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INTEGRATING GLOBAL VISION WITH LOCAL ACTION: INDIA'S PURSUIT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Abstract

This research paper evaluates India's progress toward key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health), 4 (Quality Education), 16 (Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships). It critically analyses flagship initiatives such as Poshan Abhiyaan, Ayushman Bharat, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, and the e-Courts Project. While India has shown strong policy commitment, challenges persist in the form of malnutrition, health disparities, poor learning outcomes, and judicial delays—exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper highlights a need for better localisation, stronger data systems, and inter-sectoral coordination. It recommends measures such as nutrition-sensitive farming, mental health reform, foundational literacy drives, and localised SDG tracking. India's SDG pathway, though ambitious, demands systemic reforms, grassroots engagement, and enhanced partnerships. With improved implementation and inclusive governance, India can advance its sustainable development agenda and set a global benchmark by 2030.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG Localization, Policy Implementation

I

Introduction: The Evolution of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is not just an environmental goal; it is a framework for steering the human advancement in ways that remain within ecological constraints.¹ The concept gained institutional esteem from the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report² which articulated sustainable development

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¹Tomislav Klarin, 'The Concept of Sustainable Development: From its Beginning to the Contemporary Issues' 21 *Zagreb International Review of Economics and Business* 67–94 (2018), available at: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/295780> (last accessed 12 March 2025).

² The 1987 Brundtland Commission Report, formally titled "Our Common Future", is a seminal document that introduced the concept of sustainable development. It defined sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The report emphasized the

as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.³ This concept calls for an integrated balance of economic growth, environmental protection, and social justice.

The drive for a unified global development agenda was re-energized at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (referred to as Rio+20).⁴ The conference marked the 20-year anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit and aimed to: reflect on past success; create a new sense of urgency for the global community. The conference focused on two themes: a green economy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development. The outcome document, *The Future We Want*, was adopted by consensus and endorsed the SDGs through an inclusive agenda; the promotion of private sector involvement; acknowledgement of civil society's role in the SDGs; and reaffirmation for principles such as precaution, equity, and differentiated responsibilities.⁵

II

From Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda

The MDGs were the first global framework that aimed specifically for poverty and human development articulated in quantifiable targets and launched in 2000.⁶ There were many positive achievements over a 15-year period, including a substantial reduction in extreme poverty, better access to primary

interconnectedness of economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, urging a shift towards long-term sustainability and influencing subsequent international policies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

³World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), *Our Common Future (Brundtland Report)* (United Nations, Oct. 1987), available at: <<https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/media/publications/sustainable-development/brundtland-report.html>> (last accessed 18 March 2025).

⁴ The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, widely known as Rio+20, was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 20–22, 2012. It served as a significant follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit, also held in Rio de Janeiro, marking 20 years since the initial gathering for sustainable development.

⁵United Nations General Assembly, *The Future We Want: Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, 20–22 June 2012* (UN GA Res. 66/288, Annex) (United Nations, Sept. 2012), available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf> (last accessed 23 March 2025).

⁶United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015)* (UN), available at: <https://research.un.org/en/docs/dev/2000_2015> (last accessed 28 March 2025).

and secondary education, as well as more life-saving treatment available for HIV/AIDs and other communicable diseases. The global effort halved the number of people living below \$1.25 a day; there was a decrease in child mortality rates and improved maternal outcomes.⁷

While the MDGs achieved considerable milestones, they nevertheless had underlying limitations. The MDGs appeared to be somewhat top-down, focused primarily on poorer developing countries, and were somewhat narrow in scope - they did not really engage with environmental sustainability as well as inequalities. Thus, the post-2015 agenda sought to expand that vision through an inclusive and participatory process. The SDGs were set by an Open Working Group composed of representatives from seventy countries, and the global consultation process was included in gathering national dialogues, thematic forums, and surveys to assess citizen priorities, like the “My World 2030” campaign.⁸ This process helped establish the Agenda as reflective of the priorities of many countries around the world, as well as establishing a stronger consensus for the Agenda.

III

Global Frameworks Supporting the SDGs

When the SDGs were adopted in 2015, there were also three significant international frameworks established: the Paris Agreement⁹, the Sendai Framework¹⁰, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹¹ on financing for

⁷World Health Organization (WHO), *Improving Health Outcomes of the Poor: Report of Working Group 5 of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health* (Geneva: WHO, 2002), available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/42488/1/9241590130.pdf> (last accessed 5 April 2025).

⁸E. Mulholland & G. Berger, *Communication and Awareness Raising in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: Activities and Challenges*, ESDN Quarterly Report 44 (ESDN Office, April 2017), available at: https://www.esdn.eu/fileadmin/ESDN_Reports/QR_44_Final.pdf (last accessed 7 April 2025).

⁹The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted in 2015. Its main goal is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. This requires significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from all participating countries.

¹⁰ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is a global agreement adopted by the United Nations to reduce disaster risk and losses. It aims to prevent new risks, reduce existing ones, and enhance resilience to disasters. The framework outlines four priorities for action and seven global targets to be achieved by 2030.

development. These frameworks provide a multi-dimensional, long-term and medium-term framework for sustainable development.

The Paris Agreement¹², adopted as part of COP21 in December 2015, commits countries to limiting global temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Within this framework, countries should emphasize nationally determined contributions, adaptation financing, and global cooperation to achieve climate justice. Most importantly, the agreement requires countries to report regularly, to be held accountable, and includes provisions for a global stock take every five years to see how things are progressing.

At the same time, the Sendai Framework to deal with global disaster risk reduction for 2015–2030 clearly outlined a path. The framework endorses resilience and proactive risk reduction and provides seven targets for distinct collective actions on disaster mortality and mortality risk; economic loss and damage to infrastructure that is critical. The Sendai Framework's relevance to the cross-over policies of the SDGs is even clearer as the targets are aimed at informing risk reductions in communities to support the 17 sustainable development objectives (SDOs) (particularly, SDG 1, 11 and 13).¹³

SDG 1: Ending Poverty in All Its Forms in the Indian Context

India's dedication to its goals outlined in the SDG 1, to end poverty in all its forms everywhere has been exemplified through extensive welfare policies, legal reforms and fiscal measures. Based on Target 1.1 which is to end extreme poverty, India has achieved major initiatives such as, Pradhan Mantri

¹¹United Nations General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/RES/69/313, adopted 27 July 2015) (United Nations, 2015), available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35> (last accessed 15 March 2025).

¹²United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), *Paris Agreement* (adopted 12 December 2015, entered into force 4 November 2016) (United Nations, 2015), available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf (last accessed 19 March 2025).

¹³United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (adopted 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, A/RES/69/283) (United Nations, 2015), available at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordren.pdf (last accessed 25 March 2025).

Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)¹⁴ with free food grain entitlement for over 800 million people during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)¹⁵, thus ensuring a legal guarantee of employment in rural areas, thus ensuring and enhancing livelihood security, and lastly the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) which has enabled modern welfare delivery through the identification of beneficiaries, and reducing leakages.¹⁶

With the aim of tackling multidimensional poverty, as outlined by Target 1.2, India has implemented the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) through NITI Aayog¹⁷ to assess deprivation in terms of health, education, and living standards. The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)¹⁸ aims to promote self-employment and capacity building among marginalized sectors, particularly women. To strengthen these initiatives, the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) offers financial support to elders, the disabled, and widows from economically weaker sections.

¹⁴Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana* (long term initiative from 1 January 2024 providing free food grains to NFSA beneficiaries) (Department of Food & Public Distribution), available at: <https://dfpd.gov.in/pradhanmantrigaribkalyanannayojana> (last accessed 3 April 2025).

¹⁵Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA official portal)*, available at: https://nrega.dord.gov.in/MGNREGA_new/Nrega_home.aspx (last accessed 3 April 2025).

¹⁶Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *India's DBT: Boosting Welfare Efficiency* (Press Release No. PRID 2123192, posted 21 April 2025) (Government of India, 2025), available at: [https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2123192#:~:text=India's%20Direct%20Benefit%20Transfer%20\(DBT,...](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2123192#:~:text=India's%20Direct%20Benefit%20Transfer%20(DBT,...) (last accessed 3 April 2025).

¹⁷NITI Aayog, Government of India, *National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023* (New Delhi: NITI Aayog, July 2023), available at: <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

¹⁸Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *DAY NRLM: Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission* (Government of India), available at: <https://aajeevika.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

The social protection architecture in India is extensive in nature, as mandated by Target 1.3. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)¹⁹ has delivered financial inclusion as millions of zero balance accounts have been opened, while the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)²⁰ assures pension security for informal sector occupations. Additionally, Ayushman Bharat–PMJAY²¹, the largest publicly funded health insurance program globally, offers hospitalization coverage to economically vulnerable groups.

To tackle Target 1.4, which entails equal rights to economic resources, India has initiated the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)²² for affordable housing in urban and rural areas. The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)²³ will strengthen secure land tenure through digitization. To close the gap of access to clean cooking fuel, especially for women in rural areas, the Ujjwala Yojana is helping to promote clean cooking fuel access.

To address climate and economic shocks under Target 1.5, India's National Disaster Management Plan²⁴ and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme²⁵

¹⁹Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)* (Government of India), available at: <https://www.pmjdy.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁰Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Government of India, *Atal Pension Yojana: Subscriber Information Brochure* (Central Record Keeping Agency, NSDL), available at: https://npsra.nsdl.co.in/nsdl/scheme-details/APY_Subscriber_Information_Brochure.pdf (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²¹National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Operational Guidelines for Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Health & Wellness Centres* (New Delhi: NHSRC/NHM, February 2018), available at: https://www.nhm.gov.in/New_Updates_2018/NHM_Components/Health_System_Strengthening/Comprehensive_primary_health_care/letter/Operational_Guidelines_For_CPHC.pdf (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²²Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) MIS Portal (PMAYMIS)* (Government of India), available at: <https://pmaymis.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²³Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme – MIS 4.0* (Central Sector Scheme under Government of India, launched 15 October 2024) (Government of India), available at: <https://dilrmp.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁴National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, *National Disaster Management Plan 2019* (New Delhi: NDMA, November 2019), available at:

of crop insurance have played a big part. The state of India also developed State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF)²⁶ to get communities prepared and recover for localized shocks.

To respond to Targets 1.a and 1.b, on financing and policy coherence, it can be established that strategic public expenditure tracking and decentralization do take place. The 15th Finance Commission²⁷ has increased central taxes devolved to the state, and decentralized public financial management (i.e. Public Financial Management System [PFMS])²⁸ supports real-time tracking). India's Aspirational Districts Programme targets the most backward areas based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)²⁹ and helps make interventions. Mission Antyodaya further localizes this by profiling poverty at the village level.

SDG 2: Achieving Food Security and Nutrition

India's efforts towards SDG 2, ending hunger, achieving food security and sustainable agriculture, has grown from an extensive network of food and nutrition security programs. In order to ensure that a country of India's size

<https://www.ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/ndmp-2019.pdf> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁵Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY: Crop Insurance Scheme)* (Government of India), available at: <https://pmfby.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁶Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (Disaster Management Division), *National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) – Response Fund* (undated), available at: <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in/ndmi/responsefund> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁷Finance Commission of India, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission for 2021–26 & Interim Report for 2020–21* (constituted November 2017 under Article 280 of the Constitution, chaired by N. K. Singh) (Government of India, 2020–21 & 2021) (Volumes I–IV), available at: <https://fincomindia.nic.in/commission-reports-fifteenth> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁸Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *PFMS User Manual on Modified Functionality of Letter of Authorization (LOA)* (user manual; issued September 2017) (Government of India), available at: <https://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/file/finalMODIFIEDLOAUSERMANUAL25092017.pdf> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

²⁹Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011* (launched 29 June 2011; findings released July 2015) (Government of India, 2011–15), available at: <https://secc.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

has access to adequate food as required by Target 2.1, India has developed one of the largest food distribution systems in the world. The Public Distribution System (PDS)³⁰ and PMGKAY³¹, for example, use PDS grain deliveries to provide subsidized grains to priority households. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)³² programs also include supplementary nutrition for children or any pregnant or lactating mothers.

