

India ranks 42nd in 2017 Global Democracy Index

- India has been ranked 42nd among 165 independent states on the annual 2017 Global Democracy Index (GDI) released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), a UK-based company.
- India's rank has slipped from 32nd in 2016 GDI and its overall score dropped 0.58 points from 7.81 to 7.23. Moreover, India was classified India as a flawed democracy in 2017 GDI.
- The GDI index ranks 165 independent states and 2 territories on basis of 60 indicators grouped in five different categories such as electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.

India gets its first MSE sentiment index

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched CriSidEx, India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by credit rating body CRISIL and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) here.
- CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of eight parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a scale of zero (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive).
- CriSidEx will have two indices, one for the survey quarter and another for the next quarter once a trend emerges after few rounds of the survey, providing independent time series data.

30 % of young people in conflict or disaster-stricken countries are illiterate: UNICEF

- According to a new study by UNICEF, nearly 30 percent of young people aged between 15 and 24 years in countries affected by conflict and disaster are illiterate, almost triple the global rate.
- The children's agency stated that among these 59 million young people, girls are at the biggest disadvantage when it comes to getting an education. It said that the four impoverished African countries with a long history of instability had the highest rates of young people unable to read or write. Niger with 76 per cent illiteracy among young people tops the list followed by Chad with 69 percent, South Sudan with 68 percent and the Central African Republic with 64 percent.
- According to UNICEF's New Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, these numbers are a stark reminder of the tragic impact that crises have on children's education, their futures, and the stability and growth of their economies and societies.

India improves global IP index rank to 44 out of 50

- India has substantially improved its ranking, to 44, in the latest Global Intellectual Property (IP) index released by the US Chambers of Commerce on Thursday.
- According to the annual report by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce released in Washington, India has "increased substantially" its score in the latest Intellectual Property (IP) index with a rank of 44 out of 50 countries.
- India's overall score has increased from 25 per cent (8.75 out of 35) last year to 30 per cent (12.03 out of 40) in the latest, sixth, edition of the Index, the report said. Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the index, with an overall score of 8.4 points.
- The US is at the top of the IP index list with 37.98 points, followed by Britain (37.97) and Sweden (37.03). The report analyses the intellectual property eco-system in 50 economies based on 40 unique indicators critical to innovation development on patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secrets protection.

NITI Aayog launches 'Healthy States Progressive India Report'; Kerala best, UP worst

- Kerala has topped the Health Index report prepared by NITI Aayog while Uttar Pradesh appeared at the bottom among larger states, though it has shown improvement in the recent past.
- As per the index report for large states, Kerala was followed by Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- Besides Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Odisha are among the states that performed poorly in the health index.
- According to the index, among large states, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh are the top three ranking states in terms of annual incremental performance.
- Among small states, Mizoram ranked first, followed by Manipur and Goa.
- Releasing the report, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the policy think tank believes that the Health Index will act as a tool to leverage cooperative and competitive federalism, accelerating the pace of achieving health outcomes.

Mumbai 12th richest city in the world, total wealth at USD 950 billion: New World Wealth Report

- The financial capital of India, Mumbai, is the 12th richest country in the world, as per a report by New World Health. With a total wealth of USD 950 billion, Mumbai becomes the richest city in India.
- It comes among the top 15 wealthiest cities globally and top 10 cities in terms of billionaire population
- Mumbai is home to 28 billionaires, individuals with USD 1 billion or more in net assets and is termed as the economic hub of India
- It is home to Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the 12th largest stock exchange in the world
- The major industries in this city are financial services, real estate and media
- Mumbai overhauled Toronto with a total wealth of USD 944 billion, Frankfurt with USD 912 billion, and Paris with USD 860 billion, while New York tops the list with USD 3 trillion.

Other cities that made it to the list

- London stood at the second position, with a net wealth of USD 2.7 trillion
- Tokyo stood at the third position, with a net wealth of USD 2.5 trillion
- San Francisco came next, with a net wealth of USD 2.3 trillion
- Beijing, with a net wealth of USD 2.2 trillion
- Shanghai, with a net wealth of USD 2 trillion
- Los Angeles, with a net wealth of USD 1.4 trillion
- Hong Kong, with a net wealth of USD 1.3 trillion
- Sydney, with a net wealth of USD 1 trillion
- Singapore, with a net wealth of USD 1 trillion
- Chicago, with a net wealth of USD 988 billion

Chief Minister's Rankings: Chandrababu Naidu & Pema Khandu richest, Manik Sarkar & Mamata Banerjee least wealthiest

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) has released a report on the financial, educational and criminal background of all the current Chief Ministers of state assemblies and Union Territories, after analysing the self-sworn affidavits that they submitted before contesting the elections.

Following are the detailed findings of the report:

Financial Background

- The average of assets per Chief Minister from state assemblies and union territories was estimated to be around Rs 16.18 Crores.
- Out of the 31 Chief Ministers analysed, 25 were found to be crorepatis, which is nearly 81 per cent of the total.

Chief Ministers with Highest Assets

- The Chief Ministers with the highest assets included Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu (177 cr+), Arunachal CM Pema Khandu (129 cr+) and Punjab CM Amarinder Singh (48 cr+).
- Among them, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was found to be the wealthiest with declared assets worth over Rs 1,77,48,95,611 crore.

