



# IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a framework for a better and more sustainable future for everyone. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly held its 70th session on September 25, 2015, The purpose of the document is to analyse the adoption of SDG goals in India. This document also shares a light on the challenges faced for implementation of the goals, Objective of the paper is to study the challenges and implementation of Sustainable development goals in India. The paper will shed a light on the various methods that were used by India to implement the sustainable development and understand the policies used to reach these goals, the data used in this document is secondary. All information provided is from research papers and articles. The articles were taken from the news website like the mint and various other data were taken from research papers*

**KEYWORDS:** *Implementation, sustainable development goals, policies*

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## INTRODUCTION

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a framework for a better and more sustainable future for everyone. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly held its 70th session on September 25, 2015, with the goal of advancing the Millennium Development Goals' success, adopted the document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development," which includes 17 sustainable development goals and 169 associated targets.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) came into effect on January 1, 2016. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals that integrate social, economic, and environmental aspects of development. Furthermore, the SDGs are universal (meaning they apply to all countries, developed, developing, and least developed), because everyone is interdependent and indivisible; thorough and participative measures to bring everyone together are required to ensure that no one is left behind. Countries are in charge of monitoring and reviewing progress toward achieving the goals and targets at the national level until 2030. As per the report, India's rank has fallen to 120 out of 165 countries in 2021. India had also slipped to 117th place in 2020, down from 115th place in 2019.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the document is to analyse the adoption of SDG goals in India. This document also shares a light on the challenges faced for implementation of the goals

## OBJECTIVE

Objective of the paper is to study the challenges and implementation of Sustainable development goals in India. The paper will shed a light on the various methods that were used by India to implement the sustainable development and understand the policies used to reach these goals.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data used in this document is secondary. All information provided is from research papers and articles. The articles were taken from the news website like the mint and various other data's were taken from research papers

## SDG Index

Sustainable Development goals adopted by all member states of United States in 2015, describe a universal agenda that applies to and must be implemented by all countries, It measures the ecological efficiency of human development, recognizing that development must be achieved within planetary boundaries. It was created to update the Human Development Index (HDI) for the ecological realities of the Anthropocene.



India has been ranked at 120<sup>th</sup> position in the sustainable development report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021. In this Index, countries are ranked by a score out of 100. India has a score of 60.07. Last years India's rank was 117. The index measures the country's total progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Index has been topped by Finland

## DATA

The SDG Index and Dashboards database provides globally available data at country level on SDG indicators from 2010 to 2021 (Sachs et al., 2018). This is the first study on SDG interactions using the SDG Index and Dashboards report data which has been described as “the most comprehensive picture of national progress on the SDGs and offers a useful synthesis of what has been achieved so far” (Nature Sustainability Editorial, 2021). The database contains data for 193 countries with up to 111 indicators per country on all 17 SDGs (as of 14 May 2021). In order to avoid discussions associated with the aggregation of the goals into a single number (Diaz-Sarachaga et al., 2021), we do not use the aggregated SDG Index score in this paper but only scores for the separate goals.

## METHOD

Interactions can be classified as synergies (i.e. progress in one goal favors progress in another) or trade-offs (i.e. progress in one goal hinders progress in another). We examine synergies and trade-offs to the results of a Spearman correlation analysis across all the SDG indicators, accounting for all countries, and the entire time-frame between 2010 and 2018. We thereby analyze in the main analytical section (section “Interactions between SDGs”) up to 136 SDG pairs per year for 9 consecutive years minus 69 missing cases due to data gaps, resulting in a total of 1155 SDG interactions under study.

In a first analysis (section “Interactions within SDGs”), we examine interactions within each goal since every SDG is made up of a number of targets that are measured by various indicators. In a second analysis (section “Interactions between SDGs”), we then examine the existence of a significant positive and negative correlations in the SDG performance across countries.

## IMPLEMENTATION

To look at the implementation let's look at three examples :-

### 1. Telangana

Communication, awareness generation and advocacy on the SDGs: The state has developed e-learning modules on SDGs in both Telugu and English to raise awareness of SDGs among officials. The state hosts many workshops and training programs on the SDGs for state and district officials. Many departments such as Tribal Welfare, HM&FW and WCD have mandated inclusion of SDGs in the training curriculum of all training programs. Teachers are also trained in 'e-learning modules' to spread the message to their students.

