

## Global Hunger Report 2022

### Why in news?

*India gets the credit for being the fastest growing economy. But India has ranked low in the Global Hunger Report 2022.*

### What are India's rankings in different reports? What is the issue?

- In the Global Hunger Report (GHR), India has been ranked 107 out of 121 with a 'serious' malnutrition score.
- But, in the Ease of Doing Business ranking (which has been withdrawn due to methodological issues), India got a big promotion to 63 in 2019.

To know more about the Global Hunger Report 2022, [click here](#)

- While the Global Hunger Report is based on a survey of 3,000 people, the Ease of Doing Business ranking had a sample of less than 100.
- Both the samples may not be representative of the true picture. So, clearly, all these methodologies have limitations.
- We need to do some introspection to address the issue of methodology.

### What is the issue with GHR?

- The GHR looks at the level of malnutrition (across population) and associated height and weight of children besides infant mortality.
- A theorist would question the criteria as these variables are related to each other and hence involves **multiple counting**.
- Yet the question to be asked is whether we can do better.

### What could India do?

- As a country that has made remarkable strides in growth numbers, the trickle down effects are weak.
- However, the positive aspect is that **with effective policies we can tackle the problem**.
- It has been counter-argued that the government has been spending a lot on welfare.
- The challenge is to make this money work better.

### Where does the onus lie?

- The onus is really on all three levels of government (Centre, States and local) to ensure that delivery of a food package is available to all children.
- This is important because the country does have the advantage of a favourable demographic

composition.

- A prerequisite for earning any dividend from this transition is a healthy young population.
- We do have some effective templates which are already being implemented in some States.

## What are the templates?

- **Mid-day meals** - States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh have been running a mid-day meal scheme for children.
- The idea is to spread this scheme to all States.
- The meals must adhere to strict quality norms linked with calorie intake, where the frequency can be increased to twice a day.
- In fact, the Finance Commission may specify a proportion of the Budget to be allocated for mid-day meal schemes.
- Alternatively, if it is Centrally sponsored, it can be earmarked for this purpose.
- **PM-Kisan Scheme** - The Centre can revamp the PM-Kisan Scheme.
- Around half of the allocation to the Scheme can be set aside for promoting nutrition for children through a meal scheme.
- The panchayats can be assigned the task of providing meals in the homes of the children who do not go to school.
- **CSR** - It is mandatory for corporates to keep aside 2% of profits for CSR.
- All corporates involved in schools could be mapped to deploy the 2% of profits to specific schools in remote areas and tie up with kitchens which provide the meals.
- The government would also be helping to set up kitchens formally across the country that would cater to these requirements.

*Despite the methodological shortcomings, there may be some useful takeaways from the GHR.*

## Reference

1. [Businessline | Takeaways from global hunger report](#)
2. [Global Hunger Index | India](#)

