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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

16.10.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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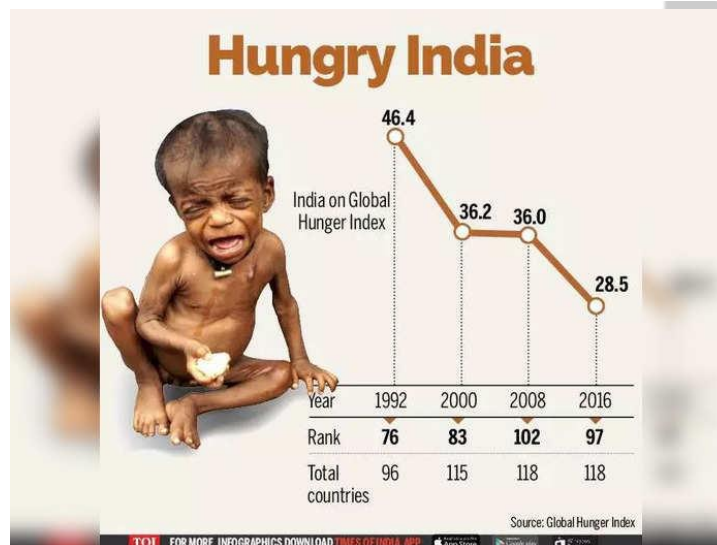
ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q-Global Hunger Index underlines the alarming state of India' children?

BACKGROUND = Among the 116 countries ranked by the Global Hunger Index 2021, our country ranks an appalling 101st. It's not just that our children show higher levels of undernourishment compared to most countries in the world, including neighbours Bangladesh (76), Nepal (76), and Pakistan (92), we are doing worse relative even to ourselves. India's GHI score has declined significantly between 2012-2021. And before someone comes crying 'foreign conspiracy' note that this decline does not just derive from domestic datasets it is loudly echoed there.

- ❖ The first phase of the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 has most states reporting worsened indicators since NFHS 2015-16, with the proportion of severely wasted children going up in 14 out of 18 states (including the UT of J&K). Exacerbations of the trend by the pandemic can be reasonably assumed.



This is obviously a multi-prolonged challenge. Too many mothers lack the health to make healthy babies. Then diseases like diarrhea take a heavy toll, with improvements in sanitation and drinking water supply still not showing improvements in children's disease burden. Diets are also crying for improvement, not just in quantity but also quality, and diversification. The appalling data surely reflects appalling failures at different levels of government.

GS 2

❖ Governance

Q- Discuss the significance of National Medical Commission revising queerphobic medical textbooks?

BACKGROUND = The medical profession has a worldwide history of treating homosexuality as an illness, which in turn has played a significant role in the stigmatisation of non-hetrosexual identities. Recent decades have thankfully begun to see a better-informed consensus emerge, thanks to both activism and attention to scientific evidence. But in India, as the Madras high court said last month, queerphobia continues to be rampant in medical education.

**A textbook, rather confidently,
postulates that transvestism may be
“associated with sadomasochism and
sexual asphyxia”**

Now the National Medical Commission has done right to issue an advisory to all medical universities and colleges to stop teaching in ways that are “derogatory/discriminatory/insulting to LGBTQIA+ community”. Curricula that describe lesbians as “mental degenerates” or transvestism as a “sexual perversion” go hand in hand with “conversion therapy” and other medical practices that still try to alter various sexual orientations instead of recognising them as a normal variant of human sexuality. Such treatments have been discredited in many parts of the world as both unethical and risky, with the American Psychiatric Association for example saying that they can cause depression and self-destructive behaviour.

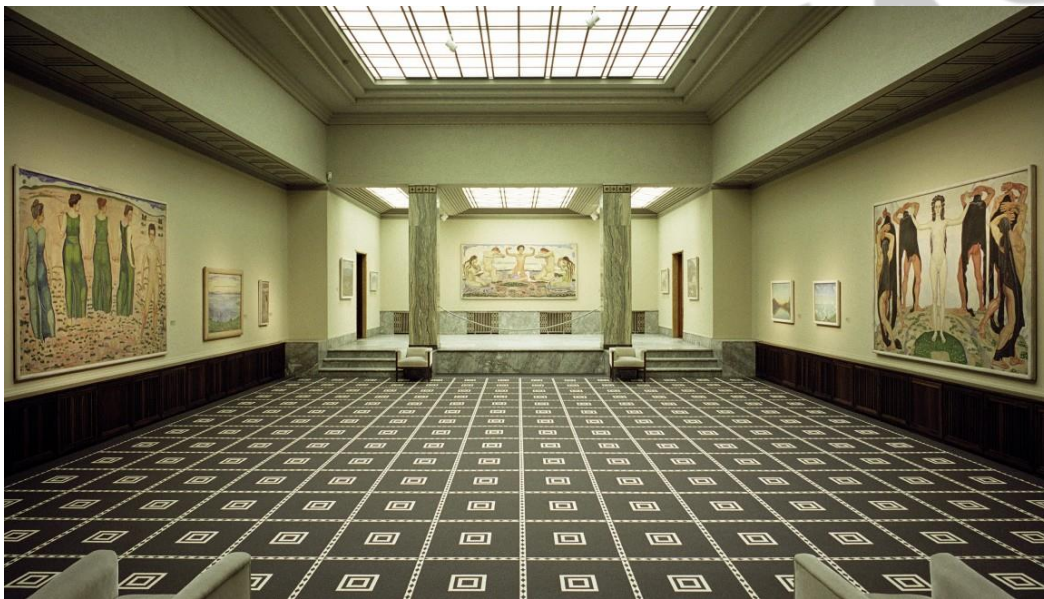
The NMC advisory will not change things overnight. Strong institutional follow-through will need monitoring, nudging and more. Consider how the degrading “two-finger” or virginity test to ascertain rape has continued to be taught in forensic syllabi long after being banned by the Supreme Court. But change must happen. Indian medical institutions must unlearn their queerphobia.

