United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

An overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India

Dr A. Sudhakar
Associate Professor of Economics
Govt. Arts & Science College (Autonomous)
Kamareddy Dist., Telangana

Article Received:15-11-2024 Article Modified:23-12-2024
Article Accepted:29-12-2024 Article Published:30-12-2024
DOI:10.37854/UIJMR.2024.3.3.205

ABSTRACT

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, an ancient Indian phrase meaning "the world is one family", pithily captures the spirit of India's approach to all aspects of life including economic development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are, thus, part and parcel of the country's longstanding tradition and heritage. Indeed, the goals substantially reflect the development agenda of India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself noted in his speech at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. To quote him, "Much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet." As the fastest growing major economy of the world, today, India is uniquely placed to deliver on its commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. Externally the country has played a key role in shaping the SDGs and ensuring the balance among its three pillars - economic, social and environmental. Internally, it has launched many programs to make progress towards these goals. Notwithstanding its scarce financial resources due to relatively low per-capita income, large population and vast geographical expanse, India is committed to achieving within a short period such ambitious goals as universal rural electrification, road and digital connectivity for all, massive expansions of clean and renewable energy, sanitation and housing for all and universal elementary school education. Taking cue from the memorable phrase Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, translated as "Collective Effort, Inclusive Development" and enunciated by the Prime Minister, stakeholders from various walks of life - central and state governments, industry, civil society, technical experts and academics - are coming together to promote a better future for the country. This research paper explores an overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Inclusive Development, Sustainable Economic Growth, Environmental Sustainability, India's Development Agenda.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

Introduction

India is a country with a variety of ethnicities, religions, climatic conditions, and terrain. Its states have variability across various dimensions. So due to its uniqueness, a single approach towards development, more precisely sustainable development, would not be appropriate to address the developmental concerns and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Multiple approaches, depending upon the necessity of each state or region, are required to ensure effective and inclusive development. This could involve tailoring policies and strategies to suit the specific needs and challenges faced by different states, considering factors such as population density, economic potential, and the natural resources available. By adopting a decentralized approach that takes into account the diverse characteristics of each region, India can better promote sustainable development and ensure that no state or community is left behind in its pursuit of progress. There are several approaches for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 integrated and interrelated goals that showcase a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address global challenges like poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice, protecting the planet, and ensure that humanity enjoys peace and prosperity by 2030. India committed to these SDGs at the September 2015 UN Summit and the SDGs officially came into force on 1 January 2016. Within India, the primary think tank of the Indian government, NITI Aayog, has been entrusted for coordinating the SDGs, mapping schemes related to the SDGs and their targets, and designating lead and supporting ministries for each target.

Why had India opted for SDGs?

India has opted for SDG's, related schemes, programs, initiatives, their assessment and improvements are in process. We can visit NITI Aayog portal and get all updates. "Just as our vision behind Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals are comprehensive. It gives priority to the problems that have endured through the past decades. And it reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives. The sustainable

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet." – Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India(United Nations In India, n.d.)

Significance of SDGs in India

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are profoundly significant for India because they offer a comprehensive, localized, and globally aligned framework to address its multi-dimensional challenges of poverty, inequality, and sustainable development. Given its large population, India's progress on the SDGs is crucial not only for its own future but also for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda globally.

Importance for national development

A holistic roadmap: The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets provide a holistic development blueprint that addresses economic, social, and environmental issues in an integrated manner, moving beyond India's previous focus on purely economic growth.

Localization and competitive federalism: The NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, launched in 2018, is a crucial monitoring tool that tracks progress at the state and union territory level. This has several benefits:

Encourages competition: It fosters healthy competition among states, pushing them to improve their scores and performance.

Informs policy: It provides valuable data and insights to help policymakers identify developmental gaps and formulate targeted interventions.

Promotes learning: It facilitates knowledge sharing and mutual learning by showcasing best practices.

Alignment with national priorities: The SDGs have been integrated with flagship government programs like the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Ayushman Bharat. This aligns global targets with national priorities and enhances effectiveness.

