

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – The Indian Perspective and Initiatives for UN Agenda 2030

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## Abstract

Sustainable Development Goals were started by United Nations in the General Assembly of 2015 to transform World into a sustainable place to live in. India has also accepted the SDGs as the way to enhance the development goals in the different sphere of the economy. In the current research work, it has been tried to review all the programmes and policies started by the Government of India in order to bring the change in the development model by enhancing it. How far India has been successful in doing that is the matter of concern and that has been discussed here in the research article. The review of different programmes related to SDGs started since 2015 has been highlighted along with the scope for the future.

**Keywords:** SDGs, Development, National Indicator, Self- sufficiency, Capacity Development.

## INTRODUCTION

United Nations (UN) in General Assembly in 2015 came up with Sustainable Development Goals in the form of document named as “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which comprises of 17 Sustainable Development Goals having 169 targets so far. In India, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation came up with National Indicator Framework (NIF) to help the Government in looking after the process and progress of SDGs at National level. The sources of information consist of data given by different Ministries and State Governments.

The various reports are working as base for weighing the progress of SDGs and related targets till the year 2030 and to show how far the country has progressed and also the scope of progress will be considered as well. The reports by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have formed the base for framing the policies in the field where there is requirement of SDGs and their respective goals.

## SDGs at India level

SDGs are not just for one development of upliftment but to overall provide a quality life to the people of the nation. The countries are responsible and accountable for their own policies and programmes related to SDGs and how they implement them is also as per the convenience of the countries according to their situations and requirements.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the global goals which were adopted back in year 2015 as the need for eradicating poverty from every sphere of lives and to make the worldwide a place worth living by the year 2030. The main objective of starting SDGs is to maintain the balance between economic, social, and environmental sustainability needs at once so that the outcomes affect all the areas in a positive way. There are 17 different goals set up by United Nations to meet the different areas of development like hunger, poverty, health issues, discrimination against women and girls.

## Objectives of India joining SDGs

The Agenda 2030 has been accepted in order to achieve the national development goals. The agenda is to bring development for one and all and to include everybody in the mainstream of development and overall growth.

Since 2015, the SDGs have evolved and changed as per the requirement of different countries and the same applies to India as well. There are 17 goals given as per the UN standard guidelines for SDGs and targets are set as per the convenience of different countries. India has set the target for all 17

goals looking into the different fields and how different targets are set for the same.

Following table shows the development of India in context of SDGs from the year 2015-16 till the year 2019-20.

To understand the progress and compare the achievement for different years, India has taken 2015-16 as the base year and there after the development and targets are developed and measured. The value of indicators was very few in the 2015-16 and that is why data is available accordingly.

Table 1: Table showing SDGs in context of Initiatives taken by India

SDGs	Year	Initiatives
SDG1	2015-16	The major initiative during the period includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supply of Pipe Water by 35.76%</li> <li>➤ SHGs provided Bank Credit Linkage to 18.32 Lakhs people</li> <li>➤ Total new beneficiaries under EPS – 2.17 crore</li> </ul>
	2016-17	➤ Supply of Pipe Water increased to 36.52%
	2017-18	No initiative during this period
	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supply of Pipe Water increased to 40.50%</li> <li>➤ SHGs provided Bank Credit Linkage to 26.98 Lakhs people</li> <li>➤ New Beneficiaries under EPS – 2.34 crore</li> </ul>
	2019-20	➤ Pipe Water Supply – 42.49%
SDG2	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agriculture Productivity of Wheat &amp; Rice – 3034 Kgs &amp; 2400 Kgs</li> <li>➤ Beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 – 95.18%</li> <li>➤ Gross value added in agriculture per worker – Rs. 61,427</li> <li>➤ Net area under organic farming – 1.07%</li> </ul>
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	No initiative during this period
	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agriculture Productivity of Wheat &amp; Rice – 3507 Kgs &amp; 2659 Kgs</li> <li>➤ Beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 – 97.62%</li> </ul>
	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agriculture Productivity of Wheat &amp; Rice – 3421 Kgs &amp; 2703 Kgs</li> <li>➤ Beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 – 99.51%</li> <li>➤ Gross value added in agriculture per worker – Rs. 74,044</li> <li>➤ Net area under organic farming – 2.75%</li> </ul>
SDG3	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maternal Mortality Ratio per 1 lakh live births – 130 for 2014-16</li> <li>➤ Under five Mortality Rate per 1000 live births – 43</li> <li>➤ Fund allocation from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to Department of Health Research – Rs. 1018 Crore</li> <li>➤ Government spending in health sector to GDP – 1.19%</li> <li>➤ Malaria incidence per 1000 persons – 0.92</li> </ul>
	2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maternal Mortality Ratio per 1 lakh live births – 122 for 2015-17</li> <li>➤ Under five Mortality Rate per 1000 live births - 37</li> </ul>
	2017-18	➤ Government spending in health sector to GDP – 1.33%
	2018-19	➤ Malaria incidence per 1000 persons – 0.18

