

## Current Affairs : 08 July 2022

### NO. OF MALNOURISHED IN INDIA FELL, OBESE ROSE IN 15 YRS: UN

#### In News:

- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2022 report has been released.

#### The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World

- It is an annual flagship report to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition.
- It also provides in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The report is jointly prepared by:
  - Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
  - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
  - UNICEF,
  - World Food Programme (WFP) and
  - the World Health Organisation (WHO).

#### Key Highlights: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

- **World is moving backwards**
  - As per report, world is moving backwards in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its form.
  - We are now only eight years away from 2030, but the distance to reach many of the SDG 2 targets is growing wider each year.
  - SDG 2: Zero Hunger.
  - It warned that the ongoing war in Ukraine is disrupting supply chains and further affecting prices of grain, fertilizer, and energy.
  - At the same time, more frequent and extreme climate events are also disrupting supply chains, especially in low-income countries.
- **Global hunger has increased**

- The report highlighted that the number of people affected by hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021.
- This number saw an increase of about 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It further said that, in 2021, around 2.3 billion people are facing moderate or severe difficulty in obtaining enough to eat.
  - This was before the Ukraine war, which has sparked increases in the cost of grain, fertilizer, and energy.
- **Gender gap in food insecurity continued to rise**
  - The gender gap in food insecurity continued to rise in 2021
  - 9 percent of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure, compared to 27.6 percent of men.

## **India Specific Observation**

- **Number of undernourished people declined**
  - The report said that in India, the number of undernourished people declined to 224.3 million in 2019–21 from 247.8 million in 2004-06.
    - In percentage terms, the prevalence of undernourishment in India stood at 21.6 percent in 2004-06 and declined to 16.3 percent in 2019-21.
- **Number of stunted children under 5 years declined**
  - It said that the number of children under 5 years of age who are stunted declined to 36.1 million in 2020 from 52.3 million in 2012.
  - The number of children under five years of age who are overweight declined to 2.2 million in 2020 from 3 million in 2012.
- **Number of obese adults in India grew**
  - The number of obese adults in India, which has a population of over 1.38 billion, grew to 34.3 million in 2016 from 25.2 million in 2012.
- **Prevalence of anaemic women**
  - The prevalence of anaemic women aged 15 to 49 years declined marginally from 53.2 percent in 2012 to 53 percent in 2019.

- **People who were unable to afford a healthy diet**
    - People who were unable to afford a healthy diet touched 973.3 million in 2020, or nearly 70.5 percent, up from 948.6 million in 2019 (69.4 percent).
  - **India provides substantial food subsidies to final consumers**
    - The report highlighted that India provides substantial subsidies to final consumers under the Targeted Public Distribution System for grains.
  - **Lauded India for its effort**
    - The report said that the most prominent example of a (Lower-middle-income countries) LMIC is India, where the food and agricultural policy has historically focused on protecting consumers.
    - India does this by ensuring affordable food prices, through
      - export restrictions (on wheat, non-basmati rice, and milk, among others);
      - marketing regulations around pricing; and
      - public procurement, public food stockholding and distribution of a vast range of agricultural commodities.
    - Input subsidies and expenditure on general services such as in R&D and infrastructure have been widely used in India.
      - This is used as means of compensating them for the price disincentives generated by trade and market measures.
      - It also helps in boosting production and self-sufficiency in the country.
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## BRITISH EDUCATION SYSTEM MEANT TO CREATE 'SERVANT CLASS': PM

### In News:

- PM Modi recently said the education system created by the British was never part of the Indian ethos while National Education Policy (NEP) has given us a tool to realize innumerable possibilities.
  - He was delivering a speech while inaugurating the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- He also said the basic premise of NEP is to bring education out of the limits of narrow thought-process and to integrate it with the modern ideas of the 21st century.

## **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:**

- The National Education Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system.
- The committee that drafted the NEP 2020 was headed by Shri K Kasturirangan.
- NEP 2020 focuses on five pillars: **Affordability, Accessibility, Quality, Equity, and Accountability** – to ensure continual learning.
- The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986 and forms a comprehensive framework to transform both elementary and higher education in India by 2040.
  - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> such education policy since India's independence.
  - The earlier two were launched in **1968 & 1986**.
- NEP emphasizes upon multi-disciplinarity, digital literacy, written communication, problem-solving, logical reasoning, and vocational exposure.

