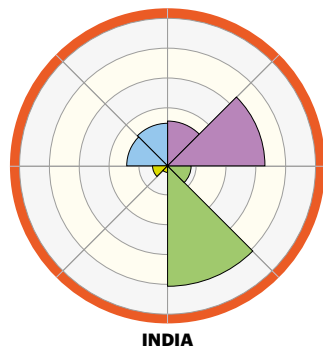
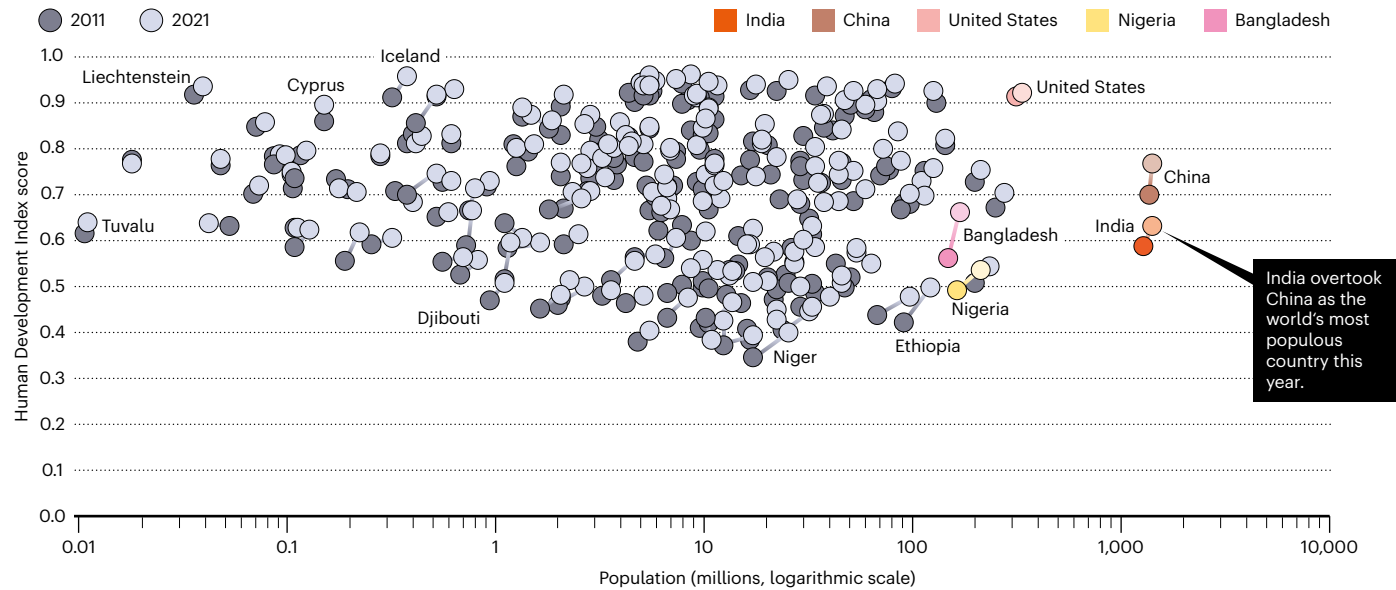


INDIA BY NUMBERS

This year, India overtook China to become the world's most populous country. But it struggles to develop its economy and lags behind many other nations in terms of its investment in science and technology. How can better funding for research help its economic development? By **Andy Tay** and **Jack Leeming**; infographic by **Mohamed Ashour**

