# **Today's Important Questions for UPSC CSE Aspirants (National MPI)**

Inside Story of the India's National Multidimensional Poverty Index:

#### **News in Discussion:**

- The National Multidimensional Poverty Index says 13.5 crore people came out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21; Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh top the list of States in multidimensional poverty.
- India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor, from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021, according to the



'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023'.

• The report was released by Niti Aayog in New Delhi recently.

#### Introduction:

- The Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
  (SDGs) address the economic, environmental, and social aspects of societal well-being and are
  focused on the core principle of "leaving no one behind."
- SDG 1 aims to eradicate poverty in all forms and dimensions using measures that include and go beyond income.
- SDG target 1.2 aims to reduce by 2030 "at least by half, the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions".
- In this context, a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for India enables estimation of multidimensional poverty at the national, state, and district levels.

- The district-wise estimation of the national MPI can be used for reaching out to the furthest behind first, through targeted interventions.
- At the core of the MPI is the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology. The AF methodology is a globally
  accepted general framework for measuring multidimensional poverty that identifies people as
  poor or not poor based on a dual-cutoff counting method.
- The AF methodology is an extension of the widely accepted Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) class of poverty measures and has a range of technical and practical advantages that make it favorable for use in non-monetary poverty estimation.
- The dual-cutoff approach of the AF methodology also mitigates a number of issues that arise from the union and intersection approaches in the measurement of multidimensional poverty with the former tending towards overestimation and the latter tending towards underestimation.
- However, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), based on the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, captures overlapping deprivations in health, education, and living standards.
- It complements income poverty measurements because it measures and compares deprivations directly.
- The global MPI Report is jointly published by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Government of India has acknowledged the significance of the global MPI under the mandate of the Global Indices for Reform and Action (GIRG) initiative.
- The emphasis of the GIRG initiative is not only to improve the country's performance and ranking in the global indices, but also to leverage the indices as tools for driving systemic reforms and growth.
- NITI Aayog, as the nodal agency for MPI, has been responsible for constructing an indigenized index for monitoring the performance of States and Union Territories in addressing multidimensional poverty.
- In order to institutionalize this, **NITI** Aayog constituted an inter-ministerial MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC) including Ministries and departments pertaining to areas such as health, education, nutrition, rural development, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and urban development, among others.
- It also included experts from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and technical partners OPHI and UNDP.
- The composition of the MPICC was drawn from the multidimensional nature of the indicators and sub-indicators within the index.
- This brought forth cross-sectoral perspectives on policies and interventions needed to improve achievements at the level of households.
- The national MPI model retains the ten indicators of the global MPI model, staying closely aligned to the global methodology.
- It also adds two indicators, viz., Maternal Health and Bank Accounts, in line with national priorities.
- Like the global MPI, India's national MPI has three equally weighted dimensions Health, Education, and Standard of living which are represented by 12 indicators.
- These are depicted by the above graphic.

#### **Sub-indices of the National MPI:**

- The indices of the national MPI comprise:
- Headcount ratio (H): How many are poor?
   Proportion of multidimensionally poor in the population, which is arrived at by dividing number of multidimensionally poor persons by total population.
- Intensity of poverty (A): How poor are the poor?
   Average proportion of deprivations which is experienced by multidimensionally poor individuals. To compute intensity, the weighted deprivation scores of all poor people are summed and then divided by the total number of poor people.

## $MPI = H \times A$

- MPI value is arrived at by multiplying the headcount ratio (H) and the intensity of poverty (A),
   reflecting both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived.
- According to the AF methodology, an individual is considered MPI poor if their deprivation score equals or exceeds the poverty cutoff of 33.33%.
- The national Multidimensional Poverty Index plays a pivotal role in assessing advancements towards target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at reducing "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions".
- NITI Aayog published the national MPI Baseline Report in November 2021, with estimates computed using the data from the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) conducted in 2015-16.

