



18.10.2021 Monday



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Current Affairs of the Day

'Only 3.9% children malnourished'

- The value of a key indicator used in the Global Hunger Index is 'inflated' as only 3.9% of the Anganwadi children were found to be undernourished, the Union Government said.
- The real-time data of beneficiaries registered on the Anganwadi platform include 7.79 crore children aged between 6 months to 6 years as per real-time Poshan Tracker data. The corresponding number of undernourished children reported on Poshan Tracker is 30.27 lakh which comes to only 3.9%.
- These beneficiaries are representative of the poorest strata of society and the low levels of undernourishment in them surely reflects that the Indian data is highly inflated.

'Only 3.9% children malnourished'

Govt. slams publishing agencies of Global Hunger Index, says data is inflated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The value of a key indicator used in the Global Hunger Index is 'inflated' as only 3.9% of the anganwadi children were found to be undernourished, the Union Government said on Sunday.

"The real-time data of beneficiaries registered on the Anganwadi platform include 7.79 crore children aged between 6 months to 6 years as per real-time Poshan Tracker data (as on 16-10-2021). Corresponding number of undernourished children reported on Poshan Tracker is 30.27 lakh which comes to only 3.9%," according to a reply from the Ministry of Women and Child Development to a report in The Hindu. "Global Hunger Index



Started future: The Global Hunger Index 2021 ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries, as a result of being highly inflated.

not based on an opinion poll," published on October 17.

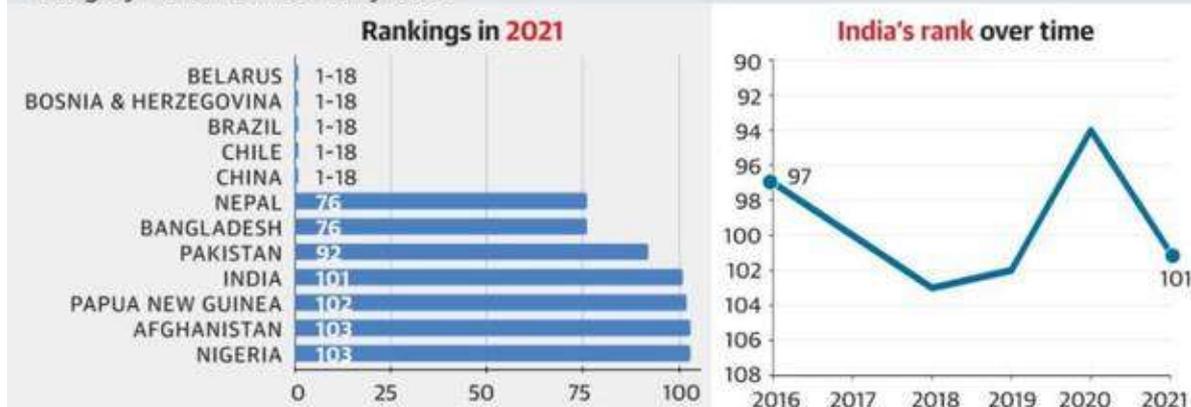
It said, "These beneficiaries are representative of the poorest strata of society and the low levels of undernourishment in them surely reflects that the Indian data is

highly inflated, which is what the Government has challenged. According to IAO's data, which is used in the index, the prevalence of undernourishment in India rose from 14% in 2017-2019 to 15.3% in 2018-2020 which the Government has called exaggerated.

However, undernourishment and undernutrition used as synonyms by the Government are treated as two different indicators by IAO and in the GHI.

The Government has also alleged that there has been a "selective approach adopted to deliberately lower India's rank" by relying on higher values of indicators such as stunting and wasting from different datasets available.

