

# INDEXES, RANKS AND REPORTS

## OAS PRELIMS 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS

January 2020

- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the “**Democracy Index 2019: A year of democratic setbacks and popular protest**”. The Global Democracy Index is based on the functioning of government, election process and pluralism, political participation, political culture and civil liberties. Based on their total score, countries are classified into 4 types:
  - Governance full democracy (scoring more than 8 points)
  - Flawed democracy (more than 6 but scoring 8 or less than 8)
  - Hybrid regime (more than 4 but scoring 6 or less than 6)
  - Authoritarian regime (having 4 or less)
  - Key results:
    - Norway tops the list with a score of 9.87
    - North Korea is at the bottom on 167<sup>th</sup> place with 1.08 points.
    - World’s biggest democracy India was placed at 51<sup>st</sup> position with 6.9 points
- According to the report released by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Jammu and Kashmir has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country.
- Deutsche Bank has projected that Indian economy will reach \$7 trillion by 2030 in its research report “Imagine 2030”.
- India was ranked 84<sup>th</sup> in the **Henley Passport Index 2020** released recently. Top 3 rankings are as follows: 1) Japan; 2) Singapore; 3) Germany & South Korea.
  - The Henley Passport Index was launched in 2006 with the aim of providing a global picture of freedom of travelling. The Passport index includes Visa-Frees score, World Openness score, Welcoming score and Global Mobility score. When these scores are high, the passport index is also high and such a passport is said to be highly powerful.
- World Economic Forum released the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of **Global Social Mobility Report 2020** titled “The Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative”. Social mobility can be understood as the movement in personal circumstances either “upwards” or “downwards” of an individual in relation to those of their parents. India was ranked at 76<sup>th</sup> position while Denmark topped the list.
- Jharia in Jharkhand is the most polluted city in India according to a Greenpeace India Report. Lunglei in Mizoram is the least polluted city in the country. As per the report, 6 of the top-10 polluted cities are in Uttar Pradesh comprising of Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad and Firozabad.
- According to World Gold Council (WGC) report title “**World Gold Outlook 2020**”, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the largest buyer of sovereign gold abroad.
- West Bengal emerged as the top State in vegetable production in 2018-19. West Bengal has overtaken Uttar Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh continued to hold on to the pole position in fruits with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and Uttar Pradesh (10.65 mt).

**February 2020**

- Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania has released the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has been ranked at 27th position among 176 global think tanks (U.S. and non-U.S.).
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has ranked 3rd in MOOC Lab's Business School Rankings 2020 for its provision, design and delivery of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). IIM Bangalore succeeds HEC Paris (France) and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (USA).
- According to the 22nd edition of the **world language database Ethnologue**, English, Chinese and Hindi secured the top three positions as most spoken language of the world in 2019.
- India has been ranked 40th out of 53 countries on a **global intellectual property index 2020**. India was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in 2019. India's score, however, increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in 2019 to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in 2020, a 2.42 per cent jump in an absolute score. The US, UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the intellectual property index in 2019 retaining their spots from the last year. The index was released as part of the annual report prepared by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce.
- India has been ranked at 77th position in the **Sustainability Index 2020** and 131st on the **Flourishing Index 2020**, according to an UN-backed report. The report commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal.
  - Norway leads the table for survival, health, education and nutrition rates – followed by South Korea and the Netherlands. The Central African Republic, Chad and Somalia come at the bottom.
  - The Sustainability Index 2020 takes into account per capita carbon emissions and the ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives. It ranks countries on excess carbon emissions compared with the 2030 target. The Flourishing Index 2020 measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children.

**March 2020**

- BRAC, a Bangladesh based international development organization has topped the list of top 500 Global Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) released by Geneva-based organization NGO Adviser.
- Andhra Pradesh has been ranked 1st in the country for the overall implementation of Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan. Tamil Nadu has topped the list of the states in terms of the number of participants in the programme.
- Gujarat has topped the list for domestic solar rooftop installations with 64% of domestic solar installations. Nearly 50,915 systems being fixed on domestic rooftops in the State as on March 2, 2020.
- Google has shared the data on the most looked-up women on the Internet on the occasion of International Women's Day i.e. on 8th of March 2020. Here is the complete list released by Google:
  - Google's most-searched for woman in Music of 2020: Taylor Swift.

