AG Group

APRIL
2023 EDITION

ANALYSIS REPORT

ON

India's Performance on
Sustainable Development Goals

Overview

India is the home of the second largest population in the world and was instrumental in the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015. Thus, **it has a key role to play in successfully achieving SDG global targets by 2030.** This universal call to action brings a transformational change in people's lives and well-being by ending poverty, income inequalities, etc, and protecting the planet through various measures taken by different stakeholders such as governments, civil societies, local communities, and individual people ensuring peace and prosperity by 2030 for all.

The 17 integrated SDG goals are adopted by the UN member states in 2015 to recognize a coordinated action plan that will bring change in everyone's life while balancing sustainable socioeconomic and environmental well-being. It has aim to prioritize the progress of the farthest person behind by providing equal opportunities for all.

India's premier think-tank body, NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing, coordinating and monitoring the level of performance on these set goals. It will also address the diverse challenges of Indian society with integrated policy formulation at the government level.

The Covid19 pandemic has no doubt pushed back the progress of SDG across the globe including India and severely affected the low and middle-income group population. In this Decade of Action, new challenges for the government and civil society organizations have been observed as during and after the pandemic, millions of people were pushed into poverty due to a lack of employment opportunities along with obstructing social development and empowerment of women and girls.

Source: https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html

Despite, such structural, historical, and regional challenges, the Government of India and NITI Aayog are going forward with a comprehensive action plan to address inequalities of income as well as opportunities for individuals and a coordinated climate action plan. It will pave the way for the overall prosperity and well-being of its citizen along with achieving SDG targets well within the time frame.

What are SDGs?

The SDGs were adopted in 2015 by the United Nations member states including India to modify the world and have been promoted as global goals of sustainable development for the period 2015-2030. They are a call for action for not only developing countries but also for developing/emerging/ under-developed economies, to promote wealth while safeguarding the environment. SDGs will address critical areas of importance i.e., poverty, inequality, saving the planet, and making sure that all people enjoy health, justice, and prosperity by the year 2030.

The SDGs are seventeen interlinked objectives that are adapted to serve as shared blueprints for peace and success for people and the planet. This keeps focussing on the socioeconomic and environmental features at the centre of sustainable development based on values such as equity and respect for human rights.

LIST OF SDGs

#	Brief Description
1.	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2.	End hungry, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3.	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4.	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5.	Achieve gender and equality and empower all women and girls.
6.	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7.	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8.	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10.	Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11.	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12.	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13.	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14.	Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15.	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat decertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16.	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17.	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

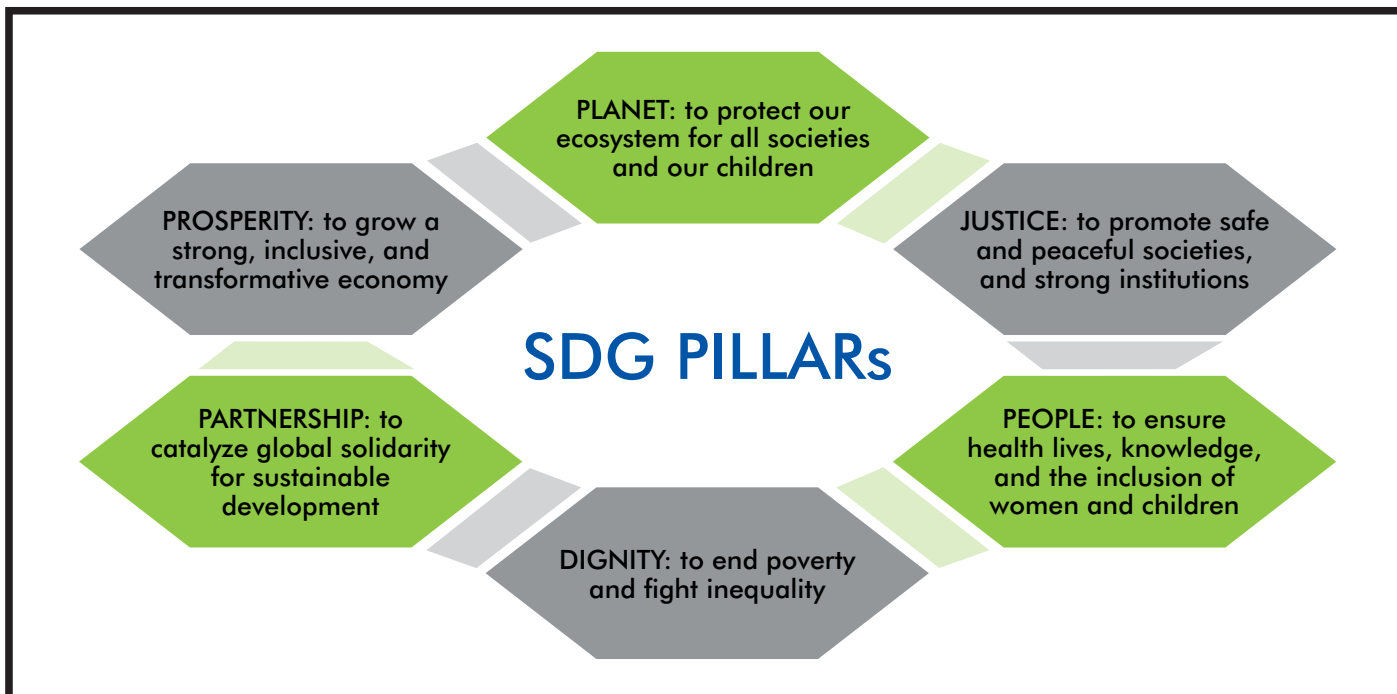Source: https://mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files//SIF%20Guideline%20by%20MoSPI.pdf

The SDGs are the outline to attain a superior and more green and supportable future for all. These are designed to address several transformative 'zeros', such as zero (hunger, poverty, discrimination against women, and girls, and many more).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF SDG