Snippets

❖ International Relations

Q- Comment on the booming Cultural Ties between India and Switzerland?

- Museum Rietberg, based in Zurich, Switzerland, has established a unique research centre and fellowship programme with a focus on Indian art.
- The GBF Centre is meant for scholars, curators, and artists who specialise in Indian painting.
- The public-private partnership takes its name from the initials of its founders, three renowned names in art historical research. Research fellows will get a chance to engage with original art works from renowned collections for three to six months in a project of their own design. They will work with the museum's team of scholars as well as experts from Switzerland and Europe. Their papers will be presented at lectures and conferences and feed into the work at the Rietberg.



- The programme aims to enhance international scientific, artistic, and curatorial exchange on Indian art and advance the museum's own collections through dialogues from different perspectives.
- Museum Rietberg is the only art museum for non-European art in Switzerland, and houses collections from Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. It holds exhibitions, cultural events, and global collaborations. Founded in 1952, its Indian paintings collection is ranked alongside those in London, Paris, and Berlin.

The GBF Centre has named Sonika Soni as its first research fellow. Ms. Soni is an artist and art historian from Rajasthan, whose interests lie in the connection between Indian painting and traditional Indian music

GS 3**❖ Environment**

Q- Commission for Air Quality Management reports a fall in Stubble Burning Incident. Explain How?

BACKGROUND = There is a 70% reduction so far in instances of stubble burning in Punjab and 18% in Haryana from last year.

- Last year in Punjab, there were 4,216 instances of stubble burning from September 15 to October 14. This dropped to 1,286 in the corresponding period this year.
- There were 487 incidents this year compared with 596 last year, a press statement by the commission claimed.
- In eight districts of Uttar Pradesh, there were 22 instances of burning this year compared with 42 last year.

This, however, is a preliminary analysis as harvesting is still under way and the day-to-day variation in the number of fires is extremely high. There's an increase in fires by 24% and till October 13 — a 30% decrease in fires. Similarly, in Punjab, a comparison till October 15 shows a reduction by 5%, whereas till October 13 it was a reduction of 67%.

The reasons being -

1. Because we are far from the peak of harvesting there will be a significant variation every day and we will have to wait for a few weeks to know if there are fewer fires this year than in previous years.
2. There would be a decrease in fires this year because of a decrease in the area allotted to paddy sowing this year.
3. There are several initiatives taken such as the increased use of happy seeder [harvesting equipment] and the use of bio-decomposers but this will take time for results to show.
4. Also, it is important to underline that meteorological conditions play a significant role in worsening pollution.

Burning issue | A look at how States have controlled stubble burning so far



- Between Sept. 15 and Oct. 14, stubble burning dropped 69.49% in Punjab, 18.28% in Haryana and 47.61% in the eight NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh compared with the corresponding period last year

- To check stubble burning, Uttar Pradesh has claimed it will spray

bio-decomposer in 10 lakh acres, Haryana in 1 lakh acres, Punjab in 5 lakh acres and Delhi in 4,000 acres

- Stubble burning in these States peaks between the last week of October and early November. Burning can, however, last till December

- In 2016, there were nearly 1,00,000 instances of stubble burning in Punjab alone. It reduced to 50,000 in 2019, according to the Economic Survey

5. The CAQM made a similar observation last week reporting that a 7% decrease in the area allotted to paddy and moving crops away from the popular variety PUSA 44 (that leaves behind more stubble in its wake) along with measures by the governments of Punjab and Haryana were likely to reduce fire count instances.
6. Over the years it has been observed that fire counts increase when there is too little time between the paddy being ready for harvesting and the right time to sow wheat. This year, excessive moisture in northern India due to an overhanging monsoon and a delay in the markets opening for trading, may further squeeze the time available for farmers to harvest and sow, further forcing them to set their fields alight.



Q- Consider the following statements –

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of global progress in tackling tuberculosis and for the first time in over a decade, TB deaths have increased, according to the 2021 Global TB report released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. There was also a reduction in the provision of TB preventive treatment.

Which of the above given trends are CORRECT?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. Neither



Q- Moved by the Swadeshi movement, which famous painter painted the famous image depicting Bharat Mata?

- a. Abanindranath Tagore
- b. Ravi Verma
- c. Rabindranath Tagore
- d. Amrita Shergill

Answer: a

Abanindranath Tagore painted his famous image of Bharat Mata in 1905. Hence, Option (a) is correct. In this painting Bharat Mata is portrayed as an ascetic figure; she is calm, composed, divine and spiritual. In subsequent years, the image of Bharat Mata acquired many different forms, as it circulated in popular prints, and was painted by different artists. Devotion to this mother figure came to be seen as evidence of one's nationalism.

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