



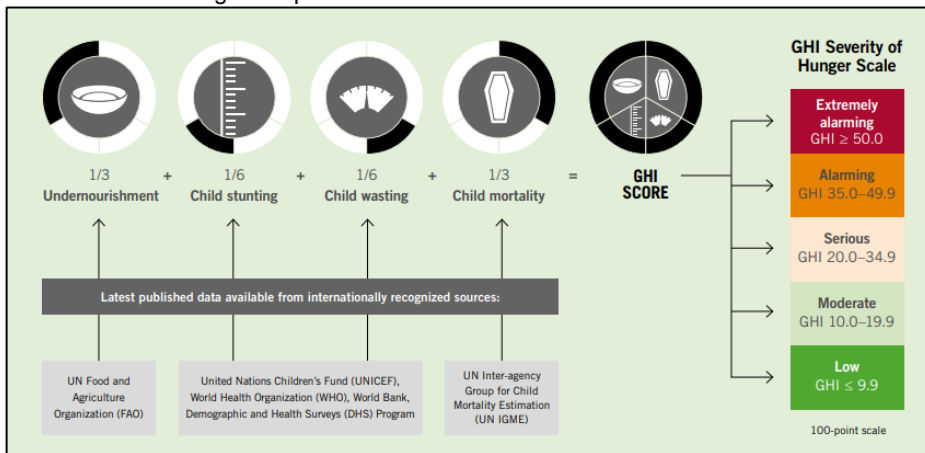
13 October, 2023

Global Hunger Index 2023

Context: India is ranked 111 out of 125 countries in the 2023 Global Hunger Index, with progress against hunger almost stalled since 2015, echoing a global pattern.

Key findings

- India ranks 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023.
- India's GHI score is 28.7 on a 100-point scale, categorizing its severity of hunger as "serious."
- The GHI score is based on indicators like undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.
- India's progress against hunger has nearly halted since 2015, with only a 0.5 point improvement in the past eight years.
- Globally, the 2023 GHI score is 18.3, considered moderate, but the share of undernourished people increased from 7.5% in 2017 to 9.2% in 2022.
- South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara have the highest hunger levels, both with GHI scores of 27.0 (serious).
- Latin American and the Caribbean is the only region where GHI scores worsened between 2015 and 2023.
- The stagnation in the fight against global hunger is attributed to overlapping crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, economic stagnation, climate change impacts, and conflicts.
- Europe and Central Asia have the lowest 2023 GHI score (6.0), considered "low."
- China is among the top 20 countries with a GHI score of less than 5.



Causes of Hunger in India

- Poverty contributes to hunger by limiting food availability, particularly for children in rural India.
- Faulty public distribution systems lead to the diversion of grains to profit-driven open markets and the sale of poor-quality grains in ration shops.
- Irregular opening of ration shops and unclear criteria for household poverty status classification worsen food consumption issues.
- Poor quality grains exacerbate the hunger problem.
- Hidden hunger, caused by micronutrient deficiencies, is prevalent in India due to factors like inadequate diets, disease, and neglect of nutritional needs during pregnancy and lactation.
- Lack of maternal knowledge on nutrition, breastfeeding, and parenting is a concern.
- Gender inequality disadvantages girls in terms of access to food, as they are often considered less important and last to eat.
- Girls may miss out on mid-day meals due to limited access to education.
- Children lack preventive care and immunizations due to a lack of awareness and affordability issues.
- Nutritional programs in the country lack local governance-level audit mechanisms.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0

Context: Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 (IMI 5.0) campaign, focused on improving Measles and Rubella vaccination coverage, will conclude on October 14, 2023.

- IMI 5.0 is happening in all districts of the country and covers children up to 5 years old.
- The first two rounds of IMI 5.0 have reached over 34 lakh children and 6 lakh pregnant women with vaccine doses nationwide.
- Since 2014, Mission Indradhanush has cumulatively vaccinated a total of 5.06 crore children and 1.25 crore pregnant women.

IMI 5.0

- It aims to ensure routine immunization services reach missed-out and dropped out children and pregnant women across all districts in India.
- For the first time, the campaign includes **children up to 5 years old**, as previous campaigns covered children up to 2 years.
- The goal is to **improve Measles and Rubella vaccination** coverage to achieve Measles and Rubella elimination by 2023.
- IMI 5.0 uses the **U-WIN digital platform** for Routine Immunization in pilot mode across all districts in the country.
- The campaign is conducted in three rounds, lasting six days each month, with the inclusion of a Routine Immunization Day.
- All states/union territories, **except Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Punjab**, will conclude all three rounds by October 14, 2023.

