



Report and Indices

EIU Democracy Index 2020

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) recently released its report titled “Democracy in sickness and in health” and also published the Democracy Index 2020.

Key Findings

- The Democracy Index report 2020 by the covers the 167 countries.
- In the Democracy Index, Norway has topped.
- The 2nd 3rd 4th and the 5th ranks have been secured by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada respectively in the index.
- India’s rank has degraded by two places from the previous year ranking. This year India has been ranked at 53rd place.
- Sri Lanka was placed at 68th position. It is also classified as a flawed democracy.
- Pakistan was ranked at 105th position. It has been classified as a ‘hybrid regime’.
- Other Hybrid regime countries include Bangladesh which has been ranked at 76th position and Bhutan which has been ranked at 84th
- Afghanistan has been ranked at 139th position and it has been classified as an ‘authoritarian regime’.

Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

The EIU has been headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

Moody’s GDP Forecast- Key Highlights

The Rating agency Moody’s have recently forecasted that the nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India will rise closer to 17% in the Financial Year 2021.

Key Highlights

- The growth rate projected by Moody’s is higher than what was proposed in the Union Budget 2021. The budget projected the GDP as 14.4%.



NCPCR Statement to Fight Child Labour and Begging

Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has identified 50 religious places to carry the interventions in order to ensure zero tolerance towards child labour.

Highlights

- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi and Taj Mahal have also been included in the list of 50 religious places.
- Other places that have been identified include: Bodh Gaya, Taj Mahal, Kumbh Mela, Haji Ali Dargah, Puri Jagannath Temple, Khajuraho, Rishikesh etc.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

It is the apex body operating under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The body works for protecting the child rights in India. It was established in the year 2007. The headquarter of the NCPCR is in Delhi.

What Home Ministry informed Parliament on Cybercrime?

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

The agency is headquartered in New Delhi. It works under the aegis of or is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Presently, the Director of NCRB is Ramphal Pawar (IPS).

15th Finance Commission's final report

The Fifteenth Finance Commission of India have submitted its final report for a five-year duration. The report has been submitted with the objective of transforming the financial governance of India's municipalities.

15th FC headed by NK Singh

UNWTO report: 2020 is Worst Year on Record

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has highlighted that the year 2020 the worst year on record.



UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

UNWTO is the United Nations specialized agency. It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain. UNWTO is the leading international organization in the field of tourism.

Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index

Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index was recently released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Key Findings of the report

- Report highlights that Singapore was the best performer among all the 11 health systems.
- Taiwan bagged the second position while Japan, and Australia stands at the third and the fourth position of the index respectively.
- India was ranked at 10th position out of 11 health systems.
- Indonesia was ranked last at 11th

India's Rank on Covid-19 Response Index

The Covid-19 Response Index was provided by Sydney-based Lowy Institute, recently. The study was based on the number of key indicators such as confirmed cases, cases per million people, deaths and deaths per million people.

Key findings of the index

- India was ranked 86th in a coronavirus performance index among the 98 countries.
- Report highlights that, New Zealand handled the pandemic more effectively than any other country across the world.
- Brazil was ranked at the bottom of the list.
- In the index, New Zealand was followed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus.
- US was ranked as the fifth-worst performing country.
- Sri Lanka was placed at 10th position in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

UNEP Global Climate Litigation Report 2021



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released its “Global Climate Litigation Report 2021”.

Reliance Jio- Fifth Strongest Brand Globally

The Reliance Jio venture of billionaire Mukesh Ambani has become the fifth strongest brand globally. It now stands behind the brands like Ferrari and Coca-Cola. This venture has achieved this milestone in just four-odd-years.

Key Facts

- This ranking has been provided by the “Brand Finance Global 500 ranking 2021” of the strongest brands.
- This ranking determines the relative strength of brands.
- As per the annual report on most valuable and strongest global brands has been topped by WeChat.
- The brand Ferrari is ranked second, Russian bank Sber is ranked third while Coca-Cola is ranked fourth.

World Economic Outlook, 2021

Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the “World Economic Outlook, 2021” report.

Global Climate Risk Index 2021

The Global Climate Risk Index was recently released by Germanwatch-a NGO based in Bonn, Germany. In the index, India has been ranked at seventh position among the countries that are most affected by climate change in 2019.

Oxfam Report: The Inequality Virus

The Oxfam has recently published its report titled “The Inequality Virus”. In its report, the Oxfam finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the existing inequalities in India and across the world.



