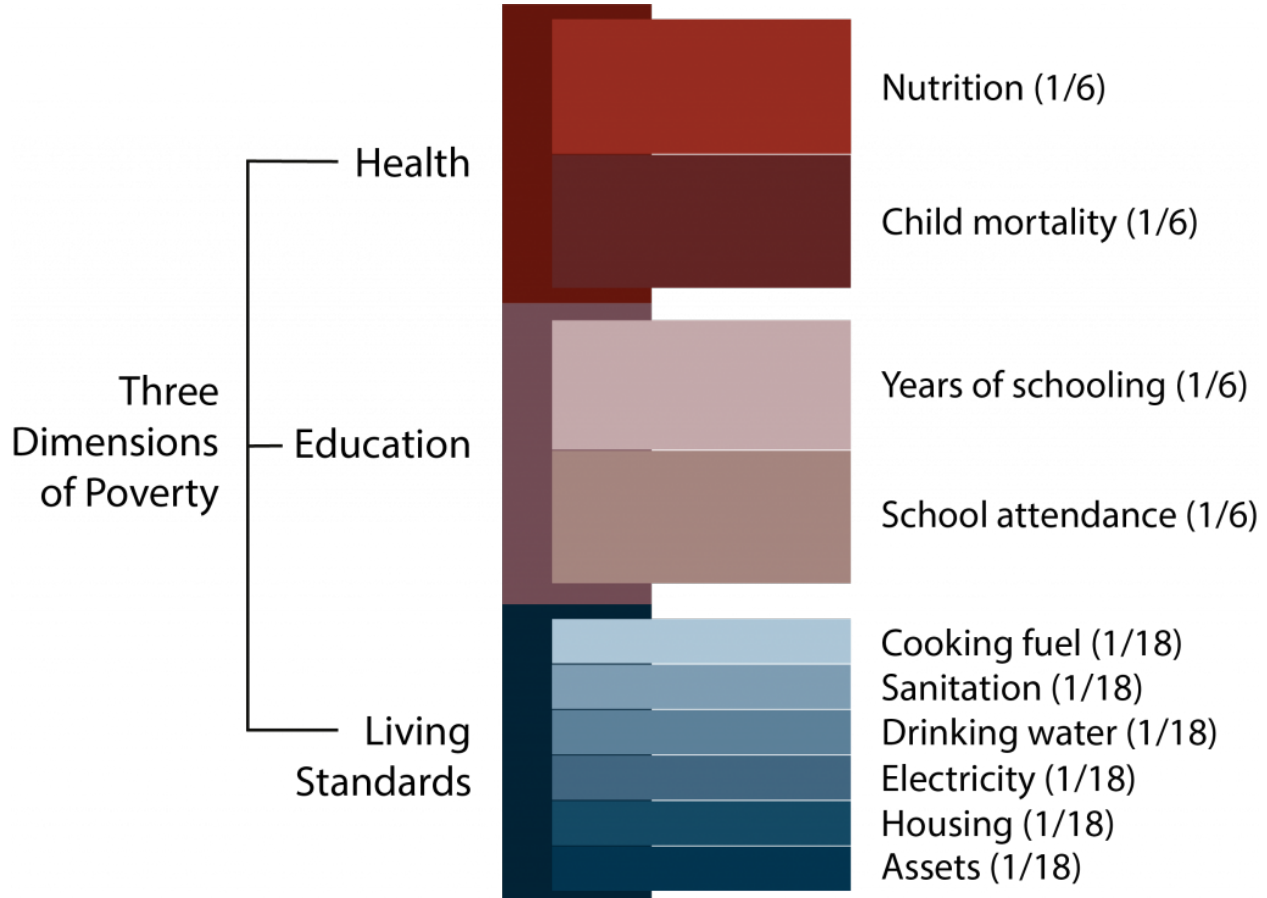


1. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

More on the Topic:

Highlights from the Index:

- 25 countries, including **India**, **successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years**, showing that rapid progress is attainable.
- These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people (**just more than 18%**) live in acute multidimensional poverty across **110 countries**.



