

December - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Expenditure as new Finance Secretary after retirement of Hasmukh Adhia.
- ❖ The National Film Archive of India, a government-run film preservation and restoration body has added 2,200 short films and documentaries in the 16 mm format to its collection.
 - The prints were acquired from the State Institute for Audio-Visual Education (Maharashtra) in Pune.
- ❖ The Researchers at University of Queensland in Australia have created a new diagnostic test that can identify the presence of a tumour in the body based on a unique, DNA nanostructure that appears to be common to all types of cancer.
- ❖ Claudia Sheinbaum, the first woman elected mayor of Mexico City was sworn for a six-year term.
 - Another woman previously served as Mexico City mayor was appointed on an interim basis - Rosario Robles, (1999 - 2000) — but Sheinbaum is the first woman elected to the post.
- ❖ The Mauritius-based SBM Group has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to operate in the country through a wholly-owned subsidiary route.
 - The first foreign lender to receive such a licence after local incorporation was introduced in 2013.

NATIONAL

Witness protection scheme

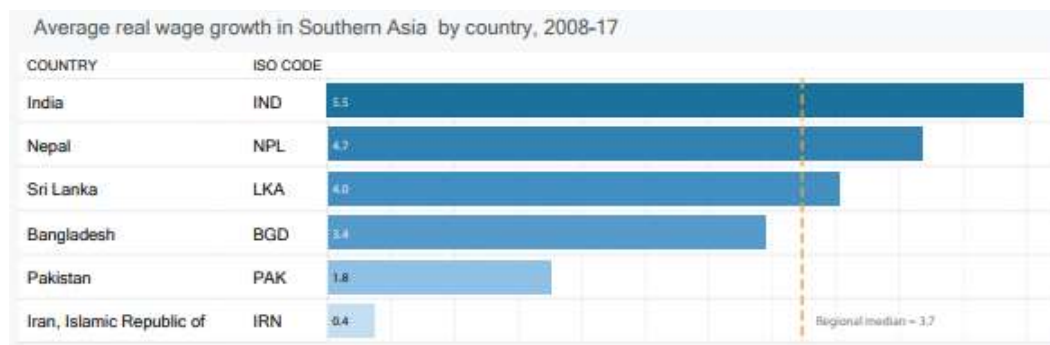
- ❖ The Supreme Court has approved the Centre's draft witness protection scheme and asked all the states to implement it till the Parliament comes out with a legislation.
- ❖ This scheme attempts at ensuring that witnesses receive appropriate and adequate protection.
 - Section 195 A of the Indian Penal Code deals with witness protection.
- ❖ This draft witness protection scheme, finalised in consultation with

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and
- Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- ❖ It has 3 categories of witnesses based on the threat perception.
- ❖ Already, countries such as USA, United Kingdom, China, Italy, Canada, Hong Kong and Ireland have witness protection scheme.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Wage Report 2018/19

- ❖ Recently, the Global Wage Report 2018/19 has been published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- ❖ As per the report, Workers in India got the highest average real wage growth (adjusted for inflation) in the last decade in southern Asia.
- ❖ During 2008-17, the real wage growth in India stood at 5.5 %, highest among all the countries in southern Asia.
- ❖ India and Pakistan had the highest gap of 34.5 % and 34 % respectively between what men and women earnings.



Global Climate Risk Index 2019

- ❖ 14th edition of the 'Climate Risk Index 2019', was released at the annual climate summit in Poland's Katowice city.
- ❖ It is an in-depth global analysis by the German watch, an international organization based in Bonn, Germany.

- ❖ It analyses quantified impacts of extreme weather events – both in terms of fatalities as well as economic losses.
- ❖ As per the report, Puerto Rico, Sri Lanka and Dominica were at the top of the list of the most affected countries in 2017.
- ❖ India was ranked as the 14th most vulnerable country.
- ❖ With a 29% increase in deaths last year due to extreme climate events, India accounted for the second highest fatalities in the world.
- ❖ Between 1998 and 2017, Puerto Rico, Honduras and Myanmar were the countries most affected by extreme weather events.
- ❖ Massive rainfalls have led to floods across Nepal (4), Bangladesh (9) and India (14), which affected more than 40 million people.

