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NATIONAL NEWS

- **India** has **improved** its composite score **from 57 in 2018 to 60** in the **Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20**.
 - This has been achieved due to better works in water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy and industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have topped the list of states on the SDGs Index-2019-20.
 - **Related Keys**
 - The Index tracks the progress of all the States and Union Territories (UTs) on a set of 62 National Indicators, measuring their progress on the outcomes.
- The Government of India on December 30, 2019, launched **“Central Equipment Identify Register”** portal to block and trace mobile phones. The web portal will operate under Department of Telecom.
 - The CEIR portal has been established in order to address theft, security and other concerns. The portal will also hold database of IMEI numbers of blacklisted handsets.
 - **Related Keys**
 - CEIR has powers to block the usage of the phone. On the other hand, the predecessor technologies of CEIR were able to block the sim cards alone.
- On December 31, 2019, General **Bipin Rawat** was **appointed** as the **Chief of Defence Staff**. He recently retired as Chief of Army Staff and was succeeded by General Manoj Mukund.
 - Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four star general. The salaries and perks of the

CDS is equivalent to service chief.

○ **Related Keys**

- The other countries that hold Chief of Defence Staff in the world includes Italy, France, China, Spain, UK, Canada and Japan.
- The Chief of Staff Committee was created to finalise the powers of CDS.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Sri Lankan government** has said that it will **develop Batticaloa airport** in eastern province as an **international airport with Indian assistance**. Minister of Tourism and aviation Prasanna Ranatunga said, the Indian government has extended its fullest cooperation to develop the domestic airport and it has been discussed with the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu recently.
 - The Government of India would like to extend its air services to Batticaloa airport as well.
 - **Related Keys**
 - Sri Lankan President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa
 - Sri Lankan Currency: Sri Lankan rupee


SPORTS

- **Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman** has become the **youngest bowler** in history to take **100 wickets in T20 cricket**. Mujeeb achieved the feat at the age of 18 years and 271 days.
 - By doing this he broke the record of Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan, who had reached 100 T20 wickets at the age of 18 years and 360 days.
 - **Related Keys**
 - Afghanistan President: Ashraf Ghani
 - Afghanistan Capital: Kabul

WORDS OF THE DAY

- **Waft** - pass or cause to pass gently through the air.
 - Similar Words - drift , float , glide.
 - Antonyms - depress, bear down

- **Zenith**- the time at which something is most powerful or successful.
 - Similar Words - high point , top
 - Antonyms - nadir, bottom


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