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MODERN GURUKUL FOR CIVIL SERVICE

UPSC/TSPSC

# REPORTS AND INDICES

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## 1. Wage Rate Index

- The Union Labor Ministry has revised the Wage Rate Index by setting the new base year at 2016 which will replace the old series with base of 1963-65.
- It is a vital economic indicator that measures changes in the wage level in selected industries. It is released by the Labor Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labor & Employment.
- These changes are based on the recommendations of the **International Labor Organization** and the **National Statistical Commission**.

**Changes made to the wage rate index**

- **Base year:** The base year has been changed from 1963-65 to 2016.
- **Half Year Basis:** The new WRI will now be compiled on a half-year basis (on the first of January and July every year) as against the annual in the existing series.
- **Basket of Goods:** The previous series covered 21 industries. But the new one covers 37 including 30 from the manufacturing sector and the rest from the mining and plantation sectors.
- The **motor vehicles, coal mines, textile garments, iron & steel, and cotton textiles** industries together account for 46% of the total weight.



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## 2. Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022

- The Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022 was released by the **World Economic Forum.**
- **Purpose**: It gives insights into cybersecurity challenges and highlights measures that need to be taken to enhance cyber resilience within organizations and the wider ecosystem.

**Key findings of the Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022**

- The accelerating pace of digitalisation fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a 151% surge in Global ransomware attacks in 2021.
- Cyber security leaders around the globe have listed ransomware, identity theft, and critical infrastructure failure among their top personal cyber risk concerns.
- Cyber incidents are becoming costly and damaging, sometimes even paralyzing critical services and infrastructure.

**Recommendations of global cybersecurity outlook**

- -Prioritize cybersecurity in all domains of society and the economy.
- -Anticipate, recover and adapt quickly to cyber incidents
- -Shift from a cyber-defensive posture to a stronger cyber-resilience position, i.e. to anticipate attacks and be prepared for likely digital shocks.




## 3. Henley Passport Index

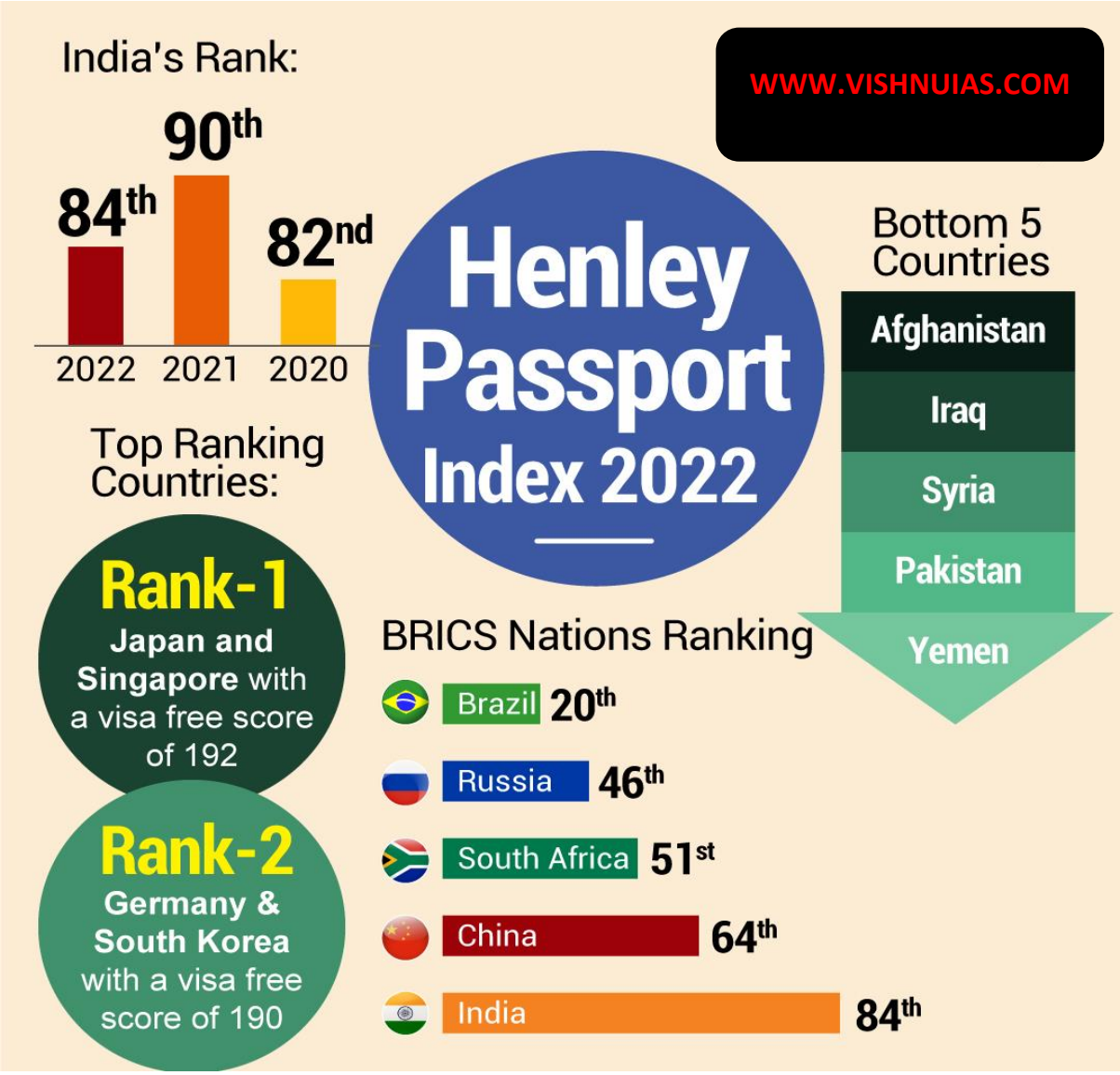
- The Henley Passport Index 2022 has been released.

**About the Henley Passport Index**

- **Released by:** Henley and Partners, a London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm since 2005
- **Purpose:** To rank 199 passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- **Source of Data:** The index is based on exclusive data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

**Key findings of the Henley Passport Index 2022**

- India now ranks at 83rd in the Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank in 2021. India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide, with Oman and Armenia being the latest additions.
- Japan and Singapore have topped the index. The citizens of these countries can travel visa-free to 192 destinations.



## 4. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

- The Ministry of Education's innovation cell released the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021.**

**About ARIIA 2021**

- **Aim**: To systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India.
- **Parameters:** The various parameters considered in ARIIA for ranking are:

1. Budget & Funding Support
2. Infrastructure & Facilities
3. Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation
4. Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development
5. Innovative Learning Methods & Courses
6. Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization
7. Innovation in Governance of the Institution.

- **Categories:** The rankings were made under two categories: Technical and Non-Technical. The technical category included 5 sub-categories and Non-Technical category has two subcategories.
- **Top-ranked Institutions as per ARIIA 2021**
- **Technical**
- **Institute of National Importance, Central Universities & Central Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs):** IIT Madras has secured the first rank. IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi were placed at the second and third ranks respectively.
- **In government and government-aided universities:** Punjab University topped the list.
- **Non-Technical**
- **Institute of National Importance, Central Universities & CFTIs (non-technical):** Indira Gandhi National Open University was placed at top position.
- **General (Non-Technical):** Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India topped the list.




## 5. State Health Index for 2019–20

- NITI Aayog has released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20 with the title "**Healthy States, Progressive India"**.

**About the State Health Index**

- **Developed by:** NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the **World Bank** since 2017
- **Objective:** To track progress on health outcomes and health systems performance, develop healthy competition and encourage cross-learning among states and UTs.
- **Indicators:** The index is a weighted composite score incorporating 24 indicators covering key aspects of health performance. The indicators are categorized into three domains:

1. **Health Outcomes:** It includes parameters such as neonatal mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate, sex ratio at birth etc.
2. **Governance and Information:** It includes parameters such as institutional deliveries, average occupancy of senior officers in key posts earmarked for health, etc.
3. **Key Inputs/Processes:** It consists of the proportion of shortfall in health care providers to what is recommended, functional medical facilities, birth and death registrations and tuberculosis treatment success rate.

- **Categorization:** The states are classified into three categories (Larger States, Smaller States, and UTs). In this round, all the states and UTs participated except West Bengal. The UT of Ladakh was not included due to the non-availability of data.
- **Base Year:** The index has been calculated as a weighted average of all the indicators in each state and union territory for a base year (2018-19) and a reference year (2019-20).

- **Source of Data:** The index uses existing data sources such as the **Sample Registration System**, Civil Registration System, and Health Management Information Systems. However, the index does not incorporate the impact of Covid-19.
- **Significance of this index:** The index will help drive state/UT's efforts toward the achievement of health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those related to **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and other health outcomes.

**Key findings of the index**

- **Among the larger states,** Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged among the best three performers in terms of overall performance.
- Uttar Pradesh ranked at the bottom in Overall Performance. However, it ranked at the top in terms of Incremental Performance by registering the highest incremental change from the Base Year.
- **Among the Smaller States,** Mizoram emerged as the best performer in Overall Performance as well as Incremental Performance.
- **Among UTs,** Delhi followed by Jammu and Kashmir showed the best incremental performance.




## 6. Good Governance Index 2021

- The Union Minister of Home Affairs has released the Good Governance Index 2021 on Good Governance Day.

**About the Good Governance Index 2021**

- It has been prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- **Aim:** To create a tool that can be used uniformly across the States to assess the impact of various interventions taken up by the Central and State Governments, including UTs.
- **Sectors:** The index covers ten sectors and 58 indicators. The sectors are 1) Agriculture and Allied Sectors, 2) Commerce & Industries, 3) Human Resource Development, 4) Public Health, 5.) Public Infrastructure & Utilities, 6) Economic Governance, 7) Social Welfare & Development, 8) Judicial & Public Security, 9) Environment, and 10) Citizen-Centric Governance
- **Categories:** The index categorizes States and UTs into four categories, i.e., (i) Other States – Group A; (ii) Other States – Group B; (iii) North-East and Hill States; and (iv) Union Territories.

**About the key findings of the index**

- Gujarat has topped the composite ranking in the Index followed by Maharashtra and Goa.
- Delhi has topped the Union territories composite ranking category.
- Around 20 states have improved their composite GGI scores over the GGI 2019 index scores.
- States and UTs such as UP, Jharkhand, Mizoram, and J&K have shown incremental growth.



## 7. Global Unicorn Index 2021

- Hurun Research Institute has released the Global Unicorn Index 2021. The index is a ranking of the world's start-ups founded in the 2000s that are worth at least a billion dollars and not listed on a public exchange.

**Key findings of the Global Unicorn Index 2021**

- India has a total of 100 Unicorns. It is ranked third in the world, after the United States and China. India has added 38 Unicorns in a single year 2022 till May. This has helped India overtake the UK in the number of Unicorns.
- However, US and China are way ahead of India in the number of Unicorns. The US has added 254 unicorns and now totals 487 companies, while China added 74 to take its tally to 301 Unicorns. These top-two occupants are home to 74% of the unicorn universe.
- **Note:** A unicorn is a term used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over $1 billion.




## 8. All-India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey (AQEES)

- The Government has released the results of the first round of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the period April to June 2021.

**Note:** QES is part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey (AQEES).

**About AQEES**

- **Released by:** Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment

- **Purpose:** To provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in both organized and unorganized segments, of nine selected sectors. These sectors altogether account for a majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments.
- **Nine Selected Sectors:** Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO, and Financial Services.

**Components**: There are two components under AQEES –

- **-Quarterly Employment Survey (QES):** It compiles relevant data from about 12,000 establishments selected through a sampling design to represent each of the nine sectors within each state/ Union Territory.
- **-Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES):** It covers the unorganized segment (with less than 10 workers) through a sample survey.

**Key highlights of QES 2021**

- It shows a **29% increase in employment** in nine sectors during the peak **Covid-19** months of April-June 2021 over a base of 2013-14 **(Sixth Economic Census – EC).**
- The most impressive **growth of 152% has been recorded in the IT/BPO sector.**
- Nearly **90% of the establishments** have been estimated to work with less than 100 workers.
- There has been a **decline in the share of female workers.** From 31% in the 6th EC (2013) **to 29%** in QES (2021) data
- Out of the 9 sectors, 7 sectors saw growth in employment while **only 2 sectors (Trade, Accommodation & Restaurants) saw a decline** in employment figures.



## 9. Global Health Security Index (GHS)

- The Global Health Security Index 2021 has been released.

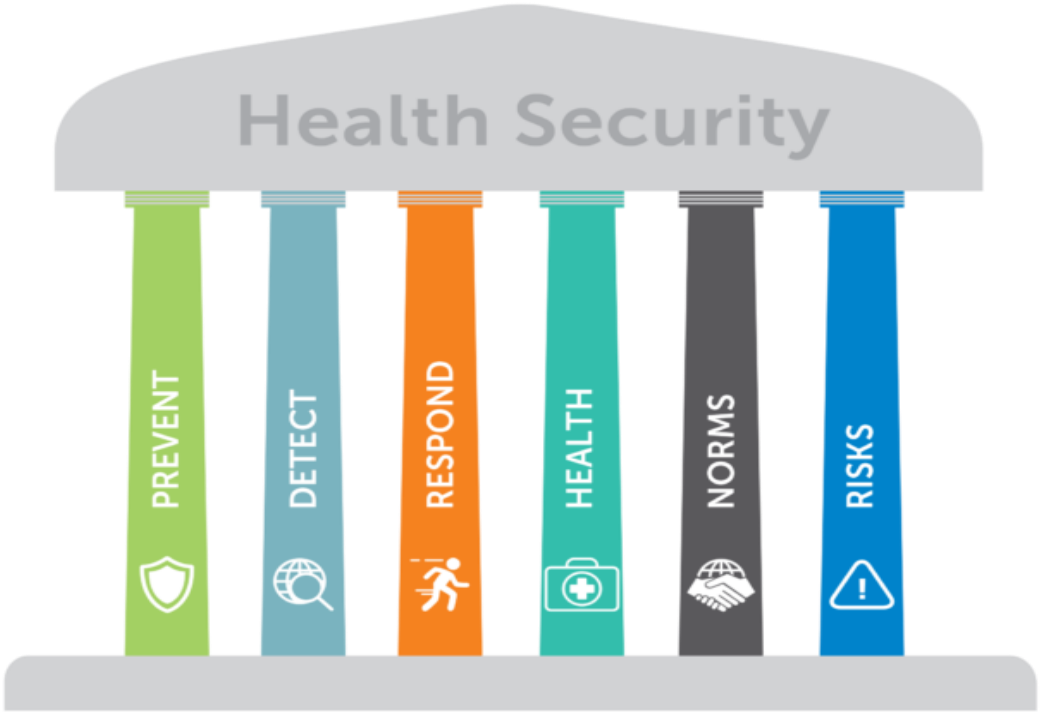
**About Global Health Security Index (GHS)**

- **It is the first comprehensive assessment** and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries. **It is published by** Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.
- **Aim**: To spur measurable changes in national health security and improve the international capability to address one of the world's most omnipresent risks: infectious disease outbreaks that can lead to international epidemics and pandemics.
- **Indicators:** The Index assesses countries across 6 categories, 37 indicators, and 171 questions. The six categories are: prevention, detection and reporting, rapid response, health system, compliance with International norms and risk environment.
- **Scoring:** The overall score (0–100) for each country is a weighted sum of the six categories, in which 100 represents the most favorable health security conditions and 0 represents the least favorable conditions.

**Key findings of the 2021 index**

- **Global findings**: The world's overall performance on the Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021 from a score of 40.2 in 2019.
- In 2021, no country scored in the top tier of rankings and no country scored above 75.9.
- Around 73% of countries did not have the ability to provide expedited approval for medical countermeasures, such as vaccines and antiviral drugs, during a public health emergency.
- **Findings related to South Asia**: In South Asia, India with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019. But three neighboring countries — Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives — have improved their score.
- Thus, based on these findings, the report concluded that the world remains completely unprepared for future epidemic and pandemic threats.

PILLARS OF HEALTH SECURITY

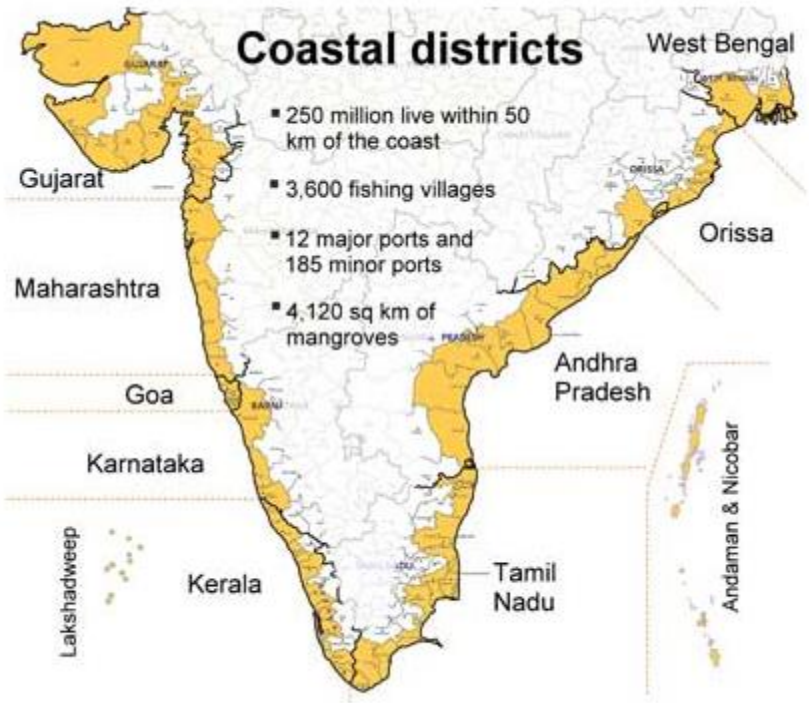



## 10. Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI)

- **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** has prepared the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).

**About the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI)**

- INCOIS has carried out a coastal vulnerability assessment for the entire Indian coast at States level. It has brought out an Atlas comprising 156 maps on 1:1, 00,000 scales to prepare a Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).
- The atlas determines the coastal risks due to future sea-level rise based on the physical and geological parameters for the Indian coast.
- **Parameters used**: **a)** Tidal range **b)** Wave height **c)** Coastal slope **d)** Coastal elevation **e)** Shoreline change rate **f)** Geomorphology and **g)** Historical rate of relative sea-level change.
- **Coverage**: The mapping was carried out for the entire mainland of India on a 1:25000 scale. The maps depict coastal low-lying areas exposed to the coastal inundation




## 11. National MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index)

- NITI Aayog has released India's first National MPI (multidimensional poverty index).

**About National MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index)**

- It seeks to measure poverty across its multiple dimensions and in effect complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure.
- **Methodology:** The index has used the globally accepted and robust methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Global MPI.
- **Indicators:** The index is based on three equally weighted dimensions – health, education and standard of living – which in turn are represented by 12 indicators.

