Tamil Nadu - has come first in the ‘good governance index’ ranking of states

- The rankings were released by the Department of administrative reforms and grievances on December 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ranking for TN</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial and public security</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>5.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public infrastructure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>5.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>5.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social welfare</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>5.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>5.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce and industry</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The state secured an overall score of 5.62 in the 10-sector index
- It stood as the top performer in creation of public infrastructure and delivery of justice and providing public security.
- The state stood second in healthcare and public welfare
- However, it fared poorly in commerce and industry sector where it was placed 14th.
The index was based on the performance of the states and UTs in 10 broad sectors.
The 10 sectors includes agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judiciary and public security, environment, and citizen-centric governance.
The performance in these 10 sectors is measured on the basis of 50 indicators.
The Good Governance Index is a tool to assess the status of governance and impact of various schemes implemented by state governments and Union territory authorities.
The states and Union territories have been divided into three groups — big states, northeast and hill states, and union territories — for the rankings.
Availability of round-the-clock power, connectivity to rural habitations, access to potable water and growth in power consumption have enabled Tamil Nadu to achieve the top position in public infrastructure.
Better conviction rate, availability of police personnel and speedy disposal of cases by courts and consumer courts have helped Tamil Nadu to score well in judiciary and public security category.
In the public health sector ranking, Kerala is at the top position followed by Tamil Nadu and Goa among the big states.
Tamil Nadu has been ranked first in the public infrastructure and utilities sector, followed by Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana among the big states.
Under the economic governance sector, Karnataka has got the first position followed by Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
Tamil Nadu was followed by Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra in the rankings for judicial and public security.
The Union Territory of Puducherry - has topped the list among seven Union territories.

**REPORT CARD**

Good Governance Index (GGI) assesses the governance and impact of various initiatives taken up by the state governments and UTs.

- **PONDY SECURED**
  - First rank in human resource development, public health, judicial and public security and environment.
  - Second in agriculture and allied sectors.
  - Third in public infrastructure and utilities.
  - Fourth in commerce and industries and economic governance.
  - Fifth rank in social welfare, development.

- Puducherry stood at the top by scoring 4.69 points in the index, followed by Chandigarh (4.68), Delhi (4.39), Daman & Diu (4.33) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (4.12).
- Lakshadweep (2.97) fared poorly and was placed at the bottom of the table.
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli scored 3.12 points.
- In the different indictors, Puducherry finished first in four areas – human resource development, public health, judiciary and public security and environment.
- It came second in agriculture and allied sectors, third in public infrastructure and utilities and fourth in commerce and industries and economic governance and fifth in social welfare and development.

**INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **Pakistan** - is all set to open the historical ‘Panj Tirath’ Hindu temple in the country to Indian pilgrims this year
  - The Panj Tirath temple in Peshawar is expected to be opened next month.
  - It is believed to be built on the site where the Pandavas lived for a while during their exile.
  - The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has already declared the place as national heritage site.
  - This will be the second Hindu temple to be opened by the Pakistan government recently.
  - The country had opened three important religious places for public worship, which have been shut since Partition, in the recent past.
  - In October, Shivala Teja Singh, a temple estimated to be nearly 1,000 years old, was opened in Sialkot for Hindu pilgrims.
Before inaugurating the Kartarpur corridor, the Pakistan government had also opened Gurdwara Choa Sahib, which is situated close to Rohtas Fort, a Unesco World Heritage site, in Jhelum.

The gurdwara, which has been closed since the Partition, is believed to be the site of a water spring created by Guru Nanak Dev, who had stayed at the place while returning from Tilla Jogian temples.

The gurdwara was constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

In July this year, the Pakistan government had also opened another historical gurdwara, Gurdwara Khara Sahib (MattuBhaiKe) in Gujranwala, which too was lying closed since the Partition.

The gurdwara was built in memory of Guru Hargobind Singh.

The initiative of opening of gurdwaras and Hindu temples by the Pakistan government is aimed at promoting religious tourism to help its dwindling economy.

It has already imposed a service fee of $20 on Indian pilgrims entering Pakistan via Kartarpur corridor and ₹200 fee for Pakistani non-Sikhs who visit the gurdwara complex from Pakistan side.

**SPORTS**

- India captain Virat Kohli - has been named in the Cricketers of the decade list alongside four others by the Wisden Cricketers’ Almanac.

Apart from Kohli, South African players, Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers, Australia’s Steve Smith and women’s all-rounder Ellyse Perry were named in the list of five cricketers of the decade.

The 31-year-old Kohli was named captain of the Wisden Test team of the decade

He is also featuring in the ODI XI ranking of the Wisden magazine.

The only other Indian to feature in the Test team of the decade was Ravichandran Ashwin.

Ashwin has picked up 362 wickets from a total of 70 tests, which includes 27 five-wicket hauls.

**Test team of the decade**

- Alastair Cook (Eng), David Warner (Aus), Kumar Sangakkara (SL), Steve Smith (Aus), Virat Kohli (Ind), Ben Stokes (Eng), AB de Villiers (SA), R Ashwin (Ind), Dale Steyn (SA), Kagiso Rabada (SA), James Anderson (Eng).

In the last decade, Kohli has scored 7,202 runs in Tests including 27 hundreds

He has also scored 11,125 runs in the One Day Internationals and 2,633 runs in T20s
Kohli has scored 5,775 more international runs than anyone else in the last decade.
Kohli, who averages more than 50 in all formats, has already hit 70 international hundreds and is only behind Ricky Ponting (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (100).
He is third in the list of leading run-scorers of all time with 21,444 runs, behind Ponting (27,483) and Tendulkar (34,357).

Reigning national champion (91kg) Sumit Sangwan - was banned for a year by the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) on December 27

The verdict comes after traces of banned substance acetazolamide was found in his urine sample during an incompetition testing on October 10 at the senior nationals in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.
Former Asian silver medallist, Sangwan’s ban period kicked off from December 26, 2019 – the date of order by the Nada’s anti-doping disciplinary panel (ADDP)
The ban indicates that he can’t participate in the men’s selection trials for Olympic qualifiers, scheduled to be held in Bellary on December 29-30, dashing the hopes of a prospective medal winner for the country
Sangwan will also have to forfeit his bronze medal won at the Olympic test event in Tokyo in late October
Acetazolamide is listed as Diuretics and masking agents under S5 of WADA’s 2019 Prohibited List.