	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fund allocation from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to Department of Health Research – Rs. 1900 Crore in 2019-20</li> </ul>
SDG4	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education – 24.5%</li> <li>➤ Percentage for trained teachers by education level: Primary – 75.49%</li> <li>Upper primary – 78.18%</li> <li>Secondary – 78.52%</li> <li>Higher secondary – 64.45%</li> <li>➤ Access to electricity in schools – 62.81%</li> <li>➤ Hand washing facility at schools – 52.41%</li> </ul>
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage for trained teachers by education level: Primary – 77.85%</li> <li>Upper primary – 78.57%</li> <li>Secondary – 83.69%</li> <li>Higher secondary – 87.24%</li> <li>➤ Access to electricity in schools – 67.57%</li> <li>➤ Hand washing facility at schools – 59.34%</li> </ul>
	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education – 28.3%</li> </ul>
	2019-20	No initiative during this period
SDG5	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Women representatives in Lok Sabha seats – 11.42% in 2014</li> <li>➤ Number of States having Gender Budget Cells – 14</li> <li>➤ Girl children out of total children trafficked – 90.29%</li> </ul>
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Girl children out of total children trafficked – 44%</li> </ul>
	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Women representatives in Lok Sabha seats – 14.36%</li> </ul>
	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of States having Gender Budget Cells – 23 in 2019-20</li> </ul>
SDG6	2015-16	No initiative during this period
	2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Safe &amp; drinking water through Pipe Water Supply – 36.52%</li> <li>➤ Percentage of districts achieving open defecation free targets (ODF) – 18.45%</li> <li>➤ Per capita storage of water – 198.02 cubic meter per person</li> <li>➤ Access to toilet – 50.90%</li> </ul>
	2017-18	No initiative during this period
	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Safe &amp; drinking water through Pipe Water Supply – 40.50%</li> <li>➤ Percentage of districts achieving open defecation free targets (ODF) – 88.13%</li> </ul>
	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of districts achieving open defecation free targets (ODF) – 88.13%</li> <li>➤ Per capita storage of water – 253.39 cubic meter per person</li> <li>➤ Access to toilet – 100%</li> </ul>
SDG7	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Households using clean cooking fuel – 63.11%</li> <li>➤ Renewable energy share in total installed electricity generation – 13.40%</li> </ul>
	2016-17	No initiative during this period

