TAMIL NADU

- Swachhta Awards – Tamil Nadu gets 2nd place in the entire country with maximum number of Schools bagging awards
  - Karur’s Thanthoni T Sellandipalaiyam, Theni’s Kombaithozhu, Sivaganga’s M Alampatti, Thiruvallur’s Ariyambakkam, Dindugul’s E Awarampatti, Ariyalur’s Siluvaiseri Government Schools bagged the Min of HRD’s ‘National Clean awards’ for the year 2017-18

STATES

- Assam – passes ‘GST (Amendment) Bill’ in Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2018
  - The amendments include the exemption of GST registration for companies upto Rs 20 lakh turnover (Earlier Rs 10 lakh)

NATIONAL

- Scientists of the ‘Review Panel’ – recommends January 30 as the ‘Most optimal’ date for the launch of ‘Chandrayaan-2’, India’s second mission to Moon
  - The review committee looked into 3 dates suggested by ISRO - Jan 3, Jan 30 and Feb 14 considering the various technical challenges, including the testing of ‘Vikas’ Engine
  - Lander-Rover-Orbiter of Chandrayaan-2
  - Chandrayaan-2, unlike the first mission, involves a ‘Lander’ soft-landing on the lunar surface and unloading a ‘Rover’ to study and take measurements from the Moon while the ‘orbiter’ will go around the Earth’s satellite
Geographical Indication (GI) tag – for Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra

- A Geographical Indication tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as ‘Hapus’ in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for the pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.
- The first product to get a GI tag in India was Darjeeling tea in 2004.
- There are a total of 325 products from India that carry this tag, including Tirupati Laddus and Banarasi sarees.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation – to launch ‘Mission Gange’, a month-long rafting expedition of a team of 40 members

- The expedition will be led by Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest.
- The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5th 2018 and conclude in Patna in Bihar after traversing a distance of around 1500 km encompassing 8 major towns.
INTERNATIONAL

- **Canada** – makes ‘Biometrics’ mandatory for Indian citizens applying its Visa from 2019
  - Currently, only the US, UK and Schengen states asks visa applicants in India to give their biometrics

- **Argentina** – to allow ATMs ‘buy & sell’ bitcoin cryptocurrency by the end of the year
  - Athena Bitcoin, a US company that specialises in cryptocurrency ATMs, launched Argentina’s first bitcoin ATM last month in Buenos Aires, the Capital city
  - US-based Odyssey Group said that 150 ATMs it aims to install by the end of the year in Argentina, with 80% of those being bitcoin operational within the first few months of 2019
  - Athena Bitcoin already has 12 ATMs in Colombia
  - The Argentinian peso has lost more than 50% of its value against the dollar so far in 2018
  - Cryptocurrencies are virtual currencies that are not backed by any central banks

FESTIVALS

- **Indian International Science Festival** – begins in Lucknow on Oct 5, 2018
  - The 4-day festival will be formally inaugurated by the Hon’ble President on 6th Oct, 2018
  - Theme – ‘Science for transformation’
  - Organised by - Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati
  - History
    - 1st IISF – at New Delhi in December, 2015
      - In the inaugural event, ‘VIBHA’, the ‘Largest Practical Science Lesson’ by 2000 students of Delhi schools was conducted, which entered into the ‘Guinness Book World Records’
    - 2nd IISF – at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi in December, 2016
    - 3rd IISF – at IIT, Madras in October, 2017
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **REINVEST-2018 – 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo**

  ✓ Organised by - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy at Greater Noida from October 3 to 5, 2018
  ✓ Inaugurated by – PM, Narendra Modi along with Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of United Nations
  ✓ The Meeting also hosted the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries
  ✓ It was built upon success of RE-Invest 2015 and was organized by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

- **2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, Greater Noida**

  ✓ It was held on the sidelines of 2nd ‘Global Re-Invest India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investor’s Meet & Expo’
  ✓ 21 countries in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) adopted ‘Delhi Declaration’ on Renewable Energy in Indian Ocean Region
Delhi Declaration

- Promotion of technology development and transfer
- Strengthening of public private partnerships (PPP) in renewable energy
- Collaboration among IORA member states and member nations of International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Collaboration with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- Expansion of Global Renewable Energy Atlas, world’s largest-ever joint renewable resource data project, coordinated by IRENA

