

Important Reports for RBI Grade B Exam January - March 2023

1. Global Economic Prospects Report 2023

- **Released by-** World Bank
- It is issued **twice a year, in January and June.**
- It aims to **examine global economic developments and prospects** with a special focus on emerging markets and developing economies.

Key findings:

- The global economy is projected to **grow by 1.7% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024.**
- The downturn in growth is expected to be widespread, with forecasts in 2023 revised down for 95% of advanced economies and nearly 70% of emerging market and developing economies.
- Over the next two years, **per-capita income growth** in emerging market and developing economies is projected to **average 2.8%, a full percentage point lower than the 2010-2019 average.**
- Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023.
- Global economy will come “**perilously close**” to a recession this year, led by weaker growth in all the world’s top economies – the United States, Europe and China.
- New development such as **higher-than-expected inflation, abrupt rises in interest rates to contain it, a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, or escalating geopolitical tensions**—could push the global economy into recession.
- Slowdown in the global economy and rising uncertainty will weigh on export and investment growth.
- **Challenges for emerging market and developing economies:** They might struggle with heavy debt burdens, weak currencies and income growth, and slowing business investment. The rising interest rates in developed economies like the United States and Europe will attract investment capital from poorer countries, thereby depriving them of crucial domestic investment.
- **Impact on Human Development:** Weakness in growth and business investment will compound the already devastating reversals in education, health, poverty and infrastructure and the increasing demands from climate change.
- **High Commodity Prices:** War-induced energy price shock could prove enduring, with oil prices expected to remain well above their pre-pandemic level throughout the next three years. Steep rises in food prices brought on by war-related disruptions to grain, energy, and fertilizer markets have squeezed living standards.

India related findings:

- Indian economic growth is **projected to slow from 8.7% in FY2021/22 to 6.9% in FY2022/23.**
- Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.6% in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- India is expected to be the fastest-growing economy of the seven largest developing economies.

2. Levels and trends in child mortality 2022

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- The report provides analysis on the child mortality rate around the globe.
- **Released by-** United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)
- **Key findings:**
- **Mortality:** Globally, **5 million children died before their fifth birthday** (under-five mortality) in 2021. Over half of these (2.7 million) occurred among children aged 1-59 months, while the remainder (**2.3 million**) occurred **in just the first month of life (neonatal deaths)**.
- India's share in these child mortalities was estimated around 7 lakhs under-five deaths; 5.8 lakhs infant deaths (death before first birthday); and 4.4 lakhs neonatal deaths.
- **Decline in Mortality Rate:** The global **under-5 mortality rate fell by 50%** since the start of the century, while mortality rates in **older children and youth dropped by 36%**, and the **stillbirth rate decreased by 35%**. This can be attributed to more investments in strengthening primary health systems to benefit women, children and young people.
- However, gains have reduced significantly since 2010, and **54 countries will fall short of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals target for under-5 mortality**.
- However, swift action for health services is needed, or almost 59 million children and youth may die before 2030 and nearly 16 million babies will be lost to stillbirth.
- Globally, **the under-five mortality rate was 38 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021**, but in sub-Saharan Africa, the rate was 74 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In low-income countries, the **2021 under-five mortality rate was 67 deaths per 1,000 live births, versus just 5 deaths per 1,000 live births** in high-income countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia continue to have the highest rates of child mortality, with children born in sub-Saharan Africa having the lowest chances of surviving.
- **Access to Quality Health:** Access to and availability of quality health care continues to be a matter of life or death for children globally. The first 28 days of life remain the most critical period for child survival.
- In 2021, **approximately 2.3 million children died** during the first month of life, or about 6,400 babies every day. For these youngest babies, premature birth and complications during labour are the leading causes of death. In 2021, the under-five mortality rate in countries classified as fragile and conflict-affected was triple the rate in other countries. While there is currently no systematic evidence of excess child mortality due to COVID-19, continued monitoring is needed given the potential impact of the pandemic on access to healthcare and intervention provision.
- **Report on Stillbirth:** Globally, an **estimated 1.9 million stillbirths** happened in 2021. In 2021, the absolute estimated **number of stillbirths in India (2,86,482) was greater than the death amongst children in 1-59 months of age (2,67,565)**. A baby who dies any time after 22 weeks of pregnancy, but before or during the birth, is classified as a stillborn.

3. World Social Report 2023

- The report **focuses on population ageing and the challenges and opportunities** it brings as countries strive to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Released by-** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

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- Number of **persons aged 65 years or older worldwide is expected to double over the next three decades.**
- The elderly population will reach **1.6 billion in 2050, accounting for more than 16 per cent of the global population.**
- Population **ageing is progressing more rapidly in developing countries** than it did historically in more developed countries.
- People are living longer due to improvements in health and medical therapies, greater access to education and reductions in fertility.
- In less developed regions, older persons tend to work longer and rely more on accumulated assets or family assistance.
- In almost all societies, women live longer than men on average and the rich longer than the poor.
- **North Africa, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa** are expected to experience the fastest growth in the number of older people over the next three decades. Social and economic improvements is driving age longevity.
- **People aged 80 and older are the fastest growing portion of the total population** in many countries. It is projected to increase by more than **200 per cent in the next three decades.**
- Gaping disparities in old age could derail progress made towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 10 on Reducing Inequalities.
- In more developed regions, pensions and other public transfer systems, provide over two thirds of the consumption by older persons.

4. Working Time and Work Life Balance Around the World

- The global report on working time focuses on the actual number of hours of work, working-time arrangements, and their implications for work-life balance.
- Released by- International Labour Organization (ILO)

Findings:

- More than half of the world's workforce doesn't typically work nine-to-five schedule.
- The **Average hours of work globally was approximately 43.9 hours per week** prior to the pandemic (2019 or the latest available year).
- More a third of workers have a work week of more than 48 hours, while a fifth work part-time or fewer than 35 hours per week.
- The short-time work and work-sharing measures or other forms of job retention helped people reduce the volume of work and save jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Moreover, the system of reduced working hours and flexible working time arrangements can benefit economies, enterprises and workers and lay the ground for a better and more healthy work-life balance.

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- Firstly, countries should **continue to support pandemic-era initiatives** such as inclusive short-time work schemes, which not only saved jobs but also boosted purchasing power and helped cushion the effects of economic crises.
- Secondly, **a public policy shift must happen** to reduce the number of working hours in many countries and promote a healthy work-life balance.
- Thirdly, **encourage teleworking** to help maintain employment and give workers more agency.

5. Survey on Dietary Supplements

- The survey is on dietary supplements and provides mix of qualitative and quantitative information to explore the impact of it which has become popular in recent years.
- **Released by** - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Findings:

- **At least 15 per cent of protein powders sold in India** are of poor quality.
- The survey, which was conducted during 2021-22, found that 4,890 out of 144,345 samples collected were unsafe for consumption, 16,582 were substandard, and over 11,482 samples had labelling defects and misleading information.
- Health experts have expressed concern about the unsupervised consumption of dietary supplements, warning poor-quality products can affect cardiovascular health and kidneys.
- **The Consumer Protection Act 2019 bans misleading advertisements** about any product or service falsely describing a product and deliberately concealing information on sugar content while focusing on immunity boost.
- **Cost cutting and poor resources** are some reasons for poor quality dietary supplements. The quality of the product also depends on where the products are being manufactured. So, quality control of the manufacturing unit is significant in all aspects.

6. Global Risk Report 2023

- The 18th edition of report is an annual study which describes changes occurring in the global landscape from year to year.
- The report examines risks across five categories: economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological.
- Released by- World Economic Forum (WEF)

Findings:

- **‘Failure to Mitigate Climate Change’ and ‘Failure of Climate Change Adaptation’** are the two most severe risks facing the world in the next decade, followed by **‘natural disasters and extreme weather events’** and **‘Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse’**.

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- The **cost-of-living crisis, natural disasters and extreme weather events, geoeconomic confrontation, failure to mitigate climate change and large-scale environmental damage incidents**, among others are the biggest risks globally over short term (2 years).
- Beyond the short term, climate change is the biggest risk that the global economy faces, and it is the challenge for which humanity is least prepared.
- **Geopolitical rivalries and inward-looking stances will heighten economic constraints and further exacerbate both short- and long-term risks**, adding that the pandemic and war in Europe have brought energy, inflation, food and security crises back to the fore.
- The risks have been amplified by **comparatively new developments in the global landscape, including unsustainable levels of debt, a new era of low growth, low global investment and de-globalization, a decline in human development after decades of progress, rapid and unconstrained development of dual-use** (civilian and military) technologies, and the growing pressure of climate change impacts.
- These create follow-on risks that will dominate the next two years: **the risk of recession; growing debt distress; a continued cost of living crisis; polarized societies enabled by disinformation and misinformation; a hiatus on rapid climate action; and zero-sum geo-economic warfare.**
- Over the next 10 years or by 2033, the interconnections between biodiversity loss, pollution, natural resource consumption, climate change and socioeconomic drivers will make for a dangerous mix.
- Nature loss and climate change are intrinsically interlinked – a failure in one sphere will cascade into the other.
- Without significant policy change or investment, the interplay between climate change impacts, **biodiversity loss, food security and natural resource consumption will accelerate ecosystem collapse, threaten food supplies and livelihoods in climate-vulnerable economies**, amplify the impacts of natural disasters, and limit further progress on climate mitigation.
- Today, atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have all reached record highs.
- Emission trajectories make it very unlikely that global ambitions to limit warming to 1.5°C will be achieved.
- In India, **a cost of living crisis, digital inequality, geopolitical contest for resources, natural disasters and extreme weather events are the biggest risks for India over the short and medium term.**

7. Rural Health Statistics 2021-22

- It is a vital source of information on health infrastructure and human resources available in the public health institutions of all States/UTs.
- It also facilitates identification of additional resources for better management of public health delivery system.
- **Released by-** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Findings:

- As on 31st March, 2022, there are 157935 and 3894 Sub Centres (SC), 24935 and 6118 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 5480 and 584 Community Health Centres (CHCs) respectively which are functioning in rural and urban areas of the country.