**Key findings of the National MPI**

- **Multidimensionally Poor:** Around 25.01% of the Indian population is multidimensionally poor. **Bihar** has the maximum percentage of the population living in poverty among all the States and the Union Territories, with over 50% of the population in the State identified as "multidimensionally poor". On the other hand, Kerala registered the lowest population poverty levels (0.71%).
- **Education:** At least 13.9% of households have a member aged 10 years or older who has not completed six years of schooling. At least 6.4% of households have a school-

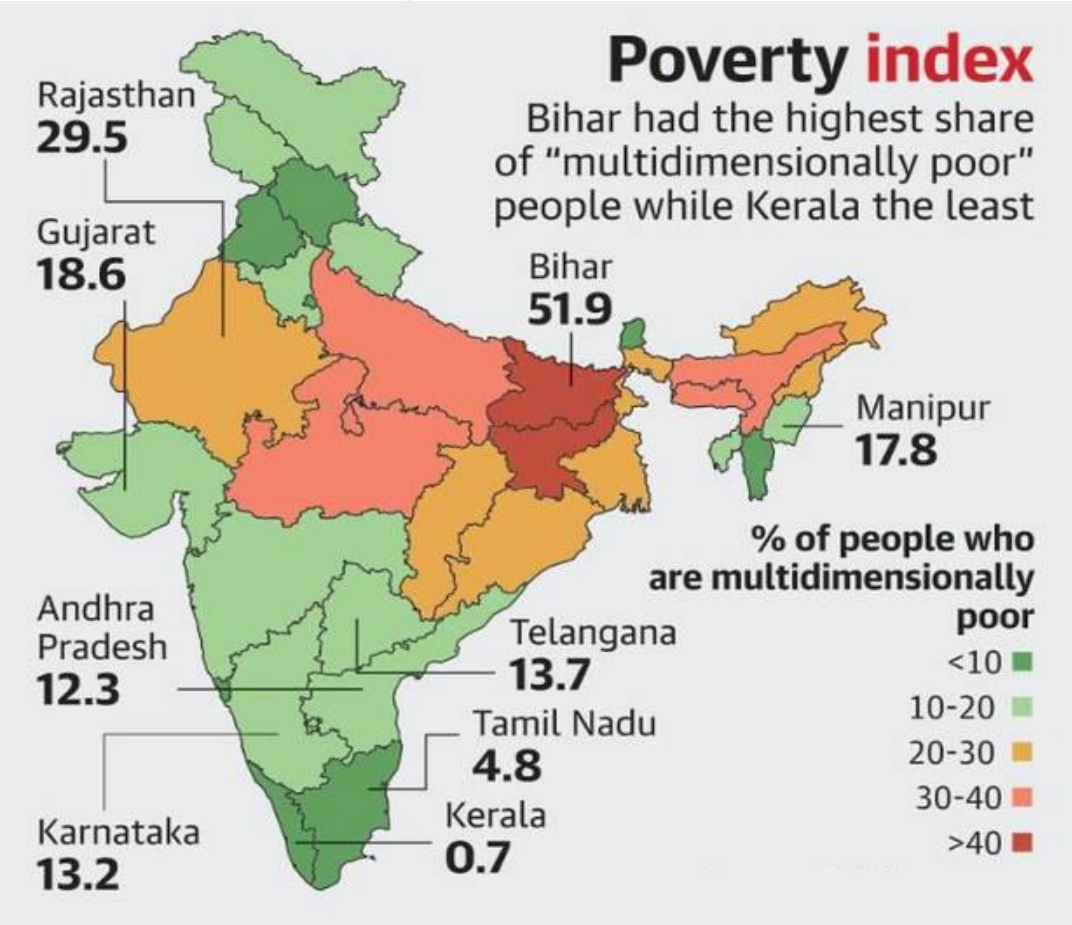
aged child not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8.

**Standard of Living**

- **Source of Cooking Fuel:** At least 58.5% of households have dung, agricultural crops, shrubs, wood, charcoal or coal as their primary source of cooking fuel.
- **No Access to Drinking water –** At least 14.6% of households do not have access to improved drinking water or a safe drinking water facility that is more than a 30-minute walk from home (as a round trip)
- **Inadequate Housing:** Some 45.6% of households have inadequate housing. Their floor is made of natural materials, or the roof or walls are made of rudimentary materials.

**Earlier reports on poverty**

- **Tendulkar Report:** It showed the proportion of the poor in the rural population declined to 25.7% from 33.8%, while that in the urban population came down to 21.9% from 29.8% between 2009-10 and 2011-12. The report took those spending less than Rs. 33 a day in urban areas and Rs 27 a day in the rural areas as poor.
- **Rangarajan Report:** According to this report, the poor constituted 30.9% of the rural population during 2011-12, against 39.6% during 2009-10. On the other hand, the urban poverty ratio fell to 29.5% from 38.2% over this period. The report took a person spending less than Rs 47 a day in cities and below Rs 32 a day in villages as poor.




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## 12. Global Gender Gap Index 2021

- Recently, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** ranked **India at 135 out of 146 countries** in its **Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022.**
- India's **overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629,** which is its **seventh-highest score in the last 16 years.**
- **In 2021,** India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- The **gender gap** is the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes.

- For India, most of the decline occurred on the political empowerment subindex. The decline also took place on the economic participation and opportunity subindex, and health and survival subindex.
- The estimated earned income of women in India is only one-fifth of men's, which puts the country among the bottom 10 globally on the economic participation and opportunity subindex.

**About:**

It **benchmarks countries** on their progress **towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub Metrices.**

- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment
- On each of the four sub-indices as well as on the overall index the GGG index provides scores between 0 and 1, where **1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.**
- **It is the longest-standing index,** which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time **since its inception in 2006.**

**Objectives:**

- To serve as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy and politics.
- Through this annual yardstick, the stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political and cultural context.

What are Global Findings?

**Ranking:**

- **Iceland has retained its position as the world's most gender-equal country,** among 146 nations on the index.
- Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden are the **top five countries** on the list respectively.
- **Afghanistan is the worst-performing** country in the report.




## 13. World Migration Report 2022

- Recently, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** launched its flagship **World Migration Report 2022.**

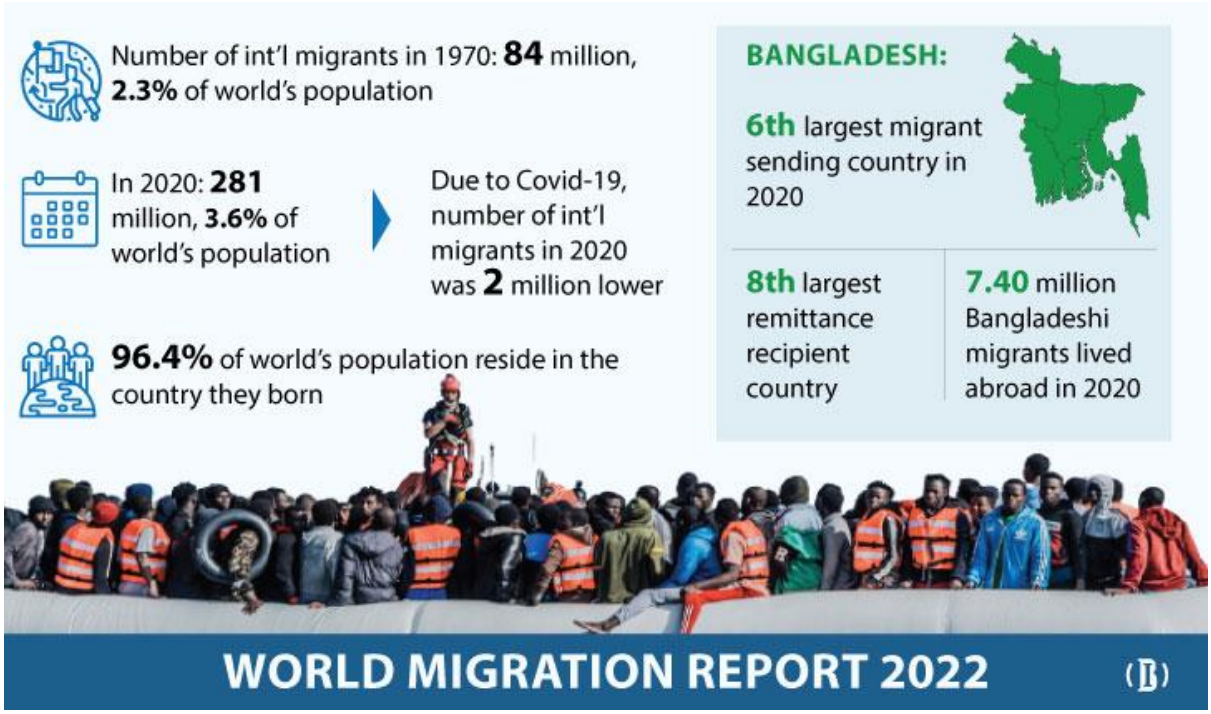
**About World Migration Report**

- It is produced by the **Migration Research Division (MRD)**, in collaboration with some of the **leading academic and applied researchers and other migration** experts from across the world.
- It has been produced **biennially since 2000.**
- It has been produced to **contribute to an increased understanding of migration and mobility throughout the world.**
- The 2020 edition won gold in the **2021 International Annual Report Design Awards.**

**Major Findings**

- **Increase in migrants:** The number of **international migrants has grown from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020.**

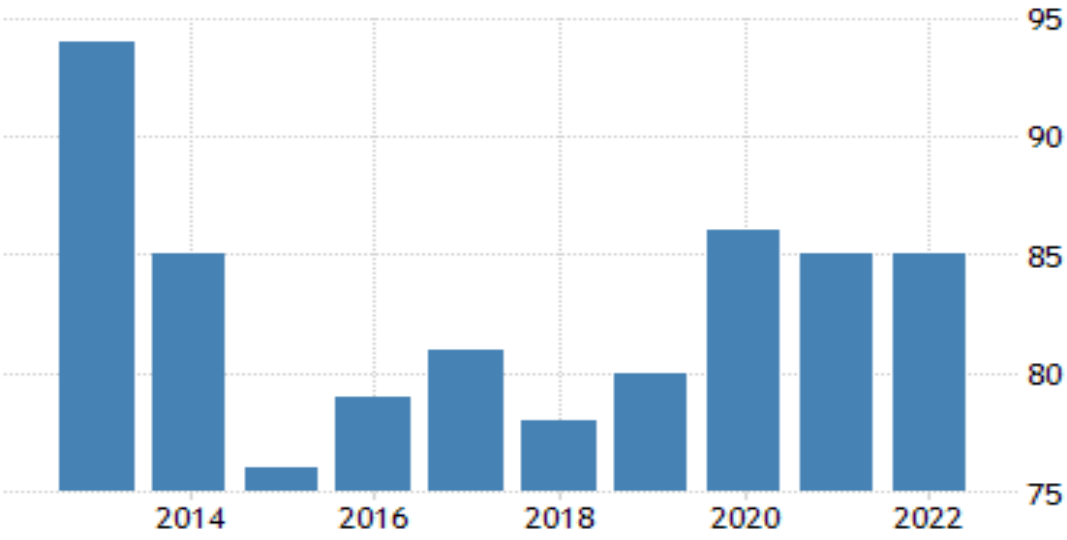
- The number of air passengers globally **dropped 60 per cent in 2020 to 1.8 billion** (down from 4.5 billion in 2019) while at the same time **internal displacement due to disaster, conflict and violence rose to 40.5 million (up from 31.5 million in 2019).**
    - **Asia** reported the **largest displacement** due to disasters.
    - The Philippines experienced the highest absolute number of new disaster displacements in 2020 (approximately 5.1 million).
- China reported five million new disaster displacements by the end of 2020.
- India reported nearly four million new displacements due to disasters.
- **Causes:** Total internal displacement due to disaster, conflict and violence has increased in comparison to 2019, despite containment due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020
    - Most of the **new displacement** is due to **climate-related events**:




## 14. Corruption Perceptions Index

- The Corruption Perceptions Index is an index published annually by Transparency International since 1995.
- It ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys.
- Transparency International (TI) has released the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2021.

- The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.
- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. A country with a higher score has a higher rank.
- Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.
- India's rank has improved by one place to 85 (86$^{th}$ rank in 2020) among 180 countries. six places to 86$^{th}$ among 180 countries.
- Except for Bhutan, all of India's neighbours are ranked below it. Pakistan dropped 16 spots in the index and was ranked at 140.
- Among those with weak scores are some of the world's most populous countries such as China (45) and India (40), and other large economies such as Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26)




## 15. International Religious Freedom Report 2022

- In its 2022 Annual report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that India be designated a 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) for the third time in a row.
- The 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) is the category of governments performing most poorly on religious freedom criteria.

- The CPCs are countries whose governments either engage in or tolerate "particularly severe violations" of religious freedom.
- ["Particularly severe violations" of religious freedom are defined as systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion.]
- The other designation, for less serious violations, is Special Watch List (SWL).
- **CPCs** - For 2022, based on religious freedom conditions in 2021, 15 countries have been recommended for the CPC designation.
- They include India, Pakistan, Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria and Vietnam.
- **SWLs** - For 2022, countries recommended for a SWL designation include Algeria, Cuba, Nicaragua, Azerbaijan, Central African Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.
- **Legality** - The USCIRF's decision is not binding on the US government.
- The USCIRF typically recommends more countries for a CPC label than the State Department will designate.
- This happens because the USCIRF is concerned solely with the state of religious freedom when it makes a recommendation.
- But the State Department and its Office of International Freedom (IRF), along with religious freedom, also takes into account other diplomatic, bilateral and strategic concerns before making a CPC designation.

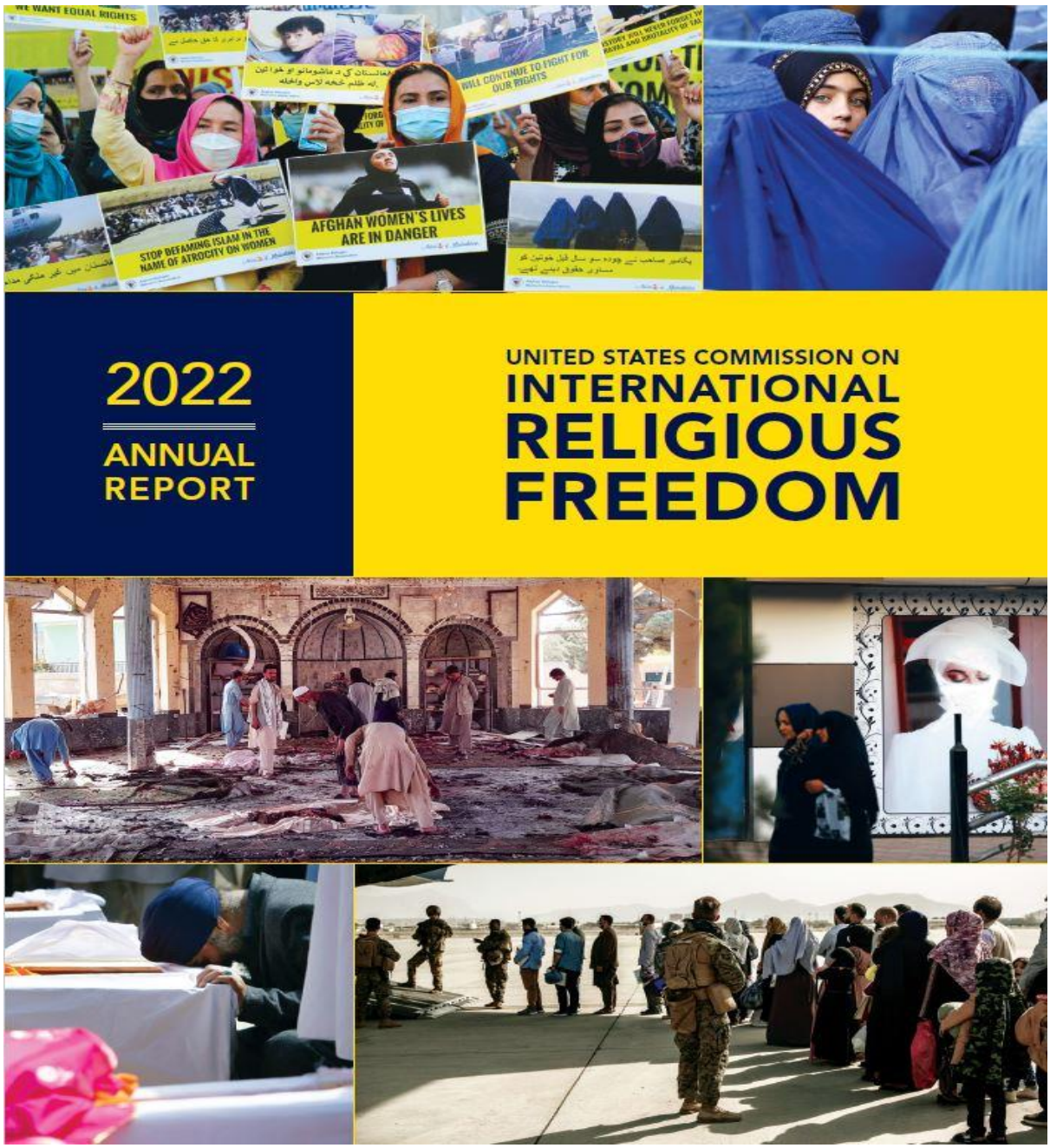
**USCIRF's Designation of India as a CPC**

- The USCIRF states that religious freedom conditions in India significantly worsened in 2021.
- It noted that India had its promotion and enforcement of policies - including those promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda - that negatively affect Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and other religious minorities.
- It highlighted the use of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against those documenting religious persecution and violence

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom**

- It is an independent bi-partisan U.S. federal government commission that was created by the International Religious Freedom Act, 1998.
- It is dedicated to defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.

- It monitors religious freedom violations globally and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress




## 16. Global State of Democracy Report, 2021

- The Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 was released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA).
- The reports refer to 3 main regime types - Democracies, Hybrid and Authoritarian Regimes.
- Hybrid & authoritarian regimes are classified as nondemocratic.

- The report aims to influence the global debate and analyses current trends and challenges to democracy, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It offers specific policy recommendations to spark new and innovative thinking for policymakers, governments and civil society organizations supporting democracy.
- **Findings** - The report said that the 20 countries moved in the direction of authoritarianism, but 7 countries moved towards democracy.
- The US and three members of the European Union (EU) [Hungary, Poland and Slovenia] have also seen concerning democratic declines.
- The pandemic has prolonged this existing negative trend into a 5-year stretch, the longest such period since the start of the 3rd wave of democratization in the 1970s.
- Democratically elected Governments, including established democracies, are increasingly adopting authoritarian tactics.
- Number of countries moving towards authoritarianism in 2020 was higher than that of countries moving towards democracy.
- India - Some of the most worrying examples of Democratic backsliding are found in some of the world's largest countries (Brazil, India).



