

Non Traditional Security Digest

Sustainable Development Goals

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Sustainable Development Goals

Brief Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) under the resolution Agenda 2030 was adopted by the United Nations to deal with various issues of global concern. [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) aims at “Transforming the World” into a space that secures an equitable, inclusive and sustainable future. The designed framework for sustainable development has [17 goals](#), which are interlinked and interdependent. Realisation of these goals is linked to the accomplishment of 169 targets associated with them, through collaborated and coordinated efforts by both the developed and developing countries. The SDG summit is held once every four years to analyse the progress and challenges in their implementation. The summit also proposes pathways to accelerate the progress. It is attended by the head of the states and governments. The last SDG summit took place from [18-19 September, 2023 in New York](#). The 17 SDGs are discussed below:

SDG 1: No poverty

Eradicating [extreme poverty](#) for all people everywhere by 2030 is a pivotal goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This goal requires not only addressing the root causes and challenges but it also aims to improve access to sustainable livelihoods, and enhance international cooperation to empower individuals and communities. [SDG 1](#) further emphasises on tackling the disproportionate effects of poverty on women. The aim of SDG 1 by 2030 is to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$2.15 a day. Secondly the goal’s emphasis is on reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. SDG 1 further aims to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

[SDG 2](#) aims at achieving a world free of hunger by 2030. Access to sufficient, nutritious food is a fundamental right of each and every individual. However, the rapid explosion of population in addition to climate change, pandemic and conflicts have endangered this basic right. Reduced nutrition levels, increased incidence of diseases have a negative impact on the living standards of the people. SDG 2 set a target to eradicate hunger and guarantee access to nutritious and ample food for all

age groups by 2030. It aims to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, with specific targets of addressing stunting and wasting in children under 5 years by 2025. This goal involves doubling agricultural productivity and increasing the income of small-scale and female farmers. Additionally, there is a commitment to preserve the genetic diversity of seeds, farmed and domesticated animals by 2020 to ensure sustainability in food systems.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. This includes universal health coverage and access to affordable medicines. Various factors like environmental, commercial and availability of health infrastructure are considered in formulating this goal. SDG 3 strives to diminish maternal mortality globally to less than 70 per 100,000 live births; reduce **neonatal mortality** to a minimum of 12 per 1,000 live births; and decrease under-5 mortality to at least 25 per 1,000 live births, by 2030. A key aim is to eradicate epidemics and water-borne diseases. Additionally, there is a commitment to reduce premature mortality caused by non-communicable diseases by 1/3rd. It calls for reinforced efforts to prevent substance abuse and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.

SDG 4: Quality Education

The objective of **SDG 4** is to provide free, fair, and high-quality primary and secondary education for both boys and girls. Education is an important factor featured in the SDGs that can facilitate realisation of other SDGs. Provision of inclusive and equitable quality education for all can be a potent tool to end the cycle of poverty. It can help in reducing inequalities and promotion of healthy living. By fostering tolerance, quality education can also contribute to the establishment of peaceful societies.

The focus of **SDG 4** is on increasing the number of youth and adults equipped with pertinent vocational and technical skills necessary for gainful employment and entrepreneurship. Additionally, it aims to facilitate equal access to education and training at all levels for individuals with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations. The educational agenda extends beyond conventional subjects to encompass sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, human rights, global citizenship, and fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity.

SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030.

Women, constituting half of the population, hold significant untapped potential. However, their right to equal economic opportunities and wages remains unrealized. In addition, they are subjected to discrimination in public office, sexual violence, exploitation, and unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work. Addressing these hindrances is an essential foundation for a peaceful and sustainable world.

SDG 5 aims to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence, against women and girls globally in both public and private spheres. It makes a call to recognise and value unpaid care work, which is crucial to promote shared responsibilities within households. Its aims include, ensuring complete and effective participation of women and girls, providing equal opportunities across all levels of decision-making in various spheres. Furthermore, it targets to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, as well as reproductive rights, in accordance with the agreements outlined in the Programme of Action of the [International Conference on Population and Development](#) (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action.