Under Target 2.2, India addresses the elimination of all forms of malnutrition with the real time monitoring efforts of the Poshan Abhiyaan, or National Nutrition Mission, targeting children for stunting and wasting. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme, recently integrated into the PM POSHAN program³³, promotes good nutrition and access to nutrition through child enrollment in school. Finally, interventions to reduce the needless iron deficiency or anemia, through awareness and supplementation, of women and adolescents through Anaemia Mukh Bharat.³⁴

India's efforts to improve agricultural productivity and income achievement under Target 2.3 are complemented by policy assistance for small and marginal farmers. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)³⁵ program makes available direct income support for over 110

³⁰Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, *National Food Security Act (NFSA) Portal – Public Distribution System (PDS)* (NFSA official portal, Version 2.3, last reviewed/updated 3 August 2025) (Government of India), available at: https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/PDS_page (last accessed 4 April 2025).

³¹DFPD, PMGKAY, supra note 14.

³²Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *About ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services* (ICDS official portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://icds.gov.in/en/about-us> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

³³Ministry of Education, Government of India, *PM POSHAN: Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (National School Meal Scheme)* (Government of India; MIS Portal), available at: <https://pmposhan.education.gov.in/> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

³⁴National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Comprehensive Primary Health Care – Health & Wellness Centres (Ayushman Bharat)* (NHM official portal), available at: <https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=3&sublinkid=1448&lid=797> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

³⁵National Portal Secretariat, National Portal of India (India.gov.in), National Informatics Centre, under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, *National Government Services Portal (Services.india.gov.in)* (Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan, launched November 2005; live portal listing over 14,000 services across

million farmers annually. Other initiatives, like e-NAM³⁶, promote agricultural marketing transparency. Similarly, organic and sustainable farming has been incentivized by the Government through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)³⁷ scheme.

Under Target 2.4, which emphasizes sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices against climate change, India has commenced interventions such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)³⁸, which delivers income supplements directly to farmers; and the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)³⁹, which promotes ways of growing food that are resilient to climate change. Both of these were supplemented by the Kisan credit card (KCC) Scheme⁴⁰, which provides farmers quick access to capital through loans. The effectiveness of these programs can be directly evaluated under Indicator 2.4.1, both which enumerate the percentage of agricultural land being managed sustainably.

To achieve Target 2.5, which focuses on maintaining agricultural toolbox diversity, India has implemented the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

India) (Government of India), available at: <https://services.india.gov.in/?ln=en> (last accessed 4 April 2025).

³⁶Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Portal* (Government of India), available at: <https://www.enam.gov.in/web/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

³⁷Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *ParamPARAGAT Krishi Vikas Yojana: Promoting Organic Agriculture* (Press Release No. PRID 2099756, posted March 2025) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=2099756> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

³⁸Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN): Operational Guidelines and Scheme Brochure* (Central Sector Scheme, launched 24 February 2019; effective from 1 December 2018, cut-off date 1 February 2019) (DAC&FW), available at: [PM KISAN website brochure] (last visited on 4 August 2025).

³⁹Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) Portal* (Central Mission under NAPCC; undated) (Government of India), available at: <https://nmsa.dac.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁰Reserve Bank of India, *Master Circular – Kisan Credit Card Scheme* (Notification Id 2311) (RBI, 2017), available at: <https://www.rbi.org.in/commonperson/English/Scripts/Notification.aspx?Id=2311> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

(PKVY)⁴¹ for organic farming, and the Soil Health Card Scheme⁴², which supports responsible nutrient management. The Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)⁴³, also supports biodiversity not only with these initiatives but in fragile agro-ecological environments regions too. The challenge to achieve Targets is addressed within Indicators 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, which discuss the safety of genetic resources alongside the risk of breeds becoming extinct, through the work of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)⁴⁴, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)⁴⁵, and also through livestock conservation via the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.⁴⁶

India's engagement with Target 2.a, which aims to increase investments in agricultural infrastructure and research, can be seen in how the Agricultural

⁴¹MoA&FW, *PKVY Press Release*, supra note 37.

⁴²Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Soil Health Card Portal* (National Soil Health Card Scheme, Portal Version 2.0, last updated 21 July 2025) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in/home> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴³Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)* (Sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana [RKVY]; incorporated into NMSA 2014–15) (Government of India), available via press and policy portals (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁴Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR NBPGR), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *ICAR–NBPGR – At a Glance* (NBPGR official portal, Portal Version 2023, last updated 6 July 2025) (Government of India), available at: <https://nbpgr.org.in/nbpgr2023/at-a-glance/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁵Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)* (Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched 2014–15; funding ratio 60:40 general states, 90 % NE/Himalayan) (Government of India), available via official midh.gov.in website (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁶Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, *Rashtriya Gokul Mission* (launched December 2014; under Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana 2021–26 with total outlay ₹2,400 crore, revised allocation ₹3,400 crore for 2021–26) (Government of India), available at: https://dahd.gov.in/schemes/programmes/rashtriya_gokul_mission (last visited on 4 August 2025).

Infrastructure Fund (AIF)⁴⁷ has been operationalized; the establishment of one or more Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)⁴⁸ in each district; and ongoing R&D work by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).⁴⁹ Each of these interventions is a direct contribution to the Agriculture Orientation Index and total official flows to agriculture.

India's engagement with Targets 2.b and 2.c is exhibited through the market reforms via the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)⁵⁰ and the Agri Export Policy⁵¹, which have led to improved access to markets and provided some competitiveness on a global scale. The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)⁵², AGMARKNET⁵³ as a real-time price information system, and amendments to

⁴⁷Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *National Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (NAIF)* (Central Sector Scheme under DAC&FW; launched May 2020 with corpus ₹1,00,000 crore; operational 2020–21 to 2032–33) (Government of India), available at: <https://agriinfra.dac.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁸Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)* (established under ICAR NARS, 100% GoI funded; approx. 731 centres nationwide) (Government of India), available at: <https://icar.org.in/en/krishi-vigyan-kendras> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁴⁹Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Indian Agriculture after Independence* (ICAR monograph, February 2023) (Government of India, 2023), available at: <https://icar.org.in/sites/default/files/2023-02/Indian-Agriculture-after-Independence.pdf> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁰e-NAM Portal, supra note 36.

⁵¹Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, *Agriculture Export Policy 2018* (launched 6 December 2018; aims to double agricultural exports to US \$ 60 billion by 2022, US \$ 100 billion thereafter) (Government of India), available at: <https://commerce.gov.in/archive/departmental-update-archived/agriculture-export-policy/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵²Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, *Operational Guidelines for Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)* (revision dated 26 June 2025) (Government of India, 2025), available at: https://consumeraffairs.gov.in/public/upload/admin/cmsfiles/guidelines/New_Operational_Guidelines_of_Price_Stabilisation_Fund_PSF_scheme-_2025_guidelines.pdf (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵³Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Agricultural Marketing Information Network (AGMARKNET)* (Central Sector Scheme, operational since 2000;

the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 all contribute to stabilizing food prices and influencing prices moderately, as measured by Indicator 2.c.1. While various policies and restrictions reduce price volatility, more still needs to be done.

India has made significant progress, although challenges remain. These include land holdings that are often fragmented, climate variability, water scarcity, restricted access to modern technology and value chains, issues which ultimately inhibit full realization of Goal 2.

Advancing Public Health and Well-being: India's Journey towards SDG Goal 3

India's public health system has made systemic reforms to be in line with SDG Goal 3, which is to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." The Government's multi-faceted interventions are in the areas of maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, health financing and environmental health.

India's flagship schemes for Target 3.1 to reduce maternal mortality are the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)⁵⁴ and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)⁵⁵, established in the larger central programme of the National Health Mission (NHM)⁵⁶. The JSY and PMMVY incentives aim to encourage people to deliver institutionally, improve maternal nutrition and care, and influence indicators such as maternal mortality ratio and proportion of live births attended by skilled health personnel.

covering ~3,200 regulated markets, with ~2,700 reporting data daily) (Government of India), available at: <https://agmarknet.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁴National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (in coordination with MoWCD), *Mission POSHAN 2.0 – Integrated Nutrition Support Programme* (launched March 2018 as POSHAN Abhiyaan, revised 2021 as Mission POSHAN 2.0) (Government of India), available at: <https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=3&lid=309&sublinkid=841> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁵Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Portal* (Centrally Sponsored Scheme, maternity benefit programme providing DBT for pregnant and lactating women) (Government of India), available at: <https://pmmvy.wcd.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁶National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *National Health Mission (NHM) Official Portal* (umbrella mission combining NRHM and NUHM; initiated 1 May 2013; originally launched 12 April 2005) (Government of India), available at: <https://nhm.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

For Target 3.2, India is committed to reduce child mortality and promote immunization. The Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK)⁵⁷, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)⁵⁸, and Mission Indradhanush targeted several health aims and have significantly improved early childhood health outcomes and immunization rates.

India's fight against epidemics (Target 3.3) is marked by Government of India's regular activities through, the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)⁵⁹, the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)⁶⁰, and the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)⁶¹. The key diseases addressed together through these programmes are HIV, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

For the purpose of combating non-communicable diseases within Goal 3.4, India implements a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)⁶². Further,

⁵⁷National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK) Portal* (Child-health screening & early intervention programme, launched 6 February 2013; screenings up to 18 years) (Government of India), available at: <https://rbsk.mohfw.gov.in/RBSK/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁸Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *About ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS official portal)* (Government of India), available at: <https://icds.gov.in/en/about-us> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁵⁹National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)* (launched 1992; currently in Phase V with outlay ₹15,471.94 crore) (Government of India), available at: <https://naco.gov.in/nacp> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶⁰Central TB Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Chapter 1: Introduction*, in *Technical and Operational Guidelines for TB Control in India 2016* (NTEP operational guidelines) (Government of India, 2016), available at: tbcindia.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/4773363959TOG-Chapter-1-Introduction.pdf (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶¹National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *NCVBDC Official Portal* (Central nodal agency for vector-borne disease control under NHM/NTEP; undated) (Government of India), available at: <https://ncvbdc.mohfw.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶²Directorate General of Health Services (Central NCD Cell), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Operational Guidelines of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS)* (Revised 2013–17)

the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)⁶³ alongside the National Health Policy's Tobacco Control Programme⁶⁴, reveal India's multidisciplinary response to managing lifestyle diseases and associated risk factors.

With respect to substance abuse (Target 3.5) India's National Action Plan on Drug Demand Reduction⁶⁵ and its *NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan*⁶⁶ are developing intervention and rehabilitation frameworks. The Nation Road Safety Policy⁶⁷, with state-level schemes and initiatives and Bharat NCAP⁶⁸ (Target 3.6), is also on a mission to halve road traffic fatalities.

(Government of India, 2013), available at: Operational Guidelines of NPCDCS (Revised – 2013-17) PDF (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶³National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *RMNCH+A Strategy – Strategic Approach to Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health in India* (flagship NHM framework launched 2013; updated periodically) (Government of India), available at:

<https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&sublinkid=1043&lid=359>

(last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶⁴National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Adolescent Health Services under the RMNCH+A Strategy* (ARSH & RKSK component of RMNCH+A launched 2013; extended via RKSK from 2014) (Government of India), available at:

<https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&sublinkid=1052&lid=607>

(last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶⁵Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, *National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR): Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse* (Central Sector Scheme, first launched 2018; revised up to 27 February 2023) (Government of India, 2023), available at: https://socialjustice.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Scheme_for_NAPDDR.pdf (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶⁶Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, *NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) Official Portal* (flagship zero drug abuse campaign launched August 2020 under NAPDDR) (Government of India), available at: <https://nmba.dosje.gov.in/> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁶⁷Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, *National Road Safety Policy* (approved by Union Cabinet 15 March 2010; formulated on Sunder Committee recommendations of 2007) (Government of India, 2010), available at:

https://morth.nic.in/sites/default/files/circulars_document/National_Road_Safety_Policy.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁶⁸Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India, *Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP)* (India's national vehicle crash safety rating initiative, launched 22 August 2023, implemented from 1

India's initiatives on sexual and reproductive health (Target 3.7) are strong and inclusive interventions such as Family Planning 2020⁶⁹, the National Family Planning Programme⁷⁰ and Mission Parivar Vikas⁷¹ inclusive of access to contraception, adolescent reproductive health, and maternal health.

