

India: The Sustainable Development

Welcome aboard to the subsequent part of the 'sustainable development' series. Taking forward from the previous article which elucidated the concept; dimensions; origin; significance and challenges to sustainable development, we will now be diving into India specific nuances.

Unraveling “SDG India Index”

The SDG India index and Dashboard, developed by India's think tank NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations India, is a crucial tool in our SDG monitoring efforts. It measures progress at the national and sub-national level. Significantly, it has also fostered competition among the states and UTs.

The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does so by evaluating progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on various parameters including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment.

SCOPE :

From covering 13 Goals with 62 indicators in its first edition in 2018, the third edition of the index covers 16 Goals on 115 quantitative indicators. These goals and indicators are aligned with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

The outcome is the result of collaborative partnership among MoSPI, NITI Aayog, line ministries, States, UTs and the UN agencies.

METHODOLOGY :

The SDG India Index computes goal-wise score on the 16 SDGs for each State and Union Territory

These scores range between 0–100, higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.

States and UTs are classified in four categories based on their SDG India Index score —

- Aspirant: 0–49;
- Performer: 50–64;
- Front-runner: 65–99,
- Achiever: 100.

Currently, there are no states in the aspirant and achiever category; 15 states/UTs are in the performer category and 22 states/UTs in the front runner category.

Diving into the SDG INDEX 2020-21 Findings

Among the evaluated goals, NITI Aayog categorizes some goals as ‘Top Priority Development Needs’ and ‘Other Strong Development Needs’ on the basis of India’s performance level.

Noting the increased relevance of certain goals in accordance with prevailing situations, we will be discussing them in detail. These are :

- No Poverty
- No Hunger
- Gender Equality
- Good Health and Well-Being
- Quality Education
- Climate Action
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

NOTE :

The purpose of the SDG Index is to guide States/ UTs on their SDG priorities. Data for some States/ UTs is missing for some indicators. This missing data has been marked as “Null”. In computing the Index, these “null” values have not been given any weightage. In the report, the missing data is flagged so that in future steps can be taken to fill the missing values.

Thus on rational grounds, in some goals rankings, we have mentioned the second or third best State/ UT which had full data rather than choosing the one with missing links.

SDG Priorities

Top Priority Development Needs
(SDGs in which India’s performance is lowest)

- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY

Other Strong Development Needs
(SDGs in which India’s performance is relatively low)

- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The graphic features a dark blue header with a purple arrow pointing right, containing a white menu icon and the text 'SDG Priorities'. Below this, the 'Top Priority Development Needs' section lists three SDGs: 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 5 (Gender Equality). The 'Other Strong Development Needs' section lists seven SDGs: 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Each SDG is represented by its standard icon and color.

"Top Priority Development Needs"

- **SDG 1 : No Poverty**

- Highlights

- 270 million people lifted out of Multidimensional Poverty
- 84.44%, beneficiaries provided employment under MGNREGA in 2019-201

- Best performing state/ UT- Tamil Nadu (Score - 86)

- Population below poverty line (%) → 11.28%
- MGNREGA - Employment provided against demand (%) → 94.44%
- Beneficiaries under PMMVY (%) → 88.42%

- **SDG 2: No Hunger**

- Highlights

- Coverage for National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 : 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Overall, NFSA caters to 67% total population
- 50% of pregnant women aged 15-49 years are anemic.
- 33.4% of children aged under five are underweight.
- 34.7% of children aged under five are stunted.

- Best Performing State/ UT : Kerala (Score - 80)

- Beneficiaries under NFSA (%) → 100
- Children under 5 years who are underweight (%) → 18.70%
- Children under 5 years who are stunted (%) → 20.50%
- Pregnant women (15-49) who are anemic (%) → 22.60%

- Note : Though Chandigarh with score of 97 ranked first in the category, we didn't mention it due to missing data on certain parameters

- **SDG 5 : Gender Equality**

- Highlights :
 - 8.46% seats in the State Legislative Assemblies are held by women
 - Sex Ratio at birth is 899 females per 1000 males
 - 33% higher wages for men than women in rural and urban India.
 - 62 cases of crime against women are registered for every 1,00,000 female population.
- Best Performing State/UT : Chattisgarh (Score - 64)
 - Elected women in state legislative assembly (%) → 14.44%
 - Sex ratio at birth is 958 females per 1000 males
 - Average wage / salary received (Female to male) → 0.64.
 - 53.50 cases of crime against women per 1,00,000 female population.
- Note: Though, Andaman and Nicobar and Puducherry scored higher with 68 and 66 respectively, we have skipped them due to missing data on certain parameters

“Other Strong Development Needs”

- **SDG 3 : Good Health and Well being**

- Highlights

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for 1,00,000 live births is 113.
- 36 children aged under five die for every 1,000 live births.
- 177 Tuberculosis. cases notified per 1,00,000 population.

