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TARGET 2025

REPORTS & INDICES



UP TO FEB 2025

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Out of 100 questions asked in UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2024,
19 questions reflected directly and
19 questions reflected partially
from the Shankar IAS Parliament

Total number of questions directly reflected from Shankar IAS Parliament (including Target 2024 series)	19
Number of questions directly reflected from the Target Series 2024	14
Total number of questions partially reflected from Shankar IAS Parliament	19

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RECENT REPORTS/ INDICES

S. No	Index/ Report/ Book	Prepared/ Released by
Geography		
1.	Geothermal Atlas of India 2022	Geological Survey of India
Social Issues and Social Justice		
2.	Global Gender Gap Report 2024	World Economic Forum (WEF)
3.	State of the World's Children Report 2024	UNICEF
4.	Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2024	NGO Pratham Foundation
5.	Global TB Report 2023	World Health Organisation (WHO)
6.	Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) report	National Crimes Records Bureau
7.	Elderly in India 2021 Report	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
8.	World Poverty Clock Report	World Data Lab (Vienna-based NGO)
9.	Global Hunger Index 2024	Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
Polity and Governance		
10.	Good Governance Index (GGI)	Union Home Ministry
11.	State of the Judiciary Report 2023	Supreme Court of India
12.	Internet shutdowns in 2023	Access Now
13.	World Press Freedom Index 2024	Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders)
International Relations		
14.	Asia Power Index, 2024	The Lowy Institute
15.	World Migration Report 2024	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
16.	Multidimensional Vulnerability Index	United Nations
Economy		
17.	Business Ready Index (B-Ready)	World Bank
18.	World Investment Report, 2024	United Nations Trade & Development (UNCTAD)
19.	Special 301 Report 2024	United States Trade Representative (USTR)
20.	Global Innovation Index 2024	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

21.	World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI), 2024	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
22.	Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024	Portulans Institute
23.	Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)	National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
24.	India Skills Report 2025 (ISR 2025)	Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Wheebox, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
25.	World Food and Agriculture Book	UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
26.	State Mining Index (SMI)	Ministry of Mines
27.	Fiscal Health Index (FHI), 2025	Niti Aayog
28.	A World of Debt 2024 Report	UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
29.	Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)	National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
30.	Poverty, Prosperity and Planet Report 2024	World Bank
31.	India Employment Report 2024	The Institute for Human Development on labour and employment issues and ILO
32.	Rural Youth Employment Report 2024	Development Intelligence Unit (Transform Rural India, Sambodhi Research and the Global Development Incubator).
33.	Report on Currency and finance	Reserve Bank of India
34.	World Wealth Report, 2024	Capgemini Research Institute
Environment and Climate Change		
35.	Living Planet Report (LPR), 2024	World Wide Fund (WWF) & Zoological Society of London (ZSL).
36.	Global Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems	IUCN
37.	Report on Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions in India	European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)
38.	Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2025	Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International
39.	World Water Development report, 2023	UN

40.	2024 Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR 2024)	
41.	State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024	US-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project.
42.	The State of the World's Forests	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
43.	Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) report	UNICEF
44.	People in a Changing Climate	World Bank Group
45.	Needs Determination Report	UNFCCC
46.	Elephant Census Report	Wildlife Institute of India
47.	State of Ocean Report 2024	UNESCO
Security		
48.	Global Cybersecurity Index 2024	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Science and Technology		
49.	AI Innovation Report 2023	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

IMPORTANT REPORTS/ INDICES

S. No	REPORTS/INDICES	PUBLISHING ORGANIZATIONS
FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS		
1.	Global Economic Prospects Report	World Bank
2.	World Development Report	
3.	India Development Update	
4.	Migration and Development Brief (A Report on Remittances is a part of it)	
5.	Global Financial Development Report	
6.	Logistics Performance Index	
7.	Ease of Doing Business (Discontinued since 2021)	
8.	Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy	
9.	Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report	

10.	Groundswell Report	
11.	Global Human Capital Index	
12.	International Debt Report (Formerly, International Debt Statistics)	
13.	Women, Business and the Law Report	
14.	Global Cyber Security Outlook	World Economic Forum
15.	Global Risks Report	
16.	Global Gender Gap Report	
17.	Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report	
18.	Travel and Tourism Development Index (Evolved from the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index)	
19.	Net-Zero Industry Tracker	
20.	State of the Connected World Report	
21.	Global Health and Healthcare Strategic Outlook	
22.	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Lighthouses Report	WEF + Global Parity Alliance
23.	BiodiverCities by 2030 Report	WEF + Colombia based Alexander von Humboldt Institute
24.	Environment Performance Index (biennial)	WEF + Yale University + Columbia University
25.	Education 4.0 India Report	WEF + UNICEF + YuWaah (UNICEF's India Initiative)
26.	Global Financial Stability Report (biannual)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
27.	World Economic Outlook (biannual)	
28.	Fiscal Monitor Report (biannual)	
29.	External Sector Report (annual)	
30.	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (test once in 3 years)	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
31.	Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)	
32.	Development Co-operation Report	
33.	Goods Trade Barometer (Earlier known as World Trade Outlook Indicator)	World Trade Organisation (WTO)
34.	World Trade Statistical Review	

35.	World Trade Report	
UN & ITS SPECIALISED AGENCIES		
36.	Global Education Monitoring Report	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
37.	Gender Parity Index (Part of GEM)	
38.	State of the Education Report for India	
39.	Science Report	
40.	Global Ocean Science Report	
41.	World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development	
42.	UN World Water Development Report (on behalf of UN-Water)	
43.	The State of the World's Children Report	UNICEF
44.	Prospects for children in 2022: A global outlook	
45.	Humanitarian Action for Children	
46.	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys	
47.	Gender Action Plan 2022-2025	
48.	Global Report on Trafficking in Persons	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
49.	World Drug Report	
50.	World Wildlife Crime Report	
51.	Global report on cocaine	
52.	Global Report on Corruption in Sport	
53.	Global Digital Regulatory Outlook	United Nations International Telecommunication Union (UN-ITU)
54.	Global Connectivity Report	
55.	Global Cyber Security Index	
56.	Global E-waste Monitor Report	Global E-waste Statistics Partnership including ITU, United Nations University (UNU) & International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) in collaboration with UNEP
57.	Global Transboundary E-waste Flows Monitor	UN Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR)
58.	Mid-Year Trends Report	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
59.	Refugee Education Report	
60.	Global Report on law and policy on internal displacement	UNHCR + Global Protection Cluster

61.	World Investment Report	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
62.	Trade & Development Report	
63.	The Least Developed Countries Report	
64.	Review of Maritime Transport	
65.	The Technology and Innovation Report	
66.	World Economic Situation and Prospects	UNCTAD + UN-Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA) + 5 UN Regional Commissions
67.	World's Women Report (Once in 5 years)	UN-DESA
68.	World Social Report	
69.	World Population Prospects	
70.	The Sustainable Development Goals Report	
71.	E-Government Development Index	
72.	E-Government Survey	
73.	E-Participation Index (Part of E-Government Survey)	
74.	The Gender Snapshot	UN Women + UN DESA
75.	Industrial Development Report	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
76.	Global Assessment Report	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
77.	Trends in Maternal Mortality (2000-2020)	United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG)
78.	State of World Population Report	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
79.	Gender Strategy (2022-2025)	
80.	World Cities Report	UN-Habitat
81.	Global Sustainable Development Report 2023	Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General
82.	Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022	UN DESA
83.	Sustainable Development Report 2022	UN – Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
84.	World Happiness Report	
85.	World Social Protection Report	International Labour Organization (ILO)
86.	Social Dialogue Report	
87.	World Employment and Social Outlook	
88.	Global Estimates of Modern Slavery	

89.	Global Wage Report	
90.	Global Employment Trends for Youth	
91.	Human Development Report	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
92.	Gender Inequality Index	
93.	Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025	
94.	Gender Strategy (2022-2025)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
95.	Global Environment Outlook	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
96.	Emission Gap Report	
97.	Adaptation Gap Report	
98.	Inclusive Wealth Report	
99.	International Methane Emissions Observatory Report	
100.	Greening the Blue Report	
101.	State of Finance for Nature	
102.	The State of the World's Peatlands	
103.	Global Status Report for Buildings & Construction	UNEP + Climate and Clean Air Coalition
104.	Global Methane Assessment	
105.	IPCC Assessment Reports	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
106.	AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023	
107.	The State of the World's Forests	Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
108.	The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets	
109.	The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture	
110.	The State of Food and Agriculture	
111.	Global Food Price Index	
112.	Report on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry'	FAO, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
113.	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World	FAO, WHO, UNICEF, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN World Food Programme (WFP)
114.	World Health Statistics	World Health Organization (WHO)
115.	Global Tuberculosis Report	
116.	Global Nutrition Report	
117.	World Malaria Report	

118.	World Air Quality Report	IQ Air and Greenpeace
119.	Greenhouse Gas Bulletin	World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
120.	Global Seasonal Climate update	
121.	State of the Global Climate	
122.	State of Global Water Resources	
123.	United in Science Report	
124.	State of Climate Services	World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
125.	World Migration Report	UN International Organisation for Migration
126.	Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
127.	Patent Landscape Report	
128.	World Intellectual Property Indicators	
129.	World Intellectual Property Report	
130.	Global Innovation Index	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Cornell University + INSEAD
131.	International Intellectual Property Index	US Chamber of Commerce
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS		
132.	Asian Economic Integration Report	Asian Development Bank
133.	Asian Development Outlook	
134.	Asian Infrastructure Finance Report	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
135.	Red List	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
136.	Wetlands and people at risk	
137.	World Wildlife Trade Report	CITES in collaboration with UNEP, UNCTAD, WTO, IUCN and TRAFFIC
138.	World Wildlife Crime Report	UNODC
139.	Global State of Democracy Report	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA)
140.	Democracy in Asia and the Pacific Outlook	
141.	In Danger: Global AIDS Update 2022	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
142.	Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
NUCLEAR ORGANISATIONS REPORTS		

143.	Nuclear Security Review	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
144.	Nuclear Safety Review	
145.	Nuclear Technology Review	
146.	Global Status of Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations	
147.	Red Book	IAEA + OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
ENERGY RELATED REPORTS		
148.	World Energy Outlook	International Energy Agency (IEA)
149.	World Energy Investment Report	
150.	Global Electric Vehicle Outlook	
151.	Energy Technology Perspectives	
152.	Clean Energy Transitions Programme	
153.	Global Methane Tracker	
154.	Net Zero by 2050 Report	
155.	World Energy Transitions Outlook	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
156.	Renewable Capacity Statistics	
157.	The Breakthrough Agenda Report	IRENA, IEA and the UN Climate Change High-level Champions
158.	World Oil Outlook	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS		
159.	Living Planet Report	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
160.	Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International
161.	World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders
162.	Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report, 2022	Project 39A of the National Law University
163.	Global Hunger Index	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
164.	Renewables 2022: Global Status Report	REN21
165.	India Inequality Report: Digital Divide	Oxfam India
166.	India Discrimination Report	

167.	Global Pension Index	Melbourne Mercer + CFA Institute + Monash Centre for Financial Studies.
168.	Global Estimates of Modern Slavery	ILO, Walk Free Foundation and International Organization for Migration
169.	Climate Change Performance Index	German Watch + New Climate Institute + Climate Action Network
170.	Global Climate Risk Index	German Watch
171.	Rule of Law Index	World Justice Project, US independent Multidisciplinary organisation
172.	Financial Secrecy Index	Tax Justice Network, UK based advocacy group
173.	Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index	Oxfam and Development Finance International
174.	Network Readiness Index 2024	Portulans Institute, Washington based non-profit Institute
175.	Internet Freedom Index / Freedom on the Net Report	Freedom House
176.	Henley Passport Index	Henley and Partners
177.	Global Crypto Adoption Index 2022	Chainalysis
RESEARCH CENTRES & OTHER INSTITUTES		
178.	Index of Economic Freedom	Heritage Foundation + Wall Street Journal
179.	International Intellectual Property Index	US Chamber of Commerce
180.	Ecological Threat Report (ETR)	Institute of Economics & Peace (IEP), Australia
181.	Global Peace Index	
182.	Global Terrorism Index	
183.	Worldwide Cost of Living Index	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), UK
184.	Global Democracy Index	
185.	Global Liveability Index	
186.	Inclusive Internet Index	
187.	Report on International Arms Transfers	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
188.	Multidimensional Poverty Index	UNDP, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative
189.	Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2022	INSEAD, Portulans Institute and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore

190.	State of Global Air Report	Health Effects Institute, Boston
191.	Social Progress Index	Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative
192.	World Inequality Report	World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics
193.	International Religious Freedom Report	US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
194.	Global Wealth Report	Credit Suisse Group, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank
195.	Ocean State Report (6 th issue) 2022	Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service
196.	World University Rankings	Quacquarelli Symonds
197.	Gross Domestic Climate Risk Report	Cross Dependency Initiative (XDI)
198.	Global Food Policy Report	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
199.	World Competitiveness Index	Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center.
REPORTS RELATED TO INDIA		
200.	India State of Forest Report	Forest Survey of India
201.	National Air Quality Index	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
202.	Comprehensive Environment Pollution Index (CEPI)	
203.	National Ambient Air Quality Standard	
204.	State Food Safety Index	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
205.	Periodic Labour Force Survey	National Sample Survey Office
206.	Payroll Reporting in India	National Statistical Office (NSO)
207.	All India Survey on Migration	Labour Bureau
208.	All-India Quarterly establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES)	
209.	Business Confidence Index	National Council of Applied Economic Research
210.	Responsible AI	NITI Aayog
211.	SDG India Index	
212.	SDG Urban Index	

