



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.

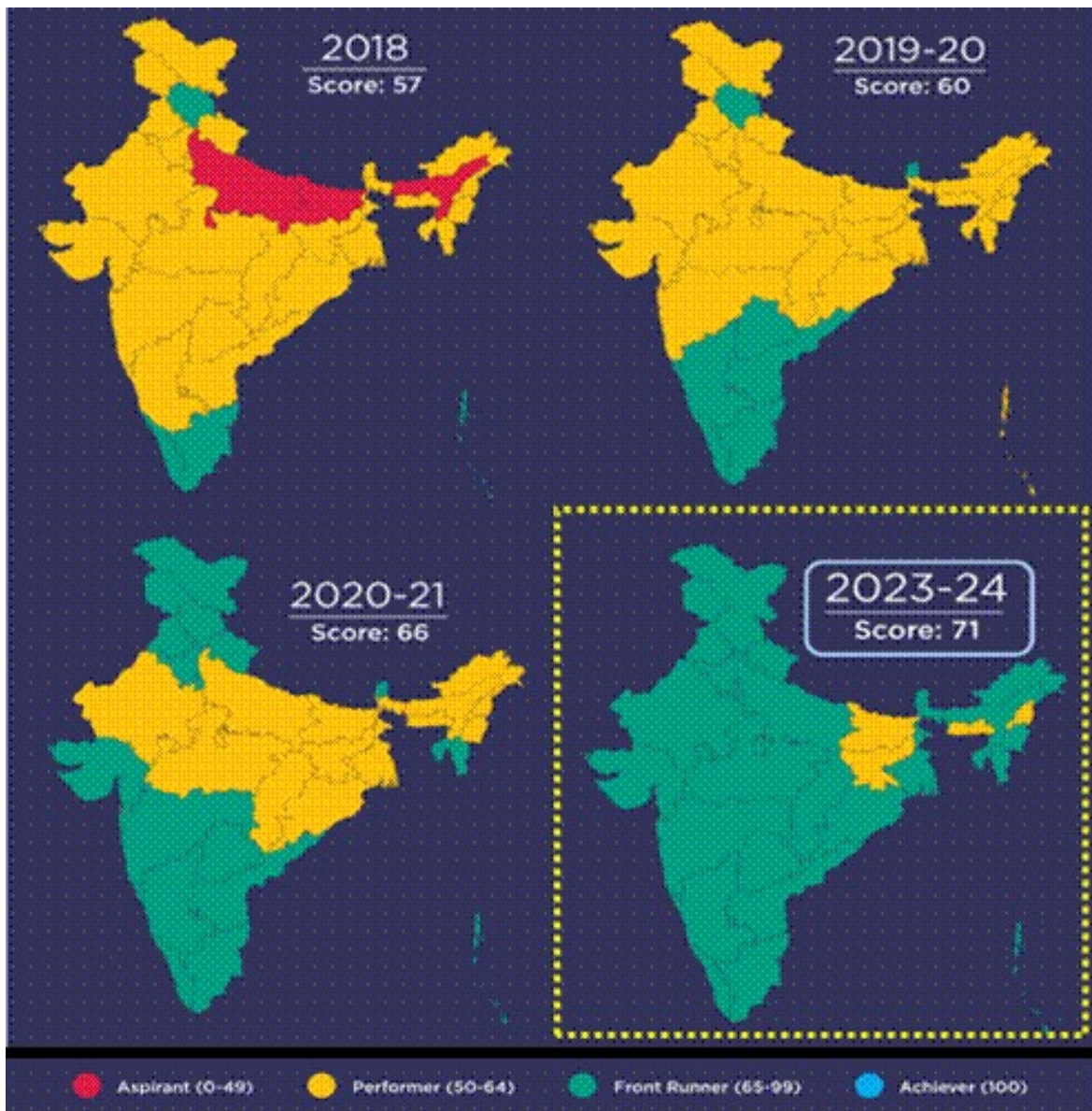
▪ Top Performers:

- **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 91.5% of biomedical waste is treated. ▪ 54.99% of hazardous waste recycled/utilized, up from 44.89%.
Goal 13 - Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.



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.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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)**

