

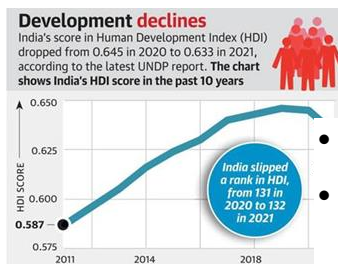
FACT-CHECKING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX TALLY

Context

- The latest Human Development Index (HDI) reading released recently by UNDP ranked India at 132
- The article critically analyses the flaws in the computation methodology of HDI numbers and suggest corrections forward.

Findings of latest HDI report (2021)

- The latest HDI is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022.
- India's rank on the Human Development Index slipped from 130 in 2020 to 132 in 2021.
- Indeed, India's rank has not improved over the last two decades.
- The latest HDI value (index score) of 0.633 places the country in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in the 2020 report.
- It is as lower than the world average of 0.732.
- This decline in the country's performance from its previous level has been owed to a fall in life expectancy from 69.7 years in 2020 to 67.2 years in 2021.
- India's expected years of schooling stand at 9 years, down from 12.2 years in the 2020 report.
- The mean years of schooling although is up at 6.7 years from 6.5 years in the new report.
- The Gross National Income (GNI) per capita level is \$6,590.



Global findings

- The index has been topped by Switzerland.
- 90% of countries have registered a reduction in their HDI value in 2020 or 2021.
- A large contributor to the HDI's recent decline is a global drop in life expectancy, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to 71.4 years in 2021.

About HDI

- **Description:** HDI is a statistical tool used to measure a country's overall accomplishment in its social and economic dimensions, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 - It is the second most widely used indicator for measuring economic progress after national income statistics (GDP).
- **Components:** HDI has three components as follows
 - Health as measured by life expectancy at birth;
 - Education as measured by a combination of mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and
 - Income as measured by gross national income per capita (at purchasing power parity)
- **Calculation:** The final score is calculated as a geometric mean of the above three categories.

Flawed calculation

- **Life expectancy estimation:** Life expectancy at birth refers to the average number of years that a new-born can expect to live.
 - The estimate used for India was cut by 3. 67 years (70. 9 years to 67. 2 years) from 2019 to 2021.
- **Pandemic induced:** The UN agency claims that this cut reflects Covid-related mortality but three serious flaws were discovered in their estimate as follows:
 - **Misconstrued notion:** It is a conceptual mistake to lower life expectancy at birth because as per overwhelming evidence, the Covid-19 virus only kills adults.
 - In effect, the UN indicated that Covid-19 will in around 20 years, impact today's newborns with the same severity as at its peak in 2020-21. But this is a failed assumption without any evidence.
- **Collating WHO data:** UNDP has adjusted India's mortality rates for "excess deaths" from Covid-19 as estimated by WHO.
 - According to WHO, India had around 7 million unreported excess deaths from Covid, almost one-third of the world total.
 - Nevertheless, UNDP still used the WHO excess death numbers in their HDI calculation.

Onus of blame

- It should be admitted that the fault is not always of the external agencies.
- **Non timely updation:** Government departments often do not update numbers in time for international surveys.
 - In the case of HDI, the data for expected years of schooling was not published till after the deadline. As a result, the previous year's data was used by UNDP.
- **Anti-India bias:** However, the poor quality of Indian data is no justification for these findings since similar lacuna was found with regards to data for most of the countries ranked above India where similar adjustments are not made.

UNDP PRAISES & CAUTIONS INDIA IN POVERTY REPORT

In News:

- As many as **415 million people exited multidimensional poverty in India in 15 years** (2005/06 to 2019/21), as per the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022.

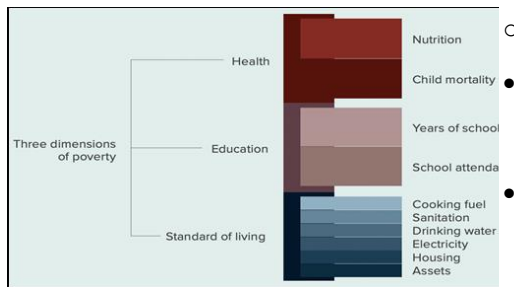
About Multidimensional Poverty:

- A person who is poor can suffer multiple disadvantages at the same time – for example they may have poor health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work or little schooling.
- Focusing on one factor alone, such as income, is not enough to capture the true reality of poverty.
- Multidimensional Poverty is a measure of poverty that captures deprivations in education and access to basic infrastructure in addition to income or consumption at the **USD 1.90 international poverty line** (as per World Bank).

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a key international resource that measures **acute multidimensional poverty** across more than 100 developing countries.
- The MPI is published by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the UNDP's Human Development Report Office.