- Sub-Saharan Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- **Nearly two-thirds of all poor people (730 million people) live in middle-income countries**, making action in these countries vital for reducing global poverty.
- Although **low-income countries** constitute only 10% of the population included in the MPI, these are where **35% of all poor people reside**.
- **Children under the age of 18 account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million).**
- **The poverty rate among children is 27.7%, while among adults, it is 13.4%.**
- Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with **84% of all poor people living in rural areas**. Rural areas are poorer than urban areas across all regions of the world.

India-Specific Data:

- In April 2023, **India surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation** with 142.86 crore people. (UN data)
- In India, **415 million poor people moved out of poverty from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021**, with the incidence falling from 55.1% in 2005/2006 to 16.4% in 2019/2021.
- **Deprivation in all indicators declined in India** and “the poorest States and groups, including children and people in disadvantaged caste groups, had the fastest absolute progress.”

Achievement of India under Various Indicators:

- People who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under **the nutrition indicator** in India declined from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021, and **child mortality** fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- Those who are poor and **deprived of cooking fuel** fell from 52.9% to 13.9% and those deprived of **sanitation** fell from 50.4% in 2005/2006 to 11.3% in 2019/2021.
- In the **drinking water** indicator, the percentage of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived fell from 16.4 to 2.7 during the period, **electricity** (from 29% to 2.1%) and housing from 44.9% to 13.6%.

About MPI:

- It is a **key international resource that measures (annually) acute multidimensional poverty** across more than 100 developing countries.
- First launched in 2010 by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the global MPI advances SDG 1 – ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- It also measures interconnected deprivations across indicators related to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11.
- It takes into account **education, health, living standards, and access to necessities**.
- This comprehensive approach provides a more nuanced understanding of poverty and enables policymakers to formulate targeted strategies.

Source: Indian Express

2. Enforcement Director

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: The Supreme Court held that the extension of the appointment of the Enforcement Director violates the mandate of the Supreme Court's 2021 judgment in the Common Cause vs. Union of India case that the existing ED should not be given further extension.

More on the Topic:

- At the same time, the SC has also upheld the amendments made to **the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act 2003 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946** which allow the Centre to extend the term of the heads of ED and CBI up to 5 years.
- These amendments were brought when SC in 2021 judgment held that extensions **could only be granted in 'rare and exceptional cases for a short period of time.**
- Currently, the ED Director is appointed under **Section 25 of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.**
- The Central Government appoints a Director of Enforcement in the Directorate of Enforcement in the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of a **selection committee.**



- The committee is consisting of the **CVC Chairperson, Secretaries to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Personnel and the Ministry of Finance in the Central Government.**
- ED mainly functions under **these major laws- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA), Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA).**

Source: Hindu

3. 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India

Topic: Polity and Governance

12 Schedules of Indian Constitution

Schedules	Details
Schedule 1	State and Union Territories Name and their Boundary details
Schedule 2	Special Powers and Salary details of President, Governors of state, Speakers and Deputy speakers of Rajiya sabha and Lok sabha, Supreme court and High Court Judges.
Schedule 3	Oath and Promises of All authority except President, and vice president.
Schedule 4	Rajiya Sabha MP count of state and Union Territories
Schedule 5	Scheduled Area and scheduled Tribes Administration and control Law Details
Schedule 6	States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram Tribal areas Administration and control law details
Schedule 7	Detailed List about Union and State Government Power and Concurrent List
Schedule 8	Official Languages
Schedule 9	Validation of certain Acts and Regulations.
Schedule 10	Details about Party changes and disqualification of MP/MLA
Schedule 11	Responsibilities and Powers of Panchayat
Schedule 12	Responsibilities and Powers of Municipalities



In News: The Odisha Cabinet has proposed the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

More on the Topic:

- At least 7 lakh people of **the Kondh tribe** in Odisha will be benefitted from the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
- Besides, it will help preserve, promote and propagate the Kui language and culture in the state.
- Activities such as publication, creation of content and recognition will also get momentum.