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

The primary objective of SDG 6 is to ensure availability and sustainable management of

water and sanitation for all. This has to be done by addressing the challenges posed by a rapidly growing population, urbanisation, and escalating demands from various sectors of the economy. This goal caters to the special needs of women to ensure inclusivity and equity.

SDG 6 seeks to ensure universal and fair access to safe and affordable drinking water for everyone. Simultaneously, there is a commitment to provide sufficient and equitable sanitation and hygiene facilities for all. Efforts are directed towards enhancing water quality by minimising pollution, reducing the use of harmful chemicals, and managing untreated waste effectively. Implementing integrated water resources management at all levels is a key strategy to achieve sustainable water practices. Lastly this goal calls for supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

The objective of **SDG 7** is to guarantee universal access to clean, affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy. It recognizes the pivotal role of energy in the development of all sectors of the economy. It also acknowledges environmental impacts of energy consumption and emphasises on transition to sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources.

The primary goal is to achieve universal access to affordable electricity by the year 2030. This involves a commitment to increasing the proportion of **renewable energy** sources in the overall energy mix. Additionally, there is an objective to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, emphasising the importance of using energy more effectively and sustainably.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 8 aims to foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, ensuring employment opportunities and decent work for all. Addressing the growing economic challenges, particularly the trend of workers resorting to informal employment, is crucial. The goal is to diminish informal employment and rectify labour market inequalities, emphasising the need for a safe and secure working environment for all individuals.

The primary objective is to sustain a GDP growth rate of 7% annually in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This involves achieving higher levels of productivity through diversification, technological advancements, and innovation. Encouraging the formalisation and expansion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises is a key focus.

Additionally, there is a commitment on improving global resource efficiency in consumption and production, aiming to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. Ensuring equal pay for work of equal value is a fundamental goal, alongside measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking. By 2025, the aim of **SDG 8** is to eliminate child labour in all its forms. Ensuring labour rights and a secure work environment for all, including migrants, is emphasised. **Sustainable tourism** is promoted for job creation and the preservation of local cultures. Furthermore, there is an objective to strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to support these sustainable economic initiatives.

SDG 9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 9 aims at developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. It further aims to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed

countries. The emphasis by 2030 is to upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities

SDG 10's primary objective is to empower and promote a comprehensive social, economic, and political inclusion for all individuals. **SDG 10** involves efforts towards enhancing the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets to ensure transparency and fairness. There is a commitment to diminish the inequalities of outcome by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices. Furthermore, the objective of **SDG 10** includes securing enhanced representation for developing countries in decision-making processes within international economic and financial institutions. **SDG 10** further emphasises on a planned and well-managed migration policies to achieving a more equitable and inclusive global economic landscape.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 primarily focuses on making the cities and human settlements inclusive, safe

resilient and sustainable. The objective of **SDG 11** is to ensure universal access to secure affordable housing, alongside the establishment of sustainable transport systems for everyone. Additionally, there is a commitment to protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage through concerted efforts. **SDG 11** includes initiatives to mitigate the impact of disasters, aiming to reduce associated fatalities. Simultaneously, the objective is to minimise the per capita environmental impact of cities, fostering more sustainable and environmentally conscious urban living. Furthermore, **SDG 11** aims to support the least developed countries through financial and technical assistance for sustainable buildings.

SDG 12: Sustainable consumption and Production

The goal is about ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns to sustain livelihoods of present and future generations. **SDG 12** prime objective is to execute the **10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns**. **SDG 12** emphasise on addressing the challenge of limited resources amid increasing demand driven by population growth and expanding economies. This involves advocating awareness for a shift in consumption habits towards sustainable lifestyles. **SDG 12**

further focuses on the transition to renewable energy sources and promote circular economies, ensuring responsible environmentally friendly resource utilisation. Additionally, there is an emphasis to rationalize the inefficient fossil fuel subsidies taking into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries. [SDG 12](#) objective is to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices, fostering responsible and eco-friendly approaches in their operations. Furthermore, it aims to support developing countries through strengthening the scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production.

