

1. Sustainable Development Goal Preparedness Ranking

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: India’s rank in the global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 has slipped for the third consecutive year.

More on the Topic:

- In the **2022 Global Index of SDGs**, the country ranked **121 out of the 163 countries**. It had ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- The country continues to face **major challenges in achieving 11 of the 17 SDGs**, which has pushed down its global ranking on SDG preparedness.
- The progress in around 10 of these goals is similar to those in 2021. These include SDG 2 on ending hunger, SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.
- But ensuring decent work (SDG 8) has become more challenging.
- SDGs are not mentioned in the latest central or federal budget documents of India as well.
- India’s **performance on climate action — (SDG) 13 — has slipped from 2019-2020**.
- This decline in India’s overall performance is primarily due to eight states — Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Jharkhand — whose scores have dipped under SDG 13 in the two years.

About Sustainable Development Goal Preparedness Index:

- Since 2015, the report has been tracking and ranking the performance of 163 UN member states on SDGs.
- It is published by a group of independent experts at **the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.

About Sustainable Development Goals:

- First discussed in United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were **adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015**.
- Sustainable development goals of UN were adopted as a **universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030**.
- In 2015, 3-landmark agreement was signed. Sustainable development goals by UN, COP 15 or Paris Climate Conference and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- There are 17 sustainable development goals , 169 targets and 247 indicators.

Source: Indian Express

2. India’s trade with Gulf Cooperation Council

Topic: International Relations

In News: India’s trade with Gulf Cooperation Council is increasing at rapid pace.

More on the Topic:

- India **imports predominately crude oil and natural gas** from the Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and exports pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; metals; imitation jewellery; electrical machinery; iron and steel; and chemicals to these countries.



Significance of GCC to India:

- **Indian expatriate community:** Besides trade, **Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population**. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries.
- **Remittance:** According to a November 2021 report of the World Bank, India got USD 87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.
- **The Extended Neighbourhood:** The Gulf is an integral part of India’s ‘extended neighbourhood’, both by way of geographical proximity and as an area of expanded interests and growing Indian influence.

- **Energy Security:** India is dependent on the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states for 42 per cent of its overall oil imports; three of the top five oil suppliers to India are Gulf states.

About Gulf Cooperation Council:

- The GCC was formed in 1981 by an agreement among **Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, that was concluded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. **It is an economic and political union** comprising of all the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf except Iraq.

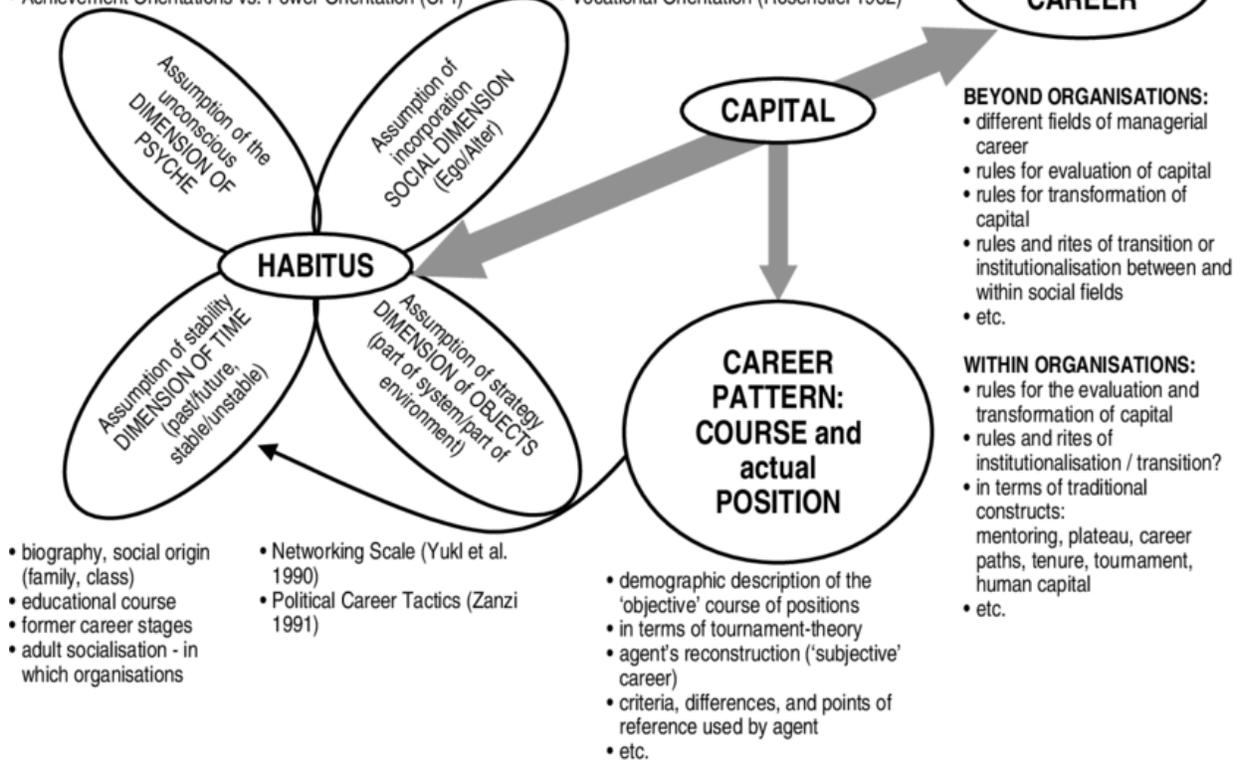
Source: Indian Express

3. The concept of Habitus

Topic: Economy

- Openness to Change vs. Safety Orientation (16 PF)
- Independence vs. Group Orientation (16 PF)
- Flexibility vs. Role Consciousness (16 PF)
- Achievement Orientations vs. Power Orientation (CPI)

- Self-Monitoring-Scale (Schiefle 1990)
- Macchiavellianism-Scale (Henning/Six 1977)
- Vocational Orientation (Rosenstiel 1982)



In News: The Habitus which explains the link of inequality with social construct is under discussion.