UN: China overtakes US for Foreign Direct Investment

Recent figures by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development highlights that, China has surpassed the United States as the world's top destination for the foreign direct investment (FDI) in the year 2020.

Global Risks Report, 2021

The World Economic Forum recently released the sixteenth edition of the Global Risks Report, 2021.

India Innovation Index, 2020

The NITI Aayog is to launch the second edition of India Innovation Index. The Index ranks states of the country based on how they support innovation. The first edition of India Innovation Index was launched in 2019.

India Innovation Index, 2019

Karnataka emerged as the topper in overall rankings in the category of major states in India Innovation Index, 2019. Maharashtra performed the best in the dimension of Enablers. Sikkim topped the ranking in north eastern states category and Delhi topped the list in the category of Union Territories.

Global Firepower Index, 2021

The Global Firepower Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. India was ranked fourth in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked 138 countries.

Rankings

- The United States topped the index with 904 attack helicopters and eleven aircraft carriers. Also, the country has sixty-eight submarines and 40,000 armoured fighting vehicles.
- The US was followed by Russia with 189 fighter aircrafts and 538 attack helicopters. Russia has 13,000 tanks and 64 submarines.
- China was ranked third with 1,200 combat aircrafts and 327 attack helicopters and seventy-nine submarines. Also, China has 35,000 armoured vehicles.



- India was ranked fourth in the Global Firepower Index with 542 combat aircraft, 17 submarines, 4,730 tanks and 37 attack helicopters.
- Japan was ranked fifth in the Global Firepower Index with 2 helicopter carriers, 27 destroyers.
- South Korea was ranked sixth in the world and North Korea was ranked 28th.

Pakistan

Pakistan was ranked the tenth most powerful country in the Global Firepower Index. Pakistan has surpassed Israel, Indonesia, Iran and Canada in terms of military power.

International Migration 2020

The United Nations recently released the report “International Migration 2020 Highlights”. According to the report, the Indian diaspora is the largest in the world. More than 18 million people from India were living outside India as of 2020.

Key Findings of the report

- According to the report, India’s diaspora is distributed across a number of major countries such as UAE (3.5 million), Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) and US (2.7 million).
- The other countries hosting large number of migrants from India are Oman, Australia, Kuwait, Canada, Qatar, Pakistan and UK.

Henley Passport Index – Update (January, 2021)

The Henley Passport Index was launched by the International air Transport Association. Around 227 different travel destinations are considered to launch the index. The index is released based on the number of destinations the holders can access without visa.

What are the Key findings of Henley Passport Index?

- Nepal at rank 104 and Pakistan at 107 continue to be the “Worst passports to hold” category. Pakistan had a visa-free score of 32 countries and Nepal had a score of 38 countries.
- The countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were the countries with the worst passport to hold with a score of 26, 28 and 29.
- The report said that Japanese citizens can travel to 191 countries and Japan was the top performer.



- Singapore was in second position with a score of 190.
- South Korea and Germany were at third position with a score of 189.

What was the rank of India in Henley Passport Index?

India ranked 85th in the Henley Passport Index. India scored 58 in the Henley Passport Index.

What are Visa free destinations?

There are 58 destinations in the world that does not require prior visa. Of these twenty are in Africa and eleven are in Asia.

Management report of National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries

The Union environment Minister shri Prakash Javadekar recently released Management Effectiveness Evaluation report of 146 National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The report is first of its kind in the country

What are the Key findings of the report?

- The top five national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India are Jaldapara National Park of West Bengal, Raiganj wildlife sanctuary (WB), Tirthan wildlife sanctuary (HP), Sainj wildlife sanctuary of Himachal Pradesh and the Great Himalayan National Park(HP)
- The Turtle Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh, Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh were ranked at the bottom most.
- What were the highest performing wildlife sanctuaries?

In the northern region, Great Himalayan and Tirthan Wildlife sanctuary scored the highest. In the southern region, Someshwara wildlife sanctuary (Karnataka) and Gulf of Mannar marine national park scored the highest. In the eastern region, Jaldapara Wildlife sanctuary and Raiganj wildlife sanctuary were the highly performers. In the western region, Kuno-Palpur wildlife sanctuary (MP) and Pachmarhi wildlife sanctuary (MP) were the highest performers. In the north-eastern region, Khangchendzonga National Park (Sikkim) and Nongkhylllem wildlife sanctuary of Meghalaya were the highest performers.

