

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20-06-2026

Human Development Index (HDI)

World Population Review

Human Development Index (HDI) by Country 2026

Countries with the Highest HDI · Iceland (0.972), Switzerland (0.970), and Norway (0.970) lead globally in HDI. · These countries consistently...



Why in News

- India's HDI value increased to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022, and India ranked 130th out of 193 countries in the **UNDP Human Development Report 2025**.

Conceptual Foundation

- **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a composite indicator developed by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in 1990.
- It measures development through **health, education and standard of living**, rather than economic growth alone.
- HDI was conceptualised by **Dr. Mahbub ul Haq** with intellectual contributions from Amartya Sen.
- HDI values range from 0 to 1, where a higher value indicates better human development.

Policy Measures and Future Priorities

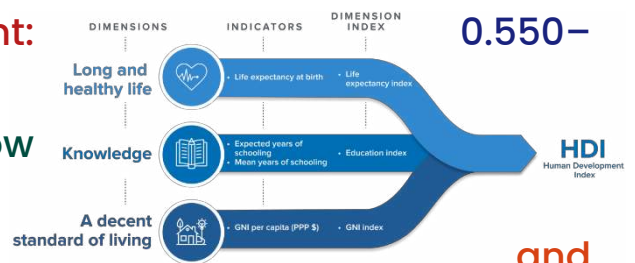
- **Ayushman Bharat (2018)** strengthens healthcare access.
- **National Education Policy (2020)** promotes skill-based and inclusive education.
- **Skill India Mission (2015)** focuses on vocational training.
- **PM-KISAN** and **PM Awas Yojana** improve rural living standards.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (2015)** promotes girls' education.
- **Digital India Mission** expands digital access and e-governance.
- Achieving **SDG 3 (Health)**, **SDG 4 (Education)** and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)** will improve HDI outcomes.

Core Dimensions and Methodology

- **Health dimension** is measured through **Life Expectancy at Birth**.
- **Education dimension** is measured using **Mean Years of Schooling** and **Expected Years of Schooling**.
- **Standard of living** is measured through **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (PPP adjusted)**.
- HDI is calculated using the **geometric mean** of the three dimension indices.

Classification and Associated Indices

- **Very High Human Development: 0.800 and above.**
- **High Human Development: 0.700–0.799.**
- **Medium Human Development: 0.550–0.699.**
- **Low Human Development: Below 0.550.**
- **UNDP** also publishes **IHDI, GDI, GII** and **MPI** to capture multidimensional aspects of development.



India's Performance and Challenges

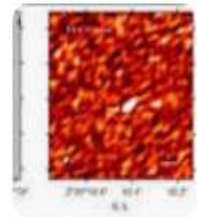
- India's HDI increased from **0.434 (1990)** to **0.685 (2023)**.
- India's **life expectancy** increased from **58.6 years (1990)** to **72 years (2023)**.
- India's **mean years of schooling** increased from **3 years** to **6.2 years**.
- India's **GNI per capita (PPP)** increased from **US\$2,000** to **about US\$9,000**.
- India continues to remain in the **Medium Human Development** category.
- **Kerala, Goa and Himachal Pradesh** perform better than **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand**.
- India loses nearly 31% of its HDI value due to inequalities under **IHDI**.
- India ranked **108th** in the **Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2024**.

Fast X-Ray Transient (FXT)

DD News

Astronomers Uncover Clues Behind Powerful Cosmic X-Ray Flashes

Astronomers have uncovered new clues about the origin of a rare and powerful cosmic X-ray flash known as a Fast X-ray Transient (FXT),...



Why in News

- Astronomers have discovered new clues regarding the origin of **Fast X-ray Transients (FXTs)**.

Scientific Profile

- FXTs are **energetic, non-repeating bursts of low-energy X-rays**.
- They last from minutes to several hours.
- They are associated with violent cosmic events.

Associated Phenomena

- FXTs are linked to **long-duration Gamma-Ray Bursts (IGRBs)**.
- They may also arise from stellar flares, supernova shock breakouts and X-ray binary outbursts.

Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB)

- GRBs are the most powerful **high-energy electromagnetic explosions**.
- They emit more energy in seconds than the **Sun emits during its lifetime**.
- They originate from **neutron stars, pulsars, supernovae and black holes**.

Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)

DD India

IITM, ARIES sign MoU to establish long-term climate monitoring station in Himalayan region

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES),...



Why in News

- **IITM Pune** and **ARIES Nainital** signed an MoU to establish a climate observation station under **BCON**.

Institutional Framework

- BCON is implemented by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- It aims to establish a **long-term climate monitoring framework**.

