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CONTENTS

■ Ease of Doing Business; World Bank	01
■ Global Economic Prospect (GEP) Report; World Bank	02
■ Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index (MPI),	03
India: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	03
■ Financial Stability Report: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	04
■ World Economic Outlook; International Monetary Fund (IMF)	05
■ Global Competitiveness Report 2020; World Economic Forum.....	07
■ Global Hunger Index, 2020	09
■ The State of World Children Report 2019, UNICEF	11
■ Climate Change Performance Index -2020	11
■ SDG INDIA INDEX 2019; NITI Aayog	13
■ Global Gender Gap Report 2020; World Economic Forum	14
■ World Employment and Social Outlook; International	16
Labour Organization (ILO)	
■ Gender Inequality Index (GII)	17
■ Global Social Mobility Index; World Economic Forum (WEF).....	19

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Ease of Doing Business; World Bank

What does the Ranking mean?

- Economies are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1–190.
- A high ease of doing business ranking **means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm.**
- The rankings are determined **by sorting the aggregate scores on 10 topics**, each consisting of several indicators, giving equal weight to each topic.

What are the indicators?

- Regulation for starting a Business
- Construction Permits
- Getting Electricity,
- Registering Property
- Getting Credit
- Protecting Minority Investors
- Paying Taxes
- Trading across Borders
- Enforcing Contracts
- Resolving Insolvency

India's Position

- The World Bank recently released its Ease of Doing Business Report, 2020. India was placed at **63rd position** this time (2019) out of 190 countries marking **an improvement of 14 places from its 77th position in 2018.**
- Sustained business reforms over the past several years have helped India jump 14 places to move to 63rd position in global Ease of Doing Business rankings recently.

What are these reforms?

- India has made it easier to start a business in the country.
- India also reduced the time and cost of obtaining construction permits and improved building quality control by strengthening professional certification requirements.
- Its efforts to make it easier to trade across borders and resolve insolvency have also helped improve its ranking.

In News:

- Recently, World Bank Group announced that it has decided to discontinue publication of its 'Doing Business' rankings of country business climates.
- Decision to discontinue came after a review of data irregularities found in 2018 and 2020 reports. Irregularities had affected four countries: China; Saudi Arabia; UAE; and Azerbaijan.
- Ranking have been criticized for gaming the system (obsessing over moving up in the rankings) rather than pushing for real and lasting structural reforms.
- A one-size-fitsall approach to measuring and understanding economic growth and development, especially one based on the ideological priors of institutions and stakeholders, is always likely to contain some fatal flaws.

Global Economic Prospect (GEP) Report; World Bank

On January 11, 2022, the World Bank released its Global Economic Prospect.

Key-highlights of Global Economic Prospects Report

- Key highlights of the report are:

Global Economic Growth

- Global economic growth will dip sharply from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, even as India's annual growth is projected to be 8.3% in the current fiscal year, 8.7% in 2022-23, and 6.8% in 2023-24.
- After having recovered in 2021, the global economy is headed towards a "pronounced slowdown", due to the new variants of Covid-19; a rise in inflation, debt and income inequality; the winding down of fiscal and monetary support; and the fading of pent-up demand – all of which have eroded recovery prospects in emerging and developing economies in particular.

Impact of Omicron

- The rapid spread of the Omicron variant indicates that the pandemic will likely continue to disrupt economic activity in the near term. In addition, a notable deceleration in major economies — including the United States and China — will weigh on external demand in emerging and developing economies. At a time when governments in many developing economies lack the policy space to support activity if needed, new Covid-19 outbreaks, persistent supply-chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures, and elevated financial vulnerabilities in large swaths of the world could increase the risk of a hard landing

India and South Asia

- In its outlook for South Asia, however, India stands as a relatively bright spot. The Bank's 8.3% growth projection for India in 2021-22 is unchanged from its June 2021 outlook. But the forecast for 2022-23 and 2023-24 has been upgraded to 8.7% and 6.8%, respectively, "reflecting higher investment from the private sector and in infrastructure, and dividends from ongoing reforms".
- The report flags risks specific to South Asia – the emergence of Omicron could hinder economic activity with mobility restrictions and lower external demand; upward price pressures could lead to inflation expectations becoming unanchored, "worsening domestic financing conditions, eroding real incomes and

weakening the financial sector"; and, with an increase in climate risks, the region remains vulnerable to climate-induced increases in poverty, disease, child mortality and food prices.

- Inequality, between and within countries, and inflation, both in the advanced and emerging economies, will complicate recovery.

Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index (MPI), India: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

What is it about?

- **Ease of Living Index** is aimed at understanding various aspects; beginning from the services provided by local bodies, the effectiveness of the administration, the outcomes generated through these services in terms of the liveability within cities, and, finally, the citizen perception of these outcomes.
- It helps in assessing the progress made in cities through various initiatives and empowers them to use evidence to plan, implement, and monitor their performance.
- Both these indices are designed to assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities.

.Objectives of the Ease of Living Index:

- Generate information to guide evidence-based policy-making
- Catalyse action to achieve broader developmental outcomes including the SDG
- Assess and compare the outcomes achieved from various urban policies and schemes
- Obtain the perception of citizens about their view of the services provided by the city administration.