## Steps in computing the MPI:

- The process of computing the MPI can be divided into two broad categories, 1) Identification and 2) Aggregation. Both are outlined below.
- Identification:
- Determine the set of indicators to be used in the MPI and group thematically similar indicators into dimensions.
- Set the deprivation cut-offs for each indicator, i.e., the level of achievement considered normatively sufficient in order for an individual to be considered not deprived in an indicator.
- Apply the cut-off and determine whether the individual is deprived in each indicator.
- Select weights to be applied to each indicator such that the sum of the weights for all indicators adds up to 1. Optionally, the weights of the indicators should be such that the weight attributable to each dimension (i.e., the sum of the weights of the indicators in that dimension) is the same.
- Calculate the weighted sum of deprivations for each individual. This is known as their deprivation score.
- Apply the second order cutoff, i.e., the proportion of weighted deprivations that an individual needs to experience, to be identified as multidimensionally poor. India's national MPI follows the poverty cutoff of 33.33 % used in the global MPI measure.
- Aggregation:

- Determine the proportion of individuals identified as multidimensionally poor in the population. This is known as the headcount ratio (H) of the MPI or the incidence of poverty. The headcount ratio broadly explains 'how many are poor'.
- Determine the average share of weighted indicators in which multidimensionally poor individuals are deprived i.e., add the deprivation scores of the poor and divide it by the total number of poor individuals. This is known as the intensity of poverty (A) in the MPI or the breadth of poverty, and it broadly explains 'how poor are the poor'.
- Compute the MPI score (M0) as the product of the two partial indices, headcount ratio and intensity.

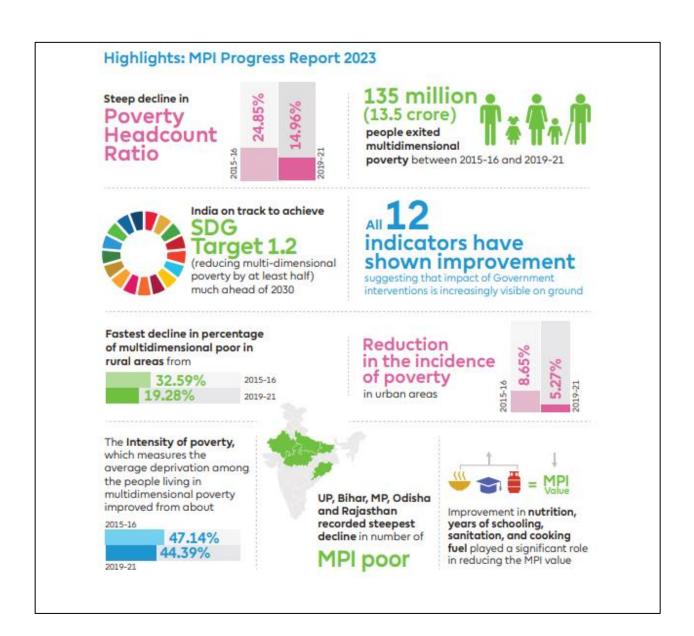
#### Introduction to the Second Edition:

- The National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 presents the second edition of the national MPI and is a follow-up to the Baseline Report published in November 2021.
- It provides multidimensional poverty estimates for India's 36 States & Union Territories, along with 707 administrative districts across 12 indicators of the national MPI.
- These estimates have been computed using data from the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the NFHS (NFHS-5) conducted in 2019-21, employing the same methodology as the baseline report.
- This edition also presents the changes in multidimensional poverty between the survey periods of NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21).

#### **Key Results:**

- The report was released by Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog recently.
- Based on the latest National Family Heath Survey [NFHS-5 (2019-21)], this second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) represents India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between the two surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21).
- It builds on the Baseline Report of India's National MPI launched in November 2021.
- India has achieved a remarkable reduction in its MPI value and Headcount Ratio between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating success of the country's commitment and action to address the multidimensional nature of poverty through its multisectoral approach.
- India has achieved a remarkable reduction in its MPI value and Headcount Ratio between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating success of the country's commitment and action to address the multidimensional nature of poverty through its multisectoral approach.
- The MPI estimates highlight a near-halving of India's national MPI value and decline in the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- This reduction of 9.89 percentage points in multidimensional poverty indicates that, at the level of projected population in 2021, about 135.5 million (13.55 crores) persons have exited poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- It is a major contribution towards achieving SDG target 1.2 that aims to reduce "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions".
- This indicates that India is well on course to achieve the SDG target 1.2 much ahead of 2030.

