**Analytical Assessment of Achievements, Challenges and Future Directions for Sustainable Development Goals in India**

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**Summary**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are part of the country's tradition and heritage. These goals reflect India's development agenda, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted at the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit. He said, "India's development agenda is reflected in the SDGs." Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; one-sixth of humanity's sustainable development will affect the world and our beautiful planet. As the world's fastest-growing major economy, India can achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Externally, the government helped create the SDGs and balance economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Internally, it's taken many steps to achieve these goals.

This study presents comparative and progressive data for each of the 17 SDGs based on SDG scores for 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. This study also analyses year-by-year SDG scores for each of India's 28 states. From these graphs, we can see which states have improved their SDG scores over the last 3 years.

We'll learn at the end of this study which states have improved their SDG scores and how. The detailed graphical presentation will highlight state-wise improvements and identify states that need immediate action to improve their SDG scores. The overall case study will help us understand if each state's measures are sufficient to improve their SDG scores and ensure timely attainment of the 17 SDGs.

**Objectives**

1. To understand the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s)
2. To analyse the performance of Indian states in each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) over a period of 3 years

**Keywords**

Sustainable Development Goals, SDG’s, India, Climate, CoP, growth, country.

**1.1 Introduction**

The conference of parties (CoP) in Glasgow is a recent highlight. The CoP makes UN climate change decisions. Since 1960, the UN has led environmental protection efforts. In 1972, the UN held the first "Conference on the Human Environment" to raise awareness about this issue. The Earth summit opened the UNFCCC to make environmental protection a mission mode. The UNFCCC limited countries' GHG emissions. First CoP meeting after UNFCCC adoption was held in1995 to assess progress. 2015's Paris event mainstreamed climate change and sustainable development. On 12 December 2015, the 21st CoP adopted 17 SDGs and 169 targets. This historic event is the Paris Climate Agreement. The agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius and make best efforts to keep it to 1.5 degrees from pre-industrialization levels. Figure 1 depicts 17 UN SDGs.



*Fig. 1. 17 SDGs Adopted by United Nations*

The Paris agreement recognises countries' climate pledges, including plans to reduce emissions after 2020. According to the UN secretary general, there is "no plan B" for environmentalists. Obama said the agreement "gives us the best chance to save our one planet." The history of climate protection will be divided into "before Paris" and "after Paris" sections.

Along with poverty eradication, health, education, and food security and nutrition, the agreement sets economic, social, and environmental goals. It promises peace and inclusion. It shows how the new Goals and targets are interconnected and have many cross-cutting elements. Social and economic development depend on sustainable management of natural resources. It's a People's Agenda, so its success is assured.

The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global and universally applicable, and respect national realities, capacities, and levels of development. Aspirational and global targets are set by each government, which takes national circumstances into account. Each government will decide how to incorporate global aspirations into national planning, policies, and strategies. Sustainable development is linked to economic, social, and environmental processes.

CoP-26 boosted these developments. 90% of the world committed to a net carbon zero target; 23 countries agreed to stop financing fossil fuels by 2022; 100 countries committed to end deforestation; carbon accounting systems were finalised; and coal and inefficient fuel subsidies were phased out.

India's response to the climate crisis is key to sustainable development and climate protection. The country must balance energy needs and carbon emissions.

In India, particulate emissions from coal plants cause more than 100,000 premature deaths a year. An August report by the Indian Statistical Institute estimated that this, along with mining and haze impacts, cost 0.9% of the country's GDP.

If the Earth's temperature rises 2 degrees Celsius, India's GDP growth could slow by 6.4 percentage points, among the worst in the world after Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

**1.2 Sustainable Development Goals and India**

India is leading the effort to reduce CO2 emissions and achieve sustainable development goals. At CoP-26, India's PM also announced revised goals. India's revised goals are to achieve Net-zero by 2070, reduce projected CO2 emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, generate 50% of electricity from green sources, and reduce emissions by 45% compared to 2005 by 2030.

Table 1 presents a summary of SDGs and corresponding national targets of India.