Functional Importance

- It will monitor greenhouse gases, atmospheric chemistry and soil moisture.
- It will create a national climate database.
- It will support evidence-based climate policymaking.

Strategic Relevance

- BCON data will validate **Earth System Models (ESMs)**.
- It will improve climate projections, including the IITM Earth System Model.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

 PM India

PM to disburse incentives worth around ₹2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana on 19 June

First-Time Employees to Receive Incentive of up to ₹15,000. To encourage sustained job creation, Employers eligible for Incentive of up to...



Why in News

- The Prime Minister disbursed **₹2,400 crore** under **PM-VBRY**.

Scheme Profile

- It is a flagship employment generation scheme.
- It promotes formal employment through **EPFO enrolment**.
- It supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Part A: Support to First-Time Employees

- Eligible employees receive up to **₹15,000** in two instalments.
- Employees earning up to **₹1 lakh/month** are eligible.
- Payments are made through **DBT via Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**.

Part B: Incentives for Employers

- Employers receive up to **₹3,000/month per additional employee**.
- Incentives are provided for **2 years** in all sectors.
- Manufacturing sector incentives extend to the 3rd and 4th years.
- Payments are transferred to **PAN-linked accounts**.

Energy Transition Index (ETI)

The World Economic Forum

[Latest Energy Transition Index shows the global energy transition is fragmenting, and more top energy stories](#)

Top energy news: Energy transition fragmenting; energy security is reshaping country pathways; Hormuz reopening hopes and Gulf pipeline...



Why in News

- India improved to **70th rank** in the **Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026**.

Institutional Profile

- ETI is released annually by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- It measures countries' progress towards secure, equitable and sustainable energy systems.
- It also assesses a country's readiness for future energy transitions.

Important Facts

- ETI is different from **Energy Trilemma Index**, which is released by the **World Energy Council**.
- India has committed to achieving **Net Zero emissions by 2070**.

Assessment Framework

- The index consists of **System Performance (60%)** and **Transition Readiness (40%)**.
- System performance assesses **energy security, sustainability and energy equity**.
- Transition readiness evaluates **policies, finance, infrastructure, innovation and human capital**.
- Scores are measured on a **0–100 scale**.

Key Findings

- **Sweden, Finland and Denmark** retained the top three positions.
- **Singapore** improved by ten positions to rank **42nd**.
- Six **G20** countries featured among the top 20 performers.

- India improved due to progress in **renewable energy deployment and energy access**.

India-Specific Challenges

- India remains dependent on coal for electricity generation.
- Rapid industrialisation is increasing overall energy demand.
- Grid modernisation and energy storage remain important priorities.
- Financing clean energy infrastructure remains a key challenge.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

 ThePrint

[India's Vivek Aggarwal elected FATF vice-president in 'major win' for New Delhi](#)

Hailing the development as a "major win", MEA said Aggarwal's appointment to the Financial Action Task Force reinforces India's...



Why in News

- India has been elected to the **Vice-Presidency of FATF** for the first time.

Institutional Framework

- FATF is an independent intergovernmental body.
- It was established in **1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris**.
- In **2001**, its mandate was expanded to include **terrorist financing**.
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**.

Functions and Objectives

- FATF develops global standards against **Money Laundering (ML)**.
- It combats Terrorist Financing (TF) and **Proliferation Financing (PF)**.

Important Facts

- FATF currently has **40 members**.
- **North Korea, Iran and Myanmar** are on the FATF Black List.
- FATF recommendations are **not legally binding**, but countries are expected to implement them.

- It periodically evaluates member countries through **Mutual Evaluations**.
- FATF issues recommendations that serve as global AML/CFT standards.

Compliance Mechanism

- Countries with strategic deficiencies may be placed under the **Grey List**.
- Countries with severe non-compliance may be placed under the **Black List**.
- FATF decisions significantly influence global investment and financial credibility.
- Over **200 jurisdictions** follow FATF standards through regional bodies.

India and FATF

- India became a member in **2010**.
- India actively advocates stronger action against **cross-border terror financing**.
- India has repeatedly raised concerns regarding misuse of charitable organisations and digital channels for terror financing.

Dongria Kondh Tribe

The Hindu

[Dongria Kondh of Niyamgiri: Where forests, food and faith shape daily life](#)

A journey into the lives of the Dongria Kondh in Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills.



Why in News

- The **Dongria Kondh** tribe was recently highlighted for its forest-dependent way of life in the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha.

Tribal Profile

- Dongria Kondh is a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- They inhabit the Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha.
- Their name originates from **Dongar**, meaning hill.
- They refer to themselves as **Jharnia**, meaning protectors of streams.

