Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023 (MPI)

Context: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have jointly brought out the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

India specific findings

- Five out of six individuals experiencing multidimensional poverty in India come from lower tribes or castes.
- Scheduled Tribe group:
  - This group accounts for 9.4 percent of India's population.
  - Among the population, 65 million out of 129 million people live in multidimensional poverty.
  - Scheduled Tribes constitute approximately one-sixth of all individuals living in multidimensional poverty in India.
- Scheduled Caste group:
  - Approximately 33.3 percent of the population, or 94 million out of 283 million people, live in multidimensional poverty.
- Other Backward Class:
  - Within the Other Backward Class group, 27.2 percent, or 160 million out of 588 million people, live in multidimensional poverty.
  - This group exhibits a lower incidence but a similar level of intensity compared to the Scheduled Caste group.
- Female-headed households:
  - In India, around 12 percent of the population, equivalent to 162 million people, live in households headed by females.

The Global MPI Indicators Mapped to the SDGs

Dimension	Indicator	Related SDG
Health	Nutrition	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)
	Child Mortality	SDG 3 (Health and Well Being)
Education	Years of Education	SDG 4 (Quality Education)
	School Attendence	SDG 4 (Quality Education)
Living Standard	Cooking Fuel	SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)
	Sanitation	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
	Drinking Water	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
	Electricity	SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)
	Floor	SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
	Assets	SDG 1 (No Poverty)

Global findings

- Among the 1.3 billion multidimensionally poor people studied globally, 836 million live in households where no female member has completed at least six years of schooling.
- The majority of these 836 million individuals reside in Sub-Saharan Africa (363 million) and South Asia (350 million).
- Seven countries account for over 500 million of these individuals: India (227 million), Pakistan (71 million), Ethiopia (59 million), Nigeria (54 million), China (32 million), Bangladesh (30 million), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27 million).
- Approximately 16 million multidimensionally poor men and children (0.3 percent of the total population) live in households without a woman or girl aged 10 or older.
- Around 622 million multidimensionally poor individuals live in households where no one, regardless of gender, has completed six or more years of schooling.
- The top five countries with the highest number of people living in multidimensional poverty are India (381 million), Nigeria (93 million), Pakistan (83 million), Ethiopia (77 million), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (56 million).
- Out of the 5.9 billion people living in the 109 countries studied, 1.3 billion experience multidimensional poverty.
- Half of the global multidimensionally poor individuals are children.
- Across 108 countries, 207 million multidimensionally poor people live in female-headed households.
- India has a significant proportion of these households, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Uganda collectively house another significant portion.

India's Efforts

- NITI Aayog is finalizing the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) parameter dashboard and a State Reform Action Plan (SRAP).
- The monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index will be utilized by NITI Aayog.
- NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for the MPI in India.
- The Global MPI is part of the Government of India's initiative to monitor performance in 29 select global indices.
- The **"Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)"** exercise aims to measure and monitor India's performance on social and economic parameters.
- The exercise facilitates self-improvement, policy reforms, and better implementation of government schemes.

Extremely Heavy Rainfall Event

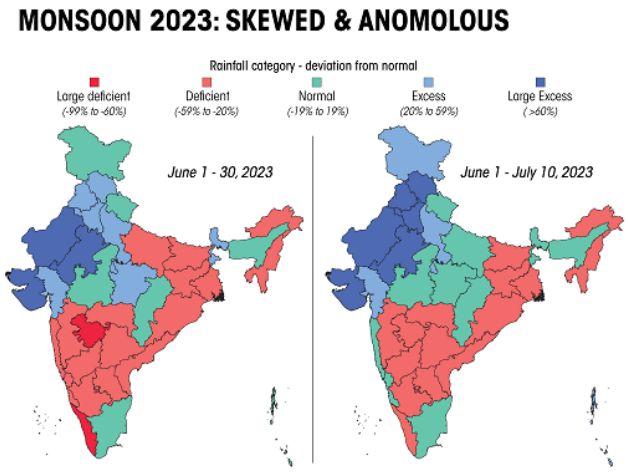
Context: Currently, the northern region of India is experiencing an intense period of heavy rainfall during the monsoon season.

What is Extremely Heavy Rainfall Event?

- According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), an extremely heavy rainfall event is characterized by the occurrence of rainfall exceeding 205 mm within a 24-hour timeframe.
- Such events are not uncommon during the monsoon season in India.
- Since the devastating Uttarakhand tragedy in 2013, there has been at least one major disaster-like situation each year caused by an extreme rainfall event.