Key Findings of the Ease of Living Index, 2020

- The rankings under **Ease of Living Index 2020** were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people.
- 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020.
- The analysis categorises them into Million+ populated cities (those with a population of more than a million) and Less than Million populated cities (those with a population of less than a million) along with all the cities under the Smart Cities Program.
- Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the **Million+ category**, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai.
- In the **Less than Million category**, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

Municipal Performance Index (MPI)

- The **assessment framework under MPI 2020** has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population.
- In the **Million+ category**, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the **Less than Million category**, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.
- Expanding the scope for the EoLI framework in order to make it more robust, a Municipal Performance Index assessment was also undertaken for the first time in the country.

- The Municipal Performance Index is an effort to assess and analyse the performance of Indian municipalities based on their defined set of functions. The responsibilities of a municipality span across a range of verticals that include provision of basic public services to more complex domains like urban planning.

The salient features of MPI are given below.

- The Municipal Performance Index provides a granular understanding of a municipalities' functionalities and the extent of their development and capabilities. Through the index, citizens can better understand their local government administration, which in turn builds transparency and generates trust among key stakeholders.
- The framework covers 20 varied sectors vis. Education, Health, Water & Wastewater, SWM & Sanitation, Registration & Permits, Infrastructure, Revenue Management, Expenditure Management, Fiscal Responsibility, Fiscal Decentralisation, Digital Governance, Digital Access, Digital Literacy, Plan Preparation, Plan Implementation, Plan Enforcement, Transparency & Accountability, Human Resource, Participation and Effectiveness.

Rank	Municipal Performance Index				
	Population Million			Population Less than Million	
	Municipality	Score		Municipality	Score
1	Indore	66.08		New Delhi MC	52.92
2	Surat	60.82		Tirupati	51.69
3	Bhopal	59.04		Gandhinagar	51.59
4	Pimpri Chinchwad	59.00		Karnal	51.39
5	Pune	58.79		Salem	49.04
6	Ahmedabad	57.60		Tiruppur	48.92
7	Raipur	54.98		Bilaspur	47.99
8	Greater Mumbai	54.36		Udaipur	47.77
9	Visakhapatnam	52.77		Jhansi	47.04
10	Vadodara	52.68		Tirunelveli	47.02

Financial Stability Report: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

What is it about?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 23rd issue of its Financial Stability Report (FSR).

- The FSR is **published biannually**.
- It reflects the collective assessment on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.
- The Report also discusses **issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector**.

Key highlights

- Financial Stability Report: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Reserve Bank released the 24th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), which 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.

Highlights:

- The global economic recovery has been losing momentum in the second half of 2021 in the face of resurfacing COVID-19 infections, the new variant Omicron, supply disruptions and bottlenecks, elevated inflationary levels and 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, notwithstanding signs of slowing pace more recently; the corporate sector is gaining strength and bank credit growth is improving.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) rose to a new peak of 16.6 per cent and their provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.1 per cent 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 per cent in September 2021 to 8.1 per cent by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and to 9.5 per cent under a severe stress scenario. SCBs would, however, have sufficient capital, both at the aggregate and individual levels, even under stress conditions.
- Emerging signs of stress in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as also in the micro finance segment call for close monitoring of these portfolios going forward.

Suggestions:

- **Balance Sheet Stress:** Banks need to **reinforce their capital and liquidity positions** to fortify themselves **against potential balance sheet stress**.
- **Policy Support:** Sustained **policy support and simultaneous increased fortification of capital and liquidity buffers** by financial entities is important.
- **Financial Needs:** Stronger **capital positions, good governance and efficiency in financial intermediation** can be the touchstones of this endeavour so that financing needs of productive sectors of the economy are met while the integrity and soundness of banks and financial institutions are secured on an enduring basis.

World Economic Outlook; International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Key Findings of October 2021

■ For India

- ▶ **Growth decline:** The IMF cut its economic growth forecast for India from 12.5% to 9.5% for the fiscal year to March 31, 2022, as the onset of a severe second COVID-19 wave cut into recovery momentum.

- ▶ **Slow recovery:** Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March-May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback
- ▶ **Low Vaccination penetration:** India was lagging in vaccination, economic activities may be further affected in India.
- ▶ **GDP in value:** The GDP, which shrank from \$2.87 trillion in 2019-20 to \$2.66 trillion in the following year, is estimated to reach around \$4 trillion in 2024-25.

■ Global Scenario

- ▶ **Vaccination Penetration:** In countries with high vaccination coverage, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, the impact would be mild; meanwhile, countries lagging in vaccination, such as India and Indonesia, would suffer the most among G20 economies. Close to 40 per cent of the population in advanced economies has been fully vaccinated, compared with 11 per cent in emerging market economies, and a tiny fraction in low-income developing countries
- ▶ **Global economy:** The global economy is projected to grow 6% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022. The 2021 global growth forecast is unchanged from April 2021.
- ▶ **Widening Gap:** The global economic recovery continues, but with a widening gap between advanced economies and many emerging markets and developing economies.
- ▶ **Per capita loss:** The pandemic has reduced per capita incomes in advanced economies by 2.8%, relative to pre-pandemic trends over 2020-2022, compared with an annual per capita loss of 6.3% a year for emerging market and developing economies (excluding China). Faster-than expected vaccination rates and return to normalcy have led to upgrades, while lack of access to vaccines and renewed waves of COVID-19 cases in some countries, notably India, have led to downgrades.

