

# NEWS TODAY

## World Health Organization (WHO) releases Global antibiotic resistance surveillance report 2025

Report reveals that resistance to essential, life-saving antibiotics is critically high and increasing, especially in resource-limited settings.

### Key Findings of the report

- **Global Extensive Resistance:** In 2023, approximately one in every six bacterial infections globally was caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics.
- **Regional Hotspots:** Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was most frequent in South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean regions, followed by the African Region.
- **Impact on Vulnerable Settings:** AMR disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and countries with weak health systems.
- **India Related Finding:** Around 41% of bloodstream infection reports came from China, India, and Pakistan combined.

### What is AMR?

- AMR happens when germs like **bacteria, viruses and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs** designed to kill them.
  - ⊖ While antibiotic resistance means when **bacteria evolve to resist effects of antibiotics.**
- AMR superbugs directly cause **over one million deaths annually** and contribute to nearly five million deaths every year, according to the WHO.

### Challenges Driving AMR in India

- **Overconsumption:** Leading to widespread misuse due to their over-the-counter availability.
- **Hygiene and Healthcare:** Overcrowding, poor sanitation, and a tendency to over-prescribe antibiotics in hospitals and clinics, especially in rural areas.
- **Agriculture:** Antibiotics are also misused in agriculture and poultry farming.
- **Exacerbating Factors:** Socio-economic inequalities and climate change are worsening the crisis.

### Steps taken for address AMR

- WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)
- National Action Plan on AMR (NAP - AMR), 2017
- Operation AMRITH (AMR Intervention For Total Health) launched by Kerala to detect the over-the-counter sales of antibiotics
- Ban on inappropriate fixed dose combinations (FDCs) in India

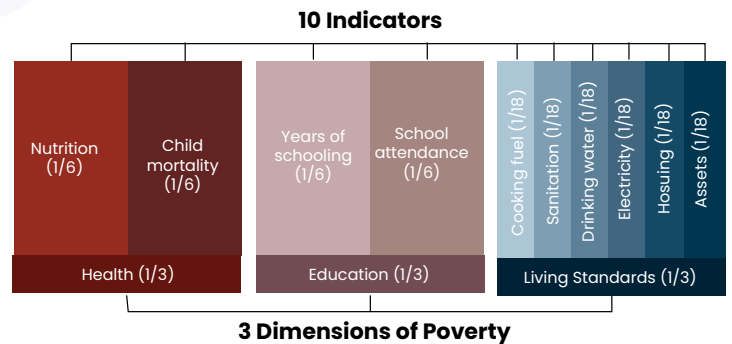
## Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025 Report Released

### Key Highlights of the Report

- **Global Headcount:** Of 6.3 billion people across 109 countries, **1.1 billion (18.3%) live in acute multidimensional poverty.**
  - ⊖ **43.6% face severe poverty** with deprivation in half or more MPI indicators.
  - ⊖ **83.2% live in sub-Saharan Africa (565 million) and South Asia (390 million).**
- **Multidimensional Poverty in India:** It has **fallen to 16.4%** (2019–2021) **from 55.1%** (2005-06), lifting approximately **414 million people out of poverty.**
- **Common Deprivations:** Lack of clean cooking fuel, inadequate housing, and poor sanitation.
- **Double Burden of poverty and climate hazards:** **Over 80% live in climate hazard-prone regions.**
  - ⊖ **South Asia has the highest number of poor in climate hazard areas.**
- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS):** 22 SIDS have a higher collective poverty rate (23.5%) than the developing world average (18.3%).
  - ⊖ **Sea-level rise by up to 70 cm by 2080–2099** due to global emissions in countries like Belize, Comoros, and Samoa pose a critical and escalating threat.

### About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- **Released by:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) annually since 2010.
- **Methodology:** The index is based on **3 dimensions with 10 indicators (refer infographic)**



### Parameters of Key Indicators

- **Health:**
  - ⊖ **Nutrition:** Any person **under 70 years of age** for whom there is nutritional information is **undernourished.**
  - ⊖ **Child Mortality:** A **child under 18 has died** in the household in the five-year period preceding the survey.
- **Education:**
  - ⊖ **Years of Schooling:** No eligible household member has completed **six years of schooling.**
  - ⊖ **School Attendance:** Any school-aged child is **not attending school up to the age** at which he/she would complete **class 8.**
- **Living Standard:** Access to clean energy, sanitation, drinking water, etc.

### 3 Codex standards finalized at 8th session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

With finalization of standards for **vanilla, large cardamom and coriander**, CCSHC has finalized standards for 19 spices.

➤ **CCHSC** was established in **2013 at India's behest** and operates under Codex Alimentarius commission (**CAC**).

⊕ India's **Spice board (ministry of commerce and industry)**, Kochi acts as its secretariat.

