



NITI AAYOG REPORT SHOWS IMPROVED PROGRESS ON SDGS – PAPER - III

1. What is SDG?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global objectives established by the United Nations in 2015, aiming to address a wide array of global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

These goals are intended to be achieved by 2030 and are designed to ensure prosperity and well-being for all people while protecting the planet. They are interconnected and recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

2. How SDGs are Evaluated Globally and in India

Globally, the evaluation of SDGs involves tracking a set of indicators for each goal, which allows countries and international organizations to measure progress. The United Nations provides a framework for monitoring and reviewing these indicators, facilitating comparisons and highlighting areas requiring attention.

In India, the government think tank NITI Aayog is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the country's progress on SDGs. NITI Aayog publishes periodic evaluation reports that assess how well the country is advancing towards each goal. These reports use a scorecard system to quantify progress, making it easier to identify strengths and areas needing improvement.

3. India's Progress in the Present Report

According to NITI Aayog's **fourth evaluation report**:

- **Overall Progress:** India's overall SDG score has increased from 57 in 2018 to 71 out of 100 in the current report, indicating significant progress across various goals. This improvement reflects the country's commitment to advancing sustainable development and enhancing the welfare of its citizens.
- **Poverty (SDG 1):** India has made substantial progress in reducing extreme poverty, which has contributed to an improved score in this area. Efforts to lift people out of poverty through various social and economic initiatives have been successful.
- **Zero Hunger (SDG 2):** While there has been progress in reducing hunger, challenges remain in ensuring quality nutrition for all. Programs aimed at food security and nutritional improvement need to be strengthened to achieve better outcomes.



- **Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3):** Health conditions in India have improved due to better public health services and increased insurance coverage. Government initiatives to enhance healthcare infrastructure and accessibility have positively impacted the health sector.
- **Quality Education (SDG 4):** India has seen improvements in education, particularly due to high teacher-student ratios. However, there is a need for targeted interventions to enhance the quality of teaching and learning outcomes.
- **Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10):** The report highlights a drop in scores for these SDGs, indicating persistent challenges in addressing gender and income inequalities. Issues such as the sex ratio at birth, women's ownership of land and assets, and employment disparities need focused attention. The ratio of women's earnings compared to men's has slightly decreased from 0.75 last year to 0.73, signaling a need for more robust gender equality measures.
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6):** This area has been termed a "huge success," largely due to the Swachh Bharat Mission and initiatives for piped water supply. These efforts have significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities.
- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7):** With near-complete electrification across the country, this SDG is considered well-achieved, and it is not currently a major concern.
- **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16):** India has performed well in this area, supported by strong institutional frameworks and high Aadhaar enrolment rates. The country's adherence to the rule of law contributes to its strong performance on this goal.

4. Significance of SDGs to India

The SDGs hold immense significance for India, as they are directly linked to the welfare, well-being, and quality of life of its population. The comprehensive nature of the SDGs encompasses various facets of development, ensuring that progress in one area supports and enhances outcomes in others. Here are some key points highlighting their significance:

- **Holistic Development:** The SDGs provide a framework for holistic development, addressing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. This comprehensive approach is crucial for India, given its diverse challenges and opportunities.
- **Policy Guidance:** The goals offer clear targets and indicators that guide policy formulation and implementation. By aligning national policies with the SDGs, India can ensure that development efforts are well-coordinated and effective.



- **International Accountability:** As a signatory to the SDGs, India is part of a global commitment to sustainable development. Regular evaluation and reporting foster accountability and transparency, encouraging the country to meet its international obligations.
- **Resource Allocation:** The SDGs help prioritize resource allocation, ensuring that funds and efforts are directed towards areas of greatest need. This targeted approach enhances the efficiency and impact of development initiatives.
- **Inclusive Growth:** The focus on reducing inequalities and promoting gender equality ensures that development benefits all segments of society, including marginalized and vulnerable populations. This inclusivity is vital for achieving long-term social stability and cohesion.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** SDGs related to clean energy, water, sanitation, and climate action emphasize the importance of environmental sustainability. For India, addressing environmental challenges is critical for sustaining economic growth and protecting natural resources for future generations.
- **Global Leadership:** By advancing towards the SDGs, India can position itself as a global leader in sustainable development. Success in achieving these goals can serve as a model for other developing countries and enhance India's standing in the international community.

