



General Studies Prelim 2011: Current Affairs

PART I - REPORTS / INDEX / RANKING

2010 Global Hunger Index

Topic: The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on the Crisis of Child Under-Nutrition

Country	2010 (with data from 2003-08)	Rank	comment
Syrian Arab Republic	5.2	1	
China	6.0	9	
Sri Lanka	14.5	39	
Myanmar	18.8	50	
Pakistan	19.1	52	
Nepal	20.0	56	
India	24.1	67	alarming
Bangladesh	24.2	69	
Congo, Dem. Rep.	41.0	84	
Afghanistan	-	-	
Bhutan	-	-	
Brazil	<5	not ranked	
Russian Federation	<5	not ranked	

- The reason given for India's low ranking was that it was not investing as much as its neighbours in basic indicators such as health, water, sanitation, education and women's social status. Because of the country's large population, India is home to 42 per cent of the world's under-weight children.
- Whereas China has gone all out for a "bottoms-up, multi-targeted" and agriculture reforms approach, Pakistan has lesser underweight children because of the large meat-eating population. Sri Lanka was way ahead of India in women's literacy and its programmes on the ground were comparable with those in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- One per cent farm growth is two to three times more effective in tackling hunger. But India's growth story starts from top-down — the IT and telecom sector. Agriculture is still waiting for reforms, that is coming piecemeal.

Key findings

- The 2010 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is calculated for 122 developing countries and countries in transition for which data on the three components of hunger are available. 84 countries ranked.
- 2010 Index highlights early childhood under nutrition among children younger than the age of two.
- Since 1990, the world's GHI score has decreased by nearly 25 percent. However, global hunger remains at a "serious" level.
- South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa continue to suffer from the highest levels of hunger, with regional scores of 22.9 and 21.7, respectively.
- In South Asia, the low nutritional, educational and social status of women is among the major factors that contribute to a high prevalence of malnutrition in children under five

Background:

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA.
- The Index scores countries based on three equally weighted indicators: 1- the proportion of people who are undernourished, 2- the proportion of children under five who are underweight, and 3- the child mortality rate.
- The Index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.
- Values less than 4.9 reflect "low hunger", values between 5 and 9.9 reflect "moderate hunger", values between 10 and 19.9 indicate a "serious", values between 20 and 29.9 are "alarming", and values exceeding 30 are "extremely alarming" hunger problem.

Fact:

- Food and Agriculture Organization suggest that the number hungry people to 925 million in 2010.

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2010

Rank	Country	Integrity score	comment
1	Denmark	9.3	
1	New Zealand	9.3	
1	Singapore	9.3	
22	United States	7.1	
36	Bhutan	5.7	
54	South Africa	4.5	
69	Brazil	3.7	
78	China	3.5	
87	India	3.3	India has fallen three places from 85th last year Last in IBSA countries
91	Sri Lanka	3.2	
134	Bangladesh	2.4	
143	Maldives	2.3	
143	Pakistan	2.3	
146	Nepal	2.2	

154	Russia	2.1	
176	Afghanistan	1.4	
176	Myanmar	1.4	
178	Somalia	1.1	

Background:

- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ordering the countries of the world according to "the degree to which corruption is **perceived(based on surveys)** to exist among public officials and politicians" is published by **Transparency International**. Integrity scores are awarded between **0(most corrupt) to 10(least corrupt)**.
- There are some **criticism** about methodology. **Global Integrity**, a NGO, uses local researchers rather than survey for tracking governance and corruption trends around the world.

World Economic Outlook 2010 By IMF

A Survey by the IMF staff usually published twice a year. It presents IMF staff economists' analyses of global economic developments during the near and medium term.

Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) by IMF

The Global Financial Stability Report provides an assessment of the global financial system and markets, and addresses emerging market financing in a global context

"The Drivers and Dynamics of Illicit Financial Flows from India: 1948-2008,"

Released by **Global Financial Integrity (GFI)**, estimates that tax evasion, crime, and corruption have removed gross illicit assets from India worth US **\$462 billion**.

'Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011' by The World Bank

Remittances in 2010

1. India - \$51 billion
2. China
3. Mexico \$22.6 billion

UNCTAD Information Economy Report 2010 titled 'ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation'

Mobile phones and other forms of communication technology can be used to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods in developing countries

Growth and Productivity in Agriculture and Agribusiness: Evaluative Lessons from World Bank Group Experience

Agricultural growth remains central to poverty reduction, as one billion people worldwide continue living in extreme poverty, many of them in rural areas, a World Bank Group on agriculture, the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), said in the report released.

2010 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index

by Deloitte and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness and quoted by UNIDO in five years' time (2015), it has said the world's top ten countries in manufacturing competitiveness will be ranked as follows: China, India, Republic of Korea, Brazil, the U.S., Mexico, Japan, Germany, Poland and Thailand.

Global Governance 2025

- **What Global governance means?**—the collective management of common problems at the international level.
- **Issued by:** jointly issued by the National Intelligence Council (NIC) of the U.S. and the European Union's Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).
- listed India as the **third most powerful nation** in the world after the U.S. and China and the **fourth most powerful bloc** in the world after the United States, the European Union and China.
- According to the International Futures model, the power of the U.S., the E.U., Japan and Russia will decline by 2025, while that of China, India and Brazil will increase, even though there will be no change in this listing.

Country	% of the global power in 2010	% of the global power In 2025	comment
USA	22	18	
EU(Block)	16	14	
China	12	16	will become second
India	8	10	
Japan	Less than 5		
Russia	Less than 5		
Brazil	Less than 5		

World Investment Prospects Survey 2009-2012

By : UNCTAD

Findings: India has been ranked at the second place in global foreign direct investments in 2010 and will continue to remain among the top five attractive destinations for international investors during 2010-12 periods.

Background:

UNCTAD's World Investment Prospects Survey 2010–2012 provides an outlook on future trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) by the largest transnational corporations (TNCs). The present publication is the most recent in a series of similar surveys that have been conducted regularly by UNCTAD since 1995 as part of the background work for its annual World Investment Report.

World Investment Report 2010: Investing in a low-carbon economy

By : UNCTAD (annually)

Focus area: foreign investment and climate change.

Findings India specific :

- India would emerge as the **third largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) for the three-year period ending 2012.**
- India remained in the list of **top ten countries in 2009** to have the highest FDIs in the world. In 2009, the country received FDI worth **\$34.6 billion**, while the outward FDI was **\$14.9 billion**

Overall :

- Low-carbon FDI in areas such as renewables, recycling and low-carbon technology manufacturing is already large (some \$90 billion in 2009), but its potential is huge.
- **FDI inflows fell 37 percent from 2008 to 2009** to \$1.114 trillion. However, this amount still represents the 5th highest amount of cross border investment flows since data began to be recorded.
- **Developing and transition economies took in almost half (~49%) of global FDI inflows** and approximately one quarter of FDI outflows.
- Cross-border FDI into services represented more than half of all FDI flows in 2009, which continues the trend of services and primary sectors continuing to capture an increasing share of total FDI. Manufacturing FDI continues to decrease in importance overtime.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

MPI is a new international poverty measurement index aimed to give a “**multidimensional picture of people living in poverty** and measures poverty at the individual level in (A) **education**, (B) **health** and (C) **standard of living**. It is developed and applied by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OHPI)** with UNDP support. The MPI featured first time in the **20th Anniversary edition of the UNDP Human Development Report 2010 and replaced** Human Poverty Index (HPI) previously used in the HDR.