Progress and specific achievements

India has shown significant progress in several areas, as highlighted by its improving SDG India Index scores (rising from 57 in 2018 to 71 in 2023–2024).

Poverty reduction (SDG 1): Targeted interventions have lifted an estimated 24.8 crore people out of multi-dimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23.

Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7): India has achieved a high score of 96 on this goal for 2023–24, with major growth in renewable energy capacity.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

Climate action (SDG 13): The country has shown substantial improvement, becoming a "Front Runner" in this category due to robust climate policies.

Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6): Initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have improved access to sanitation and tap water connections in rural areas.

Persisting challenges

Despite the progress, India faces persistent challenges in achieving all SDG targets by 2030.

Poverty and inequality: Economic disparities and social inequalities, both between and within regions, continue to impact overall SDG progress. Some states still lag significantly behind the national average.

Financing gaps: There is a significant annual SDG financing gap, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Inadequate public and private investment, particularly for non-climate goals, presents a major hurdle.

Environmental degradation: Rapid industrialization and urbanization threaten India's rich biodiversity and ecosystems. Issues like air and water pollution and deforestation continue to pose significant challenges.

Social security for workers: More than half of regular wage earners in the non-agricultural sector lack social security benefits, revealing gaps in protecting vulnerable populations.

Review of Literature

In relevance to the SDG of “Sustainable Cities,” (Koch and Ahmad 2018) conducted a comparable analysis on the development of the theory of sustainable cities across India and Germany. The variables of resilience, safety, and progressiveness were all taken into account in the research.

In terms of the SDG of “decent work and economic growth,” construction is the most intimidating task of any nation. The financing issue for big projects is now being addressed through the Ppp framework, and the development, reasoning, advantages, and problems of the PPP model for large infrastructure projects such as Indian airports have been investigated (Kaur and Prashanthi 2015).

The challenges and opportunities of mines in India, as well as the opportunities for sustainable environmental activities in India, were investigated (Gupta and Raghuwanshi 2015). (R Sharma and Newman 2017) considered the effect of rail transit in the viable growth of Indian cities, and (Sinha, Sadhukhan, and Priye 2017) investigated and dealt out the critical appraisal of sustainable bus lines in Patna.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

In relation to the SDG of "Life on Land," (Aggarwal 2014) investigated the fiscal, cultural, and ecological problems of four identified Forest cleaning growth frameworks, several of those were deemed to be unsustainable in the long term. The research also discovered that the plantations seen in these ventures had a series of adverse social and ecological consequences in the longer term.

(Byravan et al. 2017) investigated India's effort and performance in emissions reduction with respect to NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) goals and discovered that India is advancing favorably toward the 2030 renewable energy targets.

The susceptibility of Tamil Nadu's coastal areas to climate changes was investigated using groundwater resources, fishing, and agriculture as factors (Ramachandran et al. 2016). Each town's highly sensitive component was found, and or the corrective tactics to be implemented with each were prioritized.

The possibilities for Indo-China collaboration in technology and science for the environmental sustainability of specific Himalayan areas were investigated (E. Sharma 2017). Furthermore, the common ground and cooperation involving India and the EU in terms of environmental sustainability reforms was thoroughly researched (Prasad 2017).

The involvement of financial institutions in promoting female entrepreneurs and strengthening equality between the sexes in enterprise was investigated (Deepa 2014). The thesis of (Lalneihzovi 2015) recorded an interpretative analysis on empowering of Mizoram's local people in relation to the United nations sustainable development goals of "equality."

The accomplishment of using software to monitor water concentration, Geo information technology in groundwater sources prospective sensing in a micro basin in Tirunelveli was undertaken by (Narmada, Gobinath, and Bhaskarana 2015), as well as a strong correlation on the Amravati River area was carried by (Gobinath , Narmada, and Bhaskarana 2015). (Anbazhagan and Jothibasu 2016).