In conclusion, the SDGs are a powerful tool for driving India's development agenda, offering a clear roadmap for achieving comprehensive and sustainable progress. NITI Aayog's evaluation reports provide valuable insights into the country's achievements and challenges, guiding future efforts to ensure that all citizens benefit from development initiatives. As India continues to work towards these goals, sustained commitment and strategic interventions will be essential to realize the vision of a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future.

MAIN PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how do they relate to India's overall development? (150 words)
2. Discuss the progress and challenges India faces in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on the latest evaluation by NITI Aayog. Highlight specific areas of improvement and those needing targeted interventions.



ANSWERS

Question: 1

1. What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how do they relate to India's overall development? (250 words)

Introduction:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global objectives established by the United Nations in 2015. These goals aim to address a broad range of global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice, with the intent to achieve these targets by 2030.

The SDGs are interconnected, emphasizing that actions in one area can impact outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Core :

In relation to India's development, the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for holistic growth, addressing key issues that affect the country's welfare, well-being, and quality of life. By focusing on areas such as poverty reduction, improved health and education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and sustainable energy, the SDGs help guide national policies and initiatives.

India's progress in these areas is evaluated through periodic reports by NITI Aayog, which use specific indicators to measure advancements and highlight areas needing improvement.

Conclusion:

Achieving the SDGs is crucial for India's aspiration of inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring that the benefits of progress reach all segments of society.

Question: 2

2. Discuss the progress and challenges India faces in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on the latest evaluation by NITI Aayog. Highlight specific areas of improvement and those needing targeted interventions.

Introduction:

According to NITI Aayog's fourth evaluation report, India has made significant strides in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the overall score improving from 57 in 2018 to 71 out of 100 in the current report. This progress reflects the country's ongoing commitment to enhancing the welfare and quality of life of its citizens.



Areas of Improvement:

- **Poverty (SDG 1):** India has made substantial progress in reducing extreme poverty. Social and economic initiatives have effectively lifted many people out of poverty, improving their standard of living.
- **Zero Hunger (SDG 2):** There have been advancements in reducing hunger, although ensuring quality nutrition remains a challenge.
- **Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3):** Public health services and increased insurance coverage have contributed to better health conditions across the country.
- **Quality Education (SDG 4):** Improvements in education are evident, particularly due to high teacher-student ratios, though further efforts are needed to enhance teacher quality and learning outcomes.
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6):** The Swachh Bharat Mission and initiatives for piped water supply have been highly successful, significantly improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities.
- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7):** Near-complete electrification has been achieved, marking significant progress in this area.

Challenges:

- **Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10):** These areas have seen a decline in scores, indicating persistent challenges in addressing gender and income inequalities. Issues such as the sex ratio at birth, women's ownership of land and assets, and employment disparities require focused attention. The slight drop in the ratio of women's earnings compared to men from 0.75 to 0.73 highlights the need for more robust gender equality measures.
- **Education Quality:** While the teacher-student ratio is high, the quality of education needs targeted interventions to ensure better learning outcomes.
- **Nutrition:** Despite improvements in hunger reduction, quality nutrition for all remains a significant challenge that needs more effective strategies and programs.

Conclusion :

While India has made commendable progress in several areas of the SDGs, significant challenges remain. Addressing gender and income inequalities, improving education quality, and ensuring



PL RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

MAKING YOU SERVE THE NATION

quality nutrition are crucial for achieving comprehensive and sustainable development. Targeted interventions and sustained commitment will be essential to overcome these challenges and realize the vision of the SDGs.



**P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY | 1447/C, 3rd floor, 15th Main Road,
Anna Nagar West, Chennai-40. Ph.No.044-42323192, 9445032221
Email: plrajmemorial@gmail.com Website: www.plrajiacademy.com
Telegram link: <https://t.me/plrajiacademy> YouTube: P L RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY**