



5 February, 2024

Multidimensional poverty

Context: During her Interim Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that over the past decade, 25 crore Indians have been lifted out of Multidimensional poverty.

➤ Assessment Basis:

- The assessment of lifting 25 crore Indians out of poverty over the past decade is based on a discussion paper titled "Multidimensional Poverty in India Since 2005-06," published by NITI Aayog on Jan 15.
- With inputs from UNDP and OPHI, it highlighted a decline in multidimensional poverty from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.
- During this period, approximately 24.82 crore people were lifted out of poverty, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh leading in poverty reduction.

➤ Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

- The MPI offers a holistic approach to poverty assessment, considering 10 indicators across health, education, and standard of living, with equal weighting for each dimension.
- Health metrics include nutrition and child mortality, education indicators encompass schooling and attendance, while standard of living factors cover housing, household assets, and access to amenities.
- To align with India's priorities, the Indian MPI includes maternal health and bank account ownership as additional indicators.

Escaped Multidimensional Poverty (2013-14-2022-23)	
	Estimated in lakh
Bihar	377.09
Madhya Pradesh	230.00
Maharashtra	159.07
Odisha	102.78
Rajasthan	187.12
Uttar Pradesh	593.69
West Bengal	172.18
INDIA	2,482.16

➤ Calculation Method:

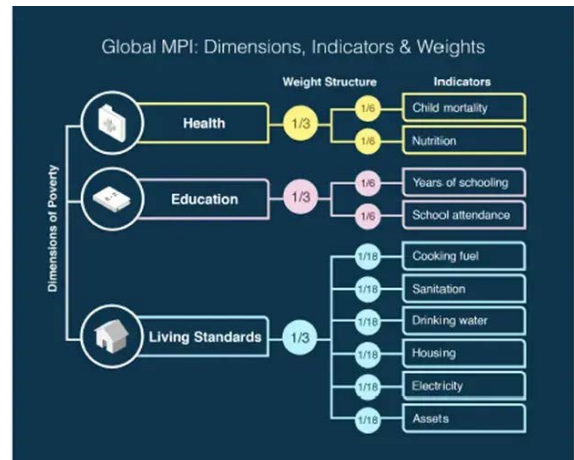
- Individuals are classified as "MPI poor" if they experience deprivation in at least one-third of the weighted indicators.
- Calculation involves determining the incidence of multidimensional poverty (H) and the intensity of poverty (A), with the MPI derived by multiplying H and A.
- Data for 2013-14 and 2022-23 were obtained through interpolation and extrapolation of health metrics from rounds of the National Family Health Survey.

➤ Comparison of Poverty Estimates:

- A comparison of poverty estimates between 2013-14 and 2022-23 provides insights into the impact of initiatives launched during the past decade.
- The analysis reveals an acceleration in the rate of poverty reduction after 2015-16, indicating the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at poverty alleviation.

➤ Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) serves as a crucial global tool for assessing acute multidimensional poverty in over 100 developing nations.



- Initially introduced in 2010, the index was jointly launched by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- It provides a comprehensive measure of deprivation by monitoring 10 indicators that span across health, education, and standard of living dimensions, capturing both the incidence and intensity of poverty.
- Individuals are classified as multidimensionally poor if they experience deprivation in at least one-third (or 33%) of the weighted indicators out of the ten specified.
- Those who are deprived in more than half of the weighted indicators are considered to be living in extreme multidimensional poverty.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Context: The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) convened in Kochi from January 29th to February 2nd, 2024.

➤ Physical Session Post-Pandemic:

- CCSCH7 marked the committee's first in-person session since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Attended by 109 delegates from 31 countries, it demonstrated a return to physical meetings.

➤ Standard Finalizations:

- Quality standards for five spices were concluded: small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allspice, and star anise.
- These standards were forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption as full-fledged Codex standards.

➤ Grouping Strategy Implementation:

CCSCH successfully implemented a grouping strategy for spices, finalizing the first group standard for 'spices derived from fruits and berries.'

➤ Progress and Proposals:

- The draft standard for vanilla advanced to step 5, awaiting further scrutiny.
- Proposals for standards on Dried Coriander Seeds, Large Cardamom, Sweet Marjoram, and Cinnamon were accepted.
- Future sessions will focus on drafting standards for these four spices.