Statement of the Problem

In an overview of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the problem can be stated as the persistent challenge of balancing rapid economic growth with inclusive development and environmental sustainability. Despite significant progress in key areas like poverty reduction and clean energy, India faces crucial hurdles such as deep-seated inequalities, high rates of malnutrition, and severe environmental degradation that risk hindering its ambition to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

Objectives of the study

- To explain the Status of 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025
- To describe the an overview of 17 SDGs in India.
- To examine the various Initiatives improved Ranking in SDGs Performance achieving SDGs in India
- To discuss the Factors are Responsible for the Slow Progress in Achieving SDGs
- To find out the Which Strategies Can be Adopted to Achieve SDGs

Research Methodology

It is descriptive research. Secondary sources were chosen for this study. The data taken from various books, journals, articles, and websites, as well as government reports, are referred to in this research paper.

Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals

The adoption of 17 SDGs in 2015 marked a paradigm shift in how the world understood and prepared itself to pursue the development agenda. India continues to wholeheartedly accept, engage, and progress with the idea of SDG implementation. Our timely submission of Voluntary National Reviews of 2017, 2020 and 2023 [189] and the adoption of the SDG Index [190] reflect India's commitment to the cause. The call for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 lay the roadmap for achieving the SDGs.

A 'whole-of-the-government' strategy with an emphasis on cooperative and competitive federalism among states is being followed. The 'collaborative competition' approach, supported by comparative rankings on SDG progress, has generated momentum among states and complements the strategy.

There is a global shift towards the 'localisation' of SDGs to achieve the goals by 2030 and increase the rate and impact of progress. SDG localisation is the process of adapting and customising these goals and translating them into local development plans and strategies that fit the needs, context and priorities of a particular region or locality in coherence with national frameworks (United Nations, 2024). 191 This approach places local communities at the centre of sustainable development and anchors development action on the principles of subsidiarity, inclusion, partnership and multilevel governance, with adequate data and financing availability at the local level.

In India, state governments have been proactive and have laid out strategies and frameworks for achieving SDGs at various administrative levels. Some states have extended their indicator frameworks to the district and block levels, ensuring that local budgets align with SDG objectives. This multi-layered approach to SDG implementation is based on the Indian model of

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

SDG Localisation 192, comprising **four key pillars:** creating institutional ownership, fostering collaborative competition, enhancing capacities, and embracing a whole-of-society approach.

The government's focus on rural infrastructure, housing, and livelihoods reflects a comprehensive 'welfare for all' approach. By improving rural connectivity, sanitation, housing, access to drinking water, and social inclusion, alongside supporting microfinance, SHGs, and localisation of SDGs, these initiatives ensure inclusive development. Together, they uplift rural communities, bridging gaps in equity and quality of life.

Status of 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025

- According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025, **India ranks 99th in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, marking its first time in the top 100 out of 167 countries with a score of 67.**
- The score measures progress on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 indicates a country has achieved all 17 goals and 0 means no progress has been made.
- This shows a significant improvement from its previous rankings (**e.g.,109th in 2024, 112th in 2023)** in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index.

Key Findings of the 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025

- **Global SDG Progress Status:** Projections show that only 17% of SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030, highlighting a significant slowdown in global progress.
- This stagnation is driven by **conflicts**, **structural vulnerabilities**, and **limited fiscal space**, which continue to hinder effective SDG implementation.
- **Top Performers:** Nordic countries lead the SDGs rankings, with **Finland (1st)**, **Sweden (2nd)**, and **Denmark (3rd)**; notably, **19 out of the top 20 countries are European.**
- **East and South Asia** have shown the **fastest regional progress since 2015**—**India** ranks ahead of **Bangladesh (114th)** and **Pakistan (140th)** but trails **Bhutan (74th)**, **Nepal (85th)**, **Sri Lanka (93rd)**, and **Maldives (53rd)**.
- **Successes & Setbacks in SDGs:** Most countries have made strong progress on **basic services and infrastructure**—notably in **mobile broadband** and **internet use (SDG 9)**, **electricity access (SDG 7)**, and reducing **under-five** and **neonatal mortality (SDG 3)**.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