About Kui Language:

- Kui Language belongs to **the Dravidian Family of languages** and is spoken mainly by **people of the Kondh/ Kandha Tribe, the largest tribe of Odisha.**
- It uses **Odia Script. Khondi and Gumsai are their dialects.**

About 8th Schedule::

- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India **lists the official languages of the Republic of India.**
- **Part XVII of the Indian Constitution** deals with the official languages in **Articles 343 to 351.**
- The Constitutional provisions relating to the Eighth Schedule occur in articles 344(1) and 351 of the Constitution.
- However, It can be noted that there are **no fixed criteria** for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

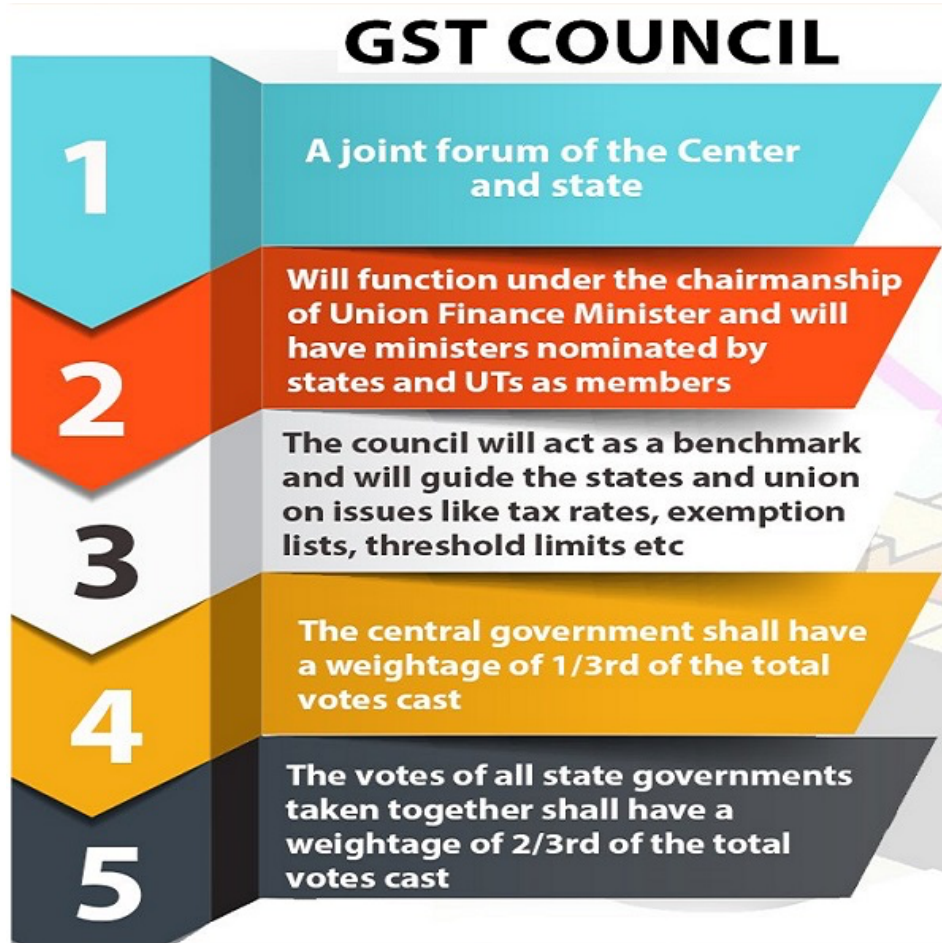
Official Languages of India:

- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the **following 22 languages:**
- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

Source: Hindu

4. GST Council

Topic: Economy



In News: The 50th GST Council meeting has been held in Delhi.

