



# SDG Urban Index: NITI Aayog

## Why in News

Recently, [NITI Aayog](#) under the **Indo-German Cooperation** released the inaugural [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22](#).

- Earlier in June 2021, the [third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) India Index and Dashboard 2020-21](#) was released by NITI Aayog.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- The **index and dashboard** are a result of the **NITI Aayog-Germany's International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and BMZ collaboration** focused on driving SDG localization in our cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German **Development Cooperation**.
- It **ranks 56 urban areas** on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework.
- It will further **strengthen SDG localization** and institute **robust SDG monitoring at the city level**.

### ▪ Ranking Scale:

- The **urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100**.
- A score of **100 implies that the urban area has achieved the targets set for 2030**; a score of **0 implies that it is the farthest from achieving the targets** among the selected urban areas.
- Overall or composite urban area scores are then generated from the Goal-wise scores to measure aggregate performance of the urban area.
- Urban areas have been classified as below based on their composite score:

- **Aspirant:** 0-49
- **Performer:** 50-64
- **Front-Runner:** 65-99
- **Achiever:** 100

### ▪ Performance of the States:

#### ◦ Top Performers:

- Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

#### ◦ Worst Performers:

- Dhanbad, Meerut, Itanagar, Guwahati and Patna.

### ▪ Significance Of the Index:

- Cities are fast becoming engines of growth. The SDG Urban index and dashboard will go a long way in **instituting a robust SDG monitoring system** in our cities, and is a milestone step in our SDG localisation journey.

- The Niti Aayog is of the view that this **transformative change is quite essential**, given the increasing prominence of our cities and urban areas in charting the future of development in India.
- It highlights the strengths and gaps of Urban Local Body (ULB) level data, monitoring, and reporting systems.



## Indo-German Development Cooperation

### ▪ Background:

- The year **2008 marked 50 years of Indo-German development cooperation**. Begun in the 1950s, development cooperation with India grew so rapidly that in a short time it became the **largest recipient of German development assistance**.

- The **construction of the Rourkela Steel Plant** in Orissa was a hallmark of this intensive cooperation in the early 1960s.
- Later, both countries set up one of India's premiere educational institutions - the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras.
- In the 1990's, **development cooperation dealt with the issues** of poverty reduction and social infrastructure.

▪ **About:**

- Indo-German development cooperation is a **solid pillar of the Indo-German strategic partnership**.
- Both countries are equally **committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**; further, they want to tackle global challenges in the fields of climate and environment.
- It is well **integrated in the foreign policy framework** of relations between India and Germany.
- India is viewed by Germany as **one of the Global Development Partners** that have a key role to play in solving global development issues.

▪ **Programme Focus:**

- Today, the Indo-German development cooperation programme focuses on the following **mutually agreed priority areas**:
  - Energy
  - Environment and Management of Natural Resources
  - Sustainable Urban Development

Source: [PIB](#)

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