- However, **five targets** have seen significant reversals since 2015: **obesity rate (SDG 2)**, **press freedom (SDG 16)**, **nitrogen management (SDG 2)**, **Red List Index (SDG 15)**, and **corruption perception (SDG 16)**.
- **Ranking on Multilateralism: Barbados**, **Jamaica**, and **Trinidad & Tobago** are the top 3 countries most committed to **UN multilateralism**.
- Brazil ranks highest among G20 nations (25th), and Chile leads Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries (7th), while the United States ranks last (193rd) for the second consecutive year due to its opposition to the SDGs and withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Strong Commitment to SDGs:** A decade into Agenda 2030 (2015-25), 190 of 193 UN member states have participated in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, sharing their SDG progress and priorities.
- Only Haiti, Myanmar, and the United States have not participated.

Global Financial Architecture: The report criticizes the broken Global Financial Architecture (GFA), highlighting that capital disproportionately flows to rich nations, neglecting emerging and developing economies (EMDEs).

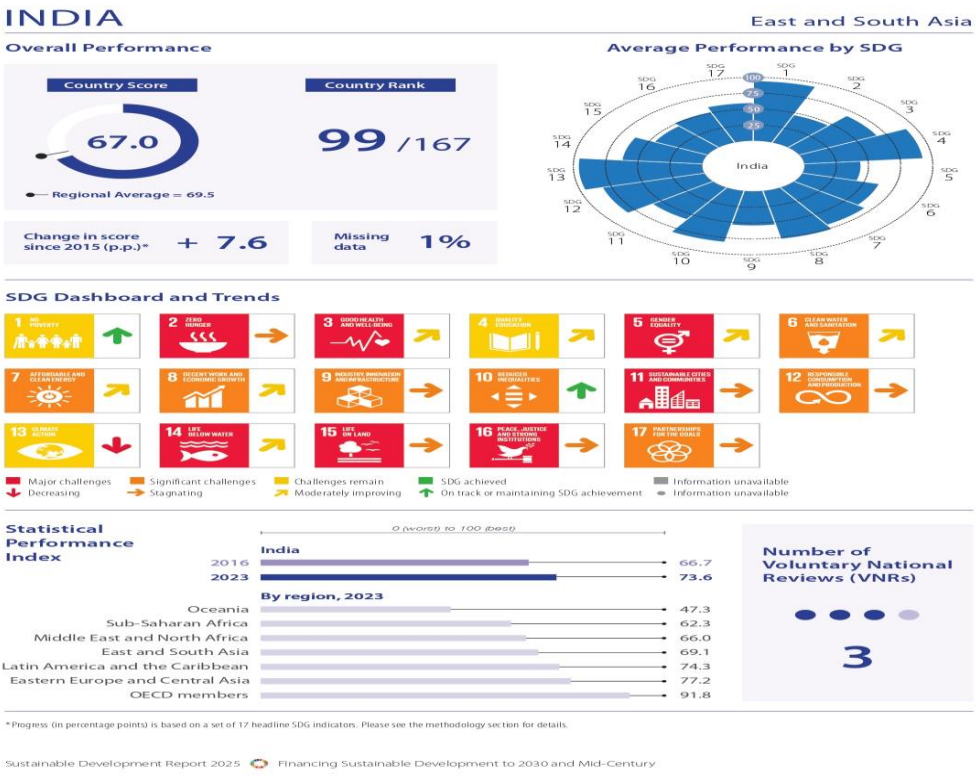


United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024



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

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024



An overview of 17 Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)in India.

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprise 17 interconnected goals (169 targets) aimed at tackling major global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.
- They were adopted in 2015 by 193 UN Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Aim: The SDGs aim to foster peace, prosperity, and sustainability by 2030 through global cooperation.

