

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW:

NEWS: VNR Highlights India's Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Approach to Achieving the SDGs

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India presented its **Third Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the UN's **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, showcasing progress on **SDG implementation** through poverty reduction, digital infrastructure, clean energy, and localized development. The VNR highlights India's achievements like **248 million people escaping multidimensional poverty**, leadership in **start-ups and DPI**, and robust **index-based monitoring** for SDG tracking. **India's Third Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on SDGs – Presented at HLPF (2024)**

What is the VNR Report?

- Presented by the **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog** at the **Ministerial Segment** of the **HLPF on Sustainable Development**.
- The report outlines India's progress, innovations, and challenges in achieving the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** under the **2030 Agenda**.

Key Highlights of India's Progress on SDGs

Poverty Alleviation

- **Around 248 million people** have exited **Multidimensional Poverty (MPI)** between 2013–14 and 2022–23.
- Reflects success in **basic services access**, health, education, and living standards.

Food Security

- **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** ensured:
 - Free ration distribution to **800 million people**.
 - Continued nutritional support even during crises like COVID-19.

Health and Nutrition

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:**
 - Focused on improving **maternal and child nutrition**.
 - Integration of real-time monitoring systems via **ICDS-Common Application Software (CAS)**.
- **Ayushman Bharat:**
 - Covers **500 million people** with free health insurance.

- **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** and **PM-JAY** expanding access to quality healthcare.

Clean Energy Transition

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Targeting low-carbon future through green hydrogen development.
- **PM-KUSUM:** Solarizing agricultural pumps to reduce diesel usage and promote renewable energy.
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:** Promoting rooftop solar installations in households.

Innovation and Startups

- India has become the **3rd largest startup ecosystem globally**.
- Strong government push via **Startup India, Digital India, and Atal Innovation Mission**.

Infrastructure Development

- **PM Gati Shakti:** Integrated infrastructure planning using GIS tools and coordination between ministries.
- **Make in India:** Boosts manufacturing and employment.

National Industrial Corridor Development Programme: Creating next-gen industrial hubs.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

- India is a **global leader in DPI** built around the **JAM Trinity**:
 - **Jan Dhan** (banking),
 - **Aadhaar** (identity),
 - **Mobile** (connectivity).
- Ensures **inclusive, efficient, and transparent service delivery**.

Index-Based Monitoring & Data-Driven Governance

- **SDG India Index:** Developed by NITI Aayog to measure state-wise progress.
- **Northeastern Region District SDG Index:** Special focus on regional disparities.
- **National MPI Index:** Assesses deprivation across three dimensions—**health, education, and standard of living**.

Localisation & Last-Mile Delivery

- **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP):**
 - Targets **112 underdeveloped districts**.

- Improves health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and basic infrastructure.
- **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP):**
 - Extends the model to **500 blocks**, enabling **grassroots development** and **policy saturation**.

About Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

- **Purpose:** Track the implementation of SDGs at **national and sub-national levels**.
- **Nature:** Voluntary, inclusive, country-led, and transparent.
- **Presentation:** Annually at the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** in **July** in **New York**.

Objectives of VNRs

- Share **success stories**, **policy innovations**, and **implementation challenges**.
- Strengthen **governance**, **institutional frameworks**, and **coordination**.
- Mobilize **multi-stakeholder partnerships** (governments, civil society, private sector).
- Foster **accountability**, **peer learning**, and **knowledge exchange**.

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

- **Function:** Central global platform for reviewing **SDG progress**.
- **Organised By:** **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- **Headquarters:** **New York, USA**.

Meeting Structure

- Held **annually** under ECOSOC.
- Every **four years** at the level of **Heads of State/Government** under the **UN General Assembly**.

Key Features

- Promotes a **rights-based and inclusive discourse** on development.
- Encourages **multi-stakeholder participation** and **peer review** among countries.

Source:

[https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2149181#:~:text=Vice%20Chairman%2C%20NITI%20Aayog%2C%20Shri,ECOSOC\)%20of%20the%20United%20Nations.](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2149181#:~:text=Vice%20Chairman%2C%20NITI%20Aayog%2C%20Shri,ECOSOC)%20of%20the%20United%20Nations.)