213.	Data Governance Quality Index	
214.	State Energy and Climate Index	
215.	Composite Water Management Index	
216.	India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy	
217.	Strategy for New India at 75	
218.	School Education Quality Index (SEQI)	NITI Aayog, Ministry of Education and World Bank
219.	Export Preparedness Index (EPI)	NITI Aayog and Institute of Competitiveness
220.	India Innovation Index	NITI Aayog, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), CII
221.	State Energy Efficiency Index	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE)
222.	Energy Performance Index	Bureau of Energy Efficiency
223.	Ease of Living Index 2020 (At India Level)	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
224.	Swachh Survekshan Report	
225.	Crime in India Report	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
226.	Accidental Deaths and Suicides Report	
227.	Financial Inclusion Index	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
228.	Financial Stability Report	
229.	RESIDEX	National Housing Bank
230.	Internet in India Report 2022	Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)
231.	Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) 2022	PRATHAM, an NGO
232.	All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21	Ministry of Education
233.	United Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report 2021-22	
234.	Performance Grading Index	
235.	Education Development Index India (State Level)	Ministry of Education & National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)
236.	National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)	Ministry of Education

237.	Logistics Ease Across Different States Index (LEADS)	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
238.	National Family Health Survey	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
239.	Public Affairs Index	Public Affairs Centre (Not for Profit Think Tank)
240.	India Justice Report	Tata Trusts
241.	Greenex (Green Index)	Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
242.	National Achievement Survey	NCERT
243.	Municipal Bond Index	National Stock Exchange (NSE)
244.	Tribal Development Report	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF)
245.	The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100	Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) and the Institute for Competitiveness
246.	State of India's Environment Report	Down to Earth, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

1. SOCIAL ISSUES & SOCIAL JUSTICE

1.1 Global Gender Gap Report 2024

Recently, the Global Gender Gap Report 2024 was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

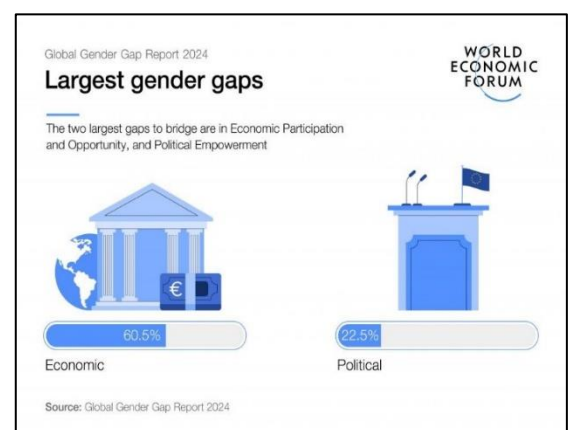
- **About** – It **annually** benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity.
- **Released by** – World Economic Forum (WEF).
- **Adoption** – Adopted in 2006.
- It benchmarks gender parity across **146** countries.
- It measures scores on a 0 to 100 scale and scores can be interpreted as the distance covered towards parity (i.e. the % of the gender gap that has been closed).

Highlights of the report, 2024

Global

- It highlights that **no country** has achieved full gender parity.
- Iceland is ranked **1st**, most gender equal country and has been leading the index for a decade and a half.
- European economies occupy 7 spots out of the global top 10.
- **Bangladesh** is the 1st country in the Southern Asia to get a double-digit rank of 99.
- The world has closed **68.5% of the gender gap**, indicating progress toward gender equality.
- **Political disparity** – It is high in entire South Asia although the region has moved 4% points towards political parity since 2006.

4 Parameters



- **Health and Survival gap** - It has closed by 96%.

India's status in 2024

- **Rank** – India has been ranked **129th** out of 146 countries, a decline from its previous position of 127th in 2023.
- India ranks **3rd lowest** among the South Asian economies, lower than Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- **Political Empowerment** – It has better representation of women as heads of state compared to ministerial positions and parliament.
- Women hold **40.7% of head-of-state** positions but only 6.9% in ministerial positions and 17.2% in parliament.
- Only 2 out of 30 Union ministers in the newly formed Indian cabinet are women.
- The number of female ministers in the Central Council of Ministers has decreased from 10 to 7.
- **Economic Participation** – It has made progress in economic participation and opportunity but still ranks low at **142nd place**.
- **Education** – Although women in India have high enrolment rates in primary, secondary, and tertiary education, there's still a significant gender gap in literacy rate (17.2%) and ranks 124th globally in this indicator.

Global Gender Gap Index rankings by region, 2024

Southern Asia			
Economy	Rank		Score
	Regional	Global	
Bangladesh	1	99	0.689
Nepal	2	117	0.664
Sri Lanka	3	122	0.653
Bhutan	4	124	0.651
India	5	129	0.641
Maldives	6	132	0.633
Pakistan	7	145	0.570

1.2 State of the World's Children report, 2024

- **Published by** – United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Report Findings

- It is a vital statistics on child survival, development and protection across countries and regions worldwide.
- It explore all future indicators and their impact for children.
- **3 Megatrends** – Impact children's lives between now and 2050:
 - Demographic transitions
 - Climate and environmental crises
 - Frontier Technologies
- **3 Future scenarios** – It shows children depending on rates of progress and on the actions of decision-makers.
- **Business-as-usual trendlines** – Child populations in low-income and lower-middle-income countries will surge by the 2050s.
- **Accelerated development** – They are exposed to prolonged subnational conflict and heatwaves.
- **Delayed development** – They are still facing extreme gender inequality with 1.1 billion living in gender unequal societies.

UNICEF

- **UNICEF** – It is an agency of the United Nations responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- It works in over 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child.
- It provides children to survive, thrive, fulfil their potential, education, health, and nutrition services, and protect them from violence, and abuse and keep them safe from climate change and disease.
- UNICEF is world's largest provider of vaccines, and also runs the world's largest humanitarian warehouse.

1.3 Global Hunger Index 2024 (GHI)

Why in News?

Recently, Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 has been published.

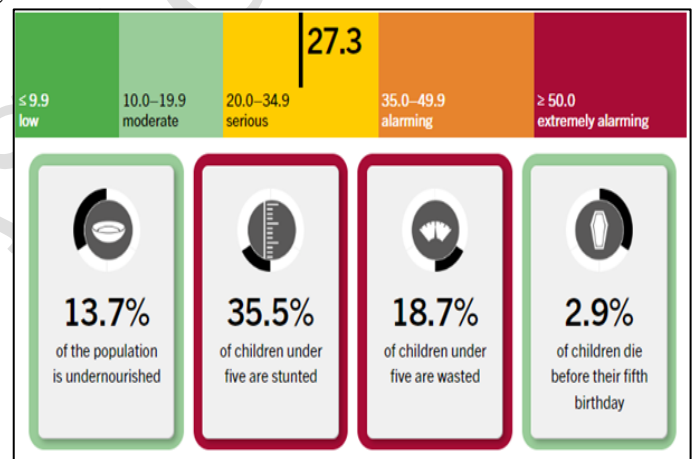
- **GHI** – It is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional and national levels.

- **Released by** – Concern Worldwide (Irish humanitarian organisation) & Welthungerhilfe (German aid agency).
- **GHI scores** – They are based on the values of 4 component indicators.

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ (Undernourishment)} + \frac{1}{6} \text{ (Child stunting)} + \frac{1}{6} \text{ (Child wasting)} + \frac{1}{3} \text{ (Child mortality)} = \text{GHI SCORE}$$

Undernourishment	The share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
Child Stunting	The share of children under age 5 who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
Child Wasting	The share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
Child Mortality	The share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.

- **India's GHI 2024 Rank** - India ranks 105th out of the 127 countries with a score of **27.3**.
- **Hunger Status** - Severe
- As per the report, about 200 million people i.e. 14% of India's existing population is undernourished.
- **Data Used** - It considers the Sample Registration System statistical reports released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes annually.
- **India's Undernutrition (As per the report)**
 - **Infant mortality Rate** - It was 26 per 1,000 live births in 2022, while the global average was 28.
 - **Undernourishment** - 13.7% of the population
 - **Child Stunting** - 35.5% of children
 - **Child Wasting** - 18.7% of children
 - **Child Mortality** - 2.9% of children dying before their fifth birthday.
- **Contention by India** - Ministry of Women and Child Development had expressed concerns about the data not being accessed from their ICT application 'Poshan Tracker'.
- **Difference in Data** – Government data on child wasting was 7.2% while the report states 18.7%.



2. GOVERNANCE

2.1 World Press Freedom Index 2024

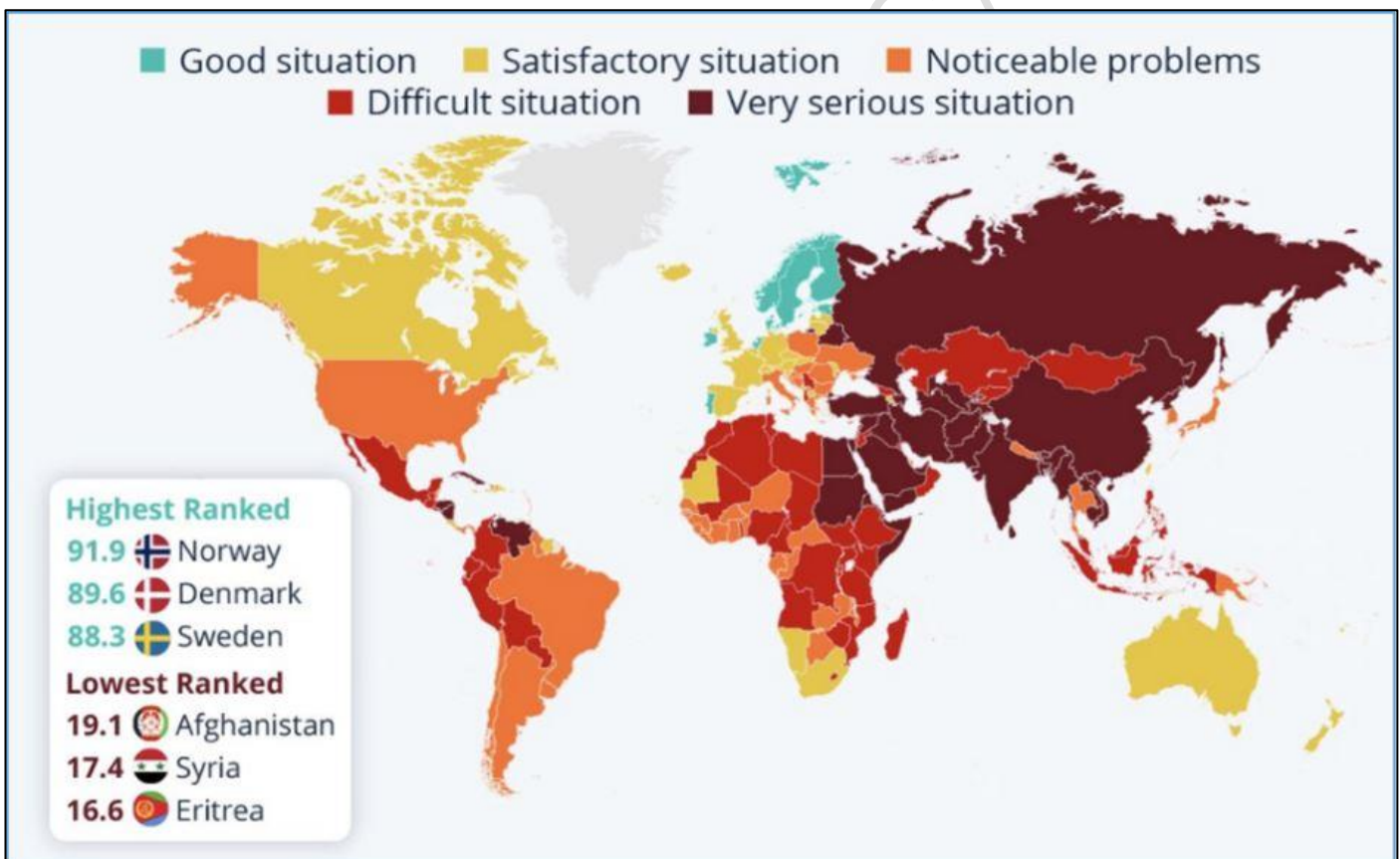
India press freedom score falls in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.

- It is an annual index of freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions.
- **Released by** – Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders), a global media watchdog headquartered in Paris, France.
- It has consultative status with the United Nations and the UNESCO.

Press freedom is defined as the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce & disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety.

