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A Study on the Progress of Sustainable Development Goals of India with Special Reference to Some States of India

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ABSTRACT:

In the contemporary landscape, sustainable development stands as a pivotal challenge, demanding a fundamental reshaping of existing economic production systems to align with environmentally conscious growth. The intricate dance between rapid economic expansion and ecosystem preservation becomes particularly delicate for India, the world's most populous country grappling with elevated poverty levels. As a member of the United Nations, India has committed to navigating this intricate balance through the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Serving as a comprehensive blueprint, these goals outline the path toward sustainable development, addressing the complex interplay between socio-economic advancement and environmental stewardship. This research paper delves into the imperative for Sustainable Development Goals, shedding light on why they are essential in the context of India's demographic and economic landscape. The narrative extends to an exploration of India's progress in achieving these goals, acknowledging milestones achieved and challenges encountered. By unravelling this multifaceted journey, the paper aims to offer insights into the nuanced dynamics of sustainable development in the Indian context.

Key words: Sustainable development goals, Goals of India, Indian health, implementation, United Nations, India and Millennium Development Goals.

1 Introduction:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute a global framework addressing equality and sustainable health across various scales, from the planetary biosphere to local communities. Enacted on January 1, 2016, following unanimous adoption by 193 United Nations member countries, these 17 goals aim to eradicate poverty, safeguard the environment, and ensure universal well-being, fostering peace and prosperity for present and future generations. Referred to as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, these goals guide policies to tackle crucial areas such as poverty alleviation, hunger eradication, health improvement, quality education, gender equality, clean energy provision, sustainable economic growth, and inequality reduction, among others, with the overarching objective of transforming lives globally by 2030.

India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is crucial for the global success of the 2030 Agenda. The sheer size of India's population and the strength of its economy make its achievements significant. However, challenges persist, as reflected in rankings, with India placed 110th and 116th out of 157 nations in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Infrastructure gaps, food insecurity, and environmental issues complicate India's pursuit of sustainable development.

The SDG Index and Dashboard Global Report in 2017 revealed India's rankings of 110th and 116th out of 157 nations in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Challenges in sustainable development include inadequate infrastructure, rising food insecurity, and declining environmental quality. Various studies, such as Rao (2015) and Vani et al. (2017), highlight these complexities. Panda & Mohanty (2018) assessed health indicators, suggesting progress in maternal health but challenges in nutrition and other health targets by 2030. Kwatra et al. (2016) found that states with higher economic sustainability exhibit better sustainable development. Rural-urban disparities persist in water and sanitation access (Chaudhuri & Roy, 2017). Land use changes from 1985 to 2005 show a decline in forest cover, notably in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, while mangrove forests increased due to coastal regulations.

As India navigates its development journey, balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability becomes imperative. The ongoing assessment of progress, as outlined by NITI Aayog and various studies, aids in

shaping effective policies and interventions. The commitment to the SDGs underscores India's role in fostering global equality, health, and prosperity.

2 Theoretical Background Of Sustainable Development Goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), represent an improvement over the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1. Significant progress has been made in India towards the MDGs in the area of fundamental universal education, gender equality in education and global economic growth. However, there has been slow progress in improving health indicators related to mortality, morbidity and various environmental factors that contribute to poor health conditions. 2. With the implementation of the SDGs, the Indian government is now trying to link the efforts to achieve the MDGs with the SDGs. SDGs are broader in scope. The 17 SDGs are as follows.

- ❖ **No Poverty** :Eradicating poverty involves ensuring equal rights to resources, access to basic services, and creating sustainable livelihoods, ultimately lifting people out of poverty.
- ❖ **Zero Hunger:** This goal focuses on ending hunger by promoting sustainable agriculture, ensuring food security, and addressing malnutrition through adequate nutrition
- ❖ **Good Health and Well-being:** Ensuring good health involves providing universal healthcare, reducing maternal and child mortality, combating diseases, and promoting mental health.
- ❖ **Quality Education:** Quality education aims to provide accessible, inclusive, and equitable education for all, fostering lifelong learning opportunities and skills development.
- ❖ **Gender Equality:** This goal seeks to achieve gender equality by eliminating discrimination, violence, and harmful practices, ensuring equal opportunities in all aspects of life.
- ❖ **Clean Water and Sanitation:** Access to clean water and sanitation is crucial for health and well-being. This goal targets universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.
- ❖ **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Promoting sustainable energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, and ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy is the focus here.
- ❖ **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** This goal emphasizes promoting inclusive economic

growth, full employment, and decent work conditions for all.

