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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

Prelim Bits 17-10-2018

Human Capital Index

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- The World Bank has released a Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report 2019.
- The theme of this year's world development report is "The Changing Nature of Work".
- The first HCI was published recently at the annual meetings of IMF and World Bank group.
- The index is calculated for 157 countries.
- It seeks to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18.
- The components of HCI are,

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1. **Survival** - measured by under-5 mortality rates

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2. **Expected years of Quality-adjusted school** - measured by quantity and quality of education

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3. **Health environment** - measured by Adult survival rates and rate of stunting for children under 5.

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- The HCI outcome of each country is given as a fraction of maximum value of 1.
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- The HCI for India has been estimated at 0.44 and India is ranked at 115 position in the index.
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- North America and Europe mostly have HCI value of above 0.75, while South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa have the lowest HCI among the regions.
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HDI Vs HCI

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- United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) calculates Human Development Index.
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- HDI includes Health, Education and Per capita Income components.
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- HCI excludes Per capita income and included quality adjustments in learning.
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- This makes HCI far less representative of human capital development than the index claims to be.
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Global Hunger Index

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- According to a recent report by a non-profit group, India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the GHI.
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- The GHI score is a multidimensional index composed of four indicators,
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1. proportion of undernourished in the population.

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2. mortality rate of children under the age of five (deaths per 1000 live

births).

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3. proportion of children under five suffering from wasting (low weight for height).

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4. proportion of children under five suffering from stunting (lower height than typical for age).

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- India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".
- India is ranked below many neighbouring countries, including China (25th spot), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67), and Bangladesh (86). Pakistan is placed at the 106th position.
- In 2017, India was ranked at the 100th position.
- As per the report, around 124 million people suffer acute hunger in the world.

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UNHRC

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- India was elected to the UNHRC for a period of 3 years beginning January 1, 2019, getting 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category.
- UNHRC has 47 seats with a term of 3 years. No member may occupy a seat for more than 2 consecutive terms.
- The UN General Assembly elects the members by absolute majority.
- The 18 new members (for next 3 years) were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.
- Countries needed a minimum of 97 votes to get elected to the Council.
- India was vying for a seat in the Asia Pacific category and got highest

number of votes among all candidates.

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- India had previously been elected for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 term.
- Along with India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines had also staked a claim in the same regional group.

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BepiColombo mission

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- It is a first mission of its kind by European Space Agency to Mercury.
- A UK-built spacecraft will determine if the nearest planet to the Sun contains water.
- The mission will send two orbiters to explore the fiery world where the surface temperatures reach about 450⁰C.
- Till now, only 2 spacecraft have been to Mercury, NASA's Mariner 10 and Messenger.

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Source: Economic Times, PIB

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