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





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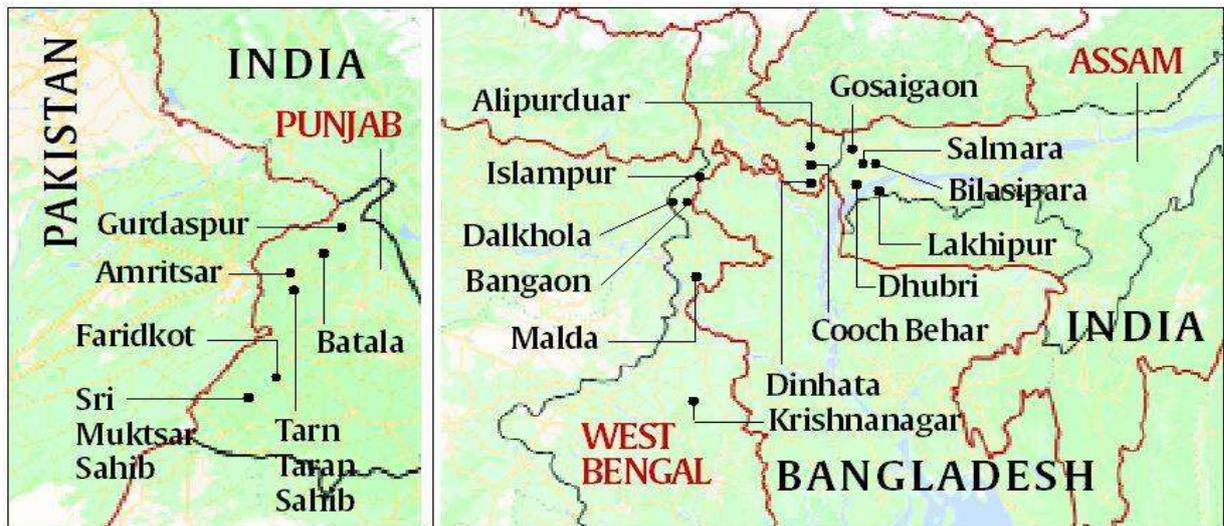


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The GHI 2021

1. The GHI 2021 ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries. The index is based on four indicators — under-nourishment, wasting, stunting and under-five mortality. Of these, India's performance is shown to deteriorate only for undernourishment, which is what the Government has challenged.
2. According to FAO's data, which is used in the Index, the prevalence of undernourishment in India rose from 14% in 2017-2019 to 15.3% in 2018-2020 which the Government has called exaggerated.
3. However, undernourishment and undernutrition used as synonyms by the Government are treated as two different indicators by FAO and in the GHI.
4. The Government has also alleged that there has been a "selective approach adopted to deliberately lower India's rank" by relying on higher values of indicators such as stunting and wasting from different datasets available.