- Best performing state /UT : Gujarat (score - 86)

- 75 Maternal mortality ratio per 1,00, 000 live births.
- 31 children aged under five years die for every 1,000 live births.
- 232 Tuberculosis cases notified per 1,00,000 population
- Suicide rate → 11.2 per 1,00,000 population

- Note: Delhi with 90 scored higher, but has not been mentioned due to missing details on certain parameters

- **SDG4 - Quality Education**

- Highlights

- 87.26 % Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at elementary (Class 1-8) education.
- 50.14%. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher secondary education.
- 74.6% Literacy Level among people aged 15 years and above
- 19.3%. Persons with disabilities (15 years and above) completed at least secondary education.

- Best performing State/ UT : Kerala (Score - 80)

- Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio in elementary education (Class 1-8) - 92.07%
- Average annual dropout rate at secondary level (Class 9-10) → 19.14%

- GER in higher secondary (Class 11-12) → 80.26%
- Persons with disability (> 15 years) having completed secondary education → 24.30%
- Persons (> 15 years) who are literate → 94.6%

- **SDG 13- Climate Action**

- Highlights

- 15 lives lost due to extreme weather events in 2018-19 per 1 crore population
- 36.3.7% electricity generation is from Renewable energy
- Disaster Preparedness Score-Card for India → 19.2 score out of 50

- Best performing State / UT - Odisha (Score: 70)

- Lives lost due to extreme weather events (per 1 crore population) → 22.78 lives
- Disaster preparedness Score as per Disaster Resilience Index → 22
- Share of renewable in total energy mix → 31.40%
- CO₂ saved from LED bulbs per 1,000 population → 120.07 Tonnes

- Note: Andaman & Nicobar scored higher with 77 score, but has not been mentioned due to missing details on certain parameters

- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

- Highlights

- 93.24% of the population is under AADHAAR Coverage.
- 1.85 courts per one lakh population.

- 5 persons per 10 lakh population are victim of human trafficking
- 33 cases per 1,00,000 cognizable crimes are crimes against children.
- 16 children missing per 1,00,000 child population

○ Best performing State /UT- Puducherry (Scores :86)


- 98% of the population is under AADHAAR coverage.
- 1.71 courts per one lakh population.
- 0 person per 10 lakh population are victim of human trafficking.
- 10.8 Cognizable crimes against children per 1,00,000 population.
- 10.21 children missing per 1,00,000 child population.



- Overall Findings :

- While Kerala retained its rank as the top with a score of 75, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu both took the second spot with a score of 74.
- Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 79, followed by Delhi (68).
- Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana, Tripura, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh graduated to the category of front-runners (scores between 65 and 99, including both)
- However, it is Mizoram, Haryana and Uttarakhand who are the top gainers in 2020-21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.
- It must be noted that the country's overall SDG score improved by 6 points — from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21 — on accounts of improvement in performance in providing facilities including clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy among others. This indicates that the country has overall progressed forward in its journey towards achieving SDGs

Top 5 positions		Bottom 5 positions	
State	Score	State	Score
Kerala	75	Chhattisgarh,	61
Himachal Pradesh,	74	Nagaland, Odisha	
Tamil Nadu		Arunachal Pradesh,	60
Andhra Pradesh, Goa,	72	Meghalaya, Rajasthan,	
Karnataka, Uttarakhand		Uttar Pradesh	
Sikkim	71	Assam	57
Maharashtra	70	Jharkhand	56
		Bihar	52



Coherent Participatory Actions in Collaboration and Competition for achieving Development Sustainably !

Initiatives driven by partnerships are promoted by the SDG Index. The success lies in collaborative efforts of Central ministries, State/UT government, Civil societies, including NGOs, Community organizations along with the private sector in the form of corporate responsibility and academic institutions including those involved in research, think tanks.

The coherence allows for focused policy dialogue, formulation and implementation through development actions, in line with the global SDG framework. It helps in identifying crucial gaps related to tracking the SDGs and the need for India to develop its statistical systems.

For instance, in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the central government initiated the campaign. While, the state government and at local level- the municipal corporation and Panchayats took the herculean task of implementation as per specific conditions. Along with this, civil societies like Team Swachh facilitated in spreading awareness and monitoring actions. This partnership leads to success as can be seen in the case of Indore.

The partnership also entails SDG localisation at the subnational level. This includes cooperative and competitive federalism, localized solutions and leads to improved state capacity.

We can learn about this through localized solutions by Odisha for combating disasters like Cyclone, Floods and Earthquakes. Understanding the vulnerability, the state government collaborated with the central government and international organizations like UNISDR. On other hand, the local bodies involve CSO and community for on ground preparation. It is this localized solution and implementation which makes Odisha a specialist in disaster management. The one which brought appreciation from the UN for its handling of Cyclone Fani 2019.

However, one must remember that any country, state or community has the same essence as that of people residing in it. Thus, the individual responsibility is equally cardinal. Be it planting trees; sharing surplus resources or something as simple as closing the tap while brushing; switching off unused appliances, the

secret ingredient to sustainable development lies within these actions. Success lies within us.

