Sansad TV Vishesh: SDG Report 2023-24

For Prelims: SDG India Index 2023-24, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NITI Aayog, Poverty and Inequality, World Inequality Report 2022, National Family Health Survey 5, Global Hunger Index 2023, World Health Organization (WHO), National Statistical Commission, Gender Gap Report 2024, Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024, Economic Survey 2023-24 , Food Security, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, Ayushman Arogya Mandir, PM Mudra Yojana, Saubhagya Scheme, Renewable Energy, National Food Security Act (NFSA), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Skill India Mission, MGNREGA, MSMEs, Ayushman Bharat.

For Mains: Significance of the Government Policies & Interventions in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Inclusive Growth.

Why in News?

Recently, the SDG India Index 2023-24, which is the **fourth edition** of the nation's primary tool for tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at both national and state levels, was released by NITI Aayog.

What Progress has been Made on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)?

- **About:**
  - **The SDG India Index,** developed by **NITI Aayog** since 2018, tracks India's progress towards the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
  - It helps states integrate these goals into their development plans and provides a benchmark for policymakers to address gaps and prioritize actions for achieving sustainable development by 2030.
  - The Index evaluates the performance of **states and union territories (UTs)** across **16 SDGs using 113 indicators** aligned with national priorities.
- **Overall Progress:**
  - **India's SDG** score increased to **71** in 2023-24, up from **66** in 2020-21 and 57 in 2018.
  - Every state has shown improvements in their overall scores, largely due to targeted government efforts in areas such as **poverty reduction, economic growth, and climate action.**
  - Significant improvements were observed in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 13 (Climate Action).
  - Among these, Goal 13 (Climate Action) has made the most notable improvement, with its score rising from 54 to 67 and **Goal 1 (No Poverty**) also showed significant progress, with its score increasing from 60 to 72.
  - These advancements highlight the impact of **targeted interventions and initiatives by both Union and State Governments** in enhancing citizens' lives.
- **Top Performers:**
  - **Kerala and Uttarakhand** have emerged as the leading states, each achieving a score of 79 points.

- **Lowest Performer:**
  - **Bihar** has fallen behind with a score of 57 points, with Jharkhand following at 62 points.
- **Front-Runner States**:
  - A total of 32 states and union territories (UTs) are now classified as front-runners, including 10 new additions such as **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh.**

SDG Goal	Key Highlights
Goal 1 – No Poverty	▪ Score improved by 12 points from 2020-21 to 2023-24, moving from Performer to Front Runner. ▪ Multidimensional poverty nearly halved from 24.8% to 14.96% (2015-16 to 2019-21). ▪ 99.7% of MGNREGA job seekers are employed. ▪ 95.4% of households in pucca/semi-pucca houses. ▪ 41% of households have health insurance (up from 28.7%).
Goal 2 – Zero Hunger	▪ Score moved from Aspirant to Performer category. ▪ 99.01% of beneficiaries are covered under NFSA. ▪ Rice and wheat productivity improved. ▪ GVA in agriculture per worker increased from ₹0.71 lakhs to ₹0.86 lakhs.
Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being	▪ Score increased from 52 in 2018 to 77 in 2023-24. ▪ Maternal Mortality Rate at 97 per 100,000 live births. ▪ Under-5 mortality rate reduced to 32 per 1,000 live births. ▪ 93.23% of children are fully immunized. ▪ 87.13% tuberculosis cases were notified. ▪ 97.18% of deliveries in health institutions.
Goal 4 – Quality Education	▪ Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) for elementary education is 96.5%, up from 87.26%. ▪ Pupil Teacher Ratio is 18. ▪ 88.65% of schools have electricity and drinking water. ▪ 100% parity in Higher Education (18-23 years).
Goal 5 – Gender Equality	▪ Score improved from 36 in 2018 to 49 in 2023-24. ▪ Sex ratio at birth is 929 females per 1,000 males. ▪ Improved female to male earnings ratio. ▪ Increased female to male Labour Force Participation Rate. ▪ 74.1% of married women have family planning needs met. ▪ 53.90% of women own and use a mobile phone. ▪ 88.70% of married women participate in household decisions.
Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	▪ Score improved from 63 in 2018 to 89 in 2023-24. ▪ All districts were verified as Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM(G)). ▪ 99.29% of rural households have improved drinking water sources. ▪ 94.7% of schools have functional toilets for girls. ▪ Reduced overexploitation of water resources.
Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	▪ Highest score among all SDGs, improving from 51 in 2018 to 96 in 2023-24. ▪ 100% of households have electricity. ▪ Improved clean cooking fuel connections from 92.02% to 96.35%.
Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	▪ GDP per capita annual growth rate of 5.88% in 2022-23. Unemployment rate reduced from 6.2% to 3.40%. ▪ Increased Labour Force Participation Rate from 53.6% to 61.60%. ▪ 95.70% of households have bank or post office accounts. ▪ 55.63% of PMJDY accounts are held by women.

Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	▪ Score improved from 41 in 2018 to 61 in 2023-24. ▪ 99.70% of targeted habitations connected with all-weather roads. ▪ 93.3% of households own at least one mobile phone. ▪ 95.08% of villages have 3G/4G mobile internet coverage.
Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities	▪ 45.61% of Panchayati Raj Institutions seats held by women. ▪ 28.57% representation of SC/ST persons in state legislative assemblies.
Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	▪ Score increased from 39 in 2018 to 83 in 2023-24. ▪ Sewage treatment capacity as a percentage of sewage generated increased to 51%. ▪ Municipal solid waste processed increased to 78.46%. ▪ 97% of wards with 100% door-to-door waste collection. ▪ 90% of wards with 100% source segregation.
Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	▪ 91.5% of biomedical waste is treated. ▪ 54.99% of hazardous waste recycled/utilized, up from 44.89%.
Goal 13 – Climate Action	▪ Score improved by 13 points from 54 to 67, moving from Performer to Front Runner. ▪ Disaster preparedness score at 19.20. ▪ Electricity generation from renewable energy increased to 43.28%. ▪ 94.86% of industries comply with environmental standards.
Goal 15 – Life on Land	▪ Score increased from 66 in 2020-21 to 75 in 2023-24. ▪ 25% geographical area under forests and tree cover. ▪ 1.11% increase in carbon stock in forest cover.
Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	▪ 95.5% of the population is covered by Aadhaar. ▪ 89% of births registered for children under five. ▪ 71.3% charge sheeting rate of IPC crimes.