More on the Topic:

New Changes:

- The council **decided to levy a uniform 28 per cent tax on full face value** for online gaming, casinos and horse racing while **reducing the rate for uncooked/ unfried snack pellets, cancer medicine and imitation zari thread.**
- Foods served in Cinema halls, uncooked/unfried snack pellets, and fish soluble paste rates were reduced from 18% to 5%.

GST Appellate tribunal:



- The Council also recommended setting up of a **mechanism for appellate tribunals from August 1.**
- Demands for state-wise benches were presented by various states, and the Council approved the setting up of as many as 40 benches in phases.
- The tribunal is to have a **Principal Bench in New Delhi, with the President, a judicial member, a technical member (centre) and a technical member (state).**
- It will also have state benches.

About GST Council:

- The GST Council is a joint forum of the Centre and the states under **Article 279-A of the constitution.**
- **Article 279-A gives the President the authority to appoint a GST Council by executive order.**
- The members of the Council include the **Union Finance Minister (chairperson),** and the **Union Minister of State (Finance)** from various states and Union Territories.
- Article 279 is meant to **“make recommendations to the Union and the states on important issues** related to GST, like the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST, model GST Laws”.
- It also decides on various rate slabs of GST.

Source: HT

5. Shelf Cloud

Topic: Geography



In News: Shelf cloud formation was recently witnessed in Uttarakhand.



More on the Topic:

- A “shelf cloud” or “Arcus cloud” generally forms along the leading edge of thunderstorms.
- **It is a type of low-lying, horizontal cloud formation characterized by a clearly defined line of solid clouds.**
- It is known for its distinctive wedge-shaped formation. They usually appear as a broad arc across the sky that can sometimes appear to be rotating horizontally.
- These clouds are sometimes seen **beneath cumulonimbus clouds**, the dense, towering vertical clouds that cause intense rain.
- It is formed when a cold downdraft from a cumulonimbus cloud reaches the ground, the cold air may spread rapidly along the ground, pushing existing warm moist air upwards.
- As this air rises, water vapour condenses into the patterns associated with shelf clouds.

Source: Hindu

6. Guillain Barre Syndrome

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The Peruvian government has recently declared a state of national emergency for up to three months, due to a spike in the number of cases of a rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

More on the Topic:

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome is **a rare neurological disorder where the body’s immune system which normally protects it from infections and other foreign bodies mistakenly attacks its own peripheral nerve cells.**
- More specifically, **the myelin sheath**, an insulating layer of fat and protein that surrounds the nerve cells becomes inflamed.
- The myelin sheath enables signals to pass through the nerve tracts at breakneck speed under normal conditions. If the sheath is inflamed, **the nerves can hardly transport stimuli.**
- A person with this syndrome will have difficulty speaking, walking, swallowing, excreting or performing other normal functions of the body.
- The condition can get progressively worse.
- Thus, the peripheral nerves, the nerves that branch out from the brain and the spinal cord get damaged as a result, and the muscles can become weak or paralyzed.

Causes:

- **The exact reasons for Guillain-Barré Syndrome are not yet understood.**
- However, **it often develops shortly after a person gets an infectious disease. Rarely, vaccinations can cause it.**

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome, or GBS, also was linked to the cytomegalovirus, Epstein Barr virus, Zika virus and even the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Hindu

7. Ker Puja

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: Tripura has observed the auspicious Ker Puja with due devotion.

More on the Topic:

- Ker Puja is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Tripura.
- The puja takes place **two weeks after Kharchi Puja and honours Ker, a guardian god.**
- During the festival entrances to **Agartala are closed to create a protected area and people are not allowed to light fires, dance, sing or even wear shoes.**
- During Ker Puja offerings, sacrifices are made to please gods for the welfare of the villages so that they can save them from calamities, epidemics and external aggression.

Source: Hindu