More on the Topic:

- Habitus comprises socially ingrained habits, skills and dispositions. It is the way that individuals perceive the social world around them and react to it.

- These dispositions are usually shared by people with similar backgrounds and opportunities.
- It helps instill a sense of the world in individuals by **attributing cultural value to material or immaterial objects**.
- The concept also explains **how inequality is reproduced through the dominant social and cultural conditions that an individual is accustomed to**, which then determines their position in society.
- What one considers, 'natural', 'taboo', 'neutral' and 'good' or 'bad' is **constructed by one's habitus**.
- It was popularised by French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in his book Outline of a Theory of Practice (1977).

Source: Hindu

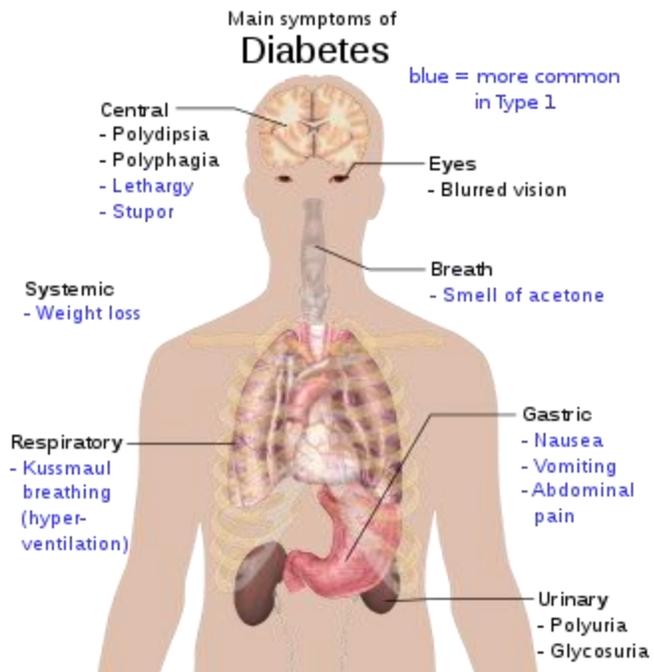
4. Diabetes

Topic: Health

In News: According to ICMR, around 95,600 children are suffering from type-1 diabetes below the age of 14 years in India with nearly 16,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the age- group.

More on the Topic:

- Type 1 Diabetes is **an autoimmune disease characterised by insulin deficiency and hyperglycemia in people with underlying genetic susceptibility**.
- The risk of Type 1 Diabetes is three per cent, five per cent, and eight per cent, respectively, when the mother, father, and sibling have a disease history.
- It develops in children and teens as the pancreas either stops making insulin or makes it in very low amounts.
- Without insulin, blood sugar can't get into cells and builds up in the bloodstream.
- Type 1 diabetes is thought to be caused by **an autoimmune reaction, which destroys the cells in the pancreas that make insulin, called beta cells**.



India Diabetes Statistics:

- India is home to **the world's second-largest adult diabetes population** and every sixth person with diabetes in the world is an Indian.
- The past three decades witnessed a **150 per cent increase in the number of people with diabetes in the country.**
- Matter of immense concern is **the progressive lowering of the age at which type 2 diabetes is being diagnosed.**
- The disease prevalence becoming apparent in the age group of 25 to 34 years in both urban and rural areas.

Source: Indian Express

5. Digital Skilling Program

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a digital skilling programme in emerging and future technologies recently.

More on the Topic:

- The digital skilling initiative will focus on **skilling, reskilling and upskilling students** via internships, apprenticeships, and employment to one crore students in the emerging technologies, according to the press release.
- The programme is the first-ever collaboration on a national scale between **Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Skill and affiliated NSDCs, Skill India programs (National Educational Alliance for Technology) and AICTE.**
- Objective of the programme: This program is **to connect the right candidates with skill trainers** and various courses providing expertise on emerging technologies.
- It **includes artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data, data analytics, cyber security, and cloud computing.**



Source: Business Standard

6. 'Leaders in Climate Change Management' (LCCM)

Topic: International Affairs

In News: The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India, jointly announced 'Leaders in Climate Change Management' (LCCM).



More on the Topic:

- It is a practice-based learning programme.
- The programme aims at building capacity among urban professionals to lead climate action across sectors and geographies in India.
- LCCM envisions capacitating 5,000 professionals, including mid to junior-level government officials and frontline workers, and preparing them to champion climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions towards a coordinated effort to achieve India's climate commitments.
- The launch also marked the achievements of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs towards India's urban climate goals.

Source: Hindu

7. 'Vermin'

Topic: Environment and Ecology

WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT

❖ The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 9th September, 1972.

❖ It provides for protection of wild animals, birds and plants ; and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto.

In News: The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 brings in a major change by reducing the number of schedules from six to four. It proposes to remove Schedule V completely.

More on the Topic:

- The WLPA, 1972 currently has **six schedules that assign varying degrees of protection to animals and plants.**
- Under Schedule I and II of the Act, for instance, animals and birds such as tigers and elephants are offered the highest protection.
- **Schedule V lists species classified as 'vermin', such as common crows, fruit bats, rats and mice, which may be hunted freely.**



- Though the act does not define the word 'vermin', WLPA's 62nd section grants the central government the power to declare any wild animal, other than those specified in Schedule I and Schedule II as 'vermin' for any area and a specified period.
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- It potentially impact hundreds of species.

Source: Hindu