Health coverage (Target 3.8) is strengthened by Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY⁷², the largest publicly funded health insurance programme in the world. Combined with the National Health Policy 2017⁷³ and state schemes, these initiatives aim to address the burden of catastrophic health expenditure and expand the coverage for essential services. On environmental health (Target 3.9), the Swachh Bharat Mission⁷⁴, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)⁷⁵

October 2023 under AIS 197) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.bncap.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁶⁹Family Planning 2020 (FP2020), United Nations Foundation & Global Partnership Secretariat, *Family Planning 2020 Partnership & Strategy* (global rights-based family planning coalition launched at London Summit, July 2012; key goal: 120 million additional modern contraceptive users by 2020) (global initiative), available at: <https://www.familyplanning2020.org/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁰National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Newborn & Child Health* (under RMNCH+A Strategy; pillar launched 2013 with key interventions including HBNC, HBYC, FBNC, NBCC/SNCU/NBSU) (Government of India), available at: <https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&sublinkid=821&lid=222> (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁷¹National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Mission Parivar Vikas Guidelines* (launched via DoFW letter on 10 November 2016, implementation in 145 high fertility districts; later expanded to 146 districts and six North Eastern states) (Government of India, 2016), available at: NHM Mission Parivar Vikas PDF (last visited on 4 August 2025).

⁷²National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM JAY)* (launched 23 September 2018; central health assurance scheme providing ₹5 lakh family floater coverage to ~55 crore beneficiaries) (Government of India), available at: <https://nha.gov.in/PM-JAY> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷³Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *National Health Policy, 2017* (approved March 2017; supersedes the 2002 policy) (Government of India, 2017), available at: <https://www.india.gov.in/national-health-policy-2017> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁴Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti), Government of India, *Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM G) Official Portal* (Mission under NEGP, launched 2 October 2014; Phase II initiated 1 April 2020 focusing on ODF sustainability and SLWM) (Government of

and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)⁷⁶, aim to address the health consequences of pollution, sanitation and hazardous chemicals.

Other commitments under SDG 3, for tobacco control (Target 3.a) with COTPA⁷⁷ and NTCP⁷⁸; on vaccine research (Target 3.b) with ICMR⁷⁹, National Biopharma Mission⁸⁰ and Make in India for Pharmaceuticals; on health workforce (Target 3.c) with National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and Health and Wellness Centres; on emergency preparedness (Target 3.d) with NDMA⁸¹, NCDC⁸² and IDSP⁸³. Nonetheless, India continues to have challenges such as inequitable access, regional differences, the shortage of skilled personnel and shortages of infrastructure in rural and remote locations.

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India), available at: <https://swachhbharatmission.ddws.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁵Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, *PRANA: Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non Attainment Cities* (launched 2021 under NCAP for 131 cities) (Government of India), available at: <https://prana.cpcb.gov.in> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁶Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, *National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) – FAQs* (released 1 December 2021, presenting the eight Mission architecture, principles, and strategy framework) (Government of India), available at: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/dec/doc202112101.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁷ The Cigarettes And Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition Of advertisement And Regulation Of Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply And Distribution) Act, 2003

⁷⁸National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *NTCP Official Portal* (centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2007–08 under 11th Five-Year Plan; oversees implementation of COTPA, cessation services, IEC, surveys and state coordination) (Government of India), available at: <https://ntcp.mohfw.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁷⁹ Indian Council of Medical Research.

⁸⁰Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (NBM), Government of India, *Operational Guidelines of the National Bamboo Mission* (Revised, effective 2025; restructured NBM under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture; 100% central funding) (Government of India, 2025), available at: https://nbm.da.gov.in/Documents/pdf/NBM_Guideline_2025.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁸¹ National Disaster Management Authority.

⁸² National Cooperative Development Corporation.

⁸³ Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme.

In working toward SDG Goal 4, which calls for a commitment to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, India has aligned national education frameworks and policies with each SDG target.

For example, Target 4.1 on completing quality primary and secondary education can be achieved through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan⁸⁴, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme⁸⁵. The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat⁸⁶ campaign will support the curricula for foundational learning and reading comprehension.

To achieve Target 4.2 on early childhood education, India has launched the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)⁸⁷ and has an ECCE Policy⁸⁸. The Poshan Abhiyan⁸⁹ framework provides further accompanying approaches

⁸⁴Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Samagra Shiksha: National Education Mission* (Integrated Scheme for School Education from Pre School to Class XII; launched May 2018; subsumed SSA, RMSA & Teacher Education; extended 2021–22 to 2025–26) (Government of India), available at: <https://dsel.education.gov.in/en/scheme/samagra-shiksha> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁸⁵Department of School Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh (PM POSHAN Reporting Portal), *Haryana State Dashboard – Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman* (real-time MDM reporting platform for Haryana as of August 2025) (Government of India/Government of Himachal Pradesh), available at: <https://mdmhp.nic.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁸⁶Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat: Early Reading and Writing with Comprehension & Early Mathematics Programme* (launched August 2014 under SSA) (Government of India, 2014), available at: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/Padhe-Bharat-Badhe-Bharat.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁸⁷MWCD, ICDS “About”, *supra* note 32.

⁸⁸Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy* (adopted 5 September 2013; published in Gazette under File No. 6 3/2009 ECCE) (Government of India, 2013), available at: https://www.nitiforstates.gov.in/public-assets/Policy/policy_files/PNC503P000013.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁸⁹Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) Official Portal* (launched 8 March 2018 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan; mission-mode initiative to eliminate malnutrition by 2022) (Government of India), available at: <https://poshanabhiyaan.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

on nutrition and health. The NIPUN Bharat Mission⁹⁰ is essential to attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3 levels.

An equitable access to vocational and tertiary education under Target 4.3 leverages a number of policies and frameworks. For example, the Skill India Mission⁹¹, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)⁹² scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)⁹³, and the RashtriyaUchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)⁹⁴ frameworks provide access to vocational education from a rights-based perspective, while drawing attention to disparities in employability and technical education. Target 4.4 highlights the understanding of employability skills, under which reside a number of

⁹⁰Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *NIPUN Bharat: National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy* (National Mission on FLN under Samagra Shiksha; launched 5 July 2021 to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy for children aged 3–9 by 2026–27) (Government of India, 2021), available at: <https://nipunbharat.education.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹¹Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, *Skill India Mission (National Skill Development Mission)* (flagship national skilling initiative launched 15 July 2015 under NSDM; umbrella framework including PMKVY, SANKALP, skill loans, RPL, and global partnerships) (Government of India), available at: <https://skillindia.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹²Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)* (Phase FY 2022–26; redesigned for flexibility, industry alignment, digital delivery, inclusivity and future skills) (Government of India, 2022), available at: <https://www.msde.gov.in/offering/schemes-and-services/details/pradhan-mantri-kaushal-vikas-yojana-4-0-pmkvy-4-0-2021-ITO3ATMtQWa> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹³Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, *National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)* (launched 19 August 2016; Phase II active as of 2024–25 with financial incentives and digital reforms) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.msde.gov.in/offering/schemes-and-services/details/national-apprenticeship-promotion-scheme-naps-YjM4ATMtQWa> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹⁴Ministry of Education, Government of India, *RashtriyaUchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)* (centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2013 to transform state higher education via access, quality, equity, and governance reforms) (Government of India), available at: <https://rusa.nic.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

initiatives across digital services and provision, including Digital India⁹⁵, DDU-GKY⁹⁶, JSS⁹⁷, and e-Skill India⁹⁸.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign⁹⁹, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas¹⁰⁰ and a range of scholarship schemes for SC/ST/OBC/Minorities work together to address Target 4.5, and the Gender Inclusion Fund¹⁰¹ under

⁹⁵Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology / Digital India Corporation, Government of India, *Digital India Programme: Aiming for a Digitally Empowered Society and Knowledge Economy* (flagship initiative launched 1 July 2015; steered by MeitY/NeGD/DIC) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.digitalindia.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹⁶Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU GKY)* (launched 25 September 2014 under NRLM; placement-led rural skilling initiative for youth aged 15–35) (Government of India), available at: <https://ddugky.info/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹⁷Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, *Jan ShikshanSansthan (JSS) Scheme* (formerly “Shramik Vidyapeeth”, transferred to MSDE in July 2018; based on 100% central grant; providing non formal vocational training to neo- and non-literates aged 15–45) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.msde.gov.in/offering/schemes-and-services/details/jan-shikshan-sansthan-jss-cjM4ATMtQWa> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹⁸National Skill Development Corporation, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, *eSkill India: NSDC’s e Learning Aggregator Platform* (digital skilling initiative aggregating 1,600+ curated courses from global and national content partners) (Government of India), available at: <https://nsdcindia.org/e-skill-india> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

⁹⁹Ministry of Women & Child Development; Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: Caring for the Girl Child* (flagship tri-ministerial initiative launched 22 January 2015 in Panipat, Haryana) (Government of India), available at: https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/government_tr_rec/beti-bachao-beti-padhao-caring-for-the-girl-child/ (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰⁰Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)* (residential school scheme launched July 2004; extended under Samagra Shiksha, providing education and boarding from classes VI–XII for girls from disadvantaged groups in Educationally Backward Blocks) (Government of India), available at: <https://samagra.education.gov.in/kgbv.html> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰¹Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Steps Taken by the Government for Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) under NEP 2020* (written reply in Rajya Sabha dated 1 December 2021; detailing measures for equity of girls and transgender students under Samagra Shiksha 2.0) (Government of India, 2021), available at:

the National Education Policy, 2020 is working to ensure that school environments are gender equitable in a systemic way.

For adult literacy (Target 4.6), initiatives like PadhnaLikhna Abhiyan¹⁰² and NILP¹⁰³ are aimed at addressing literacy in adult populations with educational disadvantages. Target 4.7, which aims to include sustainable development in the curriculum, is being addressed in totality through the NEP, 2020, the introduction of Eco-Clubs, environmental education, and the Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan.¹⁰⁴

Infrastructure improvement (Target 4.a) is being supported through initiatives like the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan¹⁰⁵, Operation Digital Board¹⁰⁶, and the creation of PM SHRI Schools¹⁰⁷ to provide state-of-the-art, inclusive learning environments. We address Target 4.b and expanded scholarship programming

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1776914> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰²Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *PadhnaLikhna Abhiyan: Participatory Learning & Action (PLA) Guidelines* (scheme launched 2020; PLA modules for community-based adult literacy and local learning engagement) (Government of India, 2020), available at: <https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-05/PLA-Guidelines.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰³Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Draft Guidelines of New India Literacy Programme (NILP)* (approved for implementation FY 2022–23 to 2026–27 under NEP 2020; adult literacy and lifelong learning framework) (Government of India, 2023), available at: https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-01/Draft_Guidelines_of_NILP.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰⁴Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Swachh Vidyalaya—Clean India, Clean Schools: Guidelines for School Sanitation and Hygiene* (part of SBM–Grameen school sanitation strategy; issued 2015) (Government of India, 2015), available at: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/Eng_Swachh%20Bharat%20Swachh%20Vidyalaya.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰⁵*DoSE&L, Samagra Shiksha*, supra note 84.

¹⁰⁶Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *PM SHRI Schools: Framework on School Transformation – Part 1: Vision, Mission, Pillars and Selection Methodology* (Government of India, 2023), available at: https://pmsri.education.gov.in/assets/pdf/part1_pmsri.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰⁷*Id.*

through programs like the Study in India Programme¹⁰⁸, ICCR Scholarships¹⁰⁹, and AICTE-SWANATH¹¹⁰. Finally, we support Target 4.c for increased teacher training with DIKSHA¹¹¹, NISHTHA¹¹², and the PMMMNMTT¹¹³ so that we promote a holistic approach to professional growth.

We have endeavored reforms in education, but challenges remain in the areas of digital access, learning outcomes, teacher-student ratio, and contextual inclusion of marginal communities.

SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, it is also a needed basis for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. India's commitment to SDG 5 is evident in India's multi-pronged approach to deal with both structural and cultural barriers to gender equality. Through legal reform, new policies and schemes, the country has begun to reduce discrimination and promote agency, but unevenly.

Through Target 5.1, India has moved towards ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and women's legal rights and policies, including the legal recognition of gender equality through legal and policy frameworks. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao¹¹⁴ (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) campaign is the most significant social and moral

¹⁰⁸ Study in India (SII), Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Study in India Portal*, available at: https://studyinindia.gov.in/studyin_india_sii (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁰⁹ Indian Council for Cultural Relations, *Admissions to Alumni (A2A) Scholarship Portal*, available at: <https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁰ All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), *Post Graduate (PG) Scholarship Scheme 2020-21*, available at: <https://aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/PG%20scheme%20guidelines.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹¹ Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *PM e-Vidya – DIKSHA Portal*, available at: <https://pmevidya.education.gov.in/diksha.html> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹² National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), *Integrated Teacher Professional Development (ITPD) Portal*, available at: <https://itpd.ncert.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹³ Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, *Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching*, available at: <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/pandit-madan-mohan-malviya-national-mission-teachers-and-teaching> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁴ MoWCD et al., BBBP, supra note 99.

campaign to challenge gender imbalances in pre-natal selection and educate women. The campaign is bolstered by policy reforms such as the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 200, women's inheritance rights, and the draft National Policy for Women (2016) which is a strategic policy platform to address modern women's challenges.

