India and global slavery index

Why in news?

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Annual Global Slavery Index was recently released.

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What is Global slavery Index?

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- It is published by the Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation.
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- It includes data on three key variables-
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1. Prevalence of modern slavery in each country,
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2. Vulnerability,
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3. Government responses to modern slavery.
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- Modern slavery refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot leave because of threats, violence, coercion and abuse of power or deception.
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- According to the index the global incidence of modern slavery is estimatedas 46 million in 2016.
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What is the position of India?

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- India has been ranked 4th out of 167 countries.
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- The top three countries were North Korea, Uzbekistan and Cambodia.
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- In 2016, it was deemed to have some 18.3 million people trapped in slavery.
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- Now about 1.4% of the population working under coercive conditions.
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- There is an addition of 4 million slaves when compared with 2014 index.
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- Indian Policy-makers discount the ranking as a function of the size of the population, but most populous country china is ranked at 4oth position.
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What implication does this index leaves on India?

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- The long-term structural weaknesses of India’s economic reform has been the inability to expand the market for jobs in sync with its demographic growth.
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- Many of these new-age slaves are women and children, the most vulnerable sections on the frontline of economic slowdown and poverty.
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- Increase in number of slaves every year is due to the rank failure of India’s law enforcement institutions.
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- Indian migrant labour has not been taken into account for this index, if they had been included India might have topped the list.
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- According to UNDP India will see a severe job shortage in the next 35 years, the number of the country’s modern slaves is likely to boom.
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Source: Business Standard

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