**Table 1: A summary of SDGs and Corresponding Indian Targets**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Sr. No.*** | ***Goal*** | **Details** |
| ***1*** | ***No poverty***  **Purpose:**  It involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters. | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, cut by at least half the number of men, women, and children of all ages who live in poverty in all its forms, and make sure that the poor and the most vulnerable are well taken care of.  Build the poor and vulnerable people's ability to handle shocks and disasters and make them less vulnerable to extreme weather events and other economic, social, and environmental disasters. |
| ***2*** | ***Zero Hunger***  **Purpose:**  Its aim is to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people–especially children–have sufficient and nutritious food all year. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural, supporting small-scale farmers and equal access to land, technology, and markets. | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, end all types of malnutrition, end hunger, and make sure that everyone, especially the poor and people in vulnerable situations, like babies, have access to safe, nutritious, and enough food all year long.  Adopt measures to make sure that food commodity markets and their derivatives work well and to make it easier to get market information, including information on food reserves, in a timely manner. This will help reduce the extreme volatility of food prices. |
| ***3*** | ***Good Health and Well-Being***  **Purpose:**  Good health is essential to sustainable development, and it considers widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanization, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as no communicable diseases. | **India’s Target:**  Reduce by a large amount, by 2030, the number of deaths and illnesses caused by dangerous chemicals and polluted air, water, and soil.  Increase health funding and the recruitment, development, training, and retention of health workers in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing states.  Strengthen the ability of all countries, especially developing countries, to get early warnings, reduce risks, and manage national and global health risks. |
| ***4*** | ***Quality Education* Purpose:**  This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling and to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education. | **India’s Target:**  Make sure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education by 2030 so that they are ready for primary education.  By 2030, there should be a lot more qualified teachers, and international cooperation should be used to help train teachers in developing countries, especially in the least developed and small island developing states. |
| ***5*** | ***Gender Equality***  **Purpose:**  It is vital to give women equal rights in land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. | **India’s Target:**  Stop all kinds of unfair treatment of women and girls everywhere. Adopt and improve good policies and laws that can be enforced to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at every level. |
| ***6*** | ***Clean Water and Sanitation***  **Purpose:**  To ensure universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services for over two billion | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, everyone should be able to get safe drinking water at a price they can afford. Everyone should also be able to get good sanitation and hygiene, and open defecation should stop. Special attention should be paid to the needs of women, girls, and people in vulnerable situations. |
| ***7*** | ***Affordable and Clean Energy***  **Purpose:**  Investing in solar, wind and thermal power, improving energy productivity, and ensuring energy for all. It’s about expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide clean and more efficient energy in all countries. | **India’s Target:**  Make sure that everyone in developing countries has access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030. Also, expand infrastructure and update technology so that everyone in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, small island developing states, and land-locked developing countries, can get modern and sustainable energy services. |
| ***8*** | ***Decent Work and Economic Growth* Purpose:**  It promotes sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation as an effective measure to eradicate forced labour, slavery, and human trafficking. The goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030. | **India’s Target:**  Make sure that everyone in developing countries has access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030. Also, expand infrastructure and update technology so that everyone in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, small island developing states, and land-locked developing countries, can get modern and sustainable energy services. |
| ***9*** | ***Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure***  **Purpose:**  More than 4 billion people still do not have access to the Internet, and 90 percent are from the developing world. Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensure equal access to information and knowledge, as well as foster innovation and entrepreneurship. | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, improve infrastructure and retool industries to make them more sustainable by making better use of resources and using more clean, environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes. Each country should act according to its own abilities.  Access to information and communication technologies should be made much easier, and everyone in the least developed countries should be able to use the Internet at a price they can afford by 2030. |
| ***10*** | ***Reduced Inequalities* Purpose:**  Income inequality requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide. | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, make sure that the bottom 40% of the population's income grows at a faster rate than the national average and stays that way.  Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States with the most need, especially least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing states, in line with their national plans and programmes. |
| ***11*** | ***Sustainable Cities and Communities***  **Purpose:**  Making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways. | **India’s Target:**  Make sure that everyone has access to decent, safe, and affordable housing and basic services by 2030, and improve slums. Help the least developed countries build safe, long-lasting buildings with local materials, including through financial and technical aid. |
| ***12*** | ***Responsible Consumption and Production***  **Purpose:**  A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs.  Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains will make us resource efficient economy. | **India’s Target:**  By 2030, manage and use natural resources in a way that is sustainable and efficient. Reduce food waste along the production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, and cut food waste per person by half.  Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, such as by restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies where they exist, to reflect their effects on the environment, taking into account the needs and conditions of developing countries and minimising any negative effects on their development in a way that protects the poor. |
| ***13*** | ***Climate Action***  **Purpose:**  Supporting vulnerable regions will make a contribution to all SDGs. These actions will integrate disaster risk measures, sustainable natural resource management, and human security into national development strategies. We can limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, aiming at 1.5°Cwith strong political will, increased investment, and using existing technology | **India’s Target:**  All countries should improve their ability to deal with natural disasters and climate-related risks. Include steps to deal with climate change in national policies, strategies, and plans. Promote ways to improve planning and management of climate change in the least developed countries and small island developing states, paying special attention to women, young people, and local and marginalised communities. |
| ***14*** | ***Life Below Water***  **Purpose:**  Its aim is to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will help mitigate challenges faced by our oceans. | **India’s Target:**  By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution  By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism |
| ***15*** | ***Life On Land***  **Purpose:**  Its aim is to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and peace and security. | **India’s Target:**  By 2025, stop and greatly reduce all types of land-based pollution of the ocean, such as marine debris and nutrient pollution.  Small Island developing States and least developed countries should get more money from the sustainable use of marine resources by 2030. One way to do this is through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. |
| ***16*** | ***Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions***  **Purpose:**  The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity. Promoting the rule of law and human rights are key to this process and also reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. | **India’s Target:**  All forms of violence and their resulting death rates should be drastically reduced everywhere. It is time to put an end to all forms of child abuse and exploitation. Provide everyone with a legal identity, including the ability to register their births, by the year 2030, and promote and enforce policies that are free of discrimination in the interest of long-term development. |
| ***17*** | ***Partnerships for the Goals* Purpose:**  Its aim is to Promote international trade and helping developing countries increase their exports is all part of achieving a universal rules-based and equitable trading system that is fair and open and benefits all. | **India’s Target:**  To improve tax and other revenue collection, strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, including through international aid to developing countries. Create and implement investment promotion programmes for the world's poorest nations. |