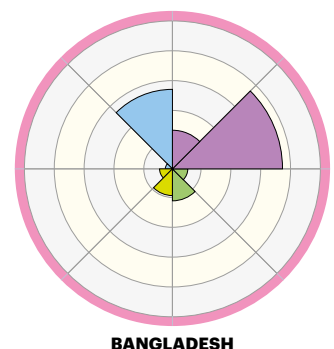
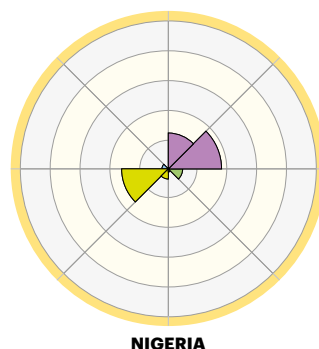
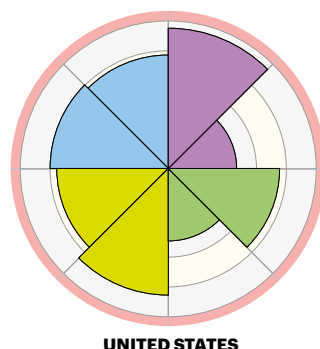
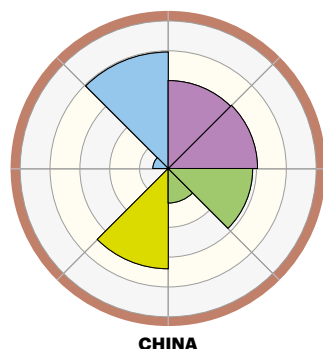
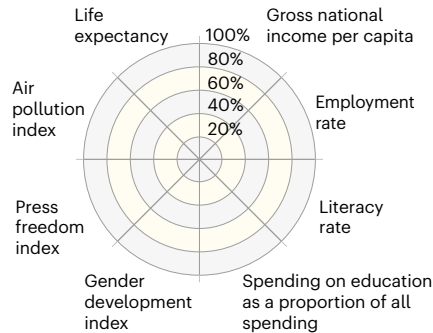
THE HUMAN FACTOR

India has the world's largest population, but how well does it look after all those people? The Human Development Index is a United Nations metric that quantifies a country's human development in terms of health, lifespan, education and standard of living.



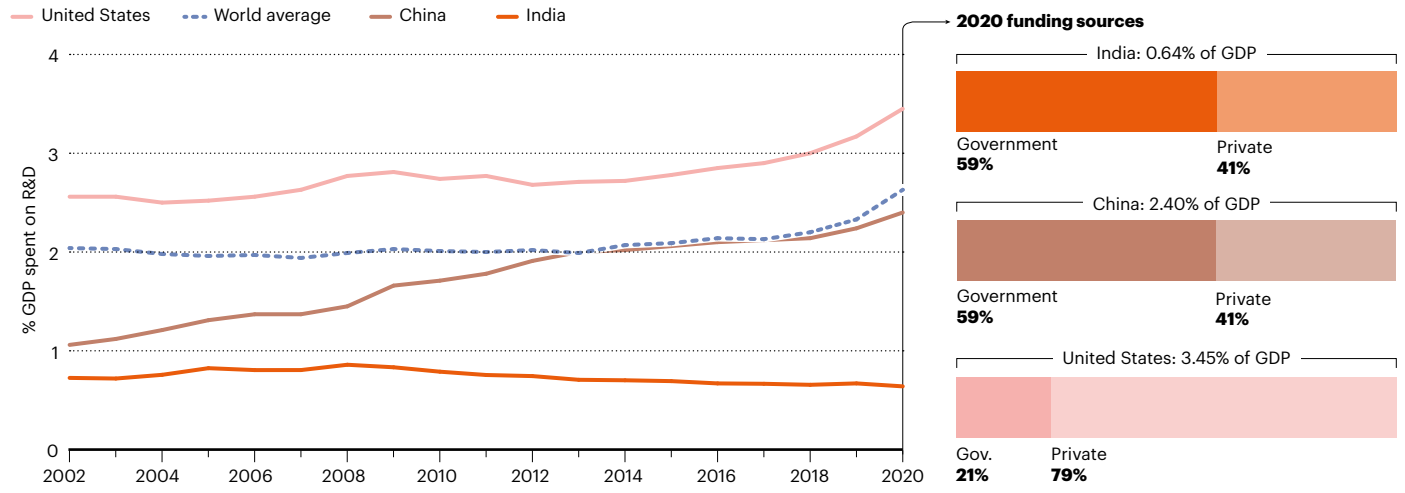
HOW THEY COMPARE

In some key indicators of human development, India lags behind high-income countries such as the United States. For easy comparison, the scores in these radar charts are given in the percentile rankings of each country compared with all other countries.