World Economic Outlook

- This is Survey by the IMF staff usually published twice a year, in April and October.
- It presents IMF staff economists' analyses of global economic developments during the near and medium term.
- Analysis and forecasts of economic developments and policies in its member countries.
- Encapsulates the state of the global economy and highlights risks and uncertainty that could threaten growth.
- This report is the main instrument of disseminating the findings and analysis of their global surveillance activities to the world.

World Economic Outlook Updates 2022

- IMF has released the Outlook updates 2022 under the publication titled 'Rising Caseloads, a Disrupted Recovery, and Higher Inflation'.
- The global economy enters 2022 in a weaker position than previously expected.
- Global growth is expected to moderate from 5.9 in 2021 to 4.4 percent in 2022—half a percentage point lower for 2022 than in the October World Economic Outlook (WEO), largely reflecting forecast markdowns in the two largest economies.
- Elevated inflation is expected to persist for longer than envisioned in the October WEO, with ongoing supply chain disruptions and high energy prices continuing in 2022.



Projections for India

- As per the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) growth projections released on 25th January, 2022, India's real GDP is projected to grow at 9 per cent in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 per cent in 2023-24.

Global Competitiveness Report 2020; World Economic Forum (WEF)

Global Competitiveness Report 2020

- The 2020 Global Competitiveness Report 2020 special edition of The Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) series comes out at a very difficult and uncertain historical moment.

Major Changes in Report

- This unusual moment calls for innovative and much-needed shifts in policy. Therefore, in 2020 the long-standing Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) rankings have been paused.
- Instead, this special edition is dedicated to elaborating on the priorities for recovery and revival, and considering the building blocks of a transformation towards new economic systems that combine "productivity", "people" and "planet" targets.
- In 2021, the report will revert to a benchmarking exercise that will provide a new compass for the future direction of economic growth.
- This special edition analyses historical trends on factors of competitiveness as well as the latest thinking on future priorities.

Recommendations and timeframes

- Recommendations and timeframes are grouped into four broad areas of action: 1) reviving and transforming the enabling environment, 2) reviving and transforming human capital, 3) reviving and transforming markets, and 4) reviving and transforming the innovation ecosystem.

Key Findings and Suggestions

- The key findings of the report are summarized below under these reviving and transforming suggestions.

■ Reviving and transforming the enabling environment:

- ▶ **Concern:** Before the COVID-19 crisis, a long-standing issue had been the ongoing and consistent erosion of institutions, as shown by declining or stalling checks and balances and transparency indicators.

Measures: Governments should prioritize improving long-term thinking capacity within governments and enhance mechanisms to deliver public services, including greater digitalization of public services. In the transformation phase, governments should work to ensure that public institutions embed strong governance principles and to regain public trust by serving their citizens.

- ▶ **Concern:** High levels of debt in selected economies as well as widening inequalities.

Measures: The priority should be on preparing support measures for highly indebted low-income countries and plan for future public debt deleveraging. In the longer run (transformation phase) countries should focus on shifting to more progressive taxation, rethinking how corporations, wealth and labour are taxed.

■ Reviving and transforming human capital

- ▶ **Concern:** For several years before the crisis, skills mismatches, talent shortages and increasing misalignment between incentives and rewards for workers had been flagged as problematic for advancing productivity, prosperity and inclusion.

Measures: Countries should focus in the revival phase on gradually transitioning from furlough schemes to new labour market opportunities, scaling up reskilling and upskilling programmes, revival of education curricula and rethinking active labour market policies.

- ▶ **Concern:** Healthcare systems' capacity has lagged behind increasing populations in the developing world and ageing populations in the developed world.

Measures: Countries should in the revival phase expand health system capacity to manage the dual burden of current pandemic and future healthcare needs.

■ Reviving and transforming markets

- ▶ **Concern:** Financial fragility, including increased corporate debt risks and liquidity mismatches and access to finance.

Measures: Financial incentives for companies to engage in sustainable and inclusive investments. In the transformation phase, the attention should shift to create incentives to direct financial resources towards long-term investments, strengthening stability while continuing to expand inclusion.

- ▶ **Concern:** Increasing market concentration, with large productivity and profitability gaps between the top companies in each sector.

Measures: Countries should in the revival phase strike a balance between continuing measures to support firms and prevent excessive industry consolidation with sufficient flexibility to avoid keeping "zombiefirms" in the system. In the transformation phase, countries should rethink competition and anti-trust frameworks needed in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ensuring market access, both locally and internationally.

■ Reviving and transforming the innovation ecosystem

- ▶ **Concern:** Technology has lagged especially in the capacity to delivering solutions to energy consumption, emissions and meeting the demand for inclusive social services.

Measures: To manage these complexities, countries should in the revival phase expand public investments in R&D, incentivize venture capital and R&D in private sector, and promote the diffusion of existing technologies that support the creation of new firms and employment in "markets of tomorrow".