Historical Background: The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as development that meets present needs without compromising future generations.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

- In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted to tackle poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and gender inequality, with targets set for 2015 based on 1990 levels.
- In 2002, the Johannesburg Declaration at Rio+10 reviewed the outcomes of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- In 2012, the Rio+20 Summit laid the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a more comprehensive global development agenda.

Core Principles of SDGs:

Universality: Applicable to all countries, developed and developing.

Integration: Goals are interlinked; progress in one supports others.

Leave No One Behind: Prioritizes marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Multi-StakeholderApproach: Requires collective action by governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens.

Monitoring: The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) assesses progress every 4 years.

Supporting Agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction strengthens disaster resilience
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing sustainable development
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change for combating climate change**.**

Which Initiatives have Contributed to India's Improved Ranking in SDG Performance?

SDGs	Goal Title	**Key Government Initiatives**
SDG 1	**No poverty**	• Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for affordable housing for the poor • MGNREGA for guaranteed rural employment • PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for financial inclusion
SDG 2	**Zero hunger**	• Poshan Abhiyaan to tackle malnutrition National Food Security Act (NFSA) for subsidized food grains • PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for free food during Covid-19

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

SDG 3	**Good health and wellbeing**	• Mission Indradhanush for child & maternal immunization Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) provide Rs 5 lakh health cover • National Health Mission (NHM) 2013 for improved health
SDG 4	**Quality education**	• Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for holistic school education • National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 for digital & skill-based education • DIKSHA Platform for online learning
SDG 5	**Gender equality**	Focusing on women's empowerment, including skill development, promoting women's entrepreneurship, increasing access to technology and financial services, implementing legal reforms for property rights, strengthening women's participation in decision-making, and combating violence and harmful practices like child marriage. Programs like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) also contribute by improving health and education outcomes for girls.
SDG 6	**Clean water and sanitation**	• Swachh Bharat Mission helped achieve ODF status • Jal Jeevan Mission provide piped water supply • Namami Gange for Ganga river rejuvenation
SDG 7	**Affordable and clean energy**	• UJALA Scheme for LED distribution • Saubhagya Scheme for universal electricity access

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

SDG 8	**Decent work and economic growth**	• Make in India boosts manufacturing • Startup India promotes innovation • Skill India Mission provides vocational training • PM Internship Scheme offers internships to 1 crore students over 5 years
SDG 9	**Industry, innovation and infrastructure**	• Infrastructure projects like BharatNet for broadband and the Smart Cities Mission, manufacturing promotion through programs such as Make in India, and innovation support via Startup India and the Atal Innovation Mission. • India has launched several initiatives to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, which focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. The national think tank, NITI Aayog, is the nodal agency for monitoring and coordinating these efforts.
SDG 10	**Reduced inequalities**	• India has launched a range of initiatives to address the different dimensions of inequality covered by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, which aims to reduce inequalities within and among countries. These initiatives target economic, social, and political inclusion for marginalized groups, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women, and persons with disabilities. • **Economic and financial inclusion** • **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):** This program provides universal access to banking facilities, opening bank

		accounts for historically unbanked populations and enabling the direct transfer of government benefits. Over 55.69 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened as of July 2025. • **Stand-Up India and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**: These schemes provide access to institutional finance for aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly targeting women and entrepreneurs from SC and ST communities. • **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** This food security initiative provides free food grains to over 80 crore people, ensuring access to basic sustenance for the poor and vulnerable. • **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana**: This scheme provides an assured pension for small and marginal farmers, contributing to income security. • **PM Vishwakarma Yojana**: This initiative supports traditional artisans and craftspeople, who are often from marginalized communities, providing them with training, toolkit incentives, and marketing support. • **Social and regional inclusion** • **Social security schemes:** Initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana offer affordable life and accident insurance, while the Atal Pension Yojana provides pensions for unorganized workers. • **Healthcare programs**: Ayushman Bharat is the world's largest health protection scheme, providing health insurance to millions of vulnerable families to reduce the economic burden of healthcare costs.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

