

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 12, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Hon'ble CM, Edappadi K Palaniswami – inaugurated a Centre of Excellence at MIT, Chromepet**



- ✓ He also inaugurated 5 technical skill development institutes (t-SDIs) in collaboration with Siemens and Designtech, under public-private partnership, at a total cost of Rs 54.68 crore
- ✓ The t-SDIs are located at Central Polytechnic College, Taramani, Anna University constituent college in Kancheepuram and Villupuram, Murugappa Polytechnic College, Avadi, and Government Polytechnic College, Vellore
- ✓ The CM had also launched e-procurement of paddy at the Direct Procurement Centres (DPCs), implemented at a cost of Rs 7.06 crore, on Oct 10, 2018

➤ **Tamil Nadu Government – has released the draft ‘Preschool syllabus’ on Oct 11, 2018**

- ✓ As per the draft, the Government proposes to extend class hours for pre-kindergarten students from 9.30 am to 4 pm

WHAT'S THE PLAN

▶ **Syllabus aims to develop gross and fine motor skills, sensory skills, cognitive skills, language skills, socio-emotional skills**

▶ **School readiness activities include colouring, circling and clay modeling, odd one out and other play based activities, painting, reading Tamil/English alphabets and numbers**

- ✓ Pre-KG students will be allowed to have a nap after lunch and activities are planned even after the sleeping time ends
- **Eye surgeries performed at ‘Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital’, Egmore – were ‘webcast’ live to Doctors in Moscow**
- ✓ The webcast was inaugurated by health minister, Dr C Vijayabaskar on the occasion of the 200th year of the hospital
- ✓ It was launched as part of the ‘Indo-Russian Exchange of Knowledge’ Programme
- ✓ Hospital director, Dr M Anand Babu performed the surgeries
- **Modernised International Cruise Terminal at Chennai Port – inaugurated by Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of state for shipping and K J Alphons, Union Minister of state for tourism - on Oct 12, 2018**



- ✓ The terminal was constructed at a budget of Rs 17.24 crore in an area of 2,880 square metres
- ✓ The cruise terminal at the port will be the first on the east coast in the country
- ✓ All other four cruise terminals are on the west coast - Mumbai, Mormugao, Mangalore and Kochi
- ✓ The Chennai port, on an average, receives up to 10 cruise vessels a year

- **Tamil Nadu Government – to conduct an ‘International Chess championship’ for School students in Tamil Nadu under the name of former CM, J Jeyalalitha**
- ✓ A budget of Rs 29 crore has been allocated for the same, as per K A Sengottaiyan, State’s Education Minister

STATES

- **Karnataka – Country’s first ‘India-Israel Innovation Centre’, an entrepreneurial technology hub – was launched in Bengaluru on Oct 10, 2018**



- ✓ It will help Israeli companies to enter India as local partnerships and Joint ventures
- ✓ It will also boost the entrepreneurship and community development in the country
- **Delhi Government – signs a ‘Twin city agreement’ with the Government of Moscow** - for cooperation in fields like environment, culture and education - for the next 3 years



- ✓ Signatories
- ✓ Manish Sisodia - Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi
- ✓ Sergey Cheremin - Minister of the Moscow City government and head of its international relations

- **Punjab - Chandigarh will be the second city in the country after Delhi where Sikh women will be exempted from wearing helmets**
- ✓ Ministry of Home has asked the administration of Chandigarh to amend the rules accordingly

NATIONAL

- **ISRO - signs MoU with 'Central University of Jammu' – for setting up 'Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science' within the University campus**



- ✓ The centre will have facilities for Geospatial Data analysis for sustainable use of natural resources
 - ✓ It will also have Disaster Management Center to take up research in the area of different disasters like flood, landslides, forest fires and drought
 - ✓ Satish Dhawan, Father of experimental fluid dynamics research in India and former Chairman of ISRO (1971-84), was born in Srinagar
- **Ministry of Health – confirms 22 Zika virus cases in Jaipur, Rajasthan**
 - ✓ Zika virus disease
 - ✓ It is a mosquito-borne virus transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes
 - ✓ The same type of Mosquitoes also transmit Chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever
 - ✓ The virus belongs to family, Flaviviridae and Genus Flavivirus
 - ✓ It was first identified in 1947 in Zika Forest, Uganda from where it derives its name
 - ✓ There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available to treat Zika
 - ✓ In India, first outbreak of Zika Virus was reported in Ahmedabad, Gujarat during January/February 2017 and second outbreak in July 2017 from Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu

