

21 March 2023

Q5-2 - Government policies.

1. Government must prioritise human development alongside economic growth to ensure that the benefits of growth are more evenly distributed. Comment.

Human development is the process of enlarging people's freedoms & opportunities and improving their wellbeing.

India and Human development.

India - currently 5th largest economy and fastest growing economy in the world. But the question → whether Economic growth has translated into improving human development [?]

Human development Index - 'The Answer'

Human development Index → by united nations development program → 2021-22 lists India 132/191 countries, behind Bangladesh [129] and Sri Lanka [73].

This shows evidence of lack of translation of economic growth.

Need - for Sub-national Index

Experts suggests - sub-national index, to identify areas of high growth & low developed areas

for a targetted approach.

Indicators

Life expectancy → data from sample Registration Survey

Schooling → data from national family health survey-5

Standard of living - Gross state domestic product percapita.

Findings -

1. Delhi → held the top spot in human development
2. whereas - Bihar the bottom spot. [But not in Low but medium human development category]
3. Flipside - High percapita income states like Gujarat's haryana - failed to translate income into human development.

Reason

1. unequal growth - top 10% - holding 77% wealth
2. Social infrastructure → Education, health care - quality or services is lower

Way forward

Multi pronged approach is needed from Government
Balance between economic growth & preferance to
human development, by addressing factors like income, gender
inequality etc is need of hour.