

## FEATURES STORIES

### Tesla finishes installing mega-battery in Australia



Tesla has finished installing the world's biggest lithium-ion battery and will switch it on over the coming days. The 100-megawatt battery in South Australia is designed to provide security to the state's electricity grid. It will store enough energy to power 30,000 homes for about an hour. Tesla's chief executive Elon Musk had said the battery would be free if it was not installed within 100 days of signing a contract for the project. It appears the company will meet the 1 December deadline for installation of the

battery array, which will be connected to a wind farm run by French renewable energy company Neoen. Mr Musk originally made the offer on Twitter after South Australia suffered a series of "load shedding" blackouts in February, as well as a state-wide blackout in September 2016 that left 1.7 million people without power. Load shedding blackouts occur when demand outstrips supply, and the Australian Energy Market Operator orders power companies to switch off electricity to customers to protect the grid. The state will have the right to use the battery array's entire output to avoid load shedding events. The project is part of a wider package of projects aimed at guaranteeing the energy delivery in the state, which is heavily dependent on renewable energy. Although it will undergo an initial testing phase, the battery array will provide "system security services" as soon as it is switched on. "The world's largest lithium ion battery will be an important part of our energy mix, and it sends the clearest message that South Australia will be a leader renewable energy with battery storage," said the state's Premier, Jay Weatherill. *BBC*

**Facebook to expose Russian fake news pages** Facebook plans to let people see if they had "liked" pages created by "foreign actors" to spread propaganda during the US presidential election. The social network has previously said as many as 126 million Americans may have seen content uploaded by Russia-based agents over the past two years. It is building a tool to let people see whether they had followed now-deleted pages made by the Russia-based Internet Research Agency. The tool will be launched in December. The Internet Research Agency was behind hundreds of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and posted thousands of politically-charged messages. Many of the pages such as Heart Of Texas, Being Patriotic and Secured Borders were designed to look like they were created by US citizens. In November 2016, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said it was a "pretty crazy idea" to suggest misinformation spread on the social network influenced the US presidential election. Since then, the company has identified thousands of posts and paid advertisements placed by Russia-based operatives. It has been criticised for allowing propaganda and fake news to spread on its platform and taking too long to address the problem. Russia has repeatedly denied allegations that it attempted to influence the last US presidential election, in which Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton. "It is important that people understand how foreign actors tried to sow division and mistrust using Facebook before and after the 2016 US election," Facebook said in a blog post. "That's why, as we have discovered information, we have continually come forward to share it publicly and have provided it to congressional investigators. "And it's also why we're building the tool we are announcing today." *BBC*

**India train travels 160km in 'wrong direction'** A group of Indian farmers say they woke up shocked to find that the train they were travelling on had sped 160km (99 miles) in the "wrong direction". About 1,500 farmers were travelling overnight to the western state of Maharashtra after taking part in a protest rally in Delhi. But several hours into their journey, the group realised that the chartered train was not following the agreed route. The railway firm denies the allegation. The farmers said that the train was due to reach Maharashtra via Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat states, but the route had been changed without their knowledge. "We started the journey at 10pm on Tuesday and reached Mathura in Uttar Pradesh state past midnight. At around 4am, we realised that the train had reached the central state of Madhya Pradesh, which wasn't on our agreed route," Sagar Shambhushete, who was on the train, told the BBC. Mr Shambhushete said they stopped the train and started protesting at a small station called Banmore in Madhya Pradesh. "Our lives were at risk. The train was on a wrong route, an accident could have happened. We agreed to get back on the train after the railway authorities promised us that we were safe," he said. But railway officials say the farmers' safety was never at risk. "Special trains are run through a route which is conveniently available to the railway operation. The passengers might have felt confused because of the different route used in their return journey. There was no negligence and diversion," the railways said in a statement. But this is not the only time Indian trains have ended up at unexpected destinations. Here are a few more instances. The engine that ran away One railway engine made a break for it in the southern Indian state of Karnataka last week and managed to make it 13km (eight miles) before its panicked driver, who had been chasing it on a motorcycle, finally caught up with it. Newspaper reports said that the "dramatic chase" ended when the train, which had been moving at a speed of about 30km/h finally slowed down. It is unclear how the train started moving on its own, but reports said it had been uncoupled from a passenger train and had been stationary on the tracks when the driver got off. Fortunately an accident was averted thanks to quick thinking officials who notified stations ahead to stop trains coming in the opposite direction. An inquiry has been ordered into the incident. Holy shock A group of about 1,000 furious pilgrims, who were travelling to the northern Indian city of Varanasi from the southern city of Tirupati in 2011, suddenly found themselves at a station 260km away from where they were supposed to be. Railway officials were only alerted to the error when the passengers stormed the station master's office in Kazipet in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, demanding an explanation. The train was routed back to Vijayawada, where the mistake had taken place, so that it could be rerouted to its original path. Passengers said that although the journey had been "harrowing" they were relieved that the train route was corrected, and they did not collide with any other trains while travelling for so long in the wrong direction. *BBC*