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## 17. World Happiness Report 2022

❑ **Recently, the latest edition of the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022 was released.**

- This report is issued annually by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- This report is a measurement of subjective wellbeing of 150 countries (146 in 2022). It relies on three main well-being indicators (life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions), levels of GDP, life expectancy etc.
- Happiness rankings are based on life evaluations as the more stable measure of the quality of people's lives.
- It assigns a score on a scale of 0-10, based on an average of data over a three-year-period.
- **Findings** - This year (2022) marks the tenth anniversary of the World Happiness Report.
- For the fifth straight year, the World Happiness Report 2022 has found **Finland** to be the happiest country in the world.
- From the other end, **Afghanistan** was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana, respectively.
- **India**, meanwhile, saw a marginal improvement in its ranking, jumping three spots to 136, from 139 a year ago.
- **Russia and Ukraine**, currently at war with each other, have been ranked 80 and 98 respectively.
- The 2022 rankings, however, were compiled much before Russia launched invasion of its neighbour.



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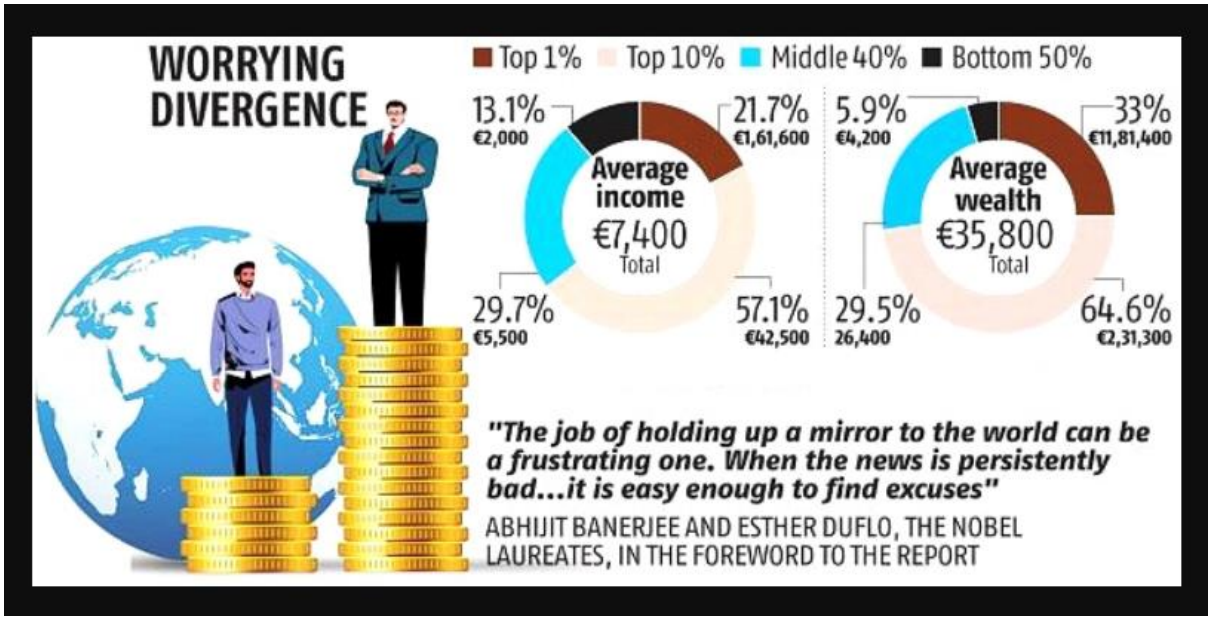
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## 18. World Inequality Report 2022

- The 'World Inequality Report 2022', released by The World Inequality Lab, says that India is a poor and very unequal country, with affluent elite.
- According to the report, since the mid-1980s, deregulation and liberalization policies have led to one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality observed in the world.
- An average adult earns PPP USD 23,380 per year in 2021, and the average adult owns USD 102,600.
- These averages mask wide disparities both between & within countries.
- Income inequality - The richest 10% of the world earns 52% of global income, whereas the poorest half of the population earns 8% of it.
- On average, an individual from the top 10% of the global income distribution earns USD122,100 per year, whereas an individual from the poorest half of the global income distribution makes USD3,920 per year.
- Wealth inequality - The share of public wealth across countries has been on a decline for decades now.
- The decline in public wealth and rise in private wealth was exacerbated by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The poorest half of the global population barely owns any wealth at all, possessing just 2% of the total.
- In contrast, the richest 10% of the global population own 76% of wealth.
- On average, the poorest half of the population owns PPP USD 4,100 per adult, i.e. and the top 10% own USD 771,300 on average.
- Gender inequality - Women's share of total incomes from work (labor income) neared 30% in 1990 and stands at less than 35% today.
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the most unequal region in the world, Europe has the lowest inequality levels.
- India - The report highlights that India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and an 'affluent elite.'
- In India, the top 10% and top 1% hold 57% and 22% of the total national income respectively while the bottom 50% share has gone down to 13%.
- Income inequality in India under the British colonial rule (1858-1947) was very high, with a top 10% income share around 50%.

- After independence, due to socialist-inspired five-year plans, this share was reduced to 35-40%.
- Due to the economic liberalization policies of the 1990s, India has been facing one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality observed in the world.
- While the top 1% has largely benefited from these economic reforms, the growth among low and middle-income groups has been relatively slow and poverty persists.
- In India, private wealth went up from 290% in 1980 to 560% in 2020.
- The share of female labor income share in India is equal to 18% which is significantly lower than the average in Asia (21%, excluding China) & is among the lowest in the world




## 19. World Press Freedom Index 2022

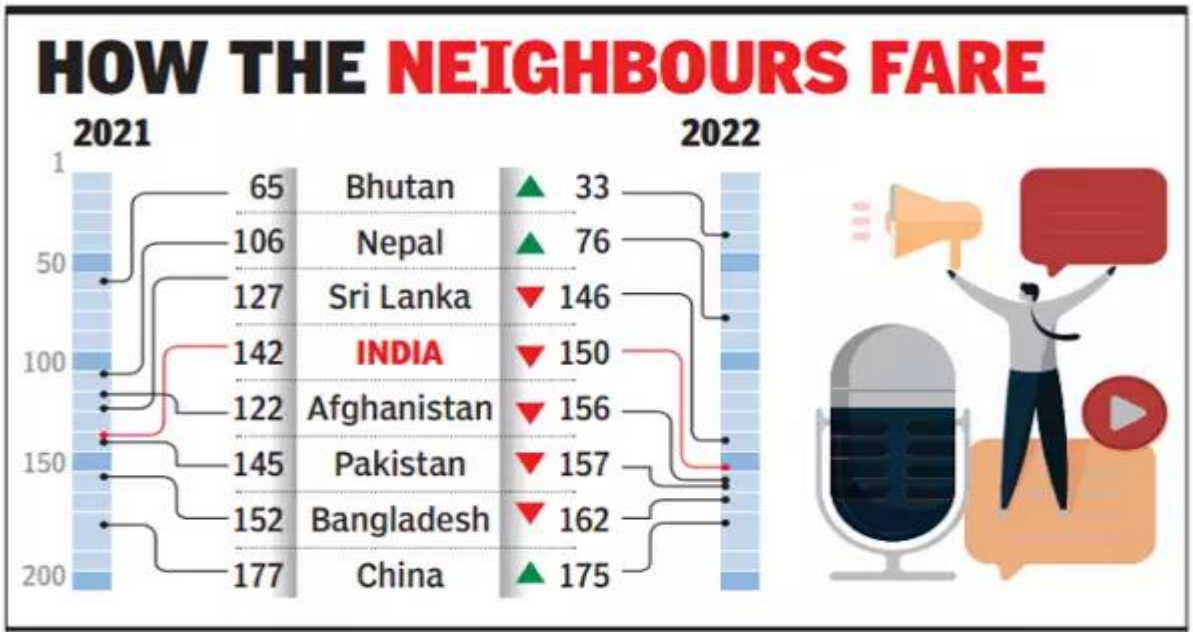
- It is published by the global media watchdog, the Reporters Without Borders or Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) since 2002.
- It ranks countries and regions according to the level of media freedom available to journalists.
- It is based on an evaluation of media freedom that measures pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, transparency, and the legal framework and the safety of journalists.
- It is also based on the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.
- It includes indicators of level of media freedom violations in each region.

- Methodology - The Index's ranking is based on a score ranging from 0 to 100 that is assigned to each country or territory
- 100 is the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 is the worst.
- Countries are evaluated using five contextual indicators - political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context and safety.
- Recently, the 20th edition of the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2022 was published.
- **Findings -** India's ranking in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index has fallen to 150 out of 180 countries.
- In terms of global trends, the report flags a two-fold increase in polarization amplified by information chaos

1. Media polarization fuelling divisions within countries,
2. Polarization between countries at the international level.

- The report states that in India, "the violence against journalists, the politically partisan media and the concentration of media ownership all demonstrate that press freedom is in crisis".
- It describes India as one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media.
- It notes that the journalists are exposed to all kinds of physical violence including police violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly reprisals by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.
- It highlights that "supporters of Hindutva, the ideology that spawned the Hindu far-right, wage all-out online attacks on any views that conflict with their thinking."

| Country | Rank in World Press Freedom Index 2022 |
|---|---|
| Norway | 1 |
| Denmark | 2 |
| Sweden | 3 |
| India | 150 (142 in the year 2021) |
| North Korea | 180 |




## 20. Global Liveability Index 2021

- The Global Liveability Index for 2021 of 140 cities around the world was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- Handling of the Covid-19 crisis seems to be one of the most important factors that dominated the formulation of the Index for 2021.
- The index takes into account more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors spanning five categories - stability (25%), healthcare (20%), culture and environment (25%), education (10%), infrastructure (20%).
- **Findings** - New Zealand's Auckland is named the world's most liveable city for 2021, due to its successful approach in containing the pandemic.
- Austria's Vienna (Topped in 2018 and 2019) has completely dropped out of the top 10 after being heavily affected by Covid, and ranks 12.



## 21. Worldwide Cost of Living Report

❑ **The Cost of Living Report, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), was released recently.**

- The 2021 edition of the report explores the cost of living in 173 cities, measured against impactful global events.
- On average, **prices for goods and services have risen by 3.5%** year-on-year, the highest inflation rate seen in the last five years.
- Tel Aviv tops the rankings, making it the most expensive city in the world to live in.
- Paris and Singapore came joint second, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong. New York came in sixth, and Geneva took seventh place.
- Tel Aviv has climbed in the rankings due to the strength of the Israeli shekel against the dollar, and increases in transport and grocery prices.
- As the index is benchmarked against prices in New York City, the cities with currencies that are stronger against the US dollar would appear higher in the rankings.



## 22. World Competitiveness Index

- The World Competitiveness Index was topped by Switzerland, while India maintained 43rd rank.
- This list is compiled annually by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center.
- The Index ranks 64 economies and assesses the extent to which a country promotes the prosperity of its people by measuring economic well-being through hard data and survey responses from executives.
- It measures the prosperity and competitiveness of nations by examining four factors -- economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency, and infrastructure.
- This year, the rankings examine the impact of COVID-19 on economies around the world.
- **India** - India has maintained its position for the past three years but this year, it had significant improvements in government efficiency.
- India's improvements in the government efficiency factor are due to,
    1. Relatively stable public finances (despite difficulties brought by the pandemic, in 2020 the government deficit stayed at 7%) and
    2. Positive feedbacks registered among Indian business executives with respect to the support and subsidies given by the government to the private companies.
- IMD, however, added that the short term performance of India's economy will depend on its ability to address the pandemic.



## 23. Global Pension Index 2021

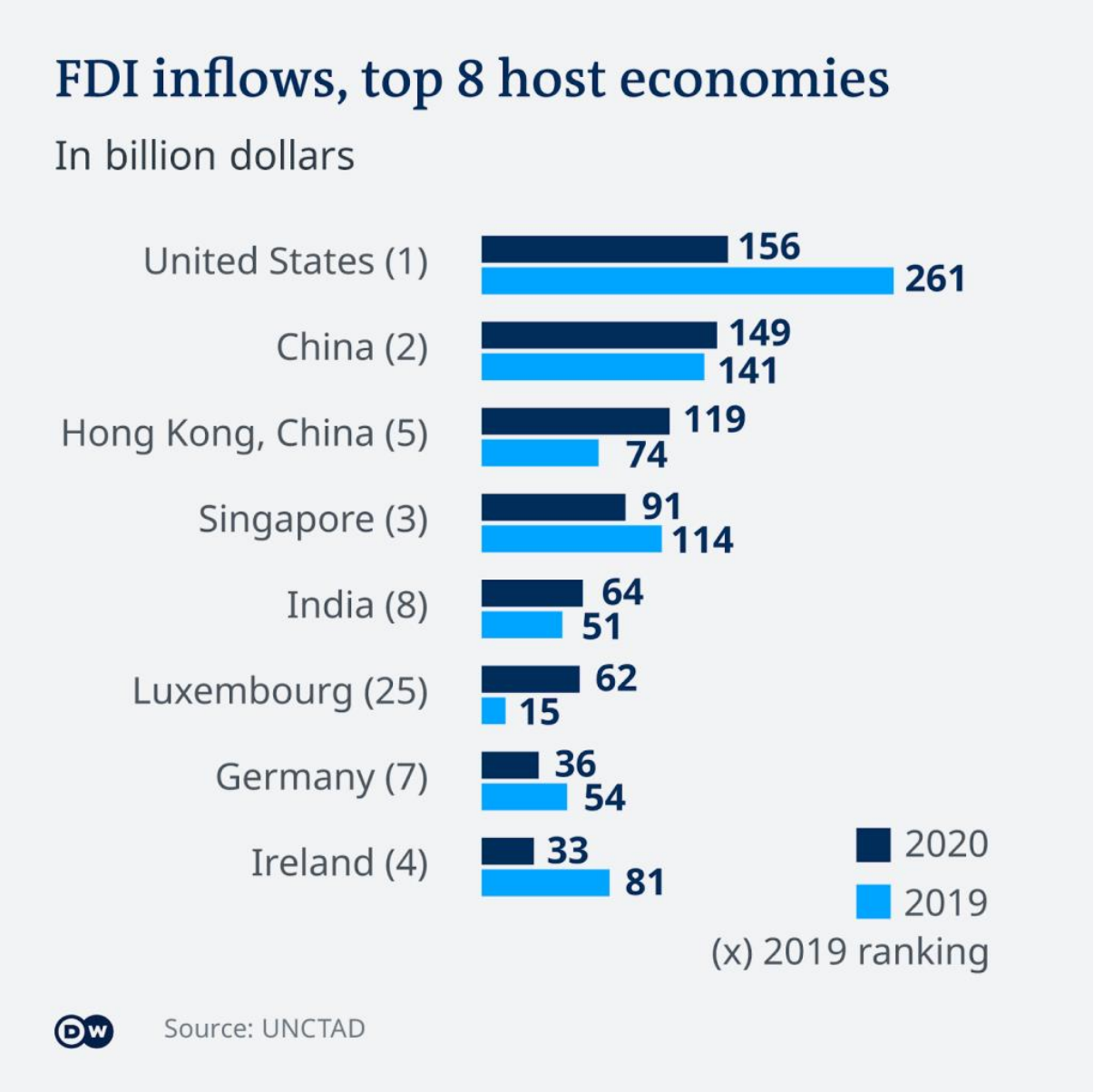



- The 13th Global Pension Index 2021 is published by Mercer, in collaboration with CFA Institute and the Monash Centre for Financial Studies.
- The report compared 43 retirement income systems from around the world, highlighting strengths and weaknesses.
- As the world continues to grapple with the economic implications of the pandemic, the study also reveals factors causing the gender pension gap around the world.
- **Findings** - In 2021, new entrant Iceland is named as having the world's best pension system overall.
- India has ranked at 40th position out of 43 countries in the 2021 Index.
- [In 2020, India was ranked at 34th position out of 39 countries.]
- The report reveals that the financial well-being of Indian future retirees is left to chance. Also, it shows that the minimum pension of Indians (as a % of average wage) will be the lowest across the nations.

## 24. World Investment Report 2021

- The World Investment Report 2021 was released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- **India** - The report says that India is the fifth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the world.
- In India, the FDI increased 27% to USD 64 billion (2020) from USD 51 billion (2019), due to the acquisitions in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry.
- The second wave of the COVID-19 in India weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities but its strong fundamentals provide optimism for the medium term.
- The report said that the investments from India may stabilise in 2021, supported by the country's resumption of free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the European Union (EU) and its strong investment in Africa.
- **Global** - The global FDI flows have been severely hit by the pandemic and they plunged by 35% in 2020 to USD 1 trillion.

- COVID-19 led lockdowns around the world slowed down existing investment projects and prospects of a recession led multinational enterprises (MNEs) to reassess new projects.
- The pandemic boosted demand for digital infrastructure and services globally, which led to higher values of greenfield FDI project announcements targeting the ICT industry, rising by more than 22%.
- **Asian region** - While some large economies in developing Asia like China and India recorded FDI growth in 2020, the rest recorded a contraction.
- FDI outflows from South Asia fell 12% to USD 12 billion, driven by a drop in investment from India.
- A wider resurgence of the virus in Asia could significantly lower global FDI in 2021, given that region's significant contribution to the total.

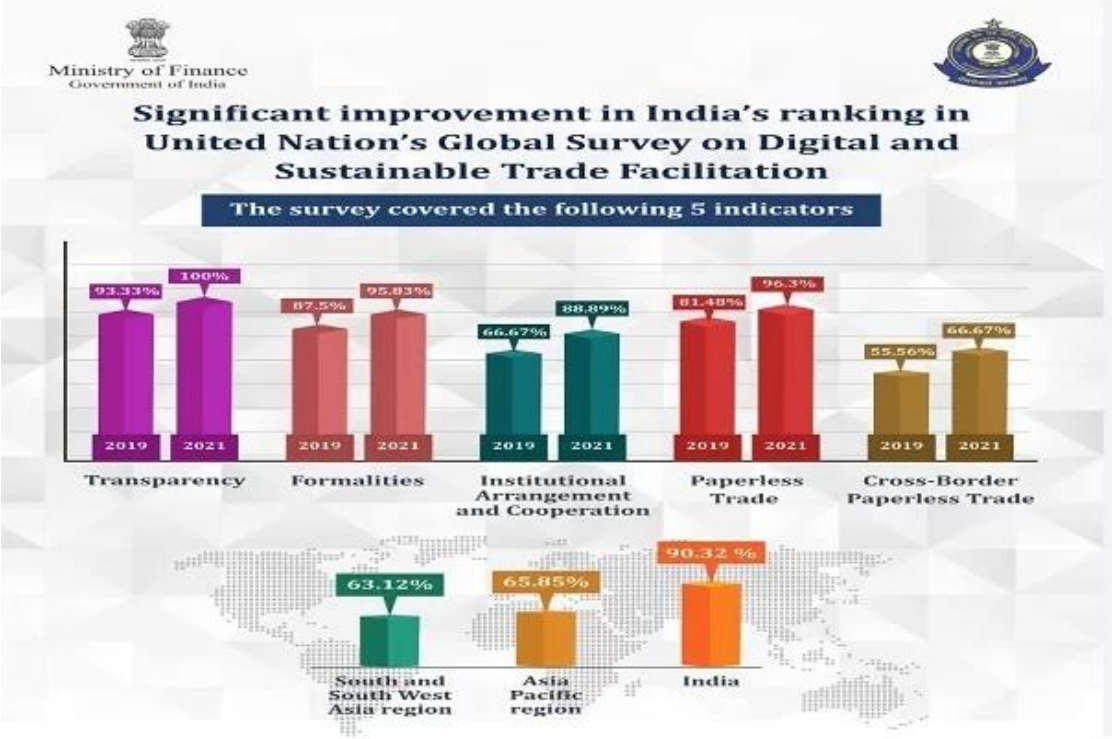


## 25. Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- The United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) has released the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021.
- The Global Survey evaluates economies **every two years on 5 key indicators** - Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, Paperless Trade, and Cross-Border Paperless Trade.
- The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- It evidences whether or not the trade facilitation measures being taken have the desired impact and helps draw comparison amongst countries.