In the line of defence, with growing powers

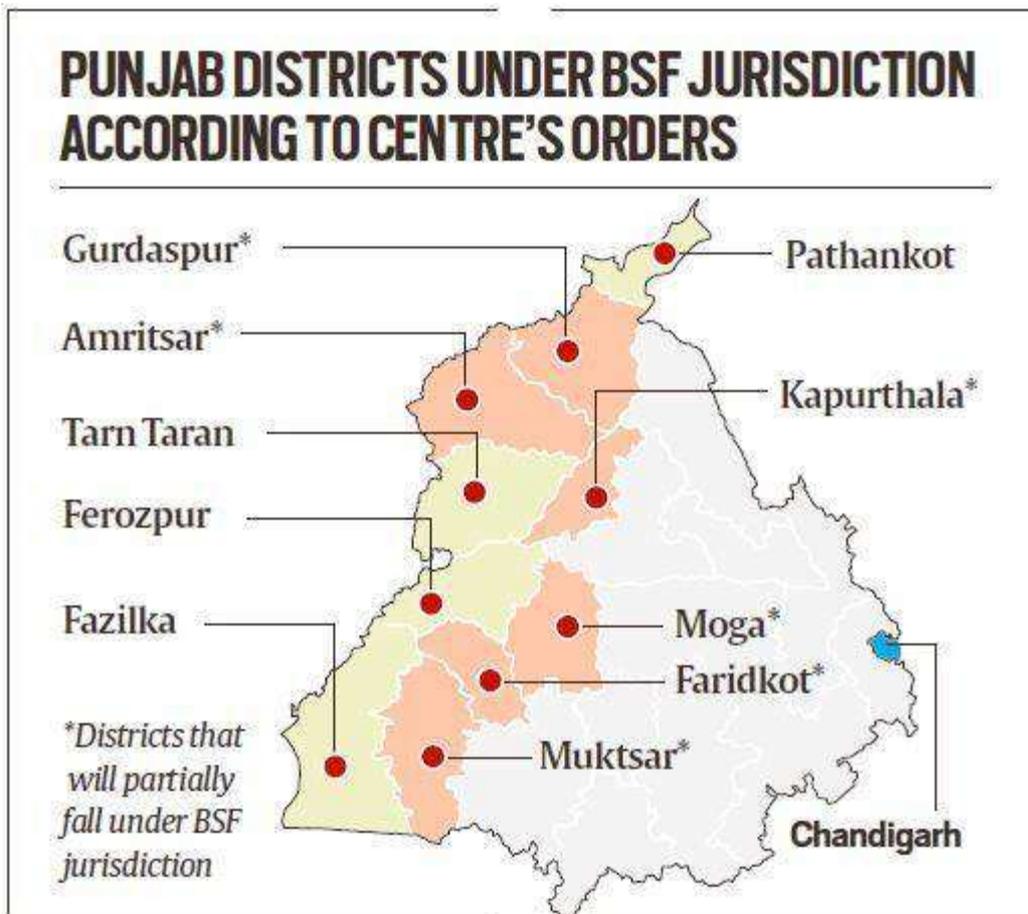


The international borders in the three states where BSF's jurisdiction has been enhanced. While the places marked here are within 50 km of the respective borders.

1. The 56-year-old force, deployed along the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders, is currently at the centre of a political storm after the MHA enhanced its operational limits in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.



2. The BSF was formed on December 1, 1965, after the India-Pakistan war. Till then, the border with Pakistan was guarded by the armed battalions of State police departments. The BSF played a pivotal role in the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.
3. The MHA, through a notification in the Gazette of India on October 11, enhanced the “arrest, search and seize” powers of BSF up to 50 km from the international boundary in the States of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. In Gujarat, the limit was reduced from the existing 80 km to 50 km and in Rajasthan, the 50 km limit has remained unchanged.
4. The BSF does not have policing powers and after apprehending a suspect, it can only conduct “preliminary questioning” and the seized consignment or a suspect has to be handed over to the local police within 24 hours.
5. Such powers under CrPC are already available to other central forces such as the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).





THE HINDU

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'Shift focus to demand management of water

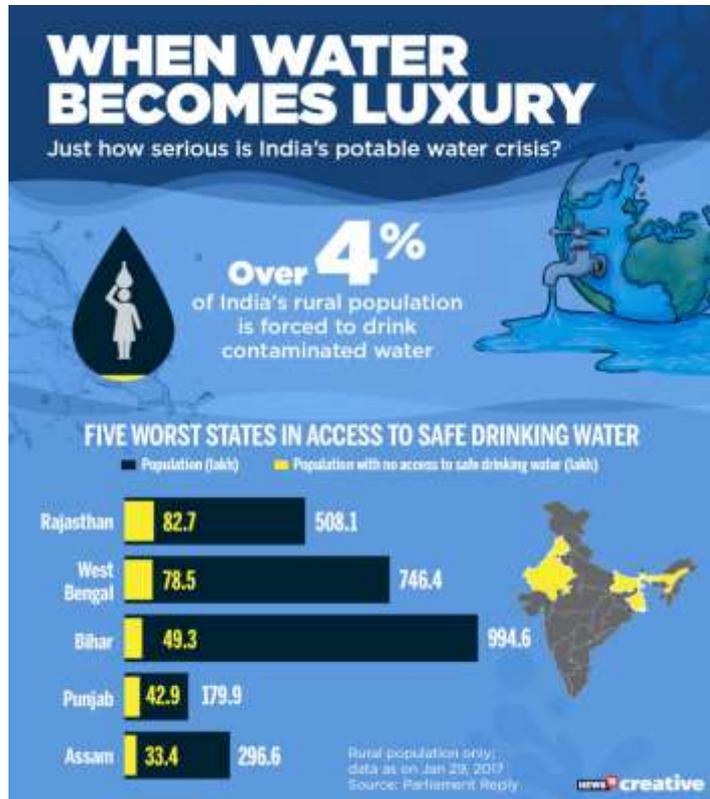
Head of the panel drafting new water policy calls for 'nature-based solutions' for storage, supply. Changing patterns and intensity of precipitation require greater



emphasis on agility, resilience and flexibility in water management

New Policy needed:

1. We need to take very serious cognisance of the current context of climate change and the grave crisis of water facing the country.
2. Recent estimates suggest that if the current pattern of demand continues, about half of the national demand for water will remain unmet by 2030.
3. With water tables falling and water quality deteriorating, a radical change is needed in the approach to water management.
4. Changing patterns and intensity of precipitation, as also rates of discharge of





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rivers, show that it can no longer be assumed that the water cycle operates within an invariant range of predictability.

