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## **Environmental Performance Index- 2022**



- India ranks last among 180 countries in the recently released Environmental Performance Index-2022.

### **Environmental Performance Index:**

- The Environmental Performance Index is an international ranking system that measures the environmental status and sustainability of countries.
- The Environmental Performance Index was launched as a biennial index by the World Economic Forum in 2002 as the Environmental Sustainability Index in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.

### **Frame:**

- The EPI for the year 2022 is divided into 11 issue categories of 40 performance indicators.

- The distribution of the categories of its publications is aggregated under **3 policy objectives:**
- Environmental Health
- Ecosystem Vitality
- Climate change
- These indicators provide an estimate at the national level of how integral countries are setting environmental policy goals.
- The EPI team converts environmental data into indicators that rate countries on a scale of 0-100 (lowest to best).

### **Major findings:**

- Denmark topped the rankings for the year 2022, an achievement that reflects strong performance on all issues tracked by the EPI, along with remarkable leadership in efforts to promote a clean energy future and sustainable agriculture.
- The United Kingdom and Finland are ranked second and third respectively, both of which have earned high scores for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in recent years.
- The United States is ranked 20th out of 22 prosperous/thriving democracies in the global West and 43rd overall.
- India's 180th ranking with a score of 18.9 comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar.
- According to the EPI, India has also scored low on the parameters of rule of law, control of corruption and government effectiveness.
- India was ranked 168 in the EPI-2020 with a score of 27.6.
- In the EPI-2020, Denmark has been ranked environmental health and sustainability first.

### **Importance of EPI:**

- EPI enables decision makers to identify the drivers of top-notch performance
- Analysis of EPI data shows that financial resources, good governance, human development and regulatory quality are important factors in enhancing the stability of a country.
- By highlighting these relationships, EPI helps promote sustainable development in support of an environmentally safe and equitable future.

# State Food Security Index



- On the occasion of World Food Safety Day, the Union Health Minister released the fourth State Food Safety Index (SFSI) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of states on five parameters of food security.

## **State Food Security Index:**

- The State Food Security Index was launched from the year 2018-19 with an objective to bring about positive positive changes in the competitiveness of the food security ecosystem in the country.
- This index has been developed by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) to measure the performance of states on five important parameters of food security.
- The parameters include human resource and institutional data, compliance, food testing – infrastructure and monitoring, training and capacity building and consumer empowerment.
- The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides a framework for the purpose of evaluating food security across all States/UTs.
- The first State Food Security Index for the year 2018-19 was announced for the first time on World Food Safety Day on June 7, 2019.

## **Importance:**

- The index will help in providing safe and nutritious food to our citizens.

## **State performance:**

### **All State:**

- Tamil Nadu tops the State Food Security Index, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.

### **In smaller states:**

- Goa ranked first, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.

### **Among Union Territories:**

- Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third position respectively.

### **Food Safety Day:**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations jointly facilitate the celebration of World Food Safety Day in collaboration with member countries and other relevant organizations.
- It was first observed in the year 2019 by the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum to reinforce the commitment to enhance food security under the “Future of Food Security”.
- The theme of World Food Safety Day, 2022 is ‘Safe Food, Better Health’.

### **Other initiatives taken on the occasion:**

- Various innovative initiatives taken by FSSAI include Eat Right Research Awards and Grants – Phase II, Eat Right Creativity Challenge – Phase III, School Level Competition and Ayurveda Diet logo.
- This logo has Ayurveda diet and five leaves, which symbolize the five elements of nature, this will help in making food products a unique identity and easy to identify them.
- A Guidance Document on Foodborne Disease Outbreak Detection and Microbiological Process Control, Sampling and Testing of Fish and Fish Products has been issued.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Kabir



- Recently, 'Sant Kabir Academy and Research Center' was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind under 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana' in 'Maghar' (Uttar Pradesh).

## About Kabir:

- Sant Kabir Das was a great famous saint, poet and social reformer of India during the 15th century. His excellent works and poems describe the greatness and oneness of 'Parmatma'.
- He was a leading saint poet of the Bhakti movement.
- Kabir did not believe in any kind of religious discrimination and readily accepted all religions.
- He founded a religious community named 'Kabir Panth' and its followers are called 'Kabir Panthi'.
- Influence of Swami Ramananda: The Vaishnava saint Swami Ramanand accepted Kabir as his disciple. Kabir Das's ideology was greatly influenced by him.

## Nirguna Tradition:

- The 'Nirguna Parampara' is a sect within the Bhakti movement and 'Sant Kabir' was a prominent member of this sect. In this tradition, the Lord is regarded as a universal and formless being.

## Famous Literary Works:

- Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthwali and Anurag Sagar.
- His verses have also been included in the Sikh scripture 'Guru Granth Sahib'.
- A large part of his compositions were collected by the fifth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Arjan Dev.
- The identity of the compositions of Sant Kabirdas is his two-line couplets, which are known as 'Kabir's couplets'.

### **Against caste system:**

- Kabir strongly protested against the 'caste system' and sought to do away with the complex rituals and customs performed by the Brahmins.
- He argued, like other prominent sages of his time, that one can attain salvation only through devotion, through intense love or devotion to God.
- He tried to eradicate caste discrimination and tried to create an 'egalitarian society'.

**Swadeep Kumar**

