

“Discipline Your Mind to Think Positively: Discipline your mind to see the good in every situation and look on the best side of every event.” Roy T. Bennett

NATIONAL

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018

The Swachh Survekshan 2018 results have been announced. It was organized by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies. Compared to the previous surveys, this year’s exercise allocated substantial weightage to the feedback from citizens based on their daily experience.

The on-field survey for Swachh Survekshan was conducted by an independent agency and the data for ranking of the cities collected from 3 sources:

Service Level Progress: To verify whether systems and processes are in place in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to implement Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in the most efficient way.

Direct Observation: To verify and assess general cleanliness in the cities by making random field visits in different parts of the city and public conveniences (Community/Public Toilets).

Citizens Feedback: To collect feedback directly from citizens and monitor the performance of Swachhata App, a citizen’s grievance Mobile App.

Performance of various cities:

Indore has emerged as the cleanest city, followed by Bhopal and Chandigarh. Indore was the cleanest city last year as well.

Jharkhand has been adjudged as the best performing state, followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Cleanest State Capital/UT: Greater Mumbai.

India’s ‘Cleanest big City’: Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh).

India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ big City: Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh).

India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’: Kota (Rajasthan).

India’s Best City in ‘Innovation & Best Practices’: Nagpur (Maharashtra).

India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management: Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).

India’s Cleanest Medium City: Mysuru (Karnataka).

India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ Medium City: Bhiwandi (Maharashtra).

India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’: Parbhani (Maharashtra).

India’s Best City in ‘Innovation & Best Practices’: Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh).

India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management: Mangalore (Karnataka).

India’s Cleanest Small City: New Delhi Municipal Council.

India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ Small City: Bhusawal (Maharashtra).

India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’: Giridih (Jharkhand).

India’s Best City in ‘Innovation & Best Practices’: Ambikapur (Jharkhand).

India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management: Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh).

In 2016, Swachh Survekshan was conducted in 73 cities having a population of one million or more and capital city of States/ UTs and Mysore had bagged the award of being the cleanest city of India.

In 2017, the scope of Swachh Survekshan was enlarged to cover 434 cities having a population of one lakh or more and Capital city of states/ UTs and Indore was awarded as cleanest city of India.

BSE IS FIRST TO RECEIVED RECOGNITION AS A ‘DESIGNATED OFFSHORE SECURITIES MARKET’

Asia’s first stock exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has become the first stock exchange in India to have received recognition as a ‘Designated Offshore Securities Market’

(DOSM) from the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The DOSM status allows the sale of securities to U.S. investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with the US SEC and thus eases the trades by US investors in India.

Prior to this recognition, investors who wished to sell such securities (i.e., equity or debt securities issued by BSE listed companies in a private placement under the U.S. securities laws) had to take certain measures to ascertain the location of the purchaser prior to re-selling.

An IDR is a depository receipt denominated in Indian rupees issued by a domestic depository in India. Much like an equity share, it is an ownership pie of a company. Since foreign companies are not allowed to list on Indian equity markets, IDR is a way to own shares of those companies. These IDRs are listed on Indian stock exchanges.

IDRs are similar to equity shares. IDR holders have the same rights as shareholders; they can vote for or against company moves or decisions as and when it comes to them, get dividends, bonus and rights issues as and when the company declares them.

BRICS AGREED TO INCLUDE "GREEN GOOD DEEDS" IN ITS OFFICIAL AGENDA

The BRICS Ministerial on Environment has agreed to include "Green Good Deeds" in its official agenda in the next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.

"Green Good Deeds" campaign:

The campaign has been launched by the Environment Ministry to sensitize the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming. The objective of the campaign is to restore and return the clean and green environment to the next generation.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change had drawn up a list of over 500 Green Good Deeds and asked people to alter their behavior to Green Good Behavior to fulfill their Green Social Responsibility.

These small positive actions to be performed by individuals or organizations to strengthen the cause of environmental protection, were put on a mobile application named "Dr Harsh Vardhan App".

International conferences on Environment have been deliberating and adopting declarations. However, these declarations are hardly put to practice at the ground level, involving every section of the society. "Green Good Deeds" is an idea to take it to the people and get them involved.

CENTRAL OVERSIGHT BODY (COB) BY MHA

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up a central oversight body (COB).

Aim: To ensure use of videography at crime scenes and video-recording of statements of witnesses in an effort to prevent botch-up at the crime scene and hostile witnesses, particularly in high-profile cases.

The Home Ministry will ensure use of videography at crime scene in the selected cities and states within the next three months.