- Are global, rather than limited to 'developing' countries
- Is based on values such as equality and respect for human rights
- Relies on approaches such as sustainable financing, scientific research and innovation, and monitoring and evaluation
- Requires a new way of working, involving intersectoral action by multiple stakeholders
- Aims to strengthen health systems towards universal health coverage(UHC)
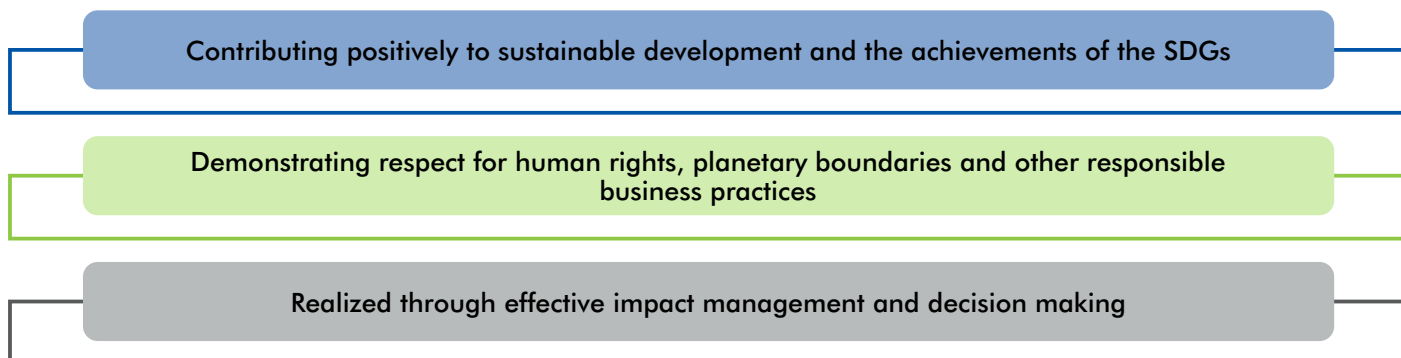
Everyone is required to reach the ambitious set targets through innovation, know-how, automation, and economic resources as a mandatory guide. The impartial quality education and promotion of long-lasting learning chances for all children are such **universally applicable targets under SDGs to fulfill the promise of "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND"**. It will also help in taking crucial action to combat climate change and eliminate its ill impacts.

PLANET: to protect our ecosystem for all societies and our children

PROSPERITY: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy

JUSTICE: to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions

SDG PILLARs

PARTNERSHIP: to catalyze global solidarity for sustainable development

PEOPLE: to ensure health lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children

DIGNITY: to end poverty and fight inequality

The world has changed drastically in the last decade and people experienced extreme poverty, environmental damage, inequality, and complex governance. Thus, these problems need urgent attention through encouragement to impact thinking, which leads to innovative solutions and active participation of stakeholders at national and international levels.
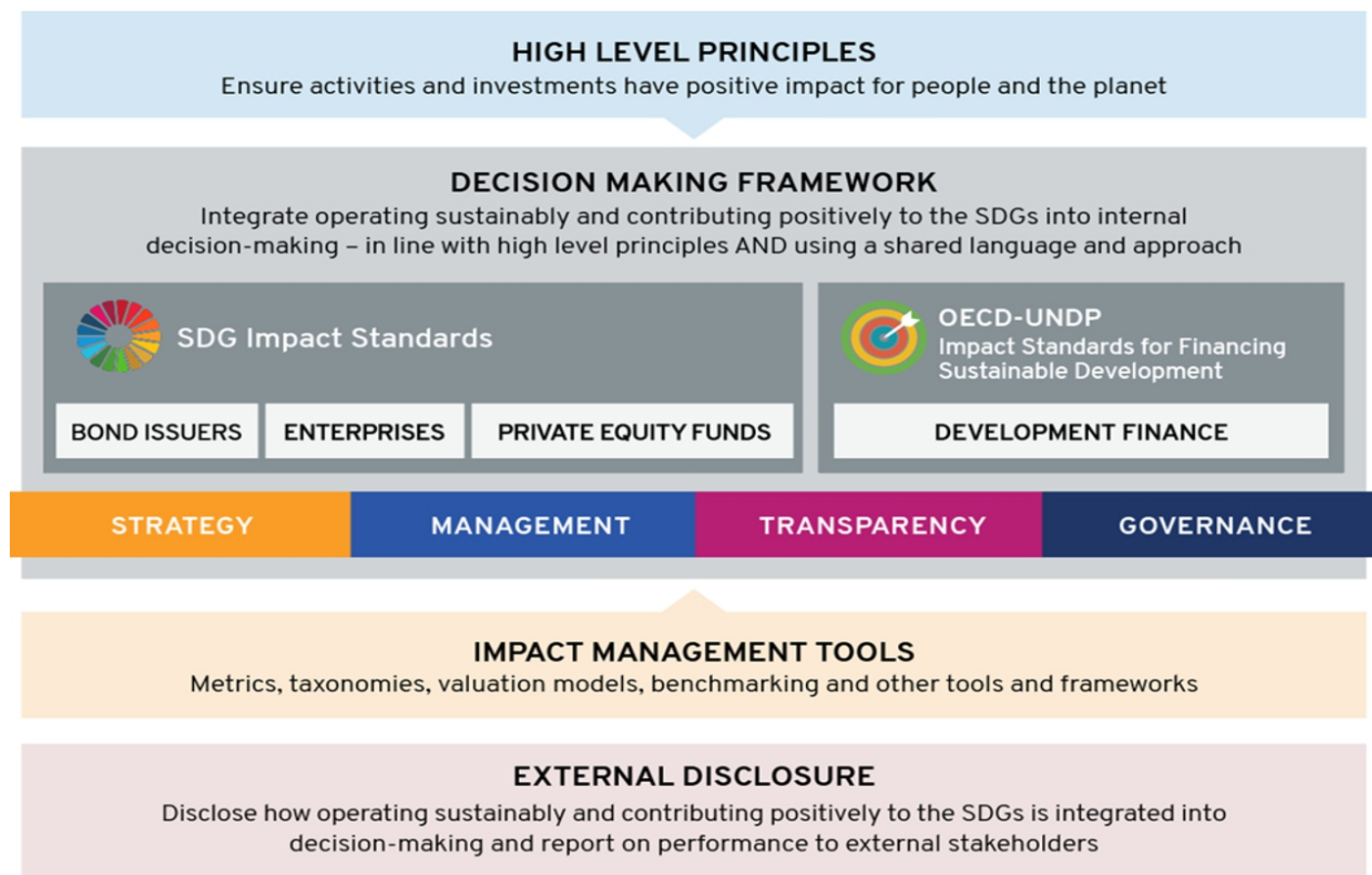
SDG Standards and their Importance

The SDG Standards are **discretionary internal management standards, which address the management practice gap** by guiding businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders on a track to implanting sustainability through SDG targets.