Global Competitiveness Report

- The WEF's global competitiveness report evaluates countries' productivity and competitiveness in relation to 103 indicators spread across 12 pillars.
- These pillars are evaluated to score nations in the global competitiveness index:
 - ▶ Institutions
 - ▶ Infrastructure
 - ▶ ICT Adoption
 - ▶ Macroeconomic Stability
 - ▶ Health
 - ▶ Skills
 - ▶ Product Market
 - ▶ Labour Market
 - ▶ Financial System
 - ▶ Market Size
 - ▶ Business Dynamism
 - ▶ Innovation Capability
- World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 2019 edition of the Global Competitiveness Report in October.
- It features the Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 (GCI 4.0).

Global Competitiveness Index 4.0

- GCI 4.0 methodology is used by the Global Competitiveness Report. It provides guidance on what matters for long-term growth.
- It maps the competitiveness landscape of 141 economies through 103 indicators organized into 12 pillars.



Global Hunger Index, 2020

About the Index

- Annual Report: It is an annual report (peer-reviewed) published by Concern Worldwide of Ireland and Welthungerhilfe (a German non-profit organization).
- It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October.
 - ▶ The 2021 edition marks the 16th edition of the GHI.

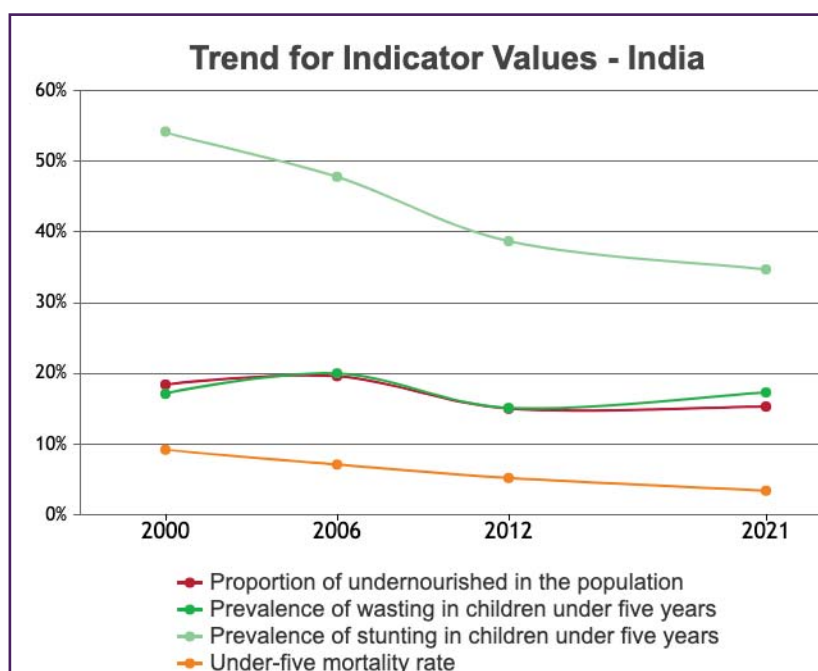
- ▶ The annual index is designed to measure and track hunger at the global, national, and regional levels and to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger.
- ▶ It ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in actuality.

GHI indicators:

- The GHI score is based on four indicators:
 - ▶ Undernourishment: Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
 - ▶ Child Wasting: Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition.
 - ▶ Child Stunting: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under nutrition.
 - ▶ Child Mortality: The mortality rate of children under the age of five.

How did India score in Global Hunger Index 2021?

- India ranks 101st out of 116 countries in the GHI 2021 rankings. With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is 'serious'.
- India has slipped 7 positions from its 2020 rank of 94.
- India is ranked behind most of its neighbouring countries. Their ranks are given below:
 - ▶ Pakistan – 92
 - ▶ Sri Lanka – 65
 - ▶ Nepal – 76
 - ▶ Bangladesh – 76
- There are only 15 countries that are ranked below India in the 2021 index.
- ??In the index, eighteen countries such as China, Brazil and Kuwait shared the top rank. They got a GHI score of less than five.
- According to the latest data, India has the highest rate of child wasting among all the countries in the index.
- However, India has shown improvement in other indicators such as the under-5 mortality rate, prevalence of stunting among children and prevalence of undernourishment owing to inadequate food.



The State of World Children Report 2019, UNICEF

- The UNICEF report 'The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health' details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health.
- It is UNICEF's biannual publication since 1980.

Key Findings about India

- Around 14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.
- Almost 46,000 adolescents die from suicide each year, among the top five causes of death for their age group.
- More than 1.6 billion children have suffered some loss of education.
- Meanwhile, wide gaps persist between mental health needs and mental health funding. The report finds that about 2 per cent of government health budgets are allocated to mental health spending globally.

Key Suggestions

- The State of the World's Children 2021 establishes a framework to guide coordinated action to achieve these goals. It is based on the need for commitment, communication and action.
 - ▶ COMMIT means strengthening leadership to set the sights of a diverse range of partners and stakeholders on clear goals and ensuring investment in solutions and people across a range of sectors. It involves strengthening global leadership and partnerships and investing in support to mental health.
 - ▶ COMMUNICATE means tackling stigmas around mental health, opening conversations and improving mental health literacy. It means amplifying the global conversation on mental health to raise awareness and mobilize all stakeholders to take action and facilitate learning. It also means ensuring children, young people and people with lived experience are part of the conversation, that they have a voice and can meaningfully engage in the development of mental health responses.
- ACT means working to minimize the risk factors and maximize the protective factors for mental health in key areas of children's and adolescents' lives, especially the family and school. More broadly, it also means investment and workforce development across some key sectors and systems, including mental health services and social protection, and the development of strong data collection and research.
 - ▶ Support families, parents and caregivers
 - ▶ Ensure schools support mental health
 - ▶ Strengthen and equip multiple systems and workforces to meet complex challenges
 - ▶ Improve data, research and evidence

NOTE:

Hidden hunger is a lack of vitamins and minerals which harms children and women. Iron deficiency reduces children's ability to learn and iron deficiency anaemia increases women's risk of death during or shortly after childbirth.