- At the same time, the Intensity of Poverty, which measures the average deprivation among the people living in multidimensional poverty also reduced from 47.14% to 44.39%.
- The report said rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%, primarily due to decrease in the number of multidimensionally poor in States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- Delhi, Kerala, Goa, and Tamil Nadu have the least number of people facing multidimensional poverty along with the Union Territories.



	Snapshot of Multid	imensional Poverty i	n India
Year	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI (H x A)
2019-21	14.96%	44.39%	0.066
2015-16	24.85%	47.14%	0.117

- Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh top the chart where the percentage of total population who are multidimensionally poor is high.
- Multidimensional poverty in urban areas, during the same period, saw a decrease from 8.65% to 5.27%.
- "Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 3.43 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty," the Niti Aayog said in a statement.
- Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the
  intensity of poverty has reduced from 47.14 % to 44.39 %, thereby setting India on the path of
  achieving the SDG Target 1.2 (of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) much
  ahead of the stipulated timeline of 2030.
- It demonstrates the Government's strategic focus on ensuring sustainable and equitable development and eradicating poverty by 2030, thereby adhering to its commitment towards the SDGs.

# **Disparities across Rural and Urban Areas:**

Year		Rural			Urban	
	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)
NFHS-5 (2019-21)	0.086	19.28%	44.55%	0.023	5.27%	43.10%
NFHS-4 (2015-16)	0.154	32.59%	47.38%	0.039	8.65%	45.27%

# **Fastest Absolute Reduction in MPI (State-wise):**

- Bihar, the state with the highest MPI value in NFHS-4 (2015-16), saw the fastest reduction in MPI value in absolute terms with the proportion of multidimensional poor reducing from 51.89% to 33.76% in 2019-21.
- The next fastest reduction in the MPI value was seen in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

•	The proportion of multidimensional poor in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in NFHS-5 (2019-
	21) are 20.63% and 22.93% respectively.

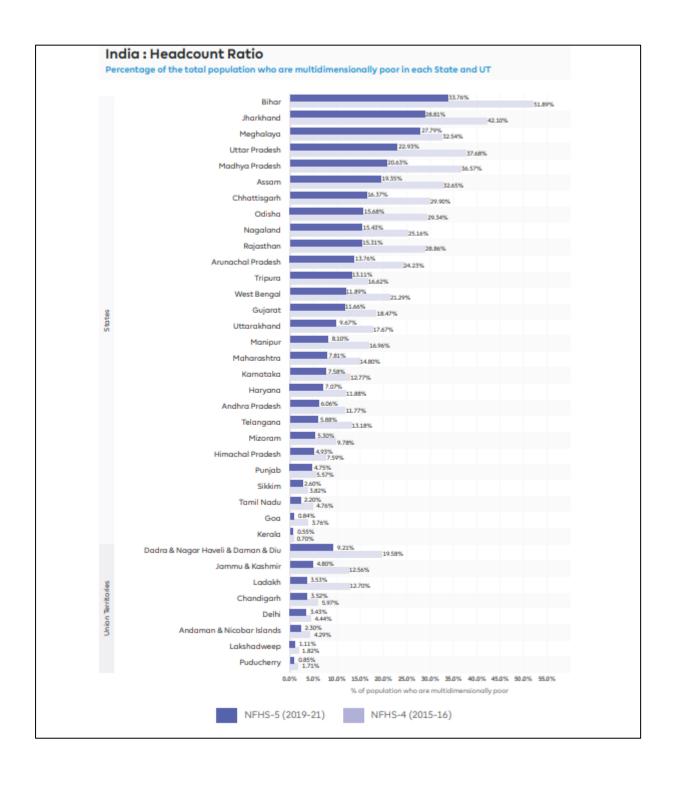
•	In terms of number of MPI poor, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 3.43 crore people exiting
	multidimensional poverty in the last five years, followed by Bihar (2.25 crore) and Madhya
	Pradesh (1.36 crore).

