NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2023-24

Source: IE

Why in News?

The **NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog** has released its latest **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) India Index** **for 2023-24,** showing significant progress in **sustainable development** across states and union territory of India.
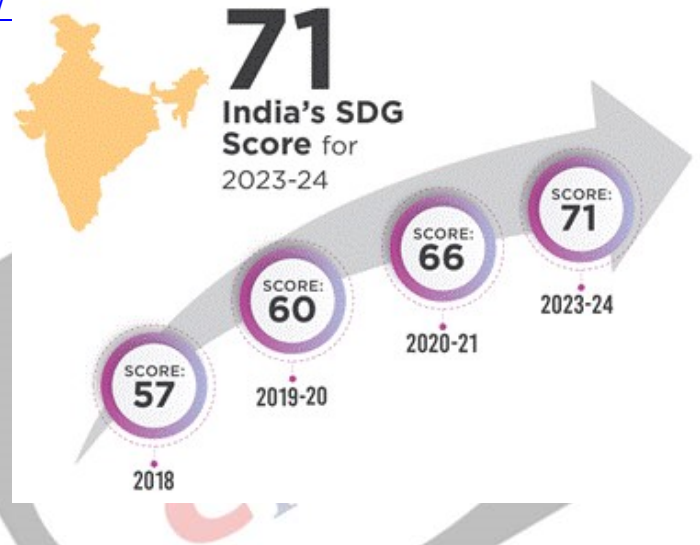
What is the SDG India Index?

- **About: The SDG India Index is a tool developed by NITI Aayog to measure and track India's progress towards the** SDGs set by the United Nations**.**
  - The Index supports the localization of SDGs, encouraging states to integrate these goals into their development plans.
  - It serves as a benchmark for policymakers to identify gaps and prioritise actions towards achieving **sustainable development by 2030.**
- **Methodology:** The Index **assesses the performance** of states and union territories (UTs) **across 16 SDGs** using a set of indicators aligned with national priorities.
  - The SDG India Index **measures national progress using 113 indicators** aligned to the **National Indicator Framework.**
  - Goal-wise scores are computed for the 16 SDGs, and overall composite scores are derived for each State/UT. **Goal 14 (Life Below Water) has not been included in the calculation** of the Composite Score for the Index as it solely pertains to the nine coastal States.
  - **Scores range from 0-100,** with higher scores indicating greater progress toward SDG targets.
    - State/UTs are categorised based on their SDG India Index score as follows: **Aspirant: 0–49, Performer: 50–64, Front-Runner: 65–99, and Achiever: 100.**
- **Impact on Development:** **The Index promotes competitive and cooperative federalism, encouraging States and UTs to learn from each other and close outcome-based gaps.**
  - It provides a comprehensive analysis of progress, highlighting achievements and areas needing improvement.
  - India fully integrated the SDGs into its national development strategies and is proud of its SDG localisation model based on **institutional ownership, collaborative competition, capacity building, and a whole-of-society approach.**

- The Index serves as a barometer for measuring progress towards **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** and informs national and subnational development strategies.

What are the Key Highlights of the SDG India Index for 2023-24?