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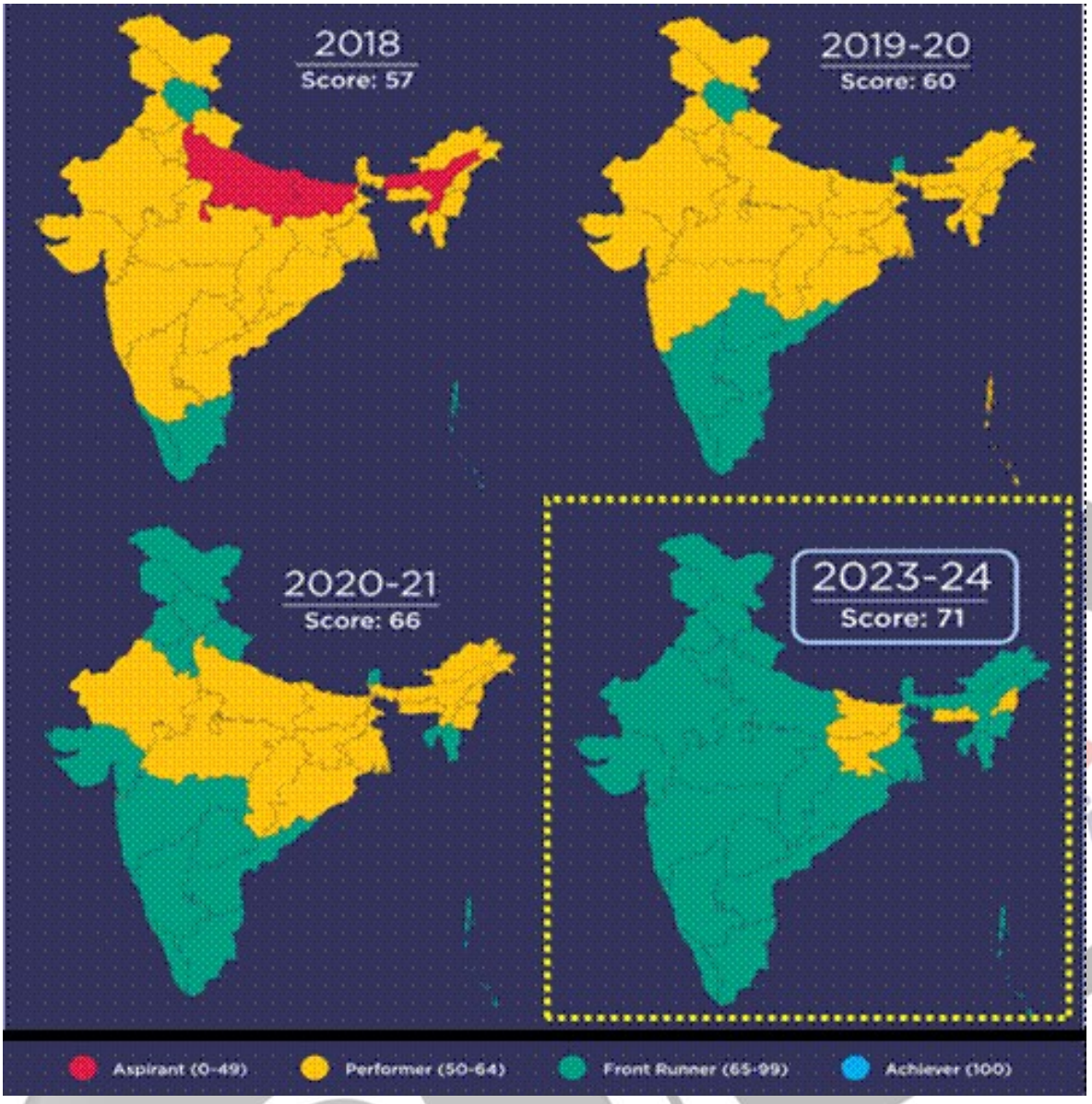

What are Challenges in Achieving SDG Targets ?

- **Poverty and Inequality**: Despite economic growth, a significant portion of the population still lives in poverty and inequality.
  - For instance, according to the World Inequality Report 2022, India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with the **top 10% and top 1% of the population** holding **57% and 22%** of the total national income respectively.
- **Hunger Issue**: **Malnourishment and hidden hunger** is a serious issue among the Indian population.
  - For instance, as per National Family Health Survey 5, **25 % of men** and **57 % of women** (15-49 years) **67.1% of children** (6-59 months) are anemic.
  - Also, according to Global Hunger Index 2023, India's 2023 GHI score is 28.7, considered **serious** according to the GHI Severity of Hunger Scale.
- **Healthcare Access:** Ensuring **universal health coverage and improving healthcare infrastructure** remain ongoing challenges.
  - For example, as per **National Health Profile 2021**, India has **0.6 beds per 1000 population** while the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends five hospital beds for every 1,000 people.
- **Education Quality:** While enrollment rates have improved, the quality of education and retention rates need attention.
  - For instance, according to the Census of India 2011, the average **literacy rate was 73%**,

whereas the National Statistical Commission's **survey** reported a literacy rate of **77.7%** for 2017–18. The illiteracy across the rural and urban landscape and gender is more glaring.