Performance of States/UTs in Headcount Ratio:

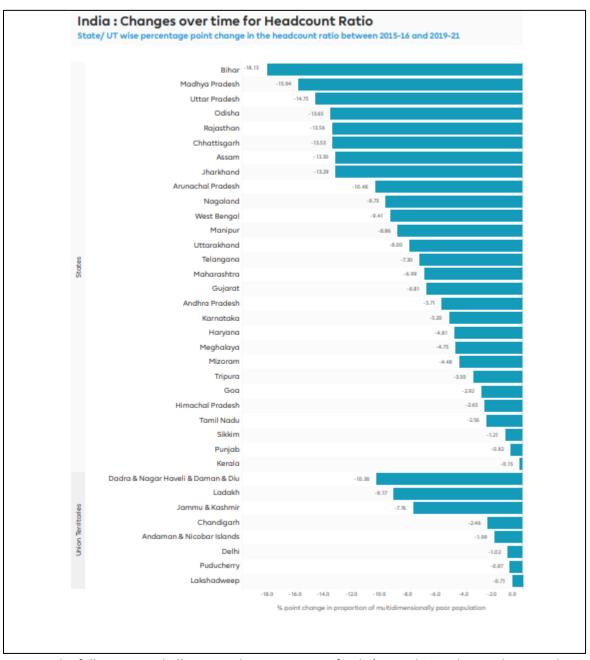
• It is crucial to recognize the efforts of the States and UTs in reducing the proportion of multidimensional poor people in the country. The progress of each State and UT between the two periods is indicated below.

# **Changes over Time for Headcount Ratio:**

• The estimates indicate an overall improvement in the proportion of multidimensional poor in States and UTs between the time period 2015-16 to 2019-21.



# **Indicator-wise Comparison of Deprivations:**

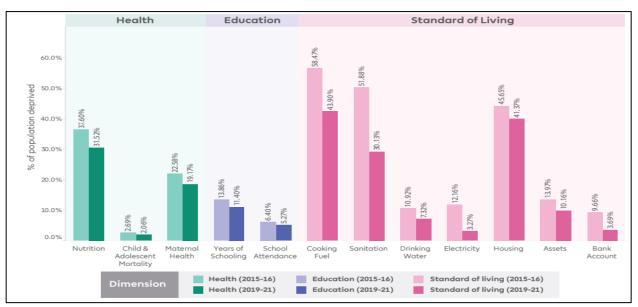


- The following graph illustrates the percentage of India's population deprived in an indicator.
- All the 12 indicators across the three dimensions Health, Education and Standard of Living saw statistically significant reduction across the two time periods.
- Deprivations in sanitation (reduction by 21.8 % points) and cooking fuel (reduction by 14.6 % points) fell the most during the period from 2015-16 to 2019-21.

 Overall, progress in nutrition, years of schooling, sanitation, and cooking fuel has been the significant contributor to the decline in MPI value though there is further scope to make improvements.

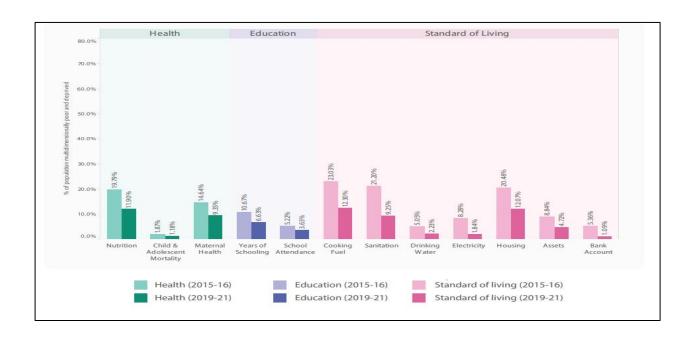
**India: Uncensored Headcount Ratio** 

Percentage of the total population of India who are deprived in each indicator:



**India: Censored Headcount Ratio** 

Percentage of total population of India who are multidimensionally poor and deprived in each indicator:



