

DAILY PT POINTERS

31 December,
2024



Indian Express-GS2(Governance)Page7

Centre not to release its 2023 Good Governance Index, will focus on 2025

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE UNION Government has decided not to release the delayed Good Governance Index 2023 and, instead, plans to push out the next edition in 2025, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources told *The Indian Express* the 2023 edition of the index — a biennial report ranking states and UTs on over 50 indicators covering sectors like agriculture and economic governance — will be skipped as the data would be “old and out-dated” to be released at the end of 2024.

The plan now, they added, is to carry out a new exercise to collect fresh data.

Reached for comment, V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, said: “The GGI is a biennial publication of assessment of States/UTs, and the next edition will be published in

December 2025. GGI 2021 and 2019 have been released by DARPG. The DARPG has published District Good Governance Indices for Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, J&K and Arunachal Pradesh, in 2021-2024.”

The first edition of the GGI was released in 2019 — on December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is observed as Good Governance Day.

The second edition was released in 2021 and the third was slated for 2023, but got delayed. Sources attributed this to “procedural delays”. They said the process for preparing the index, which includes “appointing a knowledge partner, finalising the sectors and indicators to be used, consulting states and collating and verifying data sets, could not be completed in 2023.

The 2023 Index was then expected to be out this year during the Good Governance Week on December 19-25.

- The Centre has decided not to release the Good Governance Index 2023, the biennial ranking of states and Union Territories (UTs) scheduled to be released during Good Governance Week (December 19 to December 25), and is now planning to publish the next edition in 2025, *The Indian Express* has learnt.
- Launched on December 25, 2019, the birth anniversary of late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee which is observed as Good Governance Day, the index covers over 50 indicators across sectors, including agriculture, economic governance, public health, and citizen-centric governance. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat got first place among big states in the 2019 and 2021 rankings, respectively.

The Hindu-GS2(Governance)-Page 1

Private Members' Bills get short shrift in both Houses of Parliament

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period, shows an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, an independent re-



Since 1970, Parliament has not

MPs' individual expression without being bound by their party's diktat.

They serve as an important medium for political messaging. For example in 1966, after the sudden death of then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Congress chose Indira Gandhi to replace him. H.V. Kamath, then an MP from the Praja Socialist

the Lok Sabha is a minuscule fraction of the total hours both Houses sit in a single session. Till date, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed and received assent. None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.

Jairam Ramesh, Chief Whip of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, said an all-round indifference is

During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period, shows an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, an independent research body.

- Private Members' Bills are legislative proposals introduced by a member of the House who is not a minister (the Bills introduced by them are Government Bills). In the Lok Sabha, the House allots the last two-and-a-half hours of business every Friday for transaction of private members' business, which includes Private Members' Bills and Private Members' Resolutions.
- In the Rajya Sabha, two-and-a-half hours every alternate Friday during a Session are generally allotted for the same.

The Hindu –GS2(IR)-Page 8

On India's obligations towards the Rohingya

What has a recent report by The Azadi Project and Refugees International said about India's refugee policy for the Rohingya people? How many Rohingya refugees reside in India? What does the 1951 Refugee Convention state? Does India have a domestic refugee law?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

A recent study examining the plight of Rohingya refugees detained in India, conducted jointly by The Azadi Project and Refugees International has highlighted "gross violations of constitutional and human rights" and criticised India's "failure to uphold its obligations under international human rights treaties." Based on interviews with detainees, their families, and legal representatives, the report reveals that "a significant number of Rohingya refugees continue to be incarcerated even after serving their prescribed sentences."



THE GIST

▼ A recent study examining the plight of Rohingya refugees detained in India, conducted jointly by The Azadi Project and Refugees International has highlighted "gross violations of constitutional and human rights" and criticised India's "failure to uphold its obligations under international human rights treaties."

▼ As India is neither a signatory to the Refugee Convention nor a party to key international instruments, it maintains that it bears no legal obligation to

- A recent study by The Azadi Project and Refugees International highlights the gross violations of human rights faced by detained Rohingya refugees in India, including continued incarceration even after serving sentences. The Rohingya, a stateless population from Myanmar, have fled due to persecution and genocidal violence. Although India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, international laws like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and non-refoulement principles obligate states to protect refugees from deportation to places where they may face harm.
- India maintains that it has no legal obligation to provide asylum or adhere to non-refoulement. Rohingya refugees are categorized as illegal migrants under India's domestic laws, like the Foreigners Act, 1946, and Passport Act, 1967. Indian courts, including the Supreme Court, have upheld this stance, rejecting pleas for release or protection of detained refugees, citing national security concerns.

The Hindu –GS2(IR)-Page 10

Carter's connection to India was personal and political

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had an intense relationship with India, both at a personal level and over the original "Indo-U.S. nuclear deal" for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station that even threatened to derail his mega visit to India in 1978.

In a statement on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Carter's efforts for "global peace and harmony" and said that his "contributions to fostering strong India-U.S. ties leave a lasting legacy".

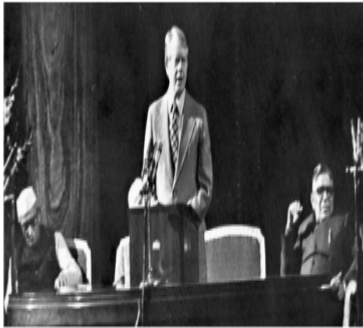
Carter's two-day visit to India (January 1-3, 1978)

bers of the Cabinet but also by President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy himself, a rare gesture.