	2017-18	➤ Renewable energy share in total installed electricity generation – 17.70%
	2018-19	➤ Households using clean cooking fuel –96.22%
	2019-20	➤ Electrification of households –100% in 2020
SDG8	2015-16	➤ Issue of Patents – 6,326 ➤ No. of Startups under Startup India – 503 ➤ No. of banking outlets per 10 lakh population - 495
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Issue of Patents – 13,045 ➤ No. of Startups under Startup India – 8,724 ➤ Wages earned in casual or regular employment by: Male – Rs. 16,602 p.m Female – Rs. 13, 029 p.m
	2018-19	➤ Wages earned in casual or regular employment by: Male – Rs. 17,698 p.m Female – Rs. 13, 890 p.m ➤ No. of banking outlets per 10 lakh population – 1,456
	2019-20	No initiative during this period
SDG9	2015-16	➤ Share of government spending on IPR to total GDP – 3.52% ➤ Share of GVA of Information & computer related activities to total GVA – 4.17% ➤ Share of population with internet subscription – 26.98%
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Share of government spending on IPR to total GDP – 3.91% ➤ Share of GVA of Information & computer related activities to total GVA – 4.41%
	2018-19	➤ Share of population with internet subscription – 48.48%
	2019-20	➤ Share of population with internet subscription – 54.29%
SDG10	2015-16	➤ Share of budget allocated for welfare of SCs & STs – 2.47% ➤ Share of budget allocated to North Eastern States – 1.64%
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Share of budget allocated for welfare of SCs & STs – 2.96%
	2018-19	➤ Share of budget allocated to North- Eastern States – 1.71% in 2019-20
	2019-20	No initiative during this period
SDG11	2015-16	➤ Cities with master plans – 33.17% ➤ Percentage of wards with 100% door to door waste collection system – 40.91% ➤ Average persons injured in road accidents out of 1 lakh – 38.31 persons
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Average persons injured in road accidents out of 1 lakh – 33.74 persons
	2018-19	➤ Cities with master plans – 34.93%
	2019-20	➤ Percentage of wards with 100% door to door waste collection system – 40.91% in 2019-20
SDG12	2015-16	➤ Per capita food availability – 169.8 kgs per year ➤ Post- harvest transit loss of wheat & rice - 0.39% ➤ Amount of fossil fuel subsidy per unit of GDP – 0.22

		➤ Installed renewable energy generation capacity – 63.71 watts per capita
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Amount of fossil fuel subsidy per unit of GDP – 0.14
	2018-19	➤ Per capita food availability – 179.6 kgs per year ➤ Post- harvest transit loss of wheat & rice - 0.34%
	2019-20	➤ Amount of fossil fuel subsidy per unit of GDP – 0.19 ➤ Installed renewable energy generation capacity – 93.39 watts per capita
SDG13	2015-16	No initiative during this period
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ 33 States and UTs with strategies for enhancing adaptive capacity & dealing with climate extreme weather events in 2017-18
	2018-19	No initiative during this period
	2019-20	➤ India has achieved its voluntary commitment of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP – Reduction of emission by 21% by 2020
SDG14	2015-16	➤ Maximum sustainable yield in fishing – 3.7 million tonnes per year
	2016-17	➤ Assistance to the traditional/ artisanal fishers for procurement of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats and other fishing implements – Rs. 1,098 lakhs
	2017-18	➤ Maximum sustainable yield in fishing – 5.3 million tonnes per year
	2018-19	➤ Assistance to the traditional/ artisanal fishers for procurement of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats and other fishing implements – Rs. 1,930 lakhs
	2019-20	No initiative during this period
SDG15	2015-16	➤ Forest cover in total geographical area – 21.35% ➤ Protected area in total geographical area – 48.47% ➤ Area covered under different afforestation schemes – 13,81,596 hectares ➤ Tree cover in total geographical area – 2.82% ➤ Number of cases registered under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 – 698 cases ➤ Government spending on environmental protection to total government expenditure – 0.05%
	2016-17	No initiative during this period
	2017-18	➤ Area covered under different afforestation schemes – 16,88,507 hectares ➤ Number of cases registered under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 – 207 cases ➤ Government spending on environmental protection to total government expenditure – 0.07%
	2018-19	➤ Forest cover in total geographical area – 21.67% ➤ Protected area in total geographical area – 48.75% ➤ Tree cover in total geographical area – 2.89%
	2019-20	No initiative during this period
SDG16	2015-16	➤ No. of victims of intentional homicide per 1,00,000 population – 2.63 ➤ No. of courts per lakh population – 1.81 ➤ No. of judges per lakh population – 1.32 ➤ Cases reported under Prevention of Corruption Act & related section of IPC per lakh population – 0.42 ➤ No. of applications filed under RTI Act – 11,65,217 ➤ RTI queries responded – 81.8%
	2016-17	➤ No. of courts per lakh population – 1.84 ➤ No. of judges per lakh population – 1.34 ➤ Population covered under Aadhaar card – 77.4%
	2017-18	➤ No. of victims of intentional homicide per 1,00,000 population – 2.28 ➤ Cases reported under Prevention of Corruption Act & related section of IPC per lakh population – 0.32 ➤ RTI queries responded – 82.1%

