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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal top India’s child well-being index

Meghalaya, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh feature at the bottom, says NGO, urging the States to take action.

The report is an attempt to look at how India fairs on child well-being using a composite child well-being index.

Crucial report! Speaking on the report CEO of the NGO Amritanshu Kaur noted: “The India child well-being index is a crucial report that can be missed by the government and civil organizations to achieve the goal of child well-being and we will use this report effectively. This report provides insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection.”

The dimensions of the index include healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.

24 indicators “Focusing on the three key dimensions, 24 indicators were selected to develop the computation of the child well-being index. The report highlights the multi-dimensional approach towards measuring child well-being—going beyond income poverty. Children have the potential to transform the country, but if neglected, they will mar the bright future of our children,” said Cherian Thomas, CEO, World Vision India.

The report calls for states to look at their respective scores on the dimensions of child well-being and, to pre-

India Child Well-Being Report

- Released by World Vision India and IFMR LEAP
- How India fairs on Child Well-being
  - using Child Well-Being Index
- Child Well-Being Index
  - tool designed to measure and track children's well-being comprehensively
- Objectives
  - gather attention to under-researched theme of Child Well-being in India
  - inspire further academic and policy conversations on related issues
- Provides insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation, and child protection

Focus on 3 key dimensions → 24 indicators
1. Healthy individual development
2. Positive relationships
3. Protective contexts

Multi-dimensional approach → measuring child well-being
- not only income poverty
- Educational facilities
- Malnutrition
- School dropout
- Clean drinking water
- Child survival
- Sanitation facilities, etc.
- Crimes against children
• Steps to enhance quality of life of children
  • policy level changes
  • better budgetary allocations
  • discussions with all stakeholders

• Performance
  • State - Kerala
  • U.T. - Puducherry
  • Madhya Pradesh - Worst performer

Gift from RBI

As a long-term solution, the government has recently moved to an economy with a lower bank rate, following a drop in the overall economy. This move aims to improve the economic framework, allowing for a moderate intervention in the economy, including a rise in the GDP. Despite these changes, the government continues to face challenges in maintaining economic stability.

The government has been advised to take necessary steps to improve the economic framework. The RBI has already introduced measures to ease monetary policy, which has helped in reducing the bank rate. However, the government is still required to take more initiatives to improve the economy further.

Papers:

Pg: 8
L: B, T
Pg: 10
L: C, D

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - 200 marks

1. Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER III

General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PAPER IV

General Studies III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
RBI-to transfer Rs. 1.76 lakh Crore to Central Govt. - FY 2018-19

long pending demand of Central Government

Total - Rs. 1,76,091 Crore
- Rs. 1,23,414 Crore - Surplus + Rs. 52,677 Crore - Contingency fund

Bimal Jalan Committee - review and recommend RBI’s “economic capital framework”

economic capital - risk capital - to meet unforeseen risks and losses

Govt - Sovereign - owns RBI

decision to tap RBI Reserve - morally wrong

generated over different governments

Jalan Committee - reserves - savings for a ‘rainy day’ - monetary or financial crisis

Bonanza - huge relief for Government

tax collection

to meet deficit targets

infuse capital to weak banks - boost lending

fund welfare programmes

Currency and Gold Revolution Account (CnORA)

Value of Gold and Foreign currency that RBI holds

unrealized gains - market variations

not distributable to the government

Rs. 6.91 lakh crore - June 30, 2018

Contingency Reserve or Fund (CF)

to meet unexpected contingencies

Recommended CF - 6.5% to 5.5% of total assets

RBI Board - fixed at 5%

Questions on RBI’s credibility outlandish, says Nirmala

Finance Minister slams criticism on transfer of surplus to exchequer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Any suggestions on the credi- bility of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are “outlandish”, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, responding to criticism over the transfer of Rs. 6.91 lakh crore surplus from the central bank to the exchequer.