Face to Face Centres





13 October, 2023

- As of September 30, 2023, over 34.6 lakh children and 6.55 lakh pregnant women received vaccine doses during the first two rounds of IMI 5.0.
- The campaign involves supervision, monitoring, and assessments in various districts and states.
- Preparedness assessments were conducted in high-priority districts across 27 states/union territories.
- A national workshop was held to orient all states/union territories about the campaign.
- Operational guidelines and communication strategies were shared, including a 360-degree communication approach and IEC materials.
- Jan pratinidhis and social media influencers played a role in promoting vaccination.
- Since 2014, 11 phases of Mission Indradhanush have been completed, and the 12th phase is ongoing, with a cumulative total of 5.06 crore children and 1.25 crore pregnant women vaccinated to date.

India's Immunisation Programme

- The Immunization Programme in India, initiated in 1978 as the 'Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, evolved into the 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)' in 1985.
- UIP aims to prevent mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women by addressing 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- However, the increase in immunization coverage slowed down, with only a 1% annual growth rate between 2009 and 2013.
- To expedite coverage, Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched in 2015, with the goal of rapidly increasing full immunization to reach 90%.
- MI's objective is to fully immunize over 89 lakh children, including those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under UIP.
- It provides vaccination against **12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD)**, including diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis, pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and measles-rubella (MR).
- Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is offered in selected districts.
- Mission Indradhanush was identified as one of the flagship schemes under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

War Crimes

Context: Conflict between Israel and Palestinian forces since militant group Hamas' weekend assault have created a huge and rising death toll on both sides.

International Legal Framework for Armed Conflict

- Rules governing armed conflict, internationally accepted, emerged from the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- All UN member states have ratified these conventions, and they've been supplemented by rulings from international war crimes tribunals.
- A series of treaties collectively known as the "Law of Armed Conflict" or "International Humanitarian Law" govern the treatment of civilians, soldiers, and prisoners of war.
- It applies to government forces and organized armed groups, including Hamas militants.

Role of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The ICC, a permanent war crimes tribunal, was established in The Hague in 2002.
- It has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in its 123 member states or committed by its nationals.
- Notably, major powers like China, the United States, Russia, India, and Egypt are not members.
- The ICC recognizes Palestine as a member state, while Israel rejects its jurisdiction.
- The ICC is investigating various cases worldwide and had an ongoing investigation into alleged war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories since 2021.

War Crimes in the Current Conflict

- The ICC's jurisdiction covers potential crimes committed in the ongoing conflict.
- New York-based Human Rights Watch identified possible war crimes, including the deliberate targeting of civilians, indiscriminate rocket attacks, and taking civilians as hostages by Palestinian armed groups.
- Israel's counter-strikes in Gaza that caused casualties are also subject to potential war crimes investigation.

Application of Geneva Conventions

- The Geneva Conventions provide a legal framework for armed conflict, and they apply to this situation.
- Israel's right to respond is recognized, but a siege can be considered a war crime if it disproportionately targets civilians.

Proportional Response

- Under international law, attacks on military objectives must be proportional, meaning they should not result in excessive civilian casualties or damage compared to the military advantage gained.
- The actions of both Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups are subject to scrutiny for potential war crimes.
- Specific incidents, such as Hamas militants' killings of civilians at a dance rave and in Kibbutz communities near the Gaza border, are considered potential focal points for war crimes cases.

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13 October, 2023

Difference between ICJ and ICC

Parameter	ICC	ICJ
Year court established	2002	1946
Location	Hague, Netherlands	Hague, Netherlands
UN Relation	Independent- may receive case referrals from UN Security Council	Official court of the UN, known as the World Court
Case types	Criminal prosecution of individuals	Contentious between parties, and advisory opinions
Subject matter	Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression	Maritime disputes, sovereignty, natural resources, trade, treaty violations and treaty interpretations, human rights, etc.
Funding	Contributions from parties to the Rome Statute, voluntary contributions from the UN, governments, corporations, organisations, etc.	UN

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Kutia Kondh Tribe



Recently, the Kutia Kondh tribe, living in Aliguna village at the foothills of the Sijimali, faced challenges as a proposed bauxite mining project threatened their way of life.

About Kutia Kondh Tribe:

- Kutia Kondh tribe are recognized as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** located in the **Kalahandi district of Odisha**.
- They have a strong tradition of **nature worship** as a central part of their cultural and religious practices.
- Kutia Kondh families are primarily **nuclear** and follow a **patriarchal structure**.
- The primary source of food for Kutia Kondh communities is **shifting cultivation**, which they refer to as "**Dongar Chaas**" or "**Podu Chaas**."
- The Kutia Kondhs have a unique festival called **Burlang Yatra** during which they worship and exchange **seeds**, celebrating their **agricultural heritage** and the importance of seeds.

Saraswati Samman



Recently, **Tamil author Sivasankari** was honored with the 'Saraswati Samman' 2022 for her book of memoirs 'Surya Vamsam'.