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## HOROSCOPE - JANUARY 2018

### ARIES: BIRTHDAYS FROM 21 MARCH to 20 APRIL

**General Highlights:** For Aries the first four weeks of the new year 2018 will prove to be extremely distinctive. But don't be afraid of such characteristics, as this won't involve any negative trends, it just won't be clear and comprehensible at first glance. On the whole, the Sun's support will be obvious here, whereas Aries' planet steward Mars will be on the other side of the barricade, which could sadden you at certain times. But this is certainly not a critical situation, sometimes you'll just have to look around attentively, and that's where all the difficulty lies. It's important that now Aries will be able to understand and discover many things. It's quite realistic that January 2018 could be literally overflowing with all possible discoveries. Firstly, there is a high likelihood of discovering your true allies and real enemies (even potential). Masks will be taken off, not even in a particularly unexpected way, but several aspects could still be seriously surprising to Aries.



### TAURUS: FROM 21 APRIL to 21 MAY

**General Highlights:** For the Zodiac sign of Taurus, the first month of 2018 will be quite a colorful, interesting stage of life. Right now your general condition is highly likely to change so quickly that you won't immediately understand which direction it would be most logical to proceed in now. One thing is clear "you don't need to rush to make radical decisions. On the other hand, this will be an excellent time to get a grip on yourself. For example, now Taurians who have been fighting a harmful habit for a long time will finally be able to overcome it, once and for all. This is exactly why it would make sense to concentrate and make an effort, if it's high time for this. Right now Taurus' primary patron, the Moon, will take up a good position, which favors the hypothesis that for this sign self-development (largely internal) must come to the forefront.



### GEMINI: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 MAY to 21 JUNE

**General Highlights:** For Gemini the first month of 2018 will bring with it many new discoveries, but it must be said straight away that your sign should not count on an extraordinary, exclusive dynamic. In comparison to most of the neighboring time intervals, January will really not be the most driving period, but on the other hand there will be a lot of time and opportunities to get a fresh look at yourself and your principles. As for most signs, for Gemini this month will be a transitional time, both with respect to personal development and with respect to certain future aspects. Now Saturn, your primary celestial patron, will take up one of the leading positions, which will provide your sign with the necessary level of support. Unfortunately, Venus, who is responsible for the fall of your sign, will be strengthened, but this problem concerns more than just your sign and, fortunately, will not be critical. On the whole, the present period can be described as moderately creative.



### CANCER: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 JUNE to 23 JULY

**General Highlights:** In January 2018, representatives of the Zodiac sign of Cancer will be accompanied by success, there is no doubt about it. And in order to ensure that circumstances suddenly start to unfold according to your desires, the only thing you need is to make a good effort. The important thing is that Cancer's planetary ruler, the Moon, will be particularly strong right now, and there will be no planets in the solar system which will be able to ruin your plans. On the other hand, you shouldn't understand the situation one-sidedly: nobody is saying that your own mess-ups will not be able to lead to deplorable consequences. They still could! But, on the whole, this time will be extremely successful for you, and most conflicts will be dealt with quite easily, and the potential opportunities will be real. The important thing here is not to doubt your own strength. If necessary, you should reconsider your world-view stance, as the first month of this year will generally be very good for soul-searching, and many signs will make use of the opportunity they are offered.



### LEO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 JULY to 23 AUGUST

**General Highlights:** For the Zodiac sign of Leo, January 2018 will be quite an interesting time. Now the Sun, who is Leo's patron, will prove to be in a powerful position, and as a result of this, those born in the desired period could definitely get what they want in all areas of life. However, there are a few nuances here. Firstly, you shouldn't count on anyone else's help. That is, there is virtually no significance to how circumstances unfold "whether it is to your advantage or not, whether you are antagonized or your enemies, you just need to let it slide. Belief in yourself is the only criterion for your sign's success at the current stage. Another aspect "the priority of the heart over reason. Yes, usually everything works the other way around for Leos, and they are quite satisfied with it, but what is to be done if Pluto, your planetary exultant stands back for a time? Fortunately, this won't result in obvious negativity, you will only have to seriously reconsider your positions in life.



### VIRGO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 AUGUST to 23 SEPTEMBER

**General Highlights:** For Virgo, January 2018 could prove to be a complicated but extremely promising time, especially in the area of feelings and the sphere of relationships. It should be pointed out that Mercury, the key patron of your sign, will not be particularly favorably inclined towards you at the moment, but you shouldn't be frightened by this. You just need to take into account two aspects. Firstly, the lion's share of the problems will have to be dealt with independently, don't even try to rely on anyone else, because any help you get will prove to be either insignificant, or completely different from how you imagined, and thus virtually useless. Secondly, this will be a truly surprising time, because now your intuition will not make blunders. In other words, if you feel like you should act "act, without paying heed to any obstacles or warnings. Even if those you are closest to and the whole world around you are against what you are moving towards, you absolutely have to do it.