Cities with a population of 50 lakh or more, along with at least one district of every remaining state or Union Territory, will be taken up for the project in its first phase.

As per the proposal, the states will have to introduce digital cameras and establish secured portals, and investigation officers can email photographs taken at the crime scene to these portals.

The MHA has also suggested that the states set up an oversight mechanism, an independent committee to study CCTV footage installed to check human rights abuse at police stations.

WHO HAS PUBLISHED ITS FIRST ESSENTIAL DIAGNOSTICS LIST

WHO has published its first Essential Diagnostics List, a catalogue of the tests needed to diagnose the most common conditions as well as a number of global priority diseases. The aim is to provide a tool that can be useful to all countries, to test and

treat better, but also to use health funds more efficiently by concentrating on the truly essential tests.

The list concentrates on in vitro tests – i.e. tests of human specimens like blood and urine. It contains 113 products.

58 tests are listed for detection and diagnosis of a wide range of common conditions, providing an essential package that can form the basis for screening and management of patients.

55 tests are designed for the detection, diagnosis and monitoring of “priority” diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis B and C, human papillomavirus and syphilis.

Some of the tests are particularly suitable for primary health care facilities, where laboratory services are often poorly resourced and sometimes non-existent. These tests do not require electricity or trained personnel. Other tests are more sophisticated and therefore intended for larger medical facilities.

For each category of test, the Essential Diagnostics List specifies the type of test and intended use, format, and if appropriate for primary health care or for health facilities with laboratories. The list also provides links to WHO Guidelines or publications and, when available, to prequalified products.

GRACE MISSION

NASA’s GRACE mission has confirmed that a massive redistribution of freshwater is occurring across the Earth, with middle-latitude belts drying and the tropics and higher latitudes gaining water supplies.

A combination of the effects of climate change, vast human withdrawals of groundwater and simple natural changes are behind this.

If this continues, it could have profound consequences leading to a situation in which some highly populous regions could struggle to find enough water in the future.

The resulting map of the findings shows an overall pattern, in which ice sheets and

glaciers lose by far the most mass at the poles, but at the same time, middle latitudes show multiple areas of growing dryness even as higher latitudes and the tropical belt tend to see increases in water.

The study emphasizes that the 34 separate changes that it detects do not all have the same cause – not even close.

There’s very strong suspicion that the melting of glaciers and ice sheets is tied to climate change. On land, it’s possible that some droughts and rainfall increases may be also, though the study is cautious about that, noting that natural variability can also be a major factor here.

There are also some major cases of humans increasing water storage in the landscape, particularly in China, where massive dam construction has created enormous reservoirs.

Mainly, though, what’s striking about the map is the way that a combination of human-driven water withdrawals and droughts seem to be punishing the central latitudes of the northern hemisphere in particular, but also the southern hemisphere to a significant extent.

GRACE mission:

The GRACE mission was selected as the second mission under the NASA Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) Program in May 1997. Launched in March of 2002, the GRACE mission mapped variations in Earth’s gravity field. Designed for a nominal mission lifetime of five years, GRACE operated in an extended mission phase till 2017.

GRACE is a joint partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States and Deutsche Forschungsanstalt für Luft und Raumfahrt (DLR) in Germany.

GRACE consists of two identical spacecraft that fly about 220 kilometers (137 miles) apart in a polar orbit 500 kilometers (310 miles) above Earth.

GRACE maps Earth’s gravity field by making accurate measurements of the distance between the two satellites, using GPS and a microwave ranging system.

RAINCUBE : RADAR IN A CUBESAT

NASA is planning to deliver RainCube to the ISS on the OA-9 resupply mission.

RainCube:

RainCube (Radar in a CubeSat) is a technology demonstration mission to enable Ka-band precipitation radar technologies on a low-cost, quick-turnaround platform. RainCube will demonstrate the feasibility of a radar payload on a CubeSat platform.

Sponsored by NASA's Earth Science Technology Office (ESTO) through the InVEST-15 program, RainCube developed a 35.75 GHz radar payload to operate within the 6U CubeSat form factor.

RainCube has three main objectives:

1. Develop, launch, and operate the first radar instrument on a CubeSat (6U).
2. Demonstrate new technologies and provide space validation for a Ka-band (35.75 GHz) precipitation profiling radar.
3. Enable future precipitation profiling Earth science missions on a low-cost, quick-turnaround platform.

If successful, RainCube could open the door for lower-cost, quick-turnaround constellation missions, in which multiple CubeSats work together to provide more frequent observations than a single satellite.