Climate Change Performance Index -2020

What is the CCPI (Climate Change Performance Index)?

- The CCPI is an independent monitoring tool of countries' climate protection performance.

- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables the comparability of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- It is published by **Germanwatch, Climate Action Network International, and the NewClimate Institute, annually.**

Climate Change Performance Index 2022 India

- India has retained its spot in the top 10 best performing countries for the third year in a row.
- India's performance was rated high in the GHG Emissions, Energy Use, and Climate Policy categories, and medium in Renewable Energy.
- The subcontinent is already on track to meet its 2030 emissions target.
- Although, India receives an overall high performance, the experts argue that the country should set an explicit net zero target for 2050.

Global Findings of the CCPI 2022

- No country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in the CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty.
- Denmark is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022, but it does not perform well enough to achieve an overall very high rating.

Performance of G20

- With the United Kingdom (7th), Climate Change performance Index India rank 2022: 10th, Germany (13th), and France (17th), four G20 countries are among the high-performing countries in CCPI 2022.
- The G20 are responsible for about 75% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Saudi Arabia is the worst-performing country among the G20, ranked 63rd.

Impact of COVID-19 and GHG emission

- The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sharp, globally unrepresented 4% drop in CO2 emissions.
- The International Energy Agency estimated, for the period of January–July 2021, CO2 emissions would rise 4.8%. CO2 emissions in 2021 will in fact near the record high from 2019.
- Among the newly included countries in this year's CCPI, only Philippines performs high in GHG emission category.

Renewable Energy Improvement

- As the energy sector greatly contributes to a country's greenhouse gas emissions, the results of the Renewable Energy rating indicate substantial room for improvement in mitigating emissions by accelerating deployment of renewable energy.
- Norway is the first country, receiving a very high rating in this category.

NOTE:

The ranking results are defined by a country's aggregated performance in 14 indicators within the four categories "GHG Emissions", "Renewable Energy" and "Energy Use", as well as on "Climate Policy", in a globally unique policy section of the index

SDG INDIA INDEX 2019; NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog released SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21.

- SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was launched by NITI Aayog in 2018
- Since its inaugural launch in 2018, the index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Now in its third year (2021), the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the States and Union Territories.
- On the theme of partnerships which is central to **Goal 17**, it is clear that by working together we can build a more resilient and sustainable future, where no one is left behind.
- NITI Aayog has the twin mandate:
 - ▶ To oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country,
 - ▶ Promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.

SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21

- The SDG India Index 2020–21, developed in collaboration with the **United Nations** in India, tracks progress of all States and UTs on 115 indicators that are aligned to MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF).
- The SDG India Index 2020–21 is more robust than the previous editions on account of **wider coverage of targets and indicators with greater alignment with the NIF**.
- The 115 indicators incorporate 16 out of 17 SDGs, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17, and cover 70 SDG targets.
- The SDG India Index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and Union Territory. Overall State and UT scores are generated from goal-wise scores to **measure aggregate performance of the sub-national unit** based on its performance across the 16 SDGs.
- These scores range between 0–100, and if a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies it has achieved the 2030 targets. The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.
- States and Union Territories are classified as below based on their SDG India Index score:
 - ▶ Aspirant: 0–49
 - ▶ Performer: 50–64
 - ▶ Front-Runner: 65–99
 - ▶ Achiever: 100

States Performance

- This is an improvement over the 2018–19 and 2019–20 editions of the index, which had utilised 62 indicators across 39 targets and 13 Goals, and 100 indicators across 54 targets and 16 Goals, respectively.
- Mizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020–21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.
- While in 2019, ten States/UTs belonged to the category of Front-Runners (score in the range 65–99, including both) twelve more States/UTs found themselves in this category in 2020–21.

■ Top 5 performing states are:

State	Score
Kerala	75
Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu	74
Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Uttarakhand	72
Sikkim	71
Maharashtra	70

■ **Bottom 5 states are:**

State	Score
Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha	61
Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh	60
Assam	57
Jharkhand	56
Bihar	52

Global Gender Gap Report 2020; World Economic Forum

About:

- It was **first published in 2006** by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- It **benchmarks 156 countries** on their progress towards gender parity in four **dimensions**:
 - ▶ Economic Participation and Opportunity,
 - ▶ Educational Attainment,
 - ▶ Health and Survival and
 - ▶ Political Empowerment.
- Over the Index, the **highest possible score is 1** (equality) and the **lowest possible score is 0** (inequality).
- It aims 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.