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- **Sub Centres (SCs):** At national level, there is an increase of 11909 numbers of SCs from the year 2005. The significant increase in SCs has been **observed in the States of Rajasthan (3011), Gujarat (1858), Madhya Pradesh (1413) and Chhattisgarh (1306)**. There are 3894 Sub Centres in the urban areas and 25383 Sub Centres in the tribal areas as on 31st March 2022.
 - **Primary Health Centres (PHCs):** At national level, there is an increase of 1699 PHCs in 2022 with comparison to the year 2005. The increase in PHCs from year 2005 has been observed in the States of **Jammu & Kashmir (557), Karnataka (457), Rajasthan (420), Gujarat (404) and Assam (310)**. There are 6118 PHCs in the urban areas and 3833 PHCs in the tribal areas as on 31st March 2022.
 - **Community Health Centres (CHCs):** At national level, there is increase of 2134 number of CHCs from the year 2005. The increase in CHCs from year 2005 has been observed in the States of **Uttar Pradesh (443), Tamil Nadu (350), Rajasthan (290), West Bengal (253) and Bihar (168)**. There are 584 CHCs in the urban areas and 960 CHCs in the tribal areas as on 31st March 2022.
 - **Changes on the Manpower position (Rural Areas):** The number of ANMs at Sub Centres and PHCs has increased from 133194 in 2005 to 207587 in 2022 which amounts to an increase of about 55.9%.
 - As on 31st March, 2022 the **overall shortfall (which excludes the existing surplus in some of the States) in the posts of HW(F) / ANM is 3.5%** of the total requirement as per the norm of one HW(F) / ANM per Sub Centre and PHC. There is **vacancy of 14.4% HW (Female)/ ANM (at SCs +PHCs) when compared with the sanctioned posts**.
 - The allopathic doctors at PHCs have increased from 20308 in 2005 to 30640 in 2022, which is about 50.9% increase. There is shortfall of 3.1% of allopathic doctors at PHC, out of the total requirement at all India level. The specialist doctors at CHCs have increased from 3550 in 2005 to 4485 in 2022. Moreover, as compared to requirement for existing infrastructure, there is a **shortfall of 83.2% of Surgeons, 74.2% of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, 79.1% of Physicians and 81.6% of Pediatricians**.
 - A total of 1275 Sub Divisional/Sub District Hospital and 767 District Hospitals (DHs) are functioning as on 31st March, 2022 throughout the country.
 - **Changes on the Manpower position (Urban Areas):** 21501 Health Worker (Female)/ANM is in-positioned at PHCs. There is 13.4% posts vacant and shortfall of 35.5% of HW (F)/ANM at PHC, out of the total requirement at all India level. There are 7315 Allopathic Doctors, 5029 Pharmacists, 4361 Laboratory Technicians and 9467 Nursing Staff are available at PHCs. A total of 1278 Specialists (Surgeons, OB&GY, Physicians & Paediatricians), 1568 General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) – Allopathic, 358 Radiographers, 840 Pharmacists, 902 Laboratory Technicians and 6121 Nursing Staff are in-positioned at CHCs.
8. **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021**
- **Ministry of Education** has been **conducting AISHE since 2011**, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country.
 - It collects detailed information on different parameters such as **Student enrolments, teacher's data, infrastructural information, examination results, education finance and Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure** will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE.

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- For the **first time**, in AISHE 2020-21, HEIs have filled data using entirely online data collection platform through the **Web Data Capture Format (DCF)** developed by Department of Higher Education through the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Released by- **Ministry of Education**

Student Enrolment:

- The total enrolment in higher education has **increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20**. Since 2014-15, there has been an increase of around 72 Lakh in the enrolment (21%).
- Female enrolment has **increased to 2.01 crore from 1.88 crore in 2019-20**. There has been an increase of around 44 Lakh (28%) since 2014-15. The percentage of female enrolment to total enrolment has increased **from 45% in 2014-15 to around 49% in 2020-21**.
- As per 2011 population projections for 18-23 years age group, **GER has increased to 27.3 from 25.6 in 2019-20**. Notable increase of 1.9 points is observed in GER of ST students in 2020-21, as compared to 2019-20. Female GER has overtaken Male GER since 2017-18. Gender Parity Index (GPI), the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.
- The enrolment of **SC students is 58.95 Lakh** as compared to 56.57 Lakh in 2019-20 and 46.06 Lakh in 2014-15.
- The enrolment of **ST students has increased to 24.1 Lakh** in 2020-21 from 21.6 Lakh in 2019-20 and 16.41 Lakh in 2014-15. The **average annual enrolment of ST students has increased to around 1 Lakh during the period 2014-15 to 2020-21**, from around 75,000 during the period 2007-08 to 2014-15.
- The enrolment in **Distance Education is 45.71 Lakh (with 20.9 Lakh Female)**, an increase of around 7% since 2019-20 and 20% since 2014-15.
- **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan are the top 6 States in terms of number of student enrolled.**
- As per response in AISHE 2020-21, about **79.06% of the total students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 11.5% are enrolled in postgraduate level courses**.
- Among Disciplines at undergraduate level, enrollment is **highest in Arts (33.5%), followed by Science (15.5%), Commerce (13.9%) and Engineering & Technology (11.9%)**.
- Among streams at **postgraduate level**, maximum students are enrolled in **Social Science (20.56%) followed by science (14.83%)**.
- **Government Universities (59% of total) contribute towards 73.1% of the enrolment**. Government Colleges (21.4% of total) contribute towards 34.5% of the enrolment.
- The enrolment in **Institute of National Importance (INIs) has increased by nearly 61% during the period 2014-15 to 2020-21**.
- Enrolment has increased in 2020-21 compared to 2014-15 in the Specialized Universities relating to Defence, Sanskrit, Biotechnology, Forensics, Design, Sports etc.
- The total number of pass-outs has increased to **95.4 Lakh in 2020-21 as against 94 Lakh in 2019-20**.

Number of institutions:

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- The total number of **Universities / University like institutions** registered is **1,113**, **Colleges 43,796** and **Standalone Institutions 11,296**.
- During 2020-21, the **number of Universities has increased by 70**, and the **number of Colleges has increased by 1,453**. Since 2014-15, there has been increase of 353 Universities (46.4%).
- The **Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled from 75 in 2014-15 to 149 in 2020-21**.
- During 2014-15 to 2020-21, **on average, 59 Universities have been added annually**. This was about 50 during 2007-08 to 2014-15.
- 17 Universities (of which 14 are State Public) and 4,375 Colleges are exclusively for women.
- The College Density, the number of colleges per lakh eligible population (population in the age-group 18-23 years) **has been 31. This was 27 in 2014-15**.
- States with Highest college density: **Karnataka (62), Telangana (53), Kerala (50)**, Himachal Pradesh (50), Andhra Pradesh (49), Uttarakhand (40), Rajasthan (40), Tamil Nadu (40).
- Top 8 Districts with Highest number of Colleges: **Bangalore Urban (1058), Jaipur (671), Hyderabad (488)**, Pune (466), Prayagraj (374), Rangareddy (345), Bhopal (327) and Nagpur (318).
- **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan**, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat are top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.
- 43% universities and 61.4% colleges are located in Rural Areas.

Faculty:

- Total number of faculty/teachers: 15,51,070 (57.1% are male and 42.9% are female).
- Female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21 from 74 in 2019-20 and 63 in 2014-15.

9. Ecowrap report

- Released by State Bank of India (SBI)
- In FY24, the overall gross borrowing by Centre and States is likely to be Rs 24.3 lakh crore (Rs. 22.2 lakh crore in FY23) and net borrowings Rs. 17 lakh crore (Rs 16.7 lakh crore in FY23).
- The Government will continue to rely on small saving schemes (Rs 5 lakh crore likely in FY24).
- As regards FY24, the **government's expenditure is likely to increase by around 8.2 per cent over FY23 estimates to Rs 46 lakh crore**.
- However, higher nominal GDP growth (15.4 per cent) estimates will help in keeping the **fiscal deficit at 6.4 per cent of the GDP**.
- Subsidy bill which increased significantly in FY23 is estimated to be reduced in FY24 to around Rs 3.8-4 lakh crore and capital expenditure is expected to grow by 12 per cent.
- The fiscal deficit for FY24 is estimated at around Rs 17.95 lakh crore or 6 per cent of GDP in FY24, thereby resulting in fiscal consolidation of 40 bps from the current fiscal.

10. "India@100: Realizing the Potential of a \$26 trillion Economy

- Released by Ernst & Young

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- India's **economy will reach USD 26 trillion by 2047**, according to projections made by consultancy firm EY (Ernst & Young) in their report, "India@100: Realizing the Potential of a \$26 trillion Economy."
- India will celebrate 100 years of freedom in 2047.
- With a **per capita income forecast to reach USD 15,000, India will join the rich economies.**
- Under the most preferred scenario, India is **likely to cross the critical thresholds of \$5 trillion, \$10 trillion and \$20 trillion in market exchange rate terms**, in FY2028, FY2036 and FY2045, respectively.