Contributing positively to sustainable development and the achievements of the SDGs

Demonstrating respect for human rights, planetary boundaries and other responsible business practices

Realized through effective impact management and decision making

The basis of the SDG impact standard is to contribute positively towards building up partnerships between standard bodies, policymakers, UN organizations, and other stakeholders for the attainment of SDG targets.

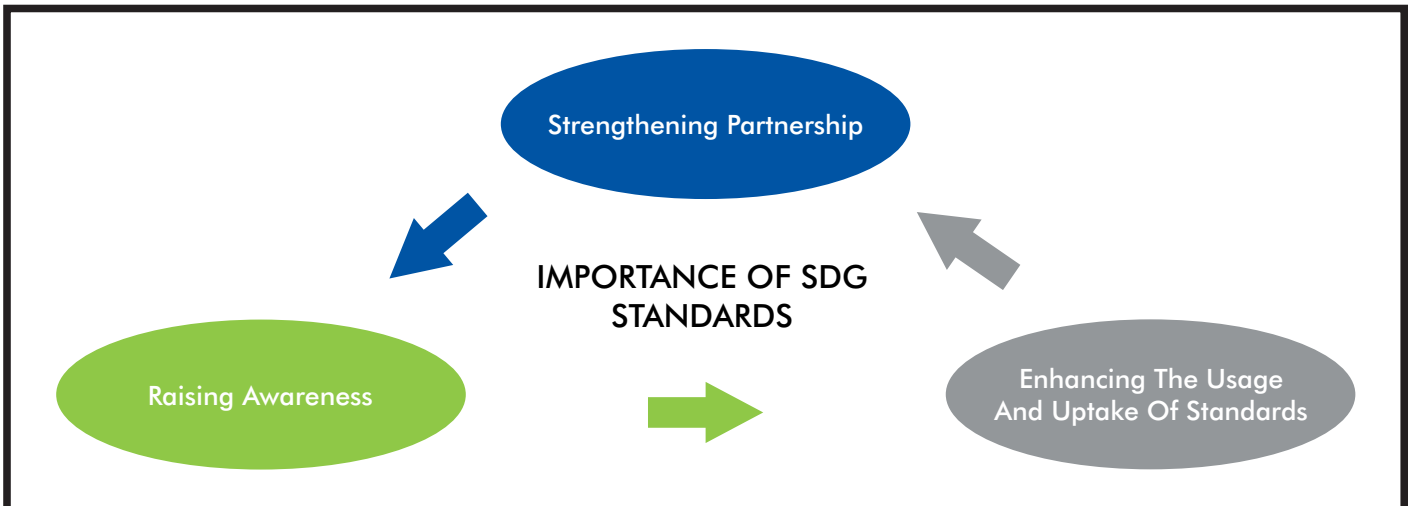## SDG Standards Spanning Over Global Economic Ecosystem

HIGH LEVEL PRINCIPLES
Ensure activities and investments have positive impact for people and the planet

DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK
Integrate operating sustainably and contributing positively to the SDGs into internal decision-making – in line with high level principles AND using a shared language and approach

SDG Impact Standards

BOND ISSUERS | ENTERPRISES | PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS

OECD-UNDP
Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

STRATEGY | MANAGEMENT | TRANSPARENCY | GOVERNANCE

IMPACT MANAGEMENT TOOLS
Metrics, taxonomies, valuation models, benchmarking and other tools and frameworks

EXTERNAL DISCLOSURE
Disclose how operating sustainably and contributing positively to the SDGs is integrated into decision-making and report on performance to external stakeholders

Source: https://sdgimpact.undp.org/assets/images/about-the-sdg-impact-chart.png

Collated & Summarised by "Research Team" - AG Horizon Pvt Ltd

Embedding SDGs strategy with sustainability is important to bring attention and focus. While integrating responsible business practices is important to encourage organizations to develop options and choices for the optimization of their contribution towards the SDG targets. Governance is a crucial element of integrating responsible business practices to control impact-driven decision-making to ensure transparency.
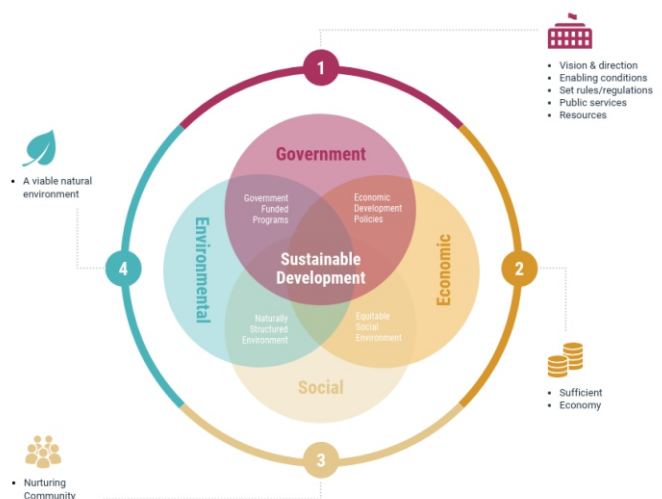
It will encourage rising consciousness of the 2030 agenda amongst the standard groups that work as a standard tool for policymakers, authorities, civil society, corporate entities including others.