- **Overall Progress: India's overall SDG score improved to 71 in 2023-24 from 66 in 2020-21 and 57 in 2018. All states have shown improvement in overall scores. Progress has been largely driven by targeted government interventions in poverty reduction, economic growth, and climate action.**
  - **Top Performers: Kerala and Uttarakhand emerged as the best-performing** states, each scoring **79 points**.
  - **Lowest Performer: Bihar** lagged behind with a score of **57 points**, followed by Jharkhand at 62 points.
  - **Front-Runner States: 32 states and union territories (UTs) are in the front-runner category, with 10 new entrants including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh.** //
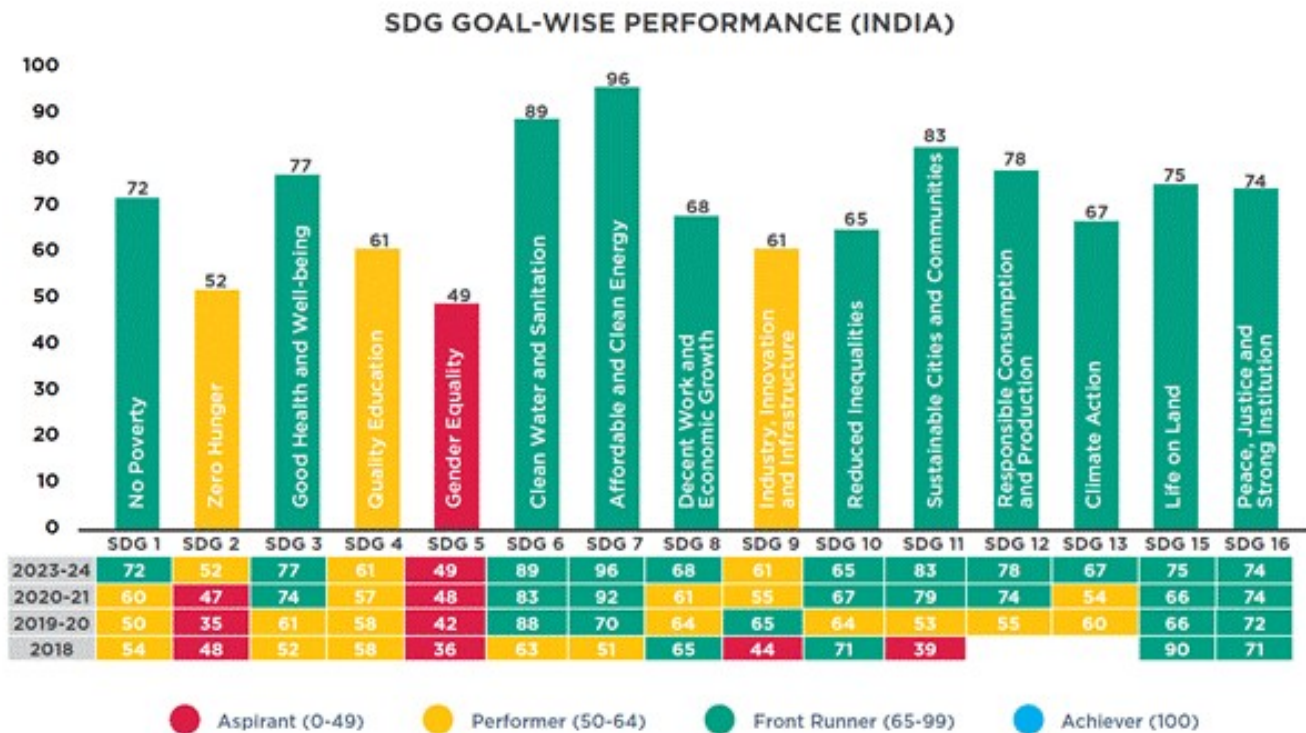

- Government Interventions Contributions to SDG Progress:

  - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: Over 4 crore houses built.

  - Swachh Bharat Mission: 11 crore toilets and 2.23 lakh community sanitary complexes constructed.

  - Ujjwala Yojana: 10 crore LPG connections provided.

  - Jal Jeevan Mission: Tap water connections in over 14.9 crore households.

  - Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY: Over 30 crore beneficiaries. Access to 150,000

  - Ayushman Arogya Mandir which offer primary medical care and provide affordable generic medicines.

  - PM Mudra Yojana: 43 crore loans sanctioned.

  - Saubhagya Scheme: 100% household electrification.

  - Renewable Energy: Solar power capacity increased from 2.82 GW to 73.32 GW in a decade.

  - National Food Security Act (NFSA): Coverage of over 80 crore people.

  - **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Rs. 34 lakh crore made through **PM-Jan Dhan**

  - Skill India Mission: **Over 1.4 crore youth being trained and upskilled and has reskilled 54 lakh youth.**

- **Specific SDGs:**

SDG GOAL-WISE PERFORMANCE (INDIA)

	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 15	SDG 16
2023-24	72	52	77	61	49	89	96	68	61	65	83	78	67	75	74
2020-21	60	47	74	57	48	83	92	61	55	67	79	74	54	66	74
2019-20	50	35	61	58	42	88	70	64	65	64	53	55	60	66	72
2018	54	48	52	58	36	63	51	65	44	71	39			90	71

● Aspirant (0-49) ● Performer (50-64) ● Front Runner (65-99) ● Achiever (100)