To address violence against women (Target 5.2), the Government has launched the One Stop Centre Scheme (SakhiCentres)¹¹⁵ and the Women Helpline (181) as integrated support models. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 post-Nirbhaya case increased punitive measures for sexual violence. Financial measures and support via the Nirbhaya Fund further demonstrate India's commitment to gender-responsive safety infrastructure.

India deals with entrenched harmful practices under Target 5.3. Laws like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and new schemes like Apni Beti Apna Dhan (Haryana)¹¹⁶, Kanyashree Prakalpa (West Bengal)¹¹⁷, and the Dhanalakshmi Scheme¹¹⁸ are seeking to change social behaviours while providing financial incentives to delay marriage and invest in the education of girls.

Recognition of unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4) has grown, particularly after the Time Use Survey (2019)¹¹⁹ finding a gender gap in

¹¹⁵ Women and Child Development Department, Haryana, *One Stop Centre Scheme*, available at: <https://wcdhry.gov.in/schemes-for-women/onestop-centre/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁶ Department of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development, Chandigarh Administration, *Form: Apni Beti Apna Dhan Scheme* (application form under "Apni Beti Apna Dhan" scheme, invest ₹ 5,000; issued by the Department of Social Welfare, Chandigarh Administration) (Government of Chandigarh, [n.d.]), available at: https://chdsw.gov.in/uploads/media/1682924194-Form_Apni_Beti_Apna_Dhan.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁷ Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, *About the Scheme – Kanyashree Prakalpa* (official scheme guidelines webpage; launched 8 March 2013), available at: https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in/kp_scheme.php (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁸ United Nations Population Fund – India (UNFPA India), *Policy Brief: Delivering Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Services* (June 2016), available at: https://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PolicyBrief_07-04-20166pm.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹¹⁹ National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), *Time Use in India-2019* (Report of the first All-India Time Use Survey conducted January–December 2019) (Government of India, 2020), available at:

unpaid work. In addition maternal protection measures like the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 extended paid maternity leave and the Draft National Policy for Domestic Workers¹²⁰ aims to formalize an informal sector in terms of labour protections.

Under Target 5.5, India has made significant strides in political and institutional power, especially with the Constitutional directive for a one-third reservation of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions¹²¹ and the additional step towards equitable representation in parliamentary powers with the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill (128th Amendment), 2023. Various schemes, for example, Mahila Shakti Kendras¹²², facilitate women's empowerment efforts on a grassroots level through capacity development and social mobilization of women's networks.

Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health (Target 5.6) remains at the center of India's public health agenda, through the National Family Planning Programme¹²³, the RMNCH+A Strategy¹²⁴, and Mission Parivar Vikas¹²⁵,

https://mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Report_TUS_2019_0.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²⁰ Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India, *National Policy for Domestic Workers* (Press Release ID: 1564261; regarding the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008), (Government of India), available at: <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1564261> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²¹ Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, *Official Website – Ministry of Panchayati Raj (panchayat.gov.in)* (Government of India), available at: <https://panchayat.gov.in/en/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²² Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme: Implementation Guidelines for State Governments / UT Administrations (Tripura)* (issued November 2017; published on the Tripura Social Welfare website) (Government of India), available at: <https://socialwelfare.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/GUIDELINES%20FOR%20MAHILA%20SHAKTI%20KENDRA%20%20SCHEME%20%28MSK%29.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²³ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *National Health Mission – Family Planning Division* (programme overview page, lid 222), available at: <https://www.nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&lid=222&sublinkid=821> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²⁴ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *A Strategic Approach to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) in India* (policy strategy document, February 2013) (National Health Mission), available at: https://www.nhm.gov.in/images/pdf/RMNCH%2BA/RMNCH%2BA_Strategy.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

which aim to meet women's needs for holistic reproductive health, facilitated by India's extensive network of ASHA workers¹²⁶, which serves as a bridge between communities and public health systems.

With respect to economic rights (Target 5.a), reforms in land ownership processes, such as the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)¹²⁷, and women-specific agricultural programs such as the Mahila Kisan SashaktikaranPariyojana (MKSP)¹²⁸, have provided a substantial increase in women's ability to control economic resources. Training and skills development under the STEP Scheme¹²⁹ will also increase women's employability.

Digital empowerment (Target 5.b), through Mahila e-Haat¹³⁰ and PMGDISHA¹³¹, is increasing access to the digital world while bridging the

¹²⁵ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Mission Parivar Vikas: Guidelines for Improved Access to Contraceptives and Family Planning Services in High-Fertility Districts* (issued 10 November 2016; operational in 145 high-fertility districts across seven priority states) (National Health Mission), available at: https://www.nhm.gov.in/images/pdf/programmes/family-planning/guidelines/MPV/Mission_Parivar_Vikas.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²⁶ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *About Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)* (National Health Mission webpage, lid 226, sublink 150) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&lid=226&sublinkid=150> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²⁷ DoLR, DILRMP, supra note 23.

¹²⁸ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Mahila Kisan SashaktikaranPariyojana (MKSP) Portal* (official programme portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://mksp.nrlm.gov.in/portal/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹²⁹ Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, *Support Training & Employment for Women (STEP) Programme through SCERT Delhi* (state-level vocational skilling and employment initiative for women via SCERT) (Government of NCT of Delhi, undated), available at: <https://wcd.delhi.gov.in/scert/support-training-employment-women> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³⁰ Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *Mahila e-Haat Portal* (online platform for women entrepreneurs hosted by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh) (Government of India, launched March 7, 2016), available at: <https://www.msmedinewdelhi.gov.in/en/Mahila%20eHaat.asp> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³¹ Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), Gramin Shiksha Certification Portal, *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital*

digital divide. BharatNet¹³², which drives internet connectivity to rural areas, has helped improve access to various education, health, and economic opportunities.

In relation to Target 5.c, the institutionalization of gender responsive budgeting in India with the assistance of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and its creation of Gender budget Cells in ministries.¹³³ And, since we are discussing data, a National Gender Data Portal¹³⁴ is currently being developed to enhance data-driven policy planning.

Ultimately, while decent progress has been made to ensure high levels of compliance to, and implementation of, gender equity policies, India still faces issues from colonial, patriarchal social norms, low women's participation in the labour force, friction in the implementation of gender equity policies in different regions. These structural issues must be tackled to achieve SDG 5.

SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

Water and sanitation are core to sustainable development and human rights. Water governance reform and sanitation programs in India closely align with Strategic Development Goal (SDG) 6 and aim to ensure the equitable and sustainable access of water in all spheres across countries both rural and urban.

Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA): Digital Literacy Scheme for Rural India – Certification Page (Gramin Shiksha training partner) (Government of India), available at: <https://graminshiksha.com/Certification/PMGDISHA-12078-62> (last visited on 6 August 2025). This portal explains the scheme's objective to digitally empower one person per rural household, aged 14–60, through a minimum 20-hour training course certified externally by agencies like NIELIT, NIOS, IGNOU or NIESBUD

¹³² Ministry of Communications, Government of India, *USOF – BharatNet Project* (official project overview and status as on 12 May 2025) (Universal Service Obligation Fund and DoT), available at: <https://usof.gov.in/en/bharatnet-project> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³³ Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *India has institutionalized gender-responsive budgeting* (Press Note, 3 July 2025) (Backgrounder ID 154811) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=154811&ModuleId=3> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³⁴ S.K. Ritadhi, *“Outline of Gender Data Portal”* (Ashoka University blog post, 12 September 2023), available at: <https://www.ashoka.edu.in/outline-of-gender-data-portal/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

For Target 6.1, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)¹³⁵ was launched to provide piped drinking water to all households in rural India by 2024 to ensure it is safe and functional for drinking. The program builds on the earlier National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)¹³⁶ and Har Ghar Jal Yojana¹³⁷ and supports a decentralized, demand-driven approach to drinking water provision. The program promotes community involvement and management with sustainability as an important organizing principle.

In the field of sanitation Target 6.2, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)¹³⁸ is perhaps the most well-known and far-reaching initiative. The urban and rural components of the SBM program made significant strides in building toilets and bringing about behavior change (toileting). The evolution to ODF+¹³⁹ and ODF++¹⁴⁰ are indicators of a shift from delivering on infrastructure and moving toward a durable future in sanitation. The Menstrual Hygiene Scheme continues to make strides in gender-sensitive sanitation programs.

Target 6.3 focused on water quality has led to programs such as NamamiGange¹⁴¹, which focuses on creating infrastructure, as well as restoring ecology around the Ganga River. The National Water Quality

¹³⁵ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, *Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal) Portal* (official programme website) (Government of India, launched 15 August 2019), available at: <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³⁶ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, *NRDWP-MIS: National Rural Drinking Water Programme – IMIS Reports* (official MIS dashboard overview page) (Government of India), available at: https://ejalshakti.gov.in/IMISReports/NRDWP_MIS_NationalRuralDrinkingWaterProgramme.html (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³⁷ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, *JJM Report – India Dashboard* (e-Jal Shakti portal, “JJM India” national dashboard) (Government of India), available at: <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹³⁸ *SBM-Grameen (Ministry of Jal Shakti)*, supra note 74.

¹³⁹ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *SBM ODF+ and SBM ODF++* (Swachh Bharat Mission Urban guidance document), available at: <https://www.swachhbharaturban.gov.in/writereaddata/SBMODFBook24May20.pdf?id=13j48tn4c0wzu2zr> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴⁰ *Id.*

¹⁴¹ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, *NamamiGangeProgramme – National Mission for Clean Ganga* (official programme overview page, launched June 2014) (Government of India), available at: <https://nmcg.nic.in/NamamiGanga.aspx> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

Monitoring Programme¹⁴² and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)¹⁴³ are other important institutional mechanisms for pollution abatement.

Efforts to combat water scarcity (Target 6.4) have led India to launch the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)¹⁴⁴ and Jal Shakti Abhiyan¹⁴⁵, both programs promoting water conservation and efficient irrigation. The Per Drop More Crop¹⁴⁶ campaign strengthens agricultural water productivity.

Target 6.5 emphasizes integrated water resources management. The Atal Bhujal Yojana¹⁴⁷ promotes an integrated approach for groundwater sustainability through community monitoring and planning. The efforts at basin-level, and the regulatory techniques of the Central Ground Water Board, facilitate an integrated approach.

The initiatives to protect aquatic ecosystems (Target 6.6) get support from the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and the National

¹⁴² Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, *National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP)* (official programme overview webpage) (Government of India), available at: <https://cpcb.nic.in/nwmp/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴³ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, *National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) – Official Portal* (government mission website) (Government of India), available at: <https://nmcg.nic.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴⁴ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Portal* (official programme website) (Government of India), available at: <https://pmksy.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴⁵ Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, *Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) Dashboard* (official public dashboard page) (Government of India), available at: <https://jsactr.mowr.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025). The dashboard tracks status across states/districts and includes data on interventions like rainwater harvesting, geo-tagging of water bodies, and Jal Shakti Kendras.

¹⁴⁶ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, *Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) – Micro Irrigation Scheme Portal* (official scheme dashboard) (Government of India), available at: <https://pdmc.da.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴⁷ Government of Haryana, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, *Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal): Community-Led Participatory Groundwater Management Portal* (official programme dashboard) (Government of Haryana), available at: <https://ataljal.hid.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

Wetland Conservation Programme¹⁴⁸. These initiatives and rule-based approaches work hand in hand with policies that promote afforestation, and inter-linking of rivers to bring in biodiversity and ecological flow.

India has engaged in international cooperation (Target 6.a) with SAARC¹⁴⁹ countries, as well as global initiatives, under the Jal Jeevan Mission¹⁵⁰. Capacity development and technology transfer are key elements of these partnerships.

India promotes community engagement (Target 6.b) in the country through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC)¹⁵¹ and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).¹⁵² Implementation of Water Safety and Security Planning (WSSP)¹⁵³ lead by Gram Panchayat will give local ownership and accountability.

While progress is made, India continues to have challenges of water stress, depletion of groundwater and inequity in access in peri urban and tribal areas. Investing in wastewater treatment, strengthening local governance and improving service delivery will be key.

