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## Sustainable development goals in India: with special focus on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*The world's economies are working together to achieve sustainable development objectives. The pursuit of excellence and expansion has thrown off the ecological balance, destroyed many natural resources, and caused imbalances in the economic development of different nations. Global warming and temperature changes are two effects of this. Given that this poses a serious threat to human existence on Earth, it is imperative that action be taken to ensure safe environments for coming generations. The phrase "sustainable development" may have been coined to indicate that development occurs in a manner that preserves natural resources and passes them on unaltered to future generations. This paper attempts to comprehend how well India has implemented the sustainable development objectives, paying particular attention to SDGs 6 and 7 (AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN) and SDG 6 (CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION).*

**KEYWORDS:** MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, SDG INDIA INDEX

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The concept of sustainable development is gaining popularity worldwide. The competition for success and prosperity has thrown off the ecological balance, exhausted many natural resources, and caused imbalances in the economic development of different nations. Given that this poses a serious threat to human existence on Earth, it is imperative that action be taken to ensure safe environments for coming generations.

Development that uses natural resources to suit presentday demands without endangering the capacity of future generations is referred to as "sustainable development". Despite being a widely accepted concept, sustainable development has numerous distinct interpretations, which leads to a wide range of unique reactions.

Durable sustainable development is development that meets present needs without compromising those of future generations. In general, sustainable development aims to integrate socioeconomic concerns with the expanding number of environmental difficulties.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to be achieved by the year 2000, and they paved the way for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The MDGs were a ground-breaking initiative that set specific targets and indicators for addressing key global challenges. Following the completion of the MDGs in 2015, the international community began working on the SDGs in 2012 to build upon the progress made and to shape the future of global development. The 1992 Rio Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, served as the inspiration for the overall theme of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, titled “The Future We Want.” This document was a commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit. During the UN Summit held in New York from September 25 to 27, 2015, global leaders officially adopted the Resolution known as “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” This Resolution outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. Among the attendees of this historic event was Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India.

### **WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)?**

In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development received widespread support from all United Nations Member States, serving as a collective guide for advancing environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and peace for both current and upcoming generations. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent an urgent call for cooperation among rich and developing countries alike, are at the centre of this agenda. These objectives stress the interdependence of tackling climate change, protecting our natural ecosystems, including our seas and forests, and advancing economic growth with the elimination of poverty, better health and education, and decreased inequality.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals encompass a comprehensive agenda aimed at fostering global prosperity and sustainability. These goals include eradicating poverty, ensuring zero hunger, promoting good health and well-being, providing quality education, striving for gender equality, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, facilitating affordable and clean energy, fostering decent work and economic growth, promoting industry, innovation, and infrastructure, reducing inequality, building sustainable cities and communities, encouraging sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking action on climate change, preserving life below water, conserving life on land, promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, and fostering partnerships for achieving these goals. Together, these goals form a holistic framework for addressing the most pressing challenges facing humanity and the planet.

### **MEASURES TAKEN FOR IMPLEMENTING SDGS IN INDIA:**

The obligation regarding managing SDG execution has been relegated to the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), which is the chief arrangement consider tank the Government and is led by the Prime Minister of India.

### **INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP:**

**NITI Aayog:** Tasked with coordinating the SDGs, the NITI Aayog is the most satisfying think tank in the Government of India. It has been supervising the national implementation of the SDGs. The NITI Aayog has finished mapping all SDGs, Central Ministries, and government backed Schemes as part of its implementation method. States have also been advised to map out their programs in a similar manner, including programs that are financed centrally. In addition to many files, NITI Aayog unveiled the SDG India Index.

The NITI Aayog oversees the SDG India Index, a publication that tracks India's advancement toward the sustainable development goals established by the UN. Many national welfare initiatives and development projects have been launched in an effort to fulfill the promise to attain the SDGs.

**MoSPI:** Another important player in the SDG implementation process is the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). MoSPI has developed 306 nation-wide indicators in accordance with the 169 SDG targets and the Global Indicators Framework, since indicators are essential for gauging the amount and progress of achieving the Targets and Goals in India. Sixty-two priority signs have also been identified from among the 306 indicators in order to track India's most important developmental goals. In order to address the issue of data gaps in SDG monitoring, MoSPI has established six theme-based Sectoral Committees on SDGs. These committees are composed of representatives from research institutions, UN agencies and development partners, and various ministries that provide pertinent data. The committees' goals are to develop a methodology for SDG global indicators in India.

**Voluntary National Review:** As part of their observe-up and assessment systems, countries are encouraged to undertake periodic assessments of progress at the national and subnational levels. Participation in these evaluations is encouraged from both developed and developing nations, allowing for voluntary and nation-led participation. Consequently, those are known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The goal is to expedite the 2030 Agenda's implementation by allowing reviews, including successes, problems, and lessons learned, to be shared.