Food Price Index of FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization recently released the Food Price Index.

The World Bank recently released the Global Economic Prospects report.

What were the Cyclones formed during 2020?

There were five cyclones formed in the North Indian Ocean in 2020. They were Super Cyclonic Storm AMPHAN, Cyclonic Storm BUREVI, Severe Cyclonic Storm NISARGA and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm NIVAR and GATI. Of these cyclones, Nisarga and Gati formed over Arabian Sea and the remaining formed in Bay of Bengal.

Under which Ministry does IMD operate?

Ministry of Earth Sciences.

RBI Digital Payments Index

The Reserve Bank of India recently released the Digital Payments Index to measure the growth in cashless transactions in India.

Status of Leopard in India 2018 Report

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently released the “Status of Leopard in India, 2018” report.

Key Findings of the Report

- India has 12,852 leopards as compared to 7,910 leopards in 2014. The leopard population has increased by 60% in the country
- The states that recorded highest leopard estimates were Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Conservation Status of Leopards

Leopards are listed as “Vulnerable” in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

National Migrant Workers Database

In September 2020, the Government of India had expressed its interest to set up a National Migrant Workers Database. This was announced by the Labour Ministry in Rajya Sabha.



National Migrant Workers Database

- The database is to be created based on the twelve-digit Aadhaar number. The number will act a social security coverage to the migrants.

Other Recommendations of Anand Sharma Committee

- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Epidemics Diseases Act, 1897 are insufficient.

World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings

- India jumped to 63rd position among 190 nations
- New Zealand has topped the Ease of Doing business rankings in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Human Freedom Index, 2020

The Human Freedom Index is published by the Cato Institute and Fraser Institute. It uses data from 2008 to 2018. According to the Index, there is decrease in personal freedom since 2008 globally. India ranked 111 in the Human Freedom Index, 2020. In 2019, India ranked 94th.

India is ahead of China and Bangladesh in the Human Freedom Index. China and Bangladesh ranked 129 and 139 respectively.

New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong bagged the first three spots. However, rank of Hong Kong is expected to decline in the future due to aggressive interventions of China in the region.

- Syria ranked the last in the index due to war scenarios in the country.

Other Rankings

India ranked 142 in Press Freedom Index that was released in April 2020. According to Democracy Watchdog Freedom House Report, Internet Freedom in India declined for the third straight year in 2019-20.

Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently released the Human Development Report, 2020. India ranked 131 in the Human Development Index (HDI). Usually, the UNDP uses three major parameters to calculate the Human Development Index based on which the countries are ranked. They are Life Expectancy at birth, maternal mortality rate and political participation of women. This year, in 2020, for the first time the UNDP has introduced Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI.

- Norway, Ireland and Switzerland occupied the top 3 ranks in the report. These countries were followed by Hong Kong, Iceland and Germany at 4th, 5th and 6th places respectively.

About the report

In 2020, human development report was generated under the theme

Theme: Human Development and Anthropocene

The Human Development Report was first launched in 1990 by the Indian Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Pakistani economist Mahboob UI Haq.

UNESCO's 2020 State of Education for India Report

The UNESCO recently launched the State of Education for India report (SER).

Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India

NITI Aayog has recently released a white paper titled Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India. It is part of its work to strengthen health systems in India.

Asian Development Outlook

The Asian Development Bank recently released the Asian Development Outlook. Under its outlook, the Asian Development Bank projected that Indian economy is to contract by – 8% in the fiscal year 2020-21.

Urban Governance Index

The Praja Foundation recently released the Urban Governance Index. Odisha topped the list of states and Manipur and Nagaland were at the bottom.



Urban governance index

According to the Urban Governance Index Odisha was followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Delhi rank 13th in the list.

Climate Change Performance Index

The Global Climate Change Performance Index was recently released by the New Climate Institute, Germanwatch and CAN (Climate Action Network).

Key Findings

India remained in the top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index for the second consecutive year. China, one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases ranked 33rd. In 2020, India slid a position to the tenth. India was at 31st rank in 2014.

According to the index, only two G20 countries India and UK were among the high rankers. The rest of the six such as Saudi Arabia, USA, South Korea, Australia and Russia were at the bottom of the index.

