

NEWS TODAY

INDIA STAYS LOWER-MIDDLE-INCOME NATION FOR 2020-2021

World Bank assigns the world's economies to four income groups—low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries (see infographics).

> Classifications are **updated each year on July 1 and are based on gross national income (GNI) per capita** (current US\$) calculated using Atlas method.

> **GNI per capita** is obtained by dividing GNI with countries population.

> India **ranked 145th** (GNI per capita: 2130 \$), Switzerland 1st.

GNI is a **measurement of a country's income** that includes all the income earned by a country's residents, businesses, and earnings from foreign sources.

> GNI comprises **GDP plus net receipts of primary income** (compensation of employees and property income) from non-resident sources.

> **It does not count income earned by foreigners** located in the country.

> **Benefits of using GNI:** It is closely correlated with other, non-monetary measures of the quality of life, such as life expectancy, mortality rates of children, and enrolment rates in school etc.

> **Drawbacks of using GNI:** GNI may be underestimated in lower-income economies that have more informal, subsistence activities. Nor does GNI reflect inequalities in income distribution.

Group	July 1, 2020 (new)	July 1, 2019 (Old)
Low income	<1,036	<1,026
Lower-middle income	1,036 - 4,045	1,026 - 3,995
Upper-middle income	4,046 - 12,535	3,996 - 12,375
High income	>12,535	>12,375

HOME MINISTRY HAS CONSTITUTED A NATIONAL LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

A five-member committee (headed by Ranbir Singh) constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs is **looking at a sweeping overhaul of criminal laws**.

It primarily seeks to revise Indian penal code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act (IEC).

> IPC (enacted in 1860) **enlists and defines offences** and specifies their respective punishments.

> CrPC (enacted in 1973) establishes the **machinery for implementation of the IPC** and lays down the procedure to be followed.

> IEA (enacted in 1872) elaborates on the **rules of taking evidence in order to prove the guilt or innocence** of an alleged offender.

Why the need to reform?

> IPC and IEA, have been **enacted in the colonial era**, and CrPC has been modelled on the older Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898.

> Existing criminal justice is plagued by many problems, **like inordinate procedural delay, low conviction rate etc.**

> Certain provisions of the existing law are **patriarchal** (e.g. defining consent, marital rape).

> Need to **harmonise laws with judgments of the Supreme Court** on different issues.

Changes to IPC and CrPC had been first recommended by the **2003 Malimath Committee**.

GOVERNMENT LOOKS TO AMEND PARTS OF RIGHT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RPwD) ACT, 2016

As per Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's, **move is aimed to de-criminalise minor offences** for improving business sentiment and unlogging court processes.

> It will alleviate the risk of imprisonment for **actions which do not necessarily have mala fide intent**.

> Uncertainty in legal processes and **time taken for resolution in the courts hurts ease of doing business**.

However, activist oppose the amendments stating it **will dilute the whole effectiveness of RPwD Act, 2016**.

About RPwD Act, 2016

RPwD Act, 2016 provides that appropriate Government shall ensure that **PwD enjoy right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for his or her own integrity** equally with others.

It **covers 21 types of disabilities** and rights of disabled persons.

> It provides for **right to education, right to employment and right to livelihood**, reservation in government offices and educational institutions.

It provides for **penalties & imprisonment for offences** committed against PwD.

Act fulfils the **obligations to United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, to which India is a signatory.

As per Census 2011, about **2.68 Cr persons are disabled** (2.21% of total population).

1.4 LAKH FAMILIES HAVE REACHED ANNUAL MGNREGA WORK LIMIT

These **households** have already **completed their quota of 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** in first three months of the year.

MGNREGA **guarantees 100 days of paid employment** to every rural household in India regardless of eligibility criteria.

> Employment must be provided with 15 days of being demanded failing which an **'unemployment allowance'** must be given.

> However, **those exceeding this quota are not eligible** for further benefits under MGNREGA for the rest of the year.

Suggestions

Include COVID-19 in disaster list of MGNREGA: MGNREGA already contains a provision for districts affected by drought or other natural disaster to request an expansion of the scheme to allow for 150 days of work per household.

Limit should be on individual rather than household.

Expand the work area: Include MGNREGA workers for other schemes.

> Recently, government notified that **unskilled workers can now participate in the construction of community sanitary complexes** under Swachh Bharat scheme.

Merging MGNREGA with skill development programmes and using its funds to provide a wage subsidy for small and medium-size enterprises in urban areas.

ASSAM TO UPGRADE DEHING PATKAI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TO NATIONAL PARK (NP)

- Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located within the larger **Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve**, which spreads across the coal and oil-rich districts of Upper **Assam**.
 - It is also known as **Jeypore Rainforest** located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of **Assam**.
 - Dehing is a river** that flows through this forest and **Patkai is hill** at the foot of which sanctuary lies.
 - Other NPs in Assam:** Dibru-Saikhowa, Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang.
- It is reported that upgradation is to **protect the sanctity of Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary** from coal and oil mining exploration.

Wildlife Sanctuary	National Park
State Government by notification can declare its intention to constitute any area other than an area comprised within any reserve forest or the territorial waters as a sanctuary .	State Government by notification can declare an area, whether within a sanctuary or not , as a National Park by reason of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, or zoological association or importance.
Such area has to be of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance .	Same as Wildlife Sanctuary
Some restricted human activities are allowed inside the Sanctuary area.	No human activity (including grazing) is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state .
No alteration of the boundaries of a sanctuary shall be made by the State Government except on a recommendation of the National Board for wildlife .	Same as Wildlife Sanctuary
There are 551 existing wildlife sanctuaries in India covering 3.64 % of the geographical area of the country	There are 104 existing national parks in India covering 1.23% of the geographical area of the country.
Regulated by Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 .	Regulated by Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 .

ALSO IN NEWS

High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under this, India and Afghanistan signed five agreements for developing educational infrastructure in four Afghan provinces. HICDP is being implemented by India to further strengthen the bilateral development partnership. Since 2005, India has committed USD 200 Million to support over 550 projects throughout Afghanistan under HICDP.
International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Injeti Srinivas was appointed as Chairman of IFSCA. IFSCA is established as a unified authority to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co. Ltd is country's first IFSC. Such centres deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders. Currently, banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSC are regulated by multiple regulators such as RBI, SEBI and IRDAI.
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to Rank Roads for Quality Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHAI has decided to undertake performance assessment and ranking of highways in the country. It will bring out operational efficiency and ensure high quality maintenance of roads. It is aimed to take corrective recourse to improve the quality and provide higher level of service to highway commuters. Assessment criteria have been broadly categorised in three main heads: Highway Efficiency (45%), Highway Safety (35%) and User Services (20%).
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) report "Seizing the moment"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronavirus pandemic has hit HIV treatment due to this countries are failing to meet 2020 targets. There are 38 million people (in 2019) living with HIV, with around 1.7 million people getting infected in 2019. In India, there were 2.14 million people living with HIV at the end of 2017 with new infections rising in Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand. UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of SDG.
'Sustainable Space Heating Solutions in the Himalayan Region' report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released by World Wide Fund for Nature and TERI, report has found Sustainable space heating solutions in Himalayan region can reduce CO2 emissions by 30% by 2030. It suggests that sustainable heating systems like rocket stoves and LPG/PNG based technologies have potential of reducing emissions in space heating. It says that such systems can greatly improve the comfort and well-being of people, reduce impacts on natural resources and address the global issue of climate change from increasing emissions.
Himachal Pradesh: First State with 100% LPG connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country where 100 per cent households have LPG connections. Earlier, state launched Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana to cover the families left-out under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). PMUY is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing free LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

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