		• **Digital India**: By improving digital infrastructure and connectivity, this program helps bridge the urban-rural divide and facilitates access to government services and economic opportunities. • **Skill development programs:** The Skill India Mission provides vocational training to marginalized groups, enhancing their employability and income potential. • **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:** This legislation prohibits discrimination against transgender individuals and requires establishments to develop inclusive equal opportunity policies. Initiatives also include providing multi-purpose ID cards for transgender persons to enable access to schemes and services. • **Reservation policies**: Reservation quotas for SCs and STs in government jobs, educational institutions, and political representation are constitutional measures to address historical inequality
SDG 11	**Sustainable cities and communities**	• Smart Cities Mission to develop 100 sustainable cities • AMRUT for urban infrastructure improvement
SDG 12	**Responsible consumption and production**	
SDG 13	**Climate action**	• National Action Plan on Climate Change (e.g., Green India Mission) • International Solar Alliance (ISA)

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

SDG 14	**Life below water**	
SDG 15	**Life on land**	• Project Tiger & Project Elephant for Wildlife protection • CAMPA – Compensatory afforestation fund • Soil Health Card Scheme for soil conservation • National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for eco-restoration of degraded forests • Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to conserve biological resources, ensure their sustainable use
SDG 16	**Peace and justice**	• Digital India and Police Modernisation for transparent governance.
SDG 17	**Partnerships for goals**	• International Big Cat Alliance to protect and conserve seven major big cat species • CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) to promote resilient infrastructure development • Quad Cancer Moon shot for cervical cancer prevention and treatment.

An overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India

India's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is central to its national development strategy, with NITI Aayog coordinating efforts at both national and state levels. The country has shown significant progress in specific areas, including poverty reduction, clean energy, and sanitation, largely driven by large-scale government programs. However, challenges remain, particularly concerning inequality, environmental degradation, and the need for enhanced data collection.

India's progress on SDGs

India has demonstrated notable improvement across several SDGs, reflected in a rising national score and increased performance by states and union territories (UTs).

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

Overall performance

- **Improved national score:** India's overall SDG score rose from 57 in 2018 to 71 in 2023–24, as measured by the SDG India Index.
- **Increased "Front Runner" states:** In the latest index, 32 states and UTs are in the "Front Runner" category (score of 65-99), a significant increase from 22 in 2020–21.
- **Global ranking:** India's global ranking in the Sustainable Development Report also improved to 99th out of 167 countries in 2025, up from 109th in 2024.

Performance by key goals (2023–24)

- **SDG 1 (No Poverty):** A major success story, with the score improving significantly. Multidimensional poverty nearly halved from 24.8% in 2015–16 to 11.28% in 2022–23.
- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Saw the highest score among all SDGs, with 100% household electrification achieved under the Saubhagya Scheme. Renewable energy capacity has also grown dramatically.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** All individual household toilets were constructed in rural areas under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Tap water access has also expanded through the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** The score improved significantly, with progress in waste processing and door-to-door waste collection in urban areas.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** India showed substantial progress, advancing into the "Front Runner" category. It has also significantly increased its share of renewable energy in electricity generation.

Government initiatives supporting SDGs

The Indian government has aligned its flagship programs with the SDGs to ensure their successful implementation.

- **Poverty and financial inclusion:** The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has extended banking services, while the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) offers employment to rural families.
- **Health and sanitation:** The Ayushman Bharat scheme provides extensive health coverage. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) focuses on sanitation, and the Jal Jeevan Mission aims to deliver tap water to all households.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

- **Affordable housing and energy**: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana provides housing for all. Schemes like Saubhagya and Ujjwala have increased access to electricity and clean cooking fuel.
- **Economic growth and employment:** Programs like Start-up India and PM Mudra Yojana support entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities.

Key policy initiatives fueling progress

The SDG achievements are largely a result of dedicated schemes and policies implemented by the Indian government.