Institutional mechanism for “Whole-of- Government” approach: The Planning Department is the nodal department in charge of overseeing the implementation of the SDGs in the state. All line departments are responsible for implementing the programs drawn up with the SDGs. An SDG Center has been established within the Planning Department to coordinate and monitor SDG-related activities. The Center is responsible for strengthening the capacities of officials at all levels and also coordinates and facilitates the formulation of strategies, action plans and vision documents by providing input to all departments, aiming to (Golden Telangana).

### 2. Uttar Pradesh

Communication, awareness generation and advocacy on the SDGs: The state government has prepared training materials to raise awareness of the SDGs among state officials. Training modules have been prepared for use by the departments. A training guide was also prepared by the Ministry of Planning on "Understanding the SDG Agenda in Uttar Pradesh". The SDGs have been a topic of discussion in the state Legislative Assembly. All district-level officials of the Department of Economics and Statistics are trained in SIF and DIF.

Institutional mechanism for “Whole-of- Government” approach: The planning department has been designated as the SDG implementation node department. The state government has formed a high-level task force chaired by the chief secretary to monitor progress on the SDGs. In addition, 16 working groups were formed under the ACP / PS chair of the relevant department to guide the implementation of the SDGs at grassroots level. At the district level, district statistical officers are responsible for gathering information and uploading it to the dashboard for the DIF.

### 3. Uttarakhand

Communication, awareness generation and advocacy on the SDGs:

The state has implemented several capacity-building programmes for orienting officials on SDGs including capacity building on linking/ mapping SDGs with outcome budget, schemes, departments and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) etc. A state-level workshop on aligning SDGs with GPDP was conducted in January,



2020 in collaboration with Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments. A three-day state-level Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted during 28-30 January 2020 in ATI, Nainital.

Institutional mechanism for “Whole-of- Government” approach:(Aagoya, 2022)The Department of Planning Department is the nodal department for SDGs. At the Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG), an SDG Coordination Centre has been established with the support of UNDP, under the Department of Planning to oversee the implementation and monitoring of SDGs. SDG cells are functional in each district. At the state level, a dedicated team of officers/consultants have been deployed. Six working groups headed by the administrative secretaries have been constituted for guiding the departments for SDG implementation.

## CHALLENGES

### 1. Lack of Proper governance

According to the Indian journal of public health, proper leadership is required for achieving the sustainable development goals as a proper standard must be maintained to achieve these goals. These goals cannot be achieved without international governance by various bodies.

Various states in India have tried working towards the proper implementation of SDG goals. States like Delhi had brought up the Janta clinic initiative. This is one of the examples.

According to the Indian express, many of the ‘Janta clinics had a toll on the budget of the state government.

According to the mint, the sarva shiksha abhiyan, had a lesser impact on the education of the country. The sarva shiksha abhiyan was subjected to various scandals and lack of proper standardisation.

### 2. Lack of Implementation

According to the Indian journal of public health, proper implementation of the SDG is important for meeting goals. The implementation of the sdg goal requires a collaboration of government and the public. A proper implementation would mean that it can reach a larger public and hence it can be accessible to the public. A proper implementation can have a far reach of the program.

In the case of India, there has been an issue of the implementation of various schemes.

This can be because of issues like:

**Corruption:** There has been an issue of corruption which is seen in various schemes that were implemented by the government. In developing countries, corruption has been seen in various forms of the government.

In the case of India, there is bureaucracy prevalent in various forms of government.

The scheme must go through the centre, the state and then to the panchayat.

According to N.Vittal in his book corruption in India published in 2003, there is a negative impact of corruption on economic development.

According to Vittal, he had considered the example of Thailand where when corruption was curbed, had increased the economic development and was among the Asian tiger countries of east Asia.

There are many social causes of exclusivity. When talking about inclusive growth, a major factor to be scrutinised is the socio-economic inclusiveness of the people. Inclusive growth being a long-term process necessarily originates from the inclusive nature of socio-economic development across regions and people. As per the UNDP Human Development Report 2009 (HRD 2009), India ranked 134 out of 182 countries of the world placing it at the same rank as in 2006. There will be no growth inclusive unless it takes satisfactory care of women and children. Child labour, despite several of laws and India’s commitments at the ILO, is still unfortunately very much predominant. Child labour has been banned by law in India and there are severe provisions to dissuade this callous practice.