- Google's most-searched for woman in Sports of 2020: Serena Williams.
- Google's most-searched for woman in Comedy of 2020: Awkwafina.
- Google's most-searched for woman in Novelists of 2020: Toni Morrison.

### April 2020

- The "Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker" has identified India's response to Covid-19 as one of the most stringent in the world. This tracker is created by researchers from Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. The tracker is designed to systematically record government responses worldwide and aggregate the scores into a common 'Stringency Index'.
- **World Bank** has released a report titled "**South Asia Economic Focus**" forecasting a sharp economic fall in each of the region's eight countries. The report states that the regional growth will get dropped to a range between 1.8% and 2.8% in 2020, down from 6.3% that was projected 6 months ago. India's economy has been expected to grow at 1.5% to 2.8% in the fiscal year 2020-2021.
- The 2020 **World Press Freedom Index** has been released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The Reporters Without Borders has evaluated the situation for journalists in 180 countries and territories and indicated the results in 2020 World Press Freedom Index. The 2020 World Press Freedom index states that the world is entering in a decisive decade for journalism linked to crises that affect its future. India was ranked 142nd in the index while Pakistan and China were placed at 145th and 177th position respectively.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the "**World Economic Outlook**" report. "World Economic Outlook" report is being published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) twice a year. Here are the latest projections published in the "World Economic Outlook" report:
  - IMF has reduced India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate from 5.8% to 1.9% in the fiscal year 2020-21. It has also stated that India's GDP will show recovery in the next financial year with the growth rate of 7.4%.
  - IMF has projected that the world economy will contract sharply by 3% in 2020, overshadowing the damages caused by the 2008-09 financial crisis.
  - IMF has projected China's economy to grow at the growth rate of 1.2% in the fiscal year 2020-21 while it will grow at 9.2% in the fiscal year 2021-22.
  - In the report, IMF has also indicated that the recovery forecast for the fiscal year 2021 is subjected to the assumption that the pandemic being brought under control in the second half of 2020, scaling back the containment efforts and hence restoring the consumer and investor confidence.
- The International Budget Partnership has released the 7th edition of the **Open Budget Survey 2019**. The survey was conducted by the International Budget Partnership as a part of its Open Budget Initiative. In Open Budget Survey 2019, every country is given a score ranging from 0 to 100 based on the simple average of the responses to 109 questions reflecting an assessment of 8 key budget documents that should be accessible to the people of country during the budget cycle. In OBS 2019, the global average transparency score was 45 out of 100, stating that score of around 75% of the surveyed countries lying at insufficient levels.
  - Key Results of the Index:
    - The Open Budget Index 2019 was topped by New Zealand with a budget transparency score of 87 out of 100.

- South Africa was on 2nd position with a budget transparency score 87 followed by Sweden scoring 86 out of 100.
- Mexico was on the 4th position in index with a score of 82, followed by Georgia finishing 5th in the list after scoring 81 out of 100.
- India was placed at 53rd position in the index with a budget transparency score of 49 out of 100.

#### May 2020

- India has been ranked at 74th position on the **Global 'Energy Transition Index'** by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Sweden has topped the index while Switzerland and Finland were on 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- Uttarakhand became the 1st state in India to release a report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction.
- International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its report with title "**Global Energy Review 2020**". This report comprises of estimates for how energy consumption and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions trends are expected to develop over the rest of 2020.
- The "**State of The World's Nursing Report-2020**" has been released by the World Health Organization. The report outlines the role and contributions of nurses with respect to the WHO "triple billion" targets. This is the first State of the world's nursing report and it presents much to celebrate about the nursing workforce. The report has been developed by the World Health Organization in partnership with the International Council of Nurses and the global Nursing Now campaign along with the support of governments and wider partners.