SDG Impact Standards

IMPORTANCE OF SDG STANDARDS

Strengthening Partnership

Raising Awareness

Enhancing The Usage And Uptake Of Standards

The multi-stakeholder involvement will showcase the role of SDG standards to guide the organization to re-imagine business representation and partnerships that can establish and create innovative solutions. It is believed that there would be a positive contribution towards sustainability and the achievements of SDGs if all businesses and investors will apply SDG standards. A positive contribution is expected if organizations and investors will be motivated to apply these standards and the self-assessment tools to execute a gap analysis and develop focused plans to improve effectiveness over time.
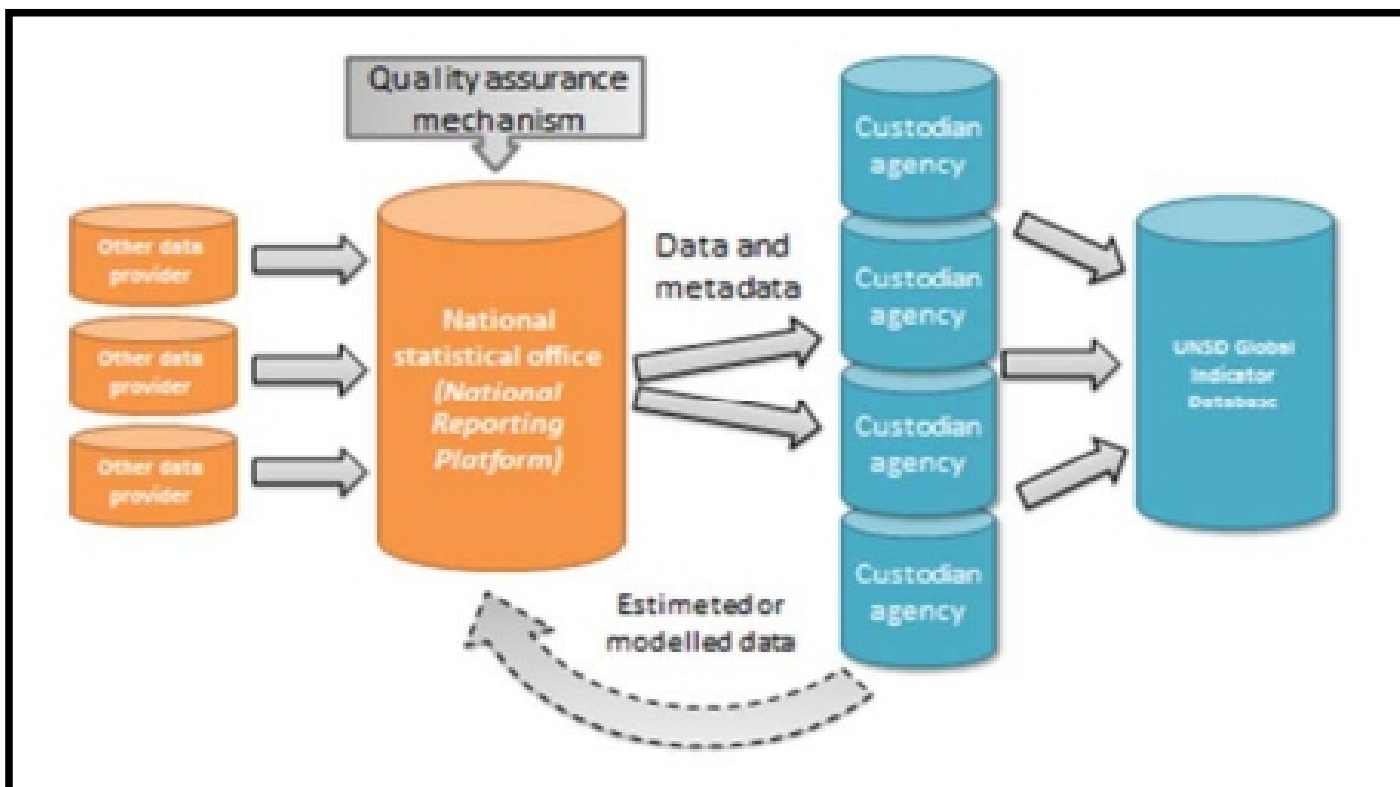
Sustainable Development Goals

Global SDG Ranking and India's Preparedness

To study the worldwide efforts related to achieving the SDGs and assess individual country's efforts to observe priority actions, understand key challenges, and keep a close watch on the progress to set accountability by identifying gaps, a group of independent experts at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in association with Bertelsmann Stiftung publish Sustainable Development Report annually since 2016.
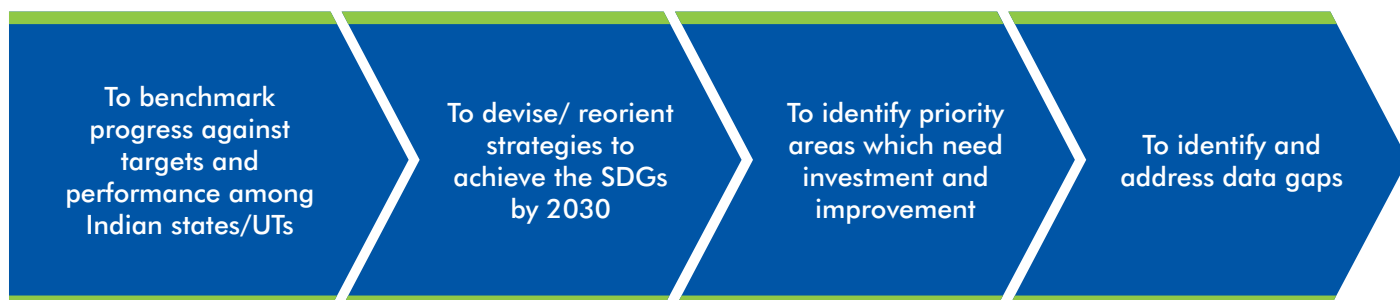
Best Practice Centralized Reporting Mechanism for Global SDG Indicators

Source: https://mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/20171108_Draft%20Guidelines%20and%20Best%20Practices%20for%20Global%20SDG%20Data%20Reporting.pdf

This global publication is formerly known as the SDG Index & Dashboards which complements the progress of official SDG indicators as well as voluntary country-led reviews. On the same line to track the progress of 16 out of 17 SDGs on a set of distinct indicators, NITI Aayog publishes the SDG INDIA INDEX annually.
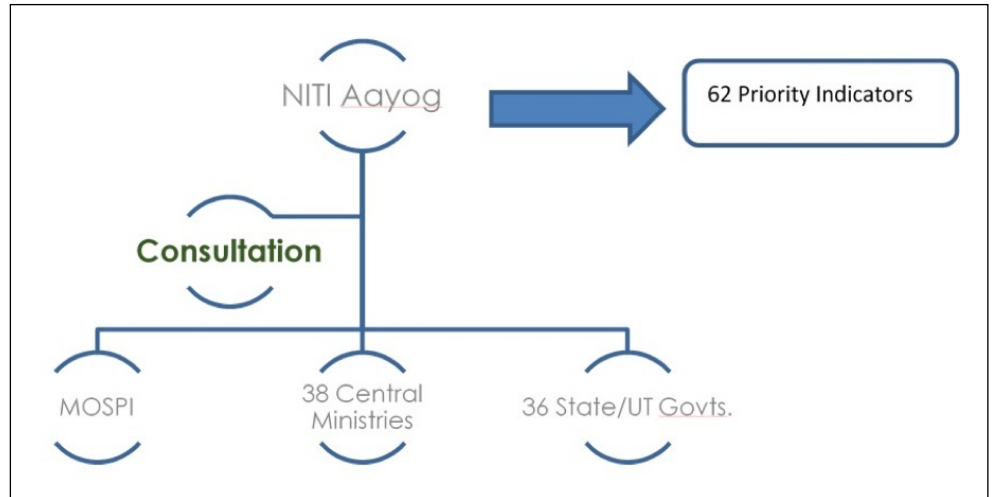
Objectives of SDG INDIA INDEX

| To benchmark progress against targets and performance among Indian states/UTs | To devise/ reorient strategies to achieve the SDGs by 2030 | To identify priority areas which need investment and improvement | To identify and address data gaps |

SDG INDIA INDEX works as a torch bearer for stakeholders including central/state governments, UT administrations, businesses, civil societies, and the general public. This helps in evaluating and finding the gaps in their performance and urgent measures needed to overcome that on various social, economic, and environmental parameters.

