

THIRD VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW – REPORT

NEWS: NITI Aayog presented India's **Third Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on SDGs** at the **Ministerial Segment of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** on SDGs, convened by the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the **United Nations**.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Introduction to VNR 2025

- The **Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025** was prepared under the leadership of **NITI Aayog**, India's premier policy think tank.
- It was developed through an **inclusive and consultative process**, involving active participation from **state and Union Territory governments, civil society organisations, development partners, and the private sector**.
- This marks **India's third VNR submission** to the **United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, showcasing its **continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Key Achievements Highlighted in VNR 2025

Poverty Alleviation

- The report estimates that **around 248 million individuals have moved out of multidimensional poverty (MPI)** over the past decade.
- This reflects significant progress in **access to education, health, housing, and basic amenities** for millions of people.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** played a crucial role in providing **free food grains** to over **800 million people**, especially during the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.
- Initiatives like **POSHAN Abhiyaan** have improved maternal and child nutrition outcomes through **targeted monitoring and convergence of nutrition schemes**.

Health Access

- The **Ayushman Bharat scheme** has enhanced access to **affordable and quality secondary and tertiary healthcare**, with over **500 million beneficiaries eligible**.
- Health and wellness centres have expanded **preventive and promotive healthcare services** to the grassroots.

Clean Energy Transition

- Major flagship programs such as the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** and **PM-KUSUM** promote renewable energy, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and support rural livelihoods.
- The **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** enables the installation of rooftop solar systems for **free electricity for households**, supporting both sustainability and affordability.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- India has emerged as the **third-largest start-up ecosystem** globally, fostering innovation, youth-led enterprises, and job creation.
- Government programs like **Startup India** and **Atal Innovation Mission** support new ventures and foster a culture of creativity.

Infrastructure and Industrial Growth

- **PM Gati Shakti** ensures **multi-modal connectivity infrastructure** development to accelerate economic activity and logistics efficiency.
- Schemes like **Make in India** and the **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme** aim to build globally competitive industries and attract investments.

SDG Localisation and Governance Innovations

- India has adopted a **data-driven and decentralized approach** to localise SDG implementation.
- Tools such as:
 - **SDG India Index** (developed with UNDP) assess state-wise performance.
 - **North-Eastern Region District SDG Index** helps track sub-national disparities and promote balanced regional development.
 - **National Multidimensional Poverty Index** helps assess deprivation beyond income, strengthening targeted policy interventions.
- Flagship governance innovations:
 - **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** aims at fast-tracking socio-economic development in **112 underdeveloped districts**.
 - **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)** targets **500 blocks** for improved delivery of basic services like health, education, and agriculture support.

Role of United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- The **UN HLPF** is the **leading global platform** for the **review of progress** on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.
- It meets **annually since 2016** under the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- The HLPF facilitates the presentation of **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** by member states, which form the basis for **global peer-learning, experience sharing, and SDG progress tracking**.

Conclusion: India's Long-term Vision

- The VNR 2025 reaffirms that the **2030 Agenda** is closely aligned with India's broader vision of "**Viksit Bharat @2047**", which aims to make India a **developed nation** by the **100th year of independence**.

- This long-term strategy is rooted in the principles of **inclusion**, **innovation**, and **institutional resilience**, ensuring that no one is left behind in the nation's development journey.

Source:

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