



CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

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Delhi Assembly passes resolution demanding Rajiv Gandhi's Bharat

Ratna be withdrawn

Delhi Assembly today passed a resolution demanding that Bharat Ratna awarded to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi be withdrawn over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Anti Sikh Riots 1984

- Due to the orders of Indira Gandhi, Indian Army launched its offensive against Sikh militants at the Golden Temple in Amritsar under the code name “Operation Blue Star”.
- The army was successful in driving out the militants from the Sikh’s sacred place, but this event angered the Sikh People and their sentiments got hurt.
- To avenge this action, bodyguards of Mrs. Gandhi killed her at her own house.

- Later the angry congress workers and supporters allegedly began their brutal actions of killing innocent Sikh People in the country; Delhi was the most affected area during anti Sikh riots.
- Union Government appointed so many commissions to enquire about the guilty people and to find out their masterminds, but nothing concrete came out of such commissions.
- The kiths and kins of the victims of Anti-Sikh riots are still waiting to get the justice after 30 years of the incident.

**India, China resolve to improve people-to-people contact for better relations
between the two countries**



- India and China have decided to further improve people-to-people contact for better relations between the two countries.
- Speaking at the 3rd India-China High-Level Media Forum alongside her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said, the two sides discussed enhancing cooperation in ten areas.
- Ms Swaraj pitched for increasing bilateral trade. The External Affairs Minister said armies of both the countries have been constantly working to improve mutual contact as well as taking confidence-building measures.
- Speaking at the event, the Chinese Foreign Minister stressed the need for increasing people-to-people exchanges to benefit mankind.

Earlier, the two leaders held the first meeting of the India-China High-Level Mechanism on cultural exchanges and people to people contact.

NITI Aayog || SDG India Index

On December 21, 2018, the Sustainable Development Goal, **SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018** was released by the **NITI Aayog** in **New Delhi**. It was released by:

- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar**,



Objective:

To promote Competitive and Cooperative Federalism among States and UTs.

About the SDG India Index 2018 report:

- It was developed in collaboration with the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations** in India.
- It aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**, which embodies the five P's of the global SDG movement – People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace.
- It is a single measurable Index to map progress of States & UTs towards **2030 SDGs**.

- The progress of all States and UTs were tracked on **62** Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, which in turn was guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework comprising **306** indicators and based on multiple-round consultations with Union Ministries/Departments and States/UTs.
- The Index spans around **13 out of 17** SDGs.
- Progress on SDGs **12, 13 & 14** could not be measured as relevant State/UT level data were not available.
- **SDG 17** was left out as it focuses on international partnerships.

Computation of the SDG India Index 2018 report:

i. A composite score was computed between the range of 0-100 for each State and UT based on the 13 selected goals.

ii. The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved which means if a State/UT achieves a score of **100**, it signifies that it has achieved the 2030 national targets.

iii. There are **4** categories of the index based on the scores the state/UT has achieved. They are:

- **Achiever (100),**
- **Front Runner (65-99),**
- **Performer (50-64) and**

- **Aspirant (0-49).**

Results of the SDG India Index 2018 report:

i. The SDG Index score for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 ranged

- Between 42 and 69 for State and
- Between 57 to 68 for Union Territories.

ii. Among the states:

- **Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** are at the top of the list and running as '**Front Runners**' with the scores of **69** each for Kerala and Himachal Pradesh and **66** for Tamil Nadu.
- **Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** ranked at the bottom of the list as '**Aspirant**' states with scores of 49, 48, and 42 respectively.
- Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal all ranked in the '**Performer**' category with scores ranging from 64 to 50.

Among the Union Territories:

- **Chandigarh and Puducherry** ranked the highest with 68 and 65 scores respectively earning the category of **‘Front Runner’**
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Lakshadweep were ranked in the **‘Performer’** category.

iii. The ranking took India’s average score at **57**.

iv. None of the states/UTs were marked in the **‘Achiever’** category.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

NITI Aayog:

- ◆ Chairman: PM Narendra Modi.
- ◆ Vice-Chairman: Rajiv Kumar.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018: Bill to amend Companies Act 2013

introduced by govt

On December 20, 2018, the government introduced the **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018** to amend the **Companies Act, 2013** to further improve the **ease of doing business**, ease burden of the **special courts** and modify punishments.

i. The bill would replace the **Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018**, that was promulgated on November 2, 2018 and would amend provisions in the **Companies Act, 2013**.

ii. According to the bill, following amendments are going to take place:

- A total of 16 types of corporate offences have been shifted from special courts to in-house adjudication, increasing the scope of in-house assessment from **18 to 34 Sections of the Act**.
- Amending **section 441** to enhance the jurisdiction of Regional Director for compound offences,

- Amending **clause (41) of section 2** to empower the central government to allow certain companies to have a different financial year instead of being determined by the National Company Law Tribunal.
- Amending **section 12** of Act to empower Registrar to remove names of companies from register of companies if the companies are not operational according to the provisions of the Act.

iii. These amendments were based on the recommendations of a government-appointed committee to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013 in order to promote Ease of Doing Business along with better corporate compliance.

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project' launched by Government

On 20th December 2018, The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, launched the '**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**' with an aim to protect and conserve the world's last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion.

Key Points:

- i.** The total budget of the project for the next three years is about Rs **97.84 crore**.
- ii.** It will help the conservation of Asiatic Lions with the help of state of the art techniques/instruments, regular scientific research studies, disease management, and modern surveillance/patrolling techniques.

iii. The project will be funded through, **the Development of Wildlife Habitat**, a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS-DWH), with the contributing ratio of **60:40** for central and state share.

iv. The 2015 census showed a population of **523** Asiatic Lions in the **Gir Protected Area** Network of 1648.79 sq. km in **Gujarat**.

v. The Asiatic Lions are already included in the list of 21 **critically endangered species** for recovery programme and financial assistance under the species recovery component of CSS-DWH.

15th Global SME Business Summit in New Delhi

On 19th December 2018, **15th** edition of a two day **Global SME Business Summit** was organised by the Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace in New Delhi.



Key Points:

- i.** The agenda of the summit is to bring together renowned speakers with unbounded experience and expertise, a global audience, and various national and international SME stakeholders to integrate Indian MSMEs into the Global Value Chains (GVCs).
- ii.** The theme of the event was ‘**Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains.**’
- iii.** The event will comprise plenary sessions on various topics and will also feature workshops on international trade, international trade through e-commerce, and domestic trade hubs.
- iv.** Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu** and **Giriraj Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) along with other dignitaries, CEOs and

academicians from India and across the world addressed the summit.

MSME ministry to set up 20 technology centres: Giriraj Singh

Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) announced that government will set up **20** additional technology centres to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- i.** MSMEs will get the access to advanced manufacturing technologies, skilled manpower and technical and business advisory support through these centers.
- ii.** Currently, 10 such centres are operational in different states of the country.