Speaking a day after the central government’s windfall from the RBI, she said, the government was yet to decide on the deployment of the funds.

“I cannot comment right now on how these funds would be deployed. We will inform the media only after we have taken a decision,” she said at a press briefing.

Ms. Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur were in the city for a meeting with top offi- cials, traders, entrepreneurs and industry experts on the issues related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Referring Rahul

The Minister slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks accusing the Narendra Modi govern- ment of “stealing” money from the RBI. “Whenever Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has used words like cheat and cheat-frauds (pertaining to the NSA government), a thing that comes to my mind is that though he tried his best to malign us using such words, the public has given him and his party a fir- ing reply,” she said, adding that the Congress had no right to tarnish the RBI’s reputation.

“Rahul Gandhi should first ask the credible Fi- nance Ministers and senior leaders of the Congress be- fore hurling allegations of theft from the RBI at us ... but it appears he has be- come an expert at using words like cheat and cheat,” Finance Minister said.

Making it clear that she was not responding to any specific critiques, Ms. Sithi- raman said that the Jalan ja- lan committee on the eco- nomic capital framework included eminent experts, and it was constituted by the RBI itself and not by the go- vernment.

Formula from panel

“it is worrying that a com- mittee appointed by the lie- s the Reserve Bank of India is being questioned. The committee has had several sittings and has come out with a formula. It was appointed by the RBI, it had experts and they gave a formula, based on which the amount was arrived at,” the Minister said.

Now, any suggestions about the credibility of the RBI, therefore, be one needs a bit of wisdom, considering that the committee was ap- pointed by the Reserve Bank itself,” she said.

Ms. Sitharaman further said the committee mem- bers themselves had given an explanation through the media that issues such as fis- cal financial stability and the surplus to meet any emerg- ency and contingency had all been factored in by the committee while coming up with its formula.

Responding to questions on the auto industry’s de- mands for a GST cut on cars, she said the GST rates were not in the Finance Ministry’s do- main, but that of the GST Council.

Jalan panel for periodic review

The Jalan panel Committee, set up to review the RBI’s economic capital framework, has suggested that the framework be reviewed every five years, “but if there is a change in the RBI’s risks and operating environment, an intermediate review may be considered,” it said, adding that the panel had recommended a new formula for the calculation of the Economic Capital Framework.

Finance Minister Na- iram said the panel’s recom- mendations would be forwarded to the RBI Governor for consideration.

CONTRIBUTED BY PACU

HARISH AGGARWAL, OF-
STALI DUTT PATHAK PUL LEPAGE
GIST FROM BOTH SOURCES
**Rare tarantula sighted in Villupuram district**

Spider's known habitat is in degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh

*Image: https://www.civilspedia.in*

**News:**

- Rare Tarantula species in Tamil Nadu
  - Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula
  - Commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider, this species is known to be spotted in India.

- Spotted in Pakkamalai Reserve forests, T.N, by researchers from Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation

- Name - Poecilotheria metallica
- Genus - Poecilotheria
- Family - Theraphosidae

- IUCN Red list - Critically endangered
- CITES - Under proposal
- WPA 1972 - Not protected

- Known habitat - Degraded forests near Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh

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**Degraded forests:**

- Secondary forest that has lost the structure, function, species composition or productivity normally associated with a natural forest type expected on that site

- Reduced supply of goods and services

- Limited biological diversity

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**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.
News:

* COP-14 to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification will be hosted by India
* Conference of Parties (COP)
* Supreme decision making body
* Comprises of ratifying govs. and regional economic integration organizations
* Meets biennially
* Primary function - review reports submitted by parties - how commitments are carried out
* COP makes recommendations
* Power to make amendments to the Convention or adopting new annexes

* COP Presidency → India will take over for 2 years
* COP-14 → issues of combating desertification, land degradation and drought
* UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
* Established in 1994
* Only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management
* Addresses dry lands - most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples
* Objective
  → Combat desertification
  → Mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification
* long-term integrated strategies
  - improving productivity of land
  - rehabilitation
  - conservation
  - sustainable management
  - land and water resources

