



drishti

'A Future for the World's Children' Report

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Why in News

Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and The Lancet medical journal have released '**A Future for the World's Children' report.**

- The report calculates the **Flourishing Index** and **Sustainability Index** of 180 countries.
- India secures **131st** rank on a **flourishing index** that measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children.
- Further, India ranked **77th** on a **sustainability index** that takes into account per capita carbon emissions and the ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives.

Flourishing Index

- **Methodology:**
 - Flourishing is the **geometric mean** of **Surviving and Thriving**.
 - The parameter of **Surviving** considers maternal survival, survival in children younger than 5 years old, suicide, access to maternal and child health services, basic hygiene, sanitation, and lack of extreme poverty.
 - The parameter of **Thriving** considers educational achievement, growth and nutrition, reproductive freedom, and protection from violence.
- **Global Scenario:**
 - **Norway leads** the table for survival, health, education and nutrition rates - followed by the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands.
 - The **Central African Republic, Chad and Somalia** rank at the **bottom**.
 - It also mentioned that the world's survival depended on children being able to flourish, **but no country is doing enough to give them a sustainable future.**

- **Marketing of Junk Food:**
 - The Index has linked an aspect of **harmful marketing of junk food and sugary beverages** with the alarming **rise in childhood obesity**.
 - Thus to protect children, it has called for a **new global movement driven by and for children**.

Sustainability Index

- **Methodology:**
 - The Sustainability Index ranks countries on the basis of **excess carbon emissions compared with the 2030 target**.
 - It also states that today's national conditions for children to survive and thrive must not come at the cost of eroding future global conditions for children's ability to flourish.
- **Global Scenario:**
 - The leading countries in the Flourishing Index **trail behind in the case of the Sustainability Index**, with **Norway (156th)**, the **Republic of Korea (166th)** and the **Netherlands (160th)**.
Each of the three emits 210 per cent more CO₂ per capita than their 2030 target.
 - The only countries **on track in Flourishing as well as in Sustainability Index are Albania, Armenia, Grenada, Jordan, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay and Vietnam**.
 - The **lowest emitters** are **Burundi, Chad and Somalia** whereas the **U.S, Australia, and Saudi Arabia** are **among the 10 worst emitters**.

Recommendations

- It suggests the **elimination of CO₂ emissions** with the utmost urgency and requests **to place children and adolescents at the centre of global efforts to achieve sustainable development**.
- New policies and investment in all sectors to work towards **child health and rights** with the **incorporation of children's voices** into policy decisions.

Source: TH