drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

POLITY AND NATION

30th Dec 2019 - 4th Jan 2020

2020

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index

Why in News?

NITI Aayog has recently released the **second edition** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index** in December 2019.

- First Edition was launched in 2018.

Key Points

- The index documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets.
    - It covers 16 out of 17 SDGs which marks an improvement over the **2018 Index,** which covered only 13 goals.
- It is developed in collaboration with:
    - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
    - United Nations in India
    - Global Green Growth Institute
- A composite score was computed in the range of **0-100** for each State/UT based on its aggregate performance across 16 SDGs.
- **Classification** criteria based on **SDG India Index** score is as follows:
    - Aspirant: 0-49
    - Performer: 50-64
    - Front Runner: 65-99
    - Achiever: 100
- India's composite score has improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019 with major success in water, sanitation and innovation.
- **Kerala** achieved the **first** rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.
- The **least performing states** were Bihar, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Front Runner- Total 8 States and 2 UTs (Chandigarh, Puducherry)** are in this category; of which, 5 states have moved up from the 'Performer' category:
    - Andhra Pradesh
    - Telangana
    - Karnataka
    - Goa
    - Sikkim
- The **biggest improvers** since 2018 are: UP, Odisha, and Sikkim.
- **Achievements:** The maximum gains are recorded in:
    - Goal 6- Clean water and sanitation
    - Goal 9- Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
    - Goal 7- Affordable and clean energy

- The **Swachh Bharat Mission** has contributed largely to the high scores on the **SDG 6.**
- However, **nutrition** and **gender continue** to be problem areas for India, requiring a more focussed approach from the government.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):
- The SDGs are a set of **17 broad-based global goals** adopted by the **United Nations** General Assembly in 2015, and intended to be achieved by 2030.
- In 2020, the world enters the final decade for achieving the SDGs- the **'Decade for Action'**.
- With **one-sixth** of the world's **population**, **India** is key to the achievement of the goals.

2. Swachh Survekshan 2020
Why in News?

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the results of the first (April-June) and second (July- September) quarters of Swachh Survekshan League 2020 (SS League 2020).

- The SS League 2020 is being conducted in 3 quarters, i.e. April-June, July-September, and October-December 2019.
- The SS League is crucial for the Swachh Survekshan 2020 due to 25% weightage of the quarterly assessments to be included in this annual survey.

Key Points
- Ranks for Swachh Survekshan 2020 have been assigned based on the population in two categories of the cities :
  - 1 lakh and above with subcategories of:
    - 1-10 lakh
    - 10 lakhs and above
  - Less than 1 lakh (under this category, the rankings are given zone and population-wise). It includes five zones:
    - North
    - East
    - Northeast
    - South
    - West
- **Best performers:**
  - 10 lakhs and above - Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
  - 1-10 lakh - Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
  - Cantonment Boards:
    - Tamil Nadu's St.Thomas Mount Cantt (best in 1st quarter)

- - Delhi Cantt (best in 2nd quarter)
- Kolkata ranked at the bottom of the ranking of 49 major cities across both quarters as West Bengal did not participate in the nationwide exercise.

Swachh Survekshan 2020
- Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual urban cleanliness survey, is being conducted from 4th January to 31st January 2020.
- Swachh Survekshan is evaluated for each quarter on the basis of monthly update of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) online Management Information System (MIS)** by cities along with citizen's validation on the 12 service level progress indicators.

3. Poshan Abhiyan
Why in News?

According to an analysis of the data shared in the Parliament, the State governments and the Union Territories utilised a mere 30% of the funds released under the Poshan Abhiyaan, or the **National Nutrition Mission,** since it was launched.

Key Points
- Barring Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar, none of the governments used even half of the sum granted in the past three years.

- **Best Performers:**
  - Mizoram (65.12%)
  - Lakshadweep (61.08%)
  - Bihar (55.17%)
  - Himachal Pradesh (53.29%)
  - Meghalaya (48.37%)

- **Worst Performers:**
  - Punjab (0.45%)
  - Karnataka (0.74%)
  - Kerala (8.75%)
  - Jharkhand (13.94%)
  - Assam (23.01%)

- Only 29.97% of the funds granted was utilised until October 31, 2019.

About Poshan Abhiyan

- POSHAN **(Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic**

Nutrition) is a **multi-ministerial** convergence mission **with vision to address malnutrition** with a targeted approach by 2022.

- It was launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2018 from **Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.**
- It is aimed at **improving nutritional outcomes** by:
  - Reducing the level of stunting, undernutrition and low birth weight by 2% each, and anaemia by 3%, and
  - Reducing the level of stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022.
- **Target Beneficiary:**
  - Pregnant Women
  - Lactating Mothers
  - Children
- It has a total budget of ₹9,046.17 crore for three years, 50% of which is through budgetary support, which is further divided into:
  - 60:40 between the Centre and the States
  - 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States
  - 100% for the Union Territories without legislature
- The remaining 50% is from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks.

4. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

Why in News?

According to the **Ministry of Rural Development**, only 252 Members of Parliament (MPs) have adopted gram panchayats under Phase IV of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).