¹⁴⁸ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, “*Wetlands Conservation – Initiatives of Government of India*” (brochure, Indian Wetlands National Portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1707221982.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁴⁹ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

¹⁵⁰ MoJS, *Har Ghar Jal Portal*, supra note 135.

¹⁵¹ National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Model Bylaws for Village Water and Sanitation Committee* (Annexure IV, Service Bulletin, November 2021) (Government of India), available at: https://nirdpr.org.in/nird_docs/sb/sb111121-1.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵² CLTS Foundation, *Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Foundation: A better tomorrow* (official portal for global CLTS practitioners and initiatives) (CLTS Foundation), available at: <https://www.cltsfoundation.org/> (last visited on 6 August 2025). MLICENSE Note: The Foundation was established by Dr Kamal Kar, inventor of the CLTS approach, to serve as a global platform for training, capacity building, and advocacy.

¹⁵³ World Health Organization, *Water Safety Planning* (section on the *Water Safety and Quality* page under *Water Sanitation and Health*) (WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality), available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/water-safety-and-quality/water-safety-planning> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

Energy access is foundational to development in all sectors. Energy policy in India is geared towards the triple objectives of universal access, energy security and sustainability in line with SDG 7 targets.

Under Target 7.1, rural electrification has been undertaken in significant proportions with schemes like the Saubhagya Scheme¹⁵⁴ and the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).¹⁵⁵ Furthermore the Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)¹⁵⁶ combats energy poverty by providing subsidized LPG connections to millions of households, especially women.

For Target 7.2, the government of India has made available several renewable energy / clean energy initiatives such as the National Solar Mission¹⁵⁷ and the Wind Energy Programme¹⁵⁸, and is promoting hydropower development, all coordinated by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).¹⁵⁹ Target of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity is to reach 500 GW by 2030.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁴ Ministry of Power, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya* (official spotlight page on the National Portal of India) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/pradhan-mantri-sahaj-bijli-har-ghar-yojana-saubhagya> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵⁵ Ministry of Power, Government of India, *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)* (official scheme portal, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited as nodal agency), available at: <https://recindia.nic.in/ddugjy> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵⁶ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Portal* (official scheme website) (Government of India), available at: <https://pmuy.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵⁷ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Solar Overview* (official overview section on MNRE website) (Government of India), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/en/solar-overview/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵⁸ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Wind Overview* (official overview section on MNRE website), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/en/wind-overview/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁵⁹ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) – Official Portal* (official government website) (Government of India), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁰ Ministry of Power, Government of India, *India's 500 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Target* (official overview page) (Government of India), available at:

Target 7.3, focuses on energy efficiency. A scheme like Perform Achieve Trade (PAT)¹⁶¹ and the UJALA initiative¹⁶², promoting LED use at a national scale, both contribute towards lower energy intensity. Regulations such as the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)¹⁶³ ensure compliance with construction and systems in industries. In the context of international cooperation (Target 7.a), India is a front-line leader with the International Solar Alliance (ISA)¹⁶⁴ and within bilateral partnerships such as the India-US Strategic Energy Partnership. The National Hydrogen Mission¹⁶⁵ is another outward look at positioning India in a clean fuel economy.

Infrastructure and technology development (Target 7.b) are supported by initiatives like the Green Energy Corridor¹⁶⁶, Smart Grid Mission¹⁶⁷, PM-

<https://powermin.gov.in/en/content/500gw-nonfossil-fuel-target> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶¹ Ministry of Power, Government of India, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, *Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme – Program Overview* (official portal page on energy efficiency initiative), available at: <https://beeindia.gov.in/programmes/perform-achieve-and-trade-pat> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶² Ministry of Power, Government of India, *UJALA: 10 Years of Energy-Efficient Lighting* (Press Release, 6 January 2025) (Press Release ID 2090639) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2090639> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶³ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India, *Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017* (official code document establishing minimum energy performance standards for commercial buildings, revised 2017) (Government of India), available at: https://beeindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/publications/files/ECBC%20book%20final%20one%20%202017_0.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁴ International Solar Alliance (ISA), *Official Portal* (intergovernmental organization promoting solar energy cooperation) (Government of India & France), available at: <https://isa.int/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁵ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *National Green Hydrogen Mission* (official mission overview page) (Government of India, initially approved January 4, 2023), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/en/national-green-hydrogen-mission/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Green Energy Corridor Overview* (official programme overview page) (Government of India), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/en/green-energy-corridor-Overview/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁷ Ministry of Power, Government of India, *National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) – Official Portal* (government mission website, launched

KUSUM¹⁶⁸ for solar irrigation, and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).¹⁶⁹ These initiatives play an important role in stabilizing energy demand and facilitating decarbonization.

It is also important to mention areas of progress particularly with grid stability, affordable clean fuels for the poorest, and integrating and managing intermittent renewables. For a just energy transition in India, it is important to keep these commitments aligned, while also investing in storage technology, and protecting vulnerable communities.

SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

India's approach to SDG 8 links macro economic growth with social protection and labor market reforms. Under Target 8.1, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan¹⁷⁰, Make in India¹⁷¹, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI)¹⁷² scheme aim to increase industrial capacity and GDP growth by providing incentives for self-reliance.

March 27, 2015) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.nsgm.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁸ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme* (official portal landing page) (Mission Mode Project under NeGP, developed by NIC), available at: <https://pmkusum.mnre.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁶⁹ Ministry of Power, Government of India, *Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) – Integrated Web Portal* (official digital monitoring platform for distribution reform and smart metering) (Government of India), available at: <https://rdss.powermin.gov.in/rdss> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁰ Dr. Sumitra Devi Sharma, "Atamnirbhar Bharat: Reliance of Poor Welfare" (JETIR, Volume 7, Issue 9, September 2020) (Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research), available at: <https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR2009421.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷¹ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, *Make in India* (official initiative portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.makeinindia.com/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷² Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, *Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme: National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules* (official overview page) (Government of India), available at: <https://mnre.gov.in/en/production-linked-incentive-pli/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

Target 8.2 focuses on productivity and innovation. Motivated by the need for advancement in technology, Startup India¹⁷³, Digital India and Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX)¹⁷⁴ are programs that jointly try to build a competitive knowledge-based economy day.

Target 8.3 reinforces the creation of decent work by promoting entrepreneurship and reducing informality in the labor market with various schemes such as the Skill India Mission¹⁷⁵, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana¹⁷⁶ and Stand-Up India movement.¹⁷⁷

India is trying to address resource efficiency through Target 8.4 by implementing the National Resource Efficiency Policy¹⁷⁸, and have adopted schemes aimed to reduce excess consumption such they Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT)¹⁷⁹ and Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED)¹⁸⁰ certification for micro,

¹⁷³ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, *Startup India – Official Portal* (flagship initiative for startups) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁴ Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, *Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Scheme* (official scheme overview page on DDP portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.ddpmod.gov.in/offering/schemes-and-services/idx> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁵ MSDE, *Skill India Mission*, supra note 91.

¹⁷⁶ Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana – Loan Limit Raised to ₹20 Lakh from ₹10 Lakh* (Press Release, 29 October 2024; Press Release ID unknown) (Government of India), available at: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/oct/doc20241029426401.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁷ Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Stand-Up India (SUI) Scheme* (official scheme overview page on StandUpMitra portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.standupmitra.in/home/suischemes> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁸ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, *Extension of timeline for public consultation on Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019* (Press Release, 26 August 2019) (Press Information Bureau), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192825> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁷⁹ MoP-BEE, *PAT Scheme Overview*, supra note 161.

¹⁸⁰ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, *MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification – Zero Defect Zero Effect Portal* (official scheme portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://zed.msme.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

small and medium enterprises (MSME). The overarching goal of all these programs and policies is to promote growth and industrialisation while addressing social and environmental sustainability. For inclusive labor markets (Target 8.5), initiatives such as MGNREGA,¹⁸¹ The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and The National Career Service Portal¹⁸² seek to address wage inequality and improve access to employment.

Youth unemployment (Target 8.6) continues to be a focus area, with programs relating to PMKVY¹⁸³, NAPS¹⁸⁴, and MSME youth targeting specific activities to help young workers transition from the informal economy to the formal economy through skill development and apprenticeships.

For forced, and child labor (Target 8.7), the PENCIL Portal¹⁸⁵ was launched, the legal framework has been made stronger, and Operation Smile was launched to rescue trafficked children, of which there are estimated to be 37 million in India. For worker safety (Target 8.8), the TheOccupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 was developed, and the Shram Suvidha Portal¹⁸⁶ was developed, along with the digital outreach from ESIC¹⁸⁷ and EPFO.¹⁸⁸

Sustainable tourism (Target 8.9) has programs such as Incredible India 2.0, Swadesh Darshan¹⁸⁹, and PRASHAD¹⁹⁰, amongst others, designed to address the balance of cultural preservation with economic development.

¹⁸¹DoRD, MGNREGA, supra note 15.

¹⁸² Ministry of Labour& Employment, Government of India, *National Career Service (NCS) – Official Portal* (Mission Mode Project launched 20 July 2015; digital platform for career and employment services) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.ncs.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁸³MSDE, PMKVY 4.0, supra note 92.

¹⁸⁴MSDE, NAPS, supra note 93.

¹⁸⁵ Ministry of Labour& Employment, Government of India, *PENCIL Portal (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)* (launched 26 September 2017; developed to assist in enforcement of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act and implementation of the NCLP Scheme) (Government of India, undated), available at: <https://pencil.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁸⁶ Ministry of Labour& Employment, Government of India, *Shram Suvidha Portal – Unified Labour Compliance Platform* (official web portal for labour law compliance, administered by the Ministry) (Government of India), available at: <https://shramsuvidha.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁸⁷ Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

¹⁸⁸ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

¹⁸⁹ Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, *Swadesh Darshan Scheme – Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits* (official overview

Lastly, to promote Financial Inclusion (under Target 8.10), programs like the PM Jan Dhan Yojana¹⁹¹, insurance schemes of PMJJBY¹⁹² and PMSBY¹⁹³, and the development of banking infrastructures and financial literacy has led to better access to formal financial services for more people in the country. However, there are still challenges around the quality of jobs, informality, and unevenness across sectors. To achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, there must be a strengthening of wage, labor, and employment reforms to increase female labor force participation and enable how MSMEs can flourish.

Advancing Decent Work and Economic Growth: India and SDG 8

Sustainable Development Goal 8 focuses on ongoing, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, as well as full and productive employment for all. In relation to these objectives, India has introduced portfolio of initiatives that prioritize domestic employment and industrial development while also showing commitment to international cooperation.

Target 8.a encourages aid-for-trade support for developing countries to be increased, and within these confines, India has been an active player through its South-South Cooperation framework.¹⁹⁴ The Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP)¹⁹⁵ Scheme developed for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the

page) (Government of India), available at: <https://tourism.gov.in/schemes-guidelines-schemes/swadesh-darshan-scheme> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁰ Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, *National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme* (official scheme overview), available at: <https://tourism.gov.in/prashad-scheme> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹¹ Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Portal* (official scheme website), available at: <https://www.pmjdy.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹² Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)* (official scheme overview page, beta portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://financialservices.gov.in/beta/en/pmjjby> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹³ Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)* (official scheme overview page, beta portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://financialservices.gov.in/beta/en/pmsby> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), *About South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)* (official overview page), available at: <https://unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁵ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, *Duty Free Tariff Preference*

plentiful Lines of Credit (LoCs) extended to African and Asian countries, and the partnerships developed through the India-Africa Forum Summit represent India's shift for its focus with trade related capacity building on the Global South.

In addition, Target 8.b aims to operationalize global youth employment strategies. In this regard, India's National Youth Policy envisions the comprehensive skill development and social inclusion of youth, alongside localized initiatives such as the YUVA Scheme by Delhi Police¹⁹⁶ and creating Youth Employment Exchanges and Skill Hubs across states. Despite these efforts, there remain challenges, including a high level of underemployment of educated youth, persistent informal nature of the labour market, and regional disparities in employment.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Innovation Ecosystems: Progress on SDG 9

SDG 9 emphasizes the importance of building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and enabling innovation. These targets are particularly vital to reduce the rural and urban divide and to enable sustainable development in a country like India that is very large and heterogeneous.