## Contribution of indicators to India's MPI score – NFHS-5 (2019-21):

Dimension	Indicator	Uncensored Headcount	Censored Headcount (CH)	Weight (W)	Contribution = (CH x W) ÷ M <sub>0</sub>
	Nutrition	31.52%	11.90%	1/6	29.86%
Health	Child-Adolescent Mortality	2.06%	1.18%	1/12	1.48%
	Maternal Health	19.17%	9.35%	1/12	11.73%
Education	School Attendance	5.27%	3.63%	1/6	9.10%
Education	Years of Schooling	11.40%	6.63%	1/6	16.65%
	Electricity	3.27%	1.84%	1/21	1.32%
	Drinking Water	7.32%	2.23%	1/21	1.60%
	Sanitation	30.13%	9.25%	1/21	6.63%
Standard of Living	Housing	41.37%	12.07%	1/21	8.65%
	Cooking Fuel	43.90%	12.30%	1/21	8.82%
	Assets	10.16%	4.72%	1/21	3.39%
	Bank Account	3.69%	1.09%	1/21	0.78%
		MPI (M <sub>0</sub> ) = Su	m of (CH × W) = 0.066		

# **History of poverty measurement:**

- India's endeavor to measure poverty has a long-standing history dating to the preindependence era.
- In 1901, Dadabhai Naoroji's book titled 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' marked the earliest attempts to estimate poverty based on the cost of a subsistence diet.
- Subsequently, the National Planning Committee in 1938, and the authors of the Bombay Plan in 1944, proposed poverty estimations based on the minimum standard of living.
- Poverty estimation continued to have significant importance post-independence, and various expert groups worked on this issue.
- Early efforts included the Working Group in 1962, Dandekar and Rath in 1971, and the Task Force on "Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" led by Dr. Y. K. Alagh in 1979.
- Subsequently, expert groups headed by Lakdawala (1993), Tendulkar (2009), and Rangarajan (2014) continued this exercise of estimating monetary poverty based on consumption and expenditure surveys.

## **Computing the MPI:**

- As stated previously, the process of computing the MPI is divided into two distinct stages identification and aggregation.
- Identification involves obtaining the deprivation score for every individual followed by censoring of deprivation scores to identify the multidimensionally poor for a given cutoff.
- Aggregation involves the estimation of two partial indices headcount ratio and intensity the product of which provides us with the MPI.
- Each of the aforementioned concepts have been detailed in the following paragraphs.

		Table 1: Indicators in India's National MPI	
Dimension	Indicator	A Household is Considered Deprived If	Weight (W)
Health (1/3)	Nutrition	Any child between the ages of 0 to 59 months, or woman between the ages of 15 to 49 years, or man between the ages of 15 to 54 years -for whom nutritional information is available - is found to be undernourished.	1/6
	Child-Adolescent Mortality	A child/adolescent under 18 years of age has died in the family in the five-year period preceding the survey.	1/12
	Maternal Health	Any woman in the household who has given birth in the 5 years preceding the survey, has not received at least 4 antenatal care visits for the most recent birth or has not received assistance from trained skilled medical personnel during the most recent childbirth.	1/12
Education (1/3)	Years of Schooling	Not even one member of the household aged 10 years or older has completed six years of schooling.	1/6
	School Attendance	Any school-aged child is not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8.	1/6
	Cooking Fuel	A household cooks with dung, agricultural crops, shrubs, wood, charcoal or coal.	1/21
	Sanitation	The household has unimproved or no sanitation facility or it is improved but share with other households.	d <sub>1/21</sub>
	Drinking Water	The household does not have access to improved drinking water or safe drinking water is at least a 30-minute walk from home (as a round trip).	1/21
Standard of Living (1/3)	Electricity	The household has no electricity.	1/21
	Housing	The household has inadequate housing: the floor is made of natural materials, or the roof or wall are made of rudimentary materials.	1/21
	Assets	The household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone computer, animal cart, bicycle, motorbike, or refrigerator, and does not own a car or truck.	1/21
	Bank Account	No household member has a bank account or a post office account.	1/21

