

PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

1. Swachh Survekshan 2018

- According to the results of Swachh Survekshan 2018, announced by Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs, Indore is India's cleanest city for second year in a row, followed by Bhopal and Chandigarh.
- Jharkhand has been declared the best performing state, followed by Maharashtra.
- Best city in Innovation and Best practices: Nagpur
- Best city in Solid Waste Management: Navi Mumbai
- The processing rate of solid waste management in India stands at 29 per cent.
- Further 36 per cent of the wards in the country are practicing source segregation.
- Swachh Survekshan 2018 covered all cities of India, a total of 4,203, covering a population of 40 crores. Segregation of waste at source, liquid waste management, maintenance of community/public toilets and decentralised waste processing practices have been added in the survey criteria in Swachh Survekshan 2018.

About Swachh Survekshan

- First launched in July 2017, it is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.
- The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.
- The survey fosters a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities and towns.
- The Ministry of Urban Development, takes up the Swachh Survekshan in urban areas and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural areas.
- The Quality Council of India (QCI) has been commissioned the responsibility of carrying out the assessment.

2. **PRAAPTI App and Web portal:** The Union Ministry of Power has launched web portal (www.praapti.in) and app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators). The webportal and app aims to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.
3. **Mission Raftar:** Ministry of Railways organizes one day workshop: The mission aims at doubling average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25kmph over a five year period.
4. **Facebook partners with NCW to launch Digital Literacy Programme:** Facebook has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch Digital Literacy Programme to train women on safe use of internet and social media.
5. **National Data Centre at Bhubaneswar:** National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up cloud-enabled National Data Centre at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments. It is fourth cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after *Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune*.
6. **Cochin airport:** The United Nations Environment Programme recognized Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport.
7. **Eastern Peripheral Expressway:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also

known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE). The expressway was completed in record time of about 500 days against target of 910 days at a cost of nearly Rs 11000 crore.

8. **Patratu Super Thermal Power:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
9. **TCS:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's most valued and largest IT outsourcing company created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone.
10. **Pasighat airport:** The first commercial flight of Arunachal Pradesh under UDAN scheme landed at Pasighat airport. This historic moment puts border state on the aviation map of the country.
11. **Strategic petroleum reserve:** India received first consignment of 2 million barrels of crude oil from United Arab Emirates (UAE) for its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) at Mangalore (Karnataka).
12. **World's first floating nuclear plant:** Russia unveiled world's first floating nuclear power station at port city of Murmansk.
13. **Zojila tunnel:** PM Modi inaugurated construction of Rs 6,809 crore Zojila tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir's Leh. It will be India's and Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional road tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.
14. **BSE:** BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC).
15. Indian Navy's six member all-women crew arrived Goa after circumnavigating the globe in over eight months on board the naval vessel INSV Tarini. It was the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The expedition, christened '**Navika Sagar Parikrama**', was flagged off from the INS Mandovi boat pool on 10 Sept' 2017. The six member team were presented with the **prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017**.
16. Union Home Minister has announced that Chhattisgarh would get a specialised anti-Naxal combat force called "**Black Panther**" on the lines of the Greyhound unit. The Greyhounds is a special force that operates in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. They have expertise in anti-insurgency operations against Naxalites and Maoists.
17. An upgraded version of the **Pinaka rocket**, with enhanced range and guidance system, was successfully test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha. The earlier Pinaka system, which was an unguided one, has now been transformed into a guided version, with a navigation, guidance and control kit developed by the Research Centre, Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad. The Research Centre, Imarat comes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Its range has been enhanced from 40 km to 70 km. The guided version is Pinaka mark-II, which evolved from Pinaka mark-I. It can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
18. Border Roads Organisation (BRO), has celebrated its Raising Day on 07 May 2018. The organization was created in 1960. It is a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country. The works executed have ensured the territorial integrity and the socio-economic upliftment of the most inaccessible regions of the country as well as India's neighbourhood. Works executed in friendly foreign countries are a message of the Organisation's ideology 'Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam'.

19. **Network For Spectrum (NFS) Project:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved increasing the budget for **NFS project** by Rs 11,330 crore.

