

UNESCO Science report, 2021

June 14, 2021

In news- The UNESCO Science Report, 2021 has been published.

Highlights of the report-

- During the period from 2014 to 2018, **spending on science worldwide increased by nearly 20 per cent.**
- The **number of scientists rose some 13.7 per cent**, a trend that was further boosted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Just two countries – the **United States and China, accounted for nearly two-thirds of this increase**, or roughly 63 per cent.
- Four out of five countries fall far behind, investing less than one per cent of their GDP in scientific research.
- The fields of **artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics** have been particularly dynamic.
- **Research has surged in lower middle-income countries**, rising from just under 13 per cent in 2015, to more than 25 percent in 2019.
- Critical areas such as carbon capture and storage, have received less investment.
- Open access to research remains a challenge as more than **70 per cent of publications remain largely inaccessible to the majority of researchers.**
- **Only a third of researchers are women** and account for only 22 percent of the workforce in AI.

Statistics on India-

Research spending as a share of India's GDP in 2019 – 0.70%

Start-ups in India in 2019 – 17,390

Publications on AI and robotic in 2019 – 26,779

Engineering and technology students as a share of all Indian students in higher education in 2018 – 11.4%

About UNESCO Science report-

- The UNESCO Science Report is a global monitoring report published regularly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- It **was launched in 1993** under the name of **World Science Report**.
- It is published **every five years in the month of November** and since 1993, **six reports** have been published.
- The series monitors the **evolution of the support system for science, technology and innovation worldwide** over time.
- The recent report was due for release in November 2020 but got postponed due to COVID pandemic.