SCIENCE SPENDING

India spends less than the global average on research and development (R&D), but it has kept this spending largely consistent as its economy has grown in the past two decades. A good indication of a science-based society is the proportion of investment in research from private sources. India lags behind other countries in this metric.



1st
India is the world's largest outsourcer of programmers.

60%
of the world's vaccines are produced in India.

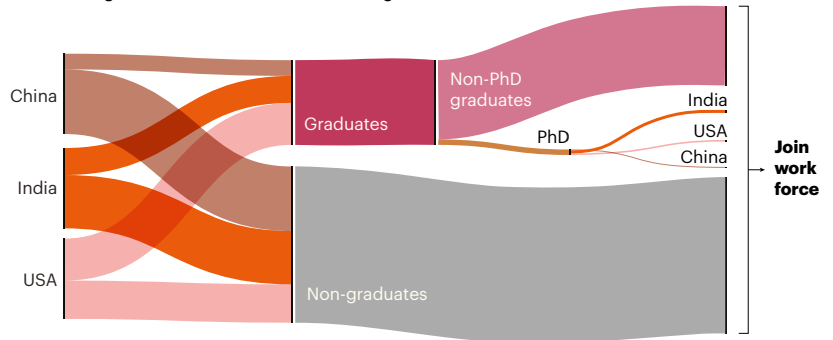
4th



India became only the fourth country to make a soft landing on the Moon in August this year.

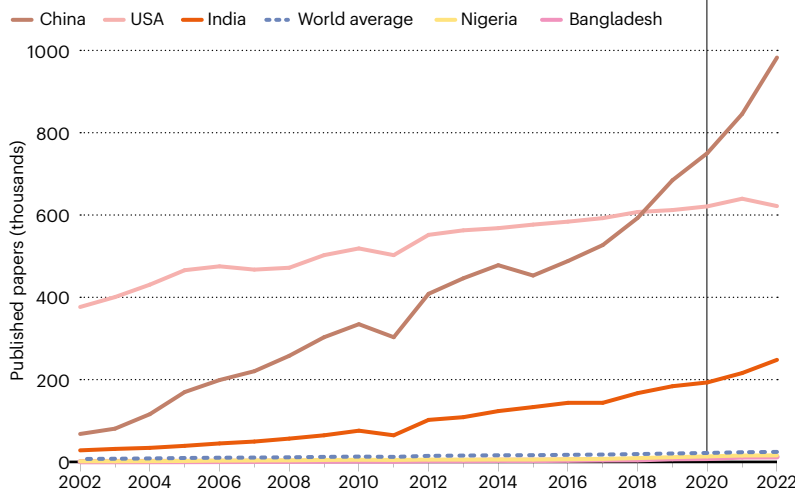
FROM DEGREE TO PHD

India has a smaller proportion of people with a university-degree-level qualification than many other nations, but those who do get an undergraduate degree are much more likely to complete a PhD. Indeed, India has the highest proportion of university graduates who go on to complete a doctoral degree in the world, at around 5% of graduates.



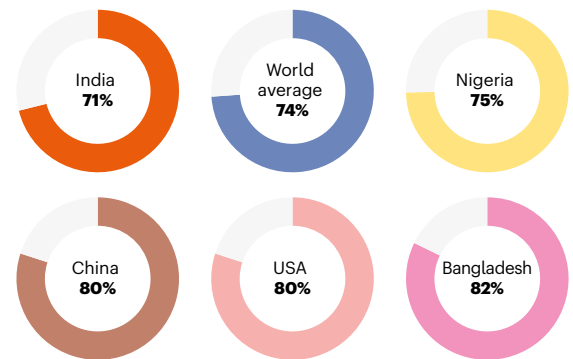
PUBLISHING PERFORMANCE

India is among the world's most prolific publishers of research, behind only the United States and China.



SEEKING CITATIONS

Only 71% of India's research output was cited at all in 2020, indicating that more than one-quarter of it failed to have a material impact.



Sources: United Nations Development Programme; <https://worldpopulationreview.com>; <https://www.numbeo.com>; RSF Reporters without Borders; Government of India's Department of Science & Technology; <https://sgp.fas.org>; <https://gpseducation.oecd.org>; <https://data.worldbank.org>; <https://www.scimagojr.com>