SDG 13: Climate Action

[SDG 13](#) aims at enhancing disaster resilience and adaptive capabilities, integrating climate change measures into national policy and planning. It involves improving education, awareness and institutional capacity. [SDG 13](#) promotes capacity building for effective climate change in least developed countries and small island states.

SDG 14: Life below water

The goal's objective is to conserve and sustainably utilise oceans, seas, and marine resources, recognizing them as habitats and vital sources for natural resources and medicines. [SDG 14](#) targets preventing and

reducing marine pollution of all kinds. This includes minimising the impacts of ocean acidification and regulate fishing through scientific cooperation. Additionally, [SDG 14](#) efforts aim to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas in accordance with national and international law. The goal involves prohibiting subsidies leading to illegal and overfishing is prioritised, with a commitment to [special and differential treatment](#) for developing and LDCs in subsidy negotiations. [SDG 14](#) further focus is to increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and LDCs through the sustainable use of marine resources.

SDG 15: Life on land

The goal's objective is to secure the conservation of life on land. This also involves protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable forest management, prevent land degradation and biodiversity loss. [SDG 15](#) emphasises on mobilising financial resources from relevant sources and provide adequate incentive to developing countries. Further objectives of [SDG 15](#) include the protection and prevention of the extinction of [threatened species](#). Lastly, [SDG 15](#) aims to integrate the values of ecosystems and biodiversity into national and local planning along with other development processes.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The prime objective of this goal is to foster societies that are just, peaceful, and inclusive, devoid of fear from all forms of violence against everyone at all levels. **SDG 16** key focus is to promote the rule of law, ensuring equal justice for all individuals. This involves reducing illicit financial, arm flows and combating all forms of organised crime. Additionally, there is a commitment to minimise corruption and bribery. **SDG 16** further aims in developing effective and transparent institutions at all levels. This also involves making an inclusive and participative decision making at all levels. Furthermore, **SDG 16** aim is to ensures public access to information and protection of fundamental rights. It also seeks to enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

SDG 17: Partnership for the goals

The primary objective of this goal is to rejuvenate the global partnership for the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda. **SDG 17** aims to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, ensuring the implementation of committed assistance by developed countries, constituting 0.7% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Gross National Income (GNI) to developing nations, and 0.15-0.20% of GNI to Least Developed

Countries (LDCs). Efforts are directed towards addressing the external debt of highly impoverished countries and assisting developing nations in achieving long-term financial sustainability. **SDG 17** also commits to enhance cooperation on science, technology, and innovation through North-South, South-South, and **triangular** regional and international channels. It aims to develop, transfer and diffuse environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms. The objective of **SDG 17** also includes advocating for a universal and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, incorporating negotiations from the **Doha Development Agenda**. Additionally, it aims to enhance global macroeconomic stability through policy coherence. Furthermore, **SDG 17** emphasises is to build on existing initiatives to measure progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product and support capacity-building in developing countries.

Overview of India's success in achieving SDGs

The year 2023 marks the halfway point in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**). Despite progress, setbacks have arisen from challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and the triple planetary crisis. India, despite these

challenges, have done comparatively well in working towards achieving these SDG's.

As per [NITI Aayog](#) 17 SDGs are broadly categorised into 4 categories- social (SDG 1- SDG 6); economic (SDG 7- SGD 11); environmental (SDG 12- SDG 15); and fostering peace and security (SDG 16 – SDG 17). An assessment and overview of some of India's achievement towards meeting these goals is given below.

Social

India has undertaken a comprehensive approach is being employed to eliminate poverty, incorporating a range of welfare schemes encompassing nutrition, health, education, housing, drinking water, sanitation, skill development, and social protection. Additionally, initiatives such as the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction](#) and the implementation of a new pension scheme contribute to this multifaceted strategy aimed at addressing various dimensions of poverty and ensuring resilience in the face of disasters.

[India's Food Security Act](#), established in 2013, underscores the national commitment to ensuring food security. Emphasising sustainable agriculture, the [National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture](#) has been instrumental in achieving notable progress in this regard.

India's [Ayushman Bharat Yojana](#) and [Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana](#) aim to provide universal access to healthcare at affordable prices. These initiatives have contributed to a notable reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality rates, as well as a decrease in under-5 mortality rates. Additionally, there has been a significant decline in malaria cases, dropping from 0.95 per 1000 cases in 2015 to 0.13.