Chief Ministers with Lowest Assets

- The Chief Ministers with lowest assets included Tripura CM Manik Sarkar (26 L+), West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee (30 L+) and Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti (55 L+).
- Among them, the lowest declared assets worth Rs 26,83,195 lakh belonged to Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar.
- Also, the declared assets of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee include no immovable assets.

Criminal Background

- Out of the all 31 Chief Ministers analysed from state assemblies and union territories, 11 Chief Ministers were found to have declared criminal cases against them.
- Further, 8 out of the 31 Chief Ministers were found to have serious criminal cases against them including cases related to murder, attempt to murder, cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property and criminal intimidation.

Education, Gender and Age Details

- Among the total 31 Chief Ministers, only 3 Chief Ministers are women.
- In terms of educational qualification, only one Chief Minister has a doctorate degree, 5 are postgraduates, 10 are graduate professionals, 12 others are graduates, while 3 are just 12th pass.
- In terms of age, the oldest Chief Minister is Punjab's Amarinder Singh (74) followed by Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (72) and Mizoram's Lal Thanhawla (71).
- On the other hand, the youngest Chief Minister is Arunachal CM Pema Khandu (35) followed by Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis (44) and Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath (45).

India ranks 81st in global corruption perception index

- India has been placed at the 81st spot among 180 nations in the global Corruption Perception Index for 2017, which was recently released by Transparency International.
- The report has, in fact, named India among the worst offenders in terms of graft and press freedom in the Asia Pacific region.
- The index ranks 180 countries and territories on the basis of their perceived levels of public sector corruption.
- The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- The index placed India at the 81st place. In the 2016, India was ranked at the 79th position among 176 countries.
- India's score in the latest ranking, however, remained unchanged at 40. In 2015, the score was 38.

India 7th most targeted nation for Web Application Attacks: Akamai Report

- India has been placed at the seventh spot in the list of targeted countries for Web Application Attacks (WAA), according to a new report titled 'Akamai State of the Internet Security Q4 2017' that released on February 21, 2018.
- The report states that nearly 40 per cent of over 53,000 cyber attacks in India occurred in the financial services sector during 2017.
- The report reveals that security incidents such as phishing, website intrusions and defacements, virus and ransomware have targeted the rapidly growing of the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector in India.
- It also stated that the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack frequency in the BFSI sector increased by 50 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2017 over the last quarter.
- It also placed India seventh in the list of the top source countries for WAA.

India ranked 47th in Inclusive Internet Index 2018

- India was ranked 47th out of 86 nations in the Inclusive Internet Index 2018, which was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on February 26, 2018.
- The EIU was commissioned by social media giant Facebook. This year's index covered 91 per cent of the world's population and an expanded data set of 86 countries, up from 75 countries in 2017.
- The report ranked India at the 47th position when it comes to inclusive Internet and connectivity for all due to low usage and poor quality.
- Among the Asian nations, India featured in the middle at the 12th position from a total of 23.
- India was placed at or near the top of the lower-middle-income bracket on most indicators, except for availability, where it was ranked 13th out of 23.
- India's position is compromised by low usage and poor quality despite relatively strong infrastructure.
- The top five in the list included Sweden at the 1st position followed by Singapore, the United States, Denmark and South Korea.

Hurun Global Rich List 2018 - India ranked 3rd Globally

- Hurun Report today released the Hurun Global Rich List 2018, a ranking of the US-Dollar-billionaires in the world. Wealth calculations are a snapshot of 31 January 2018.
- The Hurun Global Rich List 2018 ranked 2,694 billionaires from 68 countries and from 2,157 companies in another record-breaking year for the world's billionaires.

Key findings

1. **2,694 billionaires in world**, up 437 from last year. Rupert Hoogewerf, Hurun Report chairman & chief researcher, says, "a boom in China, a weak dollar coupled with US tax cuts has driven billionaires to break new records."
2. **Going up: 1,508 listers saw their wealth increase**+ 567 new faces. **Going down:** 363 saw wealth decrease
3. **India reclaims** third spot, which it had lost to Germany last year, with 31 new billionaires
4. **Bill Gates loses top spot to Jeff Bezos**, despite adding US\$10bn to his wealth and after giving away US\$5bn.

Top 10 Richest

1. Jeff Bezos
2. Warren Buffett
3. Bill Gates
4. Mark Zuckerberg

5. Bernard Arnault
6. Amancio Ortega
7. Carlos Slim Helu & family
8. Larry Ellison
9. Larry Page
10. Michael Bloomberg

About India

India climbs to 3rd position with 131 billionaires. This list would be 170, if we were to consider Indian origin billionaires. Pharmaceuticals led with 19 billionaires, followed by Automobile & Components with 14 and Consumer products with 11. Combined wealth of the Indian Billionaires increased by 49% to US\$454bn. Average age is 64. Mumbai is the preferred hub for most Indian billionaires followed by New Delhi. 31 billionaires migrated from India, with UAE, UK and USA as preferred destinations.

India's Top 3 in Global Top 100

- 19 - Mukesh Ambani**
87 - Dilip Shanghvi
98 - Gautam Adani
98 - Shiv Nadar

Top 5 Countries

1. Greater China
2. USA
3. India
4. UK
5. Germany

Top 10 Cities

1. Beijing
2. New York
3. Hong Kong
4. Shenzhen
5. Shanghai
6. London
7. Moscow
8. Mumbai
9. Bangkok
10. Guangzhou