- The Index tracks deprivation across the following 3 dimensions and 10 indicators:



- The MPI ranges from **0 to 1**, and higher values imply higher poverty.
- By identifying who is poor, the nature of their poverty (their deprivation profile) and how poor they are (deprivation score), the global MPI complements the

international **USD 1.90/day poverty rate**.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022:

- The 2022 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) uses the most recent comparable data available for 111 countries —
 - 23 low-income countries, 85 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries.
- These countries are home to **1 billion people**, 1.2 billion (or 19.1 per cent) of whom live in poverty.
- The global MPI shows who they are, where they live and what deprivations hold them back from achieving the wellbeing they deserve.

Major findings of the Report:

- Across 111 countries, **2 billion people** live in acute multidimensional poverty.
 - Half of these people (593 million) are children under age 18.
- The developing region where the largest number of poor people live is **Sub-Saharan Africa** (nearly 579 million), followed by **South Asia** (385 million).
- **India's Performance –**
 - In India, **415 million people** exited poverty between 2005/06 and 2019/21.
 - The report states that across states and UTs the fastest poverty reduction in relative terms was in Goa, followed by J&K, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.
 - However, India continues to house the largest number of poor people worldwide (228.9 million) in 2020.

- **Impact of Covid-19 pandemic –**

- Simulations in 2020 suggested that the Covid-19 pandemic had set progress in reducing MPI values back by 3–10 years.
- Updated data indicate that the setback at the global level is likely to be on the high end of those projections.
- The report makes it clear that the most recent data for MPI were collected pre-pandemic, so the effect of Covid-19 and subsequent impact on poverty in India cannot be assessed yet.

National Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- On the lines of Global MPI, the **NITI Aayog** started publishing India-specific MPI in 2021.
- **Purpose –**
 - A national MPI statistic for a country is tailored to the national priorities and therefore, countries choose their own set of dimensions, indicators, weights, and cut-offs, according to their plans and contexts.
 - The report presents an in-depth analysis of the headcount ratio and intensity of multidimensional poverty at the national, State/UT, and district levels.
 - The index is based on the reference period of 2015-16 of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)- 4.

PM MODI INAUGURATES ‘ONE NATION, ONE FERTILIZER’ SCHEME

In News

- While participating in a conclave of farmers and 1,500 start-ups in the agriculture sector, PM Modi inaugurated 600 **Kisan Samridhi Kendras** and ‘**One Nation, One Fertilizer**’ scheme.
- On this occasion, he also released the 12th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
 - Under PM-Kisan, eligible families of farmers are provided Rs 6,000 annually in three installments of Rs 2,000 each.

One Nation One Fertiliser Scheme

- Under the scheme, all fertiliser companies, State Trading Entities and Fertiliser Marketing Entities will be required to use a single “Bharat” brand for fertilisers and logo under the **Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (PMBJP)**.
 - PMBJP is the Centre’s fertiliser subsidy scheme.
- The single brand name for UREA, DAP, MOP and NPK etc. would be BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP and BHARAT NPK respectively.
- Also, a logo indicating Fertiliser subsidy scheme namely Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna will be used on said fertiliser bags.
 - Under the scheme, companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo and other relevant product information only on one-third space of their bags.
 - On the remaining two-thirds space, the “Bharat” brand and Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo will have to be shown.
- The scheme is aimed at bringing about uniformity in fertiliser brands across the country under the single brand name of ‘Bharat’.

PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK)

- PM-KSK will act as a one-stop shop for farmers who can buy products and avail multiple services related to the farm sector.
- It will work under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

UNDERSTANDING NANO UREA

<p>What is Nano Urea? It's urea in the form of a nanoparticle. Soil nutrient in liquid form provides nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea. It contains nitrogen particles of 20 to 50 nano meter size. One nano urea bottle replaces 45 kg urea bag.</p> <p>What is cost of a nano urea bottle? Priced at ₹240 per 500 ml bottle compared to Rs 253 for a 45 kg urea bag which is highly subsidised.</p> <p>Benefits of nano urea over conventional urea? Covers 10,000 times more surface area conventional urea; enters easily in plants through stomata and other openings. Efficiency of nano urea is more than 80% as compared to 30-40% for conventional urea. Nano bottles are easily portable. There is saving in top dressing due to foliage</p>	<p>application. Increases yield by 3-16% and additional income for farmers is estimated around ₹2,400 to ₹5,700 per acre. Causes less soil, air and water pollution</p> <p>What is current scale of production? Since August 1, 2021, 3.27 crore bottles of nano urea sold. During 2022-23, about 6 crore bottles will be available, equivalent to 27 lakh tonnes of conventional urea. By 2025-26, govt estimates production of 44 crore bottles of nano urea, which is enough to replace 200 lakh tonnes of conventional urea. It will mean savings of nearly ₹50,800 crore per annum by reducing import of conventional urea.</p> <p>What's the future plan? Other nano fertilizers — Nano DAP, Nano Zinc, Nano Copper and Nano Boron — are in advanced stage of development.</p>
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- The government plans to convert more than 3.3 lakh fertiliser retail shops in the country into PM-KSK in a phased manner.