To better follow up and review the progress of states in successfully implementing the SDG goals, under the State Indicator Framework (SIF), the responsibility of state, district and local government level responsibility has been set. Each state develops its framework based on respective critical
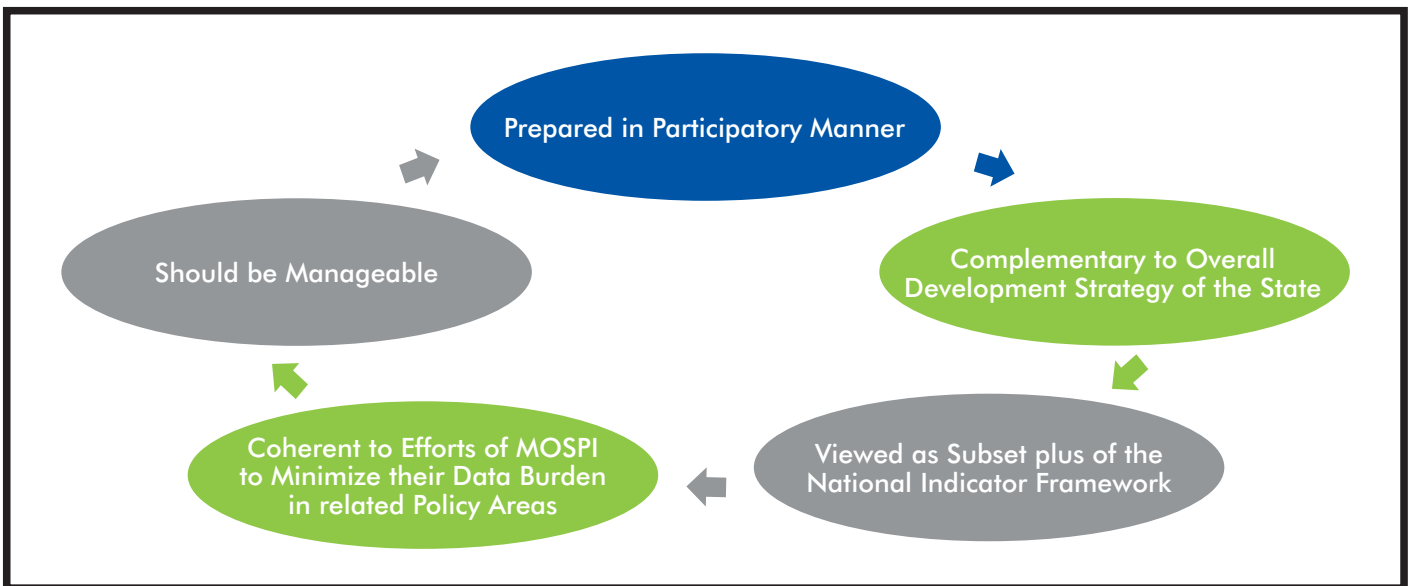
Stakeholders Involved in SDG INDIA INDEX
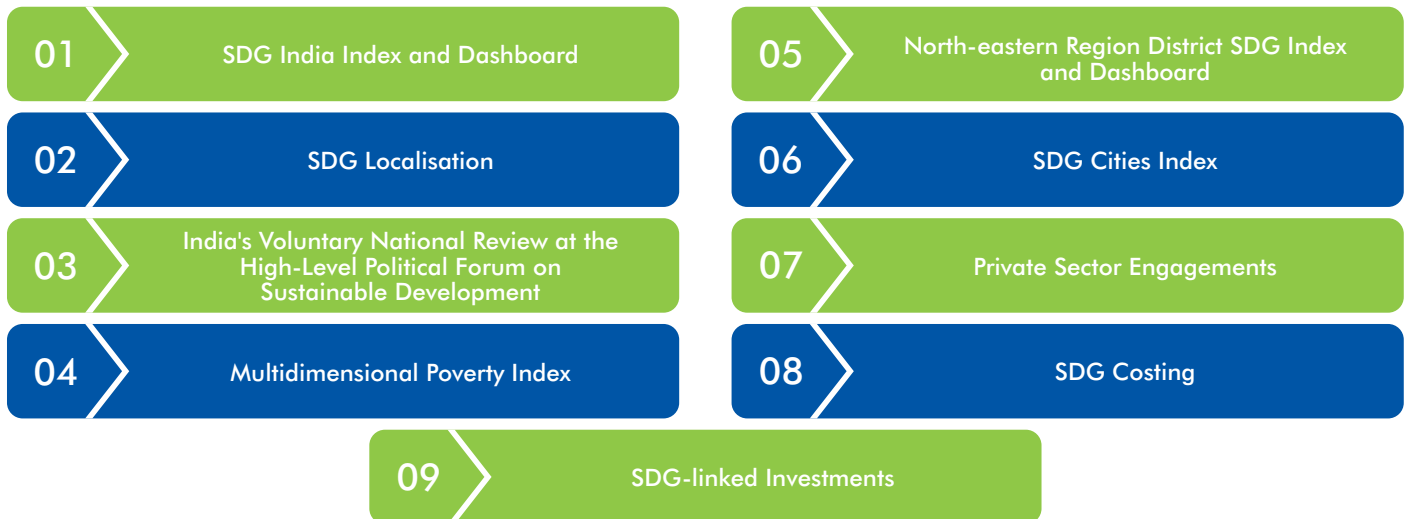

Source: https://niti.gov.in/sdg-india-index

development available infrastructure, and other resources along with the data required to process the same concerning their stages of socioeconomic and environmental needs. It helps the national government to further monitor the developments and redefine, modify, and improve the provisions through policy-making wherever needed over time for the right intervention.

Guiding Principle for State Indicator Framework to Monitor SDG

NITI Aayog keeps a close check on these various indicators at the state level that plays an important role in formularizing the national strategy to achieve SDG goals. It also helps states through its various SDG projects, international partnerships, and innovations in the area of science and technology to address the spillover.

