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# CHANAKYA WEEKLY BOOSTER

Current affairs &  
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**Sources :** The Hindu, Indian Express, Economics times, PIB, PRS, Sansad TV, AIR, Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down to Earth etc.

Chanakya Weekly Current Affairs & Newspaper Analysis  
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# GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

**Relevance in Syllabus:**

- **Prelims:** Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
- **Mains GS Paper 2:** Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.

**Important for:**

- **Prelims Exam:** Facts and findings related to Global hunger index
- **Mains Exam:** Can be used in answers

**Context :**

India has ranked 107 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, out of 121 countries, lagging behind most south Asian countries.

**About Global Hunger Index (GHI):**

- **Global Hunger Index** Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the US-based **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** and Germany-based **Welthungerhilfe**.
- In 2007, the Irish NGO **Concern Worldwide** also became a co-publisher.
- In 2018, IFPRI stepped aside from its involvement in the project and the GHI became a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.

**What does GHI indicate?**

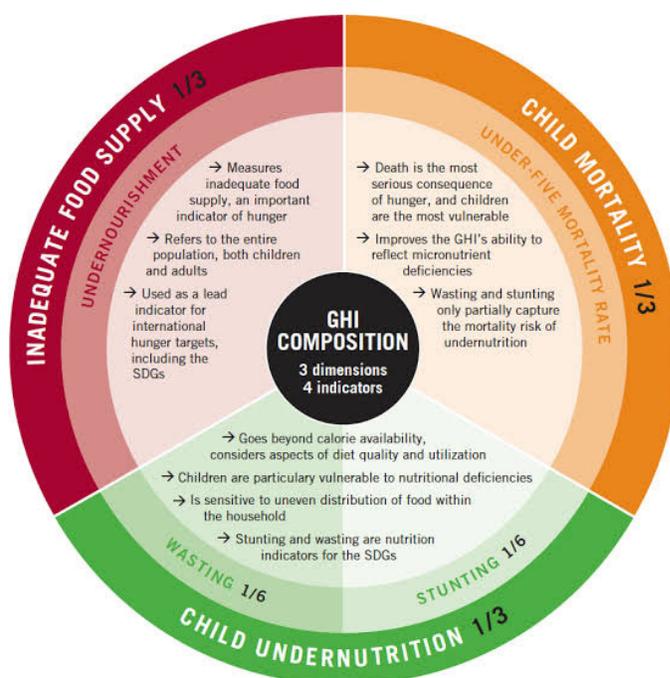
- The global hunger index is a means of monitoring **whether countries are achieving hunger-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It can be used for international ranking.
- **Goal 2** of the SDGs aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.
- It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year.

**How is GHI defined?**

The GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger - zero is the best score (implies no hunger) and 100 is the worst

The GHI captures **three dimensions** –

1. Inadequate food supply.
2. Child mortality.
3. Child under nourishment
  - (a) Child stunting
  - (b) Child wasting



**Consequences & Implications:**

- Hunger is one of the world's major problems and, therefore, one of its most important challenges.
- Hunger and undernourishment form a vicious circle, which is often "passed on" from generation to generation.
- The children of impoverished parents are often born underweight and are less resistant to disease; they grow up under conditions that impair their intellectual capacity for their whole lives.
- Factors that contribute to a high global hunger index have been identified as –
  - Low income and poverty,
  - War and violent conflict,
  - General lack of freedom,
  - Low women's status, and
  - Poorly targeted and delivered health and nutrition programmes.

**India's Performance:**

On the whole, India has shown a slight worsening with its GHI score increasing from 28.2 in 2014 to 29.1 in 2022.

**Child wasting rate –**

- India's child wasting rate (low weight for height), at 19.3%, is worse than the levels recorded in 2014 (15.1%) and even 2000 (17.15%).
- It is the highest for any country in the world and drives up the region's average owing to India's large population.

**Undernourishment –**

- Prevalence of undernourishment, which is a measure of the proportion of the population facing chronic deficiency of dietary energy intake, has also risen in the country from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021.
- **224 million people in India are considered undernourished.**

**Child Stunting & Mortality –**

- Child stunting has declined from 38.7% to 35.5% between 2014 and 2022.
- Child mortality has also dropped from 4.6% to 3.3% in the same comparative period.