A higher score for a country also helps businesses in their investment decisions.

- **India's performance** - India has scored 90.32% in the 2021 Survey.
- India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India has also been found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of EU. 25.



## 26. Global Innovation Index 2021

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in partnership with the Portulans Institute has released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021.
- India has climbed 2 spots and has been ranked 46th. India's rank has been consistently rising in the last few years from 81 (2015) to 46 (2021).
- The GII ranks 131 countries and economies based on their innovation capabilities, including roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs.
- The GII is the fulcrum for the governments - across the world - to assess the social and the economic changes in their respective countries.
- Over the years, the GII has established itself as a policy tool for various governments and helped them to reflect upon the existing status quo.



## 27. Hurun Global Rich List 2022

- The Hurun Global Rich List 2022 - a report on the findings on the dollar millionaires for 2021 - has been released.
- Hurun Report is a leading research, luxury publishing and events group established in London in 1998.
- It is widely recognized world-over for its comprehensive evaluation of the wealthiest individuals across the globe.
- Hurun Report is the largest compiler of the rich list globally.
- **Findings -** The report ranked a total of 3,381 billionaires from 2,557 companies and 69 countries.
- China is still the first with 1,050 billionaires owning $3,756 billion in wealth, with the US at the second position with 523 billionaires owning $3,554 billion in wealth.
- **India ranked third in the list of total self-made billionaires in the world**, with 119 billionaires accounting owning a cumulative wealth of $474 billion.
- The Gautam Adani family, Larry Page and Sergey Brin were the biggest gainers this year.
- India - It estimated the number of Indian dollar millionaires to increase by 30% to touch six lakh households by 2026.
- It indicated that the number of those who classify themselves as happy in personal and professional lives slipped from 72% (2020) to 66% (2021).
- Mumbai is home to the largest number of dollar millionaires at 20,300 households, followed by Delhi at 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500.
- At a time when calls for taxing the super-rich are growing (higher taxation advocated by Oxfam to save lives), less than a third among those surveyed felt paying taxes is a determinant of social responsibility.
- Similarly, when calls for greater help through philanthropy are growing, only 19% of the millionaires surveyed by Hurun said they believe in giving back to society.
- Over two-thirds of those surveyed said they will prefer sending their kids abroad for education, with the U.S. emerging the favorite destination followed by the U.K., New Zealand and Germany.
- The survey found that a fourth of those in the list change their cars every 3 years with the German carmaker Mercedes Benz emerging as the most preferred.
- Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed said they own four time pieces, adding that Rolex is the most preferred brand.

- The next decade presents a meaningful opportunity for luxury brands and service providers to enter/further strengthen presence in India
- Number of dollar millionaires using UPI for payments has doubled to 36%, while nearly a third of the surveyed are currently avoiding risks in their investments

| Particular | Most preferred Brand |
|---|---|
| Hospitality brand | Indian Hotels' Taj |
| Jewellery retailer | Tanishq (owned by the Tata Group) |
| Luxury goods | Louis Vuitton |
| Private jet brand | Gulfstream |




## 28. State of the World's Children Report 2021

- **The UNICEF released its global flagship report titled, 'The State of the World's Children 2021'.**
- This UNICEF report is the most comprehensive analysis of global trends affecting children.
- **Purpose** - The 2021 report details the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the **mental health** of children, adolescents and caregivers.
- It examines how risk and protective factors in the home, school and community shape mental health outcomes.

- It urges global commitment, communication and action to promote good mental health for every child and young people.
- **Findings** - Globally, 1 in 5 young people of 15 to 24-years of age are feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.
- In India, 1 in 7 young people (14% of 15 to 24-years of age) are reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.
- Children have not only been living an emotional tragedy, many are also at a higher risk of neglect and abuse.



## 29. Global Hunger Index 2021

- The Global Hunger Index 2021 report, prepared by 'Welthungerhilfe' and 'Concern Worldwide,' was released recently.
- Global Hunger Index is based on four indicators - Undernourishment, Child Stunting, Child Wasting and Child Mortality
- Scoring method - Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- The aggregate GHI score is a weighted average of the 4 indicators: 33.33% weight each to components 1 and 4, and giving 16.66% weight each to components 2 and 3.
- A low score gives a country a higher ranking which implies a better performance (low hunger).
- The countries were provisionally designated by severity as below,
- **India's score is 27.5 and it has ranked 101 among 116 countries in the category of having a 'serious' hunger situation.**







## 30. Global Nutrition Report 2021

- The Global Nutrition Report, 2021 (GNR, 2021) was released recently.

- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.
- The annual GNR –

1. Evaluates the impact of poor diets on human health and the planet,
2. Provides a concise data-focused updates on the state of diets and nutrition in the world,
3. Assesses the nutrition financing landscape and progress towards global nutrition targets.

- **Findings** - At the current rate of progress, the global nutrition targets will not be achieved by 2025 globally and in most countries worldwide. The Covid-19 pandemic is impeding progress towards achieving these targets.

a) To achieve the global nutrition targets, countries must intensify and accelerate efforts to reach their commitment goals, particularly financial and impact goals

- Economic downturn triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with disrupted food and health systems, threatens to increase malnutrition significantly in low- and middle-income countries.

a) Given these economic challenges, when donor and domestic resources are constrained by the pandemic, there is an urgent need for concessional, private sector and catalytic innovative finance.

- The previous decade has seen little progress in improving diets, and a quarter of all deaths among adults are attributable to poor diets.
- Food production currently generates more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions globally, and uses substantial and rising amounts of environmental resources.
- No region is on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at limiting health and environmental burdens related to diets and the food system. o Poor diets and malnutrition should be addressed holistically and sustainably to create a healthy future for all.

**India's Performance**

- According to the GNR 2021, India is among the countries documented in the report as having made no progress or said to be worsening with regards to reducing 'anemia' and 'childhood wasting'.
- Over half of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anemic.
- In 2016, 52.6% of Indian women were anemic. But in 2020, 53% were found to be anemic.
- Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are affected by wasting. This figure is much higher than the average for Asia (9%).

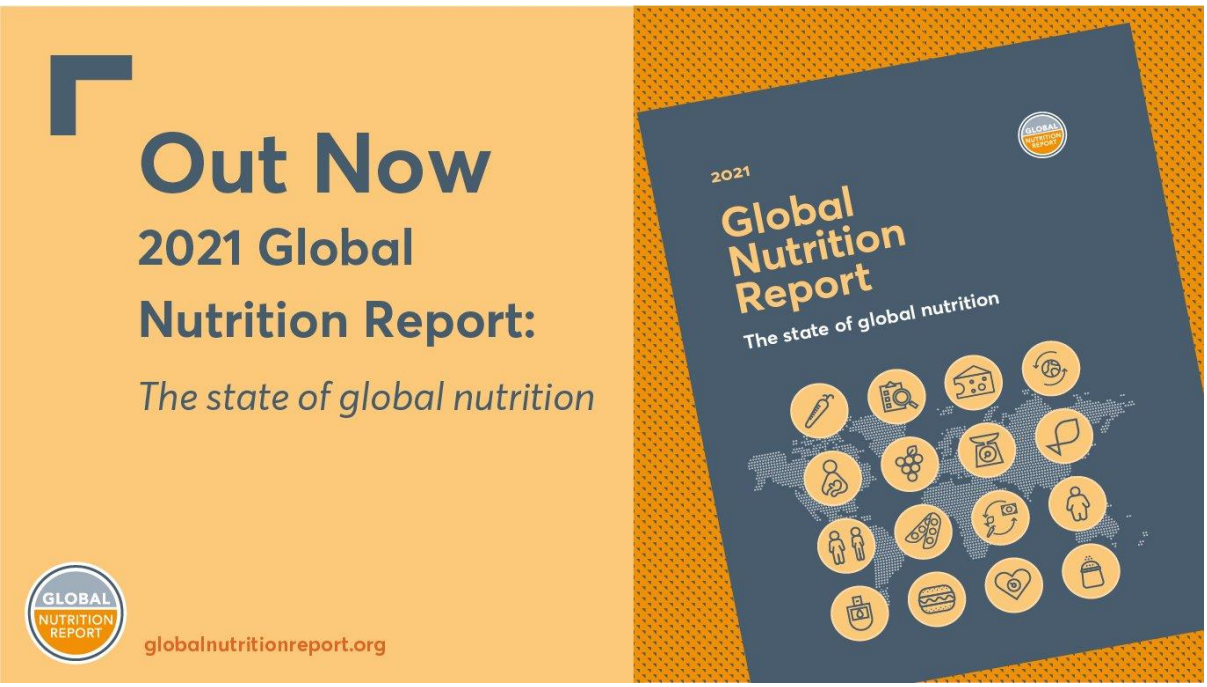
- According to the report, India is 'off-course' in meeting 7 of the 13 global nutrition targets.
- These include sodium intake, raised blood pressure, obesity and diabetes (all both in men and women).
- Some 6.2% of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 3.5% of adult men are living with obesity in the country.

a) India is among 53 countries 'on course' to meet the target for 'stunting', 'childhood overweight' and 'exclusive breast feeding'. Over 34% of children under 5 years of age are still affected by stunting. This figure is higher than average for Asia (22%).

b) Some 58% of infants in the age group 0-5 months are exclusively breastfed in India.

**Global Nutrition Targets**

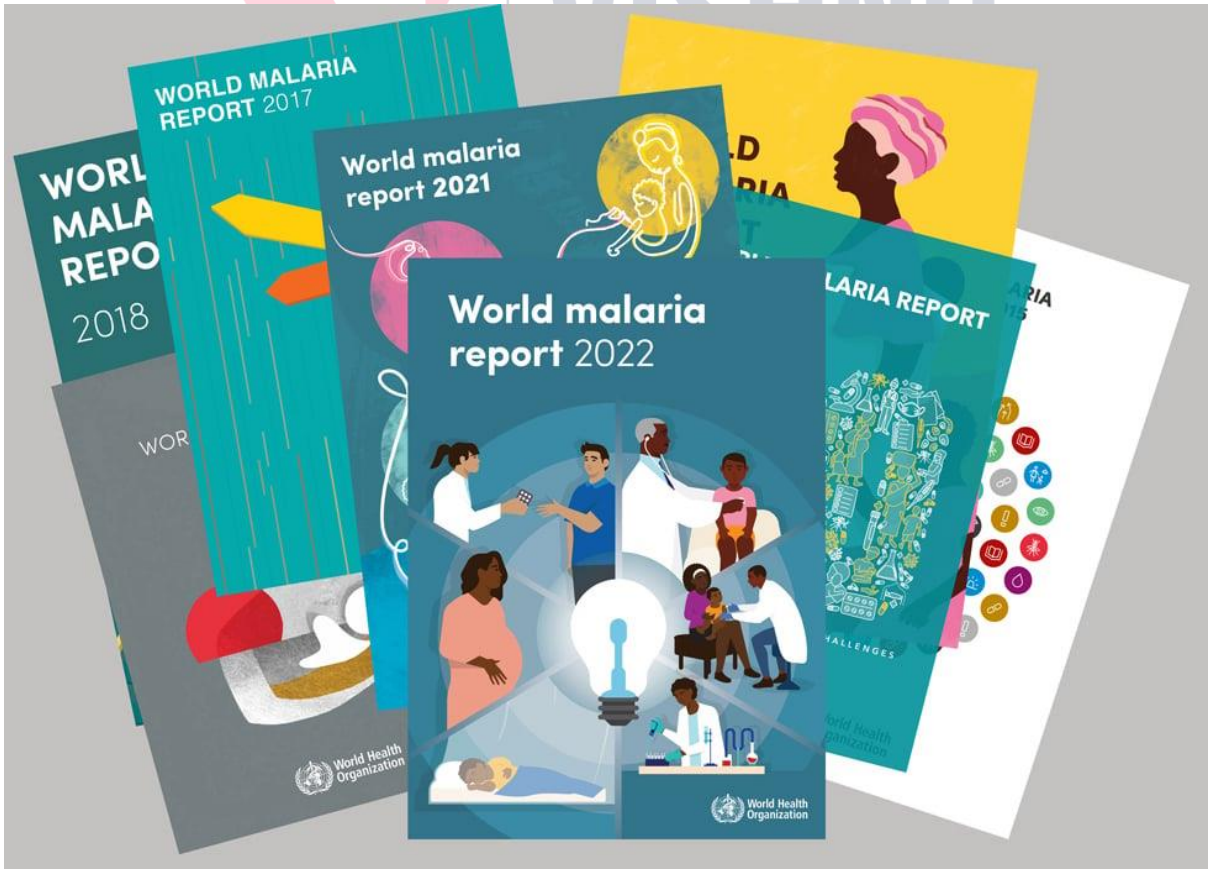
- **In 2012, the World Health Organization identified six nutrition targets to be met by 2025.**




## 31. World Malaria Report 2021

- The World Malaria Report 2021 was released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Each year, World malaria report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of trends in malaria control and elimination globally.
- It tracks investments in malaria programs and research as well as progress across all intervention areas: prevention, diagnosis, treatment, elimination and surveillance.

- **Findings** - The 2021 report is based on information received from malaria-endemic countries in all WHO regions.
- Global progress against malaria had levelled off even before the pandemic. But, it was further levelled off due to the Covid-19 in 2020.
- If speedy action is not taken, the world is in the danger of seeing an immediate resurgence of the disease, mostly in Africa.
- The report highlighted that the milestones of the WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 have been missed in 2020.
- The 2030 targets won't be met without immediate attention.
  There were an estimated 627,000 malaria deaths in 2020, an increase of 12% over 2019.
- 68% of the additional 69,000 deaths were linked to disruptions in the provision of malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment during the pandemic.
- Most of the increase came from countries in the WHO African Region, which accounted for about 95% of cases.
- India accounted for 83% of cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region.



## 32. World Drug Report 2021

- According to the World Drug Report 2021 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's, the lockdown restrictions during COVID-19 may have accelerated drug trafficking using the Internet.
- Findings - Between 2010 and 2019, the number of people using drugs increased by 22%, as there was an increase in the global population.
- Opioids account for the largest burden of disease attributed to drug use.
- In last 24 years, cannabis potency had increased by four times in some parts of the globe. Percentage of adolescents who perceived drug as harmful has reduced by 40%.
- A rise in the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs was observed during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Darknet markets - In Asia, China and India are the most frequently mentioned countries linked to shipment of drugs sold on the 19 major darknet markets analyzed over 2011-2020.
- Access to drugs has become simpler than ever with online sales, and major drug markets on the dark web are worth $315 million annually.
- The use of private planes for drug trafficking and contactless transactions, such as through the mail, are also on the rise.
- Although this is a "tiny fraction" of overall drug sales, the trend of using dark web on the rise, with a fourfold increase in annual sales from the beginning of the 2010s to more recent years.
- While cannabis dominates darknet sales, marketing on the so-called clear web often involves new psychoactive substances.



## 33. QS World University Rankings 2022

- Recently, the QS World University Rankings 2022 was released by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). Started in 2004, the QS World University Rankings is an **annual** publication of university rankings.
- Featuring 1,300 Universities from around the world, the university rankings of the year 2022 is the largest of the rankings.

**Methodology** - Each institution has been assessed according to the following six metrics:

1. Academic Reputation (40%)
2. Employer Reputation (10%)
3. Faculty/Student Ratio (20%)
4. Citations per faculty (20%)
5. International Faculty Ratio (5%)
6. International Student Ratio (5%)

- This ranking can be used to easily compare universities by looking at their score which is from 0 to 100.

**Findings** - In the 2022 ranking, the top rank holders are

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA,
2. University of Oxford, United Kingdom and
3. Stanford University, United States.

- IIT-Kharagpur has been ranked 37$^{th}$ in 2022 in mineral and mining engineering and 80$^{th}$ in 2022 in electrical and electronic engineering globally.
- Jadavpur University is the only state university in India which was ranked in the QS World University Rankings in the sphere of arts and humanities, 2022.
- Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) bagged 9th rank in engineering and technology in the country. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022
- The QS World University Rankings by Subject are compiled annually to help prospective students identify leading universities in a particular subject.
- It covers a total 51 disciplines under 5 broad subject areas.
- 16 higher education institutes (with 35 programs) from India were ranked among the top 100 in their subject categories.
- Two programs with best performance among Indian Institutes were

1. Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences with its Dentistry programme placed at18; and
2. Indian School of Mines (ISM) University, Dhanbad with its Mineral and Mining Engineering programme placed at 26.




## 34. State of the Education Report for India 2021

- **The UNESCO released the 2021 State of the Education Report for India: No Teachers, No Class.**

- **Findings** - The gross enrolment ratio (GER) for elementary schools has increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 102.1 in 2019-2020.
- But the overall retention is 74.6% for elementary education and 59.6% for secondary education in 2019-20.
- **Number of Teachers** - 89% of the total 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in the country are in rural areas.
- India needs 11.16 lakh additional teachers to meet the current shortfall.
- Tripura has the least number of women teachers, while Chandigarh leads the chart.
- The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector grew from 21% (2013-14) to 35% (2018-19).

- **Lack of Digital Infrastructure** - Overall availability of computing devices in schools is 22% for all India, with rural areas seeing much lower provisioning (18%) than urban areas (43%).
- Access to the internet in schools is 19% all over India - only 14% in rural areas compared to 42% in urban areas.
- There are a range of issues - lack of devices and Internet bandwidth for students, lack of preparedness of teachers in the use of technology, and lack of resources in Indian languages.
- **Recommendations** - The focus of this decade should be on teachers and teaching as the Quality of education is the core challenge of the next decade.
- As schools in India have not been functioning physically from March 2020, foundational learning is set to slide even further down from current low levels.