India's Position:

- India is now one of the worst performers in South Asia, it is now ranked 140 among 156 countries.
- India had ranked 112th among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020
- India has fallen 28 places in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- In South Asia, Bangladesh ranked 65, Nepal 106, Pakistan 153, Afghanistan 156, Bhutan 130 and Sri Lanka 116.

Area wise Indian Ranking

■ **Political Empowerment:**

- ▶ India has **declined on the political empowerment index** as well by 13.5 percentage points, and a decline in the number of women ministers, from 23.1% in 2019 to 9.1% in 2021.

■ **Education Attainment:**

- ▶ In the index of education attainment, India has been **ranked at 114**.

■ Economic Participation:

- ▶ The report notes that the economic participation gender gap actually **widened in India by 3% this year**.
- ▶ The share of women in professional and technical roles declined further to 29.2%.
- ▶ The share of women in senior and managerial positions also is at 14.6% and only 8.9% firms in the country have top female managers.
 - In Pakistan and Afghanistan, the income of an average woman is below 16% of that of an average man, while in India it is 20.7%.

■ Health and Survival index:

- ▶ On this India has **fared the worst, ranking at 155**.
- ▶ The only country to have fared worse is China.
- ▶ The report points to a **skewed sex ratio** as the major factor.

Global Scenario:

■ Region Wise Rank:

- ▶ **South Asia** incidentally is one of the **worst performing regions**, followed only by the Middle East and northern Africa.

■ Largest Gender Gap in Political Empowerment:

- ▶ The gender gap in political empowerment remains the largest: women represent only 26.1% of some 35,500 parliament seats and just 22.6% of over 3,400 ministers worldwide.
- ▶ **Bangladesh is the only country where more women have held head-of-state positions** than men in the past 50 years.
- ▶ In 81 countries, there has never been a woman head of state, as of 15th January, 2021.

■ Economic Participation:

- The countries with the largest gender gaps in economic participation include Iran, India, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

■ Timeframe to Close the Gap:

- ▶ It will take South Asia **195.4 years** to close the gender gap, while Western Europe will take 52.1 years.

World Economic Outlook

- This is Survey by the IMF staff usually published twice a year, in April and October.
- It presents IMF staff economists' analyses of global economic developments during the near and medium term.
- Analysis and forecasts of economic developments and policies in its member countries.
- Encapsulates the state of the global economy and highlights risks and uncertainty that could threaten growth.
- This report is the main instrument of disseminating the findings and analysis of their global surveillance activities to the world.

World Employment and Social Outlook; International Labour Organization (ILO)

About the Report

- ILO has recently released the report.
- **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends (WESO)**
- This report provides an overview of global and regional trends in employment, unemployment, labour force participation, and productivity.
- It also provides an overview of dimensions of job quality such as employment status, informal employment, and working poverty.
- It also examines income and social developments and provides an indicator of social unrest.

Key Highlights of the Report

- Global unemployment is expected to remain above pre-Covid-19 levels until at least 2023 and is estimated at 207 million this year, almost 21 million more than in 2019, according to a report from the International Labour Organisation that gives assessments on how labour market recovery has unfolded worldwide.
- The Geneva-based United Nations agency has downgraded its forecast for labour market recovery in 2022, projecting a deficit in hours worked globally equivalent to 52 million full-time jobs, relative to the fourth quarter of 2019.
- The previous full-year estimate in May 2021 projected a deficit of 26 million full-time equivalent jobs.
- While this latest projection is an improvement on the situation in 2021, it remains almost two per cent below the number of global hours worked pre-pandemic, according to the ILO World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022 report.
- The report warns of slow and uncertain recovery as the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on global labour markets.
- Global unemployment is expected to remain above pre-Covid-19 levels until at least 2023.
- The 2022 level is estimated at 207 million, compared to 186 million in 2019, the report said.
- It also cautions that the overall impact on employment is significantly greater than represented in these figures because many people have left the labour force.

Impact of low access to vaccines

- 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.
- Key labour market indicators in all regions — Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia — 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.

Reason behind the downgrade

- The downgrade in the 2022 forecast reflects, to some extent, the impact that recent variants of Covid-19, such as Delta and Omicron, are having on the world of work, as well as significant uncertainty regarding the future course of the pandemic.

Who has been hit hard?

- 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.
- Many temporary workers lost their jobs at the start of the crisis. However, many new temporary jobs have also been created since.

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

About Gender Inequality

- The GII is an inequality index. It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development:
 - ▶ **Reproductive health**- measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates
 - ▶ **Empowerment**- measured by the proportion of **parliamentary seats** occupied by females and the proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some **secondary education**;
 - ▶ **Economic status**- Expressed as labour market participation and measured by labour force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older.
- The GII is built on the same framework as the IHDI—to better expose differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men.

Background

- The Global Gender Gap Index is released by the World Economic Forum. It was first introduced in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender parity.
- It was the 15th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 which comes out a little late over one year after COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic.
- It is an index that is designed to **measure gender equality**.
- The released report examines four overall areas of inequality between men and women-
 - Economic participation and opportunity
 - Educational attainment
 - Political empowerment
 - Health and survival
- It tracks the progress for the closing of the gender gaps over time.