#### June 2020

- India skipper Virat Kohli is the only cricketer to feature in Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020. Kohli is ranked at number 66 with estimated earnings of \$26 million. Swiss tennis great, Roger Federer has topped the list of world's highest-paid athlete for 2020 with an estimated \$106.3 million.
- S&P Global Ratings has released its report on emerging markets titled "Financial Conditions Reflect Optimism, Lockdown Fatigue Emerges".
- Swiss National Bank (SNB) has released '**Annual banking statistics, 2019**'. According to the latest SNB data, India has moved down three places to 77<sup>th</sup> rank in terms of money parked by its citizens. While Britain holds the first place in this list with a share of 27 % of the total deposits.
- **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020**" has been released by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Yale University, and Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University. EPI 2020 is the 22nd edition of the Environmental Performance Index report. The EPI has ranked 180 countries by using 32 performance indicators across 11 issue categories involving environmental health and ecosystem vitality as the policy objectives. The EPI provides a scorecard that indicates the leaders as well as the laggards in the environmental performance.
- World Bank has released its flagship report titled "**Global Economic Prospects (June 2020)**". The report assesses the impressions of the pandemic and also examines the possible courses and outcomes. The report describes a grave near-term outlook and states that there is a contraction in

global GDP which was 5.2 percent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report assesses the impressions of the COVID-19 pandemic and also examines the possible courses and outcomes. It indicates the clear actions needed by the global community and national policymakers—to restrict the harm, recover, and rebuild better and stronger than before.

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its flagship report titled as “**World Investment Report 2020: International Production Beyond the Pandemic**”. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the report. The report monitors the global as well as regional FDI trends and also documents the national and international investment policy developments. It also analyses the impacts of the COVID- 19 crisis.
  - Key findings of the report:
    - The report forecasts Global FDI flows to decrease by up to 40% in 2020, from their 2019 value of \$1.54 trillion.
    - According to the report, the investment flows are expected to slowly recover starting from 2022 to be led by global value chains (GVCs).
    - As per the report, Global FDI is projected to decrease by a further 5 to 10% in 2021, followed by a recovery in 2022.
    - Report mentioned that among developed countries, FDI flows to Europe are expected to fall by 30 to 45%.
    - Report stated that the developing economies are expected to see the biggest fall in FDI.
    - The FDI flows to developing Asia is projected to fall by 30 to 45%.
    - As per the report, the inflows to South Asia increased by 10 per cent to \$57 billion.
    - As per the report, the FDI to India increased by 20% to \$51 billion in 2019, sustaining the country’s upward FDI trend.
    - Among the world’s largest FDI recipients, United States stood first in 2019.
    - Among the world’s largest FDI recipients, India has jumped from 12th position in 2018 to 9th position in 2019.
    - Report also mentioned that India’s large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country.
- Institute for Management Development (IMD) has released **World Competitiveness Index 2020**. India ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> and topped by Singapore.
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has launched SIPRI Yearbook 2020. The Yearbook assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. The 51st edition of the Yearbook reveals an unbroken deterioration within the conditions for international stability. In accordance with the “**SIPRI Yearbook 2020- Armaments, Disarmament and International Security**” from 2019 there’s a rise within the nuclear weapons stockpile of India and China.

#### July 2020

- India’s second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report has been presented by the NITI Aayog at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020. The report has been titled as “Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local”.

- “India Report on Digital Education, 2020” has been launched virtually. It highlights the innovative methods adopted by Ministry of HRD, Education Departments of States and Union Territories to ensure accessible as well as inclusive education to children at home and reducing learning gaps.
- Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020 period.
- India Ranked 31st in INFORM Risk Index 2020. In accordance with the “**INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters**” released by research centre INFORM, operating under the European Commission (EU). The report has ranked 191 countries based on “INFORM Risk Index”. This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.
- India ranks 34th in GRETI 2020 by JLL. Jones Lang LaSalle’s (JLL) has released its biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl). The GRETI is a unique benchmark of real estate market transparency and an essential guide for companies operating in foreign markets. It covered 99 countries and territories and 163 cities. The Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl) is based on 210 indicators which includes additional data on sustainability and resilience, health and wellness, protect and alternatives.
- India ranks 3rd in **Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020**. The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific. Each of the countries has been assessed in four key areas: Bounce-backability, Conditions, Costs and Risks. China and the United States retain the top two positions respectively in MRI 2020.
- The Reserve Bank of India has released the 21st Issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses the issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.
- The 2020 **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**: Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs” was released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford and the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme. It measures the complexities of poor people’s lives, individually and collectively, each year. It states that India recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in poverty as around 273 million people moved out of the multidimensional poverty over 10 years (from 2005- 2006 to 2015-2016).

