Human Development Index(HDI)

September 10, 2022

<u>In news</u>— The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released the Human Development Index recently.

Key highlights of the index-

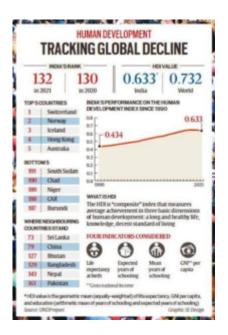
- HDI is composite index that measures average achievement in human development taking into account four indicators:
 - Life expectancy at birth (Sustainable Development Goal 3).
 - Expected years of schooling (SDG 4.3).
 - Mean years of schooling (SDG 4.4); and
 - Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2017 PPP\$) (SDG 8.5).
- The HDI's methodology and conceptual foundations were developed by economists Amartya Sen and Mahbub ul Haq, who brought out the first HDI report in 1990 based on the so-called "human capabilities approach".
- Ninety percent of countries have registered a reduction in their Human Development Index value in 2020 or 2021, reversing much of the progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.
- A large contributor to the HDI's recent decline is a global drop in life expectancy, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to 71.4 years in 2021.
- The last two years have had a devastating impact on billions of people worldwide when crises like Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine hit back-to-back and interacted with sweeping social and economic shifts and dangerous planetary changes.

 Switzerland, with an HDI value of 0.962, occupied the top spot in the global ranking. India's neighbours Bangladesh (129th), Bhutan (127th), Sri Lanka (73rd) and China (79th) ranked better than India.



India's rank-

- India's rank on the Human Development Index has slipped from 130 in 2020 to 132 in 2021, in line with a global fall in HDI scores in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- India's HDI value stood at 0.633 during 2021, which was lower than the world average of 0.732.
- In 2020, too, India recorded a decline in its HDI value (0.642) in comparison to the pre-Covid level of 2019 (0.645).



- In 2021, India's life expectancy at birth was recorded at 67.2 years; expected years of schooling at 11.9 years; mean years of schooling at 6.7 years; and gross national income per capita (2017 PPP) at \$6,590.
- On all these four parameters, India was behind the world

averages in 2021: life expectancy at 71.4 years, expected years of schooling at 12.8 years, mean years of schooling at 8.6 years and gross national income per capita (2017 PPP\$) at \$16,752.

 India has also been ranked 122 on the Gender Inequality Index.