Cultural Characteristics

- They worship **Niyam Raja**, the guardian deity of Niyamgiri hills.
- They possess distinctive jewellery, tattoos and hairstyles.
- They do not have a centralised political authority.
- **Beju** and **Bejuni** function as male and female priests.

Economy and Livelihood

- They depend primarily on **Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)**.
- They practise **Podu cultivation**, a form of shifting cultivation.
- They are traditionally horticulturists.
- Their economy is closely linked to forest conservation.

Conservation and Governance Relevance

- The community played a major role in opposing **Vedanta's bauxite mining project** in Niyamgiri.
- Their rights are protected under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**.
- The **Gram Sabha** has an important role in safeguarding their traditional rights.
- The case is considered a landmark example of **community-led environmental governance**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Lebanon

Why in News

- **US-Iran talks** were called off due to intensified conflict between **Israel and Hezbollah** in southern Lebanon.

Geographical Profile

- Lebanon is located on the **eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea in West Asia**.
- It shares land borders with **Syria (north and east)** and **Israel (south)**.
- Its capital and largest city is **Beirut**.
- Lebanon forms part of the **Levant region of West Asia**.



Important Physical Features

- Lebanon experiences a **Mediterranean climate** with wet winters and dry summers.
- The **Lebanon Mountains** run parallel to the Mediterranean coast.
- **Mount Hermon** lies along the Lebanon–Syria border.
- Qurnat as Sawda' (3,087 m) is the highest peak.
- The fertile **Bekaa Valley** lies between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon mountain ranges.
- **Litani River** is the country's longest and most important river.

Strategic Significance

- Lebanon occupies a critical location along the **Eastern Mediterranean maritime corridor**.

- It has historically been a geopolitical flashpoint due to tensions involving **Israel, Hezbollah, Syria and Iran**.
- **Hezbollah** is a powerful Shia political and militant organisation supported by **Iran**.
- The **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** monitors the Israel–Lebanon border region.
- Lebanon is one of the few West Asian countries with a significant **Christian population**.

Environment

Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI)

 Down To Earth

[Bonn Climate Conference 2026: COP31 Presidency, FAO move to integrate food, water, adaption into national climate plans](#)



Turkey's COP31 Presidency and FAO launch the Turquoise Nexus Initiative to integrate food security, water management and climate adaptation...

Why in News

- **Turkey's COP31 Presidency** and **FAO** launched the **Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI)**.

Governance Dimensions

- TNI integrates **food security, water management and climate adaptation** into national climate plans.
- It helps countries align **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** with the Paris Agreement.
- It promotes **farmer-inclusive climate strategies**.

FAST Partnership Pillars

- **Access to Finance** improves access to climate investments.
- **Knowledge and Capacity** strengthens stakeholder capabilities.
- **Policy Support and Dialogue** integrates agrifood systems into climate policies.

	<p>Institutional Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNI is proposed under the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership. FAST Partnership was launched during COP27 (2022) at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. FAST aims to transform agrifood systems by 2030.
Defence	<p style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px;">New Naval Platforms</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Navy will commission three indigenously built platforms in Kolkata: INS Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray. <p>Strategic Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These platforms strengthen maritime security, hydrographic capability and anti-submarine warfare preparedness. They support Aatmanirbhar Bharat through indigenous defence manufacturing. They enhance India's operational readiness in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e8f5e9; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Important Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 17A is the advanced version of Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates. GRSE stands for Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited. WDB functions under the Indian Navy. </div> <p>Platform-wise Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INS Dunagiri is the 5th Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigate. It was designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by GRSE, Kolkata. It is equipped with BrahMos missiles and Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems.

- **Sanshodhak** is the **4th Survey Vessel (Large)**.
- It conducts **hydrographic, oceanographic and geophysical surveys**.
- It uses **Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)** and **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)**.
- **Agray** is the **4th Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**.
- It is equipped with **lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and shallow-water sonar systems**.

Science
and
Technology

Drunix

BS Business Standard

[NPCI unveils Drunix to support blockchain and tokenisation ecosystems](#)

The open-source platform is designed to help enterprises build blockchain networks, digital asset ecosystems and tokenisation platforms at...



Why in News

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched **Drunix**.

Technological Features

- Drunix is an **enterprise-grade Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)** platform.
- It is a **private blockchain framework**.
- It is built as an enhanced fork of **Hyperledger Fabric**.

Applications

- It supports **digital asset ecosystems**.
- It enables **tokenisation platforms**.
- It facilitates **multi-organisation blockchain networks**.

Blockchain Features

- It is **decentralised and consensus-based**.
- It provides **immutability** through **cryptographic hashing**.
- It uses **digital signatures** for security.