- **Gender Inequality:** Disparities in education, employment, and efforts to improve social status, gender inequality persists.
    - This is reflected in the fact that **India ranks 127th in 2023 out of 146 countries** in Gender Gap Report 2024 India has slipped two places in the global rankings.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:** Balancing development with environmental sustainability is a major challenge.
    - For instance, India's secured **7th position in the** Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024, however, according to **IQAir,** India is the **3rd most polluted country** in the world and 42 cities in the top 50 are Indian.
- **Urbanization:** Rapid urban growth strains infrastructure and services in cities.
    - For example, by 2036, **600 million people (40% of the population) will live in urban areas,** up from 31% in 2011 but **mushrooming slums, poor drainage, pollution and traffic congestion** are common problems across all urban centers in India.
- **Unemployment:** Creating enough quality jobs for a growing workforce is an ongoing issue.
    - As per the Economic Survey 2023-24 stated that the annual unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above has been on a downward trend since the Covid-19 pandemic.
    - It noted that the **youth unemployment rate** has dropped from **17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.**
- **Agricultural Productivity:** Improving farm yields while ensuring sustainability is crucial for food security.
    - For instance, the **share of agriculture in the total Gross Value Added (GVA)** of the economy has declined from **35% in 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23.**
- **Governance and Implementation:** Effective policy execution and coordination between different levels of government can be challenging.

What have been Government Interventions?

Some of the government interventions to achieve **SDG targets and** inclusive development and corresponding progress made are :

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**: Over 4 crore houses have been built.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** 11 crore toilets and 2.23 lakh community sanitary complexes have been constructed.
- **Ujjwala Yojana:** 10 crore LPG connections have been provided.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission**: Tap water connections in over 14.9 crore households have been provided.
- **Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY:** Over 30 crore beneficiaries have been identified and linked to the scheme.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir**: Access to 150,000 beneficiaries have been provided which offers primary medical care and provides affordable generic medicines.
- **PM Mudra Yojana**: 43 crore loans have been sanctioned.
- **Saubhagya Scheme**: 100% of households have been electrified.
- **Renewable Energy:** Solar power capacity has 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 have been made through PM-Jan Dhan accounts.
- **Skill India Mission**: Over 1.4 crore youth have been trained and upskilled and 54 lakh youth has been reskilled.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are **17 global objectives** established by the UN in 2015 as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- Building on the **Millennium Development Goals**, the SDGs offer a broad framework to tackle social, economic, and environmental challenges, aiming for a sustainable future.
- They cover issues like **poverty, education, health, gender equality, and environmental protection**, requiring collective action and collaboration across all sectors to achieve an equitable

and sustainable world.

Way Forward-

- **Poverty and Inequality:**
  - Implement **targeted social safety** nets like MGNREGA and direct cash transfers, and expand **skill development** programs to boost employability.
  - Promote inclusive economic growth through MSMEs **and rural** entrepreneurship while implementing reforms for equitable resource distribution.
- **Healthcare Access**
  - Enhance **primary healthcare** by increasing centers and essential medicines, and expand Ayushman Bharat coverage.
  - Utilize **public-private partnerships for rural healthcare services** and **leverage digital health technologies** for improved access and disease management.
- **Education Quality**
  - Upgrade **teacher training programs and school infrastructure**, and expand access to early childhood education.
  - Integrate **digital tools in classrooms** and ensure inclusive education for marginalized and disabled children.
- **Gender Inequality**
  - Advance women's empowerment through **education, employment, and leadership roles,** and strengthen legal protections against gender-based violence.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation**
  - Increase the **use of renewable energy sources** and expand forest cover through afforestation.
  - Implement **stricter pollution controls and promote sustainable agricultural** practices to mitigate climate change impacts.
- **Agricultural Productivity**
  - Promote **modern agricultural technologies and expand irrigation facilities** to enhance productivity.
  - Strengthen market linkages for farmers and invest in research for **high-yield, climate-resilient crops.**
- **Governance and Implementation**
  - Empower local governments through **decentralization and enhance officials' capacity** with targeted training.
  - Establish **robust monitoring systems and foster public-private partnerships** to improve service delivery and governance transparency.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Mains:

Q. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement.**(2020)**

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)**

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sansad-tv-vishesh-sdg-report-2023-24