11. IT Services 25 Ranking for the year of 2023

- Released by **Brand Finance**
- **Accenture has retained its position as the most valuable IT services brand** globally, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion.
- TCS and Infosys remained the second and third most valued brands, while increasing their brand value by 2 per cent.
- TCS's brand value is valued at \$17.2 billion while Infosys's brand value is at \$13 billion.

12. Global 500 companies 2023

- Released by Brand finance
- **Amazon is ranked at top spot as the world's most valuable brand** despite its brand value falling 15% this year from US\$350.3 billion to US\$299.3 billion.
- Apple (brand value down 16% to US\$297.5 billion) has fallen to be the world's second most valuable brand.
- **Reliance Jio has been ranked as the strongest brand in India and placed ninth among the world's strongest brands.**

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13. WHO Report on 'Global Trans-fat Elimination 2022'

- Released by **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- The report states that **despite efforts to eliminate industrially produced trans fats by 2023**, 5 billion people worldwide remain at risk of heart disease and death due to harmful trans-fatty acids (TFA).
- **WHO first called for the global elimination of industrially produced trans fats in 2018, with a target date of 2023.** 43 countries have implemented policies to tackle trans fats in food, protecting 2.8 billion people globally. However, the target remains unattainable. **Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 500,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease annually.**
- 9 of the 16 countries with the highest proportion of coronary heart disease deaths caused by trans fat intake do not have a best-practice policy. These countries are Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.
- Most trans fat elimination policies have been implemented in higher-income countries in the Americas and Europe, but middle-income countries, including Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Paraguay, Philippines and Ukraine, have also implemented or are planning to implement such policies
- **A mandatory national limit of 2 grammes of industrially produced trans fat per 100 grammes of total fat in all foods** and a mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils, a major source of trans fat, as an ingredient in all foods are two best-practice policy alternatives for eliminating trans fat, according to the WHO.

14. Annual Status of Education Report

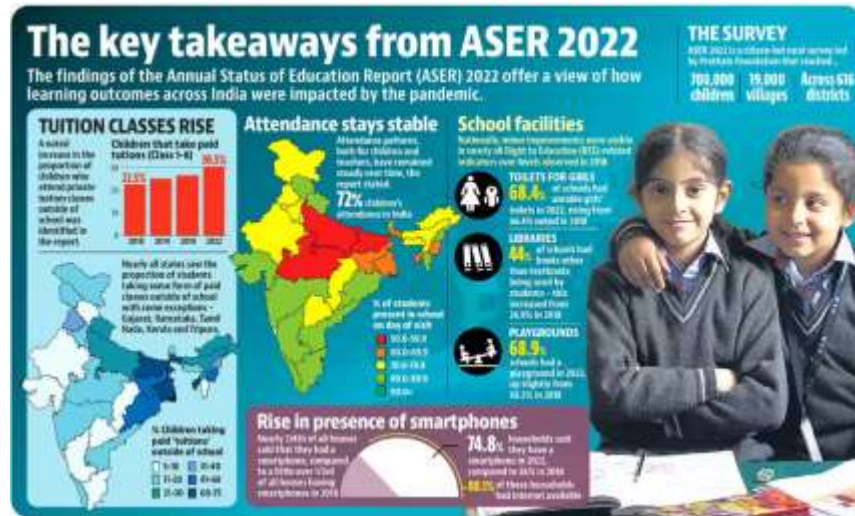
- 17th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022 was released by **NGO Pratham, which highlights the impact of the pandemic on education.**
- The report **unveils high enrolment of children in schools** which is a good performance indicator for government programmes like Nipun Bharat Mission.
- The ASER, is **an annual, citizen-led household survey** that aims to understand **whether children in rural India are enrolled in school and whether they are learning.**
- **ASER has been conducted every year since 2005** in all rural districts of India. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India.
- ASER surveys provided representative **estimates of the enrolment status of children aged 3-16** and the **basic reading and arithmetic levels of children aged 5-16 at the national, state and district level.**
- **Enrollment in Government Schools:** According to the ASER, 2022 the country has seen an increase in the enrollment of children in government schools.
- **Basic Reading and Arithmetic Skills:** There has been a decline in the basic reading and arithmetic skills of young children in Class 3 and Class 5 in India.
- **Proportion of Girls not Enrolled:** The decrease in the proportion of girls not enrolled in schools for the **age group 11-14 from 4.1% in 2018 to 2% in 2022 is a significant improvement and a positive development.** This

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indicates that efforts to promote gender equality in education have been effective and have helped to increase the enrollment of girls in schools.



15. State Finances: A study of budgets of 2022- 23

- The report titled "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23" is a comprehensive analysis of the **financial position of the Indian states, including the trends and challenges in their revenue and expenditure.**
- According to this RBI report, **states' debt is expected to decrease to 29.5% of GDP in 2022-23, compared to 31.1% in 2020-21.**
- However, the report also highlights that this is still **higher than the 20% recommended** by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee in 2018.
- States are anticipating an increase in non-tax revenue, which is generated from sources such as fees, fines, and royalties. This increase is likely to be driven by revenue from industries and general services.
- The report notes that states are expecting to see an increase in revenue from various sources such as State GST, excise taxes, and sales taxes in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

16. Global Quality Infrastructure Index

- Recently, India's national accreditation system under the **Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th in the world** in the recent Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021.
- The GQII ranks the **184 economies in the world** on the basis of quality infrastructure (QI).
- The GQII is a database and ranking that allows interested persons to compare the quality infrastructure of different countries worldwide.
- The GQII program is an initiative of the **independent consulting firms Mesopartner and Analyticar** to research and disseminate data on Quality Infrastructure.

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- India's overall QI system ranking continues to be in the **Top 10 at the 10th position**, with the standardization system (under BIS) at 9th and the metrology system (under NPL-CSIR) at 21st position in the world.
- This is the sign of a New India in the Amrit Kaal with a quality first approach. India's accreditation system is the youngest among the three QI pillars in India.
- Accreditation helps establish the **competence and credibility of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) which perform testing, certification, inspection.**

17. Transforming Education with Equitable Financing

- It is a report to combat poverty. It reveals government **spending from pre primary to tertiary education in 102 countries.**
- Released by **UNICEF**

Findings:

- **2/3 of all children under 10 year old** are unable to read and understand a simple story.
- **16% of total education expenditure goes to the poorest 20%** but, 28% of funding goes to the richest 20%.
- In low income countries, **children from the wealthiest families are receiving six times more benefits than the poor.**
- In middle income countries, the **rich children receive around 4 times** more benefits than the poor.
- In high income countries, the rich benefits 1.1 to 1.6 times more education funding than the poor.
- In the past decade, **education spending has become more equitable in 60%** of the countries.
- 1/3 of the countries spend less than 15% of public education spending on poor.

18. Collapse and Recovery: How COVID-19 Eroded Human Capital and What to Do About It

- Recently, the **World Bank** has released a report titled- "**Collapse and Recovery: How COVID-19 Eroded Human Capital and What to Do**", stating that the Covid-19 caused a **massive collapse in human capital, primarily affecting children and young people.**
- It analyzed global data on the pandemic's impacts on young people at key developmental stages: **early childhood (0-5 years), school age (6-14 years) and youth (15-24 years).**
- **Impact of Pandemic:** The Covid-19 caused massive damage to human capital at critical moments in the life cycle, primarily affecting children and young people in underdeveloped and developing countries. The development of millions in low- and middle-income countries has been derailed.
- **Impact on School Children:** Preschool-age children in **multiple countries have lost more than 34% of learning in early language and literacy and more than 29% of learning in mathematics** compared to pre-pandemic cohorts. In many countries, even after schools had reopened, preschool enrollment had not recovered by the end of 2021; it was down by more than 10% in multiple countries. Children also faced greater food insecurity during the pandemic.

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- **Reductions in Healthcare:** Millions of children faced reductions in health care—including missed critical vaccines. They also faced more stress in their care environments—orphans, domestic violence, suboptimal nutrition—which led to declines in school readiness and declines in social and emotional development.
- **Youth Employment:** Forty million people who would have had a job in the absence of the pandemic did not have one at the end of 2021, worsening youth unemployment trends. Youth earnings contracted by 15% in 2020 and 12% in 2021. **New entrants with lower education will have 13% fewer earnings during their first decade in the labour market.** In Brazil, Ethiopia, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, and Vietnam 25% of all young people were neither in education, employment, nor training in 2021.
- **Challenges in Future:** The **cognitive deficit in today's toddlers could translate into a 25% decline in earnings at their prime working age.** Today's students in low- and middle-income countries could lose up to 10% of their future average annual earnings due to the COVID-related education shocks. **Globally, this generation of students risks losing USD 21 trillion in potential lifetime earnings.**
- Losses of lifetime earnings at this scale can mean lower productivity, greater inequality, and possibly greater social unrest for decades to come.