## 35. NIRF's Ranking of Higher Education Institutions

- The NIRF was approved by the MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and launched in 2015.
- The framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five parameters:
    1. Teaching, Learning & Resources
    2. Research & Professional Practice (RP)
    3. Graduation Outcomes

4. Outreach & Inclusivity (OI)
5. Perception (PR)

- **Key Highlights -** IIT Madras retains 1st Position in overall category as well as in Engineering for the third consecutive year.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the University as well as Research Institution category in India Rankings 2021.
- IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management subject and AIIMS, New Delhi occupies the top slot in Medical for the fourth consecutive year.
- Jamia Hamdard tops the list in Pharmacy subject for the third consecutive year.
- Miranda College retains 1st position amongst colleges for the fifth consecutive year.
- IIT Roorkee takes the top slot for the first time in Architecture subject displacing IIT Kharagpur.
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore retains its first position for in Law for the fourth consecutive years.
- Colleges in Delhi dominate ranking of colleges with five colleges out of first 10 colleges from Delhi.
- Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, secure 1st position in "Dental" category.

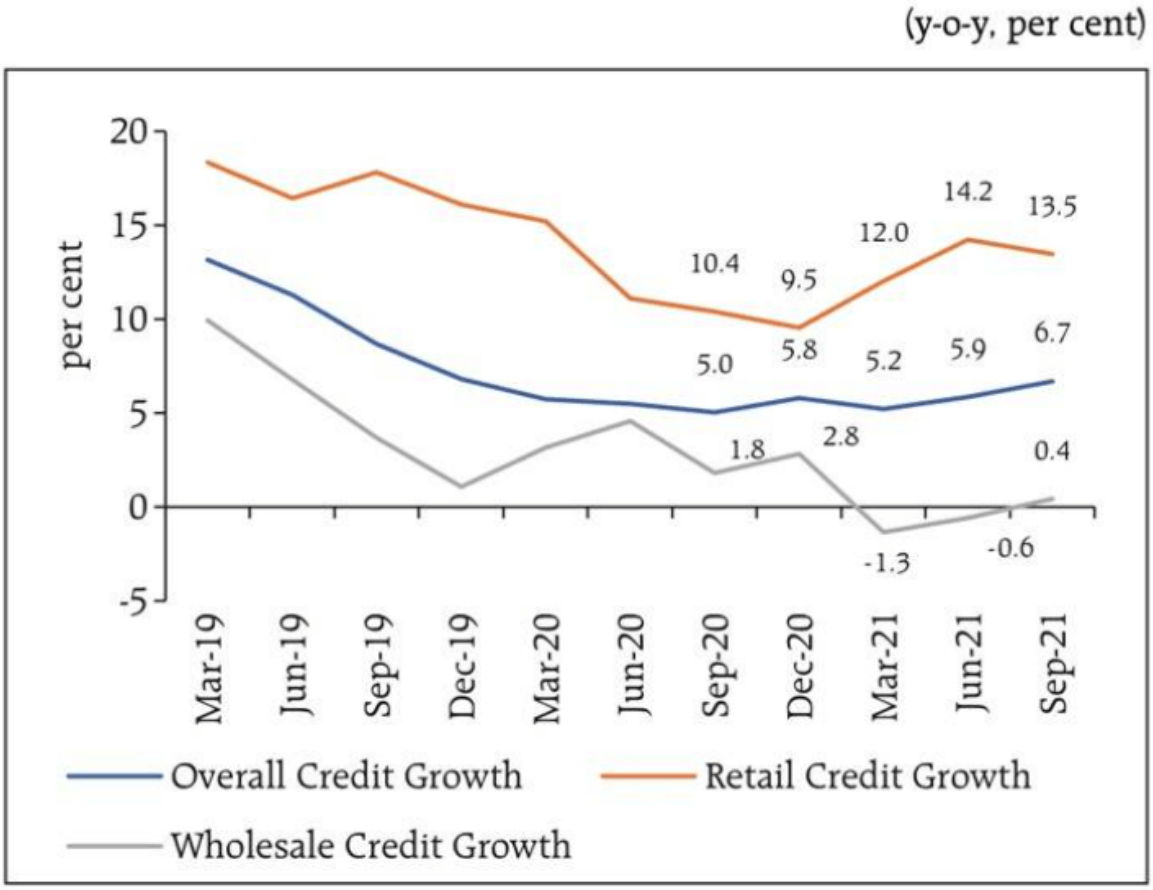


## 36. 24th Financial Stability Report

❑ **The RBI has released the 24th Financial Stability Report (FSR).**

- **FSR** - The FSR is published twice each year (biannual) by the RBI.
- It reflects the collective assessment of the sub-committee of the financial stability and development council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.
- [FSDC is an umbrella group of regulators which gives an overview of the health of India's financial system.] · The FSR primarily looks at questions like the following:
    1. Do Indian banks (both public and private) have enough capital to run their operations?
    2. Are the levels of bad loans (or non-performing assets) within manageable limits?
    3. Are different sectors of the economy able to get credit (or new loans) for economic activity?
- As part of the FSR, the RBI also conducts '**stress tests**', which may figure out what might happen to the health of the banking system if the broader economy worsens.
- Similarly, it also tries to assess how factors outside India might affect the domestic economy. Each FSR also contains the results of the **Systemic Risk Surveys**.
- The global economic recovery has been losing momentum in the second half of 2021 in the face of
    1. Resurfacing COVID-19 infections,
    2. Supply disruptions and bottlenecks,
    3. Elevated inflationary levels and
    4. Shifts in monetary policy stances and actions across advanced economies and emerging market economies.
- On the domestic front, progress in vaccination has enabled the recovery to regain traction after the debilitating second wave of the pandemic, despite signs of slowing pace more recently.
- The corporate sector is gaining strength and bank credit growth is improving.
- As per the 'stress tests', balance sheets of banks remain strong and capital and liquidity buffers are being bolstered to mitigate future shocks.
- Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) rose to a new peak of 16.6% and their provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.1% in September 2021.

- Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of SCBs may increase from 6.9% in September 2021
    1. To 8.1% by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and
    2. To 9.5% by September 2022 under a severe stress scenario.
- However, SCBs would have sufficient capital, both at the aggregate and individual levels, even under stress conditions.
- Emerging signs of stress in MSME as also in the micro finance segment call for close monitoring of these portfolios going forward.




## 37. 3rd State Food Safety Index

- Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) was released.
- This Index measures the performance of States across 5 parameters of food safety, which include,

1. Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements,
2. Compliance,
3. Food Testing - Infrastructure and Surveillance,

4. Training and Capacity Building and
5. Consumer Empowerment.

- ❑ It is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.
- ❑ Among the larger states, this year, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu secured top ranks.
- ❑ Among the smaller states, Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur secured top ranks.
- ❑ Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ❑ It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ❑ It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- ❑ FSSAI monitors and governs the food business in India.
- ❑ FSSAI License is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- ❑ Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 - It is a consolidated statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- ❑ It established the FSSAI and the State Food Safety Authorities for each State.
- ❑ It aims to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards, by moving from



## 38. National Achievement Survey 2021

- **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 was successfully conducted across all 36 states and UTs of the country.**

- NAS 2021 is the first achievement survey after release of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP).
- It will infuse the competency-based assessment system over the content and memory-based assessment as envisaged by NEP 2020.
- NAS is a nationally representative sample-based survey of students' learning undertaken by the Ministry of Education.
- It is a scientifically designed achievement survey that gives a system level reflection on effectiveness of school education.
- It is a process of gathering information in order to develop a deep understanding of what students know, understand and can do with their knowledge as a result of their educational experiences.
- It will ultimately culminate to improve the subsequent students' learning and development, through systemic interventions.
- NAS was conducted in different mediums of instruction as available in the sampled schools (govt and govt aided schools.)
- There are 3 phases of NAS exercise,
    1. Instrument development (done by the NCERT),
    2. Sampling design and
    3. Actual administration of the test (conducted by CBSE in collaboration with states and UTs).
- Grade-wise subject specific Learning Outcomes have been assessed through NAS.
- The results of NAS 2021 will be prepared in the form of District Report Cards, State/UT reports and National report.
- It will also help in the capacity building for teachers and officials involved in the delivery of education in the country.




## 39. Industrial Park Rating System Report 2.0

- **Industrial Park Rating System 2.0 (IPRS 2.0) Report was released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**

- IPRS Report aims to provide important information regarding all Special Economic Zones, Industrial Clusters and Parks.
- It will enhance India's industrial competitiveness and attract investment.
- It categorizes into 3 categories - Leaders, Challengers and Aspirers.
- These ratings are assigned on the basis of 4 pillars –

1. internal infrastructure,
2. external infrastructure,
3. business support services, and
4. Environment and safety management.

- The Report is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank which features more than 4,400 industrial parks in a GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment.

**India Industrial Land Bank**

- India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) is a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based portal that was developed by the DPIIT.
- The system was developed by integrating the Industrial Information System (IIS) with state GIS.
- It serves as a **one-stop repository of all industrial infrastructure-related information** such as connectivity, infra, natural resources and terrain, plot-level information, etc.
- It has GIS-enabled database of industrial areas or clusters across the country, which will help investors to get free real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources.




## 40. Human Development Index

- ❑ Human Development Report was recently released by UN Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❑ It unveils Human Development Index (HDI) which measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development,

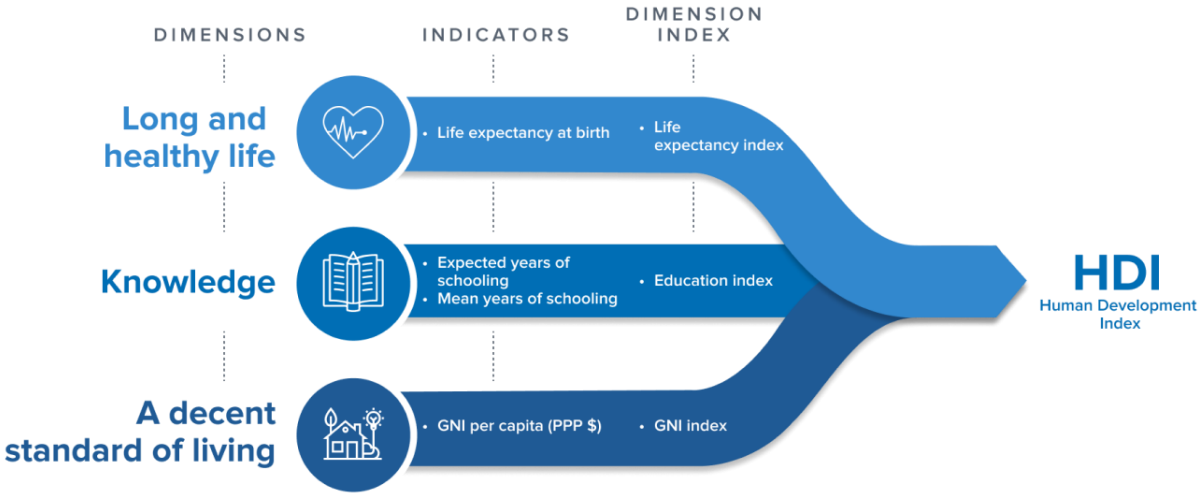
i. Life expectancy,

ii. Education and

iii. Per capita income.

- ❑ According to the **Human Development Report 2021-22**, India's rank on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** has slipped from 131 in 2020 to 132 in 2022, in line with a global fall in HDI scores in the wake of the **Covid-19** pandemic.

- It's **published by the Human Development Report Office for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**
- **Goal:** The goal is to contribute toward the expansion of opportunities, choice and freedom.
- **Theme:** The theme for Human Development Report 2021-22 is **Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a World in Transformation.**
- **Top Performers:**
  - European states were among the best overall performers, with as many as 8 in the top 10 of the list.
  - These are Switzerland (1, 0.962), Norway (2, 0.961), Iceland (3, 0.959), Denmark (6, 0.948), Sweden (7, 0.947), Ireland (8, 0.945), Germany (9, 0.942) and Netherlands (10, 0.941).
- **Asian Region**:
  - At 73 and with an index value of 0.782, **Sri Lanka emerged as the best performer in the Indian sub-continent.** The island nation was followed by China (79 and 0.768), Bhutan (127 and 0.666), Bangladesh (129 and 0.661), India, Nepal (143 and 0.602) and Pakistan (161 and 0.544).
- **Indian Perspective:**
  - **Human Development Index:** India's HDI value stood at **0.633 in 2021,** which was lower than the world average of 0.732. In 2020, too, India recorded a decline in its HDI value (0.642) in comparison to the pre-Covid level of 2019 (0.645).
  - **Life expectancy:** In 2021, India's **life expectancy at birth was recorded at 67.2 years.**
  - **Schooling:** Expected years of schooling at 11.9 years, mean years of schooling at 6.7 years,
  - **Gross National Income:** The gross national income per capita stood at USD 6,590.
  - **Gender Inequality Index:** India has been ranked 122 on the **Gender Inequality Index.**




## 41. Global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 SDG Index

Recently, the global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 was released.

India was **ranked 121 out of the 163 countries**. It was ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.

Earlier, in February 2022, the Prime Minister addressed the **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit.**

- SDG Index is prepared by teams of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- The SDG index frames the implementation of 17 SDG goals among UN member states in terms of six broad transformations:
    1. Education and skills,
    2. Health and wellbeing,
    3. Clean energy and industry,
    4. Sustainable land use,
    5. Sustainable cities,
    6. Digital technologies.
- **About World:**
    1. Multiple and simultaneous health, climate, biodiversity, geopolitical and military crises are major setbacks for sustainable development globally.
    2. The SDG Index world average has **slightly decreased in 2021 for the second year in a row,** largely due to the impact of the pandemic on SDG1 (No Poverty) and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and poor performance on SDG11-15 (climate, biodiversity, and sustainable urban development goals).

3. Besides their **massive humanitarian costs, military conflicts – including the war in Ukraine** – have major international spill overs on food security and energy prices, which are amplified by the climate and biodiversity crises.

- **About India:**

1. **India's Preparedness Worsened:**

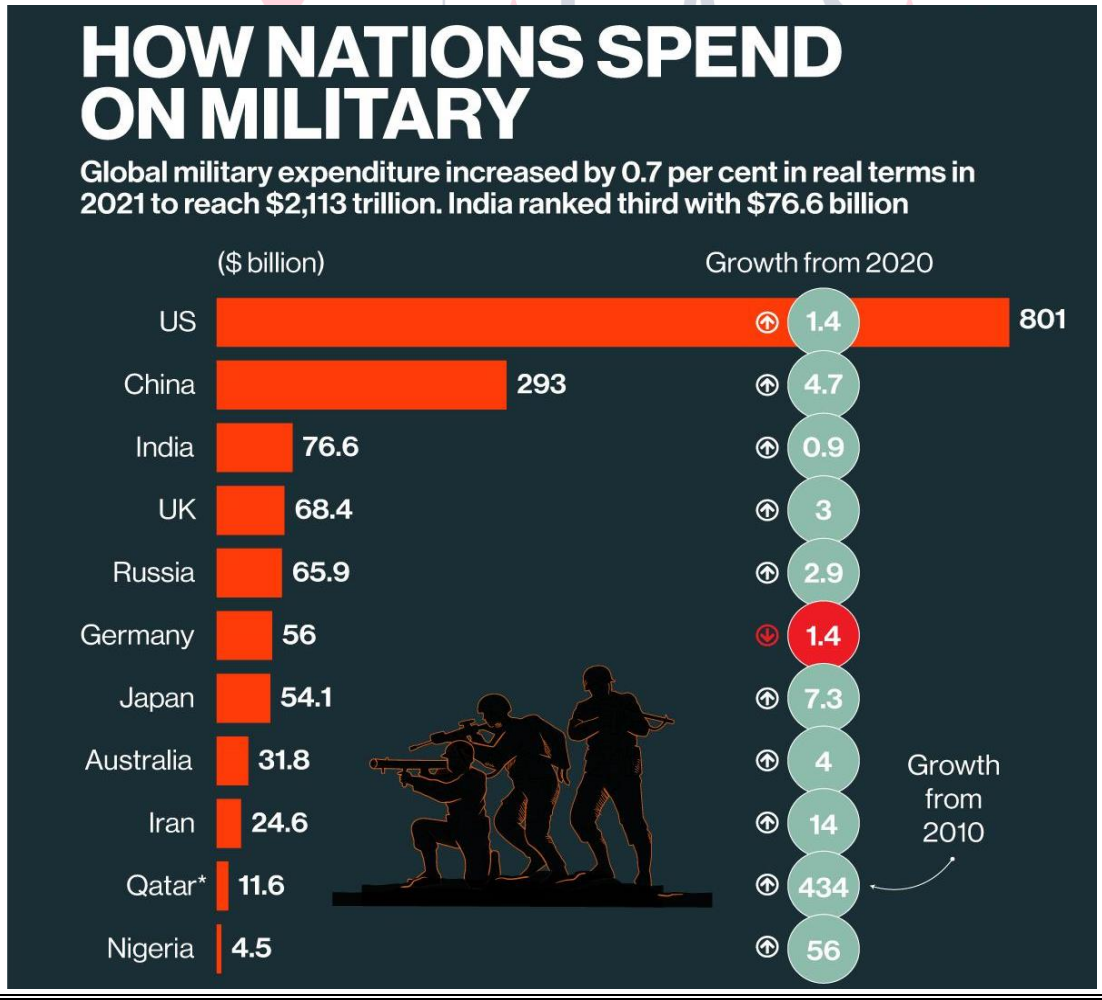
- India is **not placed well to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** and its preparedness has worsened over the years in comparison with other countries.




## 42. SIPRI Data on on military expenditure

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks military expenditure and arms trade globally, has published the latest military expenditure database.
- Military spending as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), reached a global average of 2.4% in 2020, up from 2.2% in 2019.
- **Largest Military Spender** - The US, China, India, Russia and the UK together accounted for 62% of global military expenditure in 2020. Other top spenders are Saudi Arabia, Germany and France.
- Of the money spent on military globally, the US, China and India accounted for 39%, 13% and 3.7% of the global share respectively.

- While India's spending since 2019 grew by 2.1%, the increase for China was at 1.9%. The US's spending grew by 4.4% since 2019.
- From 2011 to 2020, American military expenditure dropped by 10%, but China saw a 76% growth while India's military spending grew by 34%.
- **Asia and Oceania** - Military spending was 2.5% higher in 2020 than in 2019 and 47% higher than in 2011, continuing an uninterrupted upward trend since 1989.
- It attributed the rise primarily to increases in spending by China and India, which together accounted for 62% of total military expenditure in the region in 2020.
- **Europe** - Military spending rose by 4.0% in 2020.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa** - Military expenditure increased by 3.4% in 2020.
- **Middle Eastern Countries** - The combined military spending of the 11 Middle Eastern countries decreased by 6.5% in 2020.
- **Military Burden** - The 2.6% increase in world military spending came in a year when the global GDP shrank by 4.4%, largely due to the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- As a result, military spending as a share of GDP - the military burden -reached a global average of 2.4% in 2020, up from 2.2% in 2019.
- This was the biggest year-on-year rise in the military burden since the global financial and economic crisis in 2009.