	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No. of courts per lakh population – 1.85</li> <li>➤ No. of judges per lakh population – 1.82</li> <li>➤ No. of applications filed under RTI Act – 16,30,048</li> <li>➤ Population covered under Aadhaar card – 90.28%</li> </ul>
	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No. of courts per lakh population – 1.86</li> </ul>
SDG17	2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Share of India's exports in: Global Merchandise – 1.62%</li> <li>Commercial Services – 3.20%</li> <li>➤ Govt revenue as proportion of GDP – 8.68%</li> <li>➤ Fixed internet broadband subscription per 100 inhabitants – 1.32%</li> </ul>
	2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Budget allocated to different Ministries for strengthening the statistical system – Rs. 3,07,451 lakh</li> </ul>
	2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Budget allocated to different Ministries for strengthening the statistical system – Rs. 3,21,030 lakh</li> <li>➤ Share of India's exports in: Global Merchandise – 1.67%</li> <li>Commercial Services – 3.54%</li> </ul>
	2018-19	No initiative during this period
	2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Govt revenue as proportion of GDP – 9.08%</li> <li>➤ Fixed internet broadband subscription per 100 inhabitants – 1.41%</li> </ul>

### Analysis

Going through the picture of what India have done towards achieving the SDGs, the contribution is commendable but given the population size and people living in the rural areas, still there is a long road ahead for optimizing such SDGs. The data has been collected for 5 years from the official website of MoSPI which is dedicatedly working towards achieving SDGs at India level and, focusing on self- sufficiency but there is a need channelize the energy towards larger population especially when it comes to the bank linkage funding to the people which is very low in comparison to the population of India and their requirement. At the same time, the focus cannot be solely on increasing the advancement to poor and needy people, rather the focus should be on providing the advancements for productive purposes which is still lacking in India and need to cover a long path for the same.

The gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education is only 28.3% of the total target population which is again a very low percentage and more needs to be done in this area. As per SDG6, there is a high increase in the Open Defecation

Free (ODF) criteria where it was very low in the year 2015-16 which is a very good sign for the development for rural areas in India. Under SDG 17 the exports are very less when it comes to merchandise and commercial services but that would not be counted as a negative sign because India is working towards self-sufficiency and it is the priority for the domestic economy and then after exports are being focused.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has emphasised on the need of creating the roles and responsibilities related to SDGs so that there is a clarity regarding the achievement of the goals as per SDGs.

1. Development of National Indicator Framework along with the concerned Ministries help in understanding and monitoring the progress of SDGs

2. Establishing the mechanism for coordination with different Ministries and agencies to work towards global SDG indicators.

3. The Centre and States are supposed to work in collaboration to achieve SDG indicators.

In the year 2016, MoSPI constructed a consolidated list of all indicators of national importance and different workshops were organized with Centre and States to discuss the feasibility of proposed indicators. All the States along with Centre were supposed to modify, change national indicators of SDGs as per the requirement of different places and as per the requirement. As per the National Indicator Framework (NIF), the total of 306 indicators were decided by MoSPI for India after the consultation between Centre and States.

### Conclusion and Scope for the Future

The government is working very hard towards the SDGs and very soon the goals would be achieved as per the criteria made. The target is not just achieving the short-term goals but for the long term and thus it is required to work progressively towards the goals. There are few areas of SDGs in which work has not been up to the mark but given the population of India, it will take some time to establish better ways of achieving the targets as the scope is immense. The continuous monitoring of the achievement of goals and respective indicators are taking place with the use of new technologies. The capacity building is one thing which is very much important for the development of the country providing more strength to the resources of the country. There is need for more rigorous tracking of development made under SDGs related to their outcomes and other emerging activities. The scope for the future study includes comparative analysis of International Standards set by developed countries in terms of SDGs and what India is doing and will be doing in the near future in regard to SDGs.

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