For Target 9.1 which talks about access to infrastructure for all, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)¹⁹⁷ has significantly improved rural connectivity of the hinterlands. At the same time, multimodal transport projects like the Bharatmala¹⁹⁸ and Sagarmala¹⁹⁹ projects and the Gati Shakti

(DFTP) Scheme for LDCs – Scheme Document (Annexure-II, DFTP Scheme 2008, containing rules, origin criteria, product coverage, and implementation procedures), available at: <https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Annexure-II-DFTP-Scheme-2008.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Delhi Police, *YUVA Initiative* (official community policing portal; skill-development programme launched 29 August 2017), available at: <https://yuva.delhipolice.gov.in/home.html> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMS) – PMGSY* (official dashboard for monitoring road works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), available at: <https://omms.nic.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, *भारतमालापरियोजनाचरण-I* (BharatmalaPariyojana – Phase I) (official programme overview page, Hindi), available at: <https://morth.nic.in/hi/bharatmalaphase> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

National Master Plan²⁰⁰ are all working towards seamless logistical connectivity.

To address Target 9.2 which talks about increasing industrial value and employment, the Make in India initiative and Industrial Corridors are strong foundational blocks. Furthermore, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI)²⁰¹ schemes also seek to reposition India's manufacturing base leading to higher share of the manufacturing sector in GDP and employment.

For Target 9.3, India has facilitated small scale industries by providing access to financing through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)²⁰², and MUDRA loans under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.²⁰³ Cluster Development Programmes²⁰⁴ are also seeking to integrate value chains.

India is making substantial efforts towards environmental sustainability (Target 9.4) through measures such as the Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED)²⁰⁵ certification scheme, as well as clean technologies through programs such as FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles)²⁰⁶, and the National Electric Mobility Mission.²⁰⁷

¹⁹⁹ Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, *SagarmalaProgramme* (official initiative portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://sagarmala.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰⁰ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, *PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity* (official portal login page) (Government of India), available at: <https://pmgatihshakti.gov.in/pmgatihshakti/login> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰¹ MNRE, *PLI Scheme: High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules*, supra note 172.

²⁰² Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India, *Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Portal* (official initiative website), available at: <https://www.cgtmse.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰³ MoF, *PMMY Loan Limit Increase*, supra note 176.

²⁰⁴ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, *Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)* (official programme overview page) (Government of India), featuring both the 2022 and 2019 guidelines, available at: https://www.dcmsme.gov.in/CLCS_TUS_Scheme/Cluster-Development-Programme/Scheme_Guideline.aspx (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰⁵ MoMSME, *ZED Certification Portal*, supra note 180.

²⁰⁶ Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, *FAME II: Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India – Phase II* (official scheme overview), available at: <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/fame-ii> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)²⁰⁸, National Research Foundation²⁰⁹, and other measures, such as INSPIRE²¹⁰, support scientific research and innovation capacity (Target 9.5). India's support for international infrastructure development (Target 9.a) and technologies within its national ecosystem (Target 9.b) can be seen in initiatives such as LoCs²¹¹, the National Policy on Electronics,²¹² and the technology incubators located in India's premier institutions.

In terms of Target 9.c, India's success in focusing on ICT access has been transformative through the Digital India Mission, BharatNet programme, and the Common Service Centres²¹³ (CSCs) to bring internet connectivity and digital services to the most remote areas. However, challenges can still be classified, such as seemingly imbalanced regional growth, the impact of technology obsolescence, and environmental safeguards in infrastructure expansion.

²⁰⁷ Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, *National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020 (NEMMP 2020)* (official initiative page), available at: <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/node/2953> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰⁸ NITI Aayog, Government of India, *Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) – Official Portal* (flagship national initiative for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship), available at: <https://aim.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²⁰⁹ Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, *Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)* (official overview page) (Government of India), available at: <https://dst.gov.in/anusandhan-national-research-foundation-anrf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹⁰ Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, *INSPIRE Portal – Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research* (official web portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://online-inspire.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹¹ Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, *Lines of Credit for Development Projects* (Official overview page under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme [IDEAS]), available at: <https://www.mea.gov.in/Lines-of-Credit-for-Development-Projects.htm> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹² Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, *ESDM – Policies* (official policy overview page under Electronics System Design & Manufacturing), available at: <https://www.meity.gov.in/esdm/policies> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹³ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, *Common Service Centres (CSC) – Official Digital Access Points* (official portal overview) (Government of India), available at: <https://www.csc.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

Reducing Inequality in All Its Dimensions: SDG 10 and India's Approach

India's response to SDG 10 - reducing inequality within and among countries - has involved multiple avenues that have included constitutional frameworks along with specific welfare and economic inclusion initiatives.

10.1 Target on raising the income of the bottom 40 percent has come with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) a key mechanism, the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)²¹⁴, and MGNREGA all supporting the income of rural population and poverty reduction.

10.2 Target on social and political inclusion has been addressed through affirmative action policies in education and employment, in addition to economic schemes like Stand Up India or the Jan Dhan Yojana for financial inclusion. Campaigns like Accessible India (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)²¹⁵ served to enhance inclusion for persons with disabilities.

India has enacted laws to prohibit discrimination (10.3) through a constitutional framework, Article 14 in the Constitution of India guarantees equal protection of the law. Institutions are now taking note of marginalised identities: appointments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 and discussions to set up an Equal Opportunity Commission.²¹⁶

Target 10.4 highlights fiscal and wage reforms. India has moved to define equity in fiscal and social protection architecture with the new Goods and Services Tax (GST), the adoption of the The Code on Social Security, 2020, and the expansion of the National Pension Scheme (NPS). Improvements to India's regulatory strength under Target 10.5 involved comprehensive regulatory reforms by the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission,

²¹⁴ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) – Official Portal* (Mission Mode Project under the National eGovernance Plan), available at: <https://nsap.nic.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹⁵ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, *Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)* (official campaign overview page) (Government of India), available at: <https://depwd.gov.in/en/accessible-india-campaign/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹⁶ Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, *Equal Opportunity Commission: What, Why and How? – Report by the Expert Group to Examine Structure and Functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission* (report, February 2008), available at: <https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/WriteReadData/RTF1984/1658385481.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

reforms to be more modern in regulation, by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and protections for investors by SEBI.²¹⁷

India is also actively pursuing more voice in global governance (Target 10.6), including pushing for reforms to the UN Security Council, and engagement in BRICS, G20 and the WTO.

The management of migration (Target 10.7) has improved with platforms that are digital around things like the eMigrate system²¹⁸, bilateral labour MoUs, and reintegration support like SWADES.²¹⁹ Finally, Target 10.a talks about special and differential trade treatment for developing countries, and Target 10.b relates to increased development assistance. India has assisted other developing countries with developing their economic capabilities through DFTP²²⁰ schemes, technical cooperation, and access to concessional financing.

Efforts under Target 10.c to lower remittance transaction costs, which included a collaboration with the RBI and bank channels to make transfers more affordable and transparent. Regardless, inter-state income disparity, caste exclusion, and gender pay gaps remain obstacles to achieving equitable growth.

Sustainable Urban Futures: SDG 11 and India's Urban Transformation

India is undergoing rapid urbanization, making it imperative that sustainable development goal 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable is achieved in order for India to achieve national development.

A number of schemes are being explored, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)²²¹, Rajiv Awas Yojana²²² and Affordable Rental

²¹⁷ Securities and Exchange Board of India.

²¹⁸ Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, *eMigrate Portal* (official emigration management system for overseas employment), available at: <https://emigrate.gov.in/#/emigrate> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²¹⁹ Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, *Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 392: Reintegration of Returned Indian Migrants* (answered on 6 February 2025), available at: <https://www.mea.gov.in/rajya-sabha.htm?dtl/38973/QUESTION+NO+392+REINTEGRATION+OF+RETURNED+INDIAN+MIGRANTS> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²²⁰ DPIIT, *DFTP Scheme Document*, supra note 195.

²²¹ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) Portal* (official scheme overview and application platform) (Government of India), available at: <https://pmay-urban.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²²² Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY): A Vision for a Slum-Free India* (official scheme overview) (Government of India), available at:

Housing Complexes for the realization of affordable housing under target 11.1. These programs will also help tackle urban informality.

There are major initiatives for access to urban mobility under target 11.2, including metro rail projects, Smart Mobility schemes and the FAME²²³ initiative for electric vehicles all of which contribute towards sustainable and accessible transport options.

Participatory urban planning (target 11.3) is being strengthened through the AMRUT scheme²²⁴ and Smart Cities Mission²²⁵ scheme to implement City Development Plans (CDPs) as key instruments of inclusive governance.

Cultural and natural heritage (target 11.4) continues to be areas of focus in India through schemes such as HRIDAY,²²⁶ the Adopt a Heritage scheme²²⁷, and protocols for the management of its UNESCO sites.

Finally, in the context of disaster resilience (target 11.5), India's adaptive capacity is underpinned by core elements such as the National Disaster Management Plan, the establishment of State Disaster Response Forces, and flood early warning systems.

Environmental sustainability (Target 11.6) is being supported through the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)²²⁸, and the revised solid waste management rules. Urban greening (Target 11.7) is being facilitated through the AMRUT²²⁹ parks component, Eco-Sensitive Zone rules, and MoHUA's urban space rules.

<https://mohua.gov.in/cms/rajivawasyojana-hi.php> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²²³ MHI, *FAME II Scheme Overview*, supra note 206.

²²⁴ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *AMRUT Scheme* (Press Release, 22 December 2022; Press Release ID 1885837), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1885837> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²²⁵ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *Smart Cities Mission* (official programme portal) (Government of India), available at: <https://smartcities.gov.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025)

²²⁶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)* (official scheme overview) (Government of India), available at: <https://hriday.org.in/> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²²⁷ Ministry of Culture, Government of India, *Adopt A Heritage Scheme (Adopt A Heritage 2.0)* (Press Release, 3 February 2025) (Press Release ID 2099146), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2099146> (last visited on 6 August 2025)

²²⁸ CPCB, *PRANA Portal*, supra note 75.

²²⁹ MoHUA, *AMRUT Scheme Press Release*, supra note 224.

Achievements strengthening urban-rural linkages (Target 11.a) are represented by the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission²³⁰ and state level regional development documents. Climate resilience (Target 11.b) is being addressed through city disaster planning, SAPCCs, and Climate Smart Cities Alliance initiatives.²³¹

Lastly, for India's international solidarity (Target 11.c), it can be characterised by a commitment to support sustainable housing and infrastructure development in Bhutan, Nepal and a number of African countries via South-South cooperation and concessional LoCs.²³² Despite this progress, challenges including uncontrolled urban sprawl, slum growth, environmental degradation, and a shortage of municipal capacity still pose significant impediments to sustainable urbanization.

SDG 12: Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims for systemic change that allows economic growth to be decoupled from environmental degradation through sustainable consumption and production. India has taken a multi-dimensional approach that includes strategic policy, regulatory frameworks, and institutional and capacity building efforts across a wide variety of sectors. At the national level, India has placed its commitment in a National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)²³³, as well as resource efficiency strategy by NITI Aayog. Through building SCP into its institutions, India will have the ability to operationalize circular economy

²³⁰ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, *Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission – About Us* (official mission overview page), available at: https://rurban.gov.in/index.php/public_home/about_us (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²³¹ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, *ClimateSmart Cities* (official initiative overview page) (Government of India), available at: https://smartcities.gov.in/climatesmart_cities (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²³² Saklani, Udisha, *Building Infrastructure Abroad: India's Enterprises in Africa and South Asia* (FutureDAMS Policy Report, University of Manchester, January 2023) (author affiliation: Department of Geography, University of Cambridge), available at: https://www.futuredams.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Policy-Brief_USaklani.pdf (last visited on 6 August 2025).

²³³ Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, *National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* (issued 1 December 2021; outlines the eight National Missions, guiding principles, and early outcomes of India's climate strategy) (Government of India, 2021), available at: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/dec/doc202112101.pdf> (last visited on 6 August 2025)

strategies and reduce its material footprint. It is also providing activities and practices within the well-known global One Planet Network to incorporate SCP into the global arena.

India's focus on efficiency of resource-use is also highlighted in its draft National Resource Efficiency Policy, and regional Circular Economy Action Plans in its 13 industrial sectors. For example, the Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED)²³⁴ Certification Scheme provides recognition to productive practices that are environmentally sustainable, specifically amongst the micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) sector.

India's approaches to mitigation of food loss and waste include a number of infrastructure-based schemes including Mega Food Parks and the Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme (implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries), as well as behavioral change efforts by FSSAI-led campaigns such as "Save Food, Share Food".²³⁵

India has a substantial legislative framework in place for chemical and hazardous waste, including the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules (2016), the E-Waste Management Rules (2016), and the Batteries Waste Management Rules (2022) that align India's domestic regulatory framework under the rubric of global environmental agreements.