Unusual Monsoon Rainfall in 2023

- **Expectations**: The monsoon season this year was initially anticipated to have below-average rainfall.
- **Higher Rainfall**: Several states in northern India, including Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, have experienced 26% higher rainfall than normal.



Reasons for very high rainfall

- **Biparjoy cyclone**: The Biparjoy cyclone brought significant rainfall, reducing the initial monsoon rainfall deficit of over 50% to 8% by the end of June.
- **Western disturbances**: Interaction between monsoon winds and western disturbances converged over northern India, contributing to the intense rainfall.
- **Climate change**: Climate change increases the likelihood, frequency, and intensity of extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall during the monsoon season.
- **Warming of the Arabian Sea**: The Arabian Sea has warmed by about 1.5 degrees Celsius since January, providing favourable conditions for excess rainfall in northwest India.

Rainfall distribution categories as per IMD

- **Normal/Near Normal:** Rainfall is within +/-10% of LPA (96-104% of LPA).
- **Below Normal**: Rainfall is less than 90-96% of LPA.
- **Above Normal**: Rainfall is 104-110% of LPA.
- **Deficient**: Rainfall is less than 90% of LPA.
- **Excess**: Rainfall is more than 110% of LPA.

SAMARTH Scheme

Context: The funding pattern has been revised, raising the cost norms by 5%. This change will offer much-needed additional financial support to industries participating in skill development under this Scheme.

- The Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH) is a comprehensive skilling program focused on the textile industry.
- SAMARTH is demand-driven and placement-oriented, aiming to facilitate job creation in the organized textile and related sectors.
- It covers the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.
- The scheme incentivizes and supports industry efforts to generate employment opportunities.
- Along with entry-level skilling, SAMARTH also includes provisions for upskilling and re-skilling programs.
- The upskilling/re-skilling programs target enhancing the productivity of existing workers in the Apparel & Garmenting segments.
- SAMARTH will be implemented until March 2024.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles
- **Implementing Agencies:** The skilling program under this scheme is carried out through the following entities:
    - Textile Industry.
    - Institutions/Organizations of the Ministry of Textiles/State Governments that possess training infrastructure and have established placement tie-ups with the textile industry.
    - Reputed training institutions/NGOs/Societies/Trusts/Organizations/Companies/Start-Ups/Entrepreneurs operating in the textile sector, having placement tie-ups with the textile industry.

Other Schemes for Textile Sector

- **Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP):** Introduced in 2005, this scheme focuses on providing state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities to the textile industry for establishing their textile units.
- **Power-Tex India:** A comprehensive scheme designed for the development of the power loom sector, addressing its specific needs and requirements.
- **Silk Samagra Scheme:** This scheme aims to enhance the quality and productivity of domestic silk production, reducing the reliance on imported silk.
- **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS):** A credit-linked Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS) scheme aimed at promoting technology upgradation and modernization in the textile industry.
- **National Handloom Day**: Celebrated annually on 7th August, this day commemorates the significance of the handloom weaving community in India.
- **National Technical Textile Mission**: This mission strives to position India as a global leader in the field of Technical Textiles, with the goal of increasing the domestic market size from USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024.

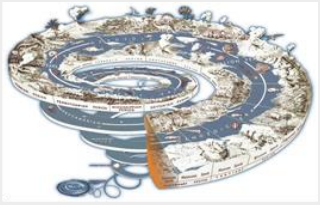
NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

Recently, the autopsy reports of four tigers in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh, revealed that their deaths were caused by infighting and infections

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a protected area and wildlife sanctuary located in the Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It is one of the most prominent tiger reserves in the country and is part of the larger Dudhwa National Park
- It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1965, a National Park in 1977, and a Tiger Reserve in 1987-88.
- The reserve successfully reintroduced the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros in 1984.
- It is part of the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), which includes 14 protected areas in Nepal and India.

	Biodiversity: It is home to rare and endangered species such as tigers, leopards, swamp deer, Bengal floricans and hispid hares. **Project Tiger:** ➢ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is part of the Project Tiger initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change. ➢ India's tiger population has increased by 33% since 2014, with more than half of the tigers found in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
Anthropocene epoch 	Recently, scientists announced that sediments from Crawford Lake in Ontario, Canada, offer evidence supporting the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch. **Definition and Origin:** ➢ The Anthropocene epoch denotes the current geological time interval characterized by significant human impact on Earth's ecosystems. ➢ Coined in 2000 by Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer, it marks the period of radical changes caused by human activities since the Industrial Revolution. **Timeframe:** The Anthropocene Working Group estimates its start between 1950 and 1954, based on the analysis of sediments capturing human-induced fallout. **Environmental Changes:** ➢ The Anthropocene epoch is associated with various detrimental changes to the environment. ➢ These include global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mass-scale soil erosion, increased heatwaves, and deterioration of the biosphere. **Human Impact:** ➢ Human activities, such as fossil fuel burning, nuclear weapons testing, and pollution, have been major contributors to the Anthropocene epoch. ➢ The epoch highlights the need for sustainable practices and environmental stewardship to mitigate further ecological damage.
James Webb Space Telescope 	Recently, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) celebrated its first science birthday, marking one year since its handover to astronomers for operational use. **James Webb Space Telescope:** The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), commonly known as the Webb Telescope, is a space observatory that is set to be launched by NASA in collaboration with international partners. **Named After James E. Webb:** The telescope is named after James E. Webb, who served as the administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968 and played a pivotal role in the Apollo program. **Infrared Observations:** One of the key features of the Webb Telescope is its ability to observe objects in the universe in the infrared range, which allows it to study distant galaxies, stars, and planets. **Objectives and Achievements:** ➢ JWST aims to study the earliest stars in the Universe, tracing their formation more than 13.5 billion years ago. ➢ It has revealed that galaxies formed earlier and matured faster than previously thought. ➢ The telescope also investigates star formation processes and planetary formation.
Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani 	Recently, a new plant species called Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani was discovered by researchers from the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation. **Taxonomy and Family:** Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani belongs to the Amaranthaceae family. **Features and Habitat:** ➢ It is a perennial shrub that thrives in saline, arid to semi-arid environments. ➢ The succulent shrub can reach a height of one to two meters, with a smooth, cylindrical, woody base.

- The leaves of the plant grow opposite each other on the stem.

Distribution:

- Previously known from Italy, Northern Africa, Palestine, Spain, and Western Sahara.
- The species was reported for the first time in India based on a collection from Khadir Bet, Kutch, Gujarat.

Salsola Genus in India:

- Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani is the sixth species of the Salsola genus discovered in India.
- Other recorded species include Salsola kali, Salsola hatmanii, Salsola monoptera, Caroxylon imbricatum (Salsola baryosma), and Halogeton glomeratus (Salsola glomerata).

Applications:

- Salsola oppositifolia is used as a raw material for soda ash production.
- Other Salsola species have applications in manufacturing lye and soaps.
- Research suggests that species within this genus possess pharmacological properties.

Health ATM

Recently, The Uttar Pradesh government has made a groundbreaking decision to install Health ATMs across the state, providing immediate health services to the people.

About Health ATM:

A Health ATM, also known as a Health Automated Teller Machine, is an innovative healthcare technology that provides immediate and accessible health services to individuals.

Instant Disease Testing: Health ATMs conduct tests for over 30 diseases instantly, with trained health workers providing printed reports or sharing them via WhatsApp, email, or SMS.

Bridging Healthcare Gap: Health ATMs play a vital role in filling the gap in primary healthcare infrastructure, reducing the load on hospitals and providing healthcare access closer to communities.

Expansion under MoU: An MoU was signed with India Health Link to install 4,600 health ATMs at community and primary health centres in Uttar Pradesh, enhancing healthcare accessibility.

Financial Support: Under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, the central government will provide Rs. 1,012 crore as financial support for the new medical colleges, with a total cost of Rs. 1,525 crore.

Place in News

Sweden

Recently, Sweden's NATO membership request faces hurdles with Turkey and Hungary's pending approval, while Finland has already joined the alliance.

Geographical Location: Sweden is located in Northern Europe and is bordered by Norway to the west and Finland to the east.

Geographical Features: Sweden is a Scandinavian country known for its thousands of coastal islands, inland lakes, boreal forests and glaciated mountains. The capital city Stockholm is built on 14 islands.

Currency: The official currency of Sweden is the Swedish Krona (SEK).

Language: The official language of Sweden is Swedish.

NATO Membership Request: Sweden has expressed its interest in joining NATO, but its request has faced hurdles as approval from Turkey and Hungary is still pending.

Finland's NATO Membership: Previously, Finland, another Scandinavian country, became a member of NATO.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance founded in 1949, with its headquarters located in Brussels. It consists of 31 member states, including 29 European countries and two North American countries.