'Great humanist'

Welcoming him at the airport, Reddy called Carter a "great humanist", and referred to Carter's mother Lillian Carter's "selfless service" in Maharashtra as a member of the U.S. Peace Corps in the 1960s.

Carter, clearly delighted by the reference, the reception and the crowds who lined the streets, attended a public rally with Desai at the Ramliha Maidan. He said the connection with India was a deeply personal one because of



Key moment: U.S. President Jimmy Carter speaks at the Central Hall of Parliament on January 2, 1978. FILE PHOTO

U.S. protests against the Watergate Scandal that had ousted his predecessor Richard Nixon.

However, the bonhomie during the visit was dimmed somewhat by U.S. expectations of the Indian government at the time. Ahead of his arrival, Carter

U.S. and assuming a good role of, I would say, neutrality." His statement had left some feathers ruffled.

Nuclear issues

It was also clear that during talks with Desai, Carter intended to nudge India towards the Non-Prolifera-

against the atomic bomb, nonetheless refused to budge on nuclear sovereignty issues.

In a "hot mic" moment during a recess in talks between the two leaders, Carter inadvertently spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance near television microphones that broadcast him speaking of disagreements during the negotiations, and referring to Desai as "pretty adamant" on the nuclear issue, *The Hindu* reported at the time.

"While the U.S. Presidential outreach was well-meant, it was clear that on the nuclear issue there remained a substantial can-

ing that the underlying question was about "India's place in the larger nuclear order of which the U.S. was the primary custodian".

Both sides brushed aside the comments, but it was clear that the talks on the nuclear issue were unsuccessful amidst a visit otherwise quite productive on issues such as space cooperation and agricultural aid. Summarising the visit, then-U.S. Ambassador Robert Goheen wrote in a cable dated January 5, 1978 that the "determination of Prime Minister Desai and his colleagues not to allow the disclosure of the President's conversa-

- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's relationship with India was marked by personal connections and significant diplomatic efforts, particularly around the "Indo-U.S. nuclear deal" for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.
- During his visit to India in January 1978, Carter was warmly received by Indian leaders, reflecting the importance of the visit in strengthening bilateral ties. Carter's visit was notable for its focus on fostering democracy and addressing nuclear issues. Despite the warm reception, tensions arose over U.S. expectations for India to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and concerns about India's nuclear tests in 1974.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Economy (GSIII)

India Emerges As Global Manufacturing Hub With Remarkable Growth



- India's manufacturing sector has witnessed remarkable growth this year, underscoring its transformation into a global powerhouse. The Narendra Modi government has implemented far-reaching economic, social, and foreign policy initiatives in the last ten years. These initiatives have contributed to India's rise as a global power. Akashvani correspondent reports that during this period, the country steadily positioned itself as a global manufacturing hub.
- Over the last decade, India's manufacturing sector has undergone a significant transformation, largely propelled by the Make in India initiative. The introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across 14 sectors attracted investments of over 1.28 lakh crore rupees and generated more than 8.5 lakh jobs. These initiatives have spurred growth in electronics, steel, pharmaceuticals, and defense manufacturing. Toy exports grew by 239 percent, and mobile phone production by 600 percent. The surge in the production of solar panels and wind turbines also reflects India's growing commitment to renewable energy.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Economy (GSIII)

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Cross 700 Billion US Dollars To Place Country At 4th Position Globally



- India has crossed an extraordinary milestone as its foreign exchange reserves have surged past 700 billion US dollars, placing the nation in the 4th position globally. Over the last decade between 2014 to 2024, the total Foreign Direct Investment inflows were around over 709 billion dollars. Akashvani's correspondent reports that India has jumped from 71st in 2014 to 39th in 2018 on the Global Competitiveness Index highlighting advancements in infrastructure, market size, and innovation.
- India is today the world's fifth-largest economy and advancing toward the goal of becoming the third-largest economy. The country has made substantial strides in sectors ranging from logistics to innovation, security, and cyber security. A leap of 42 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business index between 2015 and 2018 positioned India as an investment-friendly destination. In 2024, India became the world's second-largest producer of crude steel, after China. It also secured the second position globally in mobile phone production, solidifying its status as a major manufacturing hub.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Culture (GSI)

Tamu Lhosar, The New Year Of Gurung Community Observed In Nepal



- The Gurung community is marking Tamu Lhosar on Monday by bidding adieu to the year gone by. In the Gurung language, 'Lho' means year or age and 'Sar' denotes change. Members of the Gurung community mark the festival by organising feasts and cultural programs. Tamu Lhosar festival is observed with fanfare in districts of Nepal with a high Gurung population, including Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun, Syangja, Manang, Kaski and Parbat.
- It is the New Year among the Gurung community of Nepal's upper hilly and mountainous regions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

DD News- GS3(Economy/Environment)

Govt Rolling Out Rs 15,000 Crore Roadmap To Help Steel Industry Cut Carbon Emissions



- The government is preparing the 'Green Steel Mission' with an estimated cost of Rs 15,000 crore for helping the steel industry to reduce carbon emissions and progress towards the Net Zero Target, according to the year-end review released by the Ministry of Steel on Monday.
- The mission includes a PLI Scheme for Green Steel, incentives for the use of renewable energy and mandates for government agencies to buy Green Steel to enhance the industry's environmental sustainability.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission, spearheaded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, integrates the steel sector into the broader goal of producing and using green hydrogen, contributing to the decarbonisation of steel production.