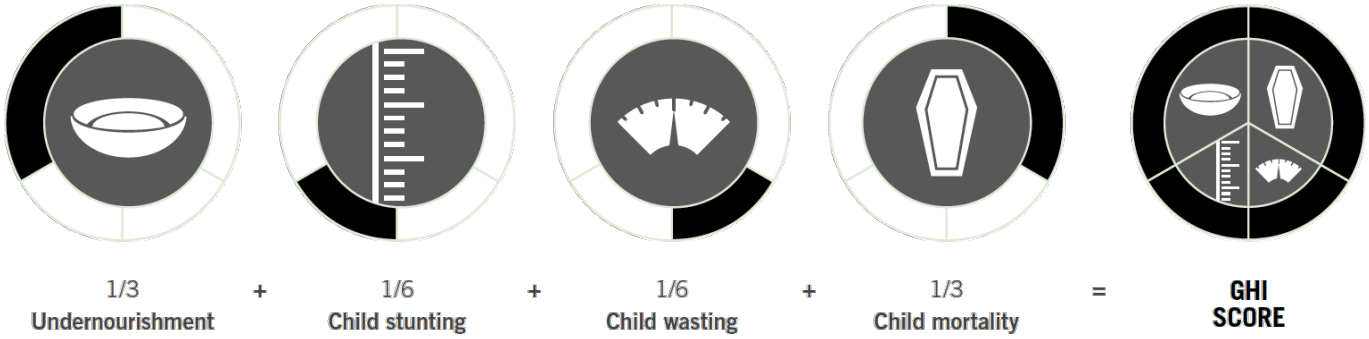
Global Hunger Index 2024 (GHI)

Why in News?

Recently , Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 has been published.

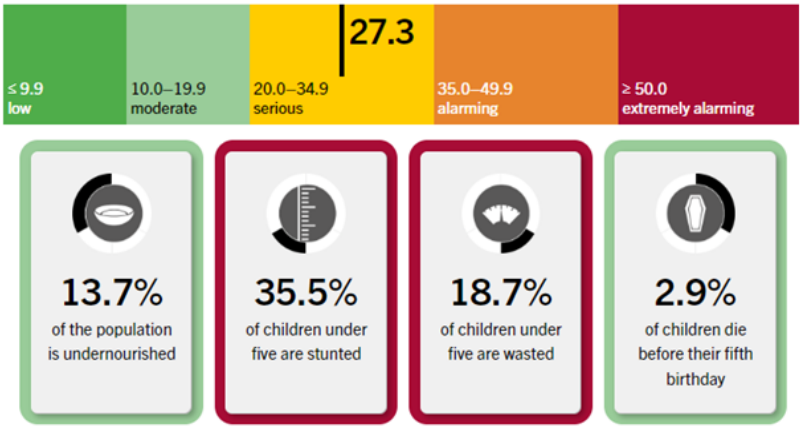
What are the components of Global Hunger Index?

- **GHI** - It is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.
- **Released by** - Concern Worldwide , an Irish humanitarian organisation, and Welthungerhilfe, a German aid agency.
- GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators.
- **Undernourishment** -The share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
- **Child Stunting** - The share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- **Child Wasting** - The share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- **Child Mortality** - The share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.



What is the hunger level of India?

- **India's GHI 2024 Rank** - India ranks 105th out of the 127 countries with a score of **27.3**.
- **Hunger Status** - Severe
- As per the report , about 200 million people i.e 14% of India's existing population is undernourished.



- **Data Used** - It considers the Sample Registration System statistical reports released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes annually.
- **India's Undernutrition (As per the report)**
  - **Infant mortality Rate**- was 26 per 1,000 live births in 2022, while the global average was 28.
  - **Underniourishment** - 13.7% of the population
  - **Child Stunting** - 35.5% of children
  - **Child Wasting** - 18.7% of children
  - **Child Mortality** - 2.9% of children dying before their fifth birthday.
- **Contention by India** - Ministry of Women and Child Development had expressed concerns about the data not being accessed from their ICT application 'Poshan Tracker'.
- **Difference in Data** – Government data on child wasting was 7.2% while the report states 18.7% .

What are the reasons?

- **Systemic Failure** - GDP growth alone does not result in improved food and nutritional security for the entire populace.

  India was the world's fastest growing economy , at 6.8% in FY24, with an estimated GDP of almost $4 trillion, ranking fifth globally.

- **Low Per Capita Income** – India's per capita income, of $2,485 in FY24, was less than a fourth of the global average of $13,920 in FY22.
- **Food Inflation** - Food inflation more than doubled between FY22 and FY24, from 3.8% to 7.5%, affecting the poor.
- **Impact on Farm Output** - Extreme weather events, low reservoir levels and damaged crops, affected farm output.
- **Failure of Safety Net Systems** – Inadequate coverage of social security programs.
- **Climate Change** - It has already begun to cast a long shadow on India's food security affecting its productivity.
- **Intergenerational Undernutrition** - Poor nutritional status of mothers being transferred onto their children.
- India's high child wasting rate entail mothers inflicted with insufficient weight gain

during pregnancy and low birth weight among infants.

What needs to be done?

- **Inclusive Development** – Enact policies to emphasise pro-poor development alongside addressing social/economic inequalities.
- **Improve access to safety nets** - Improve access to programs such as the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), PMGKAY and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- **Agri Transformation** - Invest in agriculture and a holistic food systems approach to promote diversified, nutritious and ecological food production including nutri-cereals such as millets.
- **Health Improvement** - Make effective investments in mother and child health and improve water, sanitation and hygiene.
- **Multifaceted Approach** – Engage interventions to consider links between food and nutrition, gender and climate change.
- **Strengthen Existing System** – Diversify the food given under ICDS and index the allocation with inflation.

References

1. The Hindu | Global Hunger Index 2024
2. The Hindu | Abject Failure

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