



## 10th Sustainable Development Report 2025

### For Prelims:

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#), [Sustainable Development Report \(SDR\)](#), [1987 Brundtland Commission Report](#), [1992 Rio Earth Summit](#), [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#), [National Food Security Act](#), [Saubhagya Scheme](#), [UNFCCC](#), [Green Bonds](#), [UN](#), [World Bank](#), [IMF](#).

### For Mains:

Current status of SDGs implementation, Progress and challenges in SDGs implementation, Steps needed to fully realise SDGs.

[Source: ET](#)

### Why in News?

According to the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025**, India ranks **99th in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**, marking its **first time** in the **top 100** out of 167 countries with a **score of 67**.

- The score measures progress on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 indicates a country has achieved all 17 goals and 0 means no progress has been made.
- This shows a **significant improvement** from its previous rankings (e.g., 109th in 2024, 112th in 2023) in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**.

### What are Key Findings of the 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025?

- **Global SDG Progress Status:** Projections show that **only 17% of SDG targets are on track** to be met by 2030, highlighting a significant slowdown in global progress.
  - This stagnation is driven by **conflicts**, **structural vulnerabilities**, and **limited fiscal space**, which continue to hinder effective SDG implementation.
- **Top Performers:** **Nordic countries lead the SDGs rankings**, with **Finland (1st)**, **Sweden (2nd)**, and **Denmark (3rd)**; notably, **19 out of the top 20 countries are European**.
  - **East and South Asia** have shown the **fastest regional progress since 2015**—India ranks ahead of **Bangladesh (114th)** and **Pakistan (140th)** but trails **Bhutan (74th)**, **Nepal (85th)**, **Sri Lanka (93rd)**, and **Maldives (53rd)**.
- **Successes & Setbacks in SDGs:** Most countries have made strong progress on **basic services and infrastructure**—notably in **mobile broadband** and **internet use (SDG 9)**, **electricity access (SDG 7)**, and reducing **under-five** and **neonatal mortality (SDG 3)**.
  - However, **five targets** have seen significant reversals since 2015: **obesity rate (SDG 2)**, **press freedom (SDG 16)**, **nitrogen management (SDG 2)**, **Red List Index (SDG 15)**, and **corruption perception (SDG 16)**.



- **Ranking on Multilateralism:** Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago are the top 3 countries most committed to **UN multilateralism**.
  - **Brazil** ranks highest among **G20** nations (25th), and **Chile** leads **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries (7th), while the **United States** ranks **last (193rd)** for the second consecutive year due to its opposition to the **SDGs** and withdrawal from the **Paris Agreement** and **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Strong Commitment to SDGs:** A decade into Agenda 2030 (2015-25), **190 of 193 UN member states** have participated in the **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** process, sharing their SDG progress and priorities.
  - Only **Haiti, Myanmar**, and the **United States** have not participated.
- **Global Financial Architecture:** The report criticizes the **broken Global Financial Architecture (GFA)**, highlighting that **capital disproportionately flows to rich nations**, neglecting **emerging and developing economies (EMDEs)**.

## What are Sustainable Development Goals?

- **About:** The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** comprise **17 interconnected goals (169 targets)** aimed at tackling major global challenges such as **poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation**.
  - They were **adopted in 2015** by **193 UN Member States** as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- **Aim:** The SDGs aim to foster **peace, prosperity, and sustainability by 2030** through **global cooperation**.
- **Historical Background:** The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the **1987 Brundtland Commission Report** as development that meets present needs without compromising future generations.
  - In **2000**, the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** were adopted to tackle **poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy**, environmental degradation, and gender inequality, with targets set for **2015** based on **1990 levels**.
  - In **2002**, the **Johannesburg Declaration** at **Rio+10** reviewed the outcomes of the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**.
  - In **2012**, the **Rio+20 Summit** laid the foundation for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and a more comprehensive global development agenda.
- **Core Principles of SDGs:**
  - **Universality:** Applicable to **all countries, developed and developing**.
  - **Integration:** Goals are **interlinked; progress in one supports others**.
  - **Leave No One Behind:** Prioritizes **marginalized and vulnerable groups**.
  - **Multi-Stakeholder Approach:** Requires **collective**

action by governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens.

- **Monitoring:** The **Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)** assesses progress every 4 years.
- **Supporting Agreements:**
  - [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) strengthens **disaster resilience**
  - [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) for **financing sustainable development**
  - [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) for **combating climate change**

## Which Initiatives have Contributed to India's Improved Ranking in SDG Performance?

SDG	Goal Title	Key Government Initiatives
SDG 1	No Poverty	<p><a href="#">Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)</a> for affordable housing for the poor</p> <p><a href="#">MGNREGA</a> for guaranteed rural employment</p> <p><b>PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)</b> for financial inclusion</p>
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	<p><a href="#">Poshan Abhiyaan</a> to tackle malnutrition</p> <p><a href="#">National Food Security Act (NFSA)</a> for subsidized food grains</p> <p><a href="#">PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)</a> for free food during Covid-19</p>
SDG 3	Good Health & Well-being	<p><a href="#">Mission Indradhanush</a> for child &amp; maternal immunization</p> <p><a href="#">Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)</a> provide <b>Rs 5 lakh health cover</b></p> <p><a href="#">National Health Mission (NHM) 2013</a> for improved health</p>
SDG 4	Quality Education	<p><a href="#">Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan</a> for holistic school education</p> <p><a href="#">National Education Policy (NEP), 2020</a> for digital &amp; skill-based education</p> <p><a href="#">DIKSHA Platform</a> for online learning</p>
SDG 6	Clean Water & Sanitation	<p><a href="#">Swachh Bharat Mission</a> helped achieve ODF status</p> <p><a href="#">Jal Jeevan Mission</a> provide piped water supply</p> <p><a href="#">Namami Gange</a> for Ganga river rejuvenation</p>
SDG 7	Affordable & Clean Energy	<p><a href="#">UJALA Scheme</a> for LED distribution</p> <p><a href="#">Saubhagya Scheme</a> for universal electricity access</p>