Key global findings of the reports

- Iceland is declared as the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time, which is followed by Norway, Finland, and Sweden.
- The five most-improved nations in the overall index are Lithuania, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Togo, and United Arab Emirates. These countries had narrowed down their gender gaps by at least 4.4 percentage points or more.

- Western Europe had remained the most progressed region with the gender parity at 77.6%.
- The Middle East and North Africa region again remain the area with the largest gap of 60.9%.
- Three new countries have been assessed for the first time: Afghanistan with 44.4% of the gender gap, rank-156th), Guyana (72.8%, rank- 53rd), and Niger (62.9%, rank-138th).

Analysis

- In the report, global gender gap analysis is based on the following patterns:

■ Gender gap in Political Empowerment

- ▶ The gap under this category remains the largest of the four gaps tracked. The gap has been further widened since the 2020 edition of the report by 2.4 percentage points.
- ▶ At the current rate of progress, the World Economic Forum estimates that it will take more than 145.5 years to attain gender parity in politics.

■ Gender gap in Economic Participation and Opportunity

- ▶ It is the second-largest of the four key gaps tracked by the index. A marginal improvement was seen in the gap since the 2020 edition of the report and as a result, we estimate that it will take another 267.6 years to close the gap.

■ Gender gaps in Educational Attainment:

- ▶ In Educational Attainment, 95% of this gender gap has been closed globally, with 37 countries already at parity.
- ▶ The index estimates that on this current trajectory, it will take another 14.2 years to completely close this gap in terms of gender.

■ Gender gaps in Health and Survival

- ▶ Globally, the average distance completed to parity is at 68%, a step back compared to 2020 (-0.6 percentage points).
- ▶ On its current trajectory, it will now take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide

What are the observations made for India?

- India has ranked 140 out of 156 countries. It has slipped to 28 places from the last year.
- **Political Empowerment:** India has declined on the political empowerment index as well in the number of women ministers.
- It has performed relatively well in women's participation in politics and ranked 51. The upward movement in rank was observed due to several females to the male head of state ratio. However, India did not perform well in the women representation in parliament and ministerial positions. This shows that the opportunities were not given to women for proper representation in Parliament.

NOTE:

- The Human Development Report Office releases five composite indices each year: Human Development Index (HDI), the Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI), the Gender Development Index (GDI), the Gender Inequality Index (GII), and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- The Human Development Report was released for the first time in the year 1990, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The 2019 Human Development Report was titled "Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century".

- **Health and survival:** India secured rank 155 on this front. Its performance on Sex ratio at birth and healthy life expectancy has remained dismal. Despite several women-centric health programs, the rank in this front shows the lack of access or leakages in the system.
- **Economic Participation and Opportunity:** India got rank 151 on this end. This shows a poor labor force participation rate, inequality in wages for similar work, reduction in income, less participation as legislators, senior officials, and managers. The equal pay for equal work notion has not done well for women. And Still, a large gap exists in terms of position and payment for women.
- **Education attainment:** In the index of education attainment India has ranked at 114. India has shown improvement in the literacy rate. On the enrolment front for primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education, India has performed very well. The Right to education has been one of the major reasons for the improvement of this parameter.

What are the reasons behind the gap?

- **Gender-based sex-selective practices:** High incidence of gender-based sex-selective practices is behind the wide gaps in sex ratio at birth.
- **Violence:** Besides, more than one in four women have faced intimate violence in their lifetime.
- **Low rate of literacy:** Gender gaps persist in terms of literacy.
- **Economic difficulties:** Women continue to face economic and workplace difficulties and declining political participation, despite the progress in education and health.

Global Social Mobility Index; World Economic Forum (WEF)

- The World Economic Forum has created a new index to measure social mobility. It came out with its first-ever Global Social Mobility Report.

About

- World Economic Forum (WEF) released 1st edition of a report titled “**The Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative**”.
- The **global social mobility index (GSMI)** of 82 countries was launched in this report.
- As per the Index, **India ranked at the 76th position** with a score of 42.7, while **Denmark topped the list**.
- **Global social mobility index:** The GSMI focuses on drivers of relative social mobility instead of outcomes.
- It looks at policies, practices and institutions.
- This allows it to enable effective comparisons throughout regions and generations.
- It uses 10 pillars, which in turn are broken down into five determinants of social mobility – health, education, technology access, work opportunities, working conditions and fair wages and finally, social protection and inclusive institutions.
- **World Economic Forum:** WEF is based in Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland. It is an NGO, founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab. It is a membership-based organization of the world’s largest corporations. It hosts annual meeting at the end of January in Davos.
- **Mission:** “Committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas”.
- **European Management Forum:** WEF was first named the European Management Forum, and the name was changed in 1987 when it broadened its vision to include a platform for resolving international conflicts.

Social Mobility

- **Absolute social mobility:** Social mobility can be understood as the movement in personal circumstances either “upwards” or “downwards” of an individual in relation to those of their parents.
- In absolute terms, it is the ability of a child to experience a better life than their parents.
- **Relative social mobility:** On the other hand, relative social mobility is an assessment of the impact of socio-economic background on an individual’s outcomes in life.
- It can be measured against a number of outcomes ranging from health to educational achievement and income.

