

SDG India Index 2019

Why in news?

NITI Aayog has recently released the 'SDG India Index 2019'.

What is SDG India Index?

- The index aims to measure India and its States' progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.
- The SDGs of the UN have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.
- The SDG India Index 2019 has been constructed spanning across 16 out of 17 SDGs with a qualitative assessment on SDG 17.
- The 2019 Index ranked states and UTs based on 54 targets spread over 100 indicators out of 306 outlined by the UN.
- It measures their progress on the outcomes of the interventions and schemes of the Government of India.
- The Index is intended to provide a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.
- The first report, which was launched in 2018, had 13 goals and 39 indicators.

What are the highlights of the 2019 index?

- **Ranking** - Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 70.
- Chandigarh too maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 70.
- Himachal Pradesh took the second spot while Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana shared the third spot.
- Bihar, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh are the worst performing states.
- Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim have shown maximum improvement.
- West Bengal (rank 14) has also done well, but given the education level in the state, it should be in top 3 performing states.
- On the other hand, states like Gujarat have not shown any progress vis-a-vis 2018 rankings.

TOP 12, THE STATES

Kerala	70
Himachal	69
Andhra	67
Tamil Nadu	67
Telangana	67
Karnataka	66
Goa	65
Sikkim	65
Gujarat	64
Maharashtra	64
Uttarakhand	64
Punjab	62

BOTTOM 5, THE STATES

Bihar	50
Jharkhand	53
Arunachal	53
Meghalaya	54
UP, Assam	55

TOP 5, THE UTs

Chandigarh	70
Puducherry	66
Dadra & NH	63
Lakshadweep	63
Delhi, A & N Islands, Daman & Diu	61

- **Progress** - Only 3 states were placed in the category of Front Runners (with a score in the range 65-99) in 2018.
- These were Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- In 2019, 5 more states joined this league- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Sikkim and Goa.
- **Parameters** - With regard to poverty reduction, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim have done well.
- On 'zero hunger' parameters, Goa, Mizoram, Kerala, Nagaland and Manipur were the front-runners.
- **India** - India's composite score improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019.
- The major contribution was success in water and sanitation, industry and innovation.
- However, nutrition and gender continue to be problem areas for India, requiring more focused approach from the government.

Source: Livemint, Indian Express