### LIBRA: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 SEPTEMBER to 23 OCTOBER

**General Highlights:** For Libra, January 2018 will have a whole range of excellent characteristics, which to a certain degree (or more accurately, in certain situations) contradict the general horoscope for the current period. Such a state of affairs has become possible due to the complicated combination of Saturn, Libras' planetary exultant, and Venus, the celestial ruler of your sign. However, this will not cause you difficulties or any clear negativity; your ambitions and positions may just differ significantly from the behavior of most of your acquaintances and colleagues. In this regard it must be pointed out firstly that right now you desperately need cooperation, and depending on the situation this could be friendly advice or full-blown comprehensive support from a whole group of like-minded people. How to set all of this up is another, purely personal question, which you will have to deal with independently.



### SCORPIO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 OCTOBER to 22 NOVEMBER

**General Highlights:** For Scorpio, who is patronized by Mars, January 2018 will be a productive time, but probably not as bright as you planned. On the other hand, almost everything in this regard depends on you personally. Don't disregard help, but focus primarily on your own wishes, only with a balance between these two "guideposts" will you be able to grasp the most profitable position. On the whole, this period will tend towards certain changes, although not particularly significant, but notable, especially for those around. Some of you will decide to get a new haircut, others will finally bring to life their age-old dreams of relocating. It is not very likely that particularly large-scale projects will start to materialize right now, since to a large degree this will be a time of planning, not a time of implementation. This should be taken into account if you have any grandiose plans. The stars do not indicate that nothing will work out for you right now, but a little bit later things could become a lot more effective and nevertheless much easier for you to deal with.



### SAGITTARIUS: BIRTHDAYS FROM 23 NOVEMBER to 23 DECEMBER

**General Highlights:** In January 2018, Sagittarius should definitely rest. No, this is not the infamous cri du coeur, although the position of the stars is currently quite categorical: this is not the time for action, but there is no doubt about the importance of the current stage of life. Nevertheless, a little bit later you will have far more resources than you have at present, and in order to avoid being in a difficult situation, right now it would be good to relax emotionally and physically, to calm your nerves, get your health in order. It's obvious that with such introductions, the ideal course of action for you would be rest (a holiday), and in the current situation, the longer the better. Don't worry and don't perceive the situation as an affront if you have no opportunity to implement such a plan completely. You will definitely think of something, after all you are a Sagittarius! Start imagining, summon up your friends, you will definitely find a couple of options which you have probably been saving for a long time for such a situation.



### CAPRICORN: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 DECEMBER to 20 JANUARY

**General Highlights:** To people born under the sign of Capricorn, January 2018 will appear to be an extremely balanced time, probably much calmer than you anticipated. On the other hand, favorable circumstances, caused by the fortunate position of Saturn, your celestial patron, and the "heavenly leader" of your element (currently this is Mars) certainly don't imply that everything will work out for you with minimal effort. You will have to work, but not so much or so often, and there will definitely be a result. Right now the stars advise you to devote as much time as possible to the family and to your own internal problems and issues. This will be an ideal period for solitude and soul improvement. You could definitely suddenly go for a walk around the night time city or, even better, to a nearby grove of trees (or at least to the park). In relationships many things could change, but only if you yourself want this. And although some people may try to influence you, all of this will somehow be secondary, blatantly unimportant.



### AQUARIUS: BIRTHDAYS 21 JANUARY to 19 FEBRUARY

**General Highlights:** Saturn, the primary celestial patron of Aquarius, will not be particularly strong at the present stage, but his interaction with other celestial bodies of the Solar system will have quite interesting results. For your sign, as for all sign of the Zodiac, January 2018 will be an unexpected time, in that you will have to radically reconsider your positions on many matters. If you have very important events scheduled this month in the personal sphere, either postpone them until a later stage, or if that is not possible, recheck everything tirelessly and be prepared for anything in advance. This doesn't necessarily mean that something bad is going to happen, it's more likely that things just won't go according to plan, and you will have to react quickly. On the other hand, this year the concept of "quickly" will acquire its own meaning, so in actual fact you will have enough time.



### PISCES: BIRTHDAYS: 20 FEBRUARY to 20 MARCH

**General Highlights:** Thanks to the patronage of the Moon (who will now help all elements of water), January 2018 could give Pisces many fun moments. That is, on the one hand, this time is unlikely to become anything exceptional, but at the same time several situations could prove to be of fundamental significance, bringing into your life a lot of the things which you have been missing for so long. This means that it would make sense simply to go with the flow, enjoying whatever is going on. If something is required of you, be attentive, because someone who is trying to appear all warm and fluffy towards you may not prove to be the most positive character. This is quite likely due to the negative alignment of Venus. At the same time, you should think about such situations, but you mustn't focus on them, otherwise you will simply bang your head against needless problems which might not even exist in reality. You would do better to devote this time to yourself and to your own inner world.



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