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India's Second Voluntary Review of SDGs

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Why in News

Recently, India has represented the **second voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** report titled as ‘**Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local**’ to the **United Nations High-level Political Forum**.

- The report, presented by **NITI Aayog**, discusses SDGs related policy, means of implementation and situation of **Covid-19** in India.
- It presented the **first** voluntary national review of SDGs in **2017**.

Key Points

- **Localising SDGs:** The goal wise account of the progress on SDGs has been represented with examples of a range of diverse practices and success stories of interventions from the States, specifically **Aspirational Districts**.
- **Financial Assistance:** Highlighted the challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 outbreak, India has called on developed countries to provide **financial assistance** to the developing countries, especially for **global public good such as climate change mitigation and control of pandemics**.

According to a study conducted by the government in partnership with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – education, health, electricity, roads and water and sanitation – will require additional funding for “significant” progress.
- **Curbing Illicit Financial Flows:** Deliberating on the “SDG-17” that is about “partnerships for the goals”, the report highlighted the need for international cooperation for curbing illicit financial flows.

- **Efforts to curb the Covid-19:** It mentioned the vulnerabilities faced by the migrants and the urban poor in the wake of the pandemic.
 - India is leading a multi-faceted effort to revamp the public health infrastructure, protect jobs and livelihoods to reduce the impact of the Covid-19.
 - Government has announced **economic relief packages** for them.

United Nations High-Level Political Forum

- Formed in 2013, it is a subsidiary body of both the **United Nations General Assembly** and the **United Nations Economic and Social Council** responsible for the entire organization's policy on sustainable development.
- **Headquarter:** New York, USA
- It adopts negotiated declarations, reviews commitment and the progress of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- Member countries are required to apprise about the progress in the form of **Voluntary National Review reports (VNRs)**.
 - The VNRs that are presented by the member states are a critical component of the **review of the implementation and progress** of 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
 - The process of the preparation of a country's VNR provides a platform for the partnerships, which includes the participation of various stakeholders.
 - India's VNR in 2020 undertook a paradigm shift in terms of embodying a **'whole of society' approach** in letter and spirit.
 - It has been prepared with the help of sub-national and local governments, civil society organizations, local communities, people in vulnerable situations and the private sector.
 - NITI Aayog has the mandate of overseeing the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national level.

Source: IE