom and unveils the 175AT, a new European-style 150 tonne five axle All Terrain crane with a 60 metre pinned boom.



Terex Cranes appoints **Arcomet** as distributor for flat top and luffing jib tower cranes in Germany.

JLG launches an external bolt-on fall arrest system allowing users to exit the platform at height while remaining tied off to a lanyard anchor point on the platform.

Chinese construction equipment manufacturer **Lingong Group Jinan Heavy Machinery (LGMG)** opens its European aerial work platform headquarters and distribution centre in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.



Tadano launches its largest loader crane to date - the 15 tonne capacity, 18.5 metre boom TM-ZX150 - aimed at the Middle East and south east Asia markets.



Manitou teams up with **Deutz** to develop all-electric and hybrid telehandler prototypes.

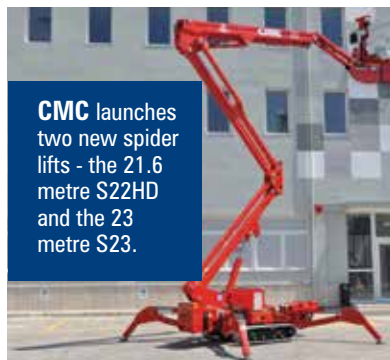
Spierings upgrades its UK service and support appointing **Crowland Cranes** as its UK service partner.

Versalift launches a hybrid version of its new 14.6 metre/230kg telescopic VTI-145-F van mounted platform mounted on a 3.5 tonne Mercedes Sprinter.

Maeda's third generation 2.82 tonne/9.7 metre MC285C-3 spider cranes arrive in Europe.



C&a
20.8
November
industry news



CMC launches two new spider lifts - the 21.6 metre S22HD and the 23 metre S23.

Engine producer **Deutz** wins an injunction against a long-term component supplier of crankcases and cylinder heads which was threatening its supplies while demanding a major price increase.

US-based crane manufacturer **Iowa Mold Tooling (IMT)** launches the new 42684 loader crane with a load moment of 42 tonne/metres.

US rental company **Skyworks** takes delivery of a 66ft 660SJ - the 250,000th **JLG** boom lift to come off the production line.



The UK **Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)** launches an inquiry into the planned acquisition of **UK Platforms** by **Loxam/Nationwide Platforms**.

Manitou sells a 26 percent stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary **Manitou Southern Africa** to the South African charity **Columba Leadership Trust**.

Norwegian **Genie** distributor **Hybeko** launches the 33ft Hybeko Tunnel 3390 RT scissor lift based on the Genie GS-3390 RT Rough Terrain scissor lift.



Spanish tower crane manufacturer **Comansa** upgrades its 21LC660 and 21LC750 flat top tower cranes and launches two new luffing jib cranes the CML280 and CML310 aimed at the growing demand for 18 and 24 tonne capacity cranes particularly in Asia and the Middle East.



Sarens launches the largest land-based crane in the world - the 5,000 tonne, 250,000 tonne/metre SGC-250 - capable of lifting 2,000 tonnes at 100 metres.



Riwal CEO Norty Turner resigns and leaves the company.

National Crane launches a tractor mounted version of its 27.2 tonne NBT30H-2 with a maximum tip height of 23.7 metres.



Celebrity deaths 2018

Dolores O'Riordan - lead singer for the Cranberries - 46

Peter Wyngarde - actor - Jason King in Department S - 90

John Young - lunar astronaut, commander of Apollo 16 mission - 87

Paul Bocuse - three star French chef - 91

Hugh Masekela - South African jazz musician - 78

Lord Peter Carington - former secretary general of NATO and British politician - 99

Bill Maynard - English actor the Gaffer, Heartbeat - 89

Ingvar Kamrad - founder of Ikea - 91

Mary Wilson - widow of British PM Harold Wilson - 102

Eddie Clarke - guitarist for heavy metal band Motörhead - 67

Dennis Edwards - lead singer for The Temptations - 74

Morgan Tsvangirai - Zimbabwe's second PM opponent to Robert Mugabe - 65

John Gavin - actor/politician, Julius Caesar in Spartacus, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico - 86