- ❖ **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure:** Sustainable industrialization, innovation, and resilient infrastructure development are key components for fostering economic growth.
- ❖ **Reduced Inequality:** Addressing inequalities within and among countries involves policies that empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all individuals.
- ❖ **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** This goal aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable through proper urban planning and management.
- ❖ **Responsible Consumption and Production:** Encouraging sustainable consumption patterns, efficient resource use, and responsible production practices contribute to environmental conservation.
- ❖ **Climate Action:** Combatting climate change involves mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience against climate-related impacts.

- ❖ **Life Below Water:** This goal focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources, addressing issues like overfishing and pollution.
- ❖ **Life on Land:** Protecting terrestrial ecosystems, combating desertification, halting biodiversity loss, and promoting sustainable land use are the objectives here.
- ❖ **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice, and building accountable and transparent institutions contribute to stability and development.
- ❖ **Partnerships for the Goals:** This goal underscores the importance of global collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society to support the implementation of the SDGs. Achieving these goals requires coordinated efforts and partnerships at local, national, and global levels, acknowledging the interconnectedness of various issues for sustainable development.

3 Need For Sustainable Development Goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), expanding the focus beyond eradicating poverty and hunger to address climate change and promote sustainable development. While the MDGs achieved success in universalizing primary education, improving water and sanitation access, and combating diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, they fell short in addressing climate challenges. The SDGs, formulated collaboratively with citizen and civil society input, emphasize sustainable development. Unlike the MDGs' dependence on official development assistance, the SDGs prioritize countries enhancing their revenue-generating capabilities. India, facing challenges of a large population, endemic poverty, and poor infrastructure, stands to benefit significantly from the SDGs, contributing to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. With one-sixth of the global population, India holds a substantial stake and responsibility in fostering planetary prosperity and well-being.

4 Review Of Literature:

Griggs et al. (2013) mentions that in the Anthropocene era, it is unsustainable to focus only on poverty reduction without taking into account environmental aspects.

Pradhan et al. (2017) found that the indicators are not independent of each other and exhibit positive and negative correlations, which they call trade-offs and synergies, respectively.

M. Prabhakar (2018) identified challenges in implementing the SDGs in India such as defining indicators, monitoring and ownership, measuring progress, financing the SDGs.

Choudhuri (2019) found gaps in linking government clean energy and sanitation plans.

Dhar (2018) focused on women's economic empowerment and ending violence against women within the framework of the SDGs. There has been very little or almost negligible research on the SDGs, focusing on the need for, current status and progress of the SDGs in India. This article aims to fill this gap.

5 Paper Objectives:

- ❖ To know about Sustainable Development Goals needs.

- ❖ To review significance of Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ To explore at the Sustainable Development Goals prosperities and challenges.
- ❖ To follow the Sustainable Development Goals target in line with other countries.
- ❖ To exhibit the achievement and assess the performance of Sustainable Development Goals in India.

The research is descriptive in nature and uses secondary data sources. It is based on research journals and newspaper articles. Government and Non-Government reports such as those of United Nations, NITI Aayog and Statistical report.

Boons And Challenges Of Sustainable Development Goals:

Sustainable development is a concept that has gained popularity in recent decades. It is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable development consists of conserving natural resources and maintaining ecological balance for the benefit of all. In this blog, we will

explore the pros and cons of sustainability.

Boons of Sustainable Development Goals.