- In 2009-10, the Defence Ministry and Department of Telecom (DoT) had signed an agreement in which it was decided that Defence will vacate 25 MHz of 3G spectrum and 20 MHz of 2G spectrum in phases and in return, the DoT will set up an exclusive network for Defence communication services.
- Hence under NFS project, the alternative communications network is being set up in lieu of airwaves vacated by the Defence Ministry for civilian use.
- It is being implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL). It will boost the communication capabilities of defence forces in a major way leading to enhanced national operational preparedness.

20. **IRA 2.0:** HDFC Bank launched IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid. In its new avatar, IRA will enhance user experience for customers visiting the bank at Bengaluru. IRA will interact with customers, answer bank-related queries, frequently asked questions, and guide them inside the branch with voice-based navigation. **HDFC Bank became the first bank in the country to introduce a humanoid for customer service.**

21. China successfully launched “**APSTAR-6C**”, a new communication satellite into orbit. It was launched onboard of Long March-3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center. It is equipped with 45 transponders in C, Ku, and Ka bands, with designed service life of 15 years. The satellite will provide TV transmission, Internet, communication and multimedia services to customers across Asia-Pacific region. It will also provide high-power transponder services for video distribution, broadband internet access, and cellular backhaul.

22. **Potential Vaccine Against Leptospirosis:** Researchers from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar has successfully identified key peptide that can be used to develop a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis. In their study, researchers had identified peptide sequences that could bind to vaccine for long-lasting immune response.

Leptospirosis is a **bacterial disease** that affects humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases. Some infected persons, however, may have no symptoms at all. **Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning it spreads through animals.** Farmers or veterinarians frequently exposed to animal urine or swimmers exposed to contaminated water are at high risk. People may get exposed to the bacteria during flooding as well.

23. **Hidden Water Reserves On Moon:** Scientists have found a mineral in a lunar meteorite that point to the presence of abundant hidden reserves of water ice under the surface of the Moon, which could be potentially useful for future human exploration. **Moganite, a crystal of silicon dioxide**, is known to form on Earth in specific circumstances in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids. It has never before been detected in samples of lunar rock. Researchers believe that mineral formed on surface of moon in area called **Procellarum Terrane** as water which was originally present in lunar dirt that had evaporated due to exposure to strong sunlight. But in the subsurface, abundant water remains in the form of ice.

24. **Scientists have discovered that the chemical element ruthenium (Ru)** is the fourth element to have unique magnetic properties at room temperature. So far, only three elements on the periodic table have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature - iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), and nickel (Ni). **The rare earth element gadolinium (Gd) nearly misses by only 8 degrees Celsius.**

25. The 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was held in Durban, South Africa. BASIC is a grouping of four countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China. It was formed in 2009. The meeting decided to preserve integrity of historic 2015 Paris Agreement, including principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity. It also reiterated that developed nations should take lead in terms of mitigation and providing means of implementation to developing countries.
26. The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2018 was hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, jointly with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), from 10th -12th May, 2018 in New Delhi. The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India is hosting the event for the first time. With the theme, 'Telling Our Stories – Asia and More', AMS 2018 provided a platform to encourage dialogue and cooperation in Media Sector in the Region.

About AIBD

- Established in 1977, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.

27. **SCO Cultural Ministers' Meeting:** 15th Meeting of the Cultural Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) Member States was held in Sanya, Hainan province. India participated for the first time at the Meeting of Cultural Ministers of the SCO. Key discussions of the SCO meeting focused on achieving more in-depth and creative multilateral cultural cooperation and promoting regional cultural cooperation and mutual understanding of the people.

28. **Andhra Pradesh Gets Separate State Symbols:** Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively. Rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state's flower.

29. Appointments

- **New Governors:** President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kummanam Rajasekharan as Governor of Mizoram and Prof Ganeshi Lal as Governor of Odisha
- **R K Agrawal:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Supreme Court Judge Justice R K Agrawal as President of National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC). He will succeed Justice D K Jain who completed his term.
- **CK Prasad:** Government has appointed former Supreme Court Judge CK Prasad as Chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.
- **Uttam Pacharne:** President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.
- **Sudha Balakrishnan:** Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Anil kumar jha:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Anil Kumar Jha as full time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited.

30. Awards and Honours

- **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak:** The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.