Face to Face Centres

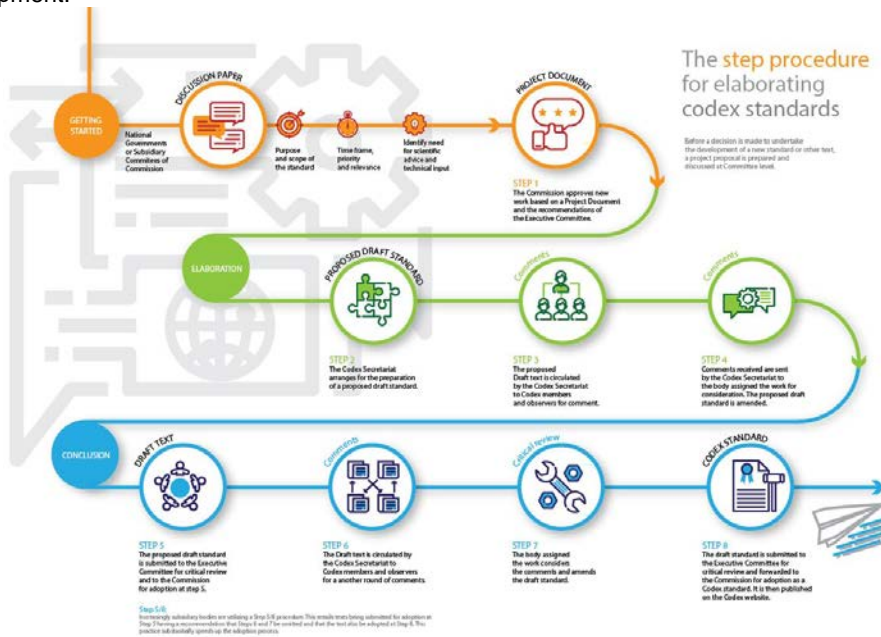




- **Increased Participation:** CCSCH7 saw the participation of numerous Latin American countries for the first time, enhancing global representation.
- **Future Meetings and Working Groups:**
 - The next committee meeting will occur after 18 months.
 - Electronic working groups (EWGs) chaired by various countries will continue multinational consultations on standard development.

➤ **Role of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):**

- The CAC, established by FAO and WHO, formulates internationally accepted food standards.
- CCSCH operates under the CAC, with India hosting and the Spices Board India serving as the Secretariat.



➤ **Impact and Importance:**

- CAC standards serve as international reference points for resolving food safety disputes.
- They promote harmonization of food standards, facilitate fair global trade, and enhance food safety worldwide.

Cancer Burden in the world

Context: The latest estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO), released on February 1, 2024, indicate a global increase of 20 million new cancer cases in 2022 compared to previous years.

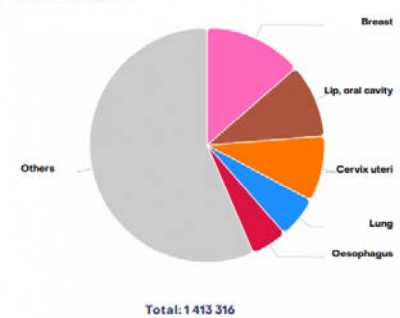
➤ **Cancer Cases in India:**

- In India, there were 1,413,316 new cases of cancer reported in 2022, with a notable gender disparity favoring female patients.
- Breast cancer emerged as the most prevalent form of cancer in India, comprising 13.6% of all cases, with over 26% occurring in women.
- Other prevalent cancers in India included lip and oral cavity, cervix and uterine, lung, and esophageal cancers.

➤ **Global Cancer Statistics:**

- Globally, lung cancer ranked as the most commonly occurring cancer, with 2.5 million new cases reported, followed closely by female breast cancer with 2.3 million cases.
- Colorectal, prostate, and stomach cancers also featured prominently among the top five most common cancers worldwide.

Both sexes



➤ **Impact of Socioeconomic Factors:**

- Socioeconomic factors such as tobacco usage, alcohol consumption, obesity, and air pollution significantly contribute to the rising cancer burden globally.
- Low and medium Human Development Index (HDI) countries are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of these risk factors, facing a higher incidence and mortality rate from cancer.

➤ **Policy Measures:**

- The interim budget 2024-25 in India underscored the importance of preventive measures such as vaccination for cervical cancer among young girls aged 9-14 years.
- Addressing risk factors like smokeless tobacco consumption through effective policies and regulations is crucial for reducing the burden of oral cancer, especially in South Asian countries like India.



➤ **Future Projections:**

- The WHO projects a staggering 77% increase in the global cancer burden by 2050, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to combat the disease.
- This exponential rise in cancer cases is expected to disproportionately affect countries with limited resources, exacerbating existing healthcare disparities and posing significant public health challenges.

➤ **Cervical Cancer:**

- Cervical cancer primarily affects the cervix in women and ranks as the 4th most common cancer globally among women.
- In India, it is the 2nd most common cancer among women, highlighting its significant impact on the population.
- India bears a substantial burden of cervical cancer cases, contributing to nearly 25% of global deaths from the disease, according to The Lancet study.

- The vast majority (99%) of cervical cancer cases are linked to infection with high-risk strains of Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is commonly transmitted through sexual contact.
- Effective prevention strategies, including HPV vaccination and screening for precancerous lesions, can greatly reduce the incidence of cervical cancer.
- Early detection and proper management significantly improve the prognosis of cervical cancer, making it one of the most treatable forms of cancer when diagnosed early.
- India records approximately 125,000 cases of cervical cancer and 75,000 deaths from the disease each year, contributing significantly to the global burden.
- Persistent infections with specific high-risk HPV strains, particularly types 16 and 18, account for the majority (about 85%) of cervical cancer cases globally.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Bandipur Tiger Reserve



Recently, a 25-year-old tusker, which was captured in Kerala and was being shifted to Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka was found dead on arrival.

