



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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THE GLOBAL SOUTH

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "The Global South: origins and significance". The topic "The Global South: origins and significance" has relevance in the "International Relations" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Global South?

For Mains:

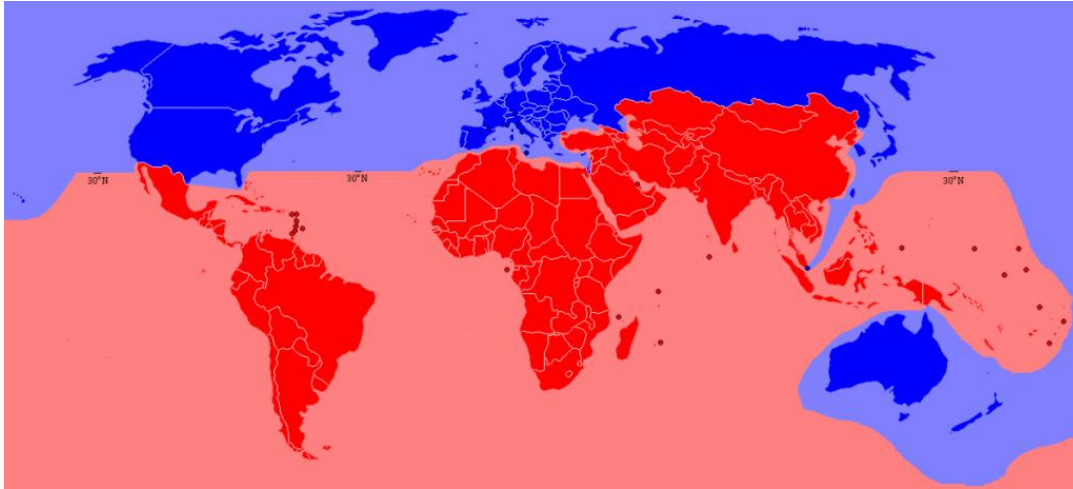
GS2: Agreements Affecting India's Interests

Why in the news?

The Global South, composed of countries in Asia, Africa, and South America, is now asserting its political and economic influence in ways that were previously unseen in the "developing countries" and "Third World."

What is the Global South?

- **The term "Global South" encompasses a range of countries worldwide, often characterised as "developing," "less developed," or "underdeveloped."**
- While not exclusively limited to the Southern Hemisphere, many of these countries are **predominantly located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.**
- Generally, they exhibit **higher poverty rates, greater income inequality, lower life expectancy, and more challenging living conditions** compared to the wealthier nations of the "Global North."
- **The "Global North" primarily includes North America and Europe, with additional contributions from Oceania and other regions.**



Origin of the term in Vietnam War:

The term “Global South” was coined in 1969 by political activist Carl Oglesby, who argued in the liberal Catholic magazine *Commonweal* that the Vietnam War represented the culmination of a long history of Northern dominance over the countries of the Global South.

Earlier term of Third World:

- The term “Global South” gained momentum after the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union.
- Before that, the more common term for developing nations was “Third World.”
- “Third World” was coined by Alfred Sauvy in 1952 and referred to the developing nations, many of which were still under colonial rule at that time.
- The term “First World” designated the advanced capitalist nations, while the term “Second World” referred to the socialist nations led by the Soviet Union. The term “Third World”

End of the ‘Third World’:

- The fall of the Soviet Union led to the decline of the term “Third World” in the 1990s.
- Criticisms of “developed,” “developing,” and “underdeveloped” labels prompted the use of the more neutral-sounding term “Global South” as a replacement.

Significance of the term

A geopolitical concept:

- The term “Global South” does not have a purely geographical meaning.
- Surprisingly, the two largest countries associated with the Global South, China and India, are located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Instead, the term signifies a combination of political, geopolitical, and economic similarities shared among nations.

Shared similarities:

- Countries in the Global South, particularly African nations, have predominantly experienced the impacts of imperialism and colonial domination.
- This **history has shaped their distinct perspective on the** relationship described by dependency theorists as the **centre-periphery dynamic** in the global political economy.

What the Future Holds:

- In recent years, a significant “wealth shift” has occurred, according to the World Bank, moving economic power from the North Atlantic region to the Asia Pacific. This shift challenges conventional notions of where global wealth is being generated.
- By 2030, it is projected that three out of the four largest economies will belong to the Global South, with China, India, the United States, and Indonesia leading the way.
- Already, the combined GDP of the Global South-dominated BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) surpasses that of the Global North’s G-7 club when measured in terms of purchasing power.