- **Analysis** – It is assessed globally and also regionally like Africa, Americas, Asia – Pacific, Europe - Central Asia and Middle East - North Africa.
- **Score**
 - ‘o’ – For the **worst** possible performance.
 - ‘100’ – The **best** possible score.
- **2 Indicators** – A tally of abuses against media and journalists in connection with their work.
- A qualitative analysis of the situation in each country or territory based on the responses of “press freedom specialists” to an RSF questionnaire available in 24 languages.
- **5 categories RSF questionnaire** – Political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security.
- **2024 report** – Press freedom around the world fell by an average 7.6 points globally and is being threatened by the very people who should be its guarantors, the political authorities.
 - **Topper** – Norway and Denmark topped.
 - **Worst performers** – Eritrea was at the bottom, with Syria just ahead of it.
- **India** – It improved from 161 in 2023 to **159 in 2024** only because other countries had slipped in their rankings.
- Scores dropped in all 4 categories of questionnaire except the security indicator, thus overall score fell from 36.62 to 31.28.

In May 2024, Chile and UNESCO will host the 31st World Press Freedom Day Conference.



2.2 Internet shutdowns in 2023

According to a new report, India records highest number of Internet shutdowns globally in 2023.

- **Report title** – Shrinking democracy, growing violence: internet shutdowns in 2023.
- **Published by** – **Access Now**, to keep alive the #KeepItOn campaign.

The #KeepItOn campaign, started in 2016 unites and organizes global organizations and efforts to end internet shutdowns. It covers more than 334 members from 106 countries around the world.

- **Common cause of internet shutdown**

- **Stated** – National security, public safety and to prevent the spread of misinformation & hate speech.
- **Actual** – To oppress, silence & control the mass people.

- **India** – The Internet was ***snapped 116 times in 2023***.

- **Causes** – Communal tension, violence, exams, and other reasons.

- **Impact** – A total of **13 States and UTs** imposed shutdowns in 2023, where 7 of them disrupted Internet services 5 or more times.

- More and more of these shutdown orders are being applied regionally rather than locally with 64 shutdown orders affect[ing] more than 1 district in the same State, province, or region.

- There were **47 shutdowns in Manipur** regionally and a State-wide shutdown in Punjab.

Shutdown triggers in 2023			
Conflicts	Protests	Exams	Elections
74 shutdowns in 9 countries during conflicts	63 shutdowns in 15 countries during protests	12 shutdowns in 6 countries "to prevent exam cheating"	5 shutdowns in 5 countries tied to elections

2023 is the 6th straight year India has topped the list of internet shutdowns. Shutdowns in Manipur and Punjab last year led to millions being cut off from the Internet.

2.3 Good Governance Index (GGI)

Recently, the central government has decided not to release the Good Governance Index 2023 (GGI) for this year, instead publishing the next edition in 2025.

- **GGI** – A comprehensive and implementable framework to assess the State of Governance in all the States and UTs which enables ranking of States/Districts and present a comparative picture.
- It provides a biennial ranking of states and Union territories (UT).
- **Launched in** – **2019**, Union Home Ministry.
- It was launched on 25th of December to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is observed as Good Governance Day.
- **Prepared by** – Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
- **Objectives** – To create a tool which can be used uniformly across the States and to assess impact of various interventions taken up by the Central and State Governments including UTs.
- **Approach and Methodology** – They are guided by the recommendations of GoS on Governance.
- **Components** – It assess over 50 indicators across sectors like agriculture, public health, economic governance, and citizen-focused services.

*The editions of GGI released have been for the **years 2019 and 2021**. Tamil Nadu topped the rankings for big states in 2019, while Gujarat secured the top spot in 2021.*

A. Consultative and Citizen Centric	• National and State-level Consultations
B. 360 Degree and Pragmatic	• Within the entire spectrum of governance, only the most critical aspects are finalised allowing pragmatic measurement
C. Generic-to-Specific	• Broad sectors encompass the entire governance spectrum; further divided into indicators that get measured
D. Simple and Quantitative	• Indicators identified can be measured quantitatively majorly based on the available secondary data

3. ECONOMY

3.1 World Migration Report 2024

As per UN report India sets record with over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022

- **Released by** – International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN related organization.
- **Publication** – Biennial (every 2 years), since 2000.
- **Record remittance** – In 2022, India become the 1st country to have surpassed USD 111 billion in remittances.
- **Leading recipient** – India was the leading recipient of remittances in 2010, 2015, and 2020, with figures steadily climbing to reach the unprecedented USD 111.22 billion mark in 2022.
- **Top recipient countries in 2023** – India, Mexico, China, Philippines and France.
- **Southern Asia's inflow** – Countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have seen a significant remittance inflows, highlighting the importance of labour migration from the region.
- **Gulf States** – Countries like UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar have a high % of migrant workers compared to their national populations.
 - 2022 football World Cup highlighting the reliance on migrant labour in these regions.
- **India** – It is the origin of the largest number of international migrants with a diaspora of approximately 18 million individuals and ranks 13th in the destination country.
- **Work nature** – Mostly work in sectors such as construction, hospitality, security, domestic work and retail.
- **International migration corridor** – India features prominently in international migration corridors, with significant migration flows observed between India and the UAE, the US, Saudi Arabia, and Bangladesh.
- **Impact of pandemic** – The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted internal labour migration in India, leading to a substantial shift in workforce dynamics.
- **Reverse migration** – The lockdowns and restrictions imposed to control the spread of the virus caused a 'crisis of mobility'.
- **Decline in workforce** – There has been a decline of almost 10% in blue-collar workforce mobility towards cities, which has drastically cut the labour supply for major industries.
- **Challenges** – Despite the financial benefits, migrants from these countries face risks such as exploitation, debt, xenophobia and workplace abuses.

These Diasporas are dispersed across countries such as the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia.

3.2 Special 301 Report 2024

The Special 301 Report 2024 terms India 'One of The Most Challenging Economies in IP Protection, Enforcement'.

- It is an annual review of the global state of intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement.
- **Released by** – The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
- **2024 edition** – On adequacy & effectiveness of U.S. trading partners' protection and enforcement of IP rights.
- USTR continued its enhanced approach to public engagement activities.
- **Data** – It details USTR's findings in a review of more than 100 trading partners after significant research and enhanced engagement with stakeholders.
- The review of Ukraine continues to be suspended due to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- **Highlights of the report** – It reviews the progress made by the trading partners to resolve and address IP issues of concern to US.
- **Removal from watch list** – It includes the Dominican Republic and Uzbekistan this year for their progress on addressing concerns with IP enforcement and transparency.
- **Priority Watch List** – It placed 7 countries indicating that serious problems exist in that country with respect to IP issues.
 - Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and Venezuela.
- They will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement during the coming year.

- **Relation with India** – There are progress under the US-India Trade Policy Forum in addressing issues with trademark infringement investigations and pre-grant opposition proceedings, but numerous long-standing concerns remain which are
 - **Issues** – Inadequate IP enforcement, high rates of online piracy, an extensive trademark opposition backlog, and insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets.
- **Watch list** – It places 20 countries.
 - Algeria, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.
- It merit bilateral attention to address underlying IP problems
- **Cross cutting issues** – It recognizes that counterfeit products can pose harms to the citizens of the trading partners where those counterfeit products are consumed.
- **Recognising international laws** – US continues to respect its trading partners' rights to grant compulsory licenses in line with WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and the Doha Declaration.

3.3 World Wealth Report, 2024

The latest report reveals that in 2023, the number of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and their wealth hit record levels.

- **Published by** – Capgemini Research Institute.
- **Wealth expansion** – Global HNWI wealth expanded by 4.7% in 2023.
- **HNWI population** – Increased by 5.1% to 22.8 million.

Findings

- North America posted the most robust recovery, expanding in HNWI wealth and in HNWI population.
- Asia-Pacific experienced 4.2% HNWI growth and 4.8% rise in HNWI population.
- Among the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, **India and Australia, recorded HNWI wealth growth.**

High-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) are high-net-worth individuals with investable assets of USD 1 million or more, excluding their primary residence, collectables, consumables, and consumer durables.

Increased parameters in India	Decreased parameters in India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) (3.589 million) • Market capitalisation • National savings as a percentage of GDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment Rate

3.4 World Investment Report, 2024

According the recent 'world Investment Report 2024, Global foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 2% in 2023 amid an economic slowdown and rising geopolitical tensions.

- **Focus** – Trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.
- **Released by** – UNCTAD.

Key findings of the report

- Global FDI fell by 2% in 2023.
- FDI flows to developing countries dropped 7%.
- FDI flows to structurally weak and vulnerable economies increased.
- Investment in sectors linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fell by more than 10%.

- Reforming older international investment agreements (IIAs) remains slow, with about half of global FDI still governed by non-reformed treaties, increasing the risk of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) cases.
- Only 16% of global FDI stock is covered by new-generation IIAs.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- It is an intergovernmental organization dealing with trade and development.
- **Established by** – The UNs General Assembly on December 30, 1964.
- **Aim** - To promote integration of developing countries into the global economy and their inclusive and sustainable development through trade and investments.
- **Membership** - 195 states.
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland.

3.5 Global Innovation Index 2024

The 17th edition of Global Innovation Index was released.

Global Innovation Index (GII)

- It captures the innovation ecosystem performance of economies & tracks the most recent global innovation trends.
- **Released by** – World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- **7 indicators**
 - Institutions
 - Human Capital and Research
 - Infrastructure
 - Market Sophistication
 - Business Sophistication
 - Knowledge and Technology Outputs
 - Creative Outputs

- **GII 2024** – A guide to the innovative performance of **133 countries**, as well as the world's top 100 science and technology clusters.
- **Special theme** – Unlocking the Promise of Social Entrepreneurship.
- **Findings** – There is a continued trend of strong progress from emerging economies.
 - **Highest riser in past 5 years** – Indonesia, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brazil
 - **Highest riser in past 10 years** – China, India, Iran, Morocco, the Philippines and Türkiye
- **Rankings** – Switzerland tops for the 14th consecutive year, followed by Sweden and the US respectively.
- **India** – It secured the 39th position, a slight improvement of one rank from last year.
- **India's improvement** – In Infrastructure and Creative Outputs indicators.
- India tops the charts as the best innovation economy in
 - Central and Southern Asian region.
 - Lower Middle-income group
- It performs well in key indicators such as
 - **1st** – In ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports
 - **6th** – In venture capital received

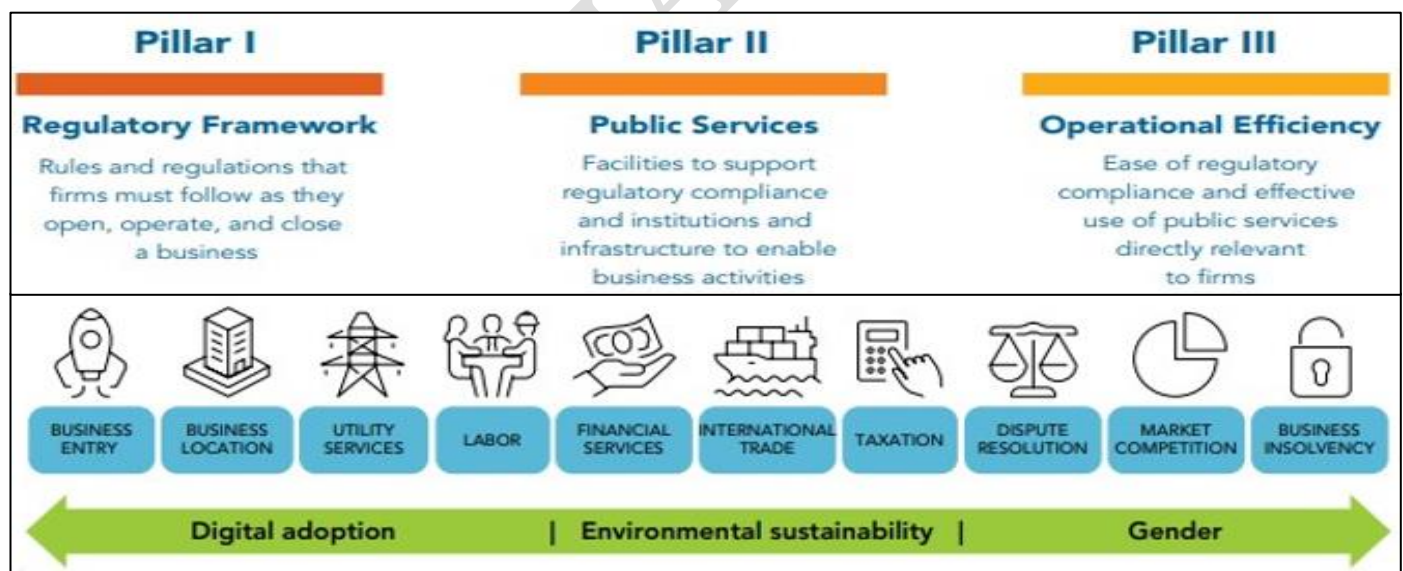
- 7th – In intangible asset intensity
- 8th – In unicorn companies
- **India's lagging** – Worsened in indicators like Human Capital & Research, Market Sophistication, and Business Sophistication.

3.6 Business Ready Index (B-Ready)

Indian government is looking to align some indicators of India's BRAP 2024 index with the World Bank's B-READY index recently.

