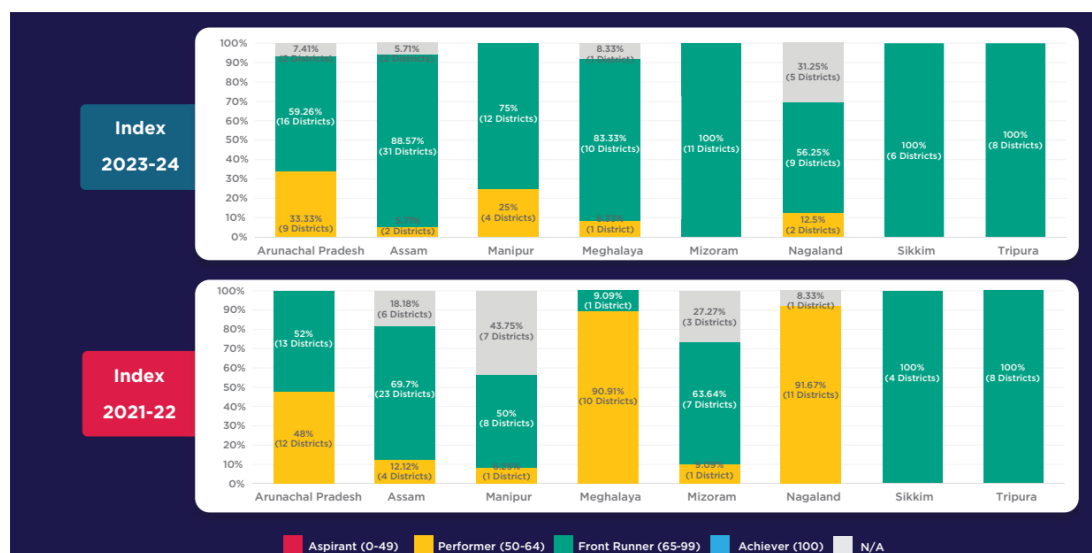# 2nd Edition of the NER District SDG Index

Why in News?

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) has launched the **2nd edition** of the **North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index** for 2023-24, building on the first edition launched in 2021.
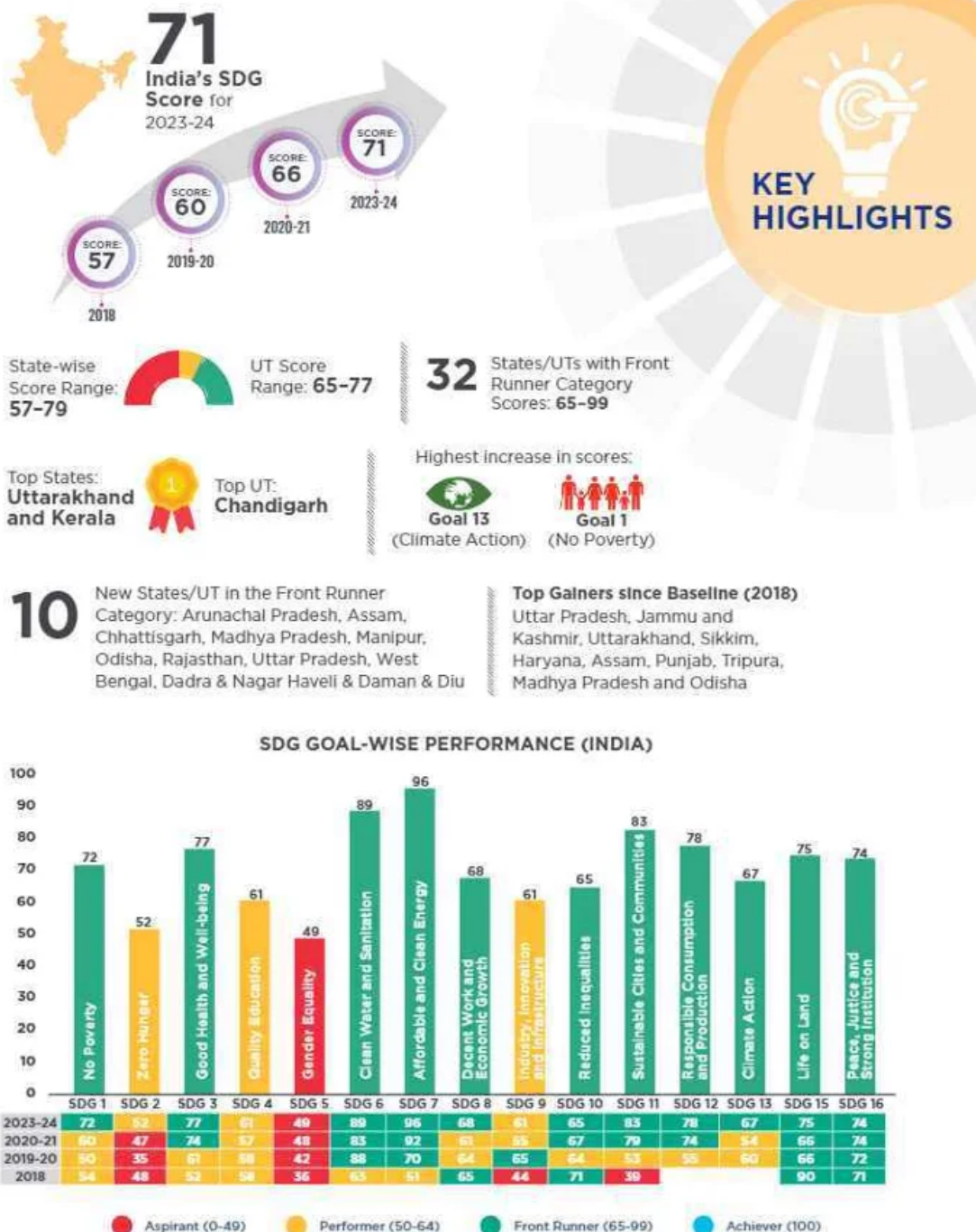
What is the NER District SDG Index?