19. Trends in Maternal Mortality

- According to the [United Nations' \(UN\)](#) new report “Trends in Maternal Mortality”, of the estimated 287,000 maternal deaths recorded in 2020, 70 % took place in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The [Maternal Mortality Ratio \(MMR\)](#) — deaths per lakh live births — in the region was at a dangerous high of 545, many times greater than the world average of 223.
- What are the Key Findings of the Report?
- Statistics:
- Every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth, revealing alarming setbacks for women's health over recent years, as maternal deaths either increased or stagnated in nearly all regions of the world.
- There were an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2020, which is a slight decrease from 309,000 in 2016 when the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) came into effect.
- Although there has been significant progress in reducing maternal deaths between 2000 and 2015, gains largely stalled, or in some cases even reversed, after this point.
- MMR:
- In 2020, about 70% of all maternal deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The top three sub-regions in the world with a high or very high MMR were found in sub-Saharan Africa,
- Western Africa at 754, middle Africa at 539 and eastern Africa at 351.
- On the country level, a similar trend was seen with South Sudan (1,223), Chad (1,063) and Nigeria (1,047) recording an extremely high — greater than 1,000 — MMR.
- With approximately 82,000 maternal deaths in 2020, Nigeria accounted for over a quarter (28.5%) of all estimated global maternal deaths in the pandemic year.
- From 2000 to 2020, declines in the MMR stagnated in sub-Saharan Africa, northern Africa, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and western Asia, and eastern and south-eastern Asia.

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- Causes of Maternal Deaths:
- Severe bleeding, high blood pressure, pregnancy-related infections, complications from unsafe abortion, and underlying conditions that can be aggravated by pregnancy (such as [HIV/AIDS](#) and malaria) are the leading causes of maternal deaths.
- Globally, 1,878 HIV-related indirect maternal deaths were recorded, of which 1,738 (around 92.5%) were in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Healthcare Gaps:
- Roughly a third of women do not have even four of a recommended eight antenatal checks or receive essential postnatal care, while some 270 million women lack access to modern family planning methods.
- Risks:
- Inequities related to income, education, race or ethnicity further increase risks for marginalized pregnant women, who have the least access to essential maternity care but are most likely to experience underlying health problems in pregnancy.
- What are the Findings Related to India?
- India recorded the second highest number of maternal deaths in 2020, coming second at 24,000 to only Nigeria.
- However, there has been an overall reduction of 73.5% in MMR in India, between 2000 and 2020.
- In 2020, India's MMR stood at 103, a vast improvement from 384 at the turn of the century.
- In comparison, other developing countries like Argentina (45 in 2020), Bhutan (60), Brazil (72), Kyrgyzstan (50) and Philippines (78) have performed better than India.

20. World happiness report 2023

- 11th edition of the World Happiness Report was released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). It is published ever since 2012 by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.
- The World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas: **Happiness or life evaluation** measured through opinion surveys, and identifying key elements that determine **well-being including levels of GDP, life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, across countries**.
- The report **usually ranks 150 countries** based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- Every year, each variable measures a populated-weighted **average score on a scale of 0-10 that is tracked over a period of time** and further compared with other countries.

Key highlights:

- Top Performers: **Finland continues to be the happiest country** around the world for **the sixth consecutive year**, while Nordic countries like Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden among others, dominated the top spots on the list with the exception of Israel which is placed fourth on the index.
- Worst Performers: The unhappiest countries include **Taliban-ruled Afghanistan — ranked last — with Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone** and the Democratic Republic of Congo joining it at the bottom of the index.

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War-scarred Afghanistan, which has occupied the bottom spot on the table since 2020, saw its humanitarian crisis deepen since the Taliban government took power in 2021 following the US-led military pull-out.

- **India & its neighbors:** India's rank in the World Happiness Report improved from 136 in 2022 to 126 this year, the country is placed far below its neighbours like Sri Lanka (63), China (74) and Pakistan (108), among others.
- **Rising resilience around the world:** Between 2020 and 2022, **the world saw a 'remarkable' rise in resilience**, the SDSN's report stated. Two crucial events impacted the world during this period — the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- According to the report, global citizens became increasingly benevolent during this time of crisis and built stronger social connections. Data showed that “benevolent acts” were 25 percent more common around the world in 2022 than before the pandemic.

21. Global Threat Landscape Report

- Released by **Cloud SEK**
- India is the highest-attacked country by **hackers in Asia and 2nd globally (after the US) in 2022**.
- Number of cyber-attacks on India increased by **24.3% in 2022**.
- Asia pacific remained the most targeted region globally, receiving 20.4% of all attacks in 2021 and 24.1% in 2022.
- Number of attacks targeting the Asia Pacific region increased by 26.4%.
- North America, Asia Pacific, and Europe remain the most targeted regions in both 2021 and 2022.
- Attacks on the government sector globally accounted for 4.1% in 2021, which increased to 12.1% in 2022.

22. Women and Men in india 2022 report

- Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released Women and Men in India 2022 report.

Findings:

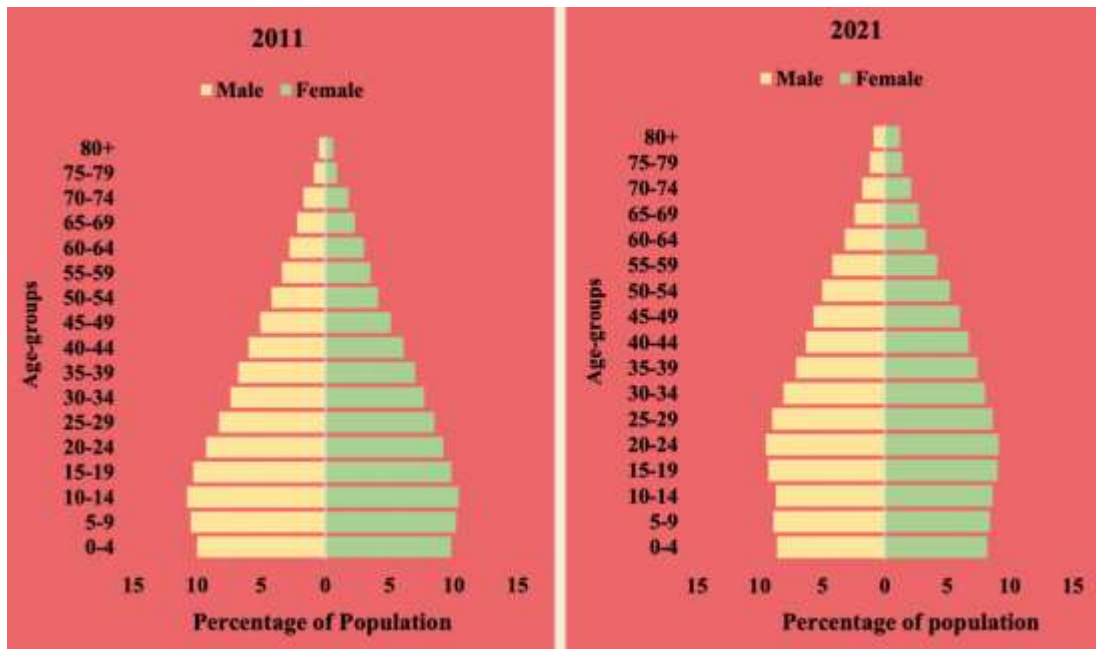
- **Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio at birth went up by three points to **907 in 2018-20 from 904 in 2017-19**. India's sex ratio (females per 1,000 males) is expected to **improve to 952 by 2036**, up significantly from 943 in 2011.
- **Labour Force Participation:** India's Labour Force Participation Rate for those above 15 years of age has been on the rise since 2017-2018. However, women are severely lagging behind men. The rate was **77.2 for males and 32.8 for females in 2021-22**, with no improvement in this disparity over the years. Less participation is due to social factors, educational qualifications and gender discrimination in terms of wages and opportunities in the workplace.
- **Population Growth:** The population growth, already on a downward trend from **2.2% in 1971 to 1.1% in 2021**, is projected to fall further to **0.58% in 2036**. In absolute figures, this translates into 1.2 billion people with 48.5% female population as per Census 2011 to an expected 1.5 billion in 2036 with a marginal improvement in the female population share (48.8%).

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- Age of Sex Structure:** India's age and sex structure, as per which the **population under 15 years of age is expected to decline and the population above 60 years is expected to increase by 2036**. Accordingly, the population pyramid will undergo a shift as the base of the pyramid in 2036 would narrow down, while the middle would be broadened. The age and sex structure of a country's population can affect gender issues in a variety of ways. Age structure impacting various aspects of societies is determined primarily by trends in fertility and mortality.



- Access to Health Information and Services:** Lack of access to resources and decision-making power, restrictions on mobility, etc make access to health information and services more difficult for women and girls than men and boys.
- Fertility Rate:** The age-specific fertility rate for the 20-24 year and 25-29 years age group between 2016 and 2020 reduced from **135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively**. This is likely a function of economic independence by attaining proper education and securing a job. The same indicator for the 35-39 years age group increased from 32.7 in 2016 to 35.6 in 2020. The **mean age for marriage has improved marginally up from 22.1 years in 2017 to 22.7 years in 2020**.

23. Global Terrorism Index (GTI)

- The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study analysing the impact of **terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7 percent of the world's population**.
- The GTI report is produced by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources**.

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- **GTI Score:** The GTI produces a **composite score so as to provide an ordinal ranking** of countries on the impact of terrorism. The GTI scores each country on a scale from 0 to 10. Where 0 represents no impact from terrorism and 10 represents the highest measurable impact of terrorism.
- The GTI considers **deaths, incidents, hostages and injuries from terrorism**.