- **B-Ready** – It is a quantitative assessment tool that evaluates the business environment.
- It analyses project of the World Bank Group to assess the business and investment climate worldwide.
- It is a successor to the Ease of Doing Business rankings, which were discontinued in 2021 due to irregularities.
- **Aim** – To facilitate private investment, generate employment, and improve productivity to help economies accelerate development.
- **Indicators - 3 Pillars & 10 Parameters** covering a firm's lifecycle, including starting, operating, closing, and reorganizing.
- **Scoring** – For each economy, it produces 2 sets of scores
- One consisting of 10 topic scores and another comprising 3 pillar scores.
- Topic and pillar scores can range from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 100.
- Although the B-READY rankings will commence in 2024, India will only participate in the exercise in 2026.
- The first set of rankings will feature **54 countries**, with the 2025 report covering 120 economies and the 2026 version having rankings on 180 economies.

The government had recently announced the BRAP 2022 rankings, which were topped by Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

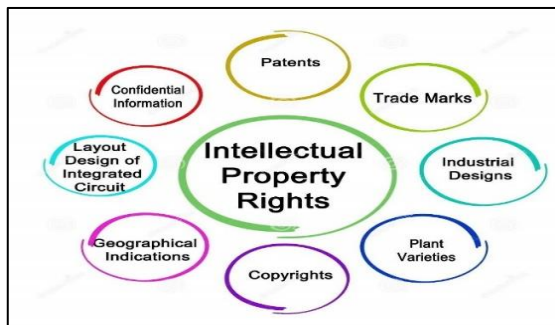


3.7 World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI), 2024

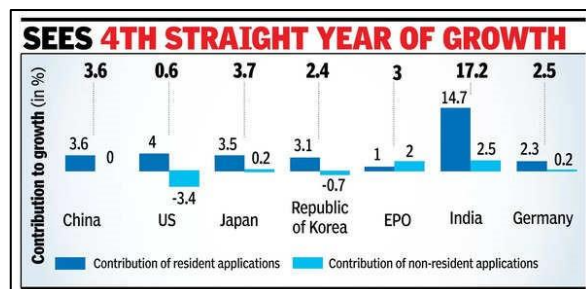
India secures position in top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs in the recently released WIPI, 2024.

- **WIPI** – It is an annual statistical report.
- **Published by** – World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- It underscores global trends in Intellectual Property (IP) statistics collected from the 193 member States of WIPO.

- **India's position** – For the 1st time in the **global top 10** for all 3 major intellectual property (IP) rights.
- **3 major IP** – Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial designs.
- **Global Findings** – **Asia continues to be the top spot** for patents, accounting for 68.7%, 66.7% and 69% of global patent, trademark and industrial design in 2023.
- **Global patenting activity** – It reached new heights in 2023 as applications surpassed 3.5 million for the 1st time.
- It marks the **4th consecutive year of growth** despite a challenging macroeconomic environment.



- China (1.64 million), the US (518,364), Japan (414,413), the Republic of Korea (287,954) and Germany (133,053) led global patent filings.
- **Global industrial design filing activity** – It also **grew in 2023**, rising by 2.8% to 1.52 million designs, with 7 of the top 20 countries seeing double digit growth.
- In contrast, Germany (−7.6%) and the Republic of Korea (−3.4%) saw declines.
- **Trademark filing activity** – It reflects a **2% decline on 2022**, though the decrease was much less severe than in the previous year.
- Among the top 5 origins, **Italy (+15.7%) had the fastest growth** in filings in 2023, followed by China (+5%) and the US (+2.6%).
- **Asia's position** – They constituted 68.7% of the world total.
- Over the course of a decade, their share of total applications filed globally has **increased**.
- Meanwhile, Northern America's share has decreased from 23.6% in 2013 to 17.8% in 2023, while Europe's has fallen by 3.2% points down to 10.3% during the same period.



3.8 Poverty, Prosperity and Planet Report 2024

'Poverty, Prosperity and Planet: Pathways out of the Polycrisis' report was recently released.

- **Released by** – World Bank
- **Pathways out of the Polycrisis** – It provides the 1st post-pandemic global assessment of poverty and shared prosperity.
- **Global Poverty Level** – Almost half the global population (44%), live today on less than \$6.85 per day, the poverty line for upper-middle-income countries.
- **Global Extreme Poverty** – 8.5% of the global population (almost 700 million people) live today in extreme poverty, on less than \$2.15 per day.

Polycrisis a complex situation where multiple, interconnected crises converge and amplify each other, resulting in a predicament which is difficult to manage or resolve.

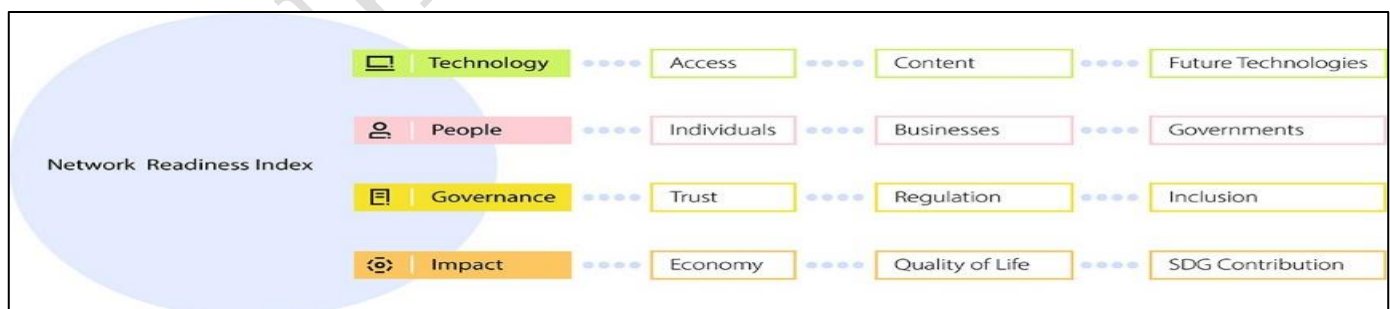
- According to World Bank, the people in extreme poverty is who live on less than **\$2.15 per day**.
- **Global Poverty Concentration** – Extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and fragile countries is increased.
- **Poverty Level in India** – More Indians are living below the poverty line in 2024 than in 1990, primarily driven by ‘population growth’.
- **Extreme Poverty in India** – **129 mn** Indians living in extreme poverty in 2024 down from 431 million in 1990.
- **Cessation of Poverty Reduction** – Global poverty reduction had slowed to a near standstill, with 2020–2030 set to be a lost decade.
- **Poverty Forecast** – At the current pace of progress, it would take decades to eradicate extreme poverty and more than a century to lift people above \$6.85 per day mark.
- Based on the current trajectory, 622 million people (7.3 % of the global population) are projected to live in extreme poverty in 2030.
 - Global poverty reduction target is 3 % by 2030.
- **Projection for India** – India’s contribution to global extreme poverty was projected to decline significantly over the next decade.
- **Causes of Stagnant Poverty** – Interconnected crisis of slow economic growth, conflict and fragility, and climate-related shocks.
- **Recommendation** – It is critical to promote sustainable investments, mitigate climate risks, and create opportunities that foster inclusive growth.

Poverty threshold standard for middle-income countries is **\$6.85 (about Rs 576) per day**.

3.9 Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024

Recently, the Portulans Institute released a report of Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024 which showed that India has raised 11 places to enter into top 50 nations.

- **NRI** – It is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in economies across the world.
- **Aim** – To measures the propensity for countries to exploit the opportunities offered by information and communications technology.
- **Launched in** – 2002.
- **Published by** – World Economic Forum in collaboration with European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD) annually.
- **Released by** – Portulans Institute and Said Business School at the University of Oxford.
- **Indices** – 4 main pillars and each pillar is further divided into 3 sub-pillars.



- **NRI 2024** – It evaluates the network readiness of 133 economies that collectively account for 95% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Global Performers** – For the 3rd consecutive year, the US, Singapore, and Finland leads the world in NRI.
 - Singapore and the Republic of Korea are the only countries from Asia.
- In terms of income distribution within the rankings,
 - High-income economies – 52
 - Upper-middle-income economies – 36

- Lower-middle-income economies – 32
- Low-income economies – 13
- **Low Ranking Countries** – It particularly affecting African nations like Uganda (118th), Malawi (119th), and Chad (130th).
- **India's ranking – 49th position globally**, from 60th position in the 2023.
- It also increased its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024.
- It reflects its dual nature of technology powerhouse and developing economy.
- **India's Performance** – Its achievements in several key areas which includes,
 - **1st Rank** – AI Scientific Publications, AI Talent Concentration and ICT Services Exports.
 - **2nd Rank** – FTTH (Fiber to the Home) / Building Internet Subscriptions, Mobile Broadband Internet Traffic within the Country, International Internet Bandwidth.
 - **3rd Rank** – Domestic Market Scale.
 - **4th Rank** – Annual Investment in Telecommunication Services.

Top Countries	NRI Ranking
United States	1
Singapore	2
Finland	3

*India has also **ranked** 2nd among lower-middle-income countries.*

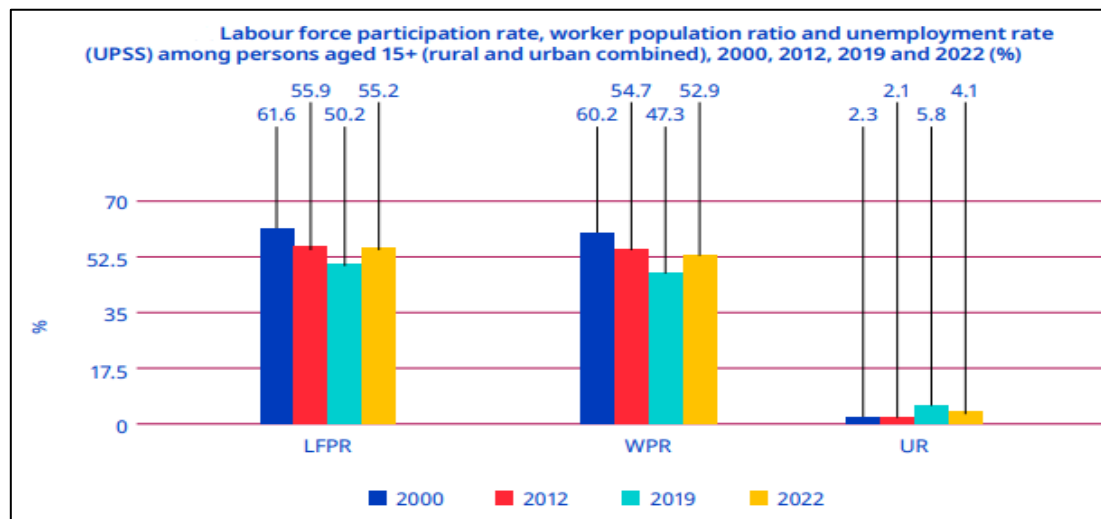
World Economic Forum

- It is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
- **Founded in** – 24 January 1971.
- **Headquarters** – Cologny, Switzerland.
- **Principles** – Legitimacy, accountability, transparency and concerted action.
- It provides a global, impartial and not-for-profit platform for meaningful connection between stakeholders.

3.10 India Employment Report, 2024

India is likely to have a demographic advantage for at least another decade according to India Employment Report 2024.

- It is the 3rd in the series of publication.
- **Published by** – The Institute for Human Development on labour and employment issues and International Labour Organization.
- **Tagline** – Youth employment, education and skills.
- **Aim** – To examine the challenge of youth employment with respect to emerging economic, labour market, educational & skills scenarios and the changes witnessed over the past 2 decades in India.
- **Data source** – Largely on the Employment and Unemployment Surveys (EUS) and Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), conducted by NSSO.
- **Analysis** – It compares 4 years: 2000, 2012, 2019, and 2022.
- **Findings** – Unemployment and underemployment rates increased till 2018 but declined thereafter.
 - Unemployment rate declined from 6% in 2018 to 3.2% in 2023
 - Youth unemployment rate fall from 17.8% to 10% in 2023
- The employment quality, as per Employment Condition Index, has improved in all states, albeit differently.
- Increase in the share of non-farm employment (and decline in agriculture employment) between 2000 and 2019, implies a movement towards the structural transformation of the economy.
- A steady increase in regular employment & decline in unorganised sector employment which was halted during the Covid period.
- In comparison to the wages of regular workers, the wages of casual workers increased even during 2019-22.
- Increase in the female workforce participation (FWFP) rate from 24.5% in 2019 to 37.0 in 2023.



- **Challenges** – The employment pattern remains skewed towards agriculture (around 46.6% workers higher than in 2019).
- The production process has been increasingly becoming capital and skill-intensive, leading to distortions in the labour market.
- Despite an increase in educational attainments, unskilled and semi-skilled workers abound.
- Women's participation is still low and they remain largely engaged in somewhat less remunerative jobs.
- Educated youth, who account for nearly two-thirds of total unemployment.
- Unemployment rate rises with a rise in education levels, 28% among graduates and above (the proportion of women being higher).
- The proportion of youth not in employment, education and training (NEET) is quite high at around 28% in 2022, with the share of females being around 5 times more than males.
- Over 90% employment is informal, and 83% are in informal sector.

3.11 Rural Youth Employment Report, 2024

The 'State of Rural Youth Employment Report 2024' was released recently.

- **Released by - Development Intelligence Unit**, a joint initiative by Transform Rural India and Sambodhi Research, and the Global Development Incubator.
- For the report 5169 rural 'Opportunity Youth' from 21 states across India between 18-35 years of age were interviewed.