Political Power:

- Countries in the Global South are progressively asserting their influence on the global stage.
- Examples include China’s involvement in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as Brazil’s efforts to promote a peace plan for ending the conflict in Ukraine.
- This shifting power dynamic in both economic and political realms has prompted geopolitical experts to discuss the emergence of an “Asian Century”.

Way ahead

- The rise of the Global South and its increasing political and economic influence signifies a significant shift in the global landscape. This presents both opportunities and challenges for the future.
- Moving forward, it is crucial to recognize the Global South’s contributions, address inequality, foster collaboration, redefine development, promote South-South cooperation, and adapt to changing geopolitical dynamics. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future for all nations.

Sources:

Heine, Jorge. “The Global South: origins and significance.” *The Hindu*, 11 July 2023, p. 8.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Bramfab

Q1. With reference “Global South” term sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements:

1. The term “Global South” gained prominence after the breakup of the Soviet Union, replacing the previously used term “Third World” for developing nations.
2. Global South refers to the countries that wholly lie in the Southern Hemisphere sometimes described as ‘developing’, ‘less developed’ or ‘underdeveloped’.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Q2. Consider the following countries:

1. Brazil
2. Russia
3. Australia
4. India
5. China
6. South Africa

7. Indonesia

How many of the above mentioned countries can be called a part of Global South?

- (a) Only four
- (b) Only five
- (c) Only six
- (d) All Seven

Answer: (b)

Q3. Analyze the concept of the “Global South” in the context of international relations and its implications for the changing global landscape.

Gaurav Nikumbh

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “Multidimensional Poverty Index”. The topic “Multidimensional Poverty Index” has relevance in the Poverty section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About the Multidimensional Poverty Index?

For Mains:

GS 1: Poverty

Key Highlights of the Index?

Recommendations?

Why in the news?

A total of 415 million people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021, the United Nations (UN) said on July 11, highlighting the remarkable achievement by the world’s most populous nation.

Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- The index is an international resource that measures acute multidimensional poverty in more than 100 developing countries.
- It was launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP.
- The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 indicators related to health, education, and standard of living, considering both the incidence and intensity of poverty.
- An individual is classified as multidimensionally poor if they experience deprivation in at least one-third or more (33% or higher) of the weighted indicators out of the ten indicators used.
- Those who face deprivation in one-half or more of the weighted indicators are categorized as living in extreme multidimensional poverty.

Key Highlights of the Index:

Global Outlook:

- 1.1 billion people (18% of the total population) across 110 countries are acutely multidimensionally poor.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 534 million poor and South Asia has 389 million, together accounting for five out of every six poor people.
- Children under 18 years old represent half of the MPI-poor population (566 million).
- The poverty rate among children is 27.7%, while among adults it is 13.4%.

Outlook for India:

- Poverty in India: More than 230 million people in India are considered poor.
- Vulnerability: Around 18.7% of the population in India falls into the category of vulnerability, where they are not considered poor but experience deprivations in 20-33.3% of the weighted indicators.
- India's Progress in Poverty Reduction: India is among 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- Between 2005-06 and 2019-21, around 415 million Indians escaped poverty.
- The incidence of poverty in India decreased from 55.1% in 2005/2006 to 16.4% in 2019/2021.
- The number of people experiencing multidimensional poverty decreased from about 645 million in 2005/2006 to 230 million in 2019/2021.

Improvement in Deprivation Indicators:

- India has shown significant progress in all three deprivation indicators: health, education, and standard of living.
- The decline in poverty has been observed across regions and socio-economic groups.
- The poorest states and groups, including children and people in disadvantaged caste groups, have experienced the fastest progress.
- The percentage of people deprived of nutrition decreased from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.

Recommendations:

- Customized multidimensional poverty indices that consider national definitions of poverty are essential for a comprehensive understanding of poverty in each country.
- Although the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) offers a standardized methodology, national definitions provide a more tailored approach to address poverty based on specific country contexts.
- Utilizing context-specific indices is crucial in effectively evaluating and addressing poverty in a way that aligns with the unique circumstances and needs of each country.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-registers-remarkable-reduction-in-poverty-with-415-million-people-coming-out-of-it-in-15-years-united-nations/article67066698.ece>

Q.1 The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Q.2 Which of the following accurately describes the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- (a) A global indicator that measures poverty solely based on income levels.
- (b) An index that evaluates poverty using a single-dimensional approach.

(c) A comprehensive measure that assesses poverty across multiple dimensions.

(d) An index developed exclusively for developing countries.

Answer: (c)

Q.3 Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

Rishabh