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:** Provides housing assistance to rural and urban poor.
- **Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY**: Offers health insurance coverage to crores of beneficiaries.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA):** Ensures food security for over 80 crore people.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** Boosts financial inclusion through direct benefit transfers.
- **Skill India Mission:** Aims to provide skills training to millions of young people.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Provides tap water connections to households.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Focuses on sanitation and waste management

Remaining challenges and areas for improvement

- Despite overall progress, certain areas lag behind and face significant hurdles.
- **Gender equality (SDG 5):** This is one of the lowest-scoring goals, indicating a persistent need to address issues such as sex ratio at birth and female labor force participation.
- **Reduced inequalities (SDG 10):** The index for this goal has seen a slight decline in points, reflecting persistent disparities in employment and opportunities, especially for marginalized communities.
- **Data collection and monitoring:** Gaps in periodic and reliable data at the state and district levels hinder effective monitoring and evaluation.
- **Sub-national disparities:** While top-performing states like Kerala and Uttarakhand lead the way, some states, particularly in the northeast, continue to struggle and require more intensive intervention.
- **Implementation gaps:** Ineffective policy implementation at the grassroots level, alongside governance and institutional challenges, remains a significant barrier

Challenges to SDG implementation

Despite significant progress, India faces key challenges that threaten to derail the 2030 agenda, especially concerning equity and sustainability.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

- **Inequality:** Deep-seated disparities persist, particularly in marginalized communities and vulnerable groups. This is reflected in stagnating or declining scores for SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) in several states.
- **Environmental issues:** High levels of pollution, particularly in urban areas, threaten targets for clean air and sustainable cities.
- **Data and monitoring gaps:** Inconsistent and unreliable data collection at the local level hinders effective tracking of progress and targeted policy interventions.
- **Governance and coordination**: Fragmented decision-making across multiple government agencies can lead to inefficient policy implementation and a lack of coordination.
- **Fiscal limitations:** A persistent gap in funding, compounded by the slow mobilization of international finance, constrains the resources needed to meet ambitious SDG targets.
- **Sub-national disparities:** Performance varies significantly among states, with some like Kerala and Uttarakhand leading, while others such as Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nagaland lag behind.

The path forward

To accelerate progress towards its 2030 goals, India is focusing on strategic measures.

Localizing SDGs: The implementation strategy emphasizes "localisation," making states and districts key stakeholders. Indices at the state and district levels foster a spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism.

Strengthening data systems: Building robust, real-time data frameworks is crucial for effective monitoring, evaluation, and policy course correction.

Balancing growth with sustainability: Future efforts will require a conscious approach to ensure economic growth is inclusive and environmentally sustainable, addressing trade-offs between different goals.

Improving public participation: Increasing public awareness and engaging more stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, is necessary for sustained momentum.

Factors are Responsible for the Slow Progress in Achieving SDGs

- **Global Conflicts:** Ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and other regions have triggered the largest global displacement crisis, with over 120 million people forcibly displaced, significantly undermining progress toward SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

- **Climate Finance Gap:** The UNFCCC estimates that developing nations require USD 6 trillion by 2030 to meet climate goals; however, a severe funding shortfall threatens to derail progress on SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- **Pandemic Setback:** The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted global development, reversing progress on poverty eradication (SDG 1), weakening healthcare systems (SDG 3), and halting education access (SDG 4).
- It also slowed clean energy investments in developing nations, hindering progress on SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
- **Environmental Pressures:** Escalating challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation are threatening ecosystems, with the IPCC warning that up to 99% of coral reefs could be lost at 2°C warming, severely impacting SDG 14 (Life Below Water).
- **Disasters:** Frequent natural disasters—including floods, heatwaves, and droughts—are taking a heavy toll, with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) bearing 6.9% of global economic disaster losses between 2015 and 2022, further worsening poverty and vulnerability, thereby hindering progress on SDG 1 (No Poverty).

What Strategies Can Be Adopted to Achieve SDGs?

