

World Cup Searched More Than Putin's Election or Skripal Case in 2018, Yandex Says

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Igor Ivanko / Moskva news Agency

The FIFA World Cup and the Winter Olympics were the two most searched events in Russia in 2018, according to a list <u>released</u> by the Yandex search engine giant on Monday.

Yandex is Russia's biggest internet search engine with an <u>estimated</u> 56 percent of the country's search market. The company, which competes with Google and Mail.Ru, has more than 20 offices globally, while its group's services include taxis, food delivery and a ride-sharing business.

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The two global sporting events edged out Vladimir Putin's <u>re-election</u>, the <u>poisoning</u> of Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal in Britain and the controversial government decision to <u>raise</u>

the country's retirement age.

The deadly fire that killed 64 people at a shopping mall in the Siberian city of Kemerovo in March, widely <u>believed</u> to be a result of systemic corruption in the country, was the third most searched topic in the past year, according to Yandex.

The top 10 list of events included:

- 1. FIFA World Cup
- 2. Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang
- 3. Kemerovo shopping mall fire
- 4. UFC fight between Nurmagomedov and McGregor
- 5. 2018 presidential elections in Russia
- 6. UEFA League of Nations
- 7. Retirement age increase
- 8. Mass shooting at Kerch college
- 9. Skripal poisoning
- 10. An-148 flight crash in the Moscow region

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