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# **Sustainable Development Goals: Road Map for addressing Global Challenges**

## **Abstract**

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context. With this backdrop present paper attempts to make critical analysis of the initiatives taken by the Government of India.

**Keywords: Global Challenges, sustainability, financial resources and sustainable future**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted as United Nations (UN) Agenda for 2030 consist of 17 goals and 169 targets setting a blueprint for a sustainable future for coming generations. Addressing the global challenges for sustainability, SDGs aim at minimizing global poverty, inequality and hunger, managing climate change and environmental degradation, and reducing risk management under extreme weather events. All the 17 goals are interconnected and any action taken towards one target affects the progress of others.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER**

- To know about the Sustainable Development Goals
- To analyse the major targets set for achieving SDGs
- To critically examine the initiatives taken by the Government

### **III. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world are:

- a) No Poverty
- b) Zero Hunger
- c) Good Health and Well-being
- d) Quality Education
- e) Gender Equality
- f) Clean Water and Sanitation
- g) Affordable and Clean Energy
- h) Decent Work and Economic Growth
- i) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- j) Reduced Inequality
- k) Sustainable Cities and Communities
- l) Responsible Consumption and Production
- m) Climate Action
- n) Life Below Water
- o) Life on Land
- p) Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- q) Partnerships to achieve the Goal

### **IV. TARGETS SET TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

- By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- By 2030, reduce 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.
- Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- By 2030, 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, ownership and control over land and other forms of 13 property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro-finance.
- By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
- Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

## **V. POLICIES INITIATED BY THE GOVT OF INDIA TO ACHIEVE SDGS**

The government has formulated policies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to mitigate the effect of Climate Change and build Sustainable cities and communities. The information was provided by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which provides an overarching policy framework for all climate actions, he further added.

### **A. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**

The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is an initiative of the Government for addressing, combating & adapting to climate change. It comprises of eight core Missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Green India, sustainable agriculture, and strategic knowledge for climate change.

States and UTs are also a part of the initiative. 33 States and Union Territories have prepared a State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) aligning with the objectives of NAPCC.

### **B. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a national-level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. Under it, the City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million-plus cities. These action plans focus on city-specific short/medium/long-term actions to control air pollution from sources such as vehicular emission, road dust, burning of biomass/ crop/ garbage/ Municipal Solid Waste, landfills, construction activities, and industrial emission.

### **C. National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)**

The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP), an initiative of the Government, aims to undertake suitable structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the effects of cyclones in the coastal states and UTs of India. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) implements the Project in coordination with the participating State Governments and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM).

NCRMP has been implemented across eight coastal States with four Main Components; i) Early Warning Dissemination System; ii) Cyclone Risk Mitigation Infrastructure; iii) Technical Assistance for Capacity and iv) Project Management and Monitoring, in two phases i.e. (Phase-I: Andhra Pradesh & Odisha); (Phase-II: Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra & West Bengal). Works on Phase-I were completed in December 2018 and Phase-II is scheduled to be completed by September 2022.

### **D. The Net Zero Commitment**

India achieved a 24% reduction in emission intensity of its GDP between 2005 and 2016. India will achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. This is the commitment India has made at COP26. To achieve the goal, the country is taking several initiatives. This includes the recent complete ban on single-use plastics. Furthermore, despite having no binding obligation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India announced its voluntary goal to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level.

The government also supports the 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, for which the Ministry had published a draft notification of regulation on Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) for Waste Tyre for receiving comments from public and ‘Guidelines on the EPR for Plastic Packaging’ under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 has been notified.

## VI. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION THROUGH BUDGET PROVISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

**Table-1**

**Budget allocation by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change**

(Rs in Crore)

Year	Establishment Expenditure	Central Sector schemes	Other Central Sector Expenditure	Transfers To States/Uts Centrally Sponsored Schemes	Grand Total
2021-22	523	763	489	657	<b>2432</b>
2022-23 (RE)	640	820	468	550	<b>2478</b>
2023-24 (BE)	903	949	468	759	<b>3079</b>

Source : Budget document, 2023, GOI

**Table-2**

**Size of the Expenditure on Environment Expenditure**

Year	As % of Total Budget	As % of GDP
2021-22	<b>0.05</b>	0.001
2022-23 (RE)	<b>0.05</b>	0.001
2023-24 (BE)	<b>0.06</b>	0.001

Source:

Handbook on

Indian Economy,2023

## VII. ENVIRONMENT EXPENDITURE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

General government expenditure in the EU on 'environmental protection' amounted to €119 billion (0.8 % of GDP) in 2021. Expenditure on 'environmental protection' ranged between 0.2 % of GDP and 1.5 % of GDP in 2021. In 2021, Croatia devoted the highest ratio of GDP to 'environmental protection' (1.5 % of GDP), followed by the Netherlands (1.4 % of GDP), Belgium and Malta (1.3 % of GDP each) and Greece (1.2 % of GDP).

## CONCLUSION

The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report will be launched as the world approaches the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda and struggles to rebuild in the aftermath (or in the midst) of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, practical solutions that can accelerate progress on the SDGs will be urgently needed. The 2023 Report will build on the 2019 Report providing evidence that can help decision-makers to accelerate action and overcome impediments that stand in the way of progress on sustainable development. The focus will be on accelerating transformation through important entry points and enabling science to support this acceleration.

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