## 43. World Employment and Social Outlook 2021

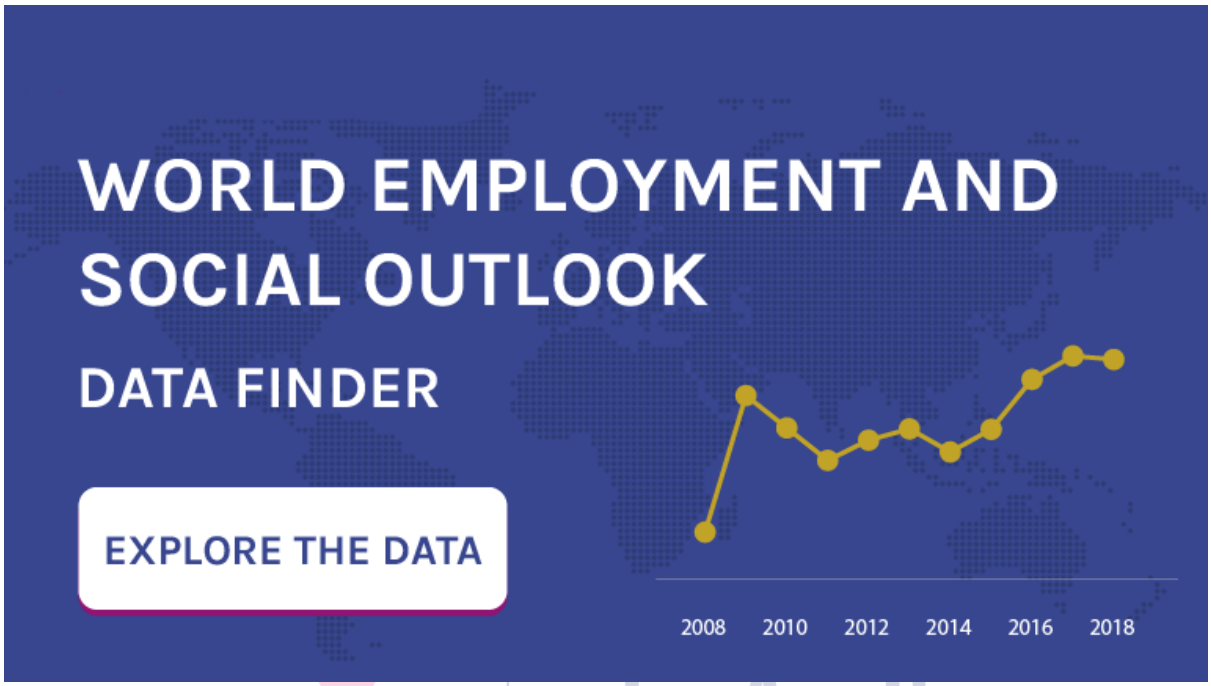
- The UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) published its flagship report 'World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) 2021.'
- The theme of the report was, 'The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work.'
- This ILO report explores how the contemporary platform economy is transforming the way work is organized, analyzing the impact of digital labour platforms on enterprises, workers and society as a whole.
- The report by the ILO focuses to,
    a) Bring out a clear picture of global employment and social trends
    b) Measure the underperformance of the labour market using the unemployment rate
    c) Assess the full potential of the working-age population
    d) Evaluate the participation of the labour market in the economic growth of the countries

**Findings**

- **Pandemic's impact** - The ILO report said that the pandemic has pushed over 100 million more workers into poverty, after working hours plummeted and access to good quality jobs evaporated.
- The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities in the labour market, with lower-skilled workers, women, young people or migrants among the most affected.
- **Loss of Working Hours** - Many people have held onto their jobs but have seen their working hours cut dramatically.
- In 2020, 8.8% of global working hours were lost compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 -- the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs.
- While the situation has improved, global working hours have far from bounced back, and the world will still be short the equivalent of 100 million full-time jobs by the end of this year.
- **Unemployment rate** of 6.3% this year (2020-21), falling to 5.7% next year (2021-22) but still up on the prepandemic rate of 5.4% in 2019.
- Women have suffered disproportionate job losses while seeing their unpaid working time increase.

- The burden of intensified childcare and home-schooling activities has disproportionately fallen on them. So, women's employment dropped by 5% compared with 3.9% for men.

**Effect on Workers** - There will be pandemic's longer-term "scarring" effects on workers and enterprises. The projected employment growth will be insufficient to close the gaps opened up by the crisis




## 44. ILO World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022

**The World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022 was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).**

- This report examines the impacts of the crisis on global and regional trends in employment, unemployment and labour force participation, as well as on job quality, informal employment and working poverty.
- It also offers an extensive analysis of trends in temporary employment both before and during the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Findings** - Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022. This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic began.
- Global working hours in 2022 will be almost 2% below their pre-pandemic level (i.e.,) equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.
- The downgrade in the 2022 forecast reflects the impact of ever new variants of COVID-19 on the world of work.
- It is estimated that in 2022 around 40 million people will no longer be participating in the global labour force because of, o The uncertain path of the pandemic in the

future, o Wider economic risks such as accelerating inflation, o Uneven labour market prospects across the globe.

- The pandemic has pushed millions of children into poverty.
- It is estimated that in 2020, an additional 30 million adults fell into extreme poverty (living on less than $1.90 per day in purchasing power parity) while being out of paid work.
- The number of extreme working poor rose by 8 million.
- [Extreme working poor includes the workers who do not earn enough through their work to keep themselves and their families above the poverty line.]
- Many low and middle-income countries have low access to vaccines and limited scope to expand government budgets to address the crisis.
- Thus, these countries are struggling more than high-income ones to get back to pre-pandemic levels of employment and job quality.
- **Regional Changes** - Key labour market indicators in all regions have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

All regions face severe downside risks to their labour market recovery that stem from the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

- The outlook is the **most negative** for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Southeast Asia.
- **Sectoral changes** - Some sectors, such as travel and tourism have been particularly hard hit, while other sectors such as those related to information technology have thrived.
- Women have been worse hit by the labour market crisis than men and this is likely to continue.
- The closing of education and training institutions will have long-term implications for young people, particularly those without internet access.
- **Temporary jobs** - Many temporary workers lost their jobs at the start of the crisis. But, many new temporary jobs have also been created since.
- There is the need for a broad-based labour market recovery.

The recovery must be human-centred, inclusive, sustainable and resilient



## 45. Human Capital Index

- Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020.
- It seeks to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18.
- The components of HCI are,

1. Survival - measured by under-5 mortality rates
2. Expected years of Quality-adjusted school - measured by quantity and quality of education
3. Health environment - measured by Adult survival rates and rate of stunting for children under 5.

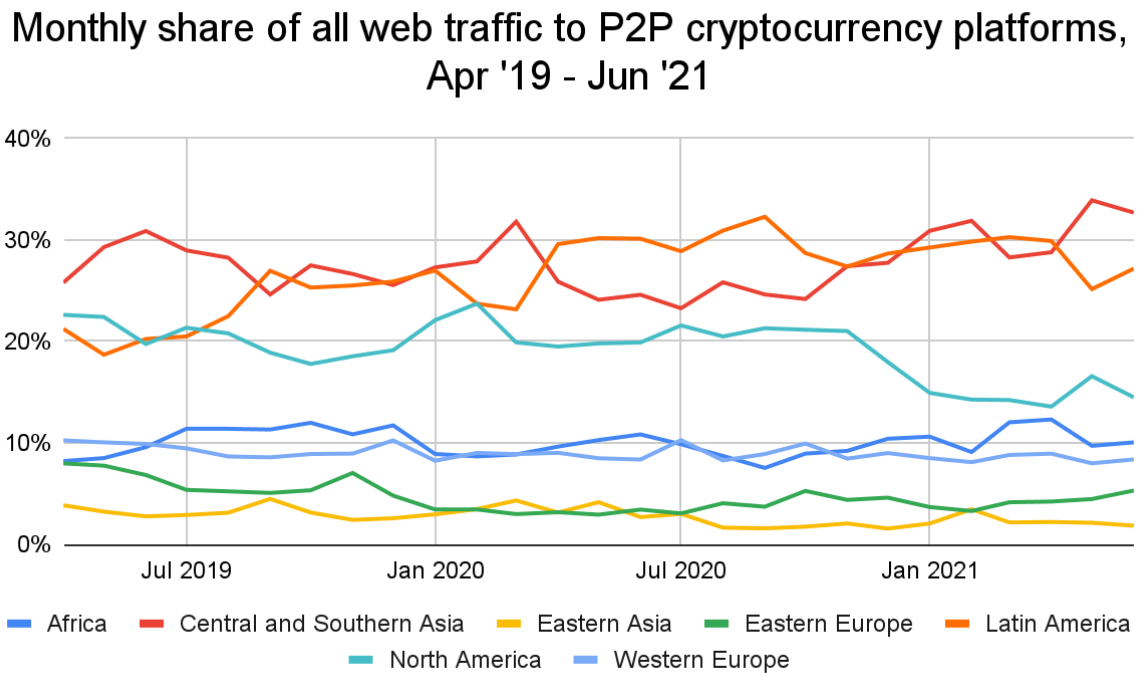
- The HCI 2020 includes health and education data of children for 174 countries up to March 2020.
- The HCI 2020 shows that pre-pandemic, most countries had made steady progress in building human capital of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.
- India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.




## 46. Cryptocurrency Adoption Index 2021

**The Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 was released by the crypto analysis platform Chainalysis.**

- The Index ranked 20 countries to measure the level of cryptocurrency adoption and usage by individuals between July 2020 and June 2021.
- Chainalysis ranks countries by their peer-to-peer (P2P) cryptocurrency trade volume and weights it to favour countries with lower purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita and fewer internet users.
    - This is done to highlight countries where more residents are putting a larger share of their overall wealth into P2P transactions.
- **Findings** - Global adoption of cryptocurrency grew over 800% in the past year, especially in emerging market economies.
- This indicates that people turn to virtual money to preserve their savings in the face of currency devaluation, to send and receive remittances and carry out business transactions.
    - Emerging markets took the top spots due to huge transaction volumes on P2P platforms when adjusted for purchasing power parity per capita and internet-using population.
- India ranked second in a list of 20 countries with the highest cryptocurrency adoption rate.
- Vietnam secured the first spot, and Pakistan came third.




## 47. Least Developed Countries Report 2021

- **This Report was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).**

- This **annual report** provides a comprehensive and authoritative source of **socio-economic analysis** and data on the world's most impoverished countries.
- It is intended for a broad readership of governments, policy makers, researchers and all those involved with LDCs' development policies.
- **Findings** - The 2021 report said that the growth performance of LDCs over the past 50 years has been characterized by an overall sluggish and uneven record.
- Real GDP for the LDC group increased 5-fold since the LDC category was created in 1971.
- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita for LDC group is less than 10% of the world average (2019).
- Major shortcomings of the development experience of the LDCs over the past 50 years have been laid bare by the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis.

**Least Developed Countries**

- There are **46 countries** are designated by the United Nations as LDCs.
- The list of LDCs is reviewed **every 3 years** by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a group of independent experts that report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- After a triennial review of the list, the CDP recommends to ECOSOC, countries for addition to the list or graduation from LDC status.
- This report will be sent later to the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- Criteria for inclusion into the LDC category and for graduation from the LDC category - Per capita income, Human Assets Index, and Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index.
- **Income criterion** is based on a 3-year average estimate of the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in US dollars, using conversion factors based on the World Bank Atlas methodology.
- The threshold for inclusion and graduation is based on the thresholds of the World Bank's low-income category.

· **Human assets index** (HAI), consisting of two sub-indices - Health sub-index and Education sub-index.

- **Economic and environmental vulnerability index** also has two sub-indices - Economic sub-index and Environmental sub-index.

A country must achieve 2 of the 3 criteria at 2 consecutive triennial reviews to be considered for graduation



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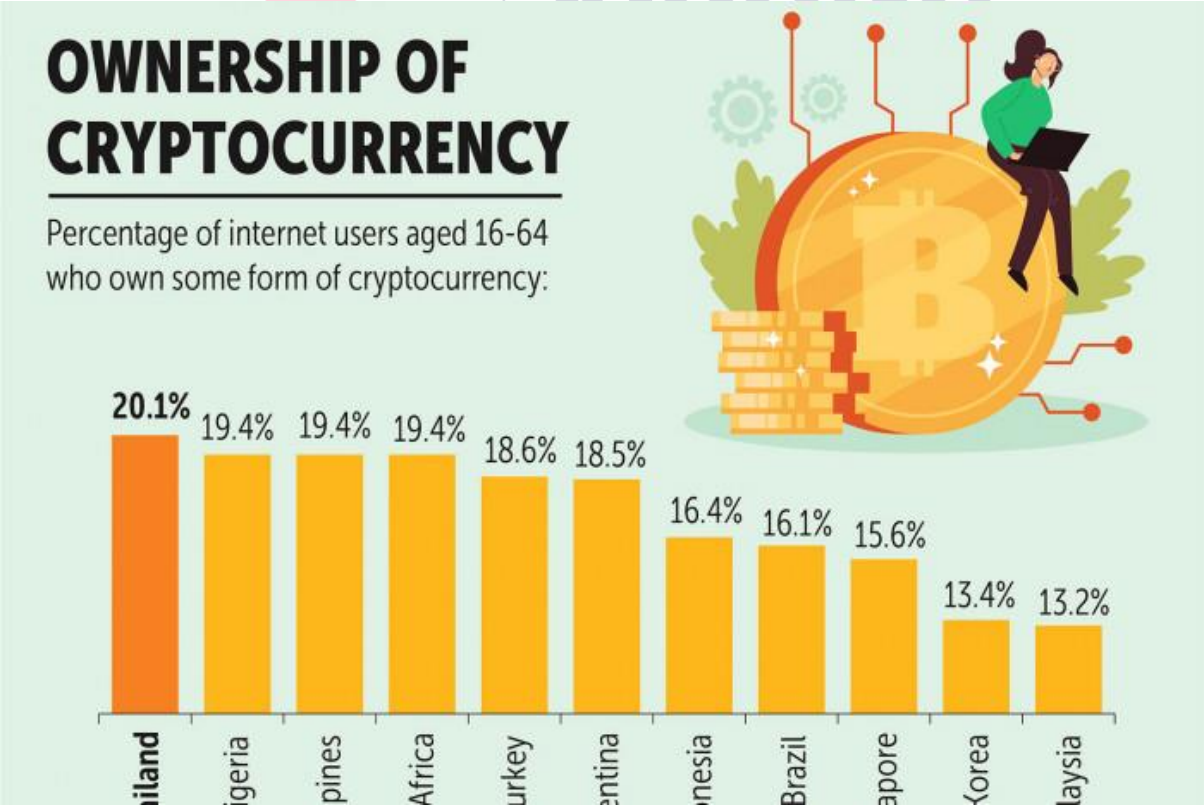
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## 48. Report on Cryptocurrency Ownership

- According to data by comparison firm Finder, internet users in Nigeria have the world's highest rates of cryptocurrency ownership, followed by Malaysia and Australia.
- Japan ranked lowest in the list with only 4.6% of the population owning the virtual asset.
- India secured the 7th place with nearly 15.4% respondents saying they own at least one cryptocurrency.
    - In India, nearly 48% women have invested in at least one cryptocurrency, against 52% owned by men.
    - This indicates that both genders are at par in terms of ownership, which is in contrast to other countries like Japan and Norway where less than 30% women own the asset.
- Among all crypto assets, **Bitcoin emerged as most popular**, with the highest adoption seen in Japan with 76.7% people saying they own it.
- About 57% Indians who own cryptocurrency have invested in Bitcoin, according to the Cryptocurrency Adoption Index 2021.



## 49. Macro Outlook 2022

- **Goldman Sachs in its report 'Macro Outlook 2022' forecasted India's GDP would grow by 9.1% in 2022, accelerating from 2021's growth of 8% and 2020's contraction of 7% on the back of increased consumption**.
- The reasons that the Goldman Sachs cited for the growth are,

1. Faster-than-expected recovery,
2. Rising consumer confidence, and
3. Spike in the consumer spending.

- **Consumption** is expected to be an important contributor to growth in 2022, as the economy fully reopens, driven by a notable improvement in the virus situation and adequate progress on vaccination.
- **Government capital spending** is expected to continue as there are nascent signs of

1. Private corporate capital expenditure recovery and
2. Revival in housing investment.

- CPI inflation is forecasted to rise from 5.2% (2021) to 5.8% (2022), driven by a rise in core inflation as manufacturers pass on higher input costs.



## 50. Update on Global Fuel Economy Initiative

❑ **The International Energy Agency's (IEA) has given an update on the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI) 2021.**

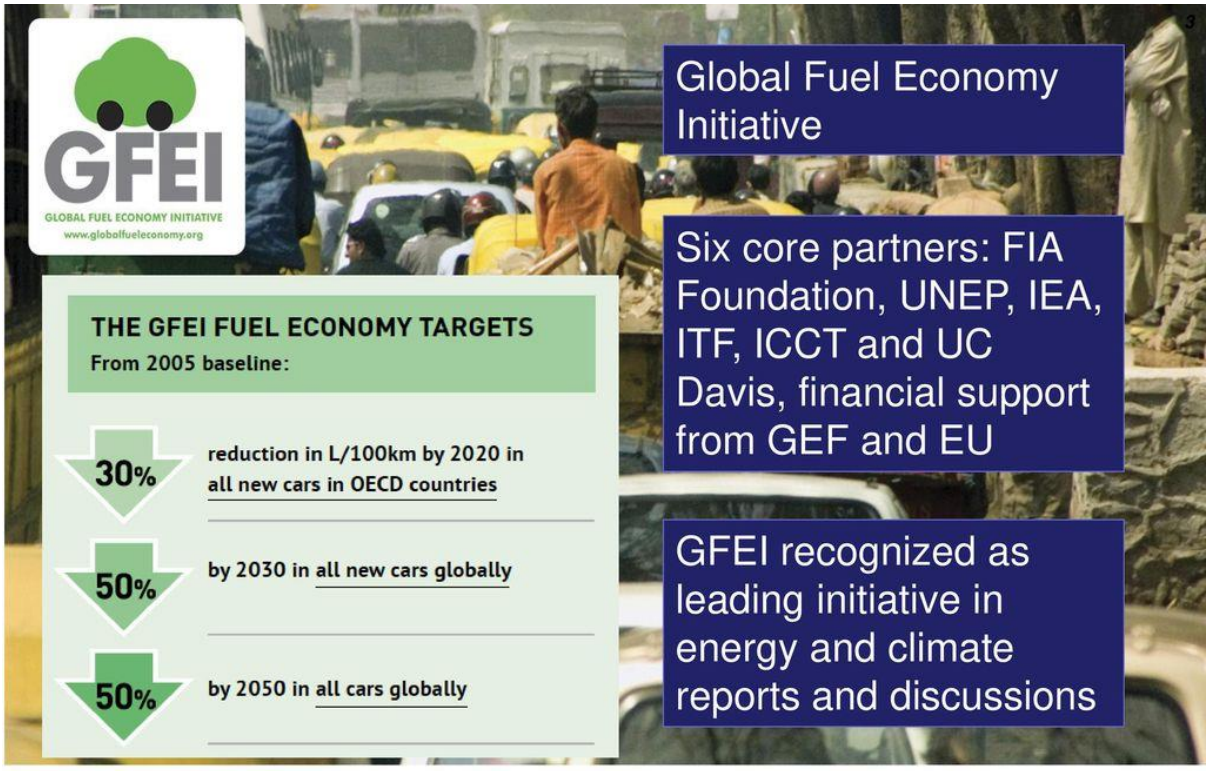
- Fuel economy measures the distance a vehicle can travel per unit of a particular fuel, such as kilometre per litre.
- It is a key indicator of greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions from the use of cars.
- GFEI 2021 report presents the latest update to the Global Fuel Economy Initiative's biannual benchmarking report on light-duty vehicle sales.
- The report tracks the progress of fuel economy of new light-duty vehicles from 2005 to 2019.
- According to GFEI 2021, the global goal to halve the fuel consumption of new light-duty vehicles by 2030 from 2005 levels is stalling.
- The average rated fuel consumption of new light-duty vehicles fell by only 0.9% between 2017 and 2019.
- The 3 major car markets - China, the European Union and the US - accounted for 60% of global sales of light duty vehicles in 2019, which totalled 90 million, down 7% from 2017.
- Total improvements are lower than the 2.8% yearly fuel economy improvements needed to meet the target.
- A number of factors were responsible for the slowing pace of improvement between 2017 and 2019. These included,
    a) Stagnating fuel economy standards in the US and the EU up to 2019
    b) The rising market share of SUVs, which can use almost one-third more fuel than a medium-sized car
    c) The rising cost of squeezing out further efficiency gains from mature technologies
    d) The slow adoption of electric cars to compensate for larger vehicles
- The report says that for internal combustion engine cars, most emissions occur at their tailpipe ('tank to wheel'), while less than 20% of overall emissions are related to the production of their fuels ('well to tank').
- By contrast, for battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles, almost all the emissions are incurred in producing and delivering the electricity or hydrogen on which they run.