SDG Projects Undertaken by NITI Aayog

01	SDG India Index and Dashboard	05	North-eastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard
02	SDG Localisation	06	SDG Cities Index
03	India's Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	07	Private Sector Engagements
04	Multidimensional Poverty Index	08	SDG Costing
09	SDG-linked Investments		

Despite, the focused approach and comprehensive framework adopted by the Government of India, its preparedness to achieve SDG targets within the time frame has been hit for consecutively third year due to multiple global emergencies at the same time like Covid 19, geopolitical and military crisis, climate change, biodiversity conservation, etc. The new areas of scientific cooperation and strategic investments in the fundamental areas of development such as human capital, infrastructure, renewable energy, etc. will be needed to accelerate the response to realizing these ambitious global targets by 2030.
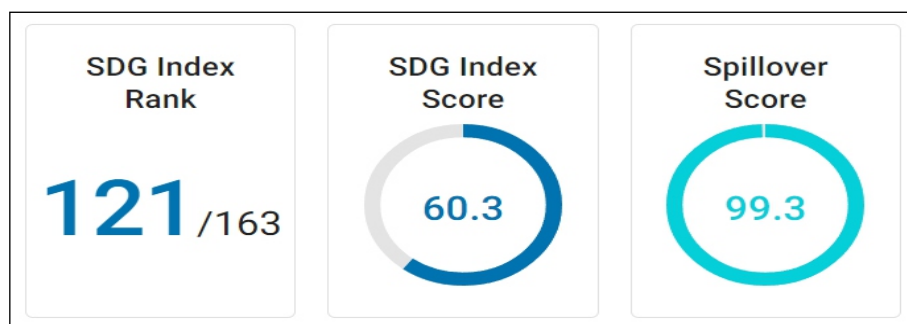
Measure of India's SDG Performance

The world economies are progressing towards 2030 with a hope to achieve the SDG targets through coordinated steps among stakeholders and the promotion of innovative solutions to practical problems with the right intervention of science & technology at the policymaking and implementation level.

The 2022SDG report highlighted the most progressive region as East and South Asia on SDG performance. But at the same time, the multiple humanitarian, military, and environmental urgencies along with the economic slowdown and worsening global debt scenario have put a major setback on SDGs performance in the region. India's performance also has not been untouched by this global scenario and worsened for the next consecutive year.

As per the report, India's ranking in SDG preparedness has been majorly hit by the major challenges faced in 11 SDGs out of 17. Whereas India's performance on SDG 13 related to climate action is right on track and brings motivation as climate action is at the core of most of the SDGs which are interlinked in nature.

Highlights of India's Performance on Global SDG Ranking in 2022

Source: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/india

India's Performance on Sustainable Development Report 2022

SDG#	SDG Goal	India's Performance	Remark
SDG1	No Poverty	The Score is moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Significant challenges remain
SDG2	Zero Hunger	The Score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain
SDG3	Good health and well-being	The Score moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Major challenges remain
SDG4	Quality Education	The Score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Challenges remain
SDG5	Gender Equality	The Score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain
SDG6	Clean Water and Sanitation	The Score moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Major challenges remain
SDG7	Affordable and Clean Energy	The Score moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Significant challenges remain
SDG8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	The Score moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Major challenges remain

SDG 9	Industry, innovation, and infrastructure	The Score moderately improving but insufficient to attain the goal	Major challenges remain
SDG10	Reduced Inequalities	The Score moderately improving but still needs to ensure equal access to opportunities for females, minorities, and transgender	Significant challenges remain
SDG11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Score decreasing	Major challenges remain
SDG12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Performance is on track or maintaining SDG achievement	SDG achieved
SDG13	Climate Action	Performance is on track or maintaining SDG achievement	SDG achieved
SDG14	Life Below Water	The score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain
SDG15	Life on Land	The score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain
SDG16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	The score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain
SDG17	Partnerships for the Goals	The score is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of the required rate	Major challenges remain

India is keeping a close eye on its national SDG progress and thus, the year-wise monitoring of SDG performance on various indicators has been taken by NITI Aayog as a responsible coordinating agency under the Government of India.

It helps India to progress in the right direction and put major efforts into achieving SDG targets well within time. Still, due to its varying diversity and multiple challenges, the overall performance needs an extra push through strategic policy formulation and a new stream of private investment to bring the benefits to the lowest strata of society and make the changes visible along with gearing up for continuous sustainable economic development by 2030.

Year-wise Monitoring on SDG India Index Progress

	Baseline report – 2018	V2.0 report – 2019-20	V3.0 report – 2020-21
	Goal-wise ranking of States/ UTs and overall ranking based on performance on all goals	Promotes competition among the States/ UTs in line with NITI Aayog's approach of competitive federalism	Enable States/ UTs to learn from peers
		Supports States/ UTs in identifying priority areas	Highlights gaps in statistical systems
	13 goals	16 goals + qualitative analysis on goal 17	16 goals + qualitative analysis on Goal 17
	39 targets	54 targets	70 targets
	62 indicators	100 indicators	115 indicators
	Goal-wise ranking on States/ UTs	Goal-wise ranking on States/ UTs + State/ UT profiles	Goal-wise ranking on States/ UTs + State/ UT profiles
	Preceded National Indicator Framework (NIF)	Aligned with NIF: 68 indicators completely aligned, 20 refined, 12 new to cover goals 12, 13, and 14	Aligned with NIF: 76 indicators completely aligned, 31 refined, 8 in consultation with the line ministries

Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723952
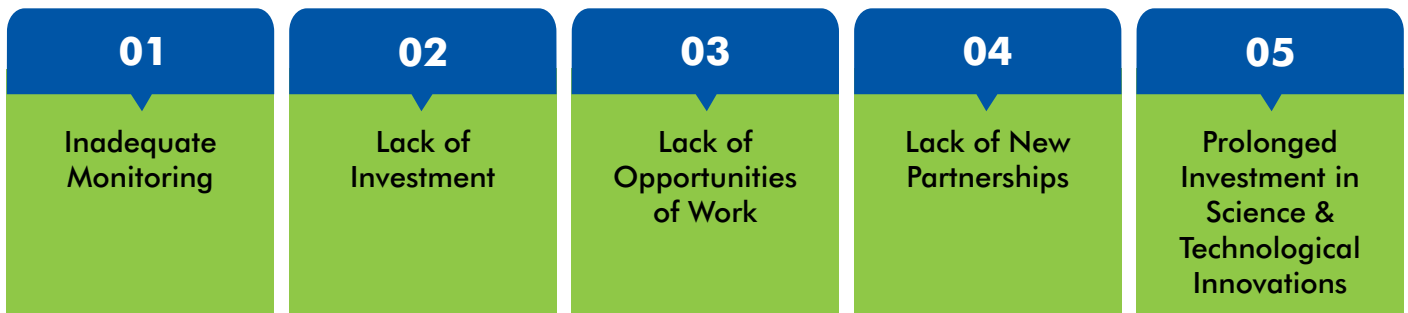
Challenges Limiting India's Performance on SDG

