UNDP Human Development Report 2025 – India 130th of 193; HDI value 0.685

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News

UNDP released the Human Development Report 2025, titled 'A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI', on 6 May 2025. India is 130th of 193 countries (133rd for 2022); its HDI rose from 0.676 to 0.685 (2023 data) – 'medium human development'. Life expectancy reached 72 years, the highest since the index began. Iceland is first (0.972); South Sudan is last (193rd).

Key facts

Release	6 May 2025; UNDP; title – 'A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI'
India	130/193; HDI 0.685 (2023); medium human development
India's indicators	Life expectancy 72; expected schooling ≈13 yrs; mean schooling 6.9 yrs; GNI per capita $9,047 (2021 PPP)
Inequality	Inequality cuts India's HDI by 30.7%; Gender Inequality Index 102/193
Top / bottom	Iceland (0.972), Norway, Switzerland / South Sudan (193)
Neighbours	Bangladesh 130 (tied with India), Nepal 145, Pakistan 168

Background

- History: UNDP published the first Human Development Report in 1990. The HDI was devised by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq, working with Indian economist Amartya Sen (1998 Economics Nobel). Sen's 'capability approach' is its theoretical basis.
- Three HDI dimensions: (1) a long and healthy life – life expectancy at birth; (2) knowledge – mean and expected years of schooling; (3) a decent standard of living – GNI per capita (PPP). Groups: very high (≥0.800), high (0.700–0.799), medium (0.550–0.699), low (<0.550).
- AI findings: India has the highest self-reported AI skill penetration in the report; 20% of Indian AI researchers now stay in India (almost none in 2019). India's HDI has risen by over 53% since 1990.

Tamil Nadu link: the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission brought out the 'Tamil Nadu Human Development Report' in 2003 (it is also listed on UNDP's HDR site). In the 2017 Tamil Nadu Human Development Report, Kanniyakumari district ranked first in HDI and Ariyalur last.

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