Functions of PM-KSK

- Besides acting as a sales centre for fertilizer, it will also offer one-stop solution to farmers in the form of crop advisories, soil- and seed-testing

facilities, retailing seeds and pesticides, and even custom hiring of agricultural equipment and machines.

- All commercial activities in such kendras will be done by operators or retailers.
- Extension services such as crop advisories or good farming practices will be provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) or agriculture universities.
- The government schemes that directly impacted farmers would also be showcased at these kendras.
- The kendras are also being designed to create awareness among farmers about a balanced use of fertilisers, including organic fertilisers and micronutrients.

[NATIONAL HIGHWAYS INFRA TRUST \(NHAI INVIT\)](#)

According to the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Infra Trust (NHAI InvIT) is looking to raise additional ₹3,800 crore and around Rs 1,500 crore were being garnered through an issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) with a long-dated maturity of 24 years.



About:

- These InvIT bonds will be listed on BSE and NSE, providing an opportunity for investors to invest and trade.

NHAI InvIT:

- NHAI InvIT is the infrastructure investment trust sponsored by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to support the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).
- NHAI's InvIT is a Trust established by NHAI under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India) regulations.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the NHAI's Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) in December 2019.

InvITs:

- Infrastructure investment trusts are institutions similar to mutual funds, which pool investments from various categories of investors and invest them into completed and revenue-generating infrastructure projects, thereby creating returns for the investor.
 - The capital market regulator notified the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 on September 26, 2014, and these trusts are likely to help facilitate investment in the infrastructure sector.
 - Structured like mutual funds, they have a trustee, sponsor(s), investment manager and project manager.
 - While the trustee (certified by Sebi) has the responsibility of inspecting the performance of an InvIT, sponsor(s) are promoters of the company that set up the InvIT.
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GREEN CRACKERS

Only green firecrackers will be sold in the Delhi for Diwali, in accordance with the Supreme Court (SC) orders.



- Green crackers are low-emission crackers, free of harmful chemicals such as sulphur, nitrates, arsenic, magnesium, sodium, lead, and barium, which **reduce the emission of up to 30%**.
- Emit noise in the range of **100-130 deciBels**.
- Come with a green logo and Quick Response (QR) code to differentiate from conventional firecrackers.
- The crackers developed by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** falls under three categories:
 - **SWAS:**
 - SWAS is safe water releaser, which suppresses the dust released by releasing water vapour in the air. It does not comprise potassium nitrate and sulphur and the particulate dust released will reduce approximately by 30 per cent.
 - **STAR:**

- STAR is the safe thermite cracker, which does not comprise potassium nitrate and sulphur, emits reduced particulate matter disposal and reduced sound intensity.

- **SAFAL:**

- SAFAL is safe minimal aluminium which has minimum usage of aluminium, and used magnesium instead. It ensures reduction in sound in comparison to traditional crackers.

Conventional firecrackers:

- Composed of **charcoal or thermite** in combination with oxidizing agents such as nitrates or chlorates, sulfur agents, and coloring agents.
- Include salts of strontium, sodium, barium, calcium, and copper as well as white metals, which produce more particulate matter (PM).
- Emit sound between **160-200 deciBels**.

ANUBHAV AWARDS

Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions will launch the Integrated Pensioners' Portal, a single window to address the needs of pensioners at the Anubhav Awards Ceremony.



कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
PERSONNEL & TRAINING

About:

- The Anubhav portal was created on the call of Prime Minister in 2015 with a vision to preserve rich experience of retired official in digital form.
- An award scheme to incentivize and encourage more retiring employees to submit their write-ups was introduced in 2016.
- It provides a platform to retiring government employees for sharing their experiences while working in different Ministries or Departments of the government.
- It also provides them with an opportunity to convey information related to their contribution in enhancing the effectiveness of the various government policies.
- It is envisaged that this culture of leaving notes by retirees will become the foundation stone of good governance and administrative reforms in future.

- 92 Ministries, Departments or Organizations have registered on Anubhav Portal of this Department and 8722 write-ups have been published as on 30th September.
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CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court recently observed that the principles of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, could be applied to the Hindu Tamils of Sri Lanka.



About:

- The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 amends the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It seeks to grant citizenship to a class of migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920. The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.
- It was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and the Act was notified within 24 hours on December 12.

Migrants or refugees from Sri Lanka:

- The Joint Committee on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in its report to the Lok Sabha on January 7, 2019, mentioned the reason provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for not including Sri Lanka under the ambit of the amendment.
 - According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the guidelines of the Standard Operating Procedure issued by the Centre on December 29, 2011, would take care of the migrants or refugees from other countries, including Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
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