The large population and diverse challenges at the international and national levels are hampering India's long-term strategy to achieve SDG and improve its worsening performance. For this, the government action is dependent on the overall measures taken by states and municipal governments at the local level.
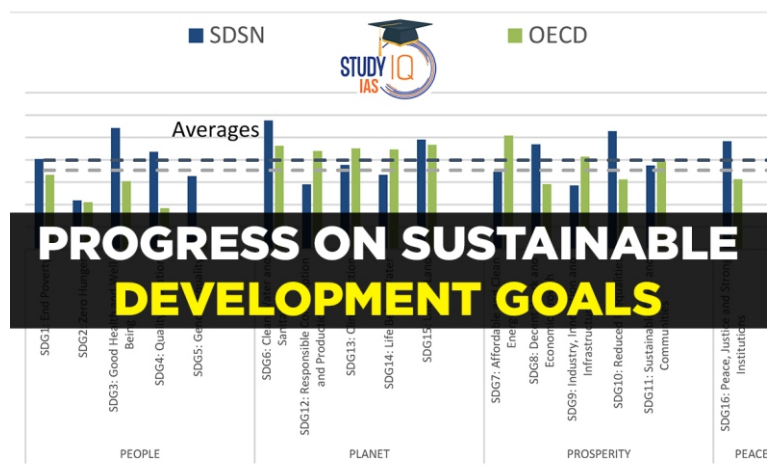
India has faced multiple challenges that are a threat to its preparedness to achieve the SDG targets including a lack of adequate monitoring of cross-dimensional development. At the grass root level, these challenges limit the right measure of performance at various indicators and impact the overall ranking at the global level.

Reasons Responsible for India's Poor SDG Performance
- Limited Manpower Capacity and Investment
- Sluggish Global Growth Rate
- Changing Geopolitical Scenario
- Global Humanitarian Crisis
- Unrealistic Goal Setting
- Linear Computation
- Worsening Performance Post Covid 19
- Monitoring & Ownership of Implementation

Challenges in Achieving India's SDG Target

01	02	03	04	05
Inadequate Monitoring	Lack of Investment	Lack of Opportunities of Work	Lack of New Partnerships	Prolonged Investment in Science & Technological Innovations

Thus, to provide an accelerated response to the efforts of SDG localization and increase the effectiveness of policies, **the Government of India devised new provisions such as increasing the tax devolution to states from 32% to 42% on the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission**. Along with this, the international strategic partnership along with extra-budgetary support towards the basic rights to life such as healthcare, education, food, housing, transport, and employment will impact the overall performance of India and improve its SDG ranking significantly over the years.

PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Impact of Covid-19 on India's SDG Performance

The Covid 19 was not only a global health emergency but it has also brought multi-dimensional implications for human life that severely affected the pace of sustainable development across the globe. This has derailed the progress made by several developing/emerging economies on SDG targets and worsened their progress graph.
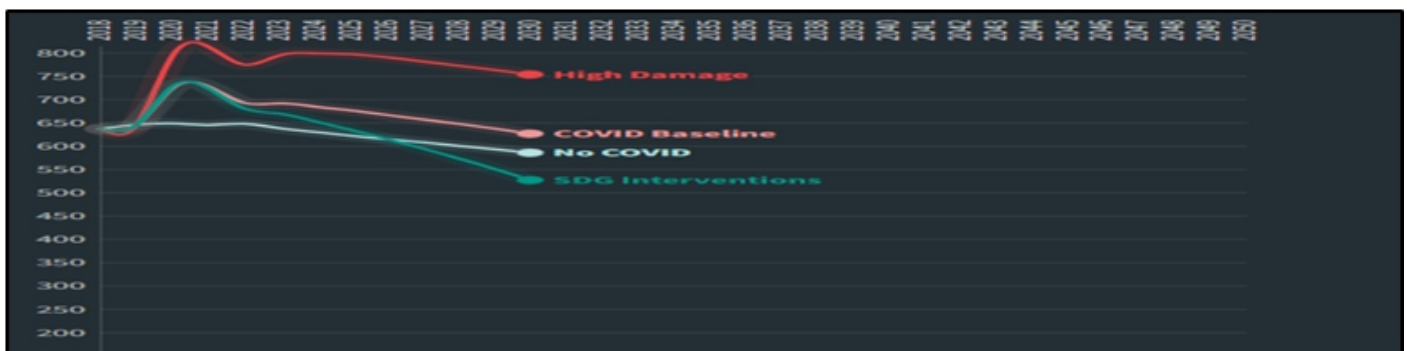
Multifacet Adverse Impacts of Covid-19

Source: https://sdgintegration.undp.org/covid-19

Last few years, post Covid 19 has pushed a large global population into poverty due to loss of employment, and heavy expenditure on healthcare services including others. The impact was severe in the lower and middle-income groups. **As per the study carried out by UNDP, 8 individuals out of 10, will be pushed into poverty because of Covid 19 by 2030**. It will severely impact overall human development across the world.