Opportunity Youth are youth who are active and inactive, unemployed, underemployed, and out of school/education /skilling.

Key Findings of the report

- **Age group** - Among the respondents, 26.6% were aged between 18-25 years and the remaining 73.4% were aged between 26-35 years.
- **Working population**
 - **Male** - Of these, just over half of the male respondents aged 18-25 years were currently working.
 - Among older male youth aged between 26-35 years, nearly 85% said they were engaged in paid work, and nearly 10% said they used to work but were currently unemployed.
 - **Female** - In contrast, only a fourth of female respondents in the same age group said they were currently engaged in paid work.
 - By contrast, among female youth in the same age group only 40% said they were currently working, a fourth reported having dropped out of the workforce, and a third reported never having worked for pay.
- According to the Directorate General of Labour, Ministry of Labour and Employment 32.8% females aged 15 years and above in India are participating in the labor force, as compared to 77.2% males.
- The **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** in the age group 15-59 years is 35.6%, as compared to 81.8% male.

- **Primary sources of income-** Nearly half of rural youth rely on agriculture, followed by wage labor and retail trade.
- **Higher Job dissatisfaction -** A significant majority between 70-85% of currently employed rural youth are looking to change their jobs.
- **Preferred employment types -** Many youths prefer small businesses (manufacturing, retail, trading) or salaried jobs in public and private sectors.
- Salaried jobs across the public and private sectors were the clear second preference, with teaching, clerical work, and working in a factory being top job preferences across gender and age group.
- Younger male youth prefer government or private sector jobs, and women prefer government jobs.
- **Support needs-** For starting businesses, 90% of male and 50% of female respondents need support accessing seed capital, and 10% need full training courses.
- **Location preferences-** Over 60% of male and 70% of female respondents prefer to work in or near their villages, even at lower incomes.
- **Employment rates-** Higher employment rates for males compared to females in both the 18-25 and 26-35 age brackets.

3.12 Report on Currency and finance

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India released its Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2023-24, highlighting India's role in the global digital revolution.

Highlights of the report

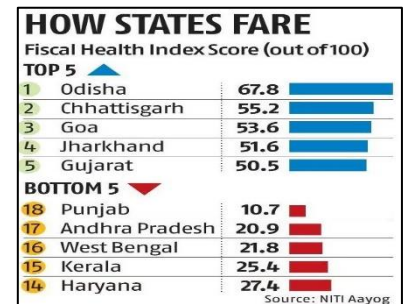
- India is at the forefront of global digital transformation.
- **Economic contribution-** The digital economy currently accounts for a **tenth of India's GDP** and is expected to constitute a fifth of India's GDP by 2026 based on growth rates observed over the past decade.
- **Internet penetration-** In 2023, internet penetration in India reached **55%**, with an increase of 199 million internet users over the past three years.
- **Data affordability-** India has the **lowest cost per gigabyte (GB)** of data globally, averaging ₹13.32 (US\$ 0.16) per GB.
- **Mobile data consumption-** India has one of the highest mobile data consumption rates in the world, with an average per-user, per-month mobile data consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023.
- **Smartphone users-** India has about 750 million smartphone users, a number expected to reach approximately **one billion by 2026**.
- **Smartphone manufacturing-** India is on track to become the **second-largest** smartphone manufacturer within the next five years.
- **Startup ecosystem-** India has the world's **third-largest** startup ecosystem, with over 1.4 lakh startups and more than 100 unicorns.
- **Global rankings-** India ranks first in biometric-based identification (Aadhaar) and real-time payments volume and second in telecom subscribers.
- **FinTech and digital payments-** India has embraced financial technology (FinTech) by speeding up digital payments comprising biometric identification, UPI, mobile connectivity, digital lockers, and consent-based data sharing.

3.13 Fiscal Health Index (FHI), 2025

The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) for 2025 was recently released.

- It provides a comprehensive assessment of the **fiscal health of 18 major States**.
- **Published by – Niti Aayog.**
- **Aim –** To throw light on the fiscal status at the sub-national level and guide policy reforms for sustainable and resilient economic growth.

- It is **1st of kind in India**, a comprehensive assessment with insights into state-specific challenges and areas for improvement.
- 5 key sub-indices** – Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.
- Data source** – Data from CAG.
- Rankings** – With a cumulative score of 67.8, **Odisha tops, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa** with scores of 55.2 and 53.6, respectively.
- The achiever States display strong fiscal health, excelling in revenue mobilization, expenditure management, and debt sustainability.
- States like West Bengal and Punjab witnessed **growing debt burdens**, increasing debt-to-GDP ratios and raising serious concern about debt sustainability.



3.14 Other Indices

State Mining Index (SMI)

- SMI** – It is a transformative step that will enhance professionalization of state mining departments.
- Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Mines.
- Objectives** – It will be encouraging state to innovate and adopt best practices in mineral exploration, auctioning, and sustainable mining.
- It will drive efficiency, attract investments, and unlock the immense potential of our mineral resources.

4. HEALTH

4.1 Global TB Report 2023

According to the Global TB Report 2023, India accounts for 27% of the total TB cases in the world.

- It is **annual** report by **World Health Organisation (WHO)** since 1997.
- Global Tuberculosis Report 2023** – It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of
 - TB epidemic
 - Progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment
 - At global, regional and country levels.
- Data source** – Data from national ministries of health.
- Coverage** – 192 countries and areas (out of 215) with more than 99% of the world's population and TB cases.
- Report Findings** – TB remains the **world's 2nd leading cause of death** from a single infectious agent.
- The net reduction from 2015 to 2022 was 8.7%, far from the **WHO End TB Strategy** milestone of a 50% reduction by 2025.
- The treatment success rates improved to 88% for people treated for drug-susceptible TB and 63% for people with MDR/RR-TB.

Findings of report for India

- Disease burden** – Nearly 28.2 lakh people got TB in India in 2022 (**1 person gets TB every 11 seconds**).
- It is at **27% of global disease burden**, which is 1% down from the previous year's 28%.
- Reporting of TB cases** – It increased crossing even the pre-pandemic high with 24.2 lakh cases in 2022.
- Treatment coverage** – It **increased to 80%** and India was among only 4 countries among the 30 high-burden countries to achieve this.

- **TB Mortality** – A reduction in India's contribution towards global mortality from 36% in the previous years to 26% in 2022.
- **India was the only country to have completed a National TB prevalence survey since 2019.**
- Currently, 199 new TB cases per lakh population is observed in India.

5. ENVIRONMENT

5.1 World Wildlife Crime Report, 2024 (WWCR3)

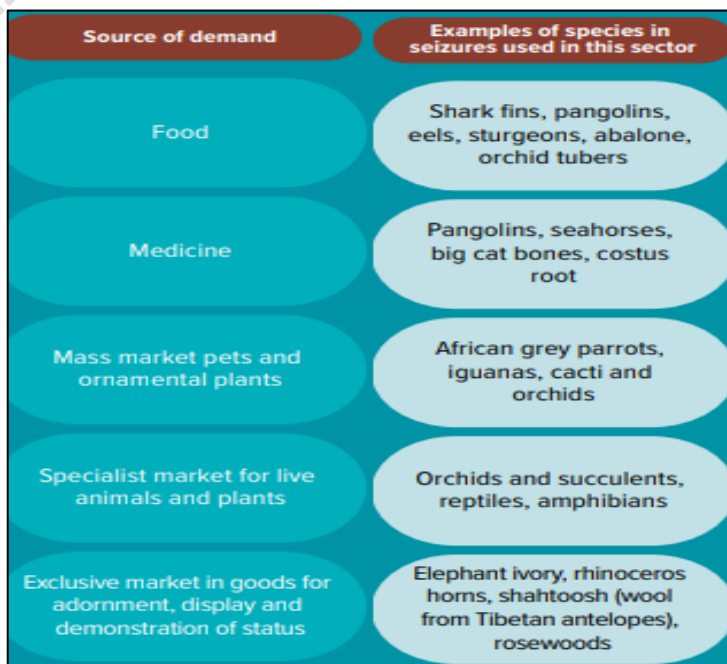
The 3rd edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report probes recent trends in the illicit trafficking of protected species.

- **Published by** – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), **every 4 years**.
- **Aim** – To provide a tool to assess and improve responses to wildlife trafficking.
- **Data sources**
 - CITES Annual Illegal Trade Reports
 - Supplementary seizure data collated by UNODC from diverse sources and verified with Member States.
- **2024 Tagline** – Trafficking in Protected Species

The 2 previous editions were published in 2016 and 2020 respectively.

Findings World Wildlife Crime Report, 2024

- **Seizures** – In 2015-2021, seizures of 13 million items showed an illegal trade in around 4,000 plant and animal species across 162 countries and territories.
 - Corals (16%), crocodilians (9%) and elephants (6%).
- **Cause of extinctions** – Illegal collection of succulent plants & rare orchids, and trafficking of many kinds of reptile, fish, birds and mammals.
- **Wildlife crime harms** – It threatens individual species, harms ecosystems, their climate-related functions and also socioeconomic development.
- **Signs of progress** – Elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn have yielded positive outcomes and there is increased national, regional and international action to combat wildlife crime.
- **Challenges** – The COVID-19 pandemic partly reshaped but did not stop wildlife trafficking.
- Progress to meet the SDG target to end wildlife trafficking is not on track (**SDG 15.7**).
- The transnational organized crime groups exploit weaknesses in regulation and enforcement to evade detection and prosecution.



The annual number of seizures reported for 2020 & 2021 was around half the number reported for each of the preceding 4 years.

5.2 Global Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems

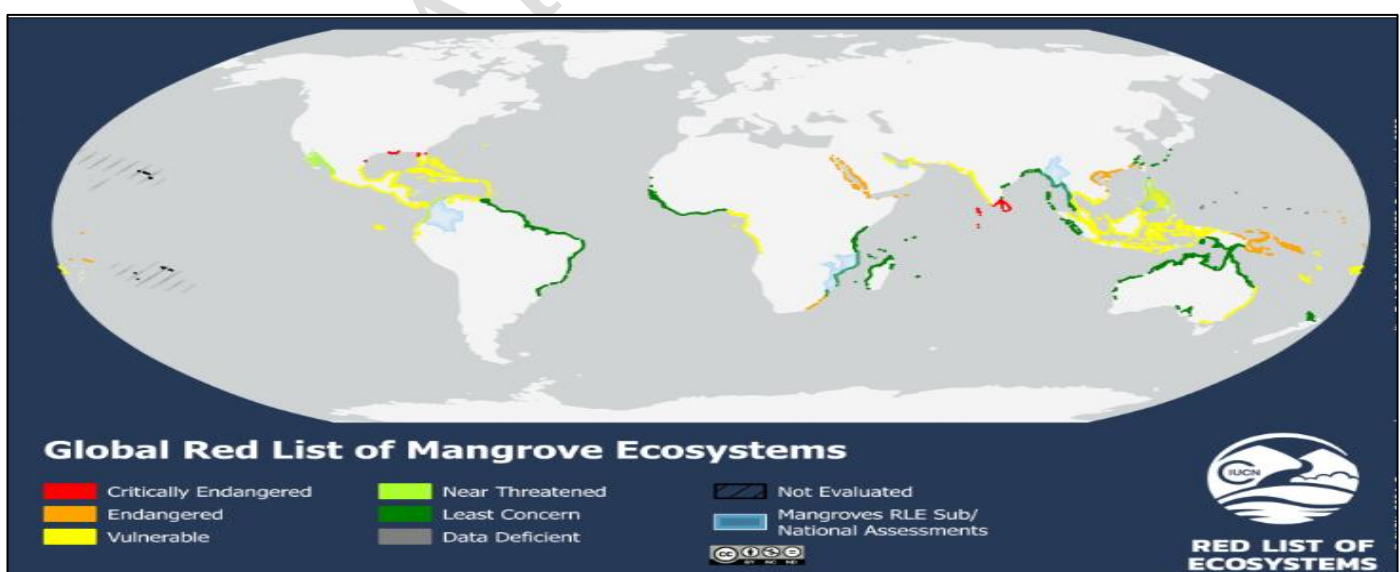
A new study warns that South India's mangrove ecosystems under risk of collapse.

- **Published by** – **IUCN**
- **Data source** – IUCN's Red List of Ecosystems.
- **Prepared by** – Experts from various research institutions, including the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the Global Mangrove Alliance.
- **Coverage** – World's mangrove ecosystems in 36 different regions.
- **Findings** – World's mangrove ecosystems cover about 150 thousand sq.km along mainly tropical, sub-tropical and some warm temperate coasts of the world.
- About 15% of the world's coastlines are covered by mangroves.
- **Risks** – 50% of the mangrove ecosystems assessed are at risk of collapse under vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered category.
- Nearly 20% are at high risk, classed as either endangered or critically endangered.
- 5 regions in the endangered and 10 in the vulnerable categories.
- **Critically endangered category** – Top 2 ecosystem regions
 - Warm Temp North West Atlantic.
 - South India and Sri Lanka, and Maldives.
- **Significance** – It is the 1st global assessment of a full ecosystem functional group across the planet using the Red List of Ecosystems.
- It is key to track progress towards the goal of halting and reversing biodiversity loss, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Mangroves are tropical trees or shrubs that grow in coastal saline or brackish water where other species cannot survive. They act as a natural barrier to coastal soil erosion and other natural disasters like floods.

