

NEWS TODAY

NITI AAYOG RELEASES VISION DOCUMENT FOR THE NDAP

- National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) is a **pan-India initiative by NITI Aayog** which aims to democratize access to publicly available government data.
- First version of NDAP is proposed to be released in 2021.
- It will host the **latest datasets** from various government websites, present them coherently, and provide tools for analytics and visualization.
- It will follow a **user-centric approach** and will spearhead the **standardization of formats** in which data is presented across sectors.
- It seeks to build on the success of existing Indian data platforms. For example, **data.gov.in** provides ready access to data from 165 departments.

INDIA SLIPS TWO PLACES ON CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) - 2019

- It is brought by **Transparency International** - a Berlin based global civil society organisation.
- It ranks 180 countries by their **perceived levels of public sector**

corruption. • Highlights of CPI- 2019

- **India's ranking has slipped** from 78 to 80 compared to previous year. At 41, score for both years remains same.
 - **Unfair and opaque political financing, undue influence in decision-making and lobbying** by powerful corporate interest groups, has resulted in decline in the control of corruption.
- With a score of 87 each, **New Zealand and Denmark** are least corrupt countries.
- **Recommendations to combat corruption:** Manage conflicts of interest; Control political financing; Strengthen electoral integrity; Regulate lobbying activities; Empower citizens; Tackle preferential treatment; Reinforce checks & balances and promote separation of powers.

RBI INCREASES INVESTMENT LIMIT FOR FPIS IN GOVT, CORPORATE BONDS

- RBI raised investment limit for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in government & corporate bonds.
- **Under current norms**, short-term investments by a FPI should not exceed 20% of the total investment of that FPI in either central government securities (including treasury bills) or state development loans.
 - The same norms are applicable on investments in corporate bonds.
- The short-term investment limit has **now been increased from 20% to 30% in both the cases.**
- RBI has also made **relaxation in the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) for FPI investments** in debt.
 - VRR is a **separate channel which enable FPIs to invest in debt markets** in India.
 - Under VRR route**, investments are free of the regulatory norms applicable to
 - FPI investments in debt markets, provided FPIs voluntarily commit to retain a required minimum percentage of their investments in India for a period.
 - The minimum retention period is three years, or as decided by RBI for each
 - allotment by tap or auction.
 - The investment cap through VRR has been doubled to Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

ICJ ORDERS MYANMAR TO PREVENT GENOCIDE OF THE ROHINGYA

- Case against Myanmar was brought to International Court of Justice (ICJ) by Gambia arguing that Rohingya Muslims had been subjected to genocide in Myanmar (a majority Buddhist country).
 - Rohingyas are an ethnic group primarily residing in Rakhine state in northern Myanmar.
- In its ruling, ICJ imposed **"provisional measures"** against Myanmar, ordering it to comply with obligations under **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.**
- Under the Convention, dispute related to responsibility of a State for Genocide shall be **submitted to ICJ at request of any of the Parties to the dispute.**
 - It was **first human rights treaty** adopted by UN- General Assembly.
 - It establishes that genocide may take place in context of **both armed conflict and in peaceful situations.**
 - It has been ratified by 152 states including Myanmar, Gambia & **India (ratified in 1959).**
- ICJ is **principal judicial organ of UN** which **settles disputes between states** and gives **advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by UN.**
 - **Decisions of ICJ are binding** failing which a State can face **sanctions from UNSC.**

United Nations Definition of Genocide

The Convention on Genocide, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1948, defines the crime of genocide as follows:

In the present convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election Commission of India (ECI) will host 10th annual meeting of FEMBoSA and take over as Chair of FEMBoSA for 2020. • FEMBoSA was established at 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of SAARC Countries in 2012. • The annual FEMBoSA meeting is held by rotation among the members. • Besides ECI, the other 7 members are EMBs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
<p>Blue Dot Network (BDN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been jointly launched by the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation. • It is a "ratings mechanism" that would grade infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region on different parameters to ensure transparency. • It is planned as direct counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, unlike the BRI, the BDN would not offer public funds or loans for the project.
<p>Sagarmatha Sambaad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is initiative of Nepal government. • It is a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum committed to deliberate on the most prominent issues of global, regional and national significance. • It is named after the world's tallest mountain Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest).
<p>Financial Action Task Force (FATF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an inter-governmental body that works to set standards & promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of international financial system. • A country is put on the grey list when it fails to curb terrorism financing and money laundering. • Putting a country on the blacklist means restricting all international finance for that country. Currently, Iran and North Korea are on FATF black list. • A meeting of FATF decided Pakistan will remain in grey list & declined putting it into Black list.
<p>Draft City Gas Distribution (CGD) policy released</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It suggests standardised charges and time-bound permission for setting up CGD networks, conversion of public transport fleet to CNG, creation of green corridors for inter-city traffic and fiscal incentives for gas-driven mobility. • CGD network is interconnected network of pipelines to make supply of natural gas to domestic, industrial or commercial premises and CNG stations in specified Geographical Areas. • It is part of India's attempt to cut carbon footprint by raising share of gas in energy basket from 6% to 15% by 2023.
<p>India Climate Collaborative (ICC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a India-focused collaborative that seeks to direct funding and visibility towards climate action in India. • It is led by industry leaders such as Ratan N. Tata, Anand Mahindra, Nadir Godrej etc. • It will connect and strengthen Indian climate community and drive climate solutions. • It is currently a 40 + member organisation including TERI, WRI, IIT Delhi etc.
<p>Data Lake project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEBI is planning to set up a data lake project for improving surveillance to monitor and analyse social media posts to keep a tab on possible market manipulations. • A data lake is a centralised repository that allows anyone to store all structured and unstructured data at any scale.
<p>Web Portal 'GATI'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been created by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). • Contractors/concessionaires can raise any project related issues on the Portal. Immediate action will be taken by the concerned officer, duly updating on the Portal.
<p>Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award is announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, by the Ministry of Home Affairs. • It recognizes excellent work done by individuals & institutions in field of Disaster Management. • Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award.
<p>Shri Sukumar Sen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He served as first Chief Election Commissioner of India.

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