

Sustainable Development Goals in Context to India- The 2030 Agenda

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Abstract: *The agenda 2030 is greatest challenges and their impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve their sustainable goals. Beyond the environmental threats humanity faces other serious threats that are part of SDGs like overgrowing population, Hunger, Gender inequality, lack of shelter, poverty, access to health, safe drinking water, depleting natural resources like fossil fuels etc. In Indian perspectives to achieve the specific target related to sustainable goals concerned ministry of Central government and State government are responsible for it. The responsible agencies calculate the requirement of budget, prepare plan and submit to concerned government or ministry. If the proposal is accept with any modification then the plans are approved to work. During the preparation of any plans the agenda 2030 and its criteria are major challenges and need to invest more to achieve the target. NITI Ayog, Government of India has led the process of NVRs Preparation and focusing on Goal 1, 2, 3, 9, 14 and 17 for year 2017-18.*

Keywords: Sustainable development goals (SDGs), poverty, Hunger, Health, Equality

1. Introduction

Our central challenge for the 21st century is to develop economic, social development without any compromise. The major targets of Indian government are to eradicate poverty and hunger without any damage to environment and industrial growth. The new 2030 agenda is greatest challenge to achieve sustainable development goals. Beyond the environmental threats humanity faces other serious threats that are part of SDGs like overgrowing population, Hunger, Gender inequality, lack of shelter, poverty, access to health, safe drinking water, depleting natural resources like fossil fuels etc.

The health goal will need a major effort in addressing non-communicable diseases and accidents and injuries while sustaining efforts to address maternal and child health and nutrition.

Key features of UNs Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1. End poverty; 2. End hunger achieves food security and improved nutrition, promotes sustainable agriculture. 3. Ensure healthy lives; 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities; 5. Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls; 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy; 8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work; 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive, sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; 10. Reduce inequality among and within countries, 11. Make cities and human settlements Sustainable, safe, Inclusive and resilient; 12. Ensure consumption and production patterns sustainable; 13. Combat climate change and its impacts urgently; 14. Conservation and sustainable use of the marine resources; 15. To protect terrestrial ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity, reduce desertification

sustainable use of forest resources; 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions; 17. Implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Implementation of 2030 agenda in India

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 NITI Ayog (national Institute for Transforming India) is formulating a Vision 2030 documents to achieve UNs 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and gives a 15 year vision, 7-strategies and 3-year action plan for the country. The NITI Aayog for vision of India by 2031-32, we must transform India into a prosperous, highly educated, healthy, secure, corruption free, energy abundantly, environmentally clean and globally influential nation.

India has played an important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals. India has been effectively committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even before they were fully crystallized. As one of the countries that have volunteered to take part in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017, India appreciates the focus on ‘Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world’. The memorable phrase of our honorable prime minister Mr Narendra Modi “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas” translated as “Collective Effort, Inclusive Development”. The NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the Government of India, has recently released a draft Three-Year Action Agenda covering years 2017-18 to 2019-20. The work on a 15-Year Vision and 7-year strategy document is in advanced stages. The NITI Aayog is to provide the overall coordination and leadership. The institution has carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 Goals and 169 targets to Nodal Central Ministries, centrally Sponsored Schemes and major government initiatives.

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Most sub-national governments have carried out a similar mapping of the SDGs and targets to the departments and programmes in their respective states. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has developed a list of draft national indicators in light of the global SDG indicators. Several of the Government's programmes would directly contribute to advancement of the SDG agenda. As per report of GOI to United Nations the NITI Ayog has led the process of NVRs Preparation and focusing on Goal 1, 2, 3, 9, 14 and 17 for current year. Following are action plan of GOI to achieve specific goal

Goal 1: Poverty has fallen across all economic, social and religious groups nationally and in all states in the post-reform era. Sustained growth (6.2% from 1993-94 to 2003-04 and 8.3% from 2004-05 to 2011-12) has created gainful employment and helped raise wages thereby directly empowering the poor. It has also brought the government an increased volume of revenues enabling it to sustain a high level of social spending and, thus, doubling the direct effect of growth on poverty. Several large-scale anti-poverty programmes have been implemented e. g. MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act) Programmes are also being implemented for ensuring access to education, health and nutrition security, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women and children. Other priority areas are drinking water and sanitation. Nearly 77.5% of rural habitations are being provided with 40 litres of drinking water per capita on a daily basis. Partially another 18.9% habitations have been covered. Over 63.7% of households in rural areas had access to an improved sanitation facility in 2016-17 as compared to 29.1% in 2005-06. With respect to clean sources of cooking fuel, over 22 million families have been provided with Liquefied Petroleum Gas connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. From 2005-06 and 2015-16, households having access to clean fuel has increased from 25.5% to 43.8%.