SDG	Key Highlights
Goal 1: No Poverty	■ Improved score from 60 in 2020-21 to 72 in 2023-24, 99.7% were offered employment of the persons demanding employment under **MGNREGA in 2023-2024.**
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	■ Improvement in overall composite score from Aspirant to Performer category. 99.01% beneficiaries covered under **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.**
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being	■ Overall score improved from 52 in 2018 to 77 in 2023-24. 93.23% children aged 9-11 months are fully immunised, and the Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,00,000 live births stands at 97.
Goal 4: Quality Education	■ Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) for elementary education is 96.5% for 2021-22. 88.65% of schools have access to both electricity and drinking water. ■ 100% parity between females and males in Higher Education (18-23 years).
Goal 5: Gender Equality	■ Overall score improved from 36 in 2018 to 49 in 2023-24. Sex ratio at birth (females per 1,000 males) stands at 929.
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	■ Significant improvement in score from 63 in 2018 to 89 in 2023-24. 99.29% of rural households have improved their source of drinking water. ■ 94.7% of schools have functional toilets for girls.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	**Highest score amongst all SDGs also significant improvement from 51 in 2018 to 96 in 2023-24.** 100% households have access to electricity under the **Saubhagya Scheme.** **Significant improvement in households have clean cooking fuel (LPG + PNG) connections from 92.02% (2020) to 96.35% (2024)**
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	5.88% annual growth rate of India's GDP per capita at constant prices in 2022-23. **Reduction in unemployment rate** from 6.2% in 2018-19 to 3.40% in 2022-23.
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Improvement in score from 41 in 2018 to 61 in 2023-24. 99.70% of targeted habitations connected with all-weather roads under **PM Gram Sadak Yojana.**
Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities	**Decrease in points from 67 in 2020-21 to 65 in 2023-24.** 45.61% seats of Panchayati Raj Institutions held by women. 28.57% representation of SC/ST persons in state legislative assemblies.
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	- Significant improvement in score from 39 in 2018 to 83 in 2023-24. The percentage of municipal solid waste processed has increased from 68% in 2020 to 78.46% in 2024. 97% of wards have 100% door to door waste collection.
Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	91.5% of biomedical waste generated is treated in 2022. 54.99% hazardous waste recycled/utilized in 2022-23.
Goal 13: Climate Action	- Drastic improvement from 54 (Performer category) in 2020-21 to 67 (Front Runner category) in the SDG India Index 4 (2023-24). - Disaster preparedness score as per Disaster Resilience Index stands at 19.20. - Improvement in electricity generation from renewable energy from 36.37% in 2020 to 43.28% in 2024. 94.86% of industries comply with environmental standards.
Goal 14: Life Below Water	**Goal 14 has not been included in the calculation** of the Composite Score for the Index as it solely pertains to the nine coastal States
Goal 15: Life on Land	Score improved from 66 in 2020-21 to 75 in 2023-24. Nearly 25% of geographical area under forests and tree cover.
Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	95.5% of the population is under Aadhaar coverage as of March 2024. 71.3% charge sheeting rate of IPC crimes as per NCRB 2022.

- **Overview of the Goals:** The goals "No Poverty", "Decent Work and Economic Growth", and "Life on Land" showed the highest increase in points across states from 2020-21 scores, while "Gender Equality" and "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution" had the smallest increase.
    - **"Reduced Inequalities" was the only goal to decrease in points from 67 in 2020-21 to 65 in 2023-24.** This reduction reflects the **distribution of wealth and suggests that in many parts of India,** there are high levels of inequality, particularly in relation to employment opportunities at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum. The goal of reducing inequalities also includes addressing gender inequality in workforce participation.
    - **Gender Equality received the lowest score among all goals,** with a marginal increase from the previous year. Issues such as **sex ratio at birth, women owning land and assets, employment, and labour force participation rate are areas of concern**, particularly in states with below 900 sex ratio at birth.
    - The **Quality of Education goal** increased by 4 points to 61, highlighting that some states,

particularly in central India, still face challenges. The main issue in India is not access, but rather the **quality of education, which impacts employment opportunities.**

NITI Aayog

- The **Planning Commission in India was replaced by NITI Aayog in 2015**, with a shift towards a **'Bottom-Up' approach** and emphasis on cooperative federalism.
- The composition of NITI Aayog includes the **Prime Minister as Chairperson,** Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the Governing Council, and experts nominated by the Prime Minister as Special Invitees.
  - **Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Prime Minister** for a specific term, holding the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- The NITI Aayog recognises the need for a **more flexible approach to economic planning in India,** taking into account the diverse strengths and weaknesses of its states. This shift is necessary to make India competitive in the global economy.
- The **key objectives** are to promote cooperative federalism with states, develop plans at the village level, incorporate national security into economic strategy, focus on marginalised sections of society, encourage partnerships with stakeholders and think tanks, create a support system for knowledge and innovation, resolve inter-sectoral issues, and maintain a resource centre for **good governance and sustainable development practices.**
- **Major Initiatives:** SDG India Index**,** Composite Water Management Index**,** Atal Innovation Mission**,** Aspirational District Programme**,** Health Index**,** India Innovation Index**, and** Good Governance Index**.**

Drishti Mains Question:

Q*.* Evaluate the overall progress of India towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as reflected in the SDG India Index 2023-24. What factors have contributed to this progress?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the (2019)

(a) Department of Science and Technology

(b) Ministry of Labour and Employment

(c) NITI Aayog

(d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ans: (c)

Q. The Government of India has established NITI Aayog to replace the (2015)

(a) Human Rights Commission

(b) Finance Commission

(c) Law Commission

(d) Planning Commission

Ans: (d)

Q. Sustainable development is described as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this perspective, inherently the concept of sustainable development is intertwined with which of the following concepts? (2010)

(a) Social justice and empowerment
(b) Inclusive Growth
(c) Globalization
(d) Carrying capacity

Ans: (d)

Mains

Q. How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by erstwhile Planning Commission in India? **(2018)**

Q. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. **(2018)**