* 1. **India’s Achievements on SDGs, Possible concerns and the Road Ahead**

India's commitment to the SDGs is reflected in the Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas motto (Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth). The country has developed a robust SDG localization model based on adoption, implementation, and monitoring at the State and district levels.

**The Table 2 below summarises India’s SDG progress:**

|  |  |
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| **Sashakt Bharat - Sabal Bharat (Empowered and Resilient India)** | Economic growth and empowerment have lifted 271 million Indians out of poverty. Improved nutrition, child health, education, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, and housing have reduced inequalities, especially among vulnerable people. |
| **Swachh Bharat - Swasth Bharat (Clean and Healthy India)** | India achieved 100% rural sanitation and sharply reduced stunting, child, and maternal mortality rates through the Clean India Campaign and the National Nutrition Mission. Ayushmaan Bharat, the world's largest health protection scheme, provides USD 7,000 annually to 100 million families.  India is leading the call for global action against COVID-19. The country has provided medical aid to several countries and launched the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund with a $10 million contribution. India's response to COVID-19 includes a USD 22.5 billion economic stimulus package, comprehensive health coverage for front-line workers, and direct cash transfers for the most vulnerable. |
| **Samagra Bharat - Saksham Bharat (Inclusive and Entrepreneurial India)** | Universalizing nutrition, health, education, social protection, and entrepreneurship and employment skills contribute to social inclusion. Financial inclusion through the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity has propelled new avenues of credit, insurance, and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) to the poor, including over 200 million women, thereby accelerating their economic empowerment. |
| **Satat Bharat – Sanatan Bharat (Sustainable India)** | India's climate action strategies call for clean energy, disaster-resistant infrastructure, and eco-restoration. India has electrified 100% of its villages, reduced 38 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually through energy-efficient appliances, provided clean cooking fuel to 80 million poor households, and set a target to install 450GW of renewable energy and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. India ranks third in renewable energy, fourth in wind, and fifth in solar. India launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Solar Alliance for climate action and disaster resilience. |
| **Sampanna Bharat- Samriddh Bharat (Prosperous and Vibrant India)** | India has a young population and a burgeoning innovation and business ecosystem. With a GDP of USD 2.72 trillion in 2018-19, India aims to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 by stimulating manufacturing, building infrastructure, spurring investments, fostering technological innovation, and boosting entrepreneurship. |

India supports developing countries for the 2030 Agenda through the USD 150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund. India enters the Decade of Action in a spirit of regional and global partnerships and a commitment to 'leave no one behind,' drawing confidence from its experience addressing challenges. India will work with domestic and global stakeholders to accelerate efforts for a sustainable future.