### 3. Policy Constraints

In most developing countries there has been the issue of proper implementation of policies. This may be because of the ideology of leaders in power. This can also be seen in the case of India, when the government changes the policy made by the previous political party and is scrapped by the government.

The other major role that defines the proper implementation of policy is that of beliefs of people. This can be seen in the case of India as well. India is diverse and has various religions. This can hamper the implementation of these policies. This can hence stop the policy from being implemented. These policies hence don't provide the benefits to the people it was destined for, instead it creates a barrier for the people.

#### Policies

The policies which have been implemented for the sustainable development goals are:

**Sashakt Bharat - Sabal Bharat (Empowered and Resilient India):** In this policy India has successfully lifted more than 271 million people out of multidimensional poverty through economic growth and empowerment. Enhanced access to nutrition, child health, education, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and housing, has led to reduced inequalities especially among people in vulnerable situations.

**Swachh Bharat - Swasth Bharat (Clean and Healthy India):** Through this policy initiated by the Clean India Campaign and the National Nutrition Mission, India achieved 100% rural sanitation and sharp reduction in



stunting and child and maternal mortality rates. Universal health coverage has been institutionalized through Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health protection scheme which provides an annual cover of USD 7,000 to 100 million families, covering nearly 500 million individuals.

**Samagra Bharat - Saksham Bharat (Inclusive and Entrepreneurial India):** Financial inclusion through Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity – near universal access to bank accounts aided by the Jan Dhan Yojana (National Financial Inclusion Scheme); Aadhaar card (National unique identity number) for over 90% of the population; and expansive access to mobile phones, has propelled new avenues of credit, insurance, and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) to the poor, including to over 200 million women, thereby accelerating their economic empowerment.

**Satata Bharat – Sanatan Bharat (Sustainable India):** India's climate action strategies call for clean and efficient energy systems, disaster resilient infrastructure, and planned eco-restoration. Acting on its nationally-determined contributions, India has electrified 100% of its villages, reduced 38 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually through energy efficient appliances, provided clean cooking fuel to 80 million poor households, and set a target to install 450GW of renewable energy and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Globally, India stands third in renewable power, fourth in wind power, and fifth in solar power. India launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Solar Alliance to leverage global partnerships for climate action and disaster resilience.

**Sampurna Bharat- Samriddh Bharat (Prosperous and Vibrant India):** India is one of the fastest growing emerging market economies with a young population and burgeoning innovation and business ecosystem. With a GDP of USD 2.72 trillion in 2018-19, India strives to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, and pursue an inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory by stimulating manufacturing, building infrastructure, spurring investments, fostering technological innovation, and boosting entrepreneurship.

In the spirit of South-South Cooperation, for realizing the 2030 Agenda, India supports developing countries through the USD 150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund. In this spirit of regional and global partnerships, and the country's commitment to 'leave no one behind', India steps into the Decade of Action, drawing confidence from its experience in addressing challenges. Government of India will continue to work collaboratively with all domestic and global stakeholders to accelerate efforts for a sustainable planet for future generations.

## NEED

Mahatma Gandhi had once said, "One must care about the world one will not see". Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future.

Seventy years after the end of a tragic war and birth of a new hope for our age, we are meeting to chart a course for our humanity and our planet. I consider this a very important summit and thank UN Secretary General for organizing it.

Just as our vision behind the Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals (Aayog, SDG India Index 2020-2021, 2022) (Aayog, Localising SDGs, 2022) (Aayog, India VNR, 2020) 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. By PM Modi in UN ASSEMBLY Summit.

A country's built and natural environment assets that are essential for growth and the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are susceptible to acute climate change threats like floods or storm surges.(SDGs)

The phrase "sustainable development" has taken off in the worldwide community. The pursuit of growth and excellence has shifted the ecological balance by causing an imbalance in national economic development and the depletion of some natural resources. A course of action that would guarantee a safe environment for future generations is now necessary because this threatens the very continuation of human life on Earth.

India is an entrepreneurial country that is experiencing rapid change. Being the youngest nation in the world, India's youth must be actively involved from an early age in order to build and maintain the long-term momentum necessary for the nation to achieve its goals and advance the Sustainable Development Goals. More than 70% of people on Earth reside in urban areas. Already, cities use 80% of the world's material and energy resources and contribute 75% of its carbon emissions.

