

'Ease of Doing Business' Rankings

Andhra Pradesh topped the ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories by the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).Telangana and Haryana are at the second and third positions, respectively.

Others in the top ten are Jharkhand (4), Gujarat (5), Chhattisgarh (6), Madhya Pradesh (7), Karnataka (8), Rajasthan (9) and West Bengal (10).Meghalaya was ranked last at 36th position.

DIPP in collaboration with the World Bank conducts an annual reform exercise for all States/UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). It observed that a large number of states had made significant progress in reforms suggested in BRAP 2017.

The assessment under the BRAP 2017 is based on a combined score consisting of reform evidence score that is based on evidence uploaded by States/UTs and feedback score that is based on response garnered from the actual users of the services provided to the businesses.

DIPP said 17 states have achieved a reform evidence score of more than 90 per cent and 15 have achieved a combined score of 90 per cent and more."The states which have achieved 80 per cent or more reforms evidence score represent 84 per cent of the country's area, 90 per cent of the country's population and 79 per cent of India's GDP," it said.

Number of reform actions implemented under BRAP 2017 increased to 7,758 from 2,532 in 2015.

Key takeaways:

- Chhattisgarh tops in terms of property registration
- Rajasthan tops in terms of construction permit
- West Bengal tops in terms of labour regulation
- Karnataka tops in terms of environmental registration
- Uttarakhand tops in terms of land availability

2018 FIFA World Cup

The 2018 FIFA World Cup was the 21st FIFA World Cup, an international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA once every four years. It took place in Russia from 14 June to 15 July 2018. It was the first World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe, and the 11th time that it had been held in Europe. At an estimated cost of over \$14.2 billion, it was the most expensive World Cup. It was also the first World Cup to use the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

The finals involved 32 teams, of which 31 came through qualifying competitions, while the host nation qualified automatically. Of the 32 teams, 20 had also appeared in the previous tournament in 2014, while both Iceland and Panama made their first appearances at a FIFA World Cup. A total of 64 matches were played in 12 venues across 11 cities.

The final took place on 15 July at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, between France and Croatia. France won the match 4–2 to claim their second World Cup title, marking the fourth consecutive title won by a European team.

FIFA awards for the 2018 World Cup:

BEST PLAYER

- **Golden Ball:** Luka Modric (Croatia)
- **Silver Ball:** Eden Hazard (Belgium)
- **Bronze Ball:** Antoine Griezmann (France)

TOP GOALSCORER

- **Golden Boot:** Harry Kane (England), six goals
- **Silver Boot:** Antoine Griezmann (France), four goals
- **Bronze Boot:** Romelu Lukaku (Belgium), four goals

BEST GOALKEEPER

- **Golden Glove:** Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)

BEST YOUNG PLAYER

- **FIFA Young Player:** Kylian Mbappe (France)

FAIREST TEAM

- **FIFA Fair Play Trophy:** Spain

MAN OF THE MATCH (FINAL)

- Antoine Griezmann (France)