<b>SDG 8</b>	Decent Work & Economic Growth	<p><a href="#">Make in India</a> boosts manufacturing</p> <p><b>Startup India</b> promotes innovation</p> <p><b>Skill India Mission</b> provides vocational training</p> <p><a href="#">PM Internship Scheme</a> offers <b>internships to 1 crore students over 5 years</b></p>
<b>SDG 11</b>	Sustainable Cities & Communities	<p><b>Smart Cities Mission</b> to develop 100 sustainable cities</p> <p><b>AMRUT</b> for urban infrastructure improvement</p>
<b>SDG 13</b>	Climate Action	<p><b>National Action Plan on Climate Change</b> (e.g., <b>Green India Mission</b>)</p> <p><b>International Solar Alliance (ISA)</b></p> <p><a href="#">NITI Aayog SDG India Index</a></p>
<b>SDG 15</b>	Life on Land	<p><b>Project Tiger &amp; Project Elephant</b> for Wildlife protection</p> <p><b>CAMPA</b> - Compensatory afforestation fund</p> <p><b>Soil Health Card Scheme</b> for soil conservation</p> <p><b>National Afforestation Programme (NAP)</b> for eco-restoration of degraded forests</p> <p><b>Biological Diversity Act, 2002</b> to conserve <b>biological resources</b>, ensure their <b>sustainable use</b></p>
<b>SDG 16</b>	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	<p><b>Digital India</b> and Police Modernisation for transparent governance</p>
<b>SDG 17</b>	Partnerships for the Goals	<p><b>International Big Cat Alliance</b> to protect and conserve <b>seven major big cat species</b></p> <p><b>CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure)</b> to <b>promote resilient infrastructure</b> development</p> <p><a href="#">Quad Cancer Moonshot</a> for cervical cancer prevention and treatment.</p>



## What Factors are Responsible for the Slow Progress in Achieving SDGs?

- **Global Conflicts:** Ongoing conflicts in **Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan**, and other regions have triggered the largest global displacement crisis, with over **120 million people forcibly displaced**, significantly undermining progress toward **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)**.
- **Climate Finance Gap:** The **UNFCCC** estimates that developing nations require **USD 6 trillion by 2030** to meet climate goals; however, a severe funding shortfall threatens to derail progress on **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.
- **Pandemic Setback:** The **Covid-19 pandemic** severely **disrupted global development**, reversing progress on **poverty eradication (SDG 1)**, weakening **healthcare systems (SDG 3)**, and halting **education access (SDG 4)**.
  - It also slowed **clean energy investments** in developing nations, hindering progress on **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**.
- **Environmental Pressures:** Escalating challenges such as **climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation** are threatening ecosystems, with the **IPCC warning that up to 99% of coral reefs could be lost at 2°C warming, severely impacting SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**.
- **Disasters:** Frequent natural disasters—including floods, heatwaves, and droughts—are taking a heavy toll, with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) bearing **6.9% of global economic disaster losses between 2015 and 2022**, further worsening poverty and vulnerability, thereby hindering progress on **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**.

## What Strategies Can be Adopted to Achieve SDGs?

- **Strengthen Global Governance:** To advance the SDGs, it is essential to **reform multilateral institutions** like the **UN, World Bank, and IMF** to enhance support for **SDG financing and policy alignment**; promote **SDG-based trade agreements** that encourage **fair and sustainable trade** such as **carbon-neutral supply chains**.
  - Strengthen **real-time SDG tracking**, enable **citizen audits** (e.g., Uganda), and mandate **ESG disclosures** for corporate accountability.
- **Increase Financing for SDGs:** Expand mechanisms like **Green Bonds** and **Blended Finance** (mixing public and private funds), provide **debt relief to developing nations** to free up resources for **SDG implementation** and **redirect harmful subsidies** from **fossil fuels** toward **renewable energy and healthcare**.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Promote **regenerative farming** through **agroecology** to restore soil health and reduce emissions, and address the **30% global food waste** by improving **storage, transportation, and policies**.
- **Localize the SDGs:** Empower **local governments and communities** to adopt and execute **SDG-linked plans**, develop **district-level action plans** with adequate **funding and monitoring mechanisms**, and **promote community participation** in both **planning and accountability processes**.

## Conclusion

India's entry into the top 100 of the **SDG Index** highlights progress in **poverty reduction, healthcare, and clean energy**. However, global challenges like **conflicts, climate finance gaps, and pandemic setbacks** threaten progress. Achieving the **2030 Agenda** requires urgent **multilateral cooperation, financing reforms, local engagement, and focused implementation strategies**.

### Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Evaluate the role of India's flagship schemes in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What more can be done to accelerate progress?

# UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

## **Prelims**

**Q. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a UN mechanism to assist countries transition towards greener and more inclusive economies, emerged at (2018)**

- (a) The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg.
- (b) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro.
- (c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015, Paris.
- (d) The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi.

**Ans: (b)**

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**Q. Sustainable development is described as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this perspective, inherently the concept of sustainable development is intertwined with which of the following concepts? (2010)**

- (a) Social justice and empowerment
- (b) Inclusive Growth
- (c) Globalization
- (d) Carrying capacity

**Ans: (d)**

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## **Mains**

**Q. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (2018)**