- **Battery electric vehicles had the lowest emissions** in 2019, followed by plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.
- Hybrid vehicles have the lowest well-to-wheel emissions among vehicles with internal combustion engines using gasoline, diesel or compressed natural gas.
- Fuel consumption should fall 4.3% per year on average from 2019 to 2030, to halve the fuel consumption of new light-duty vehicles.

o This is triple the average annual pace of improvement since 2005.

**Global Fuel Economy Initiative**

- The Global Fuel Economy Initiative is collaboration between the UNEP, IEA, the University of California, International Council on Clean Transportation, International Transport Forum and the FIA Foundation.
- GFEI promotes fuel efficiency in cars and light duty vans, through the adoption of the cost effective fuel efficiency technologies.
- The objective of the GFEI is to help stabilize greenhouse gas emissions from the global light duty vehicle fleet through a **50% improvement of vehicle fuel efficiency worldwide by 2050**.
- GFEI promotes the introduction of cleaner, more energy efficient vehicles in developing and transitional countries.
- It offers support to governments to develop fuel economy policies.



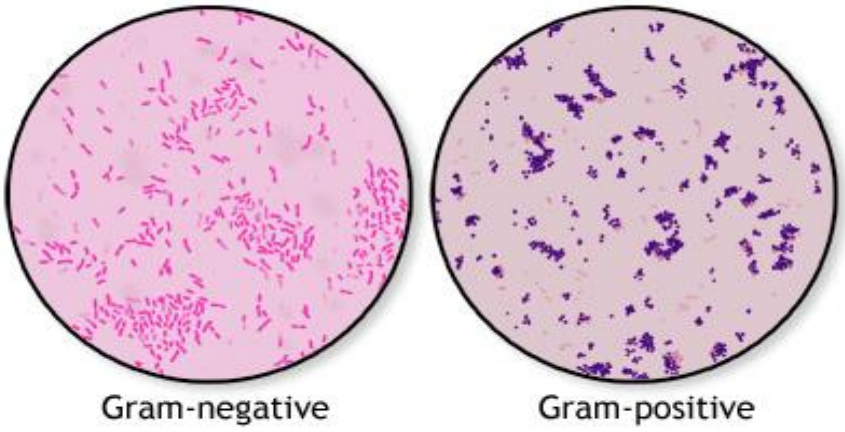

## 51. GRAM Report

- **The Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) report has used statistical modelling to estimate deaths linked to 23 pathogens and 88 pathogen-drug combinations.**
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) refers to a condition of antibiotics becoming inefficient against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria.
- A comprehensive estimate of the global impact of AMR, covering 204 countries and territories, has found that 1.27 million people died in 2019 as a direct result of AMR.
- Now, AMR is a leading cause of death worldwide, higher than HIV/AIDS or malaria.
- The GRAM report has found that

a) 12.7 lakh deaths caused directly by AMR (these would not have occurred had the infections been drug susceptible),

b) 49.5 lakh deaths were associated with AMR (a drug-resistant infection was implicated, but resistance itself may or may not have been the direct cause of death).

- Of the 23 pathogens studied, drug resistance in six (E coli, S aureus, K pneumoniae, S pneumoniae, A baumannii, and P aeruginosa) led directly to 9.29 lakh deaths and was associated with 3.57 million.
- One pathogen-drug combination (methicillin-resistant S aureus or MRSA) directly caused more than 1 lakh deaths.
- Resistance to 2 classes of antibiotics (fluoroquinolones and beta-lactam antibiotics) often considered the first line of defence against severe infections accounted for more than 70% of deaths caused by AMR.
- **There is a lot of improper use of antibiotics happening in Covid too. A study reported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 10 hospitals showed that when Covid patients acquire drug-resistant infections in hospitals, the mortality is almost 50-60%.**




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## 52. Extreme Poverty Dipped in India - World Bank

- The World Bank has reported that extreme poverty in India dropped to 10.2% in 2019 from as much as 22.5% in 2011 and the pace of reduction in rural India has been more dramatic than in urban areas.
- During the 2011-2019 period, the poverty level in rural and urban areas declined by 14.7 and 7.9% points, respectively.
- While it eased to 11.6% in rural areas in 2019, the urban poverty level stood at 6.3%. · Extreme poverty has been measured in terms of the number of people living on less than $1.90 a day (roughly Rs 145).

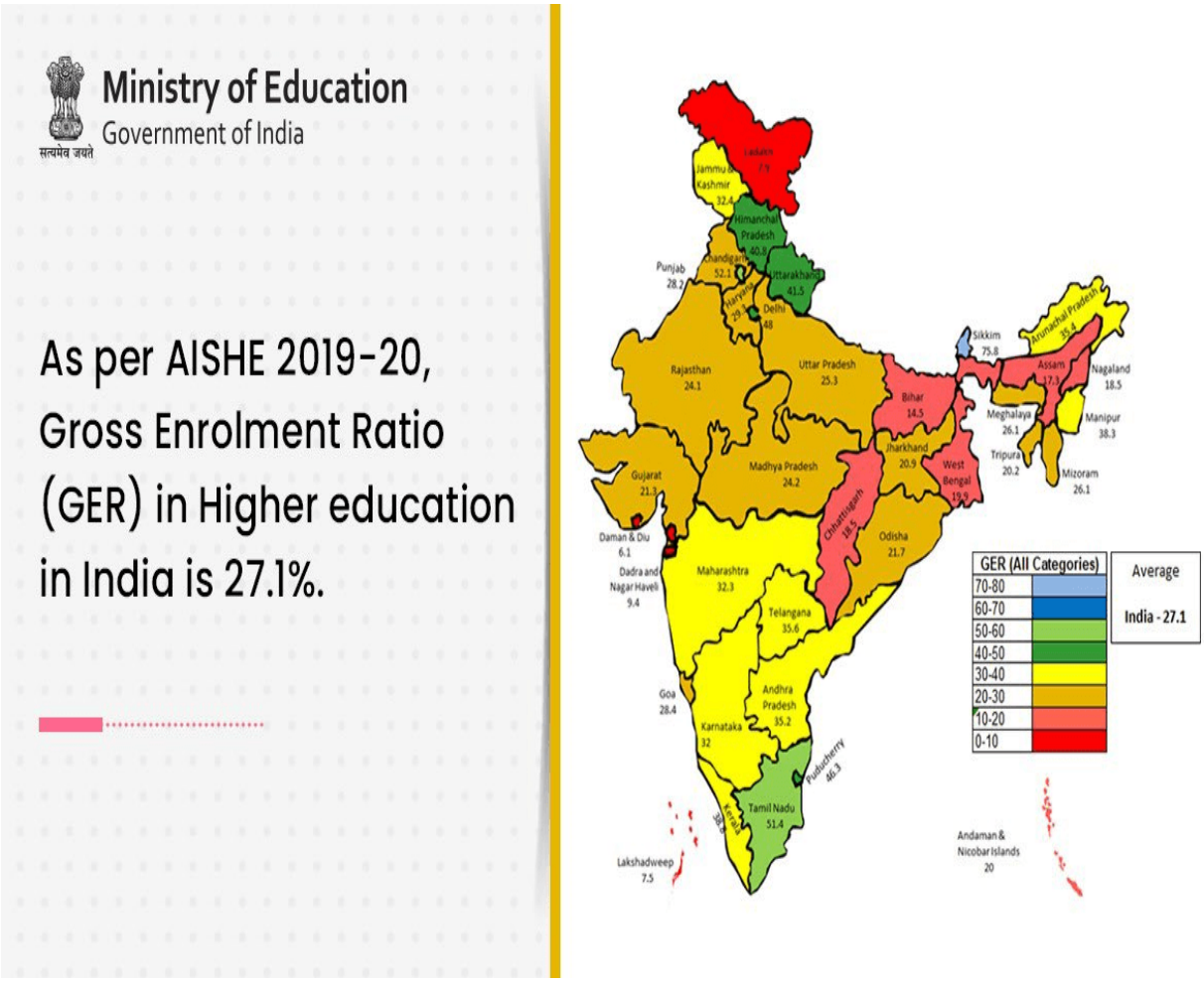
- Interestingly, urban poverty inched up by 2% points in the demonetisation year of 2016 and rural poverty rose by 10 basis points in 2019.
- According to the World Bank paper, there has been a slight moderation in consumption inequality since 2011, but by a margin smaller than what is reported in the unreleased 2017 NSS report.
- Real incomes for farmers with the smallest landholdings have risen by 10% in annualised terms during the 2013- 2019 period.




## 53. AISHE Report 2019-20

- The release of the Report of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 was announced by the Union Education Minister.
- It is the 10th in the AISHE series released annually by the Department of Higher Education.
- AISHE provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher education in the country.

- **Findings** - In the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in the student enrolment. The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2%.

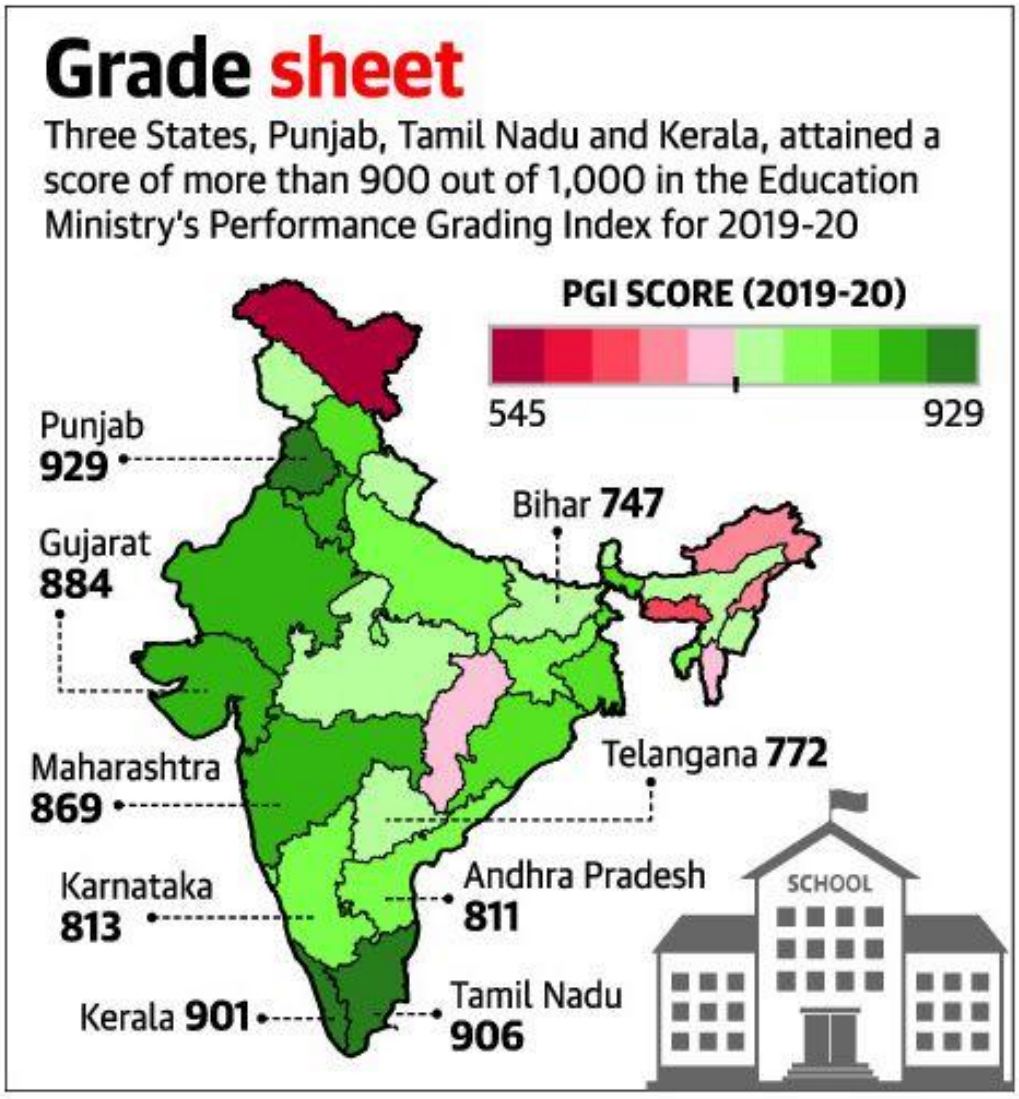



- Total Enrolment in Higher Education stands at 3.85 crore in 2019-20 as compared to 3.74 crore in 2018-19, registering a growth of 3.04%. Uttar Pradesh has highest student enrolment in India followed by Tamil Nadu.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) - the percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group enrolled in Higher Education - in 2019-20 is 27.1% against 26.3% in 2018-19 and 24.3% in 2014-2015.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education is 1.01 in 2019-20 against 1.00 in 2018-19 indicating an improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- Student enrolment in programmes at under-graduate and post-graduate level is at 3.38 crore.

- Nearly 85% of these students (2.85 crore) were enrolled in the six major disciplines - Science, Medical Science, Engineering & Technology, Humanities, Commerce and IT & Computer.
- Number of students pursuing PhD in 2019-20 is 2.03 lakh against 1.17 lakh in 2014-15.
- Pupil Teacher Ratio in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 26.
- Total Number of Teachers stands at 15,03,156 comprising of 57.5% male and 42.5% female.

## 54. Performance Grading Index on School Education

- Third Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories of India was released. It was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18.
- The PGI is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
- Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has designed the PGI to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.
- The PGI is structured in two categories - Outcomes, and Governance & Management.
- It comprises 70 indicators in aggregate with a total weightage of 1000.
- It assesses the States and UTs in five domains - Learning Outcome and Quality; Access; Infrastructure and Facilities; Equity; and Governance Process.
- **Findings** - Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab and TN have improved overall PGI score by 10%, i.e., 100 or more points.
- **Significance** - The PGI exercise would propel States and UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes.
- It helps the States/UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.




## 55. Report of Quarterly Employment Survey

- **The report of second quarter of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) part (July 2021 to September 2021) was released.**

- The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) is prepared by the Labour Bureau.
- The AQEES provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in **both organised and unorganised** segments of **9 selected sectors**.
- **9 selected sectors** - Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

- These sectors altogether account for a majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments.
- **Highlights of QES** – The employment showed an increasing trend and mentioned the fact that the over-all percentage of female workers stood at 32.1, higher than 29.3% reported during the first round of QES (April –




June 2021)

- Of the total employment estimated in the selected 9 sectors, Manufacturing accounted for 39%, Education 22% and Health as well as IT/BPOs sectors both around 10%.
- Trade and Transport sectors engaged 5.3% and 4.6% of the total estimated workers respectively.
- It is pertinent to mention that percentage for the IT/BPO sector in Quarter 1 was only 7.
- The over-all percentage of female workers stood at 32.1, higher than 29.3% reported during the first round of QES.
- Regular workers constitute 87% of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2% being casual workers. However, in the Construction sector, 20% of the workers were contractual and 6.4% were casual workers.

**All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey**

There are two components under AQEES,

1. Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) and
2. Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES).

- QES has been initiated to compile relevant data from about 12,000 establishments selected through a sampling design to represent each of the nine sectors within each state/ Union Territory, as also each size-class (range of number of workers) within each sector-State/ UT.

- AFES covers the unorganized segment (with less than 10 workers) through a sample survey.
- AQEES will provide a consolidated picture with both the organised and the unorganized segments of the nonfarm economy.