## **Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) mandate:**

- In February 2020, the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, identified 29 global indices under the GIRG mandate to be monitored, analyzed, and evaluated with the aim of improving India's position in global rankings.
- This mandate leverages the monitoring mechanisms of important social, economic, and other
  internationally recognized indices to drive systematic reforms in government policies, enabling
  improvements in people's living standards, and driving inclusive development.
- The results of this targeted approach will also correspondingly reflect in the improvement of India's performance in these indices globally.
- Under the GIRG mandate, NITI Aayog has been identified as the nodal agency for the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

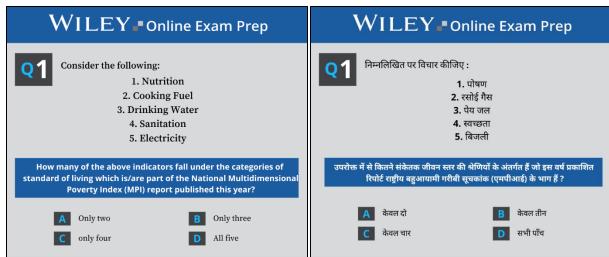
#### **Conclusion:**

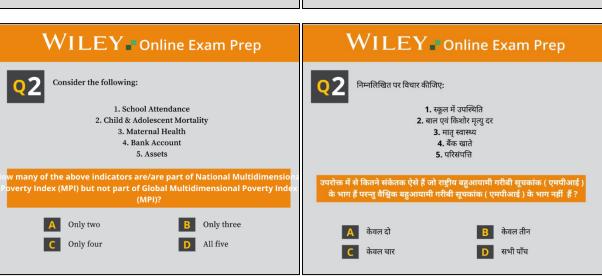
- India's stellar progress on the national MPI between 2015-16 and 2019-21 reflects the
  Government's commitment to improving the quality of people's lives through targeted policies,
  schemes, and developmental programmes rolled out at both the national and sub-national
  levels.
- The Government's focus on investments in critical areas of education, nutrition, water, sanitation, cooking fuel, electricity, and housing has played a pivotal role in driving these positive outcomes.
- Key Government schemes such as Swachch Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Poshan Abhiyan, Samagra Shiksha, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and many more have contributed significantly to driving the tremendous progress presented in this report.

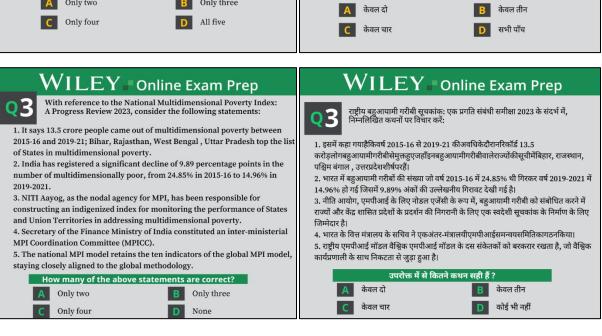
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Consider the following statements about the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023:

- 1. MPI value is arrived at by multiplying the headcount ratio (H) and the intensity of poverty (A), reflecting both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived.
- 2. According to the AF methodology, an individual is considered MPI poor if their deprivation score equals or exceeds the poverty cutoff of 33.33%.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक: एक प्रगति संबंधी समीक्षा 2023 के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें :

- 1.एमपीआई मुल्य हेडकाउंट रेशियो (एच) और गरीबी की तीव्रता (ए) को गुणा करके निकाला जाता है, जो गरीबी में लोगों की हिस्सेदारी और उनके वंचित होने की डिग्री दोनों
- 2. एएफ पद्धति के अनुसार, किसी व्यक्ति को एमपीआई गरीब माना जाता है यदि उनका अभाव स्कोर 33.33% की गरीबी कटऑफ के बराबर या उससे अधिक है।

#### उपर्युक्त कथनों में कौन -सा / से सही है / हैं ?

A केवल 1

**B** केवल 2

1 और 2 दोनों

**D** न तो 1 और न ही 2

# WILEY Online Exam Prep

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I :Based on the latest National Family Heath Survey [NFHS-5 (2019-21)], this second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) represents India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between the two surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21). Statement-II:The MPI value has almost halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and poverty intensity has come down from 47.14 % to 44.39 % between 2015-16 to 2019-21, putting India on track to achieve SDG target 1.2 (target to reduce multidimensional poverty by at least half) much ahead of the 2030 deadline.

#### Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the
- correct explanation for Statement-I. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not
- the correct explanation for Statement-I. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

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Who among the following is not included in the **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee** constituted for the MPI set for the recently published National Multidimensional Poverty

- A Department of Financial Services
- Department of School Education and Literacy
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Department of Science & Technology

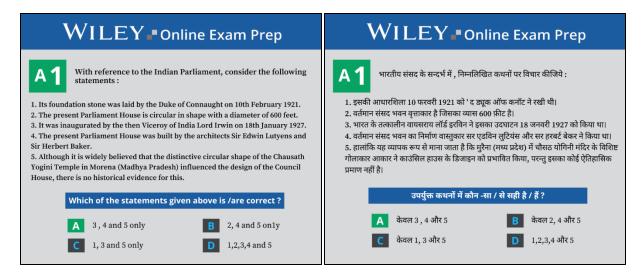
# WILEY Online Exam Prep



हाल ही में प्रकाशित राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक के लिए निर्धारित एम्पीआई के लिए गठित अंतर-मंत्रालयी समन्वय समिति में कौन -सा शामिल नही है ?

- वित्तीय सेवा विभाग
- **B** वित्तीय सेवा विभाग
- 🔃 सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय
- विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग

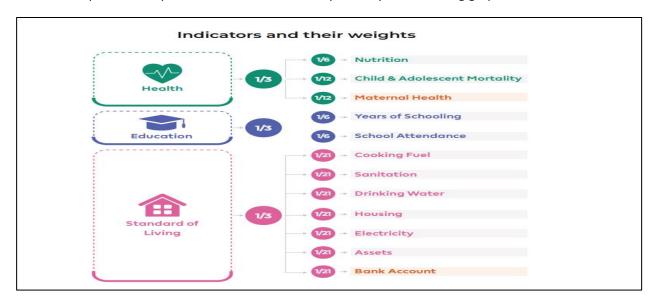
#### **Solution and Explanation:**

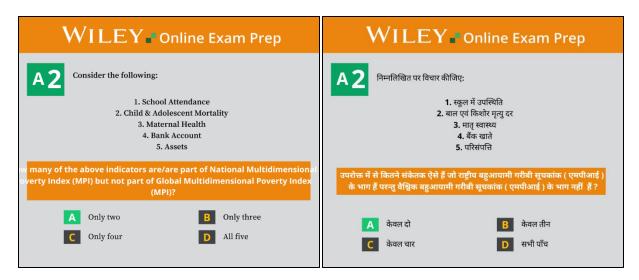


**Solution:** (c) India's national MPI has three equally weighted dimensions – Health, Education, and Standard of living – which are represented by 12 indicators. Nutrition is the indicator which comes under the health, whereas rest indicators come under the Standard of living. So, option (c) will be correct.

#### **Comprehensive Explanation:**

India's national MPI has three equally weighted dimensions – Health, Education, and Standard of living – which are represented by 12 indicators. These are depicted by the following graphic:



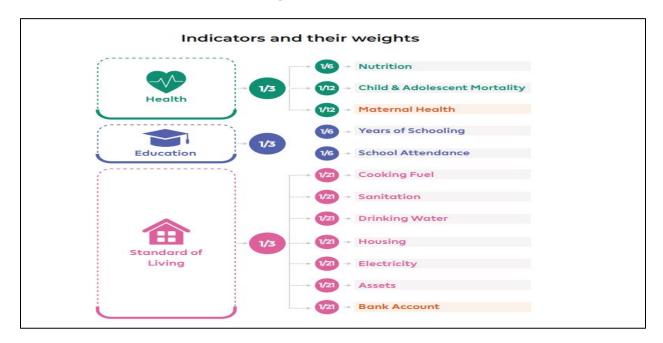


**Solution:** (a) Maternal Health & Bank Account are associated with the list of indicators under India's National MPI, but rest indicators are associated with the list of indicators under India's national MPI as well as Global MPI also . So, option (a) will be correct.