➤ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - unveils draft ‘National Policy on Electronics 2018’ (NPE 2018) for ‘Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector’ of India**

✓ Highlights

- ✓ To create \$400 billion Electronics manufacturing industry by 2025
- ✓ To double the target of mobile phone production from 500 million units in 2019 to 1 billion by 2025 (Valued at \$190 billion)
- ✓ It also proposes to set up 20 greenfield and 3 brownfield Electronic manufacturing cluster projects, at an outlay of Rs 3,898 crore
- ✓ Earlier, the first National Policy on Electronics (NPE) was rolled out in 2012

➤ **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) – launches ‘Ro-Ro’ service from Neamati to Manjuli Island in Assam**



- ✓ The service cuts down a road route of 423 km to just 12.7 km through the Brahmaputra River
- ✓ For this, IWAI has procured new vessel, MV Bhupen Hazarika
- ✓ Ro-Ro service – is used to transport wheeled cargo like cars, trucks, trailers etc., by ‘rolling in and rolling out’ on their own wheels
- ✓ IWAI
- ✓ It is a nodal statutory body that develops and regulates inland waterways for shipping and navigation
- ✓ Established – 1986
- ✓ Headquarters – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

➤ **NITI Aayog & IBM – announces first-of-its-kind ‘Student internship program’ for the students selected under ‘Atal Innovation Mission’**



- ✓ The internship will focus on innovative activities like design thinking approach, developing prototypes and solution for community issues
 - ✓ It will train the students in various emerging areas like artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, cybersecurity, cloud computing and blockchain
 - ✓ Under the internship programme, 38 students will receive a two-week paid internship and 14 teachers from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) will collaborate and innovate
- **12th edition of 'Aero India' – to be hosted at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 20 to 24, 2019**



- ✓ The five-day event will feature a major trade exhibition of the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows
- ✓ In Aero India 2019, close to 500 Indian and Foreign companies are expected to participate
- ✓ Ministry of Defence – has launched the newly designed website for the same at '<https://aeroindia.gov.in>'

INTERNATIONAL

- **Malaysia – abolishes Capital Punishment – following strong opposition to the practice**
- ✓ In April 2017, the Amnesty International had ranked Malaysia at the 10th Place in the use of the death penalty among the 23 countries that carried out capital punishment in 2016
 - ✓ Around 142 countries across the world have rejected capital punishment as a form of punishment for crimes
 - ✓ Only 23 countries across the world, including India, still retain the death penalty
 - ✓ According to Amnesty International's report on capital punishment in 2017, China is believed to be the 'world's top executioner'

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Russian-built 'Soyuz' MS-10 capsule – malfunctioned 2 minutes after lift-off on a mission to International Space Station (ISS) from Kazakhstan



- ✓ U.S. astronaut Tyler N. “Nick” Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin – both escaped in a parachute landing ‘unhurt’
- **World’s longest non-stop flight - flies from Singapore to Newyork (SQ22)**



- ✓ The luxury Singapore Airlines A350-900ULR airbus landed at Newark International Airport near New York City after 17 hours and 52 minutes of flight
- ✓ Singapore Airlines has re-launched the service for the first time in five years after it was abandoned due to rising fuel prices.