None of the countries were in top three ranks. This was because none of the countries were in the path of meeting their Paris Agreement commitment. Sweden was at fourth place followed by UK, Denmark, Morocco, Norway, Chile.

Trace Bribery Risk Matrix

The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix is an annual listing that measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 countries.

In the 2020 listing, India is ranked 77th position, a spot better than last year, in terms of bribery risks. China and Pakistan have been ranked 126th and 153rd spots respectively.

Key findings of the Index

India scored 45 in the Business Bribery Risk, 2020 and stood at rank 77. In 2019, India ranked 78th. India in 2020 has performed better than Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and China. Bhutan stood at 48th rank.

Denmark topped the list. It was followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand. The countries at the bottom most of the list were Turkmenistan, North Korea, Venezuela, South Sudan and Eritrea.

Annual Ranking of Police Stations

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently released the annual ranking of police Stations in India. The annual ranking is being done since 2015.

Key highlights of the ranking

- Nongpok Sekmai police station in Thoubal district of Manipur was ranked as the best performing police station in the country.
- The All Women Police Station of Suramangalam in Salem city of Tamilnadu was ranked second in the list
- Kharsangh police station of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh ranked third.

US Air Quality Index-Highlights

According to the recently released US Air Quality Index, Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities in the world. The report says that the particulate matter rating of Lahore was 423. Lahore was followed by New Delhi with a particulate matter rating of 229. Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal ranked third with a particulate matter rating of 178.

What is Air Quality Index?

Air Quality Index is an index that reports quality of air on daily basis. The index helps to measure how air pollution affects the health of the people living in and around the environment for a short period of time. The Air Quality Index is calculated based on five major air pollutants such as ground level Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

Higher the level of Air Quality Index greater is the level of air pollution.

IATA: Shanghai becomes the most connected city in the world

The International Air Transport Association recently announced that Shanghai is the world's most connected city in the world. Along with Shanghai, three other cities such as Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou have emerged as the most connected cities in the world.

Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System, 2018 released by Registrar General of India

The Registrar General of India recently released the Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System. The report mainly provides insights on Sex Ratios in various states of India.

What is Sex Ratio?

It is the number of females born per thousand males.

Key Findings of the report

- Arunachal Pradesh was the state with highest Sex Ratio. The sex ratio of the state was 1084.
- The state of Manipur had the least Sex Ratio of 757.
- Nagaland was at second position with 965, Mizoram at third place with 964, Kerala at fourth place with 963 and Karnataka at fifth place with sex ratio of 957.

National Girl Child Day

Every year, the National Girl Child Day is celebrated on January 24 in India. The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated on October 11.

Wildlife Institute of India: High Biodiversity in 49% of Ganges

The Wildlife Institute of India recently released a survey on the Ganges river. According to the survey, 49% of the river is high on biodiversity. These are results of phase I of the survey. The second survey is to be conducted shortly.

Key Highlights

The Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased in numbers. This indicates that the pollution level in the river has decreased and the river is in healthy state.

Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India: Key Facts

The Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India was recently released by Pratham Education Foundation.

Public Affairs Index: Kerala, Goa & Chandigarh best governed states

The Public Affairs Index, 2020 was released by Public Affairs Centre, a non-profit organisation. According to the index, Kerala was the best governed the state. The report was released by the committee headed by a former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman Kasturirangan.

Ranking

Kerala was awarded with the top most ranking and Uttar Pradesh with the bottom most ranking.



In large state category, Kerala topped the listing with an index of 1.388 followed by Tamil Nadu with 0.91, Andhra Pradesh with 0.531 and Karnataka with 0.468. The bottom most ranking was occupied by Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar in the same category

In the small state category Goa topped the list followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh. The bottom most states in this category were Manipur, Delhi and Uttarakhand. In the category of Union Territories Chandigarh was the top performing region followed by Puducherry and Lakshadweep. Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir were the least performing Union Territories.

Anaemia Mukht Bharat Index released

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with UNICEF launched the anaemia Mukht Bharat index. The anaemia Mukht Bharat is an initiative to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in India.

Key highlights

Haryana topped the anaemia free India index or the anaemia Mukht Bharat Index with a score of 46.7. The index was released during the eighth governing body meeting of National Health Mission in Chandigarh.