About Saraswati Samman:

- Saraswati Samman is an **annual literary award** presented to **Indian citizens** for outstanding literary works in any of the **22 Indian languages** mentioned in **Schedule VIII** of the Constitution.
- It is named after the Indian goddess of learning, **Saraswati**, symbolizing **knowledge and wisdom**.
- The award includes a cash prize of **Rs. 15 lakh**, a **citation** and a **plaque** featuring the image of **goddess Saraswati**.
- This award is considered one of the highest literary honors in India.
- Saraswati Samman was established in **1991** by the **K.K Birla Foundation**, which also confers other literary awards.

Dhib & Nimr



Recently, there's been interest in reviving the world's smallest wolf, the "Dhib" and the elusive leopard, the "Nimr," in the Israel-Palestine region's Negev and Judaeen deserts.

About:

Species Names: Dhib refers to the **Arabian wolf (Canis lupus arabs)**, while Nimr denotes the **Arabian leopard (Panthera pardus nimr)**.

Geographic Range: Both the Arabian wolf and the Arabian leopard are found across the **Arabian Peninsula**.

Leopard Extinction: The Arabian leopard has lost up to **98%** of its historical range and is extinct in the northern areas, including the **Sinai Peninsula, Negev** and the **Judaeen Desert**.

Wolf Population: The Arabian wolf has a more stable population in the **Arava Valley** and **Negev Desert** in Israel.

IUCN Status: Both are **critically endangered**

Goan Cashew



Recently, **Goan Cashew (kernel)** received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag, recognizing its unique characteristics and regional association.

About the Cashew:

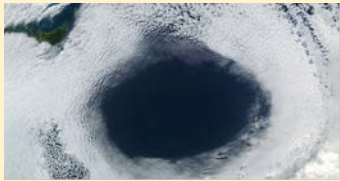

- Cashew is a **crucial plantation crop** in India, making significant contributions to the agricultural and economic sectors.
- Cashew was introduced to Goa by the **Portuguese in 1570**.
- Originally native to **northeast Brazil**, it found its way to **Indian shores**.
- Initially, cashew was planted for **afforestation** and **soil conservation** upon its introduction to India.
- Cashew thrives in **well-drained sandy loam soils**.
- It is well-suited to **hot and humid** conditions along the **Indian coast**.
- Cashew prefers temperatures between **20°C to 38°C**, relative **humidity of 60% to 95%** and an annual rainfall of **2000 to 3500mm**.

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13 October, 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cashew cultivation is expanding to non-traditional areas in various regions, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and parts of the North East hill region.
<p>Ziant Ozone Hole</p> 	<p>➤ Recently, a large ozone hole has been detected over Antarctica.</p> <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ozone hole over Antarctica in 2023 is one of the largest on record, approximately three times the size of Brazil. ➤ This "ozone-depleted area" covers 26 million square kilometers, observed by the European Space Agency Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite in September 2023. ➤ Scientists suspect that the large ozone hole this year may be linked to volcanic eruptions in Tonga, which released water vapor and other elements into the stratosphere, affecting the ozone layer. ➤ In the 1970s, human activities, particularly the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), were identified as causing significant ozone holes. ➤ The Montreal Protocol was established in 1987 to phase out ozone-depleting substances.
<p>Place in News</p> <p>Haiti</p>	<p>➤ Recently, the UNSC approved a Kenya-led multinational mission to combat surging gang violence and instability in Haiti.</p> <p>Haiti (Capital: Port-au-Prince)</p> <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Haiti is located in the Caribbean region, sharing the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. ➤ It is situated in the western part of the island. <p>Political Boundaries: The Dominican Republic shares the eastern border with Haiti.</p> <p>Geographical Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mountain Ranges: Haiti is characterized by mountainous terrain, with notable mountain ranges including the Massif de la Hotte and the Massif de la Selle. ➤ The Massif de la Selle is home to Pic la Selle, the country's highest peak. ➤ Islands: Île-à-Vache, a small island located off the southern coast, is a notable geographical feature of Haiti. ➤ Rivers: Haiti has several rivers, with the Artibonite River being the longest and most significant in terms of water resources and agricultural irrigation. ➤ Lakes: The country has several small lakes, with Lake Azuéli being one of the prominent ones, situated on the border with the Dominican Republic. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which operation has been launched by India recently to evacuating citizens in Israel? - Operation Ajay
- ❖ Which country admitted using White Phosphorus in the 2006 Lebanon War? - Israel
- ❖ Which organization recently shared an aerial image of Deception Island (active volcano) on Instagram? - NASA
- ❖ Which country accounts for the majority of the world's rare earth production? - China (90%)
- ❖ What is the main mineral being extracted by Vedanta at Sijimali for its Lanjigarh alumina refinery? - Bauxite

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