- ❖ **Economic Benefits:** Sustainable development also brings economic benefits. For example, investments in renewable energy, green infrastructure and sustainable technologies can create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Additionally, sustainable practices can help businesses reduce operating costs, improve efficiency, and increase profits.
- ❖ **Long-term Benefits:** Sustainability practices are designed to ensure that benefits are sustainable. For example, using renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power ensures that energy will be available for future generations.
- ❖ **Environmental Protection:** One of the most important benefits of sustainable development is that it helps protect the environment. Implementing sustainability practices, such as using renewable energy sources and reducing waste, helps reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This improves people's quality of life and

preserves the environment for future generations.

- ❖ **Social Equity:** Sustainable development promotes social equity by ensuring everyone has access to their basic needs such as food, water and health care. This ensures that no one is left behind in the pursuit of economic and environmental sustainability.
- ❖ **Global Framework for Action:** The SDGs provide a universal framework that guides countries and stakeholders toward common objectives, fostering global collaboration.
- ❖ **Inclusivity:** The SDGs emphasize leaving no one behind, promoting inclusivity and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring a more equitable world
- ❖ **Long-term Vision:** With a target to be achieved by 2030, the SDGs encourage long-term thinking and planning, promoting sustainable solutions over time
- ❖ **Partnerships:** The goals encourage partnerships among governments, businesses, civil society, and international organizations, fostering collective action.

Obstacles of Sustainable Development Goals:

- ❖ **Slow progress:** Sustainable development is a long-term process that requires a lot of time and resources. This means that progress can be slow and incremental, which can be frustrating for those who want to see immediate results.
- ❖ **Limited availability of resources:** Another drawback of sustainable development is that some resources needed for sustainable practices may be limited. For example, the availability of certain renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, may be limited in certain regions
- ❖ **High costs:** One of the major drawbacks of sustainable development is that it can be expensive. The initial investment required to implement sustainable practices such as green infrastructure and renewable energy can be high. This may dissuade some businesses and individuals from adopting sustainable practices.
- ❖ **Social and Cultural barriers:** Sustainable development can face cultural and social barriers, particularly in communities with deeply rooted traditional

practices. This can make it difficult to adopt and implement sustainable practices

- ❖ **Complexity and Interconnectedness:** The interconnected nature of the goals can make implementation complex, as progress in one area may depend on advancements in another.
- ❖ **Lack of Enforcement Mechanism:** The SDGs lack a formal enforcement mechanism, relying on voluntary commitments, which may limit their effectiveness in some cases.
- ❖ **Global Cooperation Challenges:** Achieving the goals necessitates effective global cooperation, but geopolitical tensions and differing national interests can hinder collaborative efforts.

While the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable development, addressing the challenges requires ongoing commitment, adaptation, and cooperation at local, national, and international levels.

Specific Targets:

India has set specific targets aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) to address its unique developmental challenges. Some key targets for India include:

- ❖ **Poverty:** Reduce the national poverty rate by a significant percentage, aiming for inclusive economic growth and poverty alleviation.
- ❖ **Health:** Improve healthcare infrastructure and access, focusing on reducing maternal and child mortality rates, combating diseases, and addressing malnutrition.
- ❖ **Education:** Enhance the quality of education and increase enrollment rates, with a focus on achieving universal primary and secondary education.
- ❖ **Gender Equality:** Promote gender equality by addressing issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and ensuring equal opportunity.

Aligning government policies and programs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is pivotal, necessitating collaboration not only from the government but also active involvement of the private sector. The Indian government, through NITI Aayog, monitors and oversees SDG implementation, fostering awareness and building capacity in partnership with states, academia, civil society, and

multilateral agencies. The Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2.0 (SDDII 2.0) serves as a comprehensive evaluation tool, ranking states and Union Territories (UTs) based on the achievement of their goals and targets.