DEFENCE

- **IND-INDO CORPAT – 32nd Edition of Coordinated Patrol between India & Indonesia** – starts in Belawan, Indonesia from October 11 to 27, 2018



- ✓ During the exercise, Ships and aircraft from both countries will undertake patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime boundary line
- ✓ The patrolling will be conducted in 3 phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island
- ✓ The patrolling exercise takes place since 2002 to keep Indian Ocean region 'safe and secure'
- ✓ Indian participation
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette
- ✓ Dornier, Naval maritime patrol aircraft from Andaman and Nicobar command

ECONOMY

- **SBI – signs MoU with Nepal's 'National Banking Institute' – for the development of Human resources**
- **National Stock exchange – signs MoU with Uttarakhand Government – to enhance MSME growth in the state**

SPORTS

- **Para Asian Games, Jakarta**
- ✓ **India claimed all the 3 medals in Men's high jump T42/63 category**



- ✓ Sharad Kumar – claimed Gold by smashing Asian and Games record with a jump of 1.90m
- ✓ Varun Bhati – claimed Silver with 1.82m jump
- ✓ Thangavelu Mariyappan (Tamil Nadu) - claimed Bronze with 1.67m throw

RANKINGS

- **Transparency International's 'India Corruption Survey 2018'**



- ✓ It was conducted across 215 districts in 15 states and Union territories
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (59% paid bribes) was ranked as the most corrupt state in the country followed by Punjab (56%) and Tamil Nadu (52%)

- **Global RTI Law Rankings – released by Transparency International India**
- ✓ India is ranked at 6th position among 123 countries
- ✓ India was ranked at 2nd position when the Global rankings was started in 2011 and retaining the same position in 2012 and 2013

| GLOBAL RTI RATINGS | |
|---|---|
| RTI in India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only 10 states have updated annual reports ➤ 12 states have no vacancies in state information commissions ➤ 48 of 156 posts for information commissioners vacant at state and CIC level |
| Total RTI pleas received in 2017: 66.6 LAKH | |
| Total number of RTI rejected: 4.8 LAKH (7.2%) | |
| Total second appeals (to CIC): 18.5 LAKH | |
| Total penalty amount imposed by CIC: ₹1.9 CRORE | |

Source: Access Info Europe and Centre for Law and Democracy; Transparency International India

- ✓ Afghanistan was ranked at 1st position this year
- ✓ In India, Chhattisgarh is the only state that has updated annual reports 'online' from 2005-2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Egg Day – October 12**



- ✓ The day marks various ceremonies to highlight the importance of egg in our diet
- ✓ It was founded by the International Egg Commission (IEC) at a conference held in Vienna in 1996
- ✓ It is celebrated every year on the second Friday in October
- ✓ It was first observed in 1996
- ✓ The IEC was formed in 1964 in order to give a global presence to egg producers and to promote and popularize egg consumption as part of a balanced diet

➤ **World Obesity Day – October 11**



World **Obesity** Day
2018
(11th October)



- ✓ The day is organized by World Obesity Federation
- ✓ It is observed since 2015
- ✓ The day aims to create awareness about obesity and the related diseases
- ✓ Theme 2018 – ‘weight stigma’

➤ **World Sight Day – October 11**



World **Sight** Day
11 October 2018

- ✓ It is observed annually on the second Thursday of October
- ✓ It intends to draw attention on blindness and vision impairment
- ✓ It was originally initiated by the Sight First Campaign of Lions Club International Foundation in 2000
- ✓ It has since been integrated into VISION 2020 and is coordinated by IAPB in cooperation with the World Health Organization
- ✓ Theme 2018 – Eye Care Everywhere

REPORT

- **1st Human Capital Index – released by World Bank in Bali, Indonesia as part of ‘World Development Report 2019’**
- ✓ The index ranks 157 countries based on their education and health outcomes on the Productivity
- ✓ India is ranked at 115 position in the index with its score of 0.44 on a scale of ‘0 to 1’
- ✓ Singapore is on top of the rankings with a score of 0.88
- ✓ As per the report, 56% of the world population is at or below the score of 0.5 and
- ✓ 75% of the world population is at or below the score of 0.75