Key findings:

- **Deaths & attacks of terrorism:** Terrorist attacks and deaths caused by them decreased by 28 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, but average deaths per attack increased from 1.3 to 1.7 from the previous year in 2022. Attacks have become more deadly with the lethality rising by 26%. This is attributed to the Taliban's transition from terror group to state actor. **Afghanistan continues to be the country most affected by terrorism**. Outside Afghanistan, terrorism deaths rose 4% in the rest of the world.
- Islamic State (IS) - the deadliest terrorist group: IS and its affiliates remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2022 for the eighth consecutive year, with attacks in 21 countries.
- **Sahel and Af-Pak region:** Deaths from attacks by unknown Jihadists globally are eight times higher than 2017, representing 32% of all terrorism deaths and 18 times higher in the Sahel. The Sahel is the most impacted region, representing 43% of global terrorism deaths, 7% more than the year prior. Jihadi upheavals in the Sahel and Af-Pak region remain key drivers of the increase in lethality.
- **Global trends:** Declining terrorism in the West is met with intensified attacks in other regions. Far-right extremist groups are gaining ground in Europe and North America. Terrorism thrives in countries with poor ecologies and climate induced shocks.
- **Formalisation of terrorism:** Many states continue to use armed non-state actors for their own objectives, indicating a worrying trend in the formalisation of terrorism.
- **Technology use:** Drone technology and its use continues to rapidly evolve, especially with groups such as IS, Boko Haram and Houthis.

24. Global Payments Report 2023

- It is based on the report of **46000 consumers, secondary research and validation by payment experts from each region**. It covers 40 select markets and tracks consumer payments when shopping online and at point of sale. It identifies key payment trends and project future scenarios.
- Released by **Fidelity National Information Services (FIS)**
- **Global:** Account to Account transaction value **surpassed \$525 billion in 2022 and projected to grow at 13% CAGR through 2026**.
- Global credit card transaction values across e-com and POS exceeded \$13 trillion in 2022
- Digital wallets are projected to grow at 15% CAGR at POS from 2022-26

India:

- United payment interface has emerged as global leader in payments. **It recorded the biggest year on year growth of 74.1% in transaction in volume as of January 2023**.

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- UPI has grown at huge 427% in transaction volume between march 2020 and august 2022
- In 2022, digital wallets accounted for 50% of e-commerce transaction value and 35% of POS transaction value.
- E-commerce market size expected to grow by 82% by 2026. Cash use declined from 71% of POS transaction value in 2019 to just 27% in 2022.

25. Multiple Indicator Survey

- **National Sample Survey Office** carried out the Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS) covering the entire country in its 78th round.
- A MIS is a type of survey **designed to collect data on a range of key indicators** related to the **well-being of individuals, households, and communities**. The survey typically covers topics such as **health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, and child protection**.

Objectives of the MIS:

- To collect information for developing estimates of some important **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators**.
- To collect information **Purchase/Construction of house(s)/ flat(s) by the household for residential purpose after 31.03.2014** and information on Migration.

Findings:

- **Drinking Water Accessibility: Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland, and Jharkhand** have less than 90% access to an improved source of drinking water. Among major states, **Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha are among the worst** in access to tapped drinking water for both rural and urban households.
- **Access to an Exclusive Toilet:** Among the major states **Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha** have the lowest proportion of rural households with access to an exclusive toilet.
- **LPG Connections for Cooking:** In the states like **Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Nagaland and Madhya Pradesh**, for more than 70% of households, firewood is the primary source of energy for cooking. These states along with Jharkhand have less than 25% of households using LPG for cooking— the lowest among all states and UTs
- **Education, Employment, or Training:** Among big states, **Uttarakhand, Odisha, Kerala, and Delhi have the highest proportion** (more than 20%) of men aged 15 to 24 who were not in education, employment, or training at the time of the survey. For females, the proportion was highest in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal, and Bihar.

26. Women, Business and the Law 2023 Report

- Women, Business and the Law 2023 is the 9th in a series of annual reports that analyze laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunity in 190 economies released by the **World Bank**.
- Women, Business and the Law data is **available for the period from 1971 to 2023 (calendar years 1970 to 2022)**

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- Indicators: It has **eight indicators- Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.**
- Uses: Data and indicators in Women, Business and the Law 2023, used to build evidence of the **relationship between legal gender equality and women's entrepreneurship and employment.**
- Since 2009, Women, Business and the Law has been enhancing the study of gender equality and informing discussions on improving women's economic opportunities and empowerment.

India level:

- India as Lower middle Income group country with WBL index score is **74.4 out of 100.** 100 representing the highest possible score.
- The overall score for India is higher than the regional average observed across **South Asia (63.7). Within the South Asia region, the maximum score observed is 80.6 (Nepal).**
- In India, a thriving civil society also contributed to identifying gaps, drafting legislation, and organizing public opinion through campaigns, discussions, and protests, leading to enactment of the 2005 Domestic Violence Act.

India - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2023



Globally

- Only 14 scored a perfect 100: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
- In 2022, the **global average score is 76.5 out of 100.**
- Nearly 2.4 billion women of working age around the world live in economies that do not grant them the same rights as men.
- At the current pace of reform, it would take at least **50 years to approach legal gender equality everywhere.**
- Progress toward equal treatment for women has fallen to its weakest pace in 20 years.
- Most reforms focused on increasing paid leave for parents and fathers, removing restrictions on women's work, and mandating equal pay.
- Progress across the areas measured has also been uneven, with most reforms in Workplace and Parenthood.

27. World Air Quality Report 2022

- Released by **IQAir**

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- 5th Annual World Air Quality Report reveals alarming details of the **world's most polluted countries, territories, and regions in 2022.**
- A total of 118 (90%) out of 131 countries and regions exceeded the WHO annual PM (Particulate matter) 2.5 guideline value of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **India was ranked eighth on the list, dropping three places from the previous year.**
- **Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, and Bangladesh** are the five most polluted countries in 2022.
- The annual average PM 2.5 level, as per the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, should be $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less but India's annual average PM 2.5 level in 2022 was $53.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **Rajasthan's Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in India**, with annual PM_{2.5} levels of $92.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

28. "Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement" by Oxfam India.

- Oxfam India's "**Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement**" reveals some stark findings proving that the **gap between the rich and the poor is indeed widening.** The report also highlights how progressive tax measures can help combat inequality in India.
- "**Survival of the Richest**" is published on the opening day of the **2023 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.**
- **Key findings of the report:**
- Oxfam India's report on inequality in India finds that just **5 per cent of Indians own more than 60 per cent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent of the population possess only 3 per cent of the wealth.**
- **Between 2012 and 2021, 40 per cent of the wealth created in India has gone to just 1 per cent of the population and only a mere 3 per cent of the wealth has gone to the bottom 50 per cent.**
- The total number of billionaires in India **increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 billionaires** in 2022.
- The combined wealth of India's **100 richest has touched \$660 billion** (Rs 54.12 lakh crore) — an amount that could fund the entire Union Budget for more than 18 months.
- The number of hungry Indians increased to **350 million** in 2022 from **190 million** in 2018. The widespread hunger is resulting in 65 per cent of the deaths among children under the age of 5 in 2022.
- The wealth of the top 10 richest in India stands at Rs 27.52 lakh crore (\$335.7 billion, an increase of around \$110 billion which is a 32.8 per cent rise from 2021).
- **The wealthiest 10 per cent own more than 72 per cent of wealth, and the top 5 per cent own nearly 62 per cent of the total wealth, which is higher than the pre-pandemic years (2018-19).**
- **The top 1 per cent own more than 13 times the wealth owned by the bottom half of the society, with nearly 40.6 per cent of the total wealth in India.**
- India has the world's highest number of poor at **228.9 million.**
- The weightage for "**food products**" in the inflation calculation is **nearly double in rural India** compared to urban India reflecting how **food inflation in rural India** has primarily driven the average increase in prices of commodities.

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- In 2020-21, the projected revenue foregone of the government in the form of incentives and tax exemptions to corporates is **INR 1,03,285.54 crore**.
- The **bottom 50 per cent** of the population at an All-India level pays **six times** more on **indirect taxation** as a percentage of income compared to **top 10 per cent**.
- Of the total taxes collected from the food and non-food items, **64.3 per cent of the total tax is coming from the bottom 50 per cent**.
- **A little less than two-third of the total GST is coming from the bottom 50 per cent, as per estimates, one-third from middle 40 per cent and only three to four per cent from the top 10 per cent.**

Recommendations of the report:

- Introduce one-off solidarity wealth taxes and windfall taxes to end crisis profiteering.
- **Permanently increase taxes on the richest 1 percent.** The government must especially raise taxes on capital gains, which are subject to lower tax rates than other forms of income and implement inheritance, property, and land taxes, as well as net wealth taxes.
- **Enhance the budgetary allocation of the health sector to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025, as envisaged in the National Health Policy,** to reinvigorate the public healthcare system, reduce out-of-pocket expenditure and strengthen health prevention and promotion.
- **Strengthen Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and government hospitals** with adequate number of doctors, nurses, paramedics, equipment and other infrastructural requirements as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms to make quality health service available within 3 Km radii of peoples' residence or workplace.
- **Enhance the budgetary allocation for education to the global benchmark of 6 per cent of GDP, as also committed in the National Education Policy.** The government must frame a year-wise financial roadmap to achieve the 6 per cent mark.
- **Ensure workers in formal and informal sector are paid basic minimum wages.** The minimum wages should be at par with living wages which is essential for to live a life with dignity.
- **Reduce existing inequality in education by spending more on programmes** (for example: Pre-Matric and Post Matric scholarships) meant for improving educational status of students from marginalized sections (SC/ST/Girls).