Mort Walker - cartoonist - Beetle Bailey, Lois - 94

Pik Botha - South African politician - 86

Paul Allen - co-founder of Microsoft - 65

Charles Aznavour - French singer songwriter - 94

Montserrat Caballé - Spanish opera singer - 85

Denis Norden - British TV presenter - 96

Eric Bristow - English darts player/world champion - 60

Isao Takahata - Japanese film director/producer co-founder of Studio Ghibli - 82

Kofi Annan - former secretary general of the UN - 80

Emma Chambers - actress, Alice Tinker in Vicar of Dibley - 53

Billy Graham - TV preacher evangelist - 99

Sir Roger Bannister - first man to run a four minute mile - 88

Tessa Jowell - British politician - 70

David Ogden Stiers - actor major Charles Emerson Winchester III in MASH - 75

Ken Dodd - English comedian/singer/songwriter - 90

Hubert de Givenchy - founder of the French fashion house Givenchy - 91

Trevor Baylis - English inventor - 80

Jim Bowen - comedian - 80

John Julius Norwich - historian and British politician - 88

Katie Boyle - English TV presenter - 91

Prince Henrik of Denmark - husband of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark - 83

John Mahoney - Martin Crane in TV show Frazier - 77

Winnie Mandela - politician married Nelson Mandela - 81

Stephen Hawking - physicist/author - 76

Barbara Bush - wife of president George H. W. Bush and mother of president George W. Bush - 92

Dale Winton - UK TV host - 62

Ruud Lubbers - former Dutch prime minister/UN commissioner - 78

Errol Brown - lead singer for Hot Chocolate - 71

Margot Kidder - actress, Lois Lane in Superman movies - 69

Tom Wolfe - author/journalist - 88

Clint Walker - actor Cheyenne Bodie in the TV western Cheyenne - 90

Alan Bean - astronaut aboard Apollo 12 - 86

Jerry Maren - last living munchkin from 'The Wizard of Oz' - 98

Leslie Grantham - English actor, 'Dirty Den' in the TV soap 'EastEnders' - 71

Carlo Benetton, fashion Designer/entrepreneur co-owner of Benetton - 74

Nancy Sinatra - first wife of Frank Sinatra - 101

Aretha Franklin - singer - 76

Ed King - lead guitarist Lynyrd Skynyrd co-wrote 'Sweet Home Alabama' - 68

John McCain - US senator - 81

Neil Simon - playwright 'The Odd Couple' - 91

June Whitfield - actor, Absolutely Fabulous, carry on films - 93

Frank Adonis - actor movies (Goodfellas) - 83

Paddy Ashdown - Politician, Lib Dem - 77

Burt Reynolds - actor - 82

Fenella Fielding - English comedy actress - 90

Tony Joe White - singer/songwriter 'Rainy Night in Georgia' - 75

William Goldman - screenwriter/novelist/playwright - 87

Bernardo Bertolucci - director/screenwriter - 77

George H. W. Bush - 41st president of the United States - 94

Stan Lee - creator of superheroes Spider Man, X Men - 95

Marty Balin - co-founder of band Jefferson Airplane - 76

Vic Damone - singer/crooner - 89

Verne Troyer - actor, Mini-Me in Austin Powers films - 49

Penny Marshall - actor Sitcom Laverne and Shirley - 75

Deaths - Cranes & Access

Percy 'Ralph' Helm - b1926 - former president and chairman of Manitowoc.

Edward 'Eddie' Clancy - b1956 - owner and chairman of UK-based Emerson Crane Hire.

Ronald Card - b1952 - respected access service engineer.

Harald Ziegler - b1969 - former managing partner of Wurtzburg-based Ziegler.

Stephan 'Steve' Williams - b1971 - joint MD and co-owner of UK-based Road Rail Cranes.

Rocky Tan - b1956 - director of Malaysian access specialist Eastway Engineering.

Kees Zeevenhooven - b1927 - former MD of Dutch crane distributor Zeevenhooven.

Bob Floyd - b1946 - former general manager of UK rental company King Lifting.

Raymond Schofield - Newcastle depot manager for UK-based Facelift.

Chris Walters - b1949 - UK crane veteran.

David James - b1944 - UK crane and access veteran.

Brent Hagedorn - b1973 - marketing director for BilJax/Haulotte North America.

Trevor Ripley - b1955 - crane operator for UK Emsley Crane Hire.

Benny Sarens - b1952 - technical director of Sarens.

Michael 'Mick' Donovan - b1953 - group crane manager Bowmer & Kirkland.

David Lane - b1947 - UK crane rental industry veteran.

Lachlan 'Graham' Campbell - b1937 - UK access industry veteran.

Kenneth 'Ken' Kilhefner - b1933 - former Grove executive vice president.

Dirk Theyskens - b1960 - former owner and CEO of Belgian tower crane company Arcomet.