- **Strengthen Global Governance:** To advance the SDGs, it is essential to reform multilateral institutions like the UN, World Bank, and IMF to enhance support for SDG financing and policy alignment and promote SDG-based trade agreements that encourage fair and sustainable trade, such as carbon-neutral supply chains.
- Strengthen real-time SDG tracking, enable citizen audits (e.g., Uganda), and mandate ESG disclosures for corporate accountability.
- **Increase Financing for SDGs:** Expand mechanisms like Green Bonds and Blended Finance (mixing public and private funds), provide debt relief to developing nations to free up resources for SDG implementation and redirect harmful subsidies from fossil fuels toward renewable energy and healthcare.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Promote regenerative farming through agroecology to restore soil health and reduce emissions, and address the 30% global food waste by improving storage, transportation, and policies.
- **Localise the SDGs:** Empower local governments and communities to adopt and execute SDG-linked plans, develop district-level action plans with adequate funding and monitoring mechanisms, and promote community participation in both planning and accountability processes.

United International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (UIJMR)
An International Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal
ISSN: 3048-6726 www.uijmr.in Impact Factor: 6.934 (SJIF) Vol-1,Issue-3 ;Dec),2024

India's entry into the top 100 of the SDG Index highlights progress in poverty reduction, healthcare, and clean energy. However, global challenges like conflicts, climate finance gaps, and pandemic setbacks threaten progress. Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires urgent multilateral cooperation, financing reforms, local engagement, and focused implementation strategies.

Conclusion

India will continue to pursue the implementation of the SDG agenda through close collaboration between the national and sub-national governments as well as active participation of all other relevant stakeholders. Biannual reviews will be conducted with the state governments for identifying good practices as well as challenges and undertaking the appropriate course corrections. The SDG implementation process has started yielding valuable insights. Documentation and dissemination of such experiences, coupled with the extension of technical support for resolving problem areas, will be the key functions of a knowledge management system to be coordinated at the national level. Relevant ministries and stakeholders for each of the SDGs have already been identified. Given the interconnectedness of the SDGs, relevant strategies for enabling collaboration among different actors will be developed as part of the overall implementation process. Additionally, consultations and capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels will be continued. Expertise provided by different stakeholders is being leveraged for carrying out various exercises (e.g., planning, modelling, monitoring) related to the implementation of the SDG agenda. In order to promote systematic and regular access to such knowledge, NITI Aayog is promoting a national network of resource institutions called Samavesh. Apart from integrating the SDGs into its ongoing national and sub-national policies and programmes, India will continue to focus on nurturing partnerships at the regional and global levels. It will work towards ensuring a greater flow of finances and technology from developed countries – in alignment with their explicit commitment in the context of the 2030 Agenda – to developing and least developed nations. India believes that with combined and sustained efforts at the national and global levels, it will indeed be possible to eradicate poverty and ensure a prosperous world for all.

References

Anita, N. (2011). India's progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 36, 85–92.

Kapur, A. (2015). Four challenges that India faces in achieving sustainable development goals. Business Standard.

Chaudhuri, R. N. (2015). Millennium development goals to sustainable development goals: Journey continues for a better world. Indian Journal of Public Health, 59(4), 255.

David, M. P. C. (2018). Sustainable development goals (SDGs)—Challenges for India. Indian Journal of Public Health Research & Development, 9(3), 1–5.

United Nations. (n.d.). India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16693India.pdf

International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT). (2021). Research article (IJCRT2105542). https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2105542.pdf

Sustainable Development Solutions Network. (n.d.). Sustainable Development Report dashboard. https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/

Drishti IAS. (2025). 10th Sustainable Development Report 2025. https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/10th-sustainable-development-report-2025

NITI Aayog. (2024). SDG India Index: Baseline report 2023–24.

NITI Aayog. (2022). The Indian model of localization.

Maurya, R. K. (2015). National implementation of SDG monitoring in India. United Nations Statistics Division. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/