Indian mangrove ecosystems

- **3 parts of Ecosystem**
 - Bay of Bengal, shared with Bangladesh.
 - In the west, shared with Pakistan.
 - In the South, shared with Sri Lanka & Maldives
- **Protection status**
 - Least concerned – Ecosystems in East and West
 - Critically endangered – Ecosystem in the south



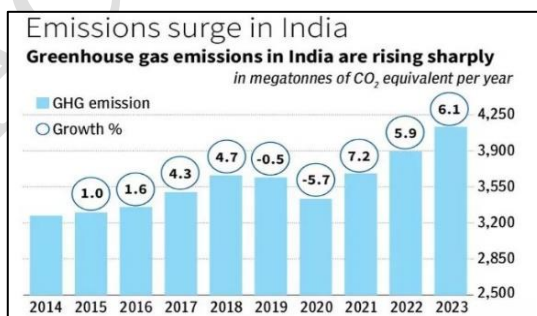
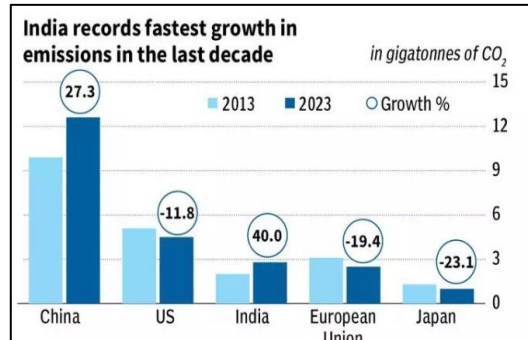
5.3 Report on Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions in India

The recent report of European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) says that India emerged as the third-highest CO₂ emitter globally, accounted for 7.8% in 2023.

- **GHG emissions** – It increased from 3,270.4 Mt CO₂eq/year in 2014 to 4,133.6 Mt CO₂eq/year in 2023.
- China ranks the top in 2023 followed by USA

GHG emissions are defined as gases released into the atmosphere that trap heat, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect and global warming include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

- **India** – Its overall GHG emissions have steadily increased over the years, measured in megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year (Mt CO₂eq/yr).
- Despite comprising approximately 17% of the global population from 1850 to 2019, India's cumulative contribution to global GHG emissions is only 4%.
- India has the lowest per capita emissions amongst G20 nation.
 - **Primary contributor** – Power sector (46.6%), industrial combustion (20.9%) & transportation (11.5%).
 - **Secondary Contributor** – Burning of fossil fuels, methane emissions from livestock, aluminum and cement production.
- Fossil fuels accounted for 88% of primary energy consumption in India and 77% of total electricity generation in 2022.
- International Energy Agency report says that CO₂ Emissions in India's carbon emissions have surged during this decade, escalating from 2 Gigatonnes (Gt) in 2013 to 2.8 Gt in 2023, a 40% rise.
- **India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)** – It targets a 33 to 35% reduction in emissions intensity of its GDP by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
 - It establishes an extra carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through enhanced forest and tree cover by 2030.
- **Spearhead** – Global solar alliance, INSPA (International Agency for Solar Policy & Application), uniting all nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.



5.4 Living Planet Report (LPR), 2024

The recently released LPR, 2024 report said that, significant 'collective effort' will be required over the next 5 years to tackle the dual climate and nature crises.

- It is a biennial compilation of the threats faced to wildlife.
- **Released by** – World Wide Fund (WWF) in collaboration with Zoological Society of London (ZSL).
- It includes almost 35,000 population trends of 5,495 species from 1970-2020.
- **Findings** – 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife populations from 1970-2020.
 - Freshwater ecosystems at 85%
 - Terrestrial ecosystems at 69%
 - Marine ecosystems at 56%
- **Regional level** – The fastest declines have been seen in Latin America and the Caribbean a concerning 95% decline followed by Africa (76%) and the Asia and the Pacific (60%).
- Lesser decline in Europe and Central Asia (35%) and North America (39%).
- **In India** – It noted the decline in 3 vulture species in India.
 - Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) highlighted white-rumped vulture population has dropped by 67%, Indian vulture by 48%, and slender-billed vulture by 89% compared to their populations in 2002.
- The All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018 (India, home to largest number of tigers)

- **Tipping point** - When cumulative impacts reach a threshold, the change becomes self-perpetuating, resulting in substantial, often abrupt and potentially irreversible change.

Mass die-off of coral reefs	It would destroy fisheries and storm protection for hundreds of millions of people living on the coasts.
Amazon rainforest tipping point	It would release tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere and disrupt weather patterns around the globe.
Collapse of the subpolar gyre	A circular current south of Greenland, would dramatically change weather patterns in Europe and North America.
Large-scale thawing of permafrost	It would trigger vast emissions of carbon dioxide and methane

- **Issues** – Habitat loss and degradation, driven primarily by farming and consumes food followed by over-exploitation, invasive species, and diseases.
- Pollution is an additional threat for wildlife populations in Asia and the Pacific, which have recorded a 60% average decline.
- There are no India specific projections.
- **Shortfall in achieving goals** – Countries have agreed on ambitious global goals
 - To halt and reverse nature loss (the Global Biodiversity Framework),
 - Cap global temperature rise to 1.5°C (the Paris Agreement) and
 - Eradicate poverty (the UN Sustainable Development Goals).
- Over 50% the SDG targets will be missed, with 30% of them stalled or getting worse from the 2015 baseline.
- National climate commitments would lead to an average global temperature increase of almost 3°C by the end of the century, inevitably triggering multiple catastrophic tipping points.

5.5 World Food and Agriculture Book

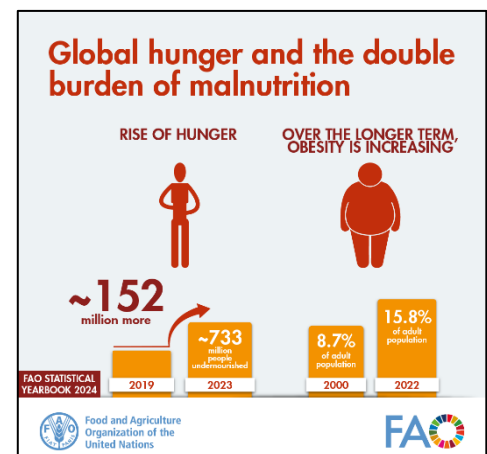
According to the recently released 'World Food and Agriculture' yearbook, global hunger continues to worsen, with 152 million more people facing hunger in 2023 compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

- It reveals critical insights on the sustainability of global agriculture, food security, and the importance of agrifood systems in employment
- **Released by** – United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was founded in 1945 with its headquarters in Rome. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Key highlights from the book

- **Global agricultural value** – It has increased by 89% in real terms over the past 2 decades.
- Its global economic output has remained relatively stable, and the proportion of the global workforce employed in agriculture has decreased.
- **Food insecurity** – While food production has continued to rise, hunger remains a persistent issue.
 - Majority of the undernourished people lives in Asia, though the prevalence of undernourishment is highest in Africa.
- **Obesity rates** – They are also rising, particularly in high-income regions.
 - Over 25% of adults in the Americas, Europe and Oceania are obese.
- **Global production of primary crops** – It saw an increase of 56% in 2022 compared to 2000.
 - Staple crops like sugar cane, maize, wheat and rice account for nearly 50% of global crop production.
- **Meat production** – It had increased, with chicken accounting for the largest share of this rise.

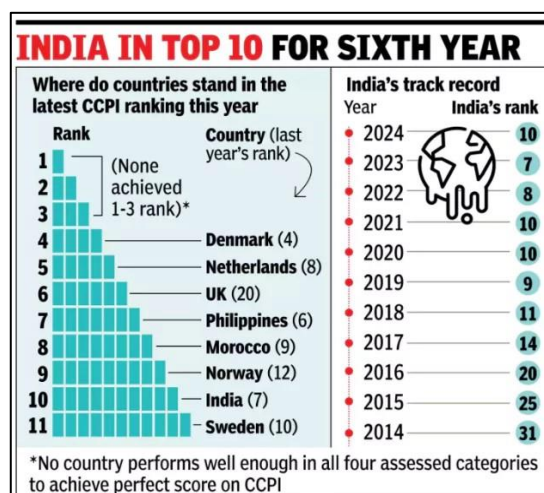
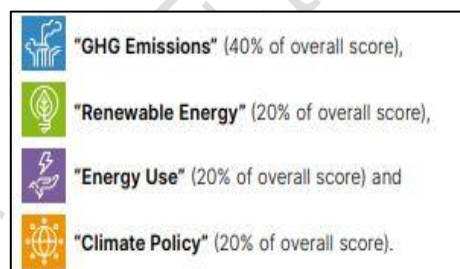


- **Use of pesticides** – It increased by 70% between 2000 and 2022, with the Americas accounting for 50% of the global pesticide use in 2022.
- **Inorganic fertilizers in agriculture** – Its usage increased in 2022, with 58% of this amount being nitrogen.
- **Production of vegetable oils** – It grew by 133% between 2000 and 2021, largely driven by an increase in palm oil production.
- **Issues** - Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems have risen with livestock contributing to around 54% of Farm-gate emissions.
- Water scarcity remains a growing concern in regions such as the Near East and North Africa, where many countries face extreme water stress, impacting the sustainability of agricultural production.

5.6 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2025

Recently, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) released a report of Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- **CCPI** – It is an independent monitoring tool released annually for tracking countries climate mitigation performance.
- **Aim** – To increase transparency in national and international climate policy and to enable comparison of individual countries climate protection efforts with progress.
- **Published by** – German watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.
- It was 1st presented at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) climate change conference in Montreal in 2005.
- It evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 63 countries and the European Union (EU).
 - Together, these countries account for more than 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
 - However, in the past years new countries have regularly been included (Nigeria, Pakistan, UAE and Uzbekistan were added in CCPI 2024).
- **Methodology** – It uses production-based emissions only for its calculation.
 - Indicators - 14
 - Categories – 4
- 80% of the assessment is based on quantitative data from internationally recognised institutions.
- **Top Ranking Countries, 2025** – The first 3 places empty, as no country performed well enough across all index categories to achieve an overall “very high” rating.
 - Denmark (4th)
 - Netherlands (5th)
 - UK (6th)
- **Low Ranking Countries** – Largest two emitters, China and the U.S., remain very low at 55th and 57th place, respectively.
- Only 22 of the 64 surveyed CCPI countries aligned with the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperature rise within 2 degrees Celsius and make efforts to contain it to 1.5 degrees.
- **Methodology for 2025** – It is based on the methodological design introduced in 2017 covering
 - All greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and
 - Evaluates the 2030 targets and
 - The well-below-2°C compatibility of countries’ current levels and targets in the categories



- **India – India ranks 10th** out of the 63 countries.
- India drops 2 places but remains among top 10 climate performers.
- India's per capita emissions stand at 2.9 tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), far below the global average of 6.6 tCO₂e.
- **Category ranking of India**
 - **High** – GHG Emissions and Energy Use
 - **Medium** – Climate Policy
 - **Low** – Renewable Energy.

India has pledged to reach net zero emissions (balancing emissions with removals) by 2070 and aims to achieve 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

5.7 Country Climate and Development Reports - People in a Changing Climate

The World Bank Group's report "People in a Changing Climate" was launched at the COP29 in November 2024.

- **CCDR** – Country Climate and Development Reports was launched in 2022 by World Bank.
- **Objective** – To guide countries in aligning developmental processes with climate action.
- They help countries prioritize the most impactful actions that can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and boost adaptation and resilience, while delivering on broader development goals.
- **Coverage** – It covers 72 low-, middle- and high-income countries and economies.
- **Stakeholders** – CCDRs unite stakeholders, including governments, private sectors and citizens, to advance climate and development goals.
- **Final Report** – Based on the CCDRs of 72 countries, World Bank prepares a consolidated report.
 - The report for 2024 is "**People in a Changing Climate**".
- **Disproportionate impact** – Poorer countries are more vulnerable than richer ones, are exposed to different threats, and have lower adaptation potential.
- **Productivity loss** – Significant labour productivity losses happen due to rising temperatures.
- **Inadequate investment** – There is a high need for investment in the water sector, but current investments are much lower.
- **PPP investment** – Bridging the \$960 billion annual investment gap requires public-private partnerships, especially in low-income nations.