About Bandipur Tiger Reserve:

- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is a well-known wildlife sanctuary located in the southern Indian state of **Karnataka**.
- It is situated in two contiguous districts, **Mysore** and **Chamarajanagar** of Karnataka.
- It is **one of the premier tiger reserves** in India and forms a **part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- It was established in the **1930s** as a wildlife sanctuary and later became a tiger reserve in **1973** under Project Tiger.
- It is surrounded by **Nagarhole Tiger Reserve** in the North West, **separated by the Kabini Reservoir, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** in the South, and **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** in the South West.
- The park is flanked by the **Kabini river** in the north and the **Moyar river** in the south.
- **Flora:** The reserve comprises diverse vegetation including **rosewood, Indian kino tree, sandalwood, Indian laurel, clumping bamboo and giant clumping bamboo**.
- **Fauna:** This Tiger Reserve is a shelter for the largest population of **wild Asian elephants** in **South Asia, Bengal tiger, Gaur (Indian bison), Sloth bear, Golden jackal, Dhole (Indian wild dog), Four-horned antelope** and more.

Bonder Labour



Recently, a group of children from West Bengal was rescued as bonded labourers from Tamil Nadu.

Bonded Labour:

- Bonded labour is a system where **workers are forced to repay loans through labour**.
- It is also **known as Bandhua Mazdoori or Debt Bondage**.
- In this system, a debtor agrees to provide service to a creditor, either personally or through a family member or dependent.
- The **Supreme Court of India has interpreted bonded labour as paying wages** that are below the legal minimum and prevailing market wages.
- The National Human Rights Commission (**NHRC**) is involved in supervising issues related to bonded labour.
- Low-income states like **West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh** are more vulnerable to bonded labour.
- A large number of bonded labourers are also rescued every year from **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**.
- The Bonded Labour System Abolition **Act 1976 (BLSA)** empowers the district administrations to eradicate this practice and is prohibited in India by law.
- **Articles 21, 23, 24, and 39** of the Indian Constitution provide protections against forced labour, child employment, and ensure the rights of workers.
- India is committed to ending modern slavery by **2030** under Sustainable Development **Goal Target 8.7** and has ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, **1957**.

Face to Face Centres





5 February, 2024

Dusted Apollo



Recently, the Dusted Apollo butterfly has been sighted and photographed for the first time in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

About Dusted Apollo:

- The **Dusted Apollo (Parnassius stenosemus)** is a rare butterfly that flies at altitudes between **3,500 and 4,800** meters in the inner Himalayas.
- It was seen during a trek to **Manimahesh Lake** in Chamba.
- The species was **first discovered in 1890** and its distribution range extends from **Ladakh to west Nepal**.
- It is closely resembles Ladakh **Banded Apollo (Parnassius stoliczkanus)** but the discal band on the upper fore wing in dusted apollo is complete and extends from costa to vein one while this discal band is incomplete and extends only up to vein four in Ladakh Banded Apollo.
- The habitat of the Apollo butterfly has been **reduced by conifer plantations, agriculture, urbanization** and the succession of suitable habitat to scrubland.
- It is a medium-sized butterfly, generally with **translucent white, yellow or gray wings** with dark markings and usually a **red or orange spot on the hindwing**.

Ergosphere



About Ergosphere:

- The Ergosphere is a distinct area outside the outer event horizon of rotating black holes, also known as **Kerr black holes**.
- It is a **place where the spacetime continuum has been deformed by the black hole**.
- The **ergosphere forces everything**, including the fabric of spacetime, to co-rotate with the black hole.
- It is **formed when a massive star exhausts its fuel**, explodes and leaves its core to implode under its weight, forming a black hole.
- The event horizon represents a sphere around the gravitational singularity, where anything entering cannot escape unless it travels faster than light, which is impossible.
- **The center of a black hole contains a gravitational singularity**, where the general theory of relativity breaks down.

Place in News

Catalonia

Recently, the Spanish region of Catalonia has declared a state of emergency as it faces its worst drought on record.

Catalonia (Capital: Barcelona)

Location: Catalonia, an **autonomous region of Spain** is located in north east of **Iberian Peninsula**.

Boundaries: Catalonia shares its border with **Mediterranean Sea (East), France and Andorra (North)**

Physical Features:

- The **Pyrenees** are a mountain range that stretches from the **Bay of Biscay** to the **Mediterranean Sea**, forming a natural border between **France and Spain**.
- **The Ebro River** is the longest river in Spain the second longest river in the Iberian Peninsula flowing from the Cantabrian Mountains to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Catalonia generally experiences a **Mediterranean climate** characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.



POINTS TO PONDER

- In which state is the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently making headlines, located? - **Tamil Nadu**
- Which sector is associated with the C-CARES web portal, recently featured in news reports? - **Coal sector**
- Where were Mesolithic era rock paintings recently discovered? - **Telangana**
- Which state is implementing the 'Digital Detox' initiative, recently highlighted in the news? - **Karnataka**
- What is Fentanyl, which has been mentioned in recent news? - **A type of opioid drug**

Face to Face Centres