IORA

- Established in 1997, the Association consists of 21 coastal states bordering Indian Ocean as its ‘Member states’ along with 7 ‘Dialogue Partners’
- India, Australia, Iran IR, Indonesia Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, Madagascar, UAE, Yemen, Seychelles, Somalia, Comoros and Oman are members of IORA

Previous Meetings

- IORA Council of Ministers - October 2016 - Bali, Indonesia

DEFENCE

- Sahyog HOP TAC-2018 – First India-Vietnam joint Coast Guard exercise – held in Bay of Bengal off Chennai Coast

Indian Participation

- Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh
- In-receptor boat C-431
- Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter
- Sagar Manjusa vessel of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
ECONOMY

- Boost – Mobikwik’s new ‘Instant loan approval’ product was launched

- The new product will approve instant loans upto Rs 60000 within 90 seconds
- It uses an innovative risk scoring model called as ‘Mobiscore’ to approve the credentials within 30 seconds
- It is the first-of-its-kind product that disburses loan amount in the user’s mobile wallet directly
- The loan repayment will be in easy monthly installments of 6 to 9 months

APPOINTMENTS

- Ramon Laguarta - took charge as the chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo

- He succeeds India-born Indra Nooyi, who was the CEO of PepsiCo for 12 years
- Indra Nooyi will be chairman of PepsiCo till early 2019
- Ramon Laguarta has served as President of PepsiCo since 2017
- He has also been elected to PepsiCo’s Board of Directors with effect from October 3, 2018
AWARDS

Nobel Peace Prize 2018 – conferred to ‘Denis Mukwege’ and ‘Nadia Murad’ for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict

Denis Mukwege

Mukwege, a Gynecologist and surgeon, has long worked to treat thousands of women and girls affected by rape and sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Mukwege has earned the moniker "The man who mends women" for his work at Panzi Hospital in the eastern DRC city of Bukavu, which he founded in 1999

Nadia Murad

Murad is a Yazidi woman from the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar, who was held as a sex slave by ISIS

In 2016, at age 23, she was made a UN goodwill ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking

Murad becomes the 17th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize and is its second-youngest recipient after Malala Yousafzai (Age 17)

In 2017, Murad published a memoir of her ordeal, The Last Girl

Nobel Peace Prize

There were 331 candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 -- the second-highest number ever

Of those, 216 were individuals and 115 were organizations, according to Nobel organizers

The Nobel Peace Prize 2017 was awarded to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

The Peace Prize is the fourth Nobel award announced this week

The prize will be presented in Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, who founded the awards in his 1895 will.
- **Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018**
  - Awards Conferred by – PM Narendra Modi

- Event - Concluding session of 'Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention’, New Delhi
- Awards Commissioned by - The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6786 villages in 685 Districts across India were covered

### Overall Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top 3 States</strong></td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top 3 Districts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Satara</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rewari</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pedapalli</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Maharashtra)</td>
<td>(Haryana)</td>
<td>(Haryana)</td>
<td>(Telangana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>States with maximum citizen participation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Uttar Pradesh</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gujarat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maharashtra</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Districts with maximum citizens’ participation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nashik</strong> (Maharashtra)</td>
<td><strong>Solapur</strong> (Maharashtra)</td>
<td><strong>Chittorgarh</strong> (Rajasthan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Zonal Rankings – Top 3 States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zones/UT</th>
<th>State Rank-1</th>
<th>State Rank-2</th>
<th>State Rank-3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-East</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Territories</td>
<td>D &amp; N Haveli</td>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Zonal Rankings – Top 3 Districts

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Rewari, Haryana</td>
<td>Gurgaon, Haryana</td>
<td>Karnal, Haryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Peddapalli, Telangana</td>
<td>Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Warangal, Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Surajpur, Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Surguja, Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Hazaribagh, Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Satara, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Patan, Gujarat</td>
<td>Nashik, Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-East</td>
<td>Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Aizawl, Mizoram</td>
<td>East Sikkim, Sikkim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Territories</td>
<td>Dadar &amp; Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>Daman</td>
<td>Diu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ministry of Railways – wins “Swachchta Hi Seva” Award - for its contribution to “Swachchta Pakhwada”

- This was declared in an inter-ministry initiative organised by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to encourage cleanliness in government offices and health facilities
- The award was presented to the Railway Ministry on Oct 2, the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission
- ‘Swachchta Hi Seva’ campaign
- Launch - 2017
- Objective - To promote the public involvement in building toilets and cleaning public places

**SPORTS**

36th National Games will be held in Goa from Mar 30 to Apr 14, 2019

- Shooting and cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports
- Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added to the Games programme
- The 35th National Games of India, 2015, was held in Kerala.