#### August 2020

- India has been ranked 57th in **Digital Quality of Life Index 2020** with overall score of 0.5. Denmark has topped the index and was followed by Sweden.
- According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, Tamil Nadu has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women. It was followed by West Bengal and Karnataka.
- NITI Aayog has released the report on **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020** in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupied the top three ranks in

the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. It evaluates the export preparedness and performance of Indian states.

#### September 2020

- India has been ranked 105th position “**Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 Annual Report**” by Canada’s Fraser Institute, which has been released in India in conjunction with Center for Civil Society, New Delhi-based think tank. This is the 24th edition of Economic Freedom of the World. Hong Kong topped the Index with a score of 8.94, followed by Singapore (8.65) and New Zealand (8.53).
- According to the **World Risk Index (WRI) 2020**, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).
- India ranks 48th in **Global Innovation Index 2020**. India has joined the group of top 50 countries in the global innovation index for the first time, moving up four places to the 48th rank and keeping the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia. India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D intensive global companies. The 13th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 has jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.
- The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the **Smart City Index 2020**. In 2020 Smart City Index, 109 cities were surveyed. The index ranks cities based on economic and technological data, as well as by their citizens’ perceptions of how “smart” their cities are. The index has been topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich as top three smart cities. In the 2020 Smart City Index, Hyderabad was the top Indian city, placed at the 85<sup>th</sup> position. The Indian cities have witnessed a significant drop in their rankings in the Smart City Index 2020.

#### October 2020

- The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, has topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2020. The tycoon added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion, a rise of 73% over the previous year. The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, with a net worth of \$25.2 billion. Tech tycoon Shiv Nadar acquired the third spot with a net worth of \$20.4 billion.
- India has been ranked 129 among 158 countries in the **2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index**. The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19. The 2020 CRI index has been topped by Norway. South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.
- India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the **Asia Power Index 2020**, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by China (76.1) and Japan (41) at second and third spot respectively.

- India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. China retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the 2019 report.
- Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism. In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.
- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes.
- South Korea based electronics conglomerate; Samsung Electronics has topped the list of 'World's Best Employer 2020' published by Forbes'. Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG are among the top 5 in the list respectively. The global list features 750 multinational and large corporations headquartered in 45 countries. From India, HCL Technologies is the top industry in the list. It is placed at the 30<sup>th</sup> position globally. In the Banking sector, HDFC Bank is top from India. It is at 176<sup>th</sup> position.
- World Bank released the report titled "**The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19**". The Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020 is a collaboration between the Human Development Practice Group and the Development Economics Group of the World Bank. India has been ranked at the 116<sup>th</sup> position among 174 countries in the Human Capital Index 2020. The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries covering 98% of the world's population up to March 2020. It provided a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children.
- India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the **Global Hunger Index 2020**. With a score of 27.2, India has been placed in the "serious" category in the GHI scale. Although there is an improvement in a score as compared to 38.9 in 2000, 37.5 in 2006, and 29.3 in 2012 but still it represent a serious level of hunger. Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries. According to the report, 14 per cent of India's population is undernourished. It also showed the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. The neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too are in the 'serious' category but ranked higher than India in this year's hunger index. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> position. Nepal in 73<sup>rd</sup> and Sri Lanka in 64<sup>th</sup> position are in 'moderate' hunger category, the report showed.

