



Important Facts for Prelims (23rd July, 2018)

Public Affairs Index

- Public Affairs Index is an index on the quality of governance, released by Bengaluru-based think tank Public Affairs Centre, that is based on 10 themes, 30 focus subjects and 100 indicators.
- The themes include essential infrastructure; support to human development; social protection; Women and Children; Crime, law & order; Delivery of Justice, Environment, Transparency and accountability, Fiscal Management and Economic Freedom.
- Kerala has topped the PAI for 2018 as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states.
- Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat followed Kerala among the top five states delivering good governance.
- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest on the Index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the States.
- Among smaller states (with a population less than two crores), Himachal Pradesh topped the list, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura which figured among the top five states with good governance.
- Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at the bottom of the index among small states.
- A separate index on the children of India, giving a measure of how child-friendly each of the states is.

Salicornia

- Salicornia is a plant that grows in salt marshes in the mangrove wetlands. It is considered a substitute for salt with low sodium content.
- State governments have intensified the efforts to tap commercial benefits from this plant through cultivation.
- Salicornia is being imported from Israel and Scandinavian countries in the wake of growing demand for it in Indian cities.
- The patients suffering from hypertension, diabetes and gastric related ailments prefer the Salicornia salad and salt.

What is the GDP deflator?

- It is the ratio of the value of goods and services an economy produces in a particular year at current prices to that of prices that prevailed during the base year.
- This ratio helps show the extent to which the increase in gross domestic product has happened on account of higher prices rather than increase in output.
- It is a more comprehensive measure of inflation because the deflator covers the entire range of goods and services produced in the economy — as against the limited commodity baskets for the wholesale or consumer price indices.
- GDP price deflator measures the difference between real GDP and nominal GDP.
- $\text{GDP price deflator} = (\text{nominal GDP} \div \text{real GDP}) \times 100$
- The GDP deflator reflects up-to-date expenditure patterns since changes in consumption patterns or introduction of goods and services are automatically reflected in the GDP deflator.
- GDP deflator is available only on a quarterly basis along with GDP estimates, whereas CPI and WPI data are released every month.

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