- Phase I- (2014-16)
- Phase II- (2016-18)
- Phase III- (2017-19)

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister of India on October, 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan.
- Under the Yojana, **Members of Parliament (MPs)** are responsible for developing the **socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each** by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024.
- Gram Panchayat Selection:
  - Lok Sabha MPs can select Gram Panchayats from within his/her constituency.
  - Rajya Sabha MPs can select Gram Panchayats from the rural area of a district from the State from which he/she is elected.
  - Nominated MPs can select a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country.

Action Taken

- The MPs engage with the community, facilitate the Village Development Plan and mobilise the necessary resources for the Gram Panchayats.
- The planning process in each village is a participatory exercise coordinated by the District Collector.
- MPs also fill up critical gaps in the plan using the **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs) funds**.

5. Jai Prakash Narayan

- Jai Prakash Narayan was born in October, 1902 in Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian political leader and theorist.
- He is popularly known as Lok Nayak.
- In 1929, he joined the Indian National Congress.
- He was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for his participation in the **Civil Disobedience Movement** against British rule in India.
- Upon release he took a leading part in the formation of the **Congress Socialist Party**, a left-wing group within the Congress Party,
- He later formed the Praja Socialist Party in 1952.
- Soon becoming dissatisfied with party politics, he announced in 1954 that he would therefore devote his life exclusively to the **Bhoodan Yajna Movement**, founded by Vinoba Bhave, which demanded land distribution among the landless.
- He became the leader of the **Janata Party**.
- As a tribute to this modern revolutionary, the Government of India posthumously awarded him Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the country in 1999.
- During the Quit India Movement, Narayan took charge of the ongoing stir when all the senior leaders had been arrested.

6. Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS)

Why in News?

The Election Commission of India has launched a "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System; which enables the applicants to track the application status of party registration from 1st January, 2020.The applicant will get status updates through SMS and email.

- Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA).**

o   An association seeking registration under the above mentioned section has to submit an application to the commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation.

RPA Act 1951
- The act provides for the actual conduct of elections in India.
- Deals with qualification and disqualification of members of both houses of Parliament and state legislatures.
- Deals with the registration of political parties.
- Deals with disputes, corrupt practices and petitions regarding election.

7. Transfer of Community Reserves

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court has held that the Government has no right to transfer "invaluable" **community resources** like village water ponds to a few powerful people and industrialists for commercialisation of the property.

- Resources which are available for everyone's use in a community, village or town are called **community resources.**
- Protection of such village commons is essential to safeguard the fundamental right guaranteed by **Article 21** of the Constitution.
- **Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty.** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.

Key Points
- The judgment came on a plea against the transfer of village ponds' sites of Saini Village in the **National Capital Region** to some private industrialists by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority.
- The **National Green Tribunal** had refused to intervene on the plea that excavators and other heavy machinery were attempting to take over a common pond used by the villagers for a century.
- The court said the State cannot divest villagers of their existing source of water and other community resources even if it promises to provide them an alternative site where alternate resources can be replicated.
- There is no guarantee that the adverse effect of destroying the existing water body would be offset and people would be compelled to travel miles to access the alternative site.

8. Satcom Technology

Why in News?

The Rajasthan Government has started using satellite communication technology to enhance the learning outcome in educational institutions and generate awareness about social welfare schemes.

- It focuses on the five aspirational districts- **Karauli, Dholpur, Baran, Jaisalmer** and **Sirohi**, selected by NITI Aayog in the State.

Key Points

- The initiative has been taken to provide the facility of Receive Only Terminals (ROT) and Satellite Interactive Terminals (SIT) for getting the services of subject experts in the government schools and colleges.
- SITs and ROTs under the **CEC EDUSAT network** are installed at various colleges and Universities across the country.

CEC EDUSAT Network

- The **Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC)** is an Inter-University Centre set up by the University Grants Commission of India.
- It aims to address the needs of Higher Education; through the use of television along with the use of emerging Information Communication Technology.
- **EDUSAT** is the satellite launched in 2004 by ISRO to meet the demand for an interactive satellite-based distance education system in the country.

9. Telangana Industrial Health Clinic

Why in News?

The Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd. (TIHCL) is ready to extend services beyond the boundaries of Telangana on demand.

- It is a one-of-its-kind initiative of the State government to handhold micro and small manufacturing enterprises from slipping into sickness.

About Telangana Industrial Health Clinic

- Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited (TIHCL) is a Fintech driven Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC).
- It was promoted by the State Government of Telangana and anchored by Telangana Industrial Development Corporation (TSIDC).
  - It is a diagnostic and curative industry initiative for manufacturing MSEs.
- The TIHCL helps units revive through a combination of strategies, including hand holding, mentoring, counselling, revival and restructuring.
  - In a rather short span, it had successfully helped 40 units emerge stronger and was in the process of doing the same to 13 more.
- Its portfolio of products comprises bridge loan, stressed assets finance, credit financing and margin amount funding.

- **Benefits to women:**
    - For women entrepreneurs, it offers these at a concessional rate of interest under the NARI scheme.
    - It also provides composite loans with flexible repayments and withdrawals to new micro and small enterprises established by women.

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