Global Fact findings

- GSMI there are **only a handful of nations with the right conditions** to foster social mobility.
- **Drag on social mobility:** Most countries underperform in four areas- fair wages, social protection, working conditions and lifelong learning.
- **Rapid growth countries not immune:** Inequalities are rising even in countries that have experienced rapid growth.
- **Nordic countries top the list: Denmark** tops the rankings with a social mobility score of 85.2, closely followed by **Finland** (83.6), **Norway** (83.6), **Sweden** (83.5) and **Iceland** (7).
- **G7 countries:** Among the G7 economies, **Germany** is the most socially mobile, ranking 11th with 78 points followed by **France** in 12th position. **Canada** ranks 14th followed by **Japan** (15th), the **United Kingdom** (21st), the **United States** (27th) and **Italy** (34th).
- **Emerging economies:** Among the world’s large emerging economies, the **Russian Federation** is the most socially mobile of the BRICS grouping, ranking 39th with a score of 64 points. Next is **China**, which ranks 45th, followed by **Brazil** (60th), **India** (76th) and **South Africa** (77th).
- **Wage disparities:** In the US, the top 1% of income earners in 2018 earned 158% more than in 1979, in comparison to just 24% for the bottom 90%.

India findings

- India ranks **76th out of 82 economies**.
- It ranks **41st** in lifelong learning and **53rd** in working conditions.
- India is among the five countries that **stand to gain the most from a better social mobility** score (China, the United States, India, Japan and Germany).
- **Areas of improvement** for India include social protection (76th) and fair wage distribution (79th).

Key findings

- **Driver of income equality:** Upward social mobility is a key driver of income equality. Increasing social mobility by 10 per cent would benefit social cohesion and boost the world’s economies by nearly 5 per cent by 2030.
- **Historical inequalities:** Children who are born into less affluent families typically experience greater barriers to success.
- Problem is not only for the individual, but also society and the economy.
- **Human capital** is the driving force of economic growth.

- As a result, anything that undermines the best allocation of talent and impedes the accumulation of human capital may significantly hamper growth.
- **Five key dimensions:** Measuring countries across five key dimensions distributed over 10 pillars – health; education (access, quality and equity); technology; work (opportunities, wages, conditions); and protections and institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions) .
- **Fourth Industrial Revolution:** Globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution have generated significant benefits, but have also exacerbated inequalities.
- **Continuing disruption to labour markets,** will likely compound differences in social mobility for those countries unprepared to take advantage of new opportunities.
- **Declining income share of labour** relative to an increase in the income share of capital has significantly driven economic inequality.
- **Wage disparities** have grown exponentially since the 1970s.
- **Globalization:** Globalisation has increased inequalities within countries by transferring low-skilled jobs in high-productivity sectors in high-income economies to lower-income counterparts. This has effectively penalized workers in specific locations and types of job.
- **Technology:** Technology has polarized inequalities by reducing demand for low-skilled jobs while rewarding highly skilled jobs disproportionately.
- **“Superstar” firms** have exacerbated this polarisation. They have high profits and a low share of labour, and as models of great productivity, have come to increasingly dominate markets.

Recommendations

- There is need for a new standard which could be used to identify priority **policy actions and business practices** that would improve social mobility.
- Achieving higher levels of social mobility needs to be perceived as an important element of a wider move towards a **stakeholder-based model of capitalism**.
- **“Digital leapfrogging”** will not happen unless the issues are systemically addressed. Technology has the potential to equalize barriers to entry to knowledge, but only if the conditions are conducive.
- **Governments must play the role of equalizer,** levelling the playing field for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic background. It must develop a new social protection contract which would offer holistic protection to all workers irrespective of their employment status, particularly in a context of technological change and industry transitions.
- Create new financing model for social mobility.
- Improving tax progressivity on personal income.
- Formulate policies that address wealth concentration.
- Re-balance sources of taxation which support the social mobility agenda.
- Public spending and policy incentives must put greater emphasis on social spending.
- More support for education and lifelong learning.
- Targeted improvements in the availability, quality and distribution of education.
- Promoting skills development throughout an individual’s working life.
- New approach to jointly finance efforts between the public and private sector.
- **Businesses must place purpose over profits** to perform better in the long term. Companies face equal risks from system challenges, including inequality. Paying fair wages and eliminating the gender pay gap will be crucial to boost social mobility.

- Businesses must take the lead by promoting a culture of meritocracy.
- Companies must create action plans specific to each industry.

NOTE:

- It measures countries across five key dimensions distributed over 10 pillars: health; education (access, quality, and equity); technology; work (opportunities, wages, conditions); and protections and institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions)
- Fair wages, social protection, and lifelong learning are the biggest drags on social mobility globally.

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ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2020

8	9	12	13	14	16	17	19	20		
24	26	28	30	31	36	38	41	45	50	
51	52	55	56	58	59	67	68	70	71	73
74	76	78	83	84	85	86	89	93	98	100

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CSE 2019

3	6	10	11	16	17	21	22	28			
30	33	38	39	42	44	46	53	54	59	66	69
70	72	77	78	80	82	84	86	87	94	97	98

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2018

2	3	5	7	27	36	37	40	44	49		
51	52	56	58	62	74	81	89	92	94	98	100

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2017

3	10	19	31	33	35	40	41	44	45	48		
54	57	63	64	68	71	75	77	80	83	93	97	100