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been established with the aim of making the world more prosperous, equitable, and secure by the year 2030. They were embraced by 193 Member States as a part of their agenda for sustainable development at the UN General Assembly Summit in September 2015. India, a signatory to the summit, is steadfastly dedicated to the 2030 agenda.



## **STEP TAKEN BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT**

### **1. Ratifying Paris Agreement**

Beyond lengthy talks between the Parties and the adoption of the Paris Agreement on steps to combat climate change after 2020, the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) effectively came to an end in Paris. The Kyoto Protocol will be replaced by this global agreement. It offers a framework for all nations to take action against climate change, in contrast to the Kyoto Protocol. The Paris Agreement, which emphasises ideas like climate justice and sustainable lifestyles, unites all nations for the first time under the UNFCCC for a common goal. The agreement's primary goals include limiting the rise in global average temperature to well below 2°C over pre-industrial levels and fostering initiatives to limit it even further to 1.5°C.

### **2. The Clean Development Mechanism projects in India**

India has so far registered 1593 projects out of 7685 total projects registered by the CDM executive board, ranking second globally after China, which has registered 3764 projects. 191 million CERs, or 13.27 percent of all CERs awarded, were given to Indian projects. These initiatives span the nation and are focused on forests, municipal solid waste, renewable energy, industrial operations, fuel switching, and energy efficiency. The private sector is responsible for developing between 90 and 95 percent of CDM projects, enabling investments worth roughly R583,751 crores in the nation—an amount more than the total amount of international funding available for climate change-related activities.

### **3. State Action Plans on Climate Change:**

The State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) seek to establish institutional capabilities and carry out sectoral initiatives to combat climate change. In areas like water, agriculture, tourism, forestry, transportation, habitat, and energy, these plans emphasise adaptation with mitigation as a co-benefit. 28 states and 5 union territories (UTs) have so far given the MoEF&CC their SAPCCs. The National Steering Committee on Climate Change (NSCCC) at the MoEF&CC has approved the SAPCCs of 32 states and UTs out of these.

### **4. Coal Cess and the National Clean Energy Fund**

One of the few nations in the world with a carbon price in the form of a cess on coal is India. India has not only imposed this cess but has also been gradually raising it. The coal cess which was fixed at R50.00 per tonne of coal since 22 June 2010 and increased to R100.00 per tonne of coal in Budget 2014-15, was further doubled to R 200.00 per tonne in the 2015-16 Budget. 8.46 The National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF), which is funded by the cess on coal, was established with the aim of supporting clean energy initiatives, sponsoring clean energy research, and engaging in other related activities. Till date 56 projects have been recommended by the inter-ministerial group (IMG) with total viability gap funding (VGF) of R34,784.09 crore spread over several years. For 2015-16, R4700 crore has been allocated in the Budget for NCEF projects. VGF is also being provided for Namami Gange.

### **5. National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change**

A budget allocation of I350 crore for the years 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 has been made for the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). It is intended to help cover the cost of state- and national-level adaptation measures in regions that are especially susceptible to the negative effects of climate change. The fund's overarching goal is to support tangible adaptation initiatives that lessen the negative effects of climate change on communities, industries, and states but are not included in the current programmes of local, state, and federal governments. The adaptation projects assist in lowering the vulnerability risk at the sectoral and community levels. The NSCCC has so far approved six detailed project reports (DPR) submitted by Punjab, Odisha, Himachal.

## **CONCLUSION**

The current research was able to show that the importance of the SDGs, regardless of the pillar of sustainability (social, economic, environmental), is considered important by students in environmental and sustainability science courses in different countries. However, there are variations between the countries in how important the individual pillars for sustainability are considered to be. This result offers the opportunity to specifically promote individual pillars for sustainability in those countries in which a pillar was perceived as being less important. Another important finding of the study is that especially in countries with high global development indices, the SDGs are rated as less important compared to the ratings in countries with lower global development indices. Therefore, our research is a call to countries with higher indices, where the SDGs have already been implemented to a higher extent, to actively improve the view and acceptance of students regarding the SDGs. This can help to further achieve the SDGs both in individual countries and at the global level.



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