**1.4 Facts and Figures: State-wise scores for each of the 17 SDGs**

*Fig 2: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.1, No Poverty*

The no poverty score in all the three years was high for the states of Goa, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and Tripura and states which stand low on the no poverty scores are Jharkand, Bihar and Uttar Pardesh.

*Fig 3: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.2, Zero Hunger*

The top 3 and bottom 3 States on the zero hunger SDG for the year 2020-21 is Kerela, Goa and Punjab and Jharkhand, Bihar and Chattisgarh respectively and in the year 2019-20 the top 3 and bottom 3 states are Goa, Mizoram, Kerela and Jharkand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively. In the year 2018-19 the states of Goa, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh and top of the list and Karntaka, Bihar and Maharashtra are with the lowest in the list.

*Fig 4: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.3, Good Health and Well-Being*

In the year 2018-19, the state which has scored highest in terms of good health and well being is Madhya Pradesh with a score of 92/100 and in 2019-20 the highest score state is Kerela with a score of 82 and in the yaer 2018-19 the highest score is of the state of Gujrat.

*Fig 5: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.4, Quality Education*

When it comes to quality education at primary and secondary level along with proving vocational training, the states which are best at it across all the years are Kerela, Himachal Pradesh and Goa.

*Fig 6: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.5, Gender Equality*

Gender equality SDG says equal rights to women with respect to education, technology, well being etc. All the states have shown a good progression in the year 2020-21 except the state of Assam. For the year 2019-20, the highest scorer are the states of Himachal Pradesh, Kerela and Sikkim and for the year 2018-19 the highest scorer states are Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim.

*Fig 7: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.6, Clean Water Sanitation*

With respect to clean water and sanitation all the states have shown a great progress in the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The state with highest score in 2019-20 are Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and lowest score in the same year is of Meghalaya and Tripura. For the year 2020-21 the highest and lowest score states are Goa, Telegana and Assam, Rajasthan respectivley. Goa is the only state to achieve the impressive score of 100/100.

*Fig 8: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.7, Affordable and CleanEnergy*

The Investment in solar, wind and thermal power of all the states scores have increased from 2018-19 to 2020-21. 15 states out of total 28 states have an ideal score of 100 which shows in the year 2020-21 all the states have improved a lot in affordable and clean energy to all.

*Fig 9: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.8, Decent work and Economic Growth*

In terms of contributing towards economic growth, Goa has highest score and Meghalaya has the lowest in the year 2018-19. The state Meghalaya and Nagaland are on the lowest and Telangana bieng hiughest in the year 2019-20 and the state of Manipur being lowest and Himachal Pradesh being highest in the year 2020-21.

*Fig 10: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.9, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*

With respect to industry, innovation, infrastructure for the year 2018-19 many states like Goa, Nagaland, Odisha and Tamil Nadu stands at a zero score but they have shown an improvement in the consecutive years. The state of Gujrat and Kerela is at the highest in the year 2019-20 while Mizoram is at the lowest point in the same year. In comparison to 2020-21, in the year 2019-20 the states have performed better with respect to innovation.

*Fig 11: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.10, Reduced Inequalities*

In the year 2018-19, Mizoram and Nagaland scored a 100/100 for the Reduced Inequalities goal followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh who scored a 98/100 in the same year. Over the next 2 years the scores of Mizoram and Nagaland have gone down however, Meghalaya has managed to be at the top even in the year 2020-21 with a highest score of the year at 88/100.

Overall the graph tells us that this SDG had a good score throughout the states in 2018-19 but scored poor in the following years where the highest score dropped from 100 in 2018-19 to 94/100 in 2019-20which further more dropped to 88/100 in 2020-21.

*Fig 12: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.11, Sustainable Cities and Communities*

With respect to Sustainable Cities and Communities, the state of Goa has been the only state to maintain good consistency in their scores. In the year 2018-19 Goa scored the highest with 71/100 followed by 79/100 in 2019-20 and 89/100 in 2020-21 to be the second highest after Punjab. Overall the scores throughout the states have improved from 2018-19 to 2020-21 indicating better measures and maintainance taken up by various states to ensure Sustainable Cities and Communities.

*Fig 13: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.12, Responsible Consumption and Production*

The top 2 states to score highest with respect to Responsible Consumption and Production are Nagaland and Tripura. In 2019-20 Nagaland stood at the top with a score of 100 followed by Tripura at 92 and in the year 2020-21 Tripura stood at the top with a score of 99 followed by Nagaland at 91. In addition to the highesh scoring states, it is important to note that almost all the states except for Assam and Goa have improved their scores over the years.