In relation to waste generation, India promotes Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs) principles through the Swachh Bharat Mission: Urban. The spatial regulatory frameworks such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules (2016 amended in 2022) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)²³⁶, aim to institutionalize the producer and manufacturer responsibility.

Corporate responsibility is the pillar of sustainable development, and India has tried to enforce Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) using the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The provisions in

²³⁴*Supra note 180.*

²³⁵Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, *Save Food, Share Food, Share Joy (Share Food) Initiative* (Eat Right India campaign to reduce surplus food waste by facilitating safe food recovery and redistribution) (Government of India, undated), available at: <https://sharefood.eatrightindia.gov.in/> (last visited on 10 September 2025).

²³⁶Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, *Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility on Plastic Packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016* (Press Release, 18 February 2022; Press Release ID 1799170), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1799170> (last visited on 6 August 2025).

the Companies Act, 2013 related to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are paving the way for Sustainable action by corporate India in supporting appropriate Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) guidelines.

The changes and reforms made by the Indian government in Public Procurement like Sustainable Public Procurement Action Plan, Green Standards inserted into the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), and the Green Procurement Guidelines from the Central Pollution Control Board also reflect state responsibility in demonstrating sustainable economic behavior.

The Government realizes that raising awareness is important, which why environmental education has been included in national curricula through NCERT and SCERT, and youth have also been provided knowledge and skills through Eco Clubs and the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP).²³⁷

Global engagement also highlights India's SCP journey. India but also through South-South Cooperation and UNIDO partnerships²³⁸, enables the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies.

Tourism is a resource-intensive industry, supported with monitoring tools that assess sustainable impact under Incredible India 2.0 and a policy of "Adopt a Heritage".²³⁹ Efforts to develop eco-tourism guides eco-friendly tourism management for a positive impact.

Energy subsidies in India are being rationalised; fossil fuel subsidies are being cut and clean energy subsidies (Ujjwala Yojana)²⁴⁰ are being increased. Legislation changing fuel prices in domestic markets is evident in precise international markets progressing efficient energy price mechanisms.

Notwithstanding these developments, challenges remain. Policy consistency, inter-sectoral coordination, behavioural inertia and data gaps continue to restrict our ability to progress. Fair and equitable enforcement of regulations,

²³⁷*Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)* (myScheme, National e-Governance Division, Digital India, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India, last updated 10 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/gsdpu> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²³⁸*Partnerships*, UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization, accessed 10 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://www.unido.org/about-us/partnerships> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²³⁹*"Adopt a Heritage" ('ApniDharohar, ApniPehchaan') Project for Development of Tourist Friendly Destinations: Project Guidelines*, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (March 2020) available at: <https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-08/adopt%20a%20Heritage%20Project%20Guidelines.pdf> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴⁰*Supra* note 156.

addressing knowledge gaps, and financing green transitions are necessary in order to realise SDG 12.

SDG 13: Combating Climate Change and Its Impacts

India's climate policy is based on the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which has eight central missions for mitigation and adaptation. The government's active engagement is clearly enunciated in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)²⁴¹ with a commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2070.

Disaster resilience is lagging but assured under the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)²⁴² and the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs).²⁴³ Early Warning Dissemination Systems (EWDS) can help reduce the chances of deaths from climate-induced disasters through improved local readiness.

India prioritizes climate literacy. Initiatives such as National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)²⁴⁴ and other institutional initiatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) strengthen public understanding of climate hazards. The Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) successfully develops skills for youth in climate resilience and sustainability.

India has a visible role in mobilizing climate finance globally mainly through the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the UNFCCC mechanisms such as the

²⁴¹*India Submits its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to UNFCCC*, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (14 Nov. 2022) available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1875816> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴²*National Disaster Management Plan, 2019* (National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, Nov. 2019) available at: <https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/ndmp-2019.pdf> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴³*State Action Plan on Climate Change*, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (endorsed by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change) available at: <https://moef.gov.in/state-action-plan-on-climate-change> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴⁴*National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2006-10 Brochure* (CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training; Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, 2006) available at: https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/NEAC_Brochure_2006-09.pdf (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

Green Climate Fund (GCF)²⁴⁵, and bilateral engagements with countries like Germany and the United Kingdom.

India directly supports global capacity-building priorities through contributions to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which funds projects aimed at climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as part of its technical support and knowledge transfer projects to Africa and the Pacific islands. While India's pursuits in South-South cooperation show its leadership through actions, challenges remain. Climate vulnerability, disparities of regional adaptive capacities, and enormous climate financing needs require integrated policy responses that lead to new green investments.

SDG 14: Conserving Oceans and Marine Resources

India possesses a vast expanse of coastline which highlights the significance of SDG 14. The challenge of marine pollution is therefore becoming more pronounced, and India has published the draft National Marine Litter Policy and implements activity based awareness campaigns, “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar”.²⁴⁶ China has Coastal Clean Sea actions, which serves to develop coastal communities and civil society organization's characters in order to undertake participatory environmental stewardship.

The management of marine ecosystems is implemented through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and has specifically focused instruments emanating from the National Coastal Mission (under the NAPCC). These interventions seek to safeguard the integrity of sensitive coastal habitats, which include mangroves, coral reefs etc. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)²⁴⁷ seeks to understand the trajectory of marine chemistry and makes provisions for monitoring ocean acidification.

With respect to overfishing, in addition to the Marine Fisheries Regulation and Management Bill (2021), India is promoting environmentally responsible aquaculture through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

²⁴⁵*Climate Funds Fundamentals 11-2018: The Green Climate Fund*, Climate Funds Update (ODI & Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Nov. 2018) available at: <https://climatefundsupdate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CFF11-2018-ENG-DIGITAL.pdf> (last visited 11 Sept. 2025).

²⁴⁶*Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar Campaign*, National Centre for Coastal Research (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India) (Jul. 2022) available at: <https://www.nccr.gov.in/sites/default/files/sss.pdf> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴⁷*Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)*, Government of India (accessed 10 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://incois.gov.in/> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

Scheme.²⁴⁸ Example includes fishing bans on trawling during breeding seasons to protect breeding fish stocks.

India has established a few Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), such as Gulf of Mannar and Malvan, and has enforced Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms to minimize habitat degradation. As an affirmant party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and a member with regional initiatives like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)²⁴⁹ with emphasis on a maritime cooperation framework under its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)²⁵⁰ strategy over marine plans should rather focus on a broader regional cooperation between all stakeholders.

India has considerable scientific research support through the Deep Ocean Mission as well as institutions such as the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)²⁵¹ and the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).²⁵² In addition, its collaboration with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)²⁵³ is supporting India's scientific research and expertise in marine science.

Some of the key challenges which require greater collaboration could be plastic waste, climate related bleaching of coral reefs, illegal fishing, and the collection of marine data. These challenges requires a higher degree of

²⁴⁸*Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)*, National Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India (last updated 25 Aug. 2025) available at: <https://nfdb.gov.in/welcome/PMMSY> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁴⁹*Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)* (established 7 March 1997; headquartered in Ebene, Mauritius) available at: <https://www.iora.int/> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025).

²⁵⁰*India Believes in "Security and Growth for All in the Region" to Focus on Cooperative Measures for Sustainable Use of Oceans: President Kovind*, Press Information Bureau, Government of India (12 Mar. 2015) available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1800028> (last visited 10 Sept. 2025)

²⁵¹*National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)*, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India (established Nov. 1993) available at: <https://www.niot.res.in/> (last visited 11 Sept. 2025).

²⁵²*CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)*, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India (established 1 Jan. 1966; last updated on website) available at: <https://www.nio.res.in/> (last visited 17 Sept. 2025).

²⁵³*Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)*, UNESCO (accessed 11 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://www.ioc.unesco.org/en> (last visited 11 Sept. 2025).

stakeholder participation, greater investment in a scientific initiative, and a more collaborative impulsive to work across the region.

SDG 15: Protecting Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity

India's dedication to preserving biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems includes numerous legislative and programmatic initiatives. On a national level, the National Afforestation Programme and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAMPA)²⁵⁴ aid reestablishing vegetative cover on a massive scale, while Eco-Sensitive Zones protect critical habitats through buffer protections. India employs sustainable forestry management through Joint Forest Management (JFM), the Forest Fire Prevention Scheme, and the Green India Mission. Land degradation assistance includes improving landscapes through spatial mapping with data sources like the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas, as well as through watershed development under the PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.²⁵⁵

The Himalayas are prioritized in conservation attention by both the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)²⁵⁶ and the SECURE Himalaya Project,²⁵⁷ providing community-based livelihoods while attempting to conserve fully functioning ecosystems.

India's legal approach to combat species loss includes the Biodiversity Act, 2002 further anchored by institutions such as the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).²⁵⁸ To combat poaching and trafficking, recovery programs

²⁵⁴*National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (National CAMPA)*, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India (last updated 15 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://nationalcampa.nic.in/> (last visited 15 Sept. 2025).

²⁵⁵*Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)*, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India (last updated 16 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://pmksy.gov.in/> (last visited 16 Sept. 2025).

²⁵⁶*National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem: Mission Document*, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi, June 2010. Department of Science and Technology Available at: https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/NMSHE_Mission_document.pdf (last visited 16 Sept. 2025).

²⁵⁷*Secure Himalaya: Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems*, District Uttarkashi, Government of Uttarakhand (last updated 12 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://uttarkashi.nic.in/secure-himalaya/> (last visited 12 Sept. 2025).

²⁵⁸*National Biodiversity Authority – UNDP Project* (National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India; UNDP) available at: <http://nbaindia.org/undp/> (last visited 17 Sept. 2025).

for endangered species and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)²⁵⁹ exists.

The Biological Diversity Act gives protection to genetic resources under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) measures. There are initiatives such as the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)²⁶⁰ that should give confidence that knowledge systems of indigenous communities are not only being recorded but also safeguarded.

India is also facilitating addressing invasive species & introducing biodiversity values into planning through Natural Capital Accounting, along with addressing conservation by embedding conservation needs in national programs such as Smart Cities and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Green Climate Fund and proposed India Biodiversity Fund provide funding mechanisms that are essential to support ecosystem-based adaptation. Contributions from corporate and international sources under the Climate and Biodiversity Programme Global Wildlife Programme and SAWEN²⁶¹ networks can further strengthen biodiversity protection.

Nevertheless, stopping deforestation, reducing habitat fragmentation, managing invasive species, and addressing human wildlife conflicts require coordinated effort across sectors, integrated technology, and policy innovation for lasting impact.

India's Pursuit of SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls on the countries of the world to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective and accountable institutions at all levels. India and its diverse socio-political propositions have taken various strategic actions to fulfill these duties to its citizens

To tackle the menace of violence and improve public safety in India, there are several initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund Projects aimed at creating safe urban environments for women which included surveillances, transport reforms and policing transformations. The One Stop Centers provide integrated support to victims of gender-based violence with a single contact point for legal aid, medical care, and psychological counselling. The project's purpose is supported by real-time collection of crime data by the National Crime Records

²⁵⁹*Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)*, Government of India (established 6 June 2007) available at: <https://wccb.gov.in/> (last visited 17 February 2025).

²⁶⁰*Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Unit*, CSIR, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (last updated 24 Sept. 2025) available at: <https://www.csir.res.in/en/documents/tkdl> (last visited 25 February 2025).

²⁶¹*South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)* available at: <https://www.sawen.org/> (last visited 25 Feb. 2025).

Bureau (NCRB) which increases the collection and analysis of crime and the use of data in preventative policing.

The state also recognises the vulnerability of children and has instituted stringent protections against all forms of violence against children through the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and operationalised other initiatives such as, Child line 1098, a nationwide helpline for emergency rescue and support. The Track Child Portal²⁶² assists in tracking and rehabilitating missing and trafficked children and exemplifies the efforts by the Indian Government to integrate digital tools in its child protection systems. Considerable progress has also been made in providing access to justice. The eCourts Mission Mode Project²⁶³ provides a more contemporary way of doing justice work. e-filing, case tracking suitable for e-filing, and virtual hearings in the Court. The Legal Services Authorities Act provides a mechanism for legal aid access, while the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas allows access to justice for rural people.

The strategy to combat financial crime in India is led by agencies like the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND),²⁶⁴ as well as nationally coordinated efforts for criminal and financial monitoring including platforms like CCTNS.²⁶⁵ The regulation of arms trafficking is governed by the enforcement of the Arms Act and border collaboration to combat trafficking.