Efforts have been made to enhance school infrastructure, with a particular focus on skill development and vocational education. Notably, there has been an improvement in the gross enrolment ratio, increasing from 48.32 to 57.60 in the academic year 2021-22. Additionally, there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of schools with access to electricity, rising from 58.55% to 89.30%. Moreover, the proportion of schools with access to computers for pedagogical purposes has seen a notable increase, climbing from 27.31% to 47.50%.

Further, numerous initiatives focused on social protection and financial inclusion have been implemented, aiming to enhance women's participation in various programs. Noteworthy among these is the "[Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#)" campaign and the "[PM Matru Vandana Yojana](#)," providing maternity benefits. There has been a

substantial increase, reaching 92.70%, in the linkage of exclusive women Self Help Groups with banks, up from 88.92%. These efforts collectively contribute to fostering women's empowerment and financial inclusivity.

The substantial demand for water is constrained by limited water resources, and India aims to address this challenge through the [Jal Jeevan Mission](#). In alignment with the [Swachh Bharat Mission's](#) goals, all districts achieved [Open Defecation Free](#) (ODF) status by 2019-20, ensuring that 100% of rural households now have access to toilets.

Economic

In order to uplift the economic standards of Indian population, the government of India has taken credible measures as well. The Saubhagya initiative, also known as the [PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana](#), aims to provide electricity to all households, with the goal of achieving 100% electrification by 2021-22. Special attention is given to incorporating renewable energy sources to reduce carbon emissions, leading to a noteworthy increase in the share of total installed electricity generation from 15.95% to 22.50%. Additionally, under the [PM Ujjwala Yojana](#), rural households have gained access to clean cooking fuel, with

99.80% of these households now utilising environmentally friendly cooking options.

The [START UP India initiative](#) has been pivotal in providing support to entrepreneurs, while the [MUDRA scheme](#) offers loans at low rates, facilitating credit accessibility for [Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises](#) (MSMEs). Significant structural reforms have led to a remarkable increase in the number of patents granted, rising from 6,326 to 34,134 in the fiscal year 2022-23. Furthermore, there has been a notable expansion in banking outlets, growing from 60.9 in 2017-18 to 98.8 in 2019-20. The implementation of a strategic plan for youth employment has also been operationalized to further contribute to economic development.

The implementation of projects such as the [Dedicated Freight Corridor and Dedicated Industrial Corridor](#) has played a crucial role in fostering sustainable industrialization. Efforts aimed at fostering innovation have led to advancements, as evidenced by progress in the [global innovation index](#). Moreover, there has been a notable reduction in CO2 emissions per unit of GDP from the power sector, decreasing from 61.5 to 50.65 in the fiscal year 2018-19.

In order to address the issue of economic inequality India has launched initiatives

important initiatives such as [Jan Dhan Yojana](#) and [PM Kisan Samman Nidhi](#). The representation of women in [Lok Sabha](#) increased to 14.36% in 2019. Noteworthy strides have been made in budgetary allocations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), rising from 2.89% to 6.19% in the fiscal year 2023-24. Similarly, there has been an increase in budget allocations for north-eastern states, rising from 1.66% to 2.10% in the fiscal year 2022-23. These efforts underscore a commitment to addressing disparities and fostering inclusivity in various sectors.

India's [AMRUT initiative](#) focuses on urban infrastructure, particularly sewage and water supply. The [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(PMAY\)](#) aims to provide affordable housing to all citizens, complemented by the [National Smart Cities Mission](#). In 2022, 98% of wards successfully implemented door-to-door waste collection services. There has been significant progress in waste management, with 765 tons processed in 2023 compared to 17.97 tons in 2016. Furthermore, efforts to enhance road safety have led to a reduction in the percentage of people killed in road accidents, declining from 11.81% to 9.84%. These initiatives collectively contribute to urban development, housing accessibility, and sustainable waste management.