SOGA Report: India recorded the highest air pollution exposure

On October 20, 2020, the State of Global Air report 2020 was released. The report was released by US based institutes. These institutes were Health Effects Institute and Institute for Health metrics and evaluation. The report has been created based on data from ground monitors and satellites

Key findings of the report

- According to the report, India recorded the highest PM 2.5 exposure in the world in 2019. India was followed by Nepal and Niger.
- India is one of the Top 10 countries that has highest Ozone exposure. With the recorded the highest Ozone exposure followed by Nepal and India. In the past 10 years the Ozone concentration in India has increased by 17 %. Globally Ozone exposure has increased from 47.3 part per billion to 49.5 parts per billion.
- India had the highest number of Infant deaths due to air pollution. India was followed by Nigeria, Pakistan and Ethiopia. In 2019, more than hundred and sixteen thousand children died within the month of their birth due to exposure to air pollution.

Global Hunger Index, 2020

On October 16, 2020, the Global hunger index was launched. It is jointly prepared by Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide. According to the report, India ranked 94th among 107 countries. The report put India under serious category with the score of 27.2.

Key highlights of the report

The report says that India has serious levels of Hunger. India's neighbourhood perform better than India. Nepal was at 73rd rank Bangladesh and Pakistan at 75th and 88th rank respectively.

Lancet: Life Expectancy in India increases to 70.8 years

The recently published Lancet medical report says that the life expectancy of India has increased since 1990.

Key findings of the report

The life expectancy of India has increased from 59.6 years in 1992 to 70.8 years in 2019. Kerala has the highest life expectancy. In Kerala life expectancy has increased to 77.3 years. The life expectancy of Uttar Pradesh was 66.9 years.

State of Climate Services Report of WMO: Key Facts

The World Meteorological Organization of United Nations recently released the "State of Climate Report".

September: the warmest

The month of September was the warmest of 2020. The period between 2016-2020 had been the warmest on record.

World Economic Outlook: Key Facts

The International Monetary Fund has recently launched the World Economic Outlook 2020. The report has been titled "A Long and Difficult Ascent".

NSO Time Use Survey in India: Key Facts



The National Statistical Office operating under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted the Time Use Survey in India for the first time between January and December, 2019.

Key Findings of the Survey

- An India- women spends 19.5% of her time in unpaid care giving services or unpaid domestic work. This is over four hours a day on an average. On the other hand, an Indian man spends 25 minutes a day in these activities. Thus, women spends 10 times more on these activities as compared men

“What India Eats” report by Indian Council Medical Research: Key Facts

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Nutrition recently released a report, “What India Eats”. According to the report, the urban regions in the country consumed more fat than those in rural areas.

Key Findings of the Report

- The urban centres of India consumed 51.6 grams of fat per day
- The rural centres consume 36 grams of fat per day

NCRB releases “Crimes in India” report

On September 29, 2020, the National Crime Record Bureau released a report titled “Crime in India”, 2019. According to the report, crimes against women increased by 7.3% between 2018 and 2019.

Key Findings of Women

- Uttar Pradesh reported highest number of cases in both the categories, crimes against women and crimes against scheduled castes
- Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women
- Rajasthan had the highest rate of crimes against scheduled castes

State Wise Data

- Uttar Pradesh accounted to highest number of crimes against women. Around 14.7% of crimes against women were registered in the state. Uttar Pradesh was followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
- Also, UP had the highest number of crimes against girl children under POCSO act followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh.



- UP also had the highest number of dowry cases followed by Bihar.
- UP had the highest number of acid attacks followed by West Bengal.
- UP had the highest crimes against Scheduled Castes followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.
- The highest number of rapes against Dalit women was recorded in Rajasthan followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Gender Gap in India

India ranked 112th out of 153 countries in Global Gender Gap Index, 2020. The Gender Gap Index is published by the World Economic Forum. The index said that Indian women were not getting same access to health as that of men. On the other hand, the Gender Inequality Index is released by United Nations Development Programme.

Gov releases “Health in India” report

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently released a report titled “Health in India”. The main objective of the report was to gather quantitative information on India’s health sector.

Highlights

The report highlighted on health of religious communities in the country.

