# UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 21-12-2020

## Human Freedom Index 2020

- It is released by the Cato Institute in the United States and Fraser Institute in Canada.
- The index consists of 76 indicators -personal, civic and economic freedom.
- India is placed at 111 out of 162 countries.
- It is ranked 110 in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom with an overall score of 6.43 out of 10.
- New Zealand topped in the index, followed by Switzerland and Hong Kong.
- China, Bangladesh and Pakistan are placed at 129, 139 & 140 position respectively.

## UNEP report on CO2 Emissions

- In its recent report, UNEP has highlighted that CO2 emissions from building sector is highest in 2019.
- The building sector emitted more than a third of global energy-related carbon dioxide.
- Of the total global emissions, building operations accounted for 28% & construction-related industries (cement, glass, etc) accounted 10%.
- Use of fossil fuels for power generation & carbon-intensive electricity sector contributed for the increased CO2 emissions.
- Steps taken by the  India government for green buildings:

1. The **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** was formed by the Confederation of Indian Industry in 2001.
    - It is the first rating program exclusively for the residential sector.
    - It is the India's premier body for green building certification and related services.
    - It aims to create sustainable building environment & wants India to be a leader in it.
2. **Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment** (GRIHA) is the National Green Building Rating System.

- It is an assessment tool to measure and rate a building’s environmental performance.
- The rating is based on energy consumption, waste generation, renewable

energy adoption etc.

3. **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has launched the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC).

- It aims to optimize energy savings & launched a five-star rating scheme.
- Buildings that comply with the provisions are termed as ECBC Compliant Building.

4. **Energy Conservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes** (ECO-NIWAS) was launched as an online interactive portal.

- It aims to increase awareness about sustainable building and energy-efficient homes.

5. **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design** (LEED) India is another Green Building rating program**.**
6. **The Energy and Resources Institute** (TERI) plays a very crucial role in developing green building capacities.

## Ease of Doing Business Rankings

- Data irregularities in Ease of Doing Business rankings has surfaced recently.
- The report is released by the World Bank.
- In August, the World Bank had decided to pause the publication the report due to irregularities in the data.
- As per new report, China's slipped from 85$^{th}$ rank to 78$^{th}$ rank.
- The rankings of three other countries - Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan have also changed.
- As per 2020 report, India is placed at 63$^{rd}$ position among 190 countries, jumped by 14 positions from the previous year position.
- India's rank remains unchanged after adjusting irregularities in the data.
- The ranking is based 10 indices:

1. Starting a business.
2. Dealing with construction permits.
3. Getting electricity.
4. Registering property.
5. Getting credit.
6. Protecting investors.
7. Paying taxes.
8. Trading across borders.
9. Enforcing contracts.
10. Resolving Insolvency.

## Himalayan trillium

- Trillium govanianum- Himalayan herb is often called Nagchatri in local areas.
- It is found in temperate and sub-alpine zones of the Himalayas at an altitude from 2,400-4,000 metres above sea level.
- In India, it is found in four states only - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed Himalayan trillium in "Endangered" category.
- Its population is expected to decline by at least 50% between 2010 and 2079.
- Causes for decline:

1. Overexploitation.
2. Longer life cycle i.e. slow to reach reproductive maturity.
3. Poor capacity for seed dispersal.
4. Due to its high medicinal quality, it is vulnerable to trading.

- It can cure diseases like dysentery, wounds, skin boils, inflammation, sepsis, as well as menstrual and sexual disorders.
- It can be also used as an anti-cancer and anti-aging agent.

## NFHS data reveals about child malnutrition

- Recently Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the results of first phase of the National Family Health Survey.
- This is the fifth such survey covering 17 states and 5 UTs.
- The first four referred to 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2015-16, respectively.
- Data reveals that several states have either seen child malnutrition increase or improvement at a very slow rate.
- The following criteria have either stagnated or getting worsened –

1. Infant and child mortality,
2. child stunting,
3. child wasting &
4. proportion of underweight children

- Children who are born between 2014 and 2019 are more malnourished than the previous generation.
- This can lead to cognitive and physical deficiencies.
- Rising levels of anaemia in women (especially pregnant ones) is also witnessed.
- Despite improvements in water availability and sanitation methods, India has

shown poor results.

**NFHS**

- It is a large-scale nationwide survey of representative households.
- The MoHFW has designated International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai as the nodal agency.
- The survey is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from UNICEF.
- The survey is based on 131 parameters.

## Jharkhand's Cyber-crime prevention scheme

- In the last five years, 4803 cyber crimes have surfaced in Jharkhand.
- This scheme aims to protect women and children from growing cybercrimes.
- The scheme has 5 components- online cyber crime registration, forensic search, capacity building, awareness creation and research and development units.
- Individual will be informed about the various types of cyber-crimes and how to securely use technology to protect them.
- It helps make a robust system & modernise the police to tackle growing cybercrime.
- Students from the various schools in the state will be trained for community policing.
- Awareness campaigns like one day workshop, essay and elocution competition etc. will be conducted at schools, college level across the country.

**Source: The Hindu, The Indian Express, Down to Earth, Economic times**

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