### **Monitoring and evaluation:**

The assessment and surveillance of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been accorded great importance. This is done to evaluate the extent to which the developmental goals and objectives are being achieved. The United Nations Resolution highlights the significance of continuous monitoring at national, regional, and global levels. In order to measure the performance of the SDGs, a comprehensive Global Indicator Framework consisting of 247

indicators has been established. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is closely linked to the global platform and plays a crucial role in the international evaluation and reporting of the SDGs.

**SDG Vertical:** The SDG Vertical is the nodal organization for coordinating and upholding the Sustainable Development Goals, working in tandem with Union Ministries and States/UTs. The Vertical moves toward duplicated receiving, execution, and following of the SDG system and linked drives at the public and sub-public reaches through the methodology of helpful and serious federalism.

**UN Support for SDG tasks in India:** During the General Assembly in New York and the International Conference on Support for Development in Addis Ababa, the United Nations in India actively promotes the establishment of shared social foundations. It warmly welcomes the participation of think tanks and the Indian media in discussions and side events. The UN Country Team in India, in its dedicated efforts to address the interconnectedness of aspirations and ensure inclusivity for all, strongly advocates for sufficient resources to achieve SDG nine. To achieve this, the UN collaborates closely with NITI Aayog and partners, conducting insightful interviews on the SDGs. These interviews serve as a platform to bring together various national administrations, essential services, civil society organizations, and the academic community, fostering a collective anticipation of specific SDGs.

#### **INDIA 'S PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SDG 6 AND SDG 7:**

India has had a significant influence on the Sustainable Development Goals' formulation (SDGs). Thus, it is not surprising that the SDGs represent the nation's aspirations for public progress. As a result, India has contributed more to achieving the SDGs than to its complete codification.

The foundation of India's national growth timeline is the proverb "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas," which translates as "Aggregate Effort, Inclusive development" and has been promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In an attempt to expedite this strategy, the Indian legislature has effectively released a draft Three-Year Action Agenda that spans the years 2017–18 through 2019–20. Similarly, artwork embarks on a 15-year vision ahead of time, with the potential to also encompass a 7-year strategy. These archives, which reflect the nation's long-standing government culture, are being organized with the enthusiastic participation of the states (sub-public Governments).

In February 2017, the South Asian Speakers' Summit and multiple talks were organized by the Indian Parliament, reflecting the nation's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals to the fullest extent possible. The end of the financial situation, orientation equity, global environmental change, and asset preparedness for the SDGs have all been mentioned in these debates. Without a doubt, the Speaker's Inquiry Initiative has been approved to provide Members of Parliament with

experiences linked to the SDGs.

Additionally, remarkable efforts have been made to fortify the nation's federal system of genuine and beneficial federalism. A noticeable role is being played by state governments in advancing the public improvement agenda. The recommendations put forth by three subcommittees of State Chief Ministers on various subjects, such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India

Movement) and capacity building, have influenced relevant policy decisions at the state level. A major component of India's SDG methodology is its ambitious national Determined Contributions (NDC), which are reported to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on the Science and Technology of Global Change. These effectively reduce the outflow power of valuable, sustainable non-petroleum product energy sources and provide additional carbon sinks.

#### **SDG6(CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION) :**

SDG 6 prioritizes water and sanitation concerns, emphasizing sustainable management in these areas crucial for human survival and well-being. Infrastructure development and maintenance are vital for ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation, which directly impact food security, livelihoods, and education, particularly for disadvantaged communities. Addressing interconnected goals like environmental protection and waste management under SDG 3 and SDG 11.6 will accelerate progress towards SDG 6. India has made significant strides in the water and sanitation sector, with notable increases in rural piped water supply coverage and toilet facility access. To address water scarcity, the Government of India has launched programs such as the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide potable water to rural households by 2024, alongside initiatives like Swachh Bharat Mission and National River Conservation Plan. Namami Gange is a "flagship programme" to accomplish objective of effective abatement of pollution, rejuvenation and conservation of the national river Ganga. Along with this Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is also introduced to focus on basic infrastructure, in selected cities and towns. Monitoring progress towards SDG 6 involves several indicators, with efforts underway to bridge existing gaps in implementation at both national and state levels. Collaboration between the central government and state administrations is essential for achieving the targets set under SDG 6.

#### **SDG7 (AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY):**

Energy is indispensable for fostering growth and development, playing a pivotal role in reshaping economies, improving human lives, and advancing societies. It is fundamental for various sectors such as food production, manufacturing, job creation, climate action, and income enhancement. Goal 7 aims to enhance energy efficiency, promote sustainable and modern energy access for all, and increase reliance on renewable sources. India has made significant strides in the energy sector, achieving 100% electrification of households by 2021-22 and a notable increase in the

use of clean cooking fuels. Renewable energy capacity has also seen a substantial rise, with renewable sources contributing significantly to total electricity generation. Prominent initiatives such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, and the Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya have been instrumental in broadening the reach of electricity and encouraging the use of clean cooking fuels. To further encourage energy-efficient lighting, programs like Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs (Ujala) have been launched. The objective of the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 is to augment energy conservation and efficiency initiatives. A number of indicators are used to track progress toward SDG 7, and continuous efforts are made to close data gaps and guarantee thorough analysis.