Key Findings of the Report

Among all the religions, the Zoroastrians were the most susceptible to ailments. According to the National Sample Survey that was released in July 2020, around 31.1% of Zoroastrians reported that they suffered from ailments. The percentage of people sick in other communities were as follows

- Jains: 11.2%
- Sikhs: 11%
- Christians: 10.5%
- Muslims: 8.1%
- Buddhists: 8%
- Hindus: 7.2%
-

CAG Report: Gujarat Tree Cover shrank between 2006 and 2017

The Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) recently submitted its reports at both the houses of the parliaments. According to the report, forest cover in Gujarat decreased between 2006 and 2017.

Highlights

Gujarat has the largest area of wetlands according to the report followed by West Bengal.

Maharashtra had the highest increase in tree cover in 2019. The forest cover in north-east region declined in 2019. Around 765 square kilometres of forest cover decreased in the region except for Tripura and Assam.

CAG report: Irregularities in Defence Purchases

On September 23, 2020, the Comptroller and Auditor General submitted its report on Defence Ministry to both the houses of the Parliament.

Key findings of the Report

- The French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation

CAG on UAV Rotax Engines

In March 2010, the Israel Aerospace Industries concluded a contract to supply five 914F certified UAV Rotax Engine at a cost of Rs 87.45 lakhs per engine.

Global Smart City Index: Indian cities slip; Singapore tops

On September 17, 2020, the Institute for Management Development along with Singapore University released the Smart City index for the year 2020. The report says that the Indian cities declined in their technological updates.

Key highlights

According to the report Indian cities slipped in their rankings. Hyderabad was at 85th position. The city was at 67th position in 2019. New Delhi slipped to 86th rank from 68th in 2019. Similarly, Mumbai and Bengaluru slipped from 78th and 79th position to 93rd and 95th position respectively.

World Bank's Human Capital Index 2020: India Ranks 116th

The World Bank has released the annual Human Capital Index on September 17, 2020. In the index, India has ranked 116th position with its score of 0.49. In 2018, India had scored 0.44.

Ranking of States on Support to Start-up Ecosystems

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had conducted the second edition of the States' Startup Ranking Exercise. The key objective of the exercise was to foster competitiveness and work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.

Key highlights

- Gujarat has been categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT), Delhi.
- Karnataka and Kerala have been ranked as 'top performers'
- Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan have been ranked as the 'leaders'

Global Economic Freedom Index, 2020

Recently, an annual report on The Economic Freedom of the World, 2020 has been released in India which was prepared by Canada's Fraser Institute together with a New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.

Highlights of the report

- Hongkong and Singapore have topped the index, which have attained first and second position respectively.
- China is positioned 124th.
- India has ranked higher than China, standing at 105th position.

NSO's Report on Digital Divide

National Statistical Organisation (NSO) recently published the report on 'household social consumption' in its 75th round of the survey which was conducted between 2017-2018. The report shows that how digital divide have increased across States, cities and villages, and income groups.



Key Findings of the report

- Delhi has highest Internet access covering 55% of the households.
- Kerala emerges to have least inequality where 39% of the poorest rural homes and 67% of the richest urban homes have Internet.
- States including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have less than 20% penetration.
- Odisha has lowest internet penetration with one in 10 household have access to internet.
- Himanchal Pradesh has highest internet penetration covering more than 70% households.

Internet as Fundamental Right

Kerala High Court in 2019 had declared the right to Internet access is a fundamental right that forms the part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution.

NSO's Report on Literacy Rate

A report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education' was published by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Kerala topped the list while Andhra Pradesh emerged as the least literate state, standing below Bihar.

Findings of the Report

- Average literacy rate of the country is 77.7%
- Kerala scored 96.2% thus has the highest literacy rate among states.
- Delhi stands at second position with 89% literacy rate.
- Uttarakhand is at number three with a literacy rate of 87.6% while Assam freezes at number four with 85.9% literacy rate.
- Andhra Pradesh ranked the worst with 66.4% literacy rate.
- Karnataka and Telangana have a literacy rate lower than the national average.
- The national gap between male and female literacy rate is 14.4%.
- Gap between the male and female literacy rate is lowest in Kerala being 2.2%.
- The male literacy rate is 84.7% while the female literacy rate is 70.3%, nationally.



- The state of Kerala has the lowest gap between the urban and rural literacy rates– 1.9%.
- Bihar and UP are among bottom 5 states with 70.9 % and 73.0% literacy rate respectively.

Global Innovation Index, 2020

India has joined the group of top 50 countries in the global innovation index for the first time. It has moved up four places to the 48th rank and keeping the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia.

Published by INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Key facts

- Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and