## THE ISSUES IN THE COLLEGIUM'S FUNCTIONING

**Relevance in Syllabus:**

- **Prelims:** Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- **Mains GS Paper 2:** Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

**Important for:**

- **Prelims Exam:** Articles and powers related to appointment of judges
- **Mains Exam:** Collegium system and challenges associated

### Context

A meeting of the Supreme Court Collegium, comprising the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and four senior-most judges, which was called for September 30 but did not take place, was subsequently “closed without there being any further deliberation”.

### Genesis of the collegium system

- Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution governs the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively. Under both provisions, the President has the power to make the appointments “after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary”.
- In the First Judges Case — S P Gupta v Union of India (1981) — the Supreme Court ruled that the President does not require the “concurrence” of the CJI in appointment of judges. The ruling affirmed the pre-eminence of the executive in making appointments, but was overturned 12 years later in the Second Judges Case.
- The Second Judges case introduced the collegium system in 1993. It ruled that the CJI would have to consult a collegium of his two senior-most judges in the apex court on judicial appointments.
- The ‘Third Judges Case’ case in 1998, which was a Presidential reference, expanded the collegium to its present composition of the CJI and four of his senior-most judges.

### Criticisms of the collegium system

- **Unconstitutional and autocratic:** ‘Collegium’ is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution and has been evolved by the judiciary itself for retaining the power to select judges by itself.
- **Undemocratic:** Selection of judges by collegium is undemocratic since judges are not elected by the people or their representatives and are not accountable to the people or to anyone else.
  - The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act brought in 2014 would have accorded a major role to the executive in appointing judges to the higher judiciary. But it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015.
- **Promotes nepotism:** Sons and nephews of previous judges or senior lawyers tend to be popular choices for judicial roles. Thus, it encourages mediocrity in the judiciary by excluding talented ones.
- **Inefficient:** Collegium has not been able to prevent the increasing cases of vacancies of judges and cases in courts.
- **Lack of Transparency:** The Collegium’s functioning has been criticized for being opaque. Its resolutions and recommendations are hosted on the Supreme Court’s website, giving relevant information about its decisions. However, the nature of the deliberations and whether there are any internal differences of opinion on the suitability of a particular candidate are unknown.
- **Slowing down the decision making:** The CJI is appointed by seniority, many of them have only a short tenure running into a few months. This convention may slow down decision-making.

## SCHEME: PM-DevINE

### Relevance in Syllabus:

- **Prelims:** Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- **Mains GS Paper 2:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

### Important for:

- **Prelims Exam:** Facts related to **PM-DevINE scheme**, MDoNER, Other Projects
- **Mains Exam:** Development of infra in North-East region

### Why in News

The Union Cabinet has approved the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) – a new scheme for the Northeastern states which was announced in the Union Budget earlier this year.

### PM-DevINE: Factsheet

- **Nature of the scheme:** PM-DevINE is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding.
- **Associated ministry & agency:** It'll implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) through North Eastern Council or Central Ministries/ agencies.
- **Duration of the scheme:** The PM-DevINE Scheme is for the four-year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of 15th Finance Commission period).
- PM-DevINE will lead to creation of infrastructure, support industries, social development projects and create livelihood activities for youth and women, thus leading to employment generation.
- Measures would be taken to ensure adequate operation and maintenance of the projects sanctioned under PM-DevINE so that they are sustainable.

### Objectives of the scheme

- Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
- Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
- Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
- Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

### What is the Need of development in the North-East region?

- The strategic location of the region, connects India to the robust Southeast Asian markets, makes it important for realisation of Act East Policy.
  - India's 'Act East' policy is a diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels.

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- North East Region (NER) has a geo-strategic location, sharing borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Nepal, that makes it conducive to international trade and also makes it important for security and sovereignty of the country.
- North East Region (NER) is rich in natural resources and biodiversity. However, the NER continues to face challenges that impede its development which includes armed insurgency, cross-border migration and ethnic conflict etc.
- North Eastern States in respect of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) are well below the national average and there are critical development gaps as per the NER District Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2021-22 prepared by NITI Aayog, UNDP and MDoNER. The new Scheme, PM-DevINE was announced to address these BMS shortfalls and development gaps.

### MDoNER

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) is responsible for the matters relating to the planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes and projects in the North Eastern Region. Its vision is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the Region so that it may enjoy growth parity with the rest of the country.

### Other projects for development of NER

- **North Eastern States Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP)**
  - **Assisted by:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)
  - **Objective of the project:** The scheme envisaged construction/up-gradation of total 433.425 km long roads in 6 North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.
- **North East Rural Livelihood Project**
  - **Assisted by:** World Bank
  - **Objective of the project:** To improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States".
  - The project has four major components:
    - Social empowerment;
    - Economic empowerment;
    - Partnership development & management and
    - Project management.