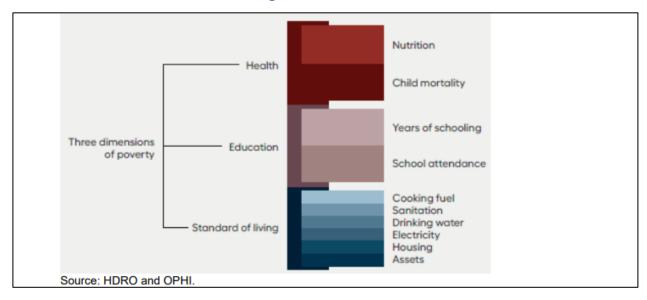
#### **Comprehensive Explanation:**

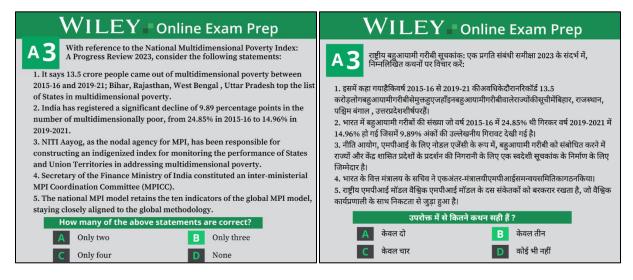
The national MPI model retains the ten indicators of the global MPI model, staying closely aligned to the global methodology. It also adds two indicators, viz., Maternal Health and Bank Accounts, in line with national priorities.

**Indicators & their weights of National MPI** 

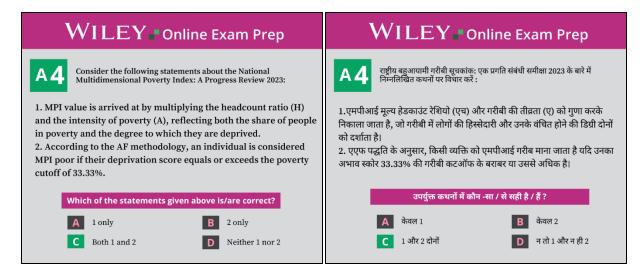


**Indicators & their weights of Global MPI** 

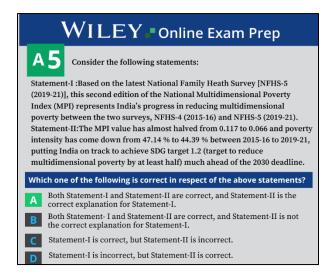




**Solution:(b)** All given statements are correct except statements 1 & 4. We know based on India's national MPI that 13.5 crore people were lifted out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 with Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Uttar Pradesh topping the list of states with multidimensional poverty and an inter-ministerial MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC) was set up under NITI Aayog to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence. So, option (b) would be correct.



**Solution: (c)** Both given statements are correct.



**Solution:(a)** Both given statements are correct. Statement II reflects after statement I, so statement II is the correct explanation of statement I.

# WILEY Online Exam Prep WILEY Online Exam Prep हाल ही में प्रकाशित राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक के लिए निर्धारित एम्पीआई के लिए गठित अंतर-मंत्रालयी Who among the following is not included in the **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee** constituted for the MPI set for the recently समन्वय समिति में कौन -सा शामिल नही है ? published National Multidimensional Poverty वित्तीय सेवा विभाग A Department of Financial Services **B** वित्तीय सेवा विभाग Department of School Education and Literacy Ministry of Statistics and Programme सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय Implementation विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग Department of Science & Technology

Solution:(d) All given options are correct except option (d), because the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: Baseline Report, was prepared in consultation with 12-line Ministries (member ministries named as NITI Aayog, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of School Education and Literacy, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation & Department of Financial Services), State governments, Union Territories (UTs) and technical partners – OPHI and UNDP and published in November 2021.