

- Sri Lanka (72), Thailand (79), China (85) and Indonesia and Philippines (both 107), and Vietnam (117), among others, were high human development countries.
- India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Kenya and Pakistan were ranked among countries with medium human development with ranks between 120 and 156.

**Miles to go**

Though India improved its absolute value of the Human Development Index (0.645 in 2019 from 0.642 the previous year), it dropped a place in the overall ranking

Country	HDI rank (2019)	Change from 2018
Russia	52	-3
Sri Lanka	72	1
Brazil	84	0
China	85	2
South Africa	114	1
<b>India</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-2</b>
Bangladesh	133	1
Nepal	142	1
Pakistan	154	0

**Increasing Stress On Earth**

- Though humanity has achieved significant progress but it has destabilized the systems upon which it relies for survival.
- Scientists believe that for the first time, instead of the planet shaping humans, humans are knowingly shaping the planet. This has been referred as the **Anthropocene – the Age of Humans** - a new geologic epoch.
- Covid-19 has exposed the inequalities as well as weaknesses in social, economic, and political systems, and threatens reversals in human development.
- Although this year’s report does not account for the impact of COVID, it projected that in 2020, global HDI would fall below for the first time in the three decades since the Index was introduced.

**Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI**

- Planetary-Pressures Adjusted HDI – or PHDI adjusts the HDI, to include two more elements: a country’s carbon dioxide emissions and its material footprint. The index shows how the global development landscape would change if both the wellbeing of people *and* also the planet were central to defining humanity’s progress.
- With the resulting PHDI a new global picture emerges, painting a less rosy but clearer assessment of human progress. For example, more than 50 countries drop out of the very high human development group, reflecting their dependence on fossil fuels and material footprint.
- Norway, which tops the HDI, falls 15 places, leaving Ireland at the top of the index. Australia falls 72 places in the ranking, while the United States and Canada would fall 45 and 40 places respectively, reflecting their disproportionate impact on natural resources.
- The report states that, no country has been able to achieve a very high level of development without putting a huge stress on natural resources.
- Despite these adjustments, countries like Costa Rica, Moldova, and Panama move upwards by at least 30 places, which shows that lighter pressure on the planet is possible.

**Highlights From India**

- India dropped two ranks in the United Nations’ Human Development Index this year, standing at 131 out of 189 countries. However, if the Index was adjusted for PHDI, India would move up eight places in the ranking.
- Between 1990 and 2019, India’s HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3%, which puts the country in the medium human development category.
- In 2019, the expected years of schooling in India was 12.2 years, compared with 11.2 years in Bangladesh and 8.3 years in Pakistan.