Interestingly, the government of India's intention for countering corruption and enhancing administrative integrity is found in the legislation, such as the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and the establishment of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). At the same time, infrastructure for digital governmental structures has much potential for transparency in government and accountability to the public as did the e-Governance Services and the Digital India programme.

²⁶²*Track the Missing Child*, Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) available at: <http://www.trackthemissingchild.gov.in/trackchild/index.php> (last visited 25 Feb. 2025).

²⁶³*E-Courts Mission Mode Project: Brief Overview of e-Courts Project*, eCommittee, Supreme Court of India (Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice) available at: <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/project/brief-overview-of-e-courts-project/> (last visited 17 Feb. 2025).

²⁶⁴*Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)*, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (established 18 Nov. 2004) available at: <https://fiuindia.gov.in/> (last visited 17 Feb. 2025).

²⁶⁵*Digital Police-Citizen Services Portal*, Government of India, available at: <https://www.digitalpolicecitizenservices.gov.in/centercitizen/login.htm> (last visited 25 Feb. 2025).

Institutional reforms are complemented by fiscal innovations like the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), as well as democratic instruments such as the Right to Information (RTI) Act, which empowers all citizens to demand accountability from the government. The practice of participatory governance has been institutionalized through the MyGov platform, mandated public consultations, and the constitutional mandates of 33-50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

On the global front, India has proactively sought to democratize global governance processes by pushing for reforms in the UN Security Council (UNSC) and leading coalitions of G20, BRICS, and Global South nations.

Legal identities have been transformed through Aadhaar, which now underpins welfare service delivery. Birth registration has further been strengthened by the Civil Registration System, while digital health IDs with the National Digital Health Mission add another layer of institutional transparency.

Freedom of expression and access to information is guaranteed under the RTI Act and backed by social watch dog institutions like the Press Council of India. Furthermore, the human rights and counter-terrorism architecture in India is underpinned by its National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Investigation Agency (NIA), and Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

The push for the principle of non-discrimination is evident in legislation such as the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019; the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and schemes for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Nonetheless, persistent challenges in the justice system - such as judicial backlog, institutional inefficiencies, and lack of legal literacy mean that universal delivery of justice is constrained.

Advancing SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Goal 17 is the plank for all SDGs, as it proposes strengthening implementation frameworks and revitalising global partnerships. India pursues this goal in multiple ways, namely into domestic and international fiscal policy, foreign diplomacy, technology partnerships, and data protocols.

Domestically, India's revenue mobilisation efforts have increased significantly through innovations in direct taxation, such as faceless assessments, as well as the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and TIN GST collection systems. This enabled greater compliance as well as a larger tax base.

Internationally, India has articulated itself as a donor and development partner, and as a leader on South-South cooperation via the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. Additionally, India proudly participates in global initiatives

that will help support financing for sustainable development, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF),²⁶⁶ and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).²⁶⁷ In order to attract foreign investment, India has liberalized foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations, effectively developed the India Investment Grid (IIG), and has nurtured diaspora relationships through initiatives like the bi-annual PravasiBharatiya Divas. India is conscious of debt sustainability to mitigate long-term burden, particularly by planning external borrowing responsibly. India also continues to offer technical assistance, (for which ITEC²⁶⁸ is a key example).

Trade facilitation continues to be a priority, with India negotiating for equitable agendas in the World Trade Organization (WTO), promoting trade incentive schemes such as Production Linked Incentives (PLI) and working with Export Promotion Councils to increase exports.

In addressing LDCs India offers duty-free quota-free access to its market, preferential trading arrangements, as well as reaching out to LDCs through Special Economic Zones (SEZs). India has also been active in the field of technology diplomacy providing support through schemes and initiatives like the Pan African e-Network, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program which provide evidence of India's commitment to capacity building with Global South countries.

The Digital India mission is integral to expanding digital connectivity or connectivity more generally and building digital literacy in a way that directly feeds into SDG targets on technology access and capacity building. India has also supported the operationalization of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs. Public-private partnerships have thrived in areas such as infrastructure, healthcare and education. Legal requirements such as the CSR provisions in the Companies Act have catalyzed private sector investments towards SDGs. The SDG India Index which has been launched by NITI Aayog is a pivotal part of India's SDG monitoring framework and focuses on holding states accountable and measuring state-wise performance. Data aligned initiatives, like the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and NITI Aayog's collaborations with the UNDP, have strengthened disaggregated data systems and

²⁶⁶*Green Climate Fund (GCF)* (established 2010 under the UNFCCC; headquartered in Songdo, Incheon, South Korea) available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/> (last visited 25 Feb. 2025).

²⁶⁷*Global Environment Facility (GEF)* available at: <https://www.thegef.org/> (last visited 17 Feb. 2025).

²⁶⁸*Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme*, available at: <https://www.itecgoi.in/index> (last visited 24 Feb. 2025).

transparency, but challenges still remain around data reliability, institutional coordination and private sector integration, highlighting the need for further engagement with multi stakeholder ecosystems in development governance.

IV

Persistent Challenges and Policy Gaps

Although India has made great strides in bringing its national plans into line with the SDGs, there are still structural issues. Only 17% of the global SDG targets are on track, with nearly half demonstrating minimal or moderate progress and more than 13% exhibiting signs of regression, according to the 2024 UN SDG Report, “A Moment of Choice and Consequence.” In a number of ways, India is similar to these global issues.²⁶⁹

Hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) are still pervasive, especially among rural and informal laborers, where immediate reform is needed to ensure income security and sustainable food systems. Similar to this, health and education (SDGs 3 and 4) require focus on providing high-quality services, particularly in rural areas, as well as improving mental health and vocational training.²⁷⁰

Despite the existence of legal frameworks, safety concerns, wage disparity, and underrepresentation in economic leadership continue to pose challenges to gender equality (SDG 5). While energy access (SDG 7) in off-grid areas necessitates the scaling of renewable solutions, water and sanitation infrastructure (SDG 6) is still lacking in rural areas.²⁷¹

A more inclusive approach is required to employment generation and labour rights (SDG 8), particularly in light of automation and informalization. Rural connectivity issues and underinvestment in R&D impede innovation and

²⁶⁹United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (2024), available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf> (last visited 24 Feb. 2025).

²⁷⁰Jana Piske, SDG 2 'Zero Hunger by 2030' in Southern Asia – A Framework to End Hunger?, available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351124127_SDG_2_Zero_Hunger_by_2030_in_Southern_Asia_-_A_framework_to_end_hunger (last visited 24 Feb. 2025).

²⁷¹M. Prabhakar Christopher David, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Challenges for India, 9 INDIAN J. PUB. HEALTH RES. & DEV. 1 (2018), available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324200471_Sustainable_Development_Goals_SDGs-Challenges_for_India (last visited 24 Sep. 2025).

infrastructure

(SDG

9).²⁷²

Waste management, pollution, and green urban planning are issues that Indian cities must deal with (SDG 11). Plastic pollution, land degradation, and biodiversity loss are major challenges for the environmental goals (SDGs 12–15). Furthermore, strict adaptation and mitigation measures are needed in response to climate change (SDG 13).²⁷³

The backlog of cases and the opaqueness of public systems present persistent obstacles to institutional integrity and access to justice (SDG 16). Although India has cultivated numerous alliances for global partnerships (SDG 17), there are still gaps in terms of leveraging private sector investments and improving data capacities for real-time policy calibration.²⁷⁴

V

Conclusion and Suggestions

India's participation in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a reflection of its dedication to international development frameworks as well as its internal need to build a society that is more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. Examined in the context of Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), India has implemented numerous creative programs, institutional changes, and global alliances that demonstrate how seriously it takes putting ambitions into reality. Large-scale welfare initiatives like the Poshan Abhiyaan, Ayushman Bharat, Samagra Shiksha, e-Courts Mission Mode Project, and the Digital India campaign are among them; each one is a vital component of India's developmental framework.

But the analysis also shows that there are many socioeconomic, systemic, and structural obstacles in the way of 2030. Malnutrition among women and children continues because of inefficient supply chains, a lack of diversity in nutrition, and low maternal education, even in the face of substantial food grain production and welfare benefits under programs like PMGKAY. The rural-urban divide in healthcare infrastructure, understaffing, and inadequate mental health support persist despite India's tremendous advancements in insurance coverage and digital health records. These flaws were made worse

²⁷²NITI Aayog, SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018, available at: https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-07/SDX_Index_India_Baseline_Report_21-12-2018.pdf (last visited 24 Feb. 2025).

²⁷³*Supra* note 272.

²⁷⁴*Supra* note 272.

by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed the vulnerability of public health systems under stress.

While enrolment and infrastructure have improved in India, learning outcomes—particularly in foundational literacy and numeracy—remain below ideal levels. Higher education’s problems with low employability, curriculum-content mismatch, and digital exclusion continue to necessitate policy recalibration. SDG 16’s judicial and law enforcement systems also face persistent backlogs, low public awareness of legal remedies, and inadequate funding for access-to-justice programs. Furthermore, the increase in crimes against women and children is a reflection of underlying sociocultural problems that call for a shift in mindset through media and education rather than just harsher penalties.

The necessity of significant international and domestic collaborations is emphasised by Goal 17. It is admirable that India has implemented fiscal federalism, ease of doing business reforms, and South-South cooperation initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and ITEC. However, due to a lack of accountability from the private sector, fragmented civil society engagement, and gaps in real-time, disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking, SDG 17’s full potential has yet to be realised. Even the best data might not produce noticeable results if state budgets, local governance, and central priorities are not in line with India’s ambitious SDG India Index model of decentralised goal tracking.

Suggestions

Integrate Nutrition with Agriculture and Livelihoods: India needs to transition from calorie sufficiency to nutrient security in order to fully achieve SDG 2. Crop diversification, bio fortification, and the integration of rural livelihoods, agriculture, and health (for example, through Farmer Producer Organisations) are all crucial.

Enhance Primary Healthcare and Mental Health Systems: Expanding Ayushman Bharat’s Health and Wellness Centres with qualified staff and telemedicine capabilities should be a top priority for SDG 3. Additionally, district-level mental wellness initiatives run by the National Health Mission should mainstream mental health.

Transition from Schooling to Learning In order to achieve SDG 4, India needs to invest in teacher training, make community-based assessments a national priority for foundational literacy and numeracy, and change the examination system to encourage critical thinking and creativity rather than memorisation.

Institutional Reforms in Judiciary and Policing: India needs to make investments in community policing models, digital lower courts, and

alternative dispute resolution procedures in order to meet SDG 16. Access to free legal aid and public legal education must be improved, especially for underserved populations.

Improve Data Systems for Real-time Governance: India must close the gap between gathering data and making decisions. Policy at the gramme panchayat, block, and district levels must be informed by disaggregated, open-access, and interoperable datasets that are in line with SDG targets.

SDG success depends on grassroots involvement, so localise the goals with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). By empowering PRIs through capacity-building, fiscal devolution, and integrating SDG monitoring with village development plans, India must institutionalise SDG localisation.

Strategically Use CSR and Philanthropy: Corporate and philanthropic entities need to match their funding to particular SDG goals. SDG mapping should be a part of mandatory CSR disclosures, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) ought to give priority to areas where the state lacks capacity, like rural sanitation or education.

Create Systems That Are Climate-Resilient Across Objectives: Resilience to climate change is multifaceted. To keep SDG indicators from regressing, India's food systems, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and online platforms need to be future-proofed against climate shocks.

Establish a Culture of Policy Evaluation: All flagship programs ought to be subjected to independent impact analyses that are connected to particular SDG metrics. To support a national ecosystem of evidence-based policymaking, NITI Aayog's function as a knowledge hub needs to be strengthened.

Reimagine Global Partnerships Beyond Aid: By promoting knowledge diplomacy, collaborative SDG innovations, and triangular cooperation models that capitalise on India's experience overseeing extensive public systems, India can strengthen its leadership in the Global South.

To sum up, the SDG framework presents India with a unique chance to redefine development in a way that goes beyond traditional growth metrics. It offers a road map for improving governance, putting human dignity first, and maintaining ecological sustainability. Even though India's development has been uneven and frequently hampered by resource limitations and sociopolitical complexities, it still has the potential to become a global leader in sustainable development—as long as the vision is accompanied by coherence in implementation, bravery in reform, and a dedication to inclusivity. The window for gradual change has closed as the 2030 deadline draws near. Now we need a bold, flexible, and uncompromisingly accountable national resolve.