

5. Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Top India's Child Well-Being

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Prelims: Indices & Reports, Governance- Health

Mains: GS-II- Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.

Why in News?

- ▶▶ Child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and tracks children's well-being comprehensively has been released.

Highlights:

- ▶▶ The report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD.
- ▶▶ The report is an attempt to look at how India fairs on child well-being using a composite child well-being index.
- ▶▶ The India child well-being index is a crucial report that can be mined both by the Government and civil organisations to achieve the goal of child well-being and we will use this report effectively.
- ▶▶ This report provides insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection.
- ▶▶ The dimensions of the index include healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.
- ▶▶ Focusing on the three key dimensions, 24 indicators were selected to develop the computation of the child well-being index.
- ▶▶ The report highlights the multi-dimensional approach towards measuring child well-being – going beyond mere income poverty.

Significance of the Report:

- ▶▶ The report is important considering that 40 per cent of the country's population is made of children between the ages of 1 and 18.
- ▶▶ The report, calls for States to look at their respective scores on the dimensions of child well-being, and to prepare for priority areas of intervention with specific plans of action.

- ▶▶ It also hopes to trigger policy level changes, seek better budgetary allocations and initiate discussions with all stakeholders, which can help in enhancing the quality of life of all children in the country.
- ▶▶ One of the primary objectives of this index is to garner attention to the under-researched theme of child well-being in India, and inspire further academic and policy conversations on related issues.

Performance of the states:

- ▶▶ Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the charts in the child well-being index.
- ▶▶ Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh featured at the bottom.
- ▶▶ Among the Union Territories, Puducherry led the way and Dadra and Nagar Haveli featured at the other end.
- ▶▶ Kerala bagged the top spot due to its exceptional performance in health, nutrition and education facilities.
- ▶▶ Kerala also performed better in addressing malnutrition and ensuring child survival and access to a healthy environment in terms of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