Avijit 'Bobby' Mazumder - b1934 - former CEO of Indian crane manufacturer TIL.

Bill Newman - b1943 - ex Grove/Manitowoc European service manager.

Dave George - b1943 - crane and access industry veteran and Vertical Days safety officer.

Ciaran Gillespie - b1956 - access industry veteran and co-owner of Ireland's Boom and Platform Hire.

Paul Evans - b1965 - crane service engineer with Liebherr GB.

World Events..World Events..World Events

January 2018

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan starts military offensive to capture a portion of northern Syria from Kurdish forces.

A gunman in Senegal kills 13 people and wounds another 11.

Two car bombs explode near a mosque in Benghazi, killing 22 people and wounding another 30.

Roger Federer successfully defends his Australian Open tennis title becoming the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles title.

February

SpaceX successfully conducts its maiden flight.

The 2018 Winter Olympics are held in Pyeongchang, South Korea - North and South Korea join forces with a combined team.

Jacob Zuma resigns as President of South Africa after nine years in power.

A school shooting at a High School in Parkland, Florida, kills 17 people and injures 17.

March

Sergei Skripal and daughter Yulia are poisoned with Novichok nerve agent in Salisbury, England.

China grants Xi Jinping the status of 'President for Life'.

Thousands of high school students in the USA participate in the National School Walkout over gun violence.

Vladimir Putin is elected as president of Russia for a fourth time.

April

Qantas launches the first non-stop service between Australia and the UK.

More than 100 Russian diplomats are expelled by more than 20 countries following the Skripal poisoning.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games are held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Cinemas open in Saudi Arabia for the first time since 1983.

Miguel Díaz-Canel is sworn in as the first non-Castro president of Cuba since 1959.

A vehicle attack kills 10 and injures 16 in Toronto.

May

Spanish separatist group ETA announces its final dissolution after 40 years of conflict.

The Eurovision Song Contest is won by Israel's Netta Barzilai with the song Toy.

The wedding of prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

North Korea destroys nuclear test sites in a move to reduce regional tensions.

The EU wide General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force.

Irish citizens vote to end the Country's ban on abortion by 66.4% to 33.6%.

The USA extends its import tariffs - 25% on steel and 10% on aluminium

June

Donald Trump pushes for Russia to be readmitted at the G7 summit in Canada.

North Korea's Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump hold a summit meeting in Singapore.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup held in Russia is won by France who beat Croatia 4 - 2 in the final.

FIFA awards the 2026 World Cup to a joint bid from Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The USA announces its withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council.

Saudi Arabia allows women to drive.

July

Seven members of Aum Shinrikyo - which carried out the 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway - are hanged.

China accuses the USA of starting the 'largest trade war in economic history' and announces immediate retaliatory tariffs.

Eritrea and Ethiopia end their 20 year conflict.

12 boys and their football coach are rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand.

The EU and Japan sign the world's largest free trade deal, creating an open trade zone covering a third of global GDP.

Heavy wildfires in Greece leave 87 dead.

August

Apple becomes the world's first \$1 trillion public company.

The United States reimposes sanctions on Iran.

Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkmenistan end a 20 year dispute over the Caspian Sea's legal status.

The Morandi Bridge collapses in Genoa, Italy resulting in 43 deaths.

Scott Morrison succeeds Malcolm Turnbull as prime minister of Australia.

September

The Supreme Court of India decriminalises homosexuality.

The MV Nyerere capsizes on Lake Victoria, killing at least 228 passengers.

October

Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi is murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Canada legalises cannabis for recreational use.

More than 750,000 people march in central London demanding a second referendum on Brexit.

Donald Trump says he will 'terminate' the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia.

China opens the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge - world's longest sea bridge.

Michael Higgins is voted president of Ireland.

11 people are killed in a mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue.

The far right politician Jair Bolsonaro wins Brazil's presidential election.

November

California's deadliest wildfires result in 88 deaths and 18,804 buildings destroyed.

Centenary celebrations of the ending of World War I.

NASA's InSight probe lands on the surface of Mars.

Russia seizes three Ukrainian ships in the disputed Kerch Strait.

Chinese scientist He Jiankui claims to have altered the DNA of twins to make them resistant to the HIV virus.

December

France experiences its worst civil unrest since 1968 with the Gilet Jaune (yellow vests) movement.

The UN confirms that more than half (51.2%) of the world's population are now using the Internet.

200 countries reach agreement at the Katowice Climate Change Conference on rules to implement the 2015 Paris agreement.