According to NITI Aayog's SDG India Index & Dashboard 2019-20 report, India's composite score improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019. This enhancement is attributed to notable progress in specific SDGs, such as SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (clean and affordable energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 15 (life on land), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). The success of initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan contributed to improved scores in SDG 6, while increased LPG coverage, electricity connections, rural road network, and ICT penetration positively impacted SDG 7. However, challenges persist, with SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 5 (gender equality) registering scores below 50. Kerala and Chandigarh maintained their leading positions with an overall score of 70. The report highlights positive strides, with more states joining the group of top scorers. Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim demonstrated significant progress, with Uttar Pradesh's overall score rising from 42 to 55, notably in

Goal 7 – clean and affordable energy. Odisha's improvement in Target 9 and Sikkim's strong performance in multiple targets contribute to their commendable progress. This comprehensive evaluation offers valuable insights into the dynamic landscape of SDG achievement across states and UTs in India.

Indias Achivement To Words Sustainable Development Goals:

As updated in January 2022, India has made progress towards several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but it's important to note that the situation may have evolved since then. Here are some highlights of India's achievements and efforts:

- ❖ **Poverty Alleviation:** India has made significant strides in reducing poverty rates over the years. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and direct benefit transfer programs aim to enhance financial inclusion and alleviate poverty.
- ❖ **Healthcare:** India has taken steps to improve healthcare through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, which focuses on providing financial protection and improving access to healthcare services.
- ❖ **Education:** The country has seen improvements in educational indicators, with increased enrolment

rates in primary and secondary education. However, challenges like quality of education and regional disparities persist.

- ❖ **Gender Equality:** Efforts have been made to promote gender equality, including initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, supporting maternal and child health.
- ❖ **Clean Energy:** India has committed to increasing its renewable energy capacity, with ambitious targets for solar and wind energy. The International Solar Alliance, launched by India, aims to promote solar energy cooperation globally.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Development:** The government has invested in infrastructure development, including the Smart Cities Mission, which focuses on creating sustainable and efficient urban centres.
- ❖ **Reduced Inequality:** Efforts have been made to reduce economic and social inequalities through various social welfare programs and economic reforms.
- ❖ **Sustainable Agriculture:** Initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana aim to improve

water use efficiency in agriculture, promoting sustainable farming practices.

- ❖ **Climate Action:** India is working towards its climate goals, with a focus on renewable energy adoption, afforestation, and sustainable land use.
- ❖ **Biodiversity Conservation:** Conservation efforts include the National Biodiversity Mission, aiming to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity.

Acknowledging regional variations and external influences, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, is crucial when assessing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The India SDG Index: Benchmark Report 2018, utilizing 62 priority indicators by NITI Aayog and 306 national indicators by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, provides a nuanced view of India's advancements. Focused on 13 of the 17 SDGs due to data processing challenges for Goals 12, 13, 14, and 17, the report calculates a composite score ranging from 0 to 100. The national score stands at 57, with state scores varying from 42 to 69 and Union Territories (UT) from 57 to 68. Kerala and Himachal Pradesh lead among states with a score of 69, while Chandigarh leads among UTs with a

score of 68. This comprehensive assessment classifies states and UTs based on their performance, offering valuable insights into the journey toward

achieving the SDGs. A detailed table and scores for each of the 13 SDGs as well as the national score and target are presented below.