*Fig 14: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.13, Climate Action*

From the above we can see that in the year 2019-20 Karnataka is at the top with a score of 71/100 followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with a respective score of 70 and 69. Out of these 3 states which topped in 2019-20 Odisha showed an imporved with a score of 70 however, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh showed a downward trend with scores falling to 62 and 63 respectively. In addition to this, we can see that the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have scored very poor indicating very poor actions to rectify and improve climate problems.

*Fig 15: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.15, Life on Land*

Life on land is one such goal which has been a matter of concern for almost all the states in India. From the above data we can see that Arunachal Pradesh has been the only state that has managed to improve its score from 2018 to 2021 with the highest score of 93/100 in 2020-21.States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana showed improvement from 2018-19 to 2019-20 however, failed to maintain their scores in 2020-21. Overall we can interpret that even though some states managed to improve the situation from 2018-19 to 2019-20, they have not been able to maintain the same in the following years and hence we see a low score for almost all the states in 2020-21.

*Fig 16: Graph showing state-wise score for SDG no.16, Peace, Justice and String Institutions*

With respect to Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions we can see that Uttarakhand has been the only state, which is consistent with a score of 86, 85 and 86 respectively in the 3 years under considerations. States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh have also shown considerable improvement in their scores over the years. It is also important to notice that the states of Odisha and Goa have shown a drastic fall in their scores from 2018 to 2021. More stringent and effective measures will be required to reduce all forms of violence and work with the governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity.

*Fig 17: Graph showing composite SDG scores for all 28 states*

From the above graph on composite scores, it is very much evident that the all the states have consistently strived to improve their SDG scores by effectively implementing the various goals at their respective state level.

In the year 2018-19 we can see that Madhya Pradesh and Telangana were at the top positions followed by Himachal Pradesh but in the next year 2019-20 it is the state of Kerala which is at the top position followed by Himachal Pradesh. It is overwhelming to notice that these 2 states, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh could successfully maintain their scores and even improve it further in 2020-21 to sustain at the top positions.

From the above analysis and interpretation, we can very well observe that the states which have specifically taken SDG focused initiatives and measures have managed to improve their SDG scores over a period. However, those who have not taken any evident steps to boost the SDGs have not shown any improvement. Hence, to score progressively with respect to achievement of SDGs 2030, each of the 28 states in the country should take specific and focused measures which will not only fetch a better SDG score but will ensure faster and better development of the country. If all the states in India become a bit more mindful about these 17 SDGs, we as a country can surely stand as an example for all the other developing countries around the world.

**1.5 Key Observations:**

From the above analysis, we can observe that the smallest state in India, Goa has managed to top majority of the SDGs by scoring the highest scores throughout the tenure under consideration. Be it the goal of no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, clean water and sanitation, economic growth or sustainable cities, and communities, from the graphical representation it is evident that Goa has managed to be at the top with the highest SDG scores. One of the prime reasons for this can be the small population size that the state is regulating and the determined efforts to maintain the state’s tourist attraction.

Followed by Goa, it is the state of Kerala which has shown a great improvement towards some SDGs like zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education at primary and secondary level, gender equality and industry, innovation, infrastructure. One of the most evident reasons for such an improvement in SDG scores is the literacy rate of state. We can say that being the state with highest literacy, the state’s population is aware about and understands their sense of responsibility towards attainment of these vital SDGs.

In addition to the above states, a few other states like Mizoram, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujrat, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have also managed to improve their SDG scores to some extent over the period.

Another positive observation is that a 2 of the SDGs namely, Investment in solar, wind and thermal power and Responsible Consumption and Production have shown an overall improvement in the SDG scores of almost all the states duing the 3 years under consideration.

While praising the improvements it is eqully important to also focus on the states which have consistently shown a poor SDG score during the 3 years under consideration. States like Jharkhand, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan and West Bengal need a focused approach with some immediate actions and measures to improve their drooping SDG scores as early as possible. If a similar and focused approach is adopted by all the 28 states for all the 17 SDGs, India as a developing country can surely bring in a major impact in the attainment of SDGs and at the same time set an excellent example for the other developing countries around the world.

* 1. **Suggested Questions:**

Question 1: List down the aspirational and global targets set by Indian government to achieve 2030 agenda of Sustainale Development Goals.

Question 2: Identify the states with good performance across the 17 SDG’s. Give reasons.

Question 3: Suggest the measures that can be adopted by the states for improving the overall SDG scores of India.

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