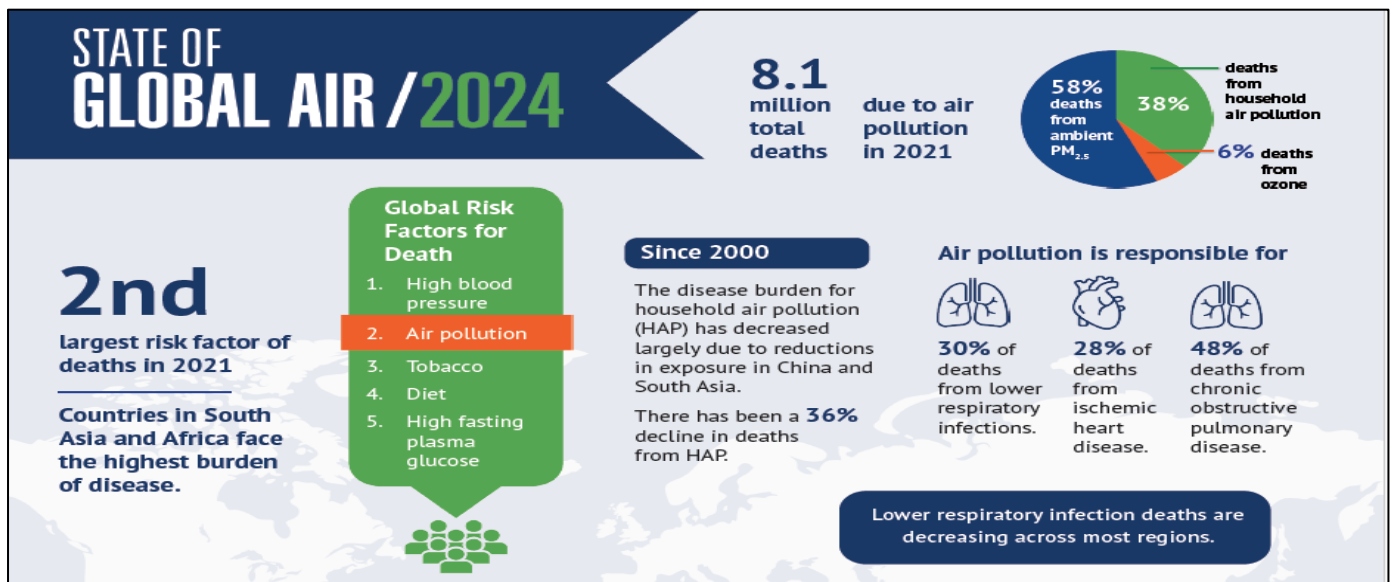
*Each additional \$1,000 in GDP per capita reduces expected **climate change-induced GDP losses** in 2050 by 0.5–0.7 % points.*

*In most of the **CCDR** countries, the investment in water sector was found to be only **0.5 % of their GDPs**.*

5.8 State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024

Recently, the State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024 was released which offers a stark reminder of the significant impacts air pollution has on human health.

- It is an annual tracker of health impact of air pollution.
- **Prepared by** – It is a collaborative assessment by the
 - US-based Health Effects Institute (HEI)
 - Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project.
- This has been produced for the first time in partnership with UNICEF.
- **Data source** – Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 report which estimated about 200 countries.
- **Assessment** – It usually assess the impact of Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) and Ozone on human health.
- This 2024 report also covers the impact of nitrogen oxides (NO₂).



5.9 State of the World's Forests 2024 - Status of Deforestation

According to the recent *State of the World's Forests 2024*, global efforts curb deforestation but threats to forests from wildfires and pests remain.

- **Published by** – Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- It provides highlights on the state of the world's forests and builds on the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy to explore the transformative power of evidence-based innovation in the forest sector.
- It estimated that between 1990 and 2020, approximately 420 million ha of forest were converted to land use.
- **Decline in deforestation rates** – It is lower than previous decades, with several countries showing significant improvements.
- **Reduced net rate of change in forest area** – It is lower in 2010-2020, that was significantly lower than 2 previous decades.
- **Increase in Forest area** – It noted 10 countries recording annual gains in forest area in 2020.
 - It include China, Australia, India, Chile, Viet Nam, Turkey, the United States of America, France, Italy and Romania.
- **Decreased rate of mangrove losses** – It decreased by 23% between the 2 recent decades (2000-2010 & 2010-2020), Asia was the major contributor to mangrove loss and gains.
- **Decreased mangrove gains** – The rate of gain in mangrove area also decreased slightly.
- Extreme weather events due to climate change and sea-level rise threaten mangroves.
- **Increased resilience of mangroves** - Although the net change in mangrove area globally was negative between 2000 and 2020, the extent of natural expansion surpassed the area lost to natural causes by 63% (294,500 ha compared with 186,200 ha).

Net rate of change in forest area is the difference between forest expansion and deforestation.

5.10 India State of Forest Report 2023

Recently, India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023) has been released.

- It is an assessment of the forest and tree resources of the country.
- Author** – Forest Survey of India (FSI)
- Period** – Biennial basis
- It is the 18th cycle of report since 1987.
- Information Sources** – Remote Sensing satellite data and field based National Forest Inventory (NFI).

FSI launched a **National Forest Inventory in 2002**, with the onset of the 10th five-year plan.

- Satellite data gives forest cover
 - Satellite data period – October 2021 to December 2021
- NFI provides Growing Stock and Carbon.
 - NFI assessment is 2017-22.
- Report Information** - Forest cover, tree cover, mangrove cover, growing stock, carbon stock instances of forest fire, Agroforestry, etc.
- For the 1st time, the trees with 5-10 cm have been included in the analysis for Tree Cover and Growing stock as they are a major contributor to paper and pulp industry.
- Forest fire** - Information on forest fires in 705 protected areas is given for the 1st time.
 - Burnt area assessment as part of forest fire assessment has been done for the 1st time at national level.
- Total Tree and Forest Cover in 2023** – It is **8, 27,357sq km**, which is **25.17 %** of the geographical area of the country.
 - Forest Cover** - 7, 15,343sq km (**21.76%**)
 - Tree Cover** - 1, 12,014 sq. km (**3.41%**).
- The extent of Trees Outside Forest (TOF)** - 30.70 M ha (37.11% of the total forest and tree cover)
- Number of States/UTs above 33 % of forest cover** – 19.

Classification of forest cover	
Types	Canopy density
Very Dense Forest (VDF)	Equal to or more than 70%
Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)	40-70%
Open Forest (OF)	10-40%

21 States and UTs have shown an **increasing trend** in tree cover, which indicates that agroforestry, is being promoted in these States.

Trees outside Forest (TOF) is the extent of forest cover outside the Recorded Forest Area (RFA) & Green Wash (GW) and tree cover.

Largest in	States / UTs
Forest & tree cover (Area Wise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km) Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km)
Forest cover (Area Wise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq) Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km)
Tree cover (Area Wise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maharashtra (14,524.88 sq km) Rajasthan (10,841.12 sq km)
Forest cover (% wise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakshadweep (91.33 %) Mizoram (85.34 %)

- States with more than 75% forest cover**
 - Lakshadweep, Mizoram, A & N Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur.

- **Total growing stock of forests** - 6430 million cum (cubic meter).
 - Inside the forests - 4479 million cum (cubic meter)
 - Outside the forest - 1951 million cum
- Arunachal Pradesh has maximum growing stock (457.83 M m³) in forests, followed by Uttarakhand (400.02 M m³), Chhattisgarh (398.54 M m³) and Madhya Pradesh (387.18 M m³).

5.11 State of Ocean Report 2024

UNESCO's State of Ocean report released recently on World Oceans Day highlights key knowledge gaps in research & data on spiking oceanic warming.

- **Initiated by** - The report is initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO).
- It supports for UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Outcomes.

United States, Saudi Arabia and Russia are the top 3 major oil producing countries in the world. While Saudi Arabia is an OPEC member. Russia has OPEC+ membership.

Recent findings of the report

- Critical issues in **ocean climate regulation**, emphasizing the need for better understanding and data to address ocean crises and validate new carbon dioxide removal technologies.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions**- The increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have increased the uptake of the Earth's energy imbalance (EEI) by oceans.
- **Energy and Heat Imbalance**- Oceans absorb about **90% of the Earth's energy imbalance**, leading to increased heat content in the upper 2,000 meters.
- This inhibits ocean mixing, causing *deoxygenation, which harms marine ecosystems and coastal communities relying on oceans*.
- **Coastal Blue Carbon Habitats**- There's growing interest in *restoring coastal blue carbon habitats like mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes to enhance carbon sequestration*.
- **Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)**- A rising interest in marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) technologies since 2020, supported by scientific research, start-up initiatives, and substantial funding from the U.S. and EU.
- **Ocean Warming trend**- From 1960 to 2023, the upper 2,000 meters of oceans warmed at a rate of 32 ± 0.03 W/m², accelerating to 0.66 ± 0.10 W/m² in the past two decades.
- This trend is expected to persist, leading to irreversible changes over centennial to millennial timescales.
- **Ocean Acidification**- Coastal waters can turn acidic due to natural processes, such as *freshwater influx, biological activity, temperature change and climate patterns like El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)*.
- Human activities like nutrient input from agricultural and industrial activities also influence the chemistry of coastal areas.
- **Sea Level Rise** - From 1993 to 2023, the global mean sea level rose at a rate of 4 ± 0.3 mm/year.
- **Data and Research**- The report highlights a pressing need for comprehensive and regular data to monitor ocean warming and its impacts, *essential for maintaining healthy and resilient oceans*.

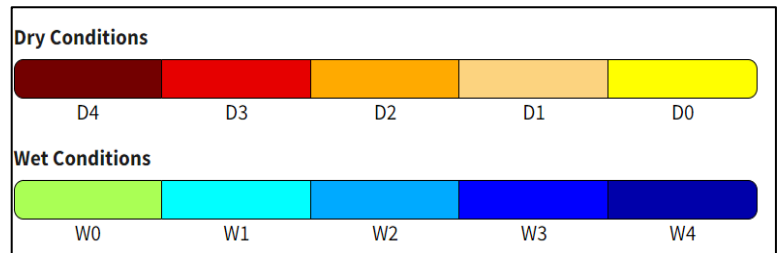
EEI is the balance between incoming energy from the Sun and outgoing energy from the Earth.

5.12 Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has used the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) to study trends in precipitation and drought conditions across India.

- **SPI** – It is a **drought index** that measures how observed precipitation compares to the long-term average over a given time (e.g. over the last 30 or 60 days).
- It can also be used to measure drought impacts on soil moisture, groundwater, streamflow, and reservoir storage.

- **Calculation** – It is calculated by dividing the difference between the observed precipitation and the long-term average by the long-term standard deviation of precipitation for that period.
- **Time Scales**- The SPI is calculated for a selection of time scales, including 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months.
- **Developed by** - T. B. McKee, N.J. Doesken, and J. Kleist in 1993.
- It uses a legend to indicate drought conditions, with D4 representing **exceptional drought**, D3 representing extreme drought, D2 representing severe drought, and D1 representing moderate drought.
- **Transformation**- Precipitation data is transformed using probability distributions like gamma or Pearson III to fit a normal distribution.
- **SPI Values**
 - **Positive SPI** – It indicates wet conditions (greater than median precipitation).
 - **Negative SPI** – It indicates dry conditions (less than median precipitation).



6. INDIA

6.1 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Recently, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released its 7th annual report for July 2023 to June 2024.

- **PLFS** – It is a survey that estimates key employment and unemployment indicators in India.
- **Indicators**
 - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
 - Worker Population Ratio (WPR)
 - Unemployment Rate (UR)
- **Released by** – The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is an initiative of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

Findings of the report

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** - The labor force is made up of individuals aged 15 and older, who fall into one of 2 groups
 - Those who are currently employed
 - Those who are unemployed but eager to work and are actively searching for a job.

Rural areas	Climbed from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 63.7% in 2023-24
Urban areas	Saw an increase from 47.6% to 52.0%
Males in India	Went up from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.8% in 2023-24
Females in India	From 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24
Muslim women	Rose from 15% in 2021-22 to 21.4% in 2023-24
Hindu women	Rose from 26.1% in 2021-22 to 33.3% in 2023-24
Sikh and Christian women	19.8% to 26.7% and from 34.2% to 38.3%, respectively during same time line.

- **Stagnant Unemployment Rate** – It shows that there is **no major change** in the unemployment rate.
- The unemployment rate remains at 3.2%, like last year.

- Rural unemployment decreased from 5.3% (2017-18) to 2.5% (2023-24), and urban unemployment fell from 7.7% to 5.1% for the same period.
- **Workforce participation in agriculture** – It has increased for the 4th consecutive year, indicating a shift back to agriculture for employment, possibly due to lack of non-farm job opportunities.
- There is a minor increase in the distribution of workers in agriculture.
- **Manufacturing sector** – It shows no growth in providing jobs compared to previous years.
- **Concerns** – The employment situation remains grim, especially in non-farm jobs.
- The increase in agriculture jobs is seen as a sign of unpaid family labour being counted as employment, which is misleading.
- The manufacturing sector's share in employment has not improved, remaining at 11.4% and the construction sector's contribution to employment is stagnant at 12%.

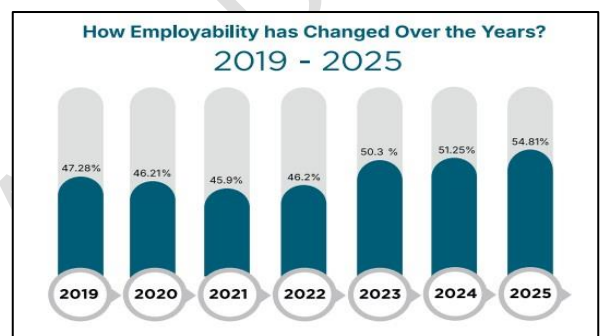
6.2 India Skills Report 2025 (ISR 2025)

Recently, the India Skills Report 2025 stated that Kerala ranked 5th among the top States, maintaining a strong employability rate of 71%.

- It is based on data from over 6.5 lakh candidates who participated in the Global Employability Test (G.E.T.) across India and select regions globally.
- **Prepared by** – Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in association with Wheebox, a Talent assessment agency, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Report Findings

- Employability among Indian graduates has seen a steady rise, reaching 54.81%.
- Over 50% of Indian graduates are now employable, an increase from 33% a decade ago.
- **Increasing Fields** – Management graduates (78%) have the highest global employability, followed by engineering students (71.5%), MCA students (71%), and science graduates (58%).
- **Top states**
 - Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are emerging as major hubs for employable talent while
 - Cities such as Pune, Bengaluru and Mumbai are leading the way in providing a skilled workforce.
- The employability rate for men is expected to rise to 53.5% in 2025 and the employability rate of women is projected to decline to 47.5% from 50.9% during the same time period.
- It also found that nearly 93% of the students expressed strong interest in internships.



6.3 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2024

The ASER 2024 annual education report was based on household surveys across 618 rural districts, reveals high enrolment but serious learning gaps in rural India, with basic reading and math skills still a challenge.

- It is a nationwide household survey that captures the status of children's enrollment and learning outcomes in rural India every year since 2005.
- **Released by** – NGO Pratham Foundation.
- Schooling status is recorded for children in the age group of 3-16, and children in the age group of 5-16 are tested on their ability to read simple text and do basic arithmetic.

Key Highlights of the report

- **Enrolment** – Over 90% of children aged 6-14 are enrolled in school.



- Hike in government school enrolment in several states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, alongside declining private school enrolment.
- But among 15-16-year-olds, nearly 8% are not in school.
- **Dropout rate** – It is higher in Uttar Pradesh (13%), Bihar (8.6%), Assam (5%), and West Bengal (5.4%).
- **Learning gaps** – Only about 50% of Class 5 students can read a Class 2-level text.
- By Class 3, only 27% of children can read at the expected level, and just 22% can do simple subtraction.
- Also, less than 30% of Class 5 students can do a basic division problem.
- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh continue to struggle with foundational learning.
- **Digital learning gap** – Over 80% of children aged 14-16 have access to a smartphone, and many are comfortable using basic digital tools.
- But the problem is only about 57% use it for educational purposes (57.7% of boys vs 50.1% of girls).
- **Infrastructure gap in schools** – School facilities have improved in recent years.
- Over 90% of schools provide mid-day meals, and nearly 80% of schools have drinking water facilities and functional toilets, though some regions still struggle with maintenance.
- Library usage remains low, with many schools having books that students rarely use.
- **Community Involvement** – Local initiatives and support networks have helped bridge learning gaps.
- Parental involvement in learning activities at home has increased by nearly 10% since 2022.
- In Rajasthan, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu, local initiatives have been introduced to help bridge learning gaps.
- **Top-performing states** – Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab continue to lead in learning levels, with better school infrastructure and teacher training.
- **Struggling states** – Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh have some of the lowest learning outcomes, with students struggling in reading and math.
- **Mixed results** – Maharashtra & Gujarat have good enrolment numbers but stagnant in learning progress.

7. OTHERS

7.1 Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

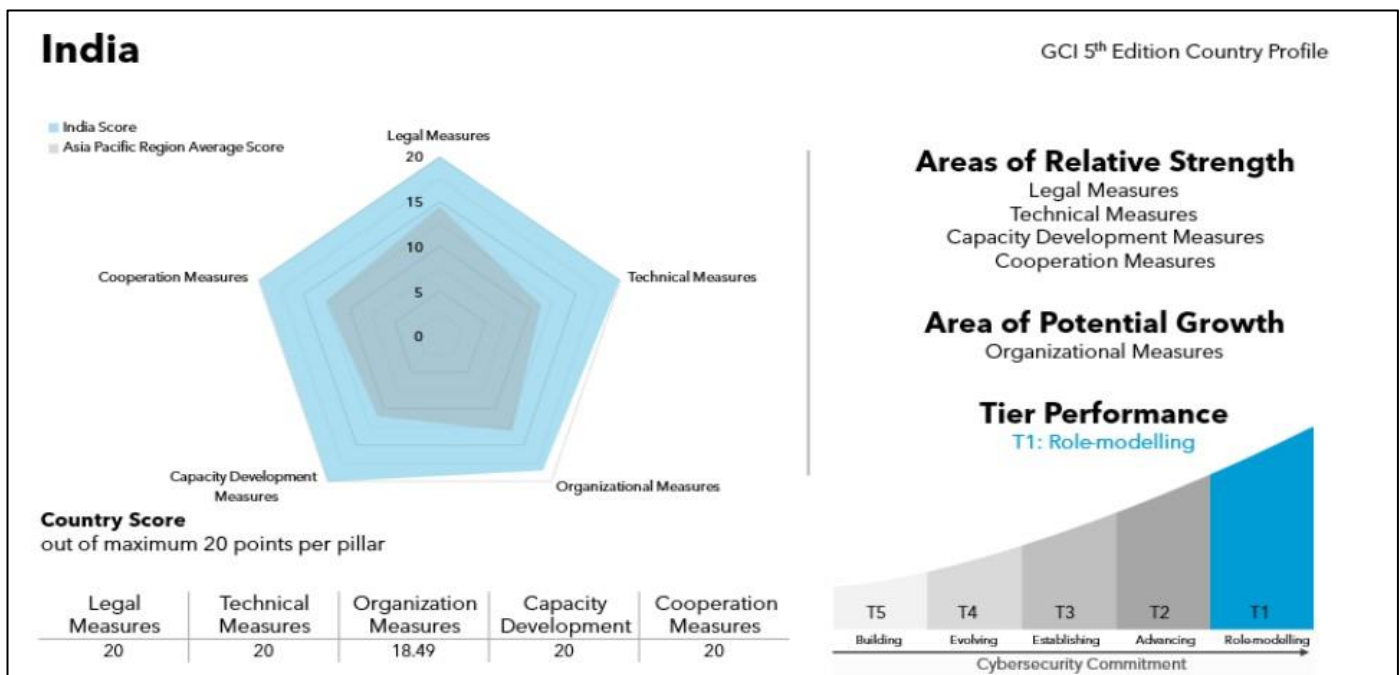
India has achieved Tier 1 status in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

- **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)** – It measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue.
- **Publisher** – International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **5 Pillars of GCI**

Legal	Technical	Organizational	Capacity Development	Cooperation
Measuring the existence of legal laws and regulations dealing with cybersecurity and cybercrime	Measuring the existence of technical institutions and frameworks dealing with cybersecurity endorsed or created by the country	Measuring the existence of institutions and strategies organizing cybersecurity development at the national level	Measuring the existence of cyber awareness efforts, schooling, trainings, and support for a cybersecurity industry	Measuring partnerships between agencies, firms and countries

- **Evaluation** – It is based on 83 questions, covering 20 indicators, 64 sub-indicators, and 28 micro-indicators.
- **Performance of India** – India's Scored 98.49 out of 100 in GCI 2024.
- **Tier 1 Status** – India joins the ranks of 'role-modelling' countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.

- **Nodal Department for India** – Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.



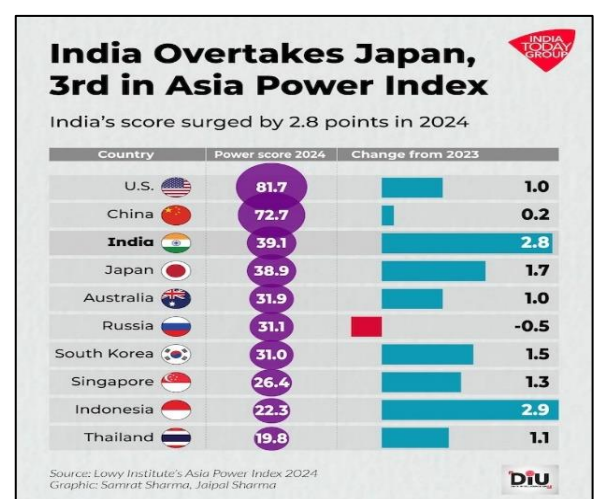
Cyber Security Initiatives of India

- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** – It has been designated as the national agency for responding to cyber security incidents.
- **Sectoral Computer Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs)** – They provide sector-specific technical support and incident reporting, further strengthening India's cybersecurity capabilities.
- Sectoral Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) have been setup for Power, Thermal, Hydro, Transmission, Distribution, Grid Operation and Renewable Energy sectors.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** – It has been established to ensure protection of critical information infrastructure in the country including power sector.

7.2 Asia Power Index, 2024

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recently says that India surpasses Japan to become 3rd largest power in Asia power index.

- It measures resources and influence to rank the **relative power of states in Asia**.
- **Launched by** – The Lowy Institute since 2018.
- **Evaluation** – It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on their ability to shape and respond to external geopolitical challenges.
- It evaluates through 131 indicators across 8 themes.
- **Theme**
 - Military capability and defence networks
 - Economic capability and relationships
 - Diplomatic and cultural influence
 - Resilience and future resources



- **2024 edition** – It includes Timor-Leste for the 1st time, reflecting its growing importance as a result of likely accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in coming years.

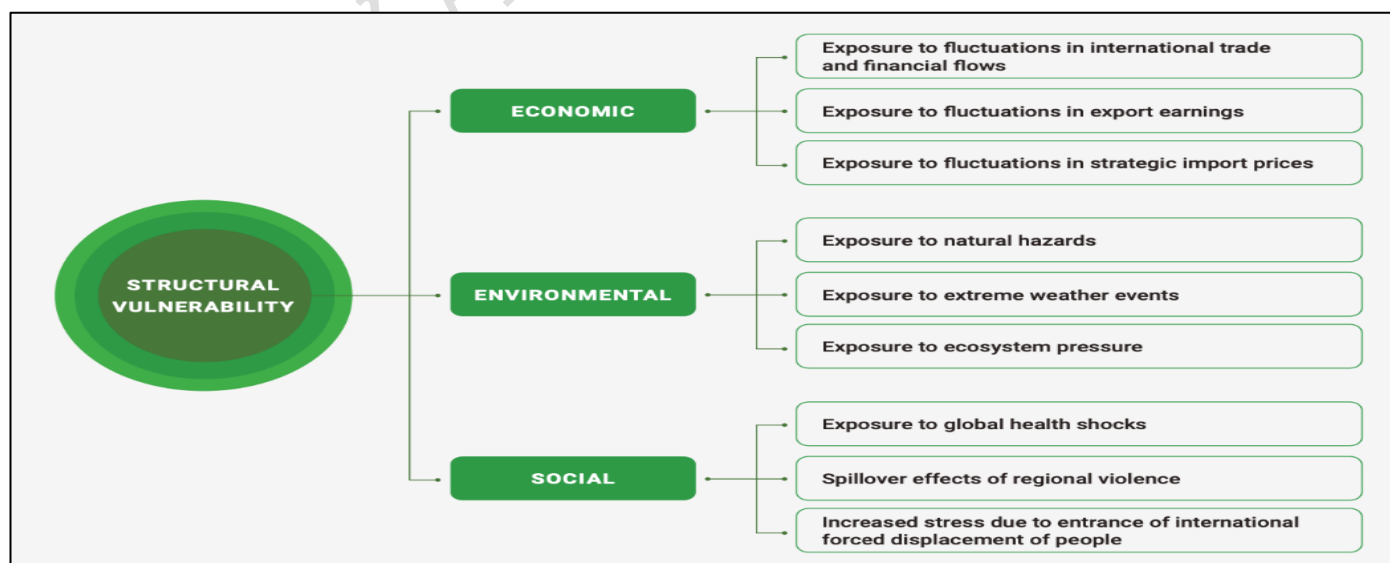
Status of India, 2024

- **Factors for growth** - India surpasses Russia and Japan due to its rise in
 - Dynamic growth
 - Youthful population
 - Expanding economy
- The report also finds that India's ability to project power east of the Malacca Strait is limited.
- **PPP** – India experienced a 4.2-point boost in Economic Capability, primarily driven by its strong GDP growth and status as the world's 3rd largest economy in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms.

7.3 Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

The UN General Assembly has recently introduced a new “vulnerability” index to help Small Island and developing nations access low-interest financing.

- **MVI** – It is a framework developed to assess the vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- It is to complement traditional metrics like GDP to better assess development and vulnerabilities.
- **Launched by** – United Nations in 2023.
- **Aim**- To provide a more nuanced understanding of the structural challenges these nations encounter, particularly in the context of global crises such as climate change, economic instability, and health emergencies.
- **Background** – Historically, SIDS has struggled with traditional measures like Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, which do not adequately capture their unique vulnerabilities.
- **Purpose** – To address this gap by considering multiple dimensions of vulnerability economic, environmental, and social rather than relying solely on income metrics.
- It is crucial for improving access to concessional financing and support for sustainable development initiatives.
- **Indicators**
 - **Structural Vulnerabilities** – Import dependency, exposure to extreme weather and pandemics.
 - **Economic and Environmental Resilience** – Assesses impacts of regional violence, refugee crises, demographic pressures, and resource availability (water, arable land).
 - **Social Indicators** – Child mortality rates.



- **Implication** – It is expected to enhance the allocation of international development finance, ensuring that resources are directed towards the most vulnerable nations.