#### About Codex Standards

➤ **Definition:** International food texts, i.e., standards, codes of hygienic practice, guidelines etc. established to **protect health of consumers** and to ensure fair practices in food trade.

⊕ **The collection of food standards** and related texts adopted by CAC is **known as the Codex Alimentarius (CA)**.

➤ Codex texts are **not binding** on national food legislation and are **adopted in most cases by consensus** among Members.

⊕ However, **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of WTO** identifies Codex standards as the international benchmark for food safety.

#### About CAC (HQ- Rome)

➤ **Genesis:** An international food standards body established jointly by the **Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) and WHO** in 1963.

➤ **Objective:** Protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

➤ **Members:** 189 (188 Member Countries(Including India) and 1 Organization i.e. EU).

➤ The Commission meets **once a year** alternating between **Geneva and Rome**.

#### About Vanilla

➤ **About:** High value spice crop from the orchid family, widely used as a flavoring in food and beverages.

⊕ It is a **native** of Atlantic Coast from Mexico to Brazil

➤ **Production:** Major producing countries are **Madagascar, Indonesia, Mexico etc.**

➤ **India:** Mainly grown in **Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu** & India is a **net importer**.

➤ **Growing conditions:**

⊕ **Altitude:** Upto 1000 meters from sea level.

⊕ **Climate:** Warm and humid tropical climate (Temperature: 21–32°C; Humidity: 80%).

⊕ **Rainfall:** Well-distributed rainfall(2000-2500 mm annually) with dry period of 2 months.

⊕ **Soil:** Light, porous and friable soils with partial shade.

### Supreme Court forms Committee to formulate a National Equal Opportunity Policy for Transgender persons

In **Jane Kaushik v. Union of India & Ors.**, the Supreme Court (SC) also highlighted issues in Transgender Persons Act of 2019 and discrimination faced by Transgender Persons.

#### Issues faced by Transgenders as highlighted by the SC

➤ **Accessibility of benefits:** The 2019 Act links availing of benefits to possession of an identification card, making the process complex and may result in exclusion of beneficiaries.

➤ **Lack of reasonable accommodation:** Transgenders face challenges in accessing public institutions like educational establishments, 'Garima Greh' shelter homes etc.

➤ **Administrative inefficiency:** For example, majority states failed to establish **Transgender Protection Cells**.

➤ **Deep-rooted societal stigma:** Lack of social acceptance, social awareness and empathy towards gender inclusivity.

➤ **Legal and identity issues:** 2019 Act mandates certification of gender identity by a District Magistrate (DM), infringing on the right to self-identify.

#### Key Provisions of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

➤ **Definition:** A transgender person is someone whose gender identity does not align with the gender assigned at birth.

➤ **Recognition of identity:** The Act provides right to a self-perceived gender identity; a Certificate of Identity issued by the DM confers rights under the Act.

➤ **Prohibition Against Discrimination:** In Education, employment, residence etc.

➤ **Measures by Government:** Formulate welfare schemes to ensure full participation E.g., Vocational training, Healthcare

➤ Establishment of **National Council for Transgender Persons**



#### Other Measures taken for welfare of Transgender persons

➤ **NALSA Judgment (2014):** Transgender persons were legally recognised as the **'third gender'**.

➤ **National Portal for Transgender Persons:** To obtain certificate of identity and identity card without any physical interface.

➤ **SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme:** For comprehensive welfare and rehabilitation of transgenders.

## India's Gold Reserves Crossed \$100 Billion Mark for the First Time

According to the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** latest foreign exchange reserves data, gold reserves have reached to **\$102.3 billion**. This has taken the **share of the gold in the foreign reserves to nearly 15%** from around 7% a decade ago.

### Why is RBI increasing gold reserves?

- **Diversification:** Diversify foreign currency assets base and **reduce dependency on the US dollar (de-dollarization)**.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Help protect against **currency volatility** and the resulting revaluation risks to its foreign exchange stockpile.
- **Hedge against Inflation:** Gold is accumulated as a hedge against inflation, helping **protect the purchasing power** of India's foreign reserves.
- **Safe Haven Asset:** Gold is viewed as a **safe investment during economic and geopolitical turmoil**, providing a buffer during financial crises.

### Risks associated with increasing gold in foreign reserves

- **Reduced liquidity:** Conversion of gold to cash is slower and costlier.
- **Zero Yield:** Gold yields no interest unlike currency deposits.
- **Storage and security costs:** Physical gold demands secure storage, increasing costs.

### Components of Foreign Exchange Reserves

- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA):** These are maintained in currencies like the **US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar, and Japanese yen**.
- **Gold Reserves** held with RBI.
- **Holdings with IMF**
  - ⊖ **Special Drawing Rights:** An **interest-bearing reserve asset** created by the **IMF** to supplement members' reserve assets.
  - ⊖ **Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):** It is the difference between the **member's quota** and the **IMF's holdings of the member's currency** that is readily available for withdrawal without strict conditions.



