

**11 to 13 – 06 – 2022**

**News: Sustainable Development Report 2022**

- Recently, Sustainable Development Report 2022 was published.

**Sustainable Development Report 2022**

- Sustainable Development Report 2022 is a **global assessment of countries' progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- It is **published by a group of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).**
- SDSN was launched in 2012 to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Following their adoption, SDSN is now committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at national and international levels.

**Ranking**

- Countries are **ranked by their overall score.**

- The overall score measures the total progress towards achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The score can be interpreted as a percentage of SDG achievement.
- A score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved.

### **Performance of the Countries**

- The 2022 SDG Index is topped by Finland, followed by three Nordic countries –Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
- East and South Asia is the region that progressed most on the SDGs since their adoption in 2015.
- India was ranked 121 out of the 163 countries. It was ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- Bangladesh and Cambodia are the two countries that progressed most on the SDGs since 2015.
- By contrast Venezuela has declined the most on the SDG Index since their adoption in 2015.

**News:** QS World University Rankings 2023.

- Recently, QS World University Ranking 2023 was released.

## **QS World University Rankings 2023**

- **Quacquarelli Symonds** (QS) is a leading global career and education network for ambitious professionals looking to further their personal and professional development.
- QS Develops and successfully implements methods of comparative data collection and analysis used to highlight institutions' strengths.
- The '**QS World University Rankings**' is an annual publication of university rankings which comprises the global overall and subject rankings.

### **Parameters and their weightage for the evaluation**

- Academic Reputation (40%), Employer Reputation (10%), Faculty/Student Ratio (20%), Citations per faculty (20%) International Faculty Ratio (5%) and International Student Ratio (5%)

## Key Points

- The Indian Institute Science (IISc) was ranked highest followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi. The total number of Indian institutes among the top 1,000 globally has risen to 27 from 22.
- IISc Bengaluru is the world's top research university, achieving a perfect score of 100/100 for this metric.
- Furthermore, IISc Bengaluru is the fastest rising South Asian University among the QS World University Rankings top-200.
- Overall, Indian education institutes, 41 of which made it to the rankings, have performed poorly across many key metrics.
- For instance, 30 out of 41 ranked universities have suffered declines in the Faculty Student Ratio (FSR) indicator, with only four recording improvements.
- The report shows that India's presence in the top 500 category is also IIT-driven like other IITs around the world.
- Apart from IISc, eight IITs (Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, and Indore) are ranked among the top 500 globally.
- No other Indian university, public or private, has found a place in the top 500 category globally, since the launch of the Institute of Eminence scheme.

## **News: One Candidate One Constituency**

- Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner asked the Ministry of Law & Justice to limit the seats from which a candidate can contest to just one.

## **Background**

- As per **Section 33(7) of the RPA (Representation of the People Act) 1951**, one candidate can contest from a maximum of two constituencies.
- **More constituencies were allowed until 1996** when the RPA was amended to set the cap at two constituencies.
- Since **1951**, many politicians have used this factor to contest from more than one seat – sometimes to divide the opponent's vote, sometimes to profess their party's power across the country, sometimes to cause a ripple effect in the region surrounding the constituencies in favour of the candidate's party and all parties have exploited Section 33(7).

## **Issues**

### **One Act Negates another**

- Since **no Candidate can represent two Constituencies**, the idea of this system appears to be illogical and ironic.

- The irony behind Section 33(7) of the RPA is that it leads to a situation where it would be negated by another section of the same Act – specifically, Section 70.
- While 33(7) allows candidates to contest from two seats, Section 70 bars candidates from representing two constituencies in the Lok Sabha/state Assembly.

### **By-election Strains Public Exchequer**

- After sacrificing one of the Constituencies, a by-election is automatically triggered immediately after the general election.
- For example, in 2014, after PM Narendra Modi won both Vadodara and Varanasi, he vacated his seat in Vadodara, forcing a by-election there.
- Lakhs of taxpayer rupees need to be shelled out because of a by-election that could have been easily avoided.
- Before 1994, when candidates could contest from even three seats, the financial burden was even heavier.

### **Voters Lose Interest**

- Repeated elections are not only unnecessary and costly, but they will also cause voters to lose interest in the electoral process.

- Invariably, the by-election would most likely see fewer voters turn out to vote when compared to the first election a few days earlier.

**News:** Zonal Councils

- Recently, the Minister of Home Affairs chaired the 25th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Diu.

## **Zonal Councils**

- Zonal Councils are constituted by **States Reorganization Act, 1956**.
- Act divides the country into **5 zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern)** and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- The **North Eastern States are not covered** in the Act and their special problems are addressed by **North Eastern Council, created by North Eastern Council Act, 1971**.
- These are **deliberative and advisory bodies** that will discuss and make recommendations with regard to any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning between Centre and States.
- Zonal Councils works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- Every zonal council consist of **Union Home Minister as its Chairman, Chief Ministers of all states in the Zone, two other ministers from each states in the Zone and administrator of each UT in the zone.**
- Chief Ministers of each state act as Vice Chairperson of the Zone in rotation, each holding office for a period of one year.

### **News: Ramsay Hunt Syndrome**

- Recently, Pop singer Justin Bieber has been diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt Syndrome.

## **Ramsay Hunt Syndrome**

- Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, also known as **Herpes Zoster Oticus**, is a virus infection of the geniculate ganglion (7<sup>th</sup> cranial nerve) of the facial nerve that occurs when a shingles infection affects the facial nerve.
- When the nerves get inflamed, they lose their ability to function, leading to temporary facial palsy or paralysis.
- There are 12 cranial nerves in the body. Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is the viral infection impacting the 7<sup>th</sup> cranial nerve that is involved in facial movements.
- Only about five to 10 out of every 1, 00,000 people will develop Ramsay Hunt Syndrome every year, making it an extremely rare disorder.



## Causes

- Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is caused by reactivation of varicella zoster virus that has previously caused chickenpox and shingles in the patient.
- This virus belongs to the herpesvirus group and can stay in the body as a latent infection.
- Varicella Zoster Virus can get reactivated due to weakening of the immune system.
- The disease is not contagious but can lead to chickenpox in those not vaccinated for the disease.

## Symptoms

- It begins with a reddish patch which may inflame into a persistent rash. Sometimes the rash gets into the eardrum, ear canal, ear lobe, tongue, and roof of the mouth on the side with the affected nerve.

## Treatment

- Antiviral therapies and corticosteroids (anti-inflammatory drug) are commonly used to treat the condition.