**RANKINGS**

2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR) - Released by ‘The Intelligence Unit’ of ‘The Economist’

- The study was commissioned by financial services corporation ‘Visa’

    The ranking is based on seven parameters –
    - Government-to-Citizen (G2C)
    - Citizen-to-Government (C2G)
    - Business-to-Government (B2G)
    - Government-to-Business (G2B)
    - Infrastructure
    - Socio-economic
    - Policy environment
✓ Overall, India was ranked at 28th among 73 countries in 2018
✓ Earlier in 2011, India was ranked at 36th, highlighting the digital transformation in the country
✓ India holds the top ranking on B2G and G2B segments and stays third on C2G jointly with Argentina.
✓ Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories, followed by France and Denmark
✓ This is the third edition of the study after those in 2007 and 2011

➢ ‘Forbes India Rich List 2018’

✓ Mukesh Ambani has been named the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year
✓ He is also the biggest gainer of the year, with a gain of $9.3 billion to his wealth
✓ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the biggest % gainer of the year, with increase in net worth by 66.7 % to $3.6 billion
Top 10

1st – Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries) - $47.3 billion
2nd - Azim Premji (Wipro) - $21 billion
3rd - Lakshmi Mittal (Arcelor Mittal) - $18.3 billion
4th - Hinduja brothers ($18 billion)
5th - Pallonji Mistry ($15.7 billion)
6th - Shiv Nadar ($14.6 billion)
7th - Godrej family ($14 billion)
8th - Dilip Shanghvi ($12.6 billion)
9th - Kumar Birla ($12.5 billion)
10th - Gautam Adani ($11.9 billion)

INTERNATIONAL DAY

World Teachers Day – October 5

The Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the ‘1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation’ concerning the Status of Teachers
The Day was observed in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization, and Education International
Theme 2018 - ‘The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher’
The day is observed since 1994
World Animal Day – October 4

- It is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare
- The day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann, who organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at the Sport Palace in Berlin, Germany
- The event was moved to 4 October for the first time in 1929
- Finally, in May 1931 at the ‘International Animal Protection Congress’ in Florence, Italy, his proposal to make 4 October as ‘World Animal Day’ was unanimously accepted and adopted as a resolution
- October 4 marks the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals
- The day is sponsored by UK-based animal welfare charity ‘Naturewatch Foundation’ since 2003

REPORT

Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report

- Top 6
  1st – Apple ($214.480 billion Brand value)
  2nd – Google ($155.506 billion)
  3rd – Amazon ($100.764 billion)
  4th – Microsoft ($92.7 billion)
  5th – Coca Cola ($66.3 billion)
  6th – Samsung
- Facebook fell to 9th Place with a decline of 6% in its brand value due to Cambridge Analytica data scandal
- Spotify and Subaru made it to the global top 100 brand list for the first time
- Elon Musk’s Tesla made into the top 100 in 2017 but did not figure in this year’s rankings owing to several controversies
- Earlier, Apple became the first company in the US to hit the $1 trillion market cap
The Swachh survey covered 6,867 villages in 685 districts in August to rank states and districts on the parameters of rural sanitation. The month-long assessment was based on direct observation by independent observers, feedback from people and service-level progress measured by the sanitation ministry, reports Dipak Dash.

Five states have the top-10 Swachh districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satara</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewari</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peddapalli</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patan</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>95.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warangal</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>95.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solapur</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>95.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Haryana has three districts in the top-10 in this survey, including two in the top-5. Maharashtra, too, has three districts, but only one of them in the top-5.

Over two-thirds (66.1%) of the total 15 lakh respondents felt substantial improvement in cleanliness since the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014.

Source: Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation