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# CURRENT AFFAIR

**19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**



1. **Nigeria (Capital: Abuja)**
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## **Nigeria (Capital: Abuja)**

- **Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu** has declared a state of emergency in the country to curb food shortages and rising prices.
- The government is providing fertilizers and seeds to farmers with savings from the withdrawal of fuel subsidies. In view of the incidents of kidnapping of farmers for ransom, their security has also been increased.
- The poor population of the country is also being given assistance of **\$10 every month for six months**. A United Nations report in January said that 25 million people in Nigeria are at risk of food insecurity this year.
- According to a Nigerian website, more than 350 farmers were abducted or killed in the country by **June 2022** in a year.
- This country is located on the west coast of Africa.
- The northern border of this country is with Niger, the eastern border with Chad and Cameroon, the southern border with the **Gulf of Guinea** in the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **western border** with **Benin**.

- ➔ It is the most populous country in **Africa**.
- ➔ **Major rivers:** Niger, Benue etc.
- ➔ **Highest peak:** Chapal Waddi
- ➔ Most of **Nigeria** is covered with plains and savanna grasslands.
- ➔ Often this country is called the "**Giant of Africa**".





## National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- This fact has been highlighted in the National Multidimensional Poverty Index report released recently by **NITI Aayog**. This index is based on a **total of 12 parameters** related to health education and standard of living.
- Poor welfare schemes of the central and state governments have a major role in reducing multidimensional poverty.



- ➔ The report has been prepared on the basis of the latest 'National Family Health Survey' for **2019-21** and is the second edition of the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index' (MPI).
- ➔ This second edition of the '**National Multidimensional Poverty Index**' (MPI) based on the latest '**National Family Health Survey**' [NFHS-5 (2019-21)] is based on both the surveys, NHFS-4 (2015-16) and NHFS-5 (2019-2019). shows India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty.
- ➔ It has been prepared on the basis of the baseline report of India's MPI launched in November 2021.
- ➔ **NITI Aayog** presented the report on 'Multidimensional Poverty Estimation' for 36 States and Union Territories and 707 Administrative Districts.
- ➔ The report observed the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor in **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha** and **Rajasthan**.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh has registered the highest decline in the number of poor and **3.43 crore people** have come out of multidimensional poverty.

- ➔ Among the **Union Territories, Delhi, Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu** have the least number of people facing multidimensional poverty.
- ➔ According to the report, a record 135 million people moved out of multidimensional **poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21**.
- ➔ The report said that the number of multidimensional poor in India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points, from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.
- ➔ The sharpest decline in poverty occurred in rural areas and decreased from **32.59% to 19.28%**. During the same period, poverty in urban areas decreased from **8.65% to 5.27%**.
- ➔ Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has almost halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and poverty intensity has declined from **47% to 44%**.
- ➔ India is on track to achieve SDG target 1.2 (the target of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

➔ This reflects the government's policy focus on ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth and eradicating poverty by 2030 and adhering to its commitment to the **SDGs**.

➔ **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**

- The national MPI simultaneously measures deprivation across three equally weighted dimensions of health, education and living standards, which are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators.
- These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts.



## Indicators and their weights





## → **NITI Aayog**

- After independence, the Planning Commission was formed in 1950 on the lines of the USSR.
- In 2014, the Central Government dissolved the Planning Commission and on January 1, 2015, the Policy Commission was formed.
- Like the Planning Commission, the Policy Commission was also created by the Union Cabinet of the Government of India.
- 'National Institute for Transforming India' i.e. NITI Aayog works in the room of a think tank for the government.
- The chairman of NITI Aayog is the Prime Minister.
- Apart from the President, there is a Vice President and an Executive Officer. They are appointed by the Prime Minister.
- At present, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Suman Berry and CEO B.V.R. Subramaniam is.

## Export Preparedness Index 2022

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has overtaken **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat** to become the top state in **NITI Aayog's** Export Preparedness Index 2022.
- ➔ The objective of the index is to assess the export potential of states and their preparedness in terms of performance.
- ➔ In the report released **on July 17, 2023**, the commission said that in the third edition of the index, Tamil Nadu topped the list with a total score of 80.89.
- ➔ Maharashtra came second with 78.20 points and Karnataka came third with 76.36 points.
- ➔ Gujarat, which topped in the last two editions, moved to fourth place with a score of 73.22 this time.
- ➔ It was followed by **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal** and **Kerala** in the ranking of coastal states.
- ➔ **Uttarakhand** is at the top position among hilly/Himalayan states. It is followed by **Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh** and **Mizoram**.

- ➔ Haryana is at the top among the landlocked states. It was followed by **Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh** and **Rajasthan**.
- ➔ Goa got the first position in the Union Territories and Small States category. It was followed by **Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar** and **Ladakh**.
- ➔ **NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subramaniam** said that basically, the states have a big role in the country's exports because the entire environment for exports is in the states.
- ➔ The report said that Gujarat's Jamnagar is the country's top district in terms of exports. It was followed by **Surat, Mumbai, Pune, Bharuch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar** and **Bengaluru**.
- ➔ EPI assesses the performance of states and union territories on the basis of four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance. Each pillar includes sub-pillars, which present the performance of the State using relevant indicators.

- ➔ The policy-based pillar evaluates the performance of states and union territories on the basis of their adoption of the export-related policy eco-system at the state and district level, as well as the institutional arrangements related to this ecosystem.
- ➔ **Business Ecosystem** - Measures the existing business environment in a State/UT as well as the extent of business supporting infrastructure and transport connectivity of the State/UT.
- ➔ **Export Ecosystem** - Focuses on the current status of research and development in a State/UT to promote export-related infrastructure as well as business support provided to exporters and innovation in a State/UT.
- ➔ Export performance is a production-based indicator, that measures the growth of a state's exports over the previous year and analyzes its export intensity and footprint in the global market.



## Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022: Rankings

Rank	State	Category	Score
1	Tamil Nadu	Coastal	80.89
2	Maharashtra	Coastal	78.20
3	Karnataka	Coastal	76.36
4	Gujarat	Coastal	73.22
5	Haryana	Landlocked	63.65
6	Telangana	Landlocked	61.36
7	Uttar Pradesh	Landlocked	61.23
8	Andhra Pradesh	Coastal	59.27

## India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** recently met his Myanmar counterpart **Than Swe** to discuss connectivity initiatives, particularly the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway**.
- The **India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway** is an important regional connectivity project aimed at establishing road connectivity between **India, Myanmar** and **Thailand**.
- The total distance of this highway is about 1,360 km (845 mi) which starts from **Moreh** in **Manipur**, India and ends at Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar.
- It was first proposed by former **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and approved at a ministerial-level meeting between India, Myanmar and Thailand in 2002.
- The construction work of this highway started in 2012 and is being implemented in several phases.
- The India-Myanmar Friendship Road forms the first section of this highway which starts from the **Tamu/Moreh border** till **Kalemyo** and **Kalewa**.

- ➔ India has proposed to extend the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam along the **East-West Corridor** of the **Ayyavady-Chao Phraya-Mekong** Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).
- ➔ This comprehensive infrastructure development, covering a vast network of **3,200 km**, has the potential to further strengthen regional integration, enhancing trade, economic cooperation and connectivity among the participating countries.
- ➔ **Implementing Agencies:** On the Indian side, the project is being implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with their counterparts in Myanmar and Thailand and with budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance.



India



Moreh-Tamu

**India-Myanmar-  
Thailand  
Trilateral  
Highway**

China

Vietnam

Laos

Myanmar

Mandalay

Naypyitaw

Bago

Yangon



Myawaddy-Mae Sot

Thailand