29. Global Fire Power Index 2023

- **The Global Firepower Index (GFP) is an annual ranking of countries based on their military strength. It takes into account a variety of factors in determining the military strength of countries which helps to get a global overview of how countries are beefing up their military strength.**
- **Since 2005, the Global Firepower Index (GFP) has been providing an annual ranking of countries based on their military strength. These factors are grouped into eight categories which are — geography, manpower, airpower, naval power, land power, financials, resources, and geography.**
- GFP began with only 25 countries and has since expanded to 145 nations.

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- **The Global Firepower Index is calculated using fifty individual factors from geography to logistical capability.**
- Every year, new factors are included to capture the changing dynamics of power, as this year, an expanded focus was given to **natural resources and shared borders.**
- Global Firepower ranks countries based on **troop strength, national resources, financial status, logistics and geographic scale.**
- A **perfect score is 0.0000** which is realistically unattainable. In this sense, the smaller the PowerIndex (PwrIndx) value, the more powerful a country's conventional fighting capability is.
- **Key findings of the report:**
- In GFP 2023, the **United States is ranked as the top military power in the world** with a score of 0.0712 which was 0.0718 in the previous year.
- The second and third most powerful militaries are Russia and China with a score of 0.0714 and 0.0722, respectively.
- Besides the top three, **India has been maintaining its 4th position since 2006. It has the second-highest active military manpower after China which is 1,450,000.**
- With access to nuclear power, **India has 4740 battle tanks, 841 aircraft, and a growing economy of \$3.5 trillion.**
- **India has a score of 0.1025** compared to the Chinese score of 0.0722.
- Among the top 10 countries, **the United Kingdom (UK) and Pakistan have improved their positions**, as the UK is ranked 5th and Pakistan is ranked 7th in the index compared to their previous 8th and 9th positions respectively.
- **Japan and France were demoted to 8th and 9th positions** from their previous 5th and 7th positions.
- Despite a small amount of the **Pakistani military budget which is ranked 29th among 145 countries**, Pakistan has been able to beat other countries like Germany and France which have much bigger defense budgets.
- **Pakistan is ranked the top military power in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region** which is followed by Turkey, Egypt, and Iran.
- **Ukraine**, which was placed 22nd last year, is now ranked **15th** in 2023.
- Turkey, Taiwan, Poland, and Vietnam saw a massive leap this year in their rankings, given their growing political significance in world politics.
- This year, **GFP identified 53 countries that are improving in their military strength** and have the potential to become future military powers.
- Most military powers are concentrated in the Asia-Pacific and Asian regions.
- According to the GFP Regions data, a total of 26 countries are included in the Asia-Pacific and most of them are ranked among the 25 top most powerful countries in terms of military strength in the world.
- **GFP identifies seventeen countries from the Asian region as the "power on the rise".**
- In terms of worldwide military expenditure, **global military spending reached \$2.113 trillion** and observed growth for seven consecutive years in 2021.

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- According to GFP 2023, the US remains the highest military spender with an amount of \$762 billion, along with China, Russia, India, and Germany.
- Besides these top ten countries, the rest of the world spends only 25 percent of the world's total military expenditure.
- Luxembourg and Iceland are new entrants to the Global Firepower Index.
- Bhutan – Ranked 145 is the last-ranked country in the Global Firepower Index of 2023.
- Saudi Arabia emerged as the most powerful country among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Saudi Arabia has the second most powerful military among the Arab countries.

30. India among top 3 nations in expanding organic farming in 2020 - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.

- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), an umbrella organization for organic food and farming, has released latest global data, according to which India has emerged as one of the top three countries in the world where organic agriculture area has expanded the maximum in 2020.

Key findings of the report:

- In 2020, the total increase under organic cultivation was recorded at 3 million hectares (mh) globally.
- Out of this, Argentina accounted for 7,81,000 hectares (21% surge), followed by Uruguay at 5,89,000 hectares (28% surge) and India at 3,59,000 hectares (16% surge).
- Out of world's total 74.9 mh land under organic farming, Australia leads at 35.7mh, whereas India has 2.8 mh.
- out of total 34 lakh organic producers in the world, 16 lakh farmers in India are into certified organic farming.

Status of organic farming in India:

- The government is under process to approve Agriculture Ministry's ₹ 2,481 crore proposal to launch the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF).
- The mission is supposed to be implemented from the current fiscal until 2025-26, with a target to bring on fold 7.5 lakh farmers to practice non-chemical natural farming on 7.5 lakh hectares.
- The scheme will enable farmers to get a maximum of ₹ 15,000 per hectare (until 2025-26) depending on loss in income, if any, after switching over to natural farming.
- Organic agriculture is practiced in 187 countries, and 72.3 million hectares of agricultural land were managed organically by at least 3.1 million farmers.
- With the most organic agricultural land in Australia (35.69 m hectares) followed by Argentina (3.63 m hectares) and the Spain (2.35 m hectares). There has been an increase in organic agricultural land in all regions.
- India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers, followed by Uganda, and Ethiopia.
- Organic farming is in a nascent stage in India. About 2.80 million hectares of farmland were under organic cultivation. This is two per cent of the 140.1 million ha net sown area in the country.
- A few states have taken the lead in improving organic farming coverage, as a major part of this area is concentrated only in a handful of states.

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- The top three states, **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, & Maharashtra** — account for about half the area under organic cultivation.

Need for organic farming in India:

- The **Green Revolution in the year 1960** changed the whole scenario in the field of agriculture where the farmers were introduced to high yielding seeds and fertilizers to maintain food security. Increasing productivity ensured profit but ultimately the land was turning barren due to the excessive usage of fertilizers making the soil infertile and pesticides turning the product dangerous to consume.
- The **organic food industry is rising and is growing very fast, ensuring high profitability.**
- **Food security** needs to be addressed with the growing population and decreasing supply of resources which is why there is a need to increase the production but in a **feasible and sustainable manner.**
- Maintaining a **clean and green environment** is equally important, thus **environmental sustainability** needs to be maintained which can be achieved through **organic farming.**
- The strike of balance between the **environment and the livelihood** becomes immensely important due to the risks caused by **conventional agriculture practices.**

31. International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking.

- The Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme allows the ICAO to continuously monitor the **safety obligations of its 187 member states.** As the international civil aviation watchdog, the ICAO ensures that member states fulfil their obligation to improve the safety of civil aviation within their own jurisdictions.
- The Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) is based on **eight critical elements (CE) of a safety oversight system, which are measured by a set of protocol questions (PQs).**
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) undertakes audit of all the contracting states under this programme.
- It may be noted that this ranking is dynamic and is contingent upon the outcomes of various Audits undertaken by ICAO.

Key findings of the report:

- **India's aviation safety oversight ranking jumped to the 55th position from 112th place earlier,** with a significant improvement in the country's score under the ICAO's coordinated validation mission.
- Under its **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach,** an **ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken in India from November 9 to 16, 2022.**
- Last year's mission to India covered the areas of **LEG, ORG, PEL, OPS and AGA on-site while the area of AIR was validated virtually during the same period.** The Effective Implementation (EI) of **six areas** were assessed.
- **LEG is Primary Aviation Legislation and Specific Operating Regulations; ORG is Civil Aviation Organisation; PEL is Personnel Licensing and Training; OPS is Aircraft Operations; AGA is Aerodrome and Ground Aid and AIR is Airworthiness of Aircraft.**
- The ICAO team reviewed the progress in addressing **137 Protocol Questions (PQs)** and subsequently the status of **101 PQs was changed to satisfactory** and that of 1 PQ to not applicable and the status of **35 PQs remained not satisfactory,** resulting in an updated overall EI of **85.65 per cent.**

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- According to the report, as the scope of the mission did not include the areas of AIG and ANS, the updated overall EI of 85.65 per cent is calculated based on the latest USOAP results on record for these two areas.
- **AIG is Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, and ANS is Air Navigation Services.**
- During the mission, the team visited industry and service providers to validate the capability of the country to supervise the activities of these service providers, airlines and organisations.
- The **USOAP audit of the civil aviation system of India conducted in 2017** generated an overall EI of **55.15** per cent for the eight critical elements of the country's safety oversight system.
- During the ICVM conducted in India in 2018, the ICAO team reviewed the progress made in the areas of LEG, ORG, AIG, ANS, and AGA. Then, the score improved to 69.95 per cent.

32. Asia set to use half of world's electricity by 2025: International Energy Agency

- **Asia will for the first-time use half of the world's electricity by 2025, even as Africa continues to consume far less than its share of the global population, according to the annual report released by the International Energy Agency.**
- Africa will only use **3 percent** of the world's electricity by **2025**. Africa has **one-fifth** of the world's population.

Key highlights of the report:

- **Much of Asia's electricity use will be in China**, a nation of 1.4 billion people whose share of global consumption will rise from a quarter in 2015 to a third by the middle of this decade.
- **China will be consuming more electricity than the European Union, United States and India combined.**
- By contrast, Africa - home to almost a fifth of world's nearly 8 billion inhabitants - will account for just 3% of global electricity consumption in 2025.
- The IEA's annual report predicts that **nuclear power and renewables** such as wind and solar will account for much of the **growth in global electricity supply over the coming three years**. This will prevent a significant rise in greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.
- Scientists say **sharp cuts in all sources of emissions are needed as soon as possible** to keep average global temperatures from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.
- The target, laid down in the 2015 Paris climate accord, appears increasingly doubtful as temperatures have already increased by more than 1.1 C since the reference period.
- One hope for meeting the goal is **a wholesale shift away from fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil toward low-carbon sources of energy**. But while some regions are reducing their use of coal and gas for electricity production, in others consumption is increasing.
- In addition to drought in Europe, there were heat waves in India (last year). Similarly, central and eastern China were hit by heat waves and drought. The United States also saw severe winter storms in December, and all those events put massive strain on the power systems of these regions.
- As the clean energy transition gathers pace, **the impact of weather events on electricity demand will intensify due to the increased electrification of heating**, while the share of weather-dependent renewables will continue to grow in the generation mix.