### Also In News



#### Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

FAO Celebrated **80 Years of Partnership with India** on World Food Day 2025.

#### About FAO (HQ: Rome, Italy)

- Established in **1945**, it is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads **international efforts to defeat hunger**.
- **Membership:** 195 Members (194 countries and European Union).
- **Flagship Publications of FAO:**
  - ⊖ The State of the World's Forests
  - ⊖ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
  - ⊖ The State of Food and Agriculture



#### 'We Rise' Initiative

'We Rise' (**Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises**) initiative was launched recently.

#### About We Rise Initiatives

- **Launched by:** **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** under its **Award to Reward (ATR)** initiative along with **DP World**.
- **Objective:** To **help women entrepreneurs**, including **women-led MSMEs**, to **scale their businesses globally** through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.



### IEA Report on Sustainable Fuels

International Energy Agency (IEA) report 'Delivering Sustainable Fuels: Pathways to 2035' highlighted role of sustainable fuels in complementing electrification and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

➤ **Sustainable fuels** include biofuels, biogases, low-emissions hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuels.

#### Key Findings of the Report

- **Global use of sustainable fuels could fourfold increase by 2035.**
- Sustainable fuels have **reduced global oil demand by around 2.5 million barrels per day** in 2024.
- **IEA identified 6 Priority Actions for Transition:**
  - ⊕ Establish region-specific roadmaps and policies
  - ⊕ Increase demand predictability to attract private investment;
  - ⊕ Develop transparent carbon accounting methods;
  - ⊕ Support innovation to drive cost reductions;
  - ⊕ Build integrated supply chains and infrastructure
  - ⊕ Expand access to finance



### ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution)

Recently, **FSSAI** issued an order under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** banning all beverages from using the term ORS in their name which do not adhere to WHO standards.

#### About ORS

- It's a mixture of **salt and sugar** that is dissolved in clean water to **treat dehydration** caused by **severe diarrhoea, heat stroke or any other illnesses.**
- **Fixed formula of ORS:** (Adopted by WHO and UNICEF)
  - ⊕ **Sodium chloride** (2.6 g/L); **Glucose, anhydrous** (13.5 g/L); **Potassium chloride** (1.5 g/L); **Trisodium citrate, dihydrate** (2.9 g/L)
- It was **first developed** in 1971 by **Dilip Mahalanabis**, an Indian public health specialist.



### Rotavirus Vaccine

A recent study of the **indigenous rotavirus vaccine 'Rotavac'** found its effectiveness similar to its efficacy in clinical trials.

- It is an **oral, live attenuated, monovalent liquid vaccine** against **rotavirus.**
- It was developed as a **public-private partnership** between **Department of Biotechnology, Bharat Biotech, U.S. National Institutes of Health** etc.

#### About Rotavirus

- It is a **viral disease** which commonly causes **diarrhoeal illness in children.**
- There is **no specific medicine** to treat rotavirus infection and **vaccines** provide best protection.



### Bathou Religion

The Bathou religion of Bodo community in Assam gets a separate code in the upcoming census.

#### About Bathou Religion or Bathouism

- It is the **traditional faith of the Bodo people** (Indigenous community mainly found in Assam and North Bengal).
- **Bathou means 'Five Principles':** It is based on the belief that the world is composed of 5 elements (similar to Panchabhuta), namely, **Ha (Earth), Dwi (water), Or (Fire), Bar (Air), and Okhrang (Sky).**
- The religion places emphasis on the need to **respect nature and preserve equilibrium.**
- Bathouism worships the Almighty in the name of **Bathou Bwrai** who is also called **Sibwrai, Siu Bwrai, Jiu Bwrai and Nuathari.**
  - ⊕ **Bathou Bwrai** is symbolized by the **Sijou plant.**



### Place in News



### Venezuela (Capital - Caracas)

Venezuela has deployed its troops along its Colombian border following US naval strikes on alleged drug carrying Venezuelan boats.

#### Political features

- **Location** - Located at the northern end of **South America.**
  - ⊕ Venezuela is bounded by the **Caribbean Sea** and the **Atlantic Ocean** to the north, **Guyana** to the east, **Brazil** to the south, and **Colombia** to the southwest and west.
- It administers a number of Islands in Caribbean such as La orchila islands

#### Geographical Features

- **Climate:** Hot and humid tropical climate which is more moderate in the highlands.
- **Major river & water body** - Orinoco river (empties in Atlantic ocean), Rio Negro (drains in amazon river), Lake Maracaibo etc.
- **Highest waterfall in the world:** i.e. Angel fall on Churún River
- It has the world's largest oil reserves and a large amount of gas reserves