## GREEN CRACKERS

### Relevance in Syllabus:

- **Prelims:** General Science.
- **Mains GS Paper 3:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

### Important for:

- **Prelims Exam:** Green crackers
- **Mains Exam:** Green crackers and how they can help reducing pollution

**Context**

Recently, the Delhi government has issued an order banning storage, sale, and use of all varieties of firecrackers till January 1 to check pollution levels in the national capital, saying it did not want to add to the air pollution. Meanwhile, some states have allowed the use of 'green crackers' on Diwali.

**What are green crackers?**

Green crackers are low-emission crackers free of harmful chemicals like Sulphur nitrates, arsenic, magnesium, sodium, lead, and barium. They were designed to have a lesser impact on the environment - in the process, reducing health risks and threats to humans.

**WHAT ARE 'GREEN CRACKERS'?**

Firecrackers that have "less dangerous" and "less harmful" chemicals than conventional ones

**Green Because**

- ▶ They have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules
- ▶ This substantially reduces emission level and absorbs dust
- ▶ Is basically a light and sound show that produces lower emissions
- ▶ Promise **30-35% reduction** in particulate matter, nitrous oxide and sulphur oxide

Expected to hit the market in 4-5 years\*

**Also In The Works**

E-CRACKERS BEING DEVELOPED BY CSIR'S CENTRAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Being Developed by**

CSIR's National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

Production after they are approved by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

**OTHER INITIATIVES**

- Crackers with lower aluminium to reduce emissions substantially
- 'Anar' or flower pot made using eco-friendly material that can reduce particulate matter by 40%
- BiJli crackers that eliminate use of ash as desiccants
- Firecrackers without antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead as directed by PESO last year

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

### Difference between Green and traditional crackers

Unlike traditional crackers, green crackers do not contain harmful chemicals such as aluminium, barium, potassium nitrate or carbon. According to some reports, green crackers emit 30% less pollutants than regular crackers. Moreover, these crackers also make less noise, showing a drop to 110 decibels from 160 decibels.

### Are they 100% environmentally safe?

No, they aren't. They too emit pollutants but it is 30% lower than the traditional ones.

### **GREEN CRACKERS: SWAS, SAFAL & STAR**

#### ● **SWAS – Safe Water Releaser**

- They will release water vapour in the air which will suppress the dust released
- It will not comprise potassium nitrate and sulphur
- A diluent will be released for gaseous emissions
- The particulate dust released will reduce by approximately 30 percent

#### ● **STAR – Safe Thermite Cracker**

- Does not comprise potassium nitrate and sulphur
- Reduced particulate matter disposal
- Reduced sound intensity

#### ● **SAFAL – Safe Minimal Aluminium**

- Minimum usage of aluminium
- Usage of magnesium instead of aluminium
- Reduction in sound in comparison to traditional crackers

### Effects of air pollution on humans

- Human health is also severely affected by particulates in the atmosphere. The particulates can cause nasal irritation and swelling. It can also cause a running nose.
- PM2.5 can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the blood system. They can increase the risk of heart and respiratory diseases, as well as lung cancer.
- Air pollution is also linked to lung damage and limited lung function
- Air pollution can also have an inflammatory effect on the heart – it can elevate blood pressure and aggravate pre-existing conditions of the heart.
- The risk of death significantly increases with long term exposure to polluted air. For instance, people susceptible to heart diseases are at higher risk.
- Air pollution shortens average life expectancy in India.
  - The pollution would cut 7.6 years of life expectancy of 40% of Indians who live in the Indo-Gangetic plains, says the report released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).
  - In the case of Delhi, the world's most polluted capital, people would lose 10 years of their lives.