About International Energy Agency (IEA):

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- The International Energy Agency (IEA) was established in **1974** within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- The IEA is at the heart of **global dialogue on energy, providing authoritative analysis, data, policy recommendations, and real-world solutions** to help countries provide secure and sustainable energy for all.
- The IEA was created in 1974 to help co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil.
- The International Energy Agency works with countries around the world **to shape energy policies for a secure and sustainable future.**
- In recent years, the IEA has also focused on **renewable energy and initiatives focused on environmental protection and stopping climate change.**

33. India ranked 7th biggest nation ready to adopt crypto in 2023: HedgewithCrypto research.

- According to HedgewithCrypto research, India emerged as **7th biggest nation ready to adopt crypto in 2023.**
- **What is cryptocurrency?**
 - A cryptocurrency, crypto-currency, or crypto is a digital currency designed to work as a medium of exchange through a computer network that is not reliant on any central authority, such as a government or bank, to uphold or maintain it.
 - Transactions are then verified and recorded on a blockchain, an unchangeable ledger that tracks and records assets and trades.
 - It is a digital currency, which is an alternative form of payment created using encryption algorithms. The use of encryption technologies means that cryptocurrencies function both as a currency and as a virtual accounting system.
- The report also states that **15 of the top 20 nations in terms of digital currency ownership were developing countries**, with India ranking 7th, one position behind the US.
- **Australia is the biggest country when it comes to the adoption of cryptocurrency in 2023** with a score of 7.37 out of 10. The sale of cryptocurrency and other digital assets is legal and regulated in Australia.
- Following this, **USA ranks as the second biggest country in crypto adoption with a score of 7.07 out of 10.** Currently, there are 33,630 crypto ATMs throughout the country.
- **Pakistan also made it to the list coming in 15th while the United Kingdom occupied the 13th position.**
- Ranking wise, **Brazil comes third with a score of 6.81/10** and has seen a huge increase in average monthly searches for crypto of 355%. **A new bill signed in December 2022 legalizes cryptocurrency throughout Brazil.**
- According to the report, **the global adoption of cryptocurrencies spiked exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- As remittance costs spiralled during the lockdown and various disruptions made it difficult to send fiat currencies overseas, people turned to cryptocurrencies to facilitate cross-border payments.
- As per the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, the crypto ecosystem ballooned by over 2,300 percent between September 2019 and June 2021.**

Status of cryptocurrency in India:

- While buying and selling crypto assets is not illegal, **profits from the same are being treated as winnings from gambling, and the income from the transfer of virtual assets is being taxed at 30 percent.**

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- On top of this, there is also **one percent Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) deduction on all transactions.**
- Earlier this year, crypto exchanges in the country were also forced to halt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments due to uncertainty from regulatory bodies.
- According to a report by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), around 7.3 percent of Indians owned some form of digital currency in 2021.**
- **This highlights that over the last couple of years, digital assets have surged to popularity among the Indian populace amounting to over 100 million crypto holders.**

34. Electoral Democracy Index 2023: Released by V-Dem Institute.

- **The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) report is based on the global dataset on democracy with over 31 million data points for 202 countries from 1789 to 2022.**
- Data of V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute at Sweden's University shows that democratic values in India have eroded significantly in recent years.
- **V-Dem stands for Varieties of Democracy, and the Institution was created in 2014 by Professor Staffan I. Lindberg as an independent research organization.**
- It provides a variety of studies that rate countries on a variety of topics.
- **India has also been named in the top 10 autocratising countries in the last 10 years in the report.**

Key findings of the report:

- **India's ranking dipped from the 100th position in 2022 to 108th this year in the report's Electoral Democracy Index (EDI) while it was 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI).**
- The country ranks way below countries such as Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore and Nigeria.
- **The Liberal Democracy Index captures both liberal and electoral aspects of democracy based on 71 indicators such as free and fair elections, political and civil rights and more.**
- **Denmark was ranked first with the highest comprehensive score of 0.89 in the LDI.** The government of Denmark respects free speech and the citizens hold full civil liberties, political rights, and voting in an environment of free and fair elections.
- **The US ranked 23 in the LDI** while Canada and the UK occupied 24th and 20th spots, respectively.
- **India was placed in the bottom 50 percent of the LDI index and named as one of the top 10 autocratising countries in the last 10 years** by the report. According to the report, autocratisation has slowed down considerably or even stalled in some countries including India.
- Pakistan slipped two steps lower at **106th in the LDI and 110th in the EDI.**
- Closed autocracies with sizeable populations include **China, Iran, Myanmar, and Vietnam.** This regime type accounts for **28% of the world's population, or 2.2 billion people.**
- In the most populous region, **Asia and the Pacific, almost nine out of ten individuals – or 89% – reside in autocracies and are denied some or all democratic rights and freedoms.**
- This includes closed autocracies such as China and electoral autocracies like India.
- **Only 11% live in liberal democracies like Japan and South Korea, or electoral democracies such as Indonesia, Mongolia and Nepal.**

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- Emphasising that the global balance of economic power is shifting, the report highlights that elected autocracies, among which it counts India, are rapidly becoming more powerful economically, and their numbers are growing.
- **Democracies are gradually declining in their share of global economic wealth.**

About India:

There are 5 indexes used by V-Dem to capture democratic values in India.

- **Deliberative Democracy Index:** Measures whether political decisions are made through public reasoning or emotional appeals and coercion.
- **Egalitarian Democracy Index:** Examines equal access to rights and liberties.
- **Electoral Democracy Index:** Evaluates election cleanliness and lack of fraud.
- **Liberal Democracy Index (LDI):** Protection of individual and minority rights against State tyranny.
- **Participatory Democracy Index:** Measures active citizen engagement in electoral and non-electoral political processes.

35. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report: India remains world's largest arms importer.

- **What is SIPRI?**
- **It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.**
- It provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers and the media.
- **It was established in the year 1966 in Stockholm.**

Key findings of the report:

- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) report, **India had the biggest percentage of the world's arms imports in the past five years at 11 per cent**, followed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia, and China.
- **The United States and four other countries account for over three-quarters of all arms exports.**
- Imports of major arms by European nations rose by **47 per cent** between **2013-17 and 2018-22**, while the global volume of arms transfers fell 5.1 per cent in the same period.
- **Twenty-nine countries supplied arms to Ukraine in 2022. The US has emerged as a major arms supplier to Ukraine**, accounting for **35 per cent** of total arms imports.
- The global volume of international arms transfers fell by 5.1 per cent.
- **Ukraine did become a major importer of arms in 2022.**
- Imports of significant arms by European countries rose by 47 per cent between 2013–17 and 2018–22.
- Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine imported very little till 2021. However, this changed after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, as the United States and many European states began to send large quantities of military aid to Ukraine.
- The report notes that ongoing geopolitical tensions have driven demand for arms imports.

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Key highlights about India:

- **With an 11 per cent share of total global arms imports, India was the world's biggest importer of major arms in 2018-22, a position it held from 1993-2022.**
- SIPRI's analysis attributed India's demand for arms imports to its ongoing tensions with Pakistan and China.
- **Russia was India's largest arms supplier.**
- The report says India remained the world's top arms importer between 2018-22, although its arms imports declined by 11% compared to 2013-17.
- **The decline in Indian arms imports was due to the sluggish pace of the procurement process, efforts to diversify arms suppliers, and a shift towards domestically produced arms.**
- Though a big player in global trade, India has begun to produce defence equipment indigenously, and the process has accelerated in the last few years.
- **India is the largest arms export market for Russia, France, and Israel.**
- Among the exporters of weapons to India, **Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India in both 2013–17 and 2018–22**, but its share of total Indian arms imports fell from 64 percent to 45 percent while France emerged as the second largest supplier between 2018-22.
- **India was also the third largest market for South Africa** which was ranked 21 in the list of arms exporters.
- **Russia accounted for 45% of India's imports** followed by France (29%) and the US (11%). At the same time, **India was the third largest arms supplier to Myanmar after Russia and China** accounting for 14% of its imports.
- India's arms imports from France, which included 62 combat aircraft and four submarines, increased by 489% between 2013–17 and 2018–22. **France therefore displaced the USA to become the second largest supplier to India in 2018–22.**
- Just under two thirds of Russian arms exports went to three states in 2018–22 — India (31%), China (23%) and Egypt (9.3%). India was also the largest recipient of Russian arms in 2013–17, but exports to India decreased by 37% between the two periods.

36. 26 percent of world's population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report.

- **26 per cent of the world's population does not have safe drinking water and 46 per cent lack access to safely managed sanitation, according to a report published by UNESCO at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.**
- **About the report:**
- The **United Nations World Water Development Report** is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the **UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.**
- The report gives insight into the **main trends concerning the state, use and management of freshwater and sanitation**, based on work by Members and Partners of UN-Water.
- Launched in conjunction with **World Water Day**, the report provides decision-makers with knowledge and tools to **formulate and implement sustainable water policies.** It also offers best practice examples and in-depth analyses to stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector and beyond.

