

CURRENT AFFAIRS

23rd July 2022

THIRD EDITION OF INDIA INNOVATION INDEX (III) 2021

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (NITI AAYOG, GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT)

CONTEXT: The India Innovation Index Report 2021 was released by **NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog** in which **Karnataka retained its top position in the major States category.**

This is the third edition of the Report, which highlights the **scope of innovation analysis in the country** by drawing on the framework of the Global Innovation Index.

The number of indicators has increased from **36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020)** to **66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021).**

ABOUT INDIA INNOVATION INDEX

- It is a **comprehensive tool** that has been developed by the **NITI Aayog** along with **Institute for Competitiveness** for the evaluation and development of the country's **innovative ecosystem.**

- It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance to build healthy competition amongst them.

- There are **7 pillars in the index** - five 'Enabler' pillars measure the inputs and two 'Performance' pillars measure the output.

- The indicators that the survey uses include the level and quality of education and parameters such as:

- Number of PhD students and knowledge-intensive employment.
- Enrolment in engineering and technology and number of highly skilled professionals.
- Investment in R&D and number of patents and trademark applications filed.
- Internet subscribers.
- FDI inflows, business environment and safety and legal environment.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

- In Niti Ayog's 3rd India Innovation Index, states and union territories were classified into the category of **17 major states, 10 north-eastern and hilly states and 9 union territories and city-states** for effective comparison of their performance.

- In the category of 17 major states, **Karnataka is at the top spot with 18.01 points**, while **Telangana (17.66 points) is second** and **Haryana (16.35 points) is third**.
- In the category of major states, **Uttar Pradesh is at 7th position with 14.22 points**, Odisha is 16th with 11.42 points and Chhattisgarh is 17th (last) with 10.97 points.
- **Manipur topped the northeastern and hill states category with 19.37 points**. Uttarakhand (17.67 points) is at the second spot in this category, while Nagaland (11.00 points) is at the bottom. On the other hand, in the **Union Territories and city-states category, Chandigarh (27.88 points) has the top position**, while Ladakh (5.91 points) was in the last position.



SIGNIFICANCE

- It provides the policymakers and other key stakeholders with a **comprehensive assessment of the spatial dynamics of the innovation ecosystem of India**.
- **It identifies the challenges** that persist across regional economies in maximizing their innovative capacities and providing solutions to address them.

ENTIRE POPULATION IN THE REGION OF HIMACHAL MAY GET ST TAG

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-I & II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTIONS, SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT)

CONTEXT: The Centre is reported to be considering granting **“tribal” status to the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh’s Sirmour district**. The proposal, if approved, will bestow ST status on all the communities living in the designated area.

SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA

- According to the **2011 Census**, the Scheduled Tribes account for **104 million representing 8.6% of the country’s population**.
- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.
- **Article 342 says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be Scheduled Tribes.**
- The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific, and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in one State need not be so in another State.
- The Constitution is silent about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.
- **Primitiveness, geographical isolation, shyness, and social, educational & economic backwardness** are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribe communities from other communities.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS PERTAINING TRIBALS IN THE COUNTRY

Educational & Cultural safeguards:

- **Art. 15(4):** Special provisions for advancement of other backward classes (it includes STs);
- **Art. 29:** Protection of Interests of Minorities (it includes STs);
- **Art. 46:** The State shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, of the Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation;
- **Art. 350A:** Instruction in Mother Tongue
- **Art. 350B:** Special officer for linguistic minorities;

Social safeguards:

- **Art. 23:** Prohibition of traffic in human beings and beggars and other similar forms of forced labor;
- **Art. 24:** Forbidding Child Labour.

Economic safeguards:

- **Art. 244:** Provisions of Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration & control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura which are covered under Sixth Schedule;
- **Art. 275:** Grants in-Aid to specified States (STs&SAs) covered under Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution.

Political safeguards:

- **Art. 330:** Reservation of seats for STs in Lok Sabha;
- **Art. 332:** Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislatures;
- **Art. 334:** 10 years period for reservation (Amended several times to extend the period.);
- **Art. 243D:** Reservation of seats in Panchayats;
- **Art. 371:** Special provisions in respect of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

ABOUT HATTI COMMUNITY

- The Hattis is a **close-knit community who got their name from their tradition of selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat, and wool etc. at small markets called 'haat' in towns.**
- The Hatti community, whose men don a distinctive white headgear during ceremonies, is **cut off from Sirmaur by two rivers called Giri and Tons. Tons divides it from the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand.**
- The Hattis who lives in the trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur until Jaunsar Bawar's separation in 1815.
- Due to topographical disadvantages, **the Hattis living in the Kamrau, Sangrah, and Shilliai areas lag in education and employment.**

DEMAND FOR TRIBAL STATUS

- The community has been making the demand since 1967, when tribal status was accorded to people living in the Jaunsar Bawar area.

- In 1967, their family members who were in Jaunsar were declared tribals but those who remained in Himachal were not given the same status or benefits.
- In March 2022, the state government sent a detailed ethnographic proposal to the Union Home Ministry, seeking the inclusion of the Hatti community of the trans-Giri area in the ST list of Himachal Pradesh.

PRELIMS FACTS

SEROTONIN

- It is a **monoamine neurotransmitter that helps transmit messages or signals from one nerve cell to another for communication.**
- Serotonin is the hormone **responsible for regulating sleep, digestion, appetite, memory and learning ability.** Furthermore, serotonin is related to **maintaining mood balance.**
- The individuals suffering from **depression** have been linked to **low levels of serotonin.**
- A new study suggests that depression is not caused by serotonin.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

- The **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** added the migrating monarch butterfly for the first time to its **“red list” of threatened species and categorized it as “endangered.”**
- The monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable and well-studied butterflies on the planet.
- Monarch butterflies are native to **North and South America** but they have spread to other warm places where milkweed grows.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, increased use of **herbicides and pesticides** for agriculture, and climate change.
- **Way ahead for recovery:** Planting **milkweed**, a plant upon which the caterpillars depend.

KALI BEIN

- It is a **165-km rivulet that starts from Hoshiarpur and meets the confluence of the rivers Beas and Sutlej in Kapurthala.**
- It is called Kali Bein (black rivulet) as industrial waste from around 80 villages and half a dozen small and big towns flow into it.