Human Development Index: UNDP

Why in News

India ranked 131 among 189 countries on the **Human Development Index (HDI) for 2019, slipping two places from the previous year,** according to the **Human Development Report (HDR) 2020** released by the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP).**

- The 2020 Report has **introduced planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index,** which adjusts the standard Human Development Index (HDI) by a country's **per capita carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint.**
- The **other indices that form the part of the Report** are:

  - Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),
  - Gender Development Index (GDI),
  - Gender Inequality Index (GII) and
  - Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Key Points

- **Human Development Index:**

  - **About:** HDI **emphasizes** that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.
  - **Based on three Basic Dimensions of Human Development:**

    - A long and healthy life,
    - Access to knowledge, and
    - A decent standard of living.
  - **Top Performers for 2019:**

    - Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland and Switzerland. Hong Kong and Iceland complete the top five.
  - **Performance of the Asian Region:**

    - Singapore was ranked 11, Saudi Arabia 40, and Malaysia was at 62 in the global index, representing the **top bracket among the Asian countries** with **"very high human development".**
    - Sri Lanka (72), Thailand (79), China (85) and Indonesia and Philippines (both 107), and Vietnam (117), among others, were **"high human development" countries.**
    - **India,** Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Kenya and Pakistan were ranked among countries with **"medium human development"** with ranks between 120 and 156.
  - **India's Performance:**

    - **Overall Performance: HDI value for 2019 is 0.645,** which puts the country in the **medium human development category,** positioning it at **131 out of 189 countries** and territories.

- Between 1990 and 2019, India's HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3%.
  - **Long and Healthy Life: Life expectancy for Indian's at birth was 69.7 years in 2019,** slightly **lower than the south Asian average of 69.9 years.**

    - Between 1990 and 2019, India's **life expectancy at birth increased by 11.8 years.**
  - **Access to Knowledge:** The **expected years of schooling** in India was **12.2 years,** compared with 11.2 years in Bangladesh and 8.3 years in Pakistan.

    - Between 1990 and 2019, **mean years of schooling increased by 3.5 years,** and **expected years of schooling increased by 4.5 years.**
  - **A Decent Standard of Living:** In terms of **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, India at USD 6,681 fared better** than some others in 2019, despite **a fall over the previous year.**

    - India's GNI per capita **increased by about 273.9% between 1990 and 2019.**
- **Planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI):**

  - **About:** The PHDI adjusts the standard HDI by a country's level of carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint, each on a **per capita basis.**
  - **Performance of the Countries:**

    - **Norway,** which **tops the HDI, falls 15 places** if this metric is used, leaving **Ireland at the top** of the table.
    - The **United States** (HDI Rank -17) **and Canada** (HDI Rank -16) **would fall 45 and 40 places** respectively, **reflecting their disproportionate impact on natural resources.**
    - The **oil and gas-rich Gulf States also fell steeply. China would drop 16 places** from its current ranking of 85.
  - **India's Performance:**

    - India **would move up eight places** in the ranking.
    - Under the **Paris Agreement,** India pledged to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP from the 2005 level by 33-35% by 2030 and to obtain 40% of electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

      - **Solar capacity in India increased** from 2.6 gigawatts in March 2014 to 30 gigawatts in July 2019, achieving its target of 20 gigawatts four years ahead of schedule.
      - In 2019, India **ranked fifth for installed solar capacity.**
      - The **National Solar Mission** aims to promote solar energy for power generation and other uses to make solar energy competitive with fossil fuel-based options.

Other Indices

- **Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index:**

  - The IHDI indicates **percentage loss in HDI due to inequality.**
  - For **India,** IHDI value for 2019 is **0.537 (16.8% overall loss).**
- **Gender Development Index:**

  - GDI **measures disparities on the HDI by gender.**
  - For **India,** GDI value for 2019 is **0.820 (World: 0.943).**
- **Gender Inequality Index:**

- GII presents a composite measure of gender inequality using three dimensions:

    - Reproductive health,
    - Empowerment and
    - The labour market.
  - In GII, India is **at 123rd rank.** Last year, it was ranked 122nd out of 162 countries.
- **Multidimensional Poverty Index:**

  - MPI captures the multiple deprivations that people in developing countries face in their health, education and standard of living.
  - The most recent survey data publicly available for India's MPI estimation refer to 2015-2016. In India, **27.9% of the population** (3,77,492 thousand people) are **multidimensionally poor,** while **an additional 19.3%** are classified under **vulnerable to multidimensional poverty** (2,60,596 thousand people).

Other Findings

- **Major Challenges:**

  - While the devastating effects of **Covid-19** have taken the world's attention, other layered crises, from **climate change to rising inequalities,** continue to take their toll. The challenges of **planetary and societal imbalance** are intertwined: they interact in a vicious circle, each making the other worse.
- **Challenges Related to Children:**

  - **Indigenous children** in Cambodia, India and Thailand show **more malnutrition-related issues** such as stunting and wasting.
  - In **India,** different responses in parent behaviour as well as some disinvestment in girls' health and education have led to **higher malnutrition among girls than among boys** as a consequence of shocks likely linked to climate change.
- **Displacements in 2020:**

  - **Disasters continued to trigger most new displacements** in 2020. **Cyclone Amphan** hit Bangladesh and India, driving the largest single displacement event in the first half of the year, triggering 3.3 million pre-emptive evacuations.
- **Solutions:**

  - **Expanding human development -** more education of women and girls, more economic empowerment of women, more bargaining power of young girls in households, reduced poverty, etc.
  - Evidence from Colombia to India indicates that **financial security and ownership of land improve women's security** and reduce the risk of gender-based violence, clearly indicating that **owning land can empower women.**

Source: TH

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