Goal 2: To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Significant progress has been made in improving food and nutrition security. Children less than 5 years have declined from 48% to 38.4% between 2005-06 and 2015-16. During the same period, the percentage of underweight children has declined from 42.5% to 35.7%. The Mid-Day-Meal programme is providing nutritious cooked meals to 100 million children in primary schools. A comprehensive plan is also being implemented for doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Goal 3: The Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 57 in 2005-06 to 41 in 2015-16. Likewise, institutional deliveries have increased from 38.7% in 2005-06 to 78.9% in 2015-16. The country's strategy in health is focused on providing essential services to the entire population, with a special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable groups. The government is aiming to immunize all unimmunized and partially immunized children against vaccine preventable diseases by 2020. Towards achieving universal health coverage, a health insurance cover of INR 100, 000 (USD 1, 563) is being extended to all poor families.

Goal 5: The women were 68.4% literate in 2015-16, as compared to 55.1% in 2005-06. Likewise, 53% of women were independently using a bank or savings account in 2015-16, which is a significant improvement from 15.1% in 2005-06. Numerous measurements have been put in place for promoting gender equality. E. g., the Beti Bachao Beti Padoo (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child)

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. All forms of transportation-roads, railways, civil aviation and waterways-are being rapidly expanded. All villages are brought to Road connectivity and electricity. The Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. initiative is aiming to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all village councils in the country. India is making efforts to become an Information Technology and manufacturing hub through its 'Make in India' campaign. These efforts have greatly accelerated Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and helped the country sustain an average growth of 7.5% during the last three financial years (2014-15 to 2016-17). the 'Start-up India' programme promotes entrepreneurship and labour-intensive economic growth.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources as 'Blue Revolution'. For tracking the levels of marine pollution along the coastline, the country has developed the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System. Likewise, an oil spill management system has been put in place for responding to emergencies arising out of oil spills.

Goal 17: India reiterates that the developed countries have an essential obligation to provide financial assistance to the developing countries, especially for global public goods such as climate change mitigation and control of pandemics, so that they can fully achieve the SDGs. India also highlights the need for international cooperation for curbing illicit financial flows, defining aid unambiguously and establishing robust systems for monitoring commitments made by donor countries.

The United Nations High level political forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it play central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development at global level. India was part of the 2017 voluntary National Review of the High Level political forum (HPLF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social council. The three day ministerial meeting was held from Monday 10 July 2017 to 19 July 2017 in New York. The theme was "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The Review committee critically examined and evaluated the following set goal for Goal 1 to5, Goal 9, Goal 14 and Goal 17. The review were state led, involving ministerial and other relevant high level participants and provide a platform for partnerships, including the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Cost of implementing SDG

Financial resources are a key driver to various other capital and human resources. Therefore, the availability and management of finance is one of the initial steps for achieving the post-2015 development agenda. At the global level, total investment needs according to UNCTAD are in the order of USD 5 to USD 7 trillion per year. Total investment needs in developing countries alone could be about USD 3.9 trillion per year, mainly for basic infrastructure (roads, rail and ports, power stations, water and sanitation), food security (agriculture and rural development), climate change mitigation and adaptation, health, and education. Current investment in these sectors is around USD 1.4 trillion leaving a gap of around USD 2.5 trillion and implying an annual investment gap of between USD 1.9 and USD 3.1 trillion (UNCTAD, 2014).

India's Finance requirement and Gap The first level of estimates indicate a financial shortfall of INR 533 lakh crores (USD 8.5 trillion) over the mandated 15 years for achieving SDGs Per year, on average This is a minimalist estimate and the actual amounts are likely to be much higher.

The annual financial gap in achieving SDGs is one-fourth of the GDP of India, 2014-15.

Comparison	Value	Source/Remarks
Plan and non-plan budgeted expenditure, Union Budget of India 2015-16	USD 0.2 trillion	Union Budget of India 2015-16
Combined budgeted expenditure of centre and states, 2013-14	USD 0.5 trillion	Indian Public Finance Statistics 2013-14, Ministry of Finance
GDP of India, 2014-15	USD 2.3 trillion	Nominal, April 2015, IMF

The implementation of SDG and financial requirement is not easy way to achieve the goal. India needs to work hard on revenue generating schemes to facilitate the SDGs. India has its own internal challenges of balancing growth and environmental sustainability; vulnerabilities, to adverse trends such as climate change; and rising geopolitical roles, regionally and globally.

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