## LIVING PLANET REPORT 2022

### Relevance in Syllabus:

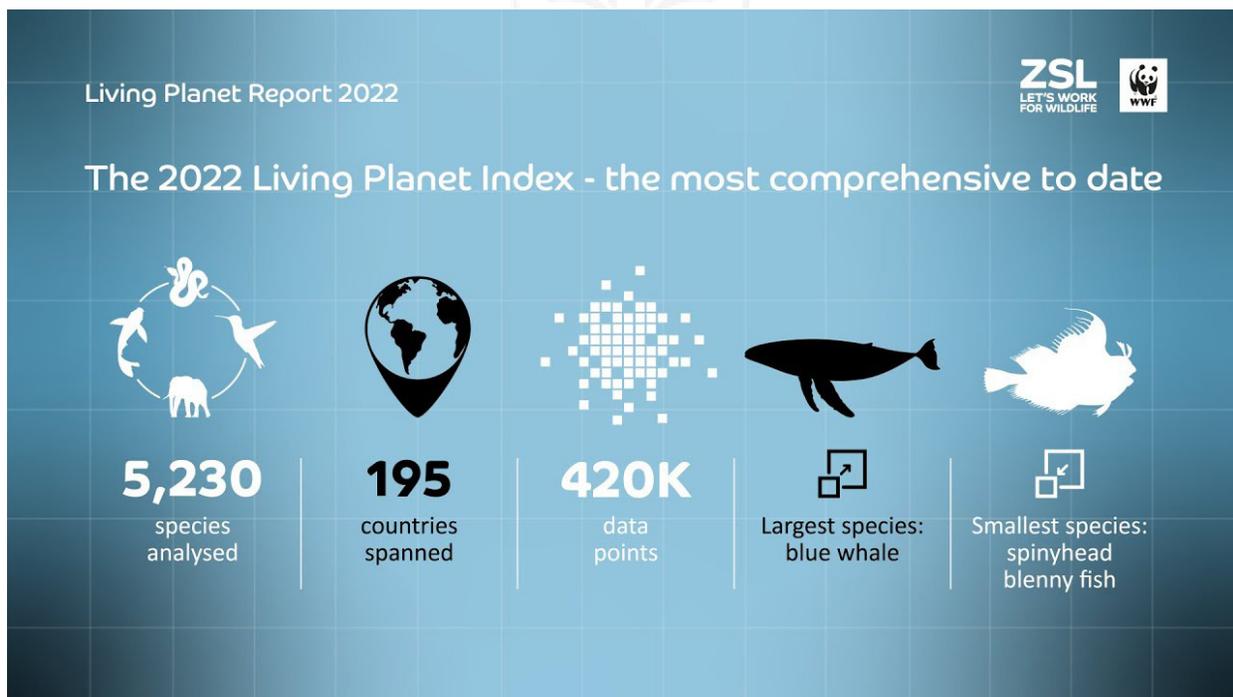
- **Prelims:** General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialization.
- **Mains GS Paper 3:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

### Important for:

- **Prelims Exam:** Facts and findings of the report
- **Mains Exam:** Can be used in answers

### Context :

Recently, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released its living planet report. According to which wildlife population has declined by 69% in 50 years.



### About The World Wildlife Fund (WWF):

- It is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1961. It is headquartered at Gland, Switzerland.
- It is the world's largest conservation organisation that works in the field of wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment.
- It is a foundation with 65% of funding from individuals and bequests (properties given by will), 17% from government sources (such as the World Bank, USAID, etc) and 8% from corporations in 2020.
- Since 1995, WWF has invested over \$1 billion in over 12,000 conservation initiatives with the goal of halting the degradation of the planet's natural environment and constructing a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Six ambitious goals of WWF:



**CLIMATE**

Create a climate-resilient and zero-carbon world, powered by renewable energy.



**FOOD**

Double net food availability; freeze its footprint.



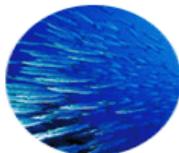
**FORESTS**

Conserve the world's most important forests.



**FRESHWATER**

Secure water for people and nature.



**OCEANS**

Safeguard healthy oceans and marine livelihoods.



**WILDLIFE**

Protect the world's most important species.

The Living Planet Report:

- Published biennially by WWF since 1998, the Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis, on the health of our planet and the impact of human activity.
- It is based on a Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculation.
- The Living Planet Index, managed by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in collaboration with the WWF, is an indicator of the state of global biological diversity based on trends in vertebrate populations of species from around the world.