## **Major Features of the Policy:**

- **Schooling to begin from the age of 3 years:**
  - The revised policy expands the age group of mandatory schooling from 6-14 years to 3-18 years.
  - This new system will include 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.
  - The existing 10+2 structure of school curriculum will be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- **Mother tongue to be instated as medium of instruction:**
  - The NEP has directed focus on students' mother tongue as the medium of instruction even as it sticks to the 'three language formula' but also mandates that no language would be imposed on anyone.
  - Under the 'three language formula', the students must learn two Indian languages, with English not to be considered as one.

- It also says that the freedom to choose the two Indian languages should be left to the states, regions or students.
- The policy indicates that wherever it is possible, the medium of instruction till at least Grade 5, but preferably up till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the mother tongue/local language/ regional language, both public and private schools, have to follow this norm.
- **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI):**
  - The HECI will now set up a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.
  - The same set of norms for regulation, accreditation, and academic standards, to be applied to both public and private higher education institutions.
  - The Government aims to phase out the affiliation of colleges in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
- **Separation between subject streams to be blurred:**
  - As per NEP 2020, the rigid separations between subjects' stream will be done away with.
  - Students will have the liberty to choose subjects they would like to study across streams.
  - Vocational education to be introduced in schools from Class 6 and will include internships as well.
- **Return of the FYUP Programme and No More Dropouts:**
  - The duration of the undergraduate degree will be either 3 or 4 years.
  - Students will also be given multiple exit options within this period.
  - Colleges will have to grant a certificate to a student if they would like to leave after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, a diploma after 2 years of study, or a Bachelor's degree after completing a three-year programme.
  - An Academic Bank of Credit will be established by the Government for digitally storing academic credits earned from different Higher Educational Institutions so that these can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned.

### **Challenges for the implementation of the NEP:**

- The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow.
- Karnataka, in 2021, became the first state to implement NEP 2020.

- Since education is a **concurrent subject** (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states.
- The Central government plans to set up subject-wise committees with members from relevant ministries at both the central and state levels to develop implementation plans for each aspect of the NEP.
- Sufficient funding is also crucial; the 1968 NEP was hamstrung by a shortage of funds.

### News Summary:

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam is being organized by the Ministry of Education in association with University Grants Commission (UGC) and Banaras Hindu University from **July 7-9**.
- It will provide a platform for stakeholders to deliberate and discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

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## FOREST RIGHTS ACT (FRA)

The Odisha government is chasing an ambitious target of completing implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) by granting all kinds of rights mandated under the historic Act by 2024.



### About:

- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is also known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- The Act recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal

communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

- The Act further enjoins upon the Gram Sabha and rights holders the responsibility of conservation and protection of bio-diversity, wildlife, forests, adjoining catchment areas, water sources and other ecologically sensitive areas as well as to stop any destructive practices affecting these resources or cultural and natural heritage of the tribals.

## NEW SHERPA Of G-20

Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will be the new Sherpa of G-20. Commerce minister Piyush Goel will give up the position as Sherpa of G-20. With the G-20 presidency coming to India, a full-time Sherpa is required who would be needed to devote a lot of time to meetings that will be held in different parts of the country.



### Key facts

- **Who are they?** A Sherpa is a personal representative of the leader of a member country at an international Summit meeting such as the G8, G20, the Nuclear Security Summit etc.
- **Task:** The Sherpa engages in planning, negotiation and implementation tasks through the Summit. They coordinate the agenda, seek consensus at the highest political levels, and participate in a series of pre-Summit consultations to help negotiate their leaders' positions.
- **Who are appointed Sherpas?** Sherpas are career diplomats or senior government officials appointed by the leaders of their countries.
- **Etymology:** The term is derived from the Nepalese Sherpa people, who serve as guides for mountaineers in the Himalayas.

## GLOBAL FORGIVENESS DAY (ETHICS)



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



Global Forgiveness Day is observed on 7th of July every year to celebrate goodwill among people and it gives us a chance to set things right and make our relationships stronger.



**About:**

- In 1994, The Christian Embassy of Christ’s Ambassadors founded National Forgiveness Day in British Columbia. The day was later renamed 'Global Forgiveness Day.
- The art of practicing forgiveness after an offense, and let go of your negative emotions, is a key principle taught by all religions across the globe.
- Forgiveness is important not only in our relationships but also in our personal lives. When we forgive others, it helps us to feel better about ourselves. It can help to heal wounds and create stronger ties between people. It can also reduce our feelings of anger, guilt, and resentment.

