

January - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A research team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad has discovered the working of a protein which repairs damaged DNA.
 - This special class of proteins called 'DNA proteins' gets activated in response to damaged DNA.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated a “Atal Kisan Mazdoor canteen” in Karnal’s New Anaj Mandi, Haryana.
 - This canteen will greatly benefit farmers and labourers, who can get food for Rs 10.
- ❖ On January 1, 2020, India and Pakistan exchanged their nuclear installations under an agreement that prevents them from attacking each other’s atomic facilities.
 - The practice is being followed for 29 years.

NATIONAL

SDG India Index 2019

- ❖ The SDG India Index was launched last year (2018) by Niti Aayog with the help of United Nations.
- ❖ It took into account 16 out of 17 goals specified by the United Nations as SDGs
- ❖ It evaluates progress of States and Union Territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.
- ❖ It will generate competition among the states to further improve on SDGs like poverty, education and health
- ❖ According to this year report, India's composite score improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019 with major success in water and sanitation, industry and innovation.
- ❖ However, nutrition and gender continue to be problem areas for India, requiring more focussed approach from the government.
- ❖ The first report had 13 goals and 39 indicators.
- ❖ The Index this year ranked states based on 54 targets spread over 100 indicators out of 306 outlined by the UN.



In the other SDGs, the **best performers** were

1. Tamil Nadu for 'no poverty';
2. Goa for 'zero hunger', sustainable cities and communities';
3. Kerala for 'good health';
4. Himachal Pradesh for 'quality education';
5. Himachal again for 'gender equality';
6. Andhra Pradesh for 'clean water and sanitation';
7. Sikkim for 'affordable and clean energy';
8. Telangana for 'decent work & economic growth';
9. Gujarat for 'industry, innovation and infrastructure';
10. Telangana for 'reduced inequalities';
11. 'Nagaland for 'sustainable consumption and production';
12. Karnataka for 'climate action';
13. Manipur for 'life and land';
14. Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat for 'peace, justice, strong institutions'.

States

- ❖ Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu ranked at the third position with the score of 67.
- ❖ Chandigarh too maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 70.
- ❖ Bihar was adjudged as the worst performer.
- ❖ The states showing biggest improvement since 2018 are Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim.
- ❖ UP has moved from the 29th position to the 23rd position.
- ❖ Odisha from 23rd to 15th and Sikkim from 15th to 7th position.

Front runners

- ❖ Only three states were placed in the category of Front Runners (with a score in the range 65-99, including both) in 2018 - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 2019, five more states joined this league - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Sikkim and Goa, taking the total tally to eight.
- ❖ The states were classified under 4 categories based on their scores.
 - 0 to 49 - Aspirant
 - 50 to 64 - Performers

- 65 to 99 - Front Runner
- with a score of 100 - Achiever

About SDG

- ❖ The year 2020 will be the fifth anniversary of the adoption of SDGs by 193 countries at the UN General Assembly
- ❖ The SDGs have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.

SDG India Index rankings (Overall)

Rank 1	Kerala	(70 points)	last year (69)
Rank 2	Himachal Pradesh	(69 points)	last year (69)
Rank 3	Telangana	(67 points)	last year (61)
Rank 3	Andhra Pradesh	(67 points)	last year (64)
Rank 3	Tamil Nadu	(67 points)	last year (66)

Last year
Telangana
was ranked
9th



- This year, TS is ranked **3rd**
- TS best in economic growth and jobs
- State emerges frontrunner in 8 different sectors

Railway Protection Force Rename

- ❖ The Railways Ministry has renamed Railway Protection Force (RPF) as Indian Railway Protection Force Service.
- ❖ The current RPF was formed under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- ❖ The RPF was first formed in 1854 when the Railway construction was begun in India for the first time.
- ❖ However, it received its legal identity for the first time under Police act, 1861.
- ❖ In 1872, the Railway Police Committee recommended organization of Railway Police Force.



PPRTMS portal

- ❖ The Election Commission of India launched an online system that will allow political parties to track their applications.
- ❖ The system is called Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS).
- ❖ The system will track applications registered by political parties.
- ❖ The status of the application shall be obtained through SMS or e-mail.

27th National Children's Science Congress 2019

- ❖ 27th edition of National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) 2019 held at in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ It based on the theme "Science, Technology and Innovation for a clean, green and healthy nation".
- ❖ Technical sessions, 'Meet the scientist' programme, opening of stalls, techno tour for child scientists were the special attraction of the congress.

INTERNATIONAL

UNICEF report on Children

- ❖ UNICEF released its annual report on Children.
- ❖ According to the report, the number of attacks on children since 2010 has increased three-fold.
- ❖ The agency has hence named the decade as "Deadly Decade".
- ❖ The report also stated that the number of countries experiencing violence has increased since 1989.
- ❖ The violations were predominantly in the conflict zones which includes northern Syria, Ukraine and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ The year 1989 has been specified as the Convention on Rights of Child was passed in 1989.

Netherlands scrapping its nickname

- ❖ The Netherlands has officially announced to drop the nickname 'Holland' from January 2020.



- ❖ Even the Netherlands' Board of Tourism and Conventions is also scrapping its symbol featuring a tulip, the national flower, and the word "Holland" and replacing it with a new logo that has an orange tulip and the initials "NL."
- ❖ 'Holland' refers only to the following two of the 12 provinces in the Netherlands.
 - North-Holland, where Amsterdam is located, and
 - South Holland consisting of Rotterdam and The Hague.
- ❖ But the name 'Holland' often used to describe the whole nation.

ECONOMY

Insurance for Bank Deposits

- ❖ The finance ministry and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) have recommended an insurance cover for bank accounts with deposits above Rs 1 lakh.
- ❖ At present, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) covers only deposits of Rs 1 lakh and below.
- ❖ Deposit insurance is providing insurance protection to the depositor's money by receiving a premium.

About DICGC

- ❖ The government has set up DICGC under RBI to protect depositors if a bank fails.
- ❖ Every insured bank pays premium amounting to 0.001% of its deposits to DICGC every year.
- ❖ When a bank is liquidated, depositors are entitled to receive an insurance amount of ₹1 lakh per individual from the DICGC.
- ❖ The DICGC does not deal directly with depositors.

ENVIRONMENT

First elephant colony – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ For the first time, Bandhavgarh Reserve forest located in Madhya Pradesh (MP), has a colony of elephants which migrated from Chhattisgarh in November 2018 and has stayed on.
- ❖ Bandhavgarh Reserve forest resides on the extreme north-eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpuras mountain ranges.

- ❖ In 1968, Bandhavgarh was notified as a national park and in 1993 was declared a tiger reserve - under the Project Tiger Network at the neighbouring Panpatha Sanctuary.
- ❖ Its mention can be found in the ancient books of the 'Narad Pancharatra' and the 'Shiv Purana' that this place is being associated with Ramayana.
- ❖ Till now there are no elephants in Madhya Pradesh and there is no known reason for this disappearance from India's central region, including MP and until a few years ago Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is known as Tiger State.
- ❖ In the 2019 Tiger census, it recorded the greatest number of estimated tigers at 526.