Top nations on the human capital index

| Rank | Economy | Lower bound | Value | Upper bound |
|------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Singapore | 0.87 | 0.88 | 0.90 |
| 2 | South Korea | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.86 |
| 3 | Japan | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.85 |
| 4 | Hong Kong | 0.81 | 0.82 | 0.83 |
| 5 | Finland | 0.8 | 0.81 | 0.82 |
| 6 | Ireland | 0.79 | 0.81 | 0.82 |
| 7 | Australia | 0.79 | 0.8 | 0.81 |
| 8 | Sweden | 0.79 | 0.8 | 0.81 |
| 9 | Netherlands | 0.79 | 0.8 | 0.81 |
| 10 | Canada | 0.79 | 0.8 | 0.81 |
| 24 | United States | 0.75 | 0.76 | 0.77 |
| 46 | China | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.68 |
| 55 | Malaysia | 0.61 | 0.62 | 0.63 |
| 87 | Indonesia | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.55 |
| 115 | India | 0.43 | 0.44 | 0.45 |

NOTE:

• The Human Capital Index ranges between 0 and 1. The index is measured in terms of the productivity of the next generation of workers relative to the benchmark of complete education and full health. An economy in which a child born today can expect to achieve complete education and full health will score a value of 1 on the index. Lower and upper bounds indicate the range of uncertainty around the value of the HCI for each economy.

Source: WORLD BANK STAFF CALCULATIONS
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX AND INDIA

▶ A child born today will be only 44% as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health.

▶ HCI for females is marginally better than that for males

▶ 96 out of 100 children born in India survive to age 5

▶ A child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 10.2 years of school by her 18th birthday.

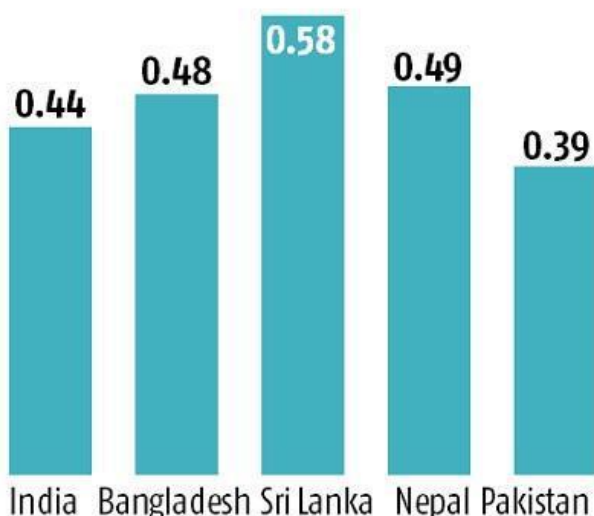
Adult survival rate | Across India, 83% of 15-year olds will survive until age 60

Healthy growth (Not stunted rate) | 62 out of 100 children are not stunted. 38 out of 100 children are stunted, at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime

Gender differences | HCI for girls marginally higher than for boys



INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS Human Capital Index



Source: World Bank

COUNTRY RANKS

SRI LANKA
72

NEPAL
102

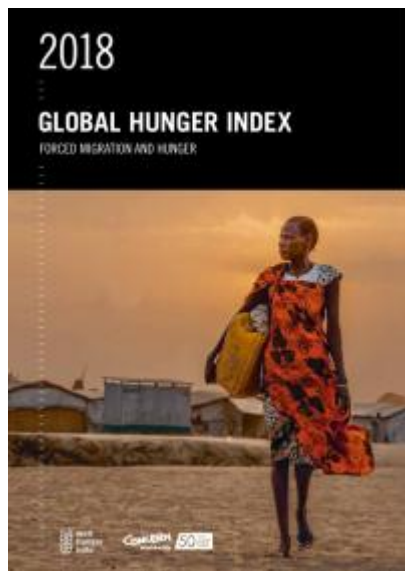
BANGLADESH
106

INDIA
115

AFGHANISHTAN
133

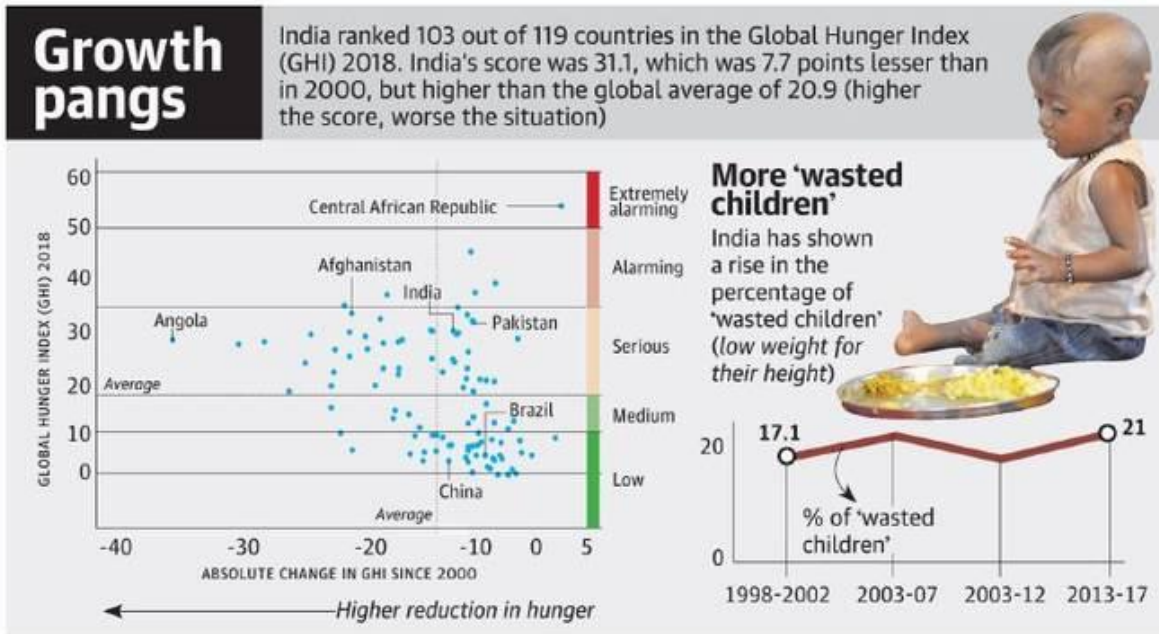
PAKISTAN
134

➤ **13th edition of Global Hunger Index 2018 – Released jointly by NGO's Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany)**



- ✓ Highlights of the Report
- ✓ India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries with a score of 31.1 - for the year 2018 (data between 2013-2017)
- ✓ India was ranked under 'Serious' category level of Hunger and malnutrition
- ✓ India data
- ✓ Undernourished population - 14.8% (from 18.2% in 2000)
- ✓ Child mortality rate – 4.3% (from 9.2% in 2000)
- ✓ Child Stunting – 38.4% (from 54.2% in 2000)
- ✓ Child Under-weight – 21% (from 17.1% in 2000 and 20% in 2005 – Sudan has the highest of 28%)
- ✓ Global data
- ✓ Hunger level in the World - 20.9% (from 29.2% in 2000)
- ✓ Undernourished Population – 12.3% in 2015-17 (from 17.6% in 1999-2001)
- ✓ Stunting in children under 5 years – 27.9% in 2013-17 (from 37.1% in 1998-2002)
- ✓ Under-weight in children under 5 years – 9.3% (from 9.7% in 1998-2002)
- ✓ Mortality in children under 5 years – 4.2% in 2016 (from 8.1% in 2000)
- ✓ Top 15 countries
- ✓ Belarus, Cuba, Estonia, Kuwait, Latvia, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Chile, Lithuania, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- ✓ Worst countries under categories
- ✓ Highest rates of undernourishment - Zimbabwe, Somalia, and Central African Republic (between 46.6% to 61.8%)
- ✓ Highest stunting rates - Timor-Leste, Eritrea, and Burundi (At least 50% of the children)
- ✓ Child Under-weight (Wasting) - Djibouti (16.7%), India (21.0%), and South Sudan (28.6%).

- ✓ Highest under-five mortality rates - Somalia (13.3%), Chad (12.7%), and CAR (12.4%).
- ✓ Alarming levels of hunger countries – Chad, Haiti, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Yemen, and Zambia.
- ✓ Extremely alarming level of hunger country - Central African Republic, which has the highest 2018 GHI score of 53.7



- ✓ As per the report, this puts the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to end hunger by 2030, in jeopardy