Wide Disparities in Human Development in India

Why in news?

Despite increased awareness about suicide the suicide rates are increasing and has to be addressed.

What is HDI?

- Human development index (HDI) is a composite statistical measure to evaluate and compare the level of human development in different regions around the world.
- HDI was created by the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* in 1990
- The dimensions of HDI are

    1. Long and healthy life
    2. Knowledge
    3. A decent standard of living

- HDI scores range from *0 to 1*, with higher values indicating higher levels of human development.

What is the status of subnational HDI of India?

> *63 million people are pushed into poverty because of healthcare costs every year - almost two people every second*

- There is wide disparities in human development across the states in India

According to the Human Development Report of 2021-22

- The five States with the highest HDI scores are *Delhi*, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, and Chandigarh.
- The bottom five States are *Bihar*, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Assam, with medium levels of human development.
- Despite having the highest SGDP per capita among larger States, Gujarat and Haryana have failed to translate this advantage into human development and rank 21 and 10, respectively

> *According to the Human Development Report of 2021-22, India ranks 132 out of 191 countries, behind Bangladesh (129) and Sri Lanka (73).*

What are the reasons for the wide disparities among the states?

- **Income inequality** - The top 10% of the Indian population holds over 77% of the wealth.
- **Low quality in service provided by government** - While the country has achieved near-universal enrolment in primary education, the quality of education remains low.
- **Healthcare** - Healthcare being considered as luxury good causes financial burden to poor.

What is the need of the hour?

- **Health care infrastructure** - Robust healthcare infrastructure is needed to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities.
- **High literacy rates** – High literacy rates is essential for human development.
- **Social protection schemes** – There is a need for more social protection schemes.

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References

1. The Hindu │Wide Disparities In Human Development
2. UNDP │HDI Index
3. The Oxfam International │Quick Facts

