



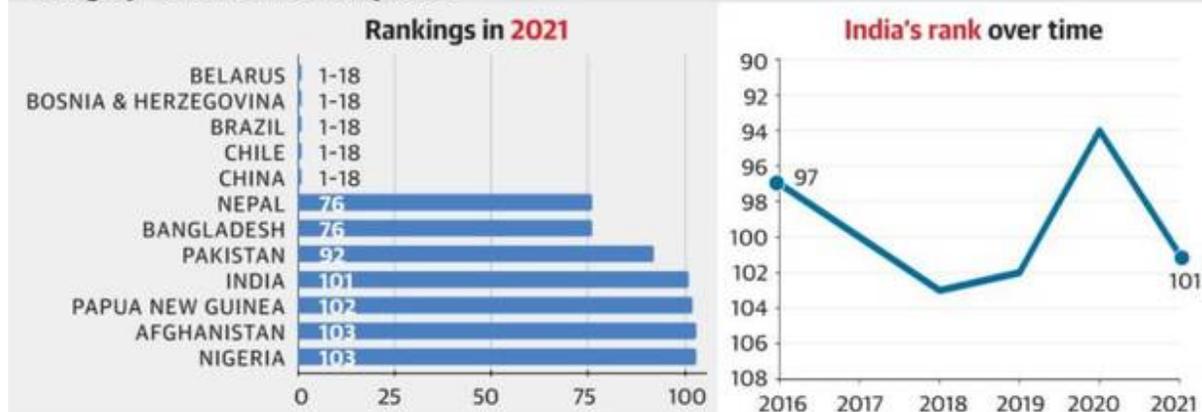
Global Hunger Index 2021

 drishtias.com/printpdf/global-hunger-index-2021

Why in News

India has **slipped to 101st** position in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021** of 116 countries, from its **2020 position of 94th**.

Alarming levels | The Global Hunger Index (GHI) tracks hunger and malnutrition across countries using four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. Based on this, GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. In 2021, India was classified in the "serious category" on the GHI severity scale



Key Points

- **About the Global Hunger Index:**

- **Annual Report:** Jointly published by **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe**.

It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2021 edition marks the 16th edition of the GHI.

- **Aim:** To comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- **Calculation:** It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
 - **Undernourishment:** Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
 - **Child Wasting:** Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - **Child Stunting:** Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
 - **Child Mortality:** The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- **Scoring:**
 - Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where **0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst**.
 - Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Undernourishment data are provided by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation** and child mortality data are sourced from the **UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)**.
 - Child wasting and stunting data are drawn from the joint database of **UNICEF**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World Bank**, among others.

- **Global Scenario:**

- **The fight against hunger is dangerously off track.**

Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.

- **Food security is under assault on multiple fronts.**

Worsening conflict, weather extremes associated with global climate change, and the economic and health challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are all driving hunger.

- **After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment - a component of the Global Hunger Index - is increasing.**

This shift may be a leading indicator of reversals in other measures of hunger.

- **Inequality** - between regions, countries, districts, and communities - is pervasive and, left unchecked, will keep the world from achieving the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** mandate to “leave no one behind”.

- **Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest.** Hunger in both regions is considered serious.

- **Indian Scenario**

- **Since 2000, India has made substantial progress**, but there are **still areas of concern**, particularly regarding child nutrition.

- India’s **GHI score has decreased** from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points - considered alarming - to a 2021 GHI score of 27.5 - considered serious.

- The **proportion of undernourished** in the population and the **under-five child mortality rate** are now at **relatively low levels**.

- While **child stunting** has seen a **significant decrease** - from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 34.7% in 2016-2018 - it is **still considered very high**.

- At **17.3%**, India has the **highest child wasting rate of all countries** covered in the GHI. This rate is **slightly higher than it was in 1998-1999**, when it was 17.1%.

- According to the Index, **only 15 countries fare worse than India**.

- India was also **behind most of the neighbouring countries**. Pakistan was placed at 92, Nepal and Bangladesh at 76 and Sri Lanka at 65.

- **Government of India Stand:**

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has criticised the report claiming that the methodology used by FAO is **unscientific**.
- According to the Government, the **Global Hunger Index Report 2021** and **FAO report on ‘The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021’** have completely ignored the following facts:
 - They have based their assessment on the results of a **‘four question’** opinion poll, which was **conducted telephonically by Gallup**.

The scientific measurement of undernourishment would **require measurement of weight and Height**, whereas the methodology involved here is based on a **Gallup poll, based on a pure telephonic estimate of the population**.
 - The report completely **disregards Government’s massive effort** to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period such as **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY)** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS)**.

Some Related Initiatives by India

- **Eat Right India Movement**: An outreach activity organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.
- **POSHAN Abhiyan**: Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**: A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- **Food Fortification**: Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013**: It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- **Mission Indradhanush**: It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme**: Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services (Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services) to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Source: TH