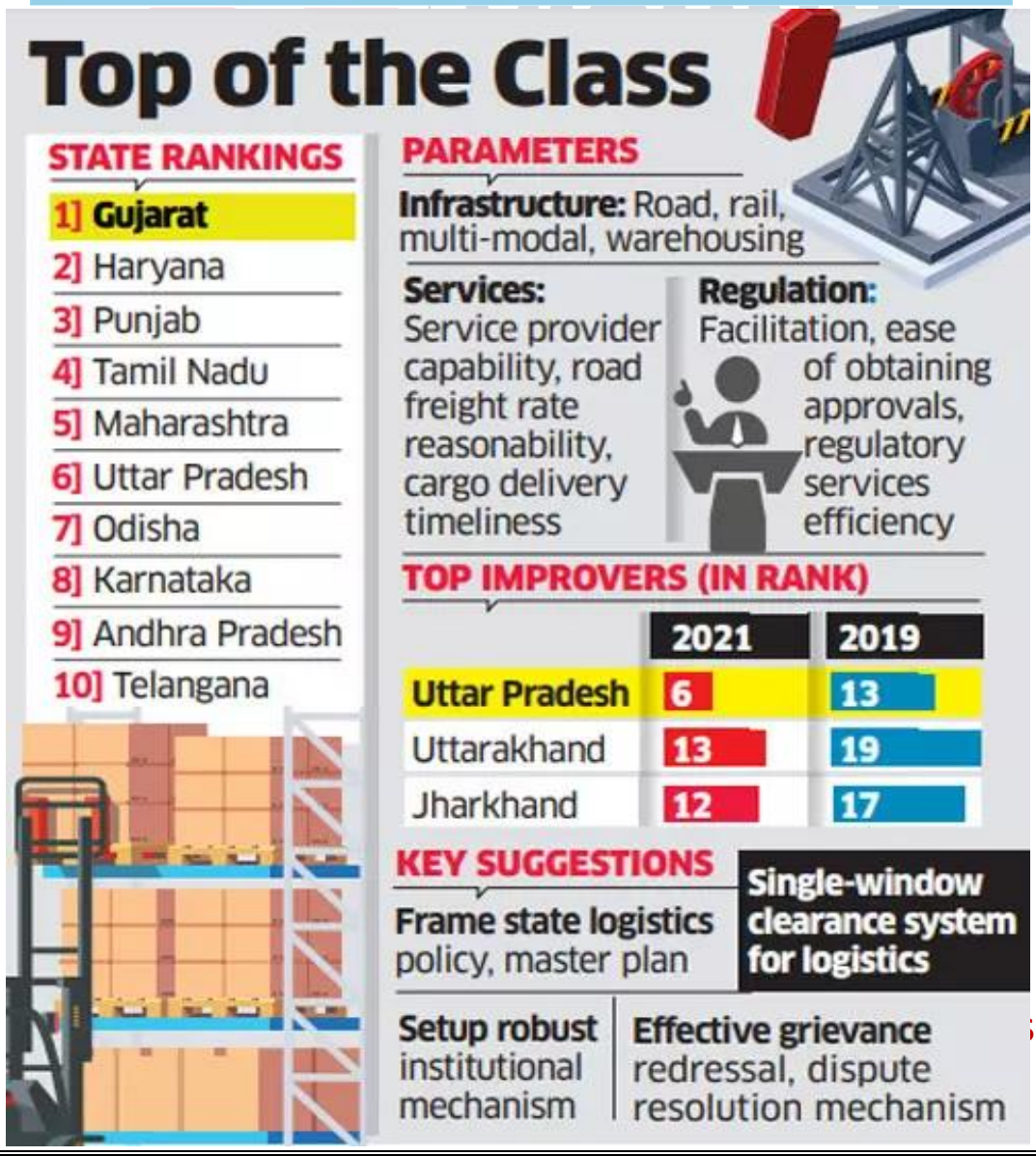
## 56. LEADS Report 2021

- ❑ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) had launched a study, "Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS)" in 2018.
- ❑ The report ranks the states and UTs on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations.
- ❑ The states have been ranked in three separate classes including 'North Eastern States & Himalayan UTs' and 'Other UTs' group.
- ❑ With Competitive & Cooperative federalism, LEADS is creating an Ecosystem for Excellence by bringing in a healthy competitive spirit where everyone is persuaded to improve.
- ❑ LEADS report aims to enhance focus on improving logistics performance across states which is key to improving the country's trade and reducing transaction cost.
- ❑ 2021 Report Findings - The LEADS survey 2021 was conducted over the period from May to August 2021.
- ❑ Gujarat, Haryana & Punjab have got the top 3 positions respectively.
- ❑ Within the North Eastern States and Himalayan Region, Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya.
- ❑ Delhi stands at the top rank among Other UTs.
- ❑ Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Jharkhand have witnessed a remarkable improvement in their ranks compared to 2019 LEADS ranking.
- ❑ Improvements - LEADS 2021 has gone 2-step ahead of the previous reports in analysing the domestic & EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state.
- ❑ Along with the perception-based indicators, objective parameters have been used for index formulation in the LEADS 2021 Index.
- ❑ Also, the statistical methodologies to build the index has been updated to get more robust results, given change in the overall framework.
- ❑ 21 perception and objective variables have been statistically analysed to prepare a composite index basis upon which the states have been ranked. The perception

survey was administered to the 4 categories of logistics stakeholders, viz. traders/ shippers, transport service providers, terminal operators, and logistics service providers.

- Significance - LEADS report would be a practical guide to identify strengths, opportunities & improve the logistics performance of States.
- The inputs given by LEADS Report 2021 can lead the way to bring down logistics cost by 5% over the next 5 years. The current cost is about 13-14% of the GDP, according to estimates.

| Report | Focus |
|---|---|
| LEADS 2018 | Focused on export-import trade<br>Assessed the efficiency of the logistics ecosystem in each State and UT |
| LEADS 2019 | Covered both international and domestic trade |
| LEADS 2021 | Analysis of domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state |
| *No ranking was released in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic* | |



## 57. SDG Urban Index

- NITI Aayog under the Indo-German Cooperation releases the inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021–22
- The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework across 15 SDGs.

a) SDG 14 (life below water) has not been included as it is relevant for only coastal areas

b) SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) has been excluded as the progress of its targets is monitored at the national level.

c) While progress under SDG 15 (life on land) has been measured using two indicators, they have not been used in estimating the scores, owing to lack of adequate coverage.

- The statistical methodology for the SDG Urban Index is drawn from the globally accepted methodology developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
  - This methodology is the same that is used for the SDG India Index and North Eastern Region District SDG Index as well.
- Ranking - For each SDG, the urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100, based on their position to achieve the SDG targets set for 2030.
- Overall or composite urban area scores are then generated from the Goal-wise scores to measure aggregate performance of the urban area.
- Urban areas have been classified as below based on their composite score: 1. Aspirant: 0-49 2. Performer: 50-64 3. Front-Runner: 65-99 4. Achiever: 100
- Shimla, Coimbatore and Chandigarh topped the Index, while Dhanbad, Meerut and Itanagar were at the bottom of the index



## 58. Report on Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity

- **NITI Aayog launched a report on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India**.
- NITI Aayog developed this report, in consultation with concerned ministries and experts in the domain of urban and regional planning.
- **Programs for Planning of Healthy Cities** - Every city must aspire to become a 'Healthy City for All' by 2030.
- The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme '500 Healthy Cities Programme', for a period of 5 years, wherein priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.
- **Optimum Utilization of Land** - All the urban areas under 'Healthy Cities Programme' must strengthen development control regulations based on scientific evidence to maximize efficiency of urban land.
- The report recommends a sub-scheme 'Preparation/Revision of Development Control Regulations' for this purpose.
- **Ramping Up of Human Resources** - To combat the shortage of urban planners in the public sector, the states/UTs may need to,
    a. Expedite the filling up of vacant positions of town planners, and
    b. Additionally sanction 8268 town planners' posts as lateral entry positions for a period of 3 years to 5 years to meet the gaps.
- States may amend their recruitment rules to ensure the entry of qualified candidates into town-planning positions.
- **Urban Governance** - A high-powered committee must be constituted to re-engineer the present urban planning governance structure.
- Key aspects that would need to be addressed in this effort are,
    a. Clear division of the roles and responsibilities of various authorities, appropriate revision of rules and regulations, etc.,
    b. Creating a more dynamic organizational structure, standardisation of the job descriptions of town planners and other experts, and
    c. Extensive adoption of technology for enabling public participation and inter-agency coordination.
- **Revision of Town and Country Planning Acts** that enables the States to prepare and notify master plans for implementation is needed.

- For this, an apex committee must be formed at the state level to undertake a regular review of planning legislations (including town and country planning or urban and regional development acts or other acts).
- **Involving Citizens** - A 'Citizen Outreach Campaign' for demystifying urban planning is needed to enable the citizens' participation at relevant stages.
- **Enhancing the Role of Private Sector** in planning at multiple levels is needed to improve the overall planning capacity in the country by,
    a. Adopting fair processes for procuring technical consultancy services,
    b. Strengthening project structuring and management skills in the public sector, and
    c. Empanelment of private sector consultancies.

**Steps for Strengthening Urban Planning Education System**

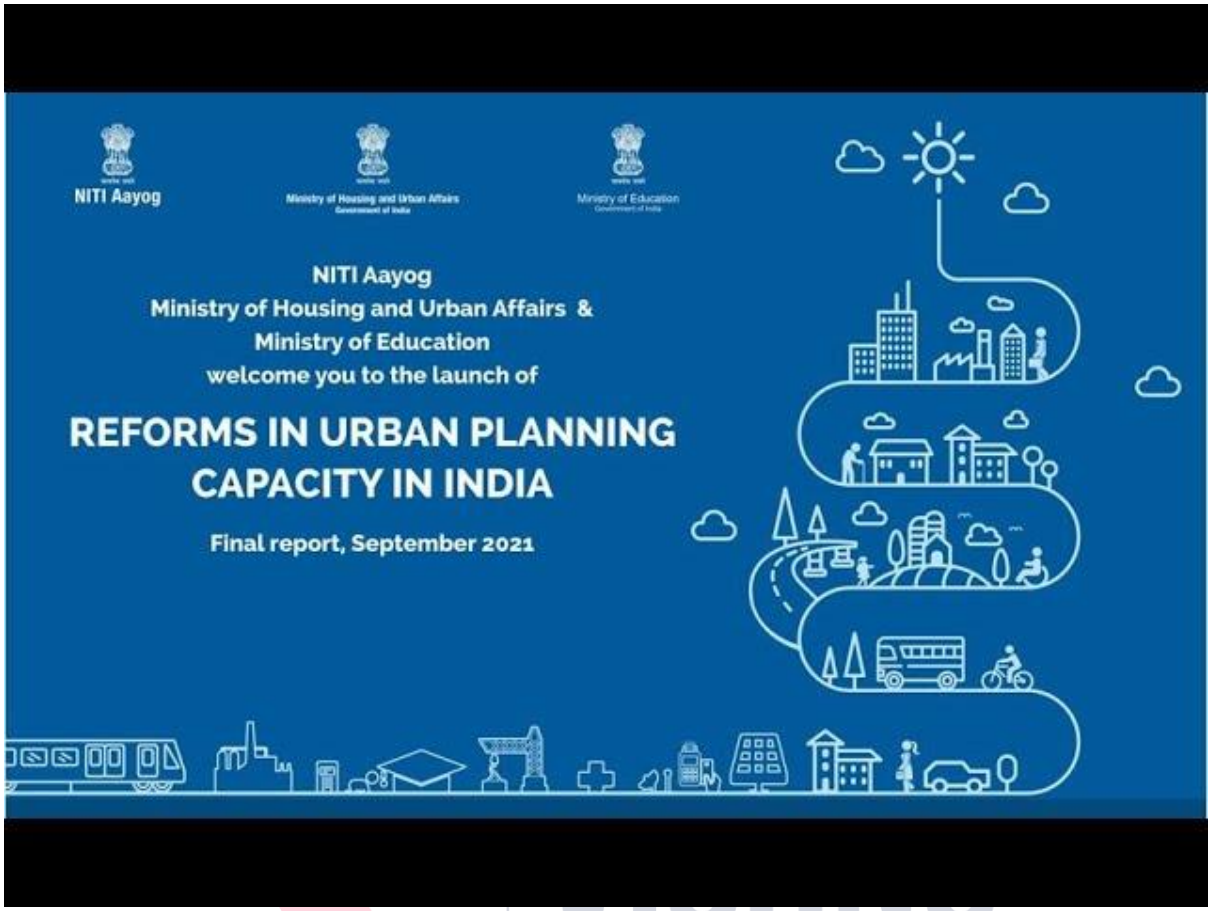
a. The Central Universities and technical institutions in all the other States/ UTs could offer PG degree programmes in planning to cater to the requirement of planners in the country in a phased manner.
b. All such institutions may synergize with Rural Development Ministry, and Panchayati Raj Ministry & state depts to develop demand-driven short-term programmes on rural area planning.
c. 'Planning' as an umbrella term could be included as a discipline under the MoE's National

Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) to encourage a healthy competition among the institutions.

a. AICTE may retain the names of specializations based on industry requirements, while limiting them to an appropriate number.
b. Faculty shortage in educational institutions conducting degree and PhD programmes in planning must be resolved by 2022.

**Other Measures**

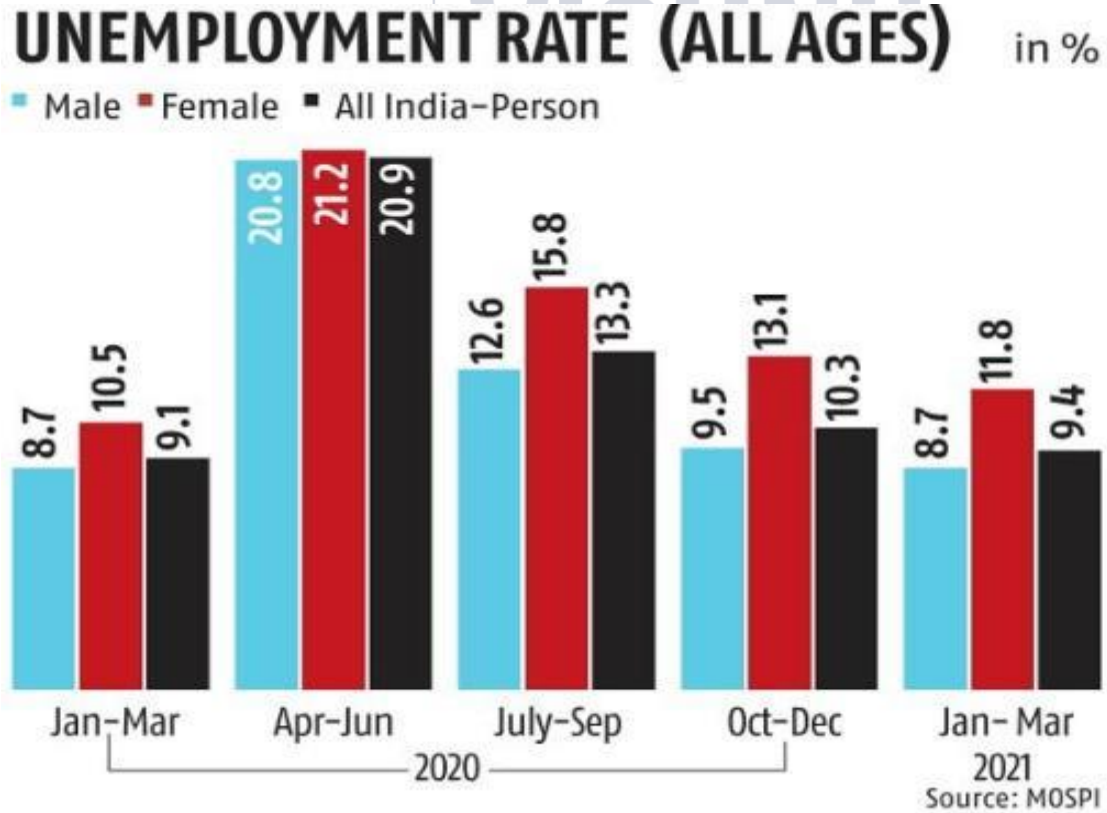
- 'National Council of Town and Country Planners' must be constituted as a statutory body of the Government of India.
- 'National Digital Platform of Town and Country Planners' is suggested to be created within the National Urban Innovation Stack of MoHUA.
- This portal will enable self-registration of all planners and evolve as a marketplace for potential employers and urban planners



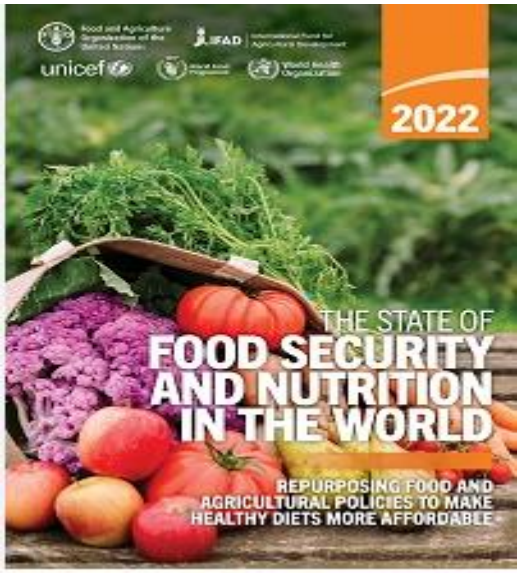

## 59. Periodic Labour Force Survey

- The third Annual Report on the basis of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted during July 2019-June 2020 was released.
- PLFS is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017. It has been constituted based on the recommendation of Amitabh Kundu.
- The first Annual Report (July 2017- June 2018) was released in 2019.
- The objective of PLFS is primarily,
    1. To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS) quarterly - **Quarterly survey**
    2. To estimate the employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually - **Annual survey**
- **Key Indicators** - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is the percentage of employed persons in the population.

- Unemployment Rate (UR) is the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Activity Status** - The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period.
- When the activity status is determined on the basis of the reference period of last 365 days preceding the date of survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
- When the activity status is determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey, it is known as the Current Weekly Status (CWS) of the person.
- The activity status on which a person spent relatively long time during 365 days preceding the date of survey, was considered the usual principal activity status of the person.
- Subsidiary economic activity status is the activity status in which a person in addition to his/her usual principal status, performs some economic activity for 30 days or more for the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey.



## 60. State of Food Security and Nutrition Report




- **The latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report was recently released jointly by five UN organisations.**
- It highlights the shortfalls on part of the government to handle the pandemic, which has led to increase in the prevalence of hunger and food insecurity.
- **Highlights -** India was home to the largest number of undernourished people in the world even before the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in India rose by about 6.8 percentage points in 2018-20.
- In absolute terms, the number of persons facing moderate to severe food insecurity has increased by about 9.7 crore since the outbreak of Covid.
- Ironically, this happened when the government had an unprecedented 100 million tonnes of food grains in its godowns.
- This is larger than the food stocks of any other country.
- To state, the country with the largest stock of grain in the world [120 million tonnes as of July 1, 2021] accounts for a quarter of the world's food-insecure population.
- Globally, in 2020, over 237 crore people were grappling with food insecurity, which is an increase of about 32 crores from 2019.
- South Asia alone accounts for 36% of global food insecurity.
- **Key indicators used -** Estimates on food insecurity presented in the SOFI report are based on two globally accepted indicators of food insecurity:
    1. The Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU)
    2. The Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity (PMSFI)
- **PoU** - The PoU estimates the proportion of people suffering from chronic deficiency of calories.
- The PoU estimates are based on estimates of per-capita supply of food and distributional parameters estimated using the national consumption surveys.

- **PMSFI** - On the other hand, the PMSFI is a more recently developed experience-based indicator.
- The PMSFI estimates are based on data collected through surveys that attempt to capture people's experiences of food insecurity.
- These include eating less, modifying diet to eat cheaper food, skipping meals, and eating less than adequate food because of lack of money or other resources.
- Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Indian government has not undertaken any official assessment of food insecurity in the country.
- So, the PMSFI estimates are the only national-level valid and reliable estimates available on the pandemic's impact on food insecurity in India.
- PMSFI estimates show that there were about 43 crores of moderate to severe food-insecure people in India in 2019.
- As a result of the pandemic-related disruptions, this increased to 52 crores in one year.
- In terms of prevalence rates, moderate to severe food insecurity increased from about 31.6% in 2019 to 38.4% in 2021.