### **INDIA 'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING SDGs:**

The cutting-edge NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, which highlights the advancements made with the support of the United States of America in social, financial, and environmental development over the past year, indicates that India has made consistent progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations in the areas of infrastructure, power, and health. According to a reputable NITI Aayog assessment, India's standard rating across the SDGs has significantly improved from 2019—it went from 60 to 66 in 2021—due to the country's widespread advancements in “easy water and sanitation” and “cheap and smooth energy,” respectively.

Each State's/UT's composite rating was calculated by taking the arithmetic mean of each individual goal rating and combining their performance over the course of the desires. The composite rating, which ranges from zero to 100, indicates how well the State or UT has done overall in reaching the objectives listed below the Goals. A score of 100 indicates that the State or UT has met the 2030 goals; a score of 0 indicates that the State or UT in question is at the bottom of the list.

- The UTs are ranked in the 62–79 bracket on the SDG India Index 3.0, whereas the States are rated between 52 and 75. This is a spectacular improvement over 2019–20, when the differences in rankings were between 50 and 70 for the States and between 59 and 70 for the UTs.
- Kerala maintained its ranking as the apex state with a score of 75. Chandigarh, with a score of 79, too maintained its best standing against a few UTs.
- On the money table, Goa, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh shared the fourth position, with Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh vying for the second position.
- India's composite score increased, rising from 60 in 2019–20 to 66 in 2020–21. This demonstrates how the average person has advanced in their journey to achieve the SDGs.
- Two dreams—number two (zero longing) and number five (orientation balance)—require special attention because the general US rating is lower than fifty. In any case, compared to 2019–20, nine states in Goal 2 and twelve states in Goal 5 exited the Aspirant class this year.

- In the elective five dreams, the overall score ranges between 50 and 64, including each, indicating the possibility of a major improvement in the near future (apart from 14—presence under water, which applies least complexly to nine seaside States—and 17—associations for the objectives, which is subjectively broken down).
- While ten states and territories were classified as Front Runners in 2019–20 (score in the range 65–99, including both), twelve more states and territories are classified as such in 2020–21. With combined scores of 65 and 99, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana, and Tripura advanced to the Front Runners category.
- With 25 States in this class at the same time, objective 6 has the largest pool of front-runners, while objectives 5 and 9 have the most notable aspirants, with 14 States apiece.
- The nation score has shifted from the Performer class to the Front Runner classification for SDG 3, SDG 10, SDG 11, and SDG 12. Of all of them, Goal 11 has advanced the most, going from 53 in 2019–20 to 79 in 2020–21.
- Every state has improved its rating between one and twelve components. In terms of rating advancement from 2019, Mizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020–21, with individual improvements of 12, 10, and 8 elements.

#### CHALLENGES:

Internationally significant obstacles to sustainable development include: poverty and marginalization; unemployment; changing climate; conflict and relief efforts; establishing a society that is inclusive and peaceful; constructing strong institutions; and upholding the rule of law. The following are the primary challenging circumstances for India's sustainable development:

(i) Defining indicator: There aren't many indicators in India to gauge the results of sustainable development. For example, 86% of Indians, according to a few reliable sources, have access to safe drinking water. However, the quantity of people who die from diarrhea and other water-sensitive disorders. This suggests that is untrue. There was no longer any safe way to consume water.

(ii) Financing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Union authorities have stated that unless states allocate a significant portion of their resources to social regions, there may likely be a large investment gap in the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals in India. Redistribution and rapid development aren't always enough. Despite significant financial development in 2010, one in three of the world's extreme poor remain in India, according to the United Nations MDG 2014 declaration. This leads us to believe that, aside from house sales, public financing may be a crucial source of funding for the SDGs.

(iii) Management recognition and monitoring: Maintaining sustainability is a major difficulty when it comes to ownership. Based on current reports, NITI AAYOG is a major player in development monitoring. Nonetheless, the AAYOG members voiced doubts about their ability to handle this. It

will also be necessary to have authority not only at the federal level but also at the local and kingdom levels if states are expected to take the lead.

(iv) Tracking Progress: Last but not least, tracking fulfillment development is a crucial obstacle to sustainable growth in India. The lack of statistics, occasionally the authorities' own decisions, periodicity issues, and insufficient coverage of administrative facts pull the measurement of sustained improvement is practically difficult due to the facts.

## CONCLUSION:

India, as the country with the second-largest population globally, holds significant sway in the global pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The efforts undertaken by India to achieve SDGs carry immense weight worldwide. Success in meeting these goals in India would signify progress on a substantial scale for a considerable portion of the global population. Hence, it is crucial for India to devise robust strategies for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the progress of SDGs.

In conclusion, India is committed to tackling important issues in the water and energy sectors, as evidenced by its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). Through initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission, significant strides have been made in improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Similarly, efforts such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have contributed to enhancing energy access and promoting clean energy sources. However, ongoing monitoring, effective implementation, and innovative approaches are essential to ensure sustained progress towards these goals, ultimately fostering a more equitable, sustainable future for all in India and beyond.

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