The following **ten indicators** are used to calculate the MPI

(A) **Education** (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/6)

1. **Years of Schooling**: deprived if no household member has completed five years of schooling
2. **Child Enrolment**: deprived if any school-aged child is not attending school in years 1 to 8

(B) **Health** (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/6)

3. **Child mortality**: deprived if any child has died in the family
4. **Nutrition**: deprived if any adult or child for whom there is nutritional information is malnourished

(C) **Standard of Living** (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/18)

5. **Electricity**: deprived if the household has no electricity
6. **Sanitation**: deprived if they do not have an improved toilet or if their toilet is shared (MDG Definition)
7. **Drinking water**: deprived if the household does not have access to clean drinking water or clean water is more than 30 minutes walk from home (MDG Definition)
8. **Floor**: deprived if the household has dirt, sand or dung floor
9. **Cooking fuel**: deprived if they cook with wood, charcoal or dung
10. **Assets**: deprived if the household does not own more than one of: radio, TV, telephone, bike, or motorbike

Key Findings for INDIA:

- Eight States of India (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand) have an MPI above 0.32; they are home to 421 million people - more people than the 26 African countries that also have an MPI above 0.32 (410 million)
- But the intensity of poverty in Africa is still higher the population-weighted MPI for the 26 African countries is 0.43, whereas for the Indian States it is 0.39.
- MPI of different groups
 - Scheduled Tribes-81 % are MPI poor
 - Scheduled Castes - 66%
 - Backward Castes - 58%.
 - Others- 33%

Key Findings(others):

- The MPI is estimated for 104 countries representing 5.2 billion people, 92% of the population of developing countries and 78.5% of the world's population (2007).
- 1.7 billion people, 32%, are identified as multidimensionally poor.
- 51% of the MPI poor people live in South Asia and 28% in sub-Saharan Africa. Countries with the highest incidence of poverty tend to have the highest intensity of poverty.
- Countries do not need to have reached middle income status to have low MPI.
- Among the 93 countries for which income poverty data are published, the incidence of MPI poverty is higher than \$1.25/day for 57 countries, and lower than \$1.25/day for 36. This means that a number of countries which have succeeded in reducing monetary poverty still face massive challenges in other dimensions of deprivation.
- MPI varies across region and ethnic group: for example, in Kenya 60% of people are deprived on average but among Masai it is 96%, compared to 39% among the Kikuyu.
- The composition of multidimensional poverty varies. For example, nutritional deprivations among the multidimensionally poor are highest in South Asia.

2010 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP)

Compiled by: USA's State Department.

- India has been ranked as a **"Tier II Watch List" country** – only one level better than worst-performing Tier III countries such as Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe – in the 2010.
- This implies that India ranks among those countries whose governments **"do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts** to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

Employment & Unemployment Survey (2009-10)

(Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment)

Key points:

- It is the first such household survey conducted by the Labour Bureau.
- The survey has been conducted in 28 States/UTs spread across the
- country in which about 99 per cent of the country's population reside.
- 40 Million Unemployed with an Unemployment Rate of 9.4%

The overall unemployment rate is 9.4%, and it is split out as 10.1% in rural areas, and 7.3% in urban areas.

2010 Global Peace Index (GPI)

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is an attempt to measure the relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness. The list, launched first in May 2007, is compiled by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) {HQ-Sydney, Australia}.

Key findings

- India's rank was 128, six ranks lower than its 2009 position.
- South Asia saw the greatest decrease in peacefulness, as a result of increased involvement in conflicts, a rise in deaths from internal conflict and human rights abuses.
- overall, the world became "slightly less peaceful in the past year"
- Three BRIC countries — Russia (143), India (128) and China (80) — saw substantial declines in peacefulness." However Brazil's score remained essentially stable (83) compared to the 2009 Index.
- most developed countries except USA, ranked in the top 20 per cent of peaceful nations.

Rank	Country
1	New Zealand
36	Bhutan
82	Nepal
85	United States of America
87	Bangladesh
128	India
133	Sri Lanka
143	Russia
144	Israel
145	Pakistan
146	Sudan
147	Afghanistan
148	Somalia
149	Iraq

CSAT (CIVIL SERVICES APTITUDE TEST 2011)

- **INTERACTIVE IAS PRELIM MOCK TESTS 2011: GENERAL STUDIES**
+ Current Affairs Notes

- **INTERACTIVE IAS APTITUDE TEST 2011**

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