INDIA'S STATE WISE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL SDG

State/UT	SDG1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG1 0	SDG 11	SDG 15	SDG 16	Comp -osite SDG
INDEX SCORE														
Andhra Pradesh	67	50	68	77	44	59	76	81	31	75	26	87	90	64
Arunachal Pradesh	52	58	38	44	32	64	44	72	16	47	44	73	77	51
Assam	53	53	30	54	36	42	18	61	35	75	32	100	53	49
Bihar	45	39	40	36	24	31	67	58	38	82	43	56	60	48
Chhattisgarh	50	46	42	53	49	98	36	56	30	73	54	100	65	58
Goa	62	80	65	71	35	65	61	90	0	50	71	100	87	64
Gujarat	48	49	52	67	31	100	67	80	65	79	52	71	73	64
Haryana	50	53	57	65	31	80	50	72	50	55	30	43	78	55
Himachal Pradesh	60	58	62	82	42	95	62	71	43	98	41	93	91	69
Jammu & Kashmir	61	60	63	51	39	52	58	43	35	71	23	74	69	53
Jharkhand	37	35	40	58	32	51	20	52	47	72	52	96	64	50
Karnataka	52	54	69	76	43	62	77	72	57	68	36	88	74	64
Kerala	66	72	92	87	50	62	60	61	68	72	46	75	82	69
Madhya Pradesh	44	41	38	49	33	63	58	57	27	75	39	91	59	52
Maharashtra	47	47	60	74	43	81	69	74	53	76	34	86	82	64
Manipur	44	74	67	65	25	44	39	33	72	98	31	100	70	59
Meghalaya	68	43	52	38	36	40	11	62	42	100	39	94	53	52
Mizoram	71	69	53	54	43	67	78	65	0	100	32	69	71	59
Nagaland	59	69	34	45	42	58	45	40	0	80	32	75	87	51
Odisha	59	46	54	46	43	46	23	53	32	78	34	100	55	51
Punjab	56	71	71	63	43	60	61	57	48	62	36	67	84	60
Rajasthan	59	45	49	73	37	43	63	57	62	79	45	68	81	59
Sikkim	64	67	52	47	50	78	47	57	1	67	56	98	66	58
Tamil Nadu	76	61	77	75	38	66	89	71	46	85	33	74	61	66
Telangana	52	53	73	66	43	55	63	75	16	100	44	83	66	61
Tripura	71	58	53	56	38	38	32	52	38	80	38	86	71	55
Uttar Pradesh	48	43	25	53	27	55	23	55	29	38	37	55	61	42
Uttarakhand	65	53	36	68	41	78	55	67	33	62	41	100	86	60
West Bengal	57	50	66	51	40	54	40	63	45	76	25	88	72	56
A&N Islands	57	38	60	69	58	71	56	60	0	69	64	84	72	58
Chandigarh	39	70	23	85	51	100	96	82	76	52	40	83	90	68
D&N Haveli	21	40	32	77	41	100	73	84	0	100	6	100	63	57
Daman and Diu	58	42	47	46	38	99	84	91	0	100	49	84	79	63
Delhi	30	72	47	58	37	62	51	86	100	80	39	77	68	62
Lakshadweep	43	47	64	62	35	100	60	60	0	100	null	100	74	62
Puducherry	61	71	66	69	27	45	61	85	100	94	27	50	92	65
India	54	48	52	58	36	63	51	65	44	71	39	90	71	57
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Challenges In India's Achievement Of The Sustainable Development Goals:

India faces several challenges in achieving the SDGs. One of the main challenges is poor infrastructure, which affects development. Financial markets, although dynamic, are not yet well developed, particularly with regard to the debt market, making borrowing for infrastructure difficult and dependent

solely on the banking sector. The Indian banking sector itself, hit by the NPA crisis, led to a credit crunch for the private sector. Low levels of research and development and lack of innovation have led India to lag behind and be unable to adopt and adapt climate-resilient agricultural practices or eco-friendly manufacturing. India's high level of poverty, coupled with limited

access to sanitation, primary health care and education, also slows progress on SDG indicators.

There is a growing recognition that sustainable development requires a paradigm shift in our understanding of the interaction between the real economy and quality of life. Changing our current model would bring many social, environmental and economic benefits.

6 Conclusion:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody a global commitment to address critical challenges and forge a more sustainable, inclusive future. Collaboration among Governments, businesses, communities, and individuals on a worldwide scale is imperative for achieving these goals. Tackling issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change, the SDGs chart a course toward a world where everyone thrives, prioritizing the well-being of both people and the planet. Sustained dedication and collective action are crucial for realizing the vision of a prosperous, just, and sustainable world by 2030. While some Indian states made progress in 2019, challenges persist, with five states failing to improve their scores. Concerningly, certain goals, such as SDG 5 – Gender Equality and SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, reveal disparities, with Kerala, Himachal

Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir standing out positively. India has yet to achieve a perfect score for any goal, and overall SDG scores between 50 and 75 highlight the need for significant improvement. The COVID-19-induced global recession adds complexity, hindering revenue generation and limiting government resources. Despite these challenges, innovative approaches involving all stakeholders, including the private sector, offer a pathway for India to attain its SDGs by 2030.

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