The Climate Risk Index for 2017: the 10 most affected countries

Ranking 2017 (2016)	Country	CRI score	Death toll	Deaths per 100 000 inhabitants	Absolute losses (in million US\$ PPP)	Losses per unit GDP in %	Human Development Index 2017 ¹⁰
1 (105)	Puerto Rico ¹¹	1.50	2 978	90.242	82 315.240	63.328	-
2 (4)	Sri Lanka	9.00	246	1.147	3 129.351	1.135	76
3 (120)	Dominica	9.33	31	43.662	1 686.894	215.440	103
4 (14)	Nepal	10.50	164	0.559	1 909.982	2.412	149
5 (39)	Peru	10.67	147	0.462	6 240.625	1.450	89
6 (5)	Vietnam	13.50	298	0.318	4 052.312	0.625	116
7 (58)	Madagascar	15.00	89	0.347	693.043	1.739	161
8 (120)	Sierra Leone	15.67	500	6.749	99.102	0.858	184
9 (13)	Bangladesh	16.00	407	0.249	2 826.678	0.410	136
10 (20)	Thailand	16.33	176	0.255	4 371.160	0.354	83

PPP = Purchasing Power Parities. GDP = Gross Domestic Product.

Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR) 2018

- ❖ The Inclusive wealth index, as part of the Inclusive Wealth Report 2018 has been released by the UN Environment and partners in Paris.
- ❖ The Inclusive Wealth Report is a biennial effort led by the UN Environment.
- ❖ It provides important insights into long-term economic growth and human well-being.
- ❖ As per the report, more than one-third of the 140 countries ranked in the report's Inclusive Wealth Index had increased their GDP since 1998.

- But experienced a decline in their inclusive wealth per head.
- ❖ The Republic of Korea, Singapore and Malta as the nations that have had the most economic growth and topped the list.

Food Sustainability Index (FSI)

- ❖ The Food Sustainability Index (FSI) has been released recently at the BCFN Food Forum in Milan, Italy.
- ❖ It is a report released by the Economist Intelligence Unit and Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition.
- ❖ Despite the increase in food production, the Food Sustainability Index ranks India 33rd among 67 countries in 2018.
- ❖ The Food Sustainability Index is based on three broad categories:
 - Food loss & waste,
 - Sustainable agriculture and
 - Nutritional challenges.
- ❖ It contains 38 indicators and 90 individual metrics. All parameters are scored on 100. Lower the score, less sustainable the practices are.
- ❖ France took the top spot and other countries in the top five on food sustainability includes the Netherlands, Canada, Finland, and Japan.

Categories	India score	World avg.
1) Food loss	72.7	71.4
2) End-user waste	98	63.8
3) Water	72.1	74.9
4) Land (land use, biodiversity, human capital)	57.2	55.7
5) Air (GHG emissions)	71.3	78.4
6) Life quality*	32.3	71.7
7) Life expectancy	72.3	61.4
8) Dietary patterns	59.7	51.7

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Transplanted Uterus from Dead Donor

- ❖ The Brazilian doctors have reported the world's first baby born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor.
- ❖ Healthy baby girl was born in 2017, following the uterus transplant from a 45-year-old brain dead woman.
- ❖ The womb transplant, lasting over 10 hours, took place in Sao Paulo in Brazil in September 2016. The baby was born in December 2017.



Digital Sky

- ❖ The Civil Aviation Ministry announced that, it has started the registration process for drone operators in the country.
- ❖ It will be done through a portal called 'Digital Sky'.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind that implements 'no permission, no take-off' (NPNT), any drone without a digital permit will not be able to take off.
- ❖ Nano drones in India can start flying without restriction. For micro and above categories, operators and pilots are required to register on the Digital Sky Portal.
- ❖ Payments for Unmanned Aerial Operator's Permit (UAOP) and Unique Identification Numbers (UIN) will be accepted through 'Bharat Kosh portal'.
- ❖ Flying in the 'green zones' will require only intimation of the time and location of the flights via the portal or the app.
- ❖ Permissions will be required for flying in 'yellow zones' and flights will not be allowed in the 'red zones'.

MISCELLANEOUS

IOC human rights advisory committee

- ❖ The IOC (International Olympic Committee) has set up an advisory committee on human rights chaired by Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein,
 - ❖ Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein is the former U.N. high commissioner for human rights.
 - ❖ The "human rights standards" will be included in Olympic host-city contracts, beginning with the 2024 Games in Paris.
 - ❖ Beijing is the host of the 2022 Winter Olympics, and spent \$40 billion to hold the 2008 Olympics.
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