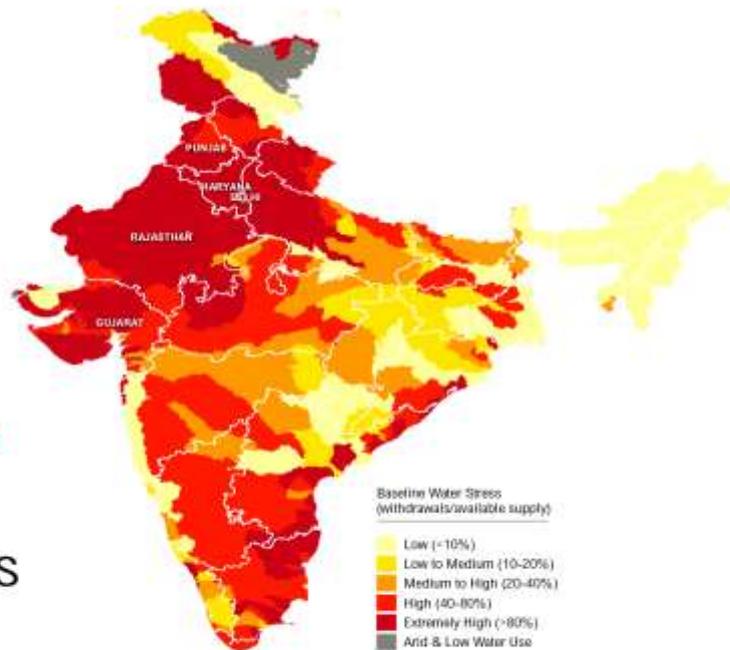
5. This requires greater emphasis on agility, resilience and flexibility in water management so that there could be an adequate response to the heightened uncertainty and unpredictability of the future.

What are two major recommendations of the proposed NWP?

Demand management is Key

1. The two major recommendations are one: shift focus from endlessly increasing the supply of water towards measures for demand-management.
2. This means diversifying the cropping patterns to include less water-intensive crops. It also needs to lower the industrial water footprint, among the highest in the world by reducing freshwater use and shifting to recycled water.
3. Cities must mandatorily shift all non-potable uses, such as flushing, fire protection, vehicle washing, landscaping etc. to treated wastewater.

54%
of India
Faces
**High to
Extremely
High**
Water Stress



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Supply-side reforms

1. Two: shift in focus within the supply-side also because the country is running out of sites for further construction of large dams, while water tables and groundwater quality are falling in many areas.
2. There is mounting evidence across the globe in favour of “nature-based solutions” for water storage and supply.
3. Thus, the NWP places major emphasis on the supply of water through rejuvenation of catchment areas, which needs to be incentivised through compensation for ecosystem services, especially to vulnerable communities in the upstream, mountainous regions
4. Renewed thrust on local rainwater harvesting to catch the rain where it falls, when it falls, must be combined with demarcation, notification, protection and revival of traditional local water bodies in both rural and urban areas.
5. This would form part of the urban blue-green infrastructure for improved water levels and quality, as also flood mitigation.

Pricing the water:

1. Economic services (like industrial and commercial use) be charged at a rate where the O&M (Operation and Management) costs and part of the capital cost would be the basis for the water service fees.
2. At the same time, concessional rates should be provided for vulnerable social sections.

<p>MAINS DAWP</p>	<p>Q. Critically discuss the methodology of the Global Hunger Index.</p>
<p>MCQ</p>	<p>Q. The Border Security Force is a border guarding organization looking after following borders with Pakistan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Border 2. Line of Control (LoC) 3. Actual Ground Position Line <p>Select the correct answer from the codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 1 only d. 1, 2 and 3