Environmental

India has shown a notable rise in food availability per capita per annum, increasing from 176 kg in 2018-19 to 187.8 kg in 2022-23. Simultaneously, there has been a reduction in the generation of hazardous waste, decreasing from 7.19 in 2017-18 to 6.81 in 2020-21. India has taken strides in environmental stewardship by ratifying agreements to effectively manage hazardous wastes and other chemicals. Additionally, [the installed capacity of renewable energy has witnessed a substantial increase](#), growing from 63.25 watts per capita in 2014-15 to 124.38 watts per capita in 2022-23. These developments underscore the country's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility. India's [National Action Plan for Climate Change](#) encompasses eight sub-missions aimed at both mitigating and adapting to climate change. Notably, there has been a significant achievement in reducing emission intensity, with a 24% decrease from the 2005 level. Furthermore, there has been an emphasis on enhancing disaster reduction strategies at the local level, with increased efforts by local governments to align their actions with national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies.

In terms of adhering to international regulations, efforts have been made to

conserve and sustainably utilise oceans, seas, and marine resources. Notably, there has been a significant increase in the maximum sustainable yield in fishing, rising from 3.078 to 5.311 in the fiscal year 2020-21. Additionally, there has been a boost in budget allocation to the [O-SMART scheme](#), increasing from 445 crore in 2019-20 to 498.5 crore in 2022-23.

[India's forest cover has substantially increased](#) from 21.35% in 2015 to 21.71% in 2021. To ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, a comprehensive framework incorporating legislative, administrative, and policy measures has been adopted. Notably, the percentage of the total wetland area designated as [Ramsar sites](#) has seen a substantial increase, reaching 8.69% in 2022, compared to 4.15% in 2016.

[Fostering peace and security](#)

The implementation of initiatives such as the [Right to Information](#), [Lok Pal](#), [Lokayukta](#), and [Whistleblowers Protection Act](#) has fortified the foundational principles of democracy, justice, equality, and liberty. Reflecting positive developments, the intentional homicide rate has witnessed a decline, reducing from 2.63 in 2015 to 2.20 in 2021. Moreover, national human rights institutions have been aligned with international standards outlined in the [Paris](#)

[Principles](#), emphasising a commitment to upholding human rights in accordance with globally accepted norms. Guidelines formulated by the India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation ([MoSPI](#)) for the development of the [State Indicator Framework](#) have been instrumental in promoting a standardised approach. Noteworthy efforts have been made to enhance statistical capacity, evident in the increase of budget allocations to ministries from 3,07,451 lakhs in 2016-17 to 5,29,056 lakhs in 2021-22. The adoption of state monitoring frameworks by 25 states further signifies a widespread commitment to implementing effective and cohesive strategies for monitoring and evaluating progress across various indicators.

Some important developments

[SDG India Index](#)

NITI Aayog, Government of India premier think-tank has played a leading role in the formulation, implementation and [localisation of SDGs](#) in India. NITI Aayog took the initiative of devising the [first-ever monitoring framework for SDGs](#) in coordination with central ministries and sub-national governments. This initiative helps to promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and Union Territories of the country towards

the larger goal of achieving the SDGs. The aim of this project is to devise a cross-cutting tool to measure the performance of subnational governments (States and Union Territories) towards achieving the SDGs and localising them. Performance is computed and shown as the distance traversed towards SDG targets on various SDG parameters integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions.

India performing better than many developed nations on SDGs

Addressing a workshop organised by G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, Bibek Debroy said that [India has been performing relatively well as compared to many developed nations](#) with regards to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further highlighted that developed countries have lost interest in SDGs, supposed to be achieved by 2030.

India's journey towards SDGs serves as inspiring example of determination, ingenuity

Speaking at the [‘India Roundtable: Delivering Development: Journeys, Directions and Lighthouses’](#), organised on the side-lines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly here on Friday, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said that India’s dedication to accelerate

SDG implementation was made clear. She highlighted that India’s journey towards the SDGs serves as an inspiring example of determination and ingenuity. Ms Kamboj mentioned that as we navigate the challenging path ahead, there is a need to draw strength from the commitment made at the [G20 Leaders’ Summit](#) in September 2023.

Non-Traditional Security Centre

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