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- **About the UN 2023 Water Conference:**
 - It will be the second UN Conference dedicated to water after the one held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1977.
 - UN has launched a global campaign called ‘Be the Change’ to mark World Water Day 2023.
- As per the report, **between two and three billion people experience water shortages for at least one month per year**, posing severe risks to livelihoods, notably through food security and access to electricity.
- The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from **930 million in 2016 to 1.7 to 2.4 billion people in 2050**. India is expected to be one of the most severely affected countries in this regard.
- The growing incidence of extreme and prolonged droughts is also stressing ecosystems, with dire consequences for both plant and animal species.
- **There is an urgent need to establish strong international mechanisms to prevent the global water crisis from spiralling out of control.**
- Environmental actions, such as **pollution control, plastics, ecosystem-based management, and proper basin management**, are among the shared benefits highlighted most frequently in the report, along with opportunities to share data, information, and co-financing.
- **80 percent of people living under water stress lived in Asia; in particular, northeast China, as well as India and Pakistan.**

Key recommendations of the report:

- The report highlighted that the United Nations calls for **boosting international cooperation** over how water is used and managed. It said this is the only way to prevent a global water crisis in the coming decades.
- The smart management and conservation of the world’s water resources means **bringing together governments, businesses, scientists, civil society and communities** – including indigenous communities – to design and deliver concrete solutions.
- **Mexico’s Monterrey Water Fund**, launched in 2013, has maintained **water quality, reduced flooding, improved infiltration and rehabilitated natural habitats through co-financing**.
- **The success of similar approaches in Sub-Saharan Africa, including the Tana-Nairobi River watershed, which supplies 95 percent of the Nairobi’s freshwater and 50 percent of Kenya’s electricity**, illustrate the global potential of such partnerships.
- **Involving the end-users in planning and implementing water systems** creates services that better match the needs and resources of poor communities, and increases public acceptance and ownership. **It also fosters accountability and transparency.**

37. Passport Index points: India ranks at 144th spot in 2023.

- The Passport Index is released by financial advisory firm Arton Capital which determines the rankings on the basis of the mobility score of the countries, which is calculated on provisions like a visa-free visit, visa on arrival, an eVisa (if used within three days), and electronic travel authorisation.

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- The Passport Index is an interactive passport ranking tool backed by Arton Capital, based on the access of a country's passport to other nations. **This is a real-time tool, and the rankings keep changing as the countries change their mobility scores.**

Key highlights of the report:

- **The Indian passport has registered the largest global fall in the Passport Index 2023 — ranking at the 144th position this year, with a mobility score of 70.**
- With its current ranking, **Indians can travel to 21 countries visa-free, need a visa for 128 countries, and can avail of the visa-on-arrival option for 47 countries** including Thailand, Maldives, Malaysia, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
- **India's mobility score was 71 in 2019.** It rose to **73 in 2022**, riding the wave of increased mobility, but now it has again fallen to 70 in 2023. The ranking last year was 138. (In January, **India ranked 85th out of 199 countries in the Henley Passport Index.** The index ranks countries based on the number of destinations the passport holders of the country can access without a pre-departure visa application.)
- **The ranking was topped by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a mobility score of 181.** It was followed by **Sweden, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria**, with a joint mobility score of 174.
- According to the list, **which comprises 199 countries**, the reason for the sharp **fall in India's ranking and the dismal performance of other Asian countries has been attributed to the change in European Union's policy.**
- These findings were enabled by the new '**timeshift**' feature of the Passport Index. This feature was recently added by popular request to enable an **instant, full spectrum view of multiple passports over successive years.**
- The Index also showed drops in the scores of other large Asian economies including Vietnam, Indonesia, China, and Thailand.
- This decline indicates the extent to which these countries have not capitalised on the global uptick in mobility recorded last year.
- **China continues to underperformed as compared to other countries like the USA and Germany** because of its lack of visa-free agreements with blocs like the EU or regional competitors like India and Japan. It is currently ranked at 118th position in the Passport Index individual rankings.
- **Only 10 countries have seen a rise in their mobility score this year.** Sweden overtook Germany, rising to second overall.
- **South Korea had the highest score of 174 in South Asia** and ranked 12th on the list. Japan, with a score of 172, ranked 26th. Almost all the other Asian countries saw a fall in their rankings.

38. State of World Population Report

- The State of World Population is **published annually which covers and analyses developments and trends in world population** and demographics, as well as shedding a light on specific regions, countries and population groups and the unique challenges they face.
- **Population Estimation:** India's population is pegged to reach 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore by July 2023. **25% of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18% in the 10-19 age group, 26% in the age bracket of 10-24 years, 68% in the 15-64 years age group, and 7% above 65 years.** India will have 29 lakhs

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more people than its Asian neighbour. The **United States** is a third populated country, with a population of 340 million.

- **Slowing Population:** Population growth in both India and China has been slowing, despite accounting for more than one-third of the estimated global population.
- **Fertility Rate:** India's total **Fertility Rate**, was estimated at 2, lower than the world average of 2.3. Developed regions projected a fertility rate of 1.5, less developed regions 2.4 and less developed countries 3.9.
- **Life Expectancy:** The average life expectancy for an **Indian male** was projected as 71 and 74 for females. On average, the life expectancy for males **globally** was projected to be 71 and 76 for females. For **developed regions**, the average life expectancy for males was projected at 77 and 83 for females — the highest of all. For **less developed regions**, the ages are 70 for males and 74 for females, while for least developed countries, it is 63 for males and 68 for females.
- **Gender Rights:** Violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months was reported by 18% of women, while 66% of women had decision-making on sexual and reproductive **health and reproductive rights in India**. A little over 80% of women had some say in decision-making regarding their own healthcare.
- **Population Growth Concentrations:** More than half of the projected increase in global **population up to 2050** will be **concentrated in eight countries** — the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.

39. International Intellectual Property Index (IPR) 2023

- India has been ranked **42nd out of 55 countries** in the US Chamber of Commerce's latest International IP Index report.
- **International Intellectual Property Index** – It is released **annually** by the **US Chamber of Commerce**.
- The index evaluates the protection of **IP rights in 55 of the world's leading economies, together representing around 90% of global GDP**.
- The index aims to help nations navigate toward a brighter economic future marked by greater innovation, creativity, and competitiveness.
- The report covers everything from patent and copyright laws to the ability to monetise IP assets and the ratification of international agreements.
- The report shows a torrent of proposals (both domestic and international) are threatening to erode intellectual property (IP) rights.
- According to the report, **India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation**.
- India has generous R&D and IP-based tax incentives and a strong awareness-raising efforts regarding the negative impact of piracy and counterfeiting.
- The Index evaluates the **IP framework in each economy across 50 unique** indicators which industry believes represent economies with the most effective IP systems.
- The indicators create a snapshot of an economy overall IP ecosystem and **span nine categories** of protection: **Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Design Rights, Trade Secrets, Commercialization of IP Assets, Enforcement, Systemic Efficiency, Membership and Ratification of International Treaties**.

40. World Development Report 2023

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- The World Development Report 2023 was recently released by World Bank.
- It is an **annual report** released by **World Bank**.
- This Report provides a comprehensive analysis of international migration and its potential to serve as a force for growth and shared prosperity in all countries.
- It proposes an integrated framework to maximize the development impacts of **cross-border movements** on both destination and origin countries and on migrants and refugees themselves.
- The framework rests on a **Match and Motive matrix**.
- **Match** - How closely migrants' skills and attributes match the needs of destination countries.
- **Motive** - What motives underlie their movements.

Key Findings:

- A large share of migrants and **refugees live in low- and middle-income countries**.
- The report finds that 120% income gain for Indians going to work overseas compared to a 40% rise in case of internal migration.
- **Top Migration Corridors** - India-US, India-GCC and Bangladesh-India, Mexico-US, China-US, Philippines-US and Kazakhstan-Russia.
- The share of working-age adults will drop sharply in many countries over the next few decades.
- Mostly developing and poor countries like India are witnessing a rise in young population, while the developed countries have crossed that phase as depopulation has set in.

41. Gross domestic climate risk report 2023

- 9 out of 50 regions in the world facing high climate risk to a fragile physical infrastructure, fall in India.
- The report was released by the **Cross Dependency Initiative (XDI)**.
- XDI is a global organisation specialising in climate risk analysis for regions, banks and companies.
- The index calculated the physical climate risk to build environments such as buildings and properties.
- Physical risk refers to vulnerability from 8 climate change events like heat waves, coastal flooding, extreme wind, etc.
- **ADR** - The index also assigned an **Aggregated Damage Ratio (ADR)** to each region.
- ADR signifies the total amount of damage a region's-built environment would sustain in 2050 and a high ADR signifies more peril.
- **Assam, Bihar and Tamil Nadu** had the highest ADR among Indian States.

42. Logistic Performance Index

- India has **climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023**.
- It is an interactive benchmarking tool that helps countries to identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics.
- The LPI 2023 allows for comparisons across **139 countries**.
- The 2023 LPI for the first time measures the **speed of trade** with indicators derived from big datasets tracking shipments.
- **Findings** - India was ranked **44th** on the index in 2018 and has now climbed to 38th in the 2023 listing.
- India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.

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- India's rank moved up five places in infrastructure score from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023.
- It climbed to the 22nd spot for international shipments in 2023 from 44th in 2018 and moved 4 places up to 48th in logistics competence and equality.