Report 2022:

- Since 1970, species populations have declined by 69% on average, according to this flagship WWF publication.
- According to the WWF, freshwater populations have declined the most, by an average of 83% between 1970 and 2018.
- Between 1970 and 2018, **Latin America and the Caribbean** regions experienced the greatest decline in monitored wildlife populations worldwide, with an average decline of 94%.
- Rising temperatures are already causing mass extinctions and the first extinction of an entire species (**Bramble Cay melomys** - a small Australian rodent, was declared extinct after sea-level rise).
- **Warm water corals** have already lost 50% of their population, and a 1.5-degree Celsius increase will result in a loss of 70-90%.
- Despite their importance, mangroves are being deforested at a rate of 0.13% per year by aquaculture, agriculture and coastal development.
- Mangrove loss represents a loss of habitat as well as ecosystem services for coastal communities.
- E.g., the erosion of Sundarbans mangrove forest, has resulted in reducing land and ecosystem services for almost 10 million people who live there.

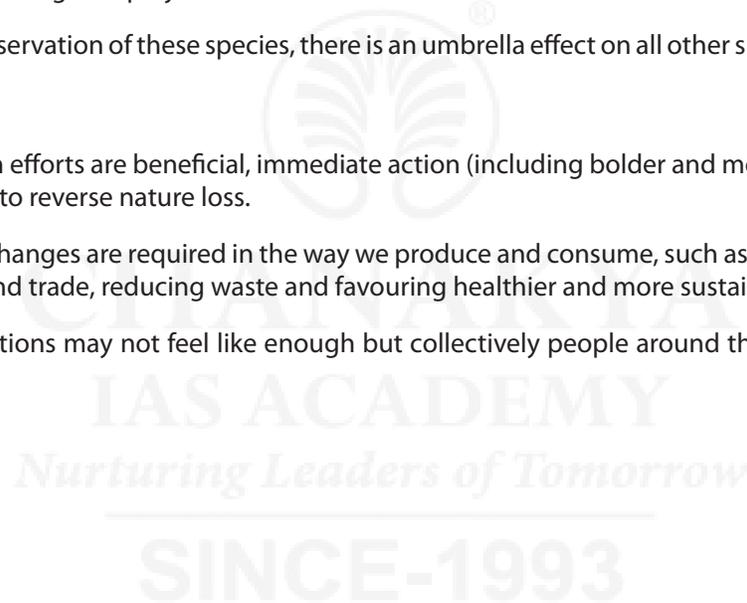
- This is mainly due to changes in the use of sea and land, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive non-native species.
- The report has found that agriculture is the most prevalent threat to amphibians (animals that live both on land and in water), whereas hunting and trapping are most likely to threaten birds and mammals.

**India specific findings:**

- According to the WWF-India program director, the country's population of honeybees and 17 species of freshwater turtles has declined during this time period.
- According to the report, the Himalayan region and the Western Ghats are some of the most vulnerable regions in terms of biodiversity loss in the country, and increased biodiversity loss is expected in the future if temperatures rise.
- Projects like the recent **cheetah translocation** are thus beneficial to species preservation, and India has seen successes like Project Tiger or projects for one-horned rhinos and lions.
- Because of the conservation of these species, there is an umbrella effect on all other species living in that habitat.

**Suggestions:**

- While conservation efforts are beneficial, immediate action (including bolder and more ambitious conservation efforts) is required to reverse nature loss.
- Transformational changes are required in the way we produce and consume, such as increasing the efficiency of food production and trade, reducing waste and favouring healthier and more sustainable diets.
- Individual small actions may not feel like enough but collectively people around the world have the power to make change.



# PRACTICE QUESTION

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the collegium system of appointments to the higher judiciary in India**

- The constitution provides for the appointment of judges to higher judiciary through collegium.
- The members of the collegium enjoy a fixed tenure of five years.
- The advice of the government in appointment of judges is very limited and it can't send back the collegium's advice.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- (a) 1 only                                      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only                                (d) 1, 2 and 3

**2. Consider the following statements regarding green crackers**

- They are completely safe as they make no harmful emission
- They have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) 1 only                                      (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2                                (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**3. Consider the following statements regarding PM-DevINE scheme**

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme

- It is being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs
- The scheme is co-terminus with the 15th Finance commission

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

- (a) 2 and 3 only                                (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 3 only                                        (d) 1 and 2 only

**4. Choose the incorrect statement regarding Global Hunger Index**

- Goal 2 of the SDGs aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.
- India has ranked 107 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022.
- Global Hunger Index Created in 2006.
- The GHI captures four dimensions of hunger.

**5. According to the Living Planet Report 2022**

- Wildlife populations has declined by 69% in 50 years.
- Warm water corals have already lost 50% of their population.

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

- (a) 1 only                                      (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2                                (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5
D	B	C	D	C

\*\* For Explanation read above articles thoroughly.