

## India Ranked 117th in SDG Index 2020, Sweden Tops: Sustainable Development Report 2020



In accordance with the “Sustainable Development Report 2020- The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19”, comprising of SDG index 2020, there will be severe negative impacts on most of the United Nations (UN)-mandated

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to COVID-19 pandemic. India, which has ranked at 117th position with a score of **61.92** is also facing major challenges in 10 of the 17 SDGs including zero hunger, good health, gender inequality among others. The index has been topped by Sweden.

The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020. Following table shows top 3 countries under it

Rank	Country	Score (out of 100)
117	India	61.92
1	Sweden	84.72
2	Denmark	84.56
3	Finland	83.77

## India Ranked 31st in INFORM Risk Index 2020 for Humanitarian crises & Disasters; Somalia Tops



In accordance with the “**INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters**” released by research centre INFORM, operating under European Commission (EU), India has ranked at 31st place with an inform risk of 5.4, means risk of humanitarian crises and disasters . The report ranked the countries based on “INFORM Risk Index” which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of**

**Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)** on behalf of all INFORM Partners.

### About INFORM Risk Index:

It is the first global, objective and transparent tool for understanding the risk of regions based upon crises and disasters. A higher figure means more exposure to risks. The report considers the following while framing the index

- Natural Factors: Tsunami, Earthquake, Drought, Flood, Epidemic and Tropical Cyclones
- Human Factors: Human Conflicts and conflict risks
- Socio-Economic factors: Inequality, vulnerable people, deprivation and aid dependency
- Institutional: DRR, Governance
- Infrastructure: Communication, Physical infrastructure, Access to health system

## NHRC Constitutes 11-Member Committee Headed by K S Reddy to Assess Covid-19 Impact on Human Rights

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India to study impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) on human rights of individuals, particularly marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society, together with migrant labourers & will also study the future response of the government.

## Israel Successfully Launches New Spy Satellite 'Ofek 16' into Space Using Shavit Rocket



On July 7, 2020, The Space Administration in the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D), of the **Israel Ministry of Defense (IMoD)**, and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), have successfully launched a new **spy satellite "Ofek 16"** into orbit by using a

locally-developed **Shavit rocket** from a launchpad at Palmachim airbase in central Israel at 4:00 AM.

Following the launch, 'OFEC 16' started sending data and started orbiting around the Earth. It will also monitor Iran and developments in its nuclear and missile programs.

### **Ofek 16:**

1. It is an electro-optical reconnaissance satellite with advanced capabilities including breakthrough 'blue and white' technology and its payload was developed by defense firm Elbit Systems.
2. The satellite was tested by engineers from the Ministry of Defense and State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries [ISRAI.UL] before starting full operations.
3. IDF's (Israel Defense Force) 9900 Intelligence Unit will be responsible for the Ofek 16 satellite once it gets operational.
4. This was the first launch of an Israeli spy satellite into space since the Ofek-11 which entered orbit in September 2016.

## Akash Become India's 66th Grandmaster



The 23 year-old G. Akash from Chennai, Tamil Nadu becomes the country's 66th Grandmaster with rating of 2495. The title was confirmed at the recent meeting of International Chess Federation (FIDE) Council/Akash is an engineering graduate from Anna University. He is

coached by K. Visweswaran, a former National Champion. He won the national title in 2012. Aakash got third Grand Master norm in the National senior chess 'A' championship in Majhitar (Sikkim) in 2019 where he fell short of the required Elo Mark of 2500.

### Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel Authored a Book Titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'



i. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has authored a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver', which focuses on the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) that has affected Indian banking in recent

years and also its causes.

ii. The book will be published by HarperCollins India and will be released by the end of July.

iii. The book highlights Urjit Patel's efforts as the RBI governor in dealing with it, where he has explained the problem and how it exploded and also about how he would have resolved the issue if he had not been prevented.

### World Zoonoses Day 2020: July 6



i. World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on July 6 to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases among people.

ii. The day commemorates French Biologist, Louis Pasteur who administered the first successful vaccine against the Rabies virus in July 6, 1885.

iii. The day emphasizes about Zoonotic disease and problems caused by them. It urges people to take the right action. The day aims to show how this disease can be prevented after taking precautionary measures.

About Louis Pasteur:



He is recognized for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation and pasteurization. He introduced **the 1st vaccine for anthrax**

### 3rd Anniversary of GST day 2020: July 1



Goods and Service Tax(GST) day is observed annually on July 1. This year marks the 3rd anniversary of the launch of the day and was marked by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC) and all its field offices across India. Most of the interactions with stakeholders to mark this day were made in virtual mode due to COVID-19.

#### Key info

- i. The day was 1st celebrated on July 1, 2018 to commemorate the first year of the unprecedented reform of Indian taxation(GST)
- ii. GST plays a vital role to break the barriers to build an Atma Nirbhar Bharat and to take forward the motto of One Nation One Tax One Market.

#### Gist about GST

- i. GST came into effect on 1st July 2017, through GST Act passed in parliament on 29th March 2017.
- ii. GST has replaced various indirect taxes in India like, excise duty, Value-Added Tax (VAT) and services tax among others.