Estimated Projections of Number of People (In Million) in Poverty in Low and Medium HDI Groups Across World Under Different Scenarios

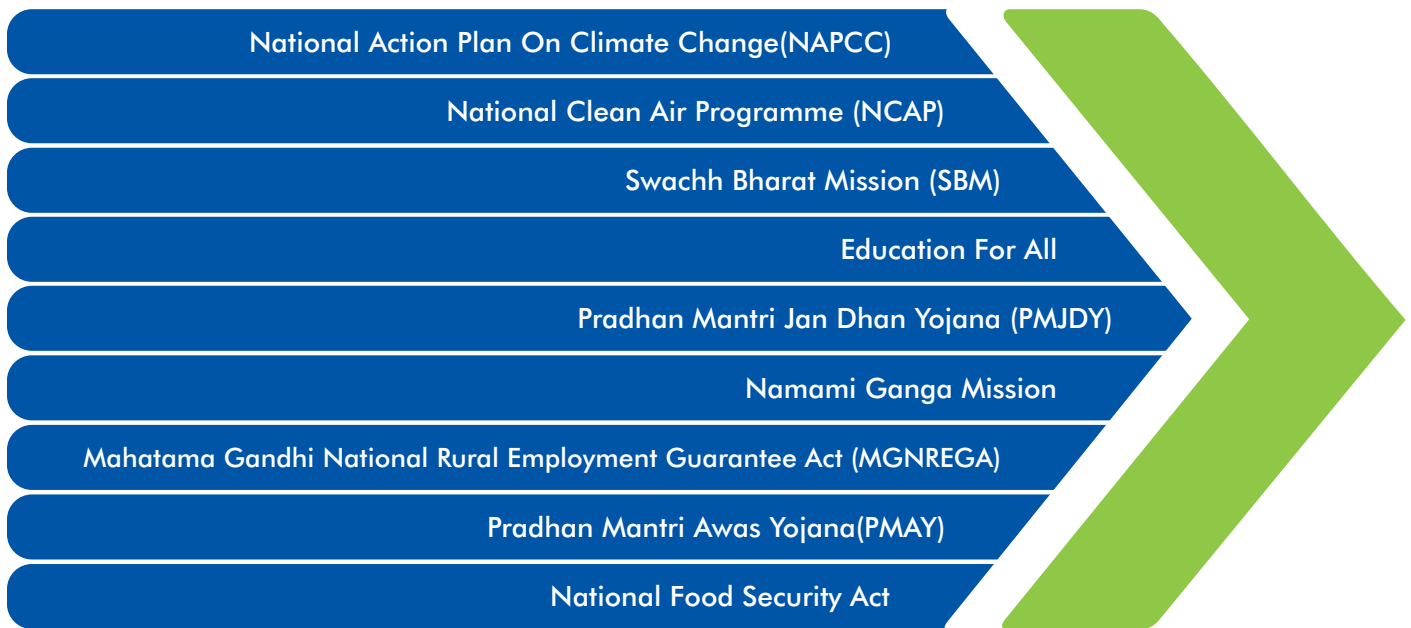Source: https://sdgintegration.undp.org/covid-impact-low-and-medium-hdi-groups

India also has not been untouched by the evil impact of Covid 19 despite fighting fiercely against the pandemic and converting the opportunities in disguise for the betterment of India's economy at large besides fulfilling its welfare commitment to the people in need.

But this historic crisis made an urgent call for action to revisit the global plans to remind everyone that people, the planet, and prosperity are interconnected in this globalization era. The continuous deforestation and illegal wildlife trade across the world can bring threats to human life and accelerate the climate crisis that will increase rampant inequalities in contrast to SDG targets.

Government Policy Landscape to Achieve SDG Targets

India follows an integrated approach to achieve SDG 2030 global agenda by launching a comprehensive policy framework. The present rainbow of government policies and programs is contributing to improving India's global SDG performance significantly and placing India on track for sustainable development.

List Of Major Government Initiatives Towards SDG Targets

- National Action Plan On Climate Change(NAPCC)
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
- Education For All
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Namami Ganga Mission
- Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana(PMAY)
- National Food Security Act

The Government of India has made a considerable effort towards eliminating poverty by pouring in additional public investment in the initiatives such as MGNREGA, PMJDY, PMAY, etc. It has drawn up policies to achieve SDGs while reducing the impact of climate change with NAPCC and NCAP. Besides this, the nationwide Swachh Bharat Campaign has also shown remarkable progress to attain urban and rural sanitation.

India has been progressing fiercely towards attaining the SDG goals. Its progress in achieving a reduction in inequality and life on land is impressive whereas progress in climate change and responsible consumption and production is outstanding. It shows that the comprehensive framework of the Government of India is placed in the right direction to achieve maximum output with limited resources toward SDG goals.

Way Forward

India has deepened its efforts to achieve the target set under 17 SDGs by 2030. Over the last decade, India has moved forward towards the quality of education, life, healthcare, mental well-being, hygiene, and sanitation including the right approach towards the global warming challenges for such a vast population.

Being a supporter of global peace and unity, India is also reiterating its commitment to peaceful solutions to ongoing changing geopolitical and military crises so that the focus can be put on human welfare and economic prosperity across the globe. India is also playing a pivotal role in driving digital transformation across the globe for sustainable development while advocating the elimination of inequalities in all its form.

In this regard, strong institutions, effective legislation, and a comprehensive policy framework including research and development-led innovative solutions will bring new hopes among stakeholders. The global partnership, the right use of data, and the exchange of technical know-how along with attracting major public and private investments in the fundamental areas of sustainable development will be needed to change the scenario for good over the years to help shine India on the charts of SDG achievements.

Introduction to the 2030 Agenda: A New Agenda for a Sustainable World

Expert Insights

Having approached the halfway mark in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals by the UN General Assembly, India reemphasises its unstinting efforts toward achieving the 2030 Agenda. As the countries of the world, with India, not an exception, recover from the unprecedented impact of the pandemic, the SDG framework demands efficient organisation and implementation to solve development challenges across social, economic, and environmental themes –now more than ever.

India, a federal nation, places utmost importance on this and employs the 'whole of government approach' to 'leave no one behind'. Given the geographic and demographic diversities, localised approaches towards planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring become imperative. We are cognizant of our responsibility to understand the local contexts in light of the SDGs - in formulating the relevant indicators, strengthening monitoring and implementation systems, and ensuring robust review and feedback. The targets and indicators defined under the framework give rise to localised policies and initiatives for a sustainable and inclusive future.

Amitabh Kant
Ex- CEO
NITI Aayog

Resources

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AG GROUP

We expand your Horizon

AG was established in the year 1998. In the due course of time AG has become multi-functional, multi-disciplinary organization offering a wide range of consultancy services to multiple sectors for implementation of projects under one roof from "Concept to Commissioning" AG shareholders has track record in the development of mega projects in country & overseas in field of sports, hospitality, tourism, flood management, turf farms, F&B, real estate, fashion & clothing, import & exports, chemical & fertilizers.

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OUR SECTORS

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Aviation	IT & Telecom	Irrigation	Tourism	SDG
Ropeway	Power & Renewable Energy	Agriculture	Education	Carbon Credit
Electric Vehicle	Infrastructure: Highway/Tunnels	Animal Husbandry	Healthcare	Climate Change
Traffic Management		Horticulture & Forestry		

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