#### November 2020

- According to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian supercomputer, Param Siddhi has achieved 63<sup>rd</sup> rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- India is placed at 77<sup>th</sup> position in the **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020**. India has achieved a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020. India's rank stood 78 positions in 2019. It was a better performance than neighbouring nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and China. But, Bhutan scored better than India and got 48<sup>th</sup> place in the list.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released its biannual 'Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)' report of the **World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020**, based on their cost of living. Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland) share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list,

which comprises of 133 cities. Damascus (Syria), Taskent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia) ranked the last three spot as the most cheapest cities in the list, which comprises of 133 cities. The report took into account the price of 138 items, used in every day for survival, and the falling or rising value of that country's currency due to Covid to rank the cities accordingly.

- The Indian national team have moved up a spot to 104 in the latest FIFA Rankings. The Indian team were ranked 108th in the October 2020 rankings. In two months, India has climbed 5 spots after being 109th in September. Meanwhile, on the global scene, the top six remain unchanged. Belgium continues to lead the rankings followed by France, Brazil, England, Portugal and Spain. Argentina is seventh, having interchanged spots with eighth-placed Uruguay. Mexico and Italy complete the top 10.

#### December 2020

- Lahore, the cultural capital Pakistan, has been ranked as the world's most polluted city, according to air pollution data released by the **US Air Quality Index (AQI)**. Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. New Delhi stood second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third with a PM of 178.
- In the **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020**, India has been ranked at 8th spot globally in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019. With a score of 9.592, Afghanistan has topped the index as the worst terror impacted nation among the 163 countries. It is followed by Iraq (8.682) and Nigeria (8.314) at second and third place respectively.
- Chairperson of HCL Technologies, Roshni Nadar Malhotra has topped the list of wealthiest women in India, according to the second edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun–Leading Wealthy Women' report. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon and Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV are at the second and third rank respectively in the Kotak Wealth Hurun wealthy women list 2020.
- The Nongpok Sekmai Police Station in Manipur topped the list of best police stations in India, while Sooramangalam All Women Police Station at Salem, Tamil Nadu was adjudged the second best police station in the country. The Kharsang PS, Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district was adjudged the country's third-best police station.
- India is ranked at 10th place in the '**Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021**', released on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The overall score of India is 63.98. It is for the second time in a row that India emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance from among 58 economies. India was at 9th spot last year in the index.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has grabbed the 41st spot in the 2020 list of Forbes 100 most powerful women in the world. This is the second time she features in the list, in 2019 ranked at 34 and ranked 41st in 2020. India's leading Businesswomen, Kiran Mazumdar-shaw, Chairman of Biocon Limited also featured in the list at 68th position.
- Indian actor, Sonu Sood has topped the first-of-itskind '50 Asian Celebrities In The World' 2020 list, published by UK based Eastern Eye newspaper.
- Indian singer Armaan Malik came in fifth for his immense musical output that included barrier breaking English language songs. Sixth-placed Priyanka Chopra Jonas remains the most famous Indian star in the world, while the rest of the top 10 includes pan-Indian star Prabhas (7).
- American media personality and reality TV star, Kylie Jenner has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes. The top-earning stars in the world earned a combined of \$6.1 billion in

2020 with Kylie Jenner. Ranked at number 2 on the list by making \$170 million was American rapper and record producer Kanye West, who is also coincidentally Kylie's brother-in-law. In addition to Tyler Perry, Howard Stern, and Dwayne Johnson, A-listers like Roger Federer, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Neymar and LeBron James helped round out the top 10.

- HDFC Bank is the top-ranked company among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country, as per the BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report by Wizikey. ICICI Bank and State Bank of India (SBI) are ranked second and third, respectively. Other top 10 banks in 2020 Wizikey's BFSI Movers and Shakers report are Yes Bank, PNB, HSBC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, Deutsche Bank, and IDBI.
- The Union environment minister, Prakash Javadekar has released a report titled the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018'. As per the report, the population of leopard in India has increased by 60 per cent in four years since 2014. India now has 12,852 leopards as per 2018 estimate, compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted in 2014. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783, and 1,690 respectively.
- India ranks 111 in **Human Freedom Index 2020**. A worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, the Human Freedom Index 2020 was released. India was placed at the 111th spot out of 162 countries. In 2019, India ranked 94 on the index. The first three spots have been bagged by New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong. The United States and the United Kingdom are tied at the 17th spot on the index. War-torn Syria ranked the last on the list.

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