* Uses bottom-up approach

* India
  - Signatory in 1994
  - Ratified in 1996

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
* 17th June → Declared by UNGA in 1994
* To promote public awareness
* Implementation of UNCCD

India’s commitment:
* Converting degrading land of 50 lakh hectares to fertile land
  - in 10 years

LDN Target
* Land Degradation Neutrality
  - paradigm shift in land management policies and practices
  - unique approach → counterbalances
    - expected loss of productivity of land ↔ Recovery of degraded area
  - measure to conserve, sustainably manage and restore land in the context of land use planning

Bonn Challenge
* Launched by leaders around the world in 2011

* Global efforts to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020
  - later extended to 350 million hectares by 2030
    - by New York Declaration on Forests, 2014

* Secretariat → IUCN

* Implementation vehicle
  - boosting landscape productivity
  - improving water and food security
  - conserving biodiversity
  - combating desertification

* Will create 170 billion USD/year in net benefits
* Sequester ~ 1.7 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually
* Basis → Forest Landscape Restoration approach (FLR approach)
  - to restore ecological integrity and improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes
India

- one of the largest pledges in Asia

Committed

- 21 million hectares

Potential benefits

Economic benefits

- 6.594 million USD

Climate benefit

- 1.99 GtCO2 sequestered

2015: 13 million hectares by 2020
2015: 8 million hectares by 2030

Woman succumbs to Congo fever in Gujarat

Ahmedabad

A 75-year-old woman Sukhiben Meniya from Surendranagar district in Gujarat died on Sunday night due to Congo fever which is transmitted to people through ticks, the State government said. The State has directed the health authorities to remain alert to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

- Woman in Gujarat - died of Congo fever - health authorities to remain alert - to contain the spread of the disease

- Crimean - Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
  - Viral disease - tick borne virus - Nairovirus - Bunyaviridae family
  - Zoonotic, vector borne
  - Fatality rate upto 40%.

- CCHF - first characterised in Crimea, 1944
  - Similar pathogen in Congo, 1956

- In India,
  - First reported - Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 2011
  - Repeated outbreaks in Gujarat, Rajasthan
  - Reported in U.P.
Threat to public health. Why?
1. Epidemic potential of virus
2. High Case fatality ratio (10-40%)
3. Potential for nosocomial infection
4. Difficulties in treatment and prevention

- CCHF: Endemic to Middle East, Africa and Asia

- Transmission:
  1. From ticks and livestock → humans
  2. Human to human transmission - Possible

- Symptoms:
  - Sudden fever, muscle ache, dizziness,
  - head ache, vomiting, red eyes, etc

- People at risk:
  - livestock workers
  - animal herders
  - employees of slaughterhouses
  - veterinarians
  - travellers - countries endemic to CCHF

- Diagnostic tests
  - ELISA
  - Serum neutralisation

- No vaccine exists (100% effective) - treatment restricted to supportive care

- WHO: Preventive steps
  1. Wear long sleeved protective clothing
  2. Use repellents on skin and clothing
  3. Quarantining animals - slaughter houses

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Bimal Jalan committee was constituted to recommend and review economic capital framework for RBI.
2. The committee recommended transfer of surplus from the Currency and Gold Revaluation Account of RBI.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only 

c) Both 1 and 2  

d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Consider the following statements, with reference to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

1. It is the only legally binding international agreement that links environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. India is a signatory to the convention but it did not ratify.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only 

c) Both 1 and 2  

d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral disease.
2. Human to human transmission of the virus that is responsible for causing Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever is possible.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only 

c) Both 1 and 2  

d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q1. Option ‘d’ - World Vision
Q2. Option ‘a’ - 1 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ - 1 only
Q4. Option ‘c’ - Both 1 and 2