- **About:** The NER District SDG Index is a composite tool designed to monitor district-level progress on selected SDG indicators. Developed collaboratively by NITI Aayog, the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)**, and with technical support from **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**
  - The index covers all 121 out of 131 (92%) districts across the eight Northeastern states.
  - Based on **NITI Aayog's national SDG Index** methodology, the districts are ranked into four categories based on their composite scores: **Achiever** (Score = 100), **Front Runner** (Score 65–99), **Performer** (Score 50–64), and **Aspirant** (Score < 50).
- **Key Findings of the NER District SDG Index 2023-24:** In the 2023-24 edition, 85% of NER districts are in the Front Runner category (score 65–99), up from 62% in the previous edition, indicating significant improvement in overall district performance.
  - All districts in **Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have achieved Front Runner status,** with no districts falling in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.
  - **Mizoram has the highest-scoring district** in the entire NER (Hnahthial at 81.43) and Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest-scoring district in the entire region (Longding at 58.71).
  - **Sikkim has the narrowest range (5.5 points) in terms of the score of the highest and lowest district,** showing the most consistent performance across its districts.
- **Importance of NER District SDG Index:** The NER District SDG Index facilitates **evidence-based planning and resource allocation.**
  - The Index helps identify development gaps, guide targeted interventions, ensure efficient resource deployment, and support the **localisation of SDGs** through a **cooperative federalism** approach.
    - It aligns national development programmes with local needs for more focused and effective outcomes.
  - This initiative brings together states, NITI Aayog, and MoDoNER to foster sustainable and inclusive development in the region, aligning with India's broader **Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.**

NITI Aayog's National SDG Index

- **About:** It tracks states' and UTs' progress on 16 Sustainable Development Goals using 113 indicators aligned to the National Indicator Framework. The SDG Goal 14 (Life Below Water) has not been included in the calculation of the Composite Score for the Index as it solely pertains to the nine coastal States.
  - States/UTs are categorised as Aspirants (0–49), Performers (50–64), Front-Runners (65–99), and Achievers (100), with scores reflecting progress toward India's 2030 SDG targets and vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- **SDG India Index for 2023-24: India's SDG score rose to 71** (from 66 in 2020-21 and 57 in 2018), driven by gains in poverty reduction, economic growth, and climate action.
  - **Top Performers:** Kerala and Uttarakhand topped with scores of 79.
  - **Lowest Performers:** Bihar (57) and Jharkhand (62).
  - **Top Performing Goals**: **Goal 13 (Climate Action)** score rose from **54 to 67**, and **Goal 1 (No Poverty)** improved from **60 to 72**.
    - Goals 1, 8, and 13 are now in the *Front Runner* category (score between 65–99).

71
India's SDG
Score for
2023-24

SCORE: **57** 2018
SCORE: **60** 2019-20
SCORE: **66** 2020-21
SCORE: **71** 2023-24

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

State-wise
Score Range:
57–79

UT Score
Range: **65–77**

32 States/UTs with Front
Runner Category
Scores: **65–99**

Top States:
**Uttarakhand
and Kerala**

Top UT:
Chandigarh

Highest increase in scores:

Goal 13
(Climate Action)

Goal 1
(No Poverty)

10 New States/UT in the Front Runner
Category: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam,
Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur,
Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West
Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu

Top Gainers since Baseline (2018)
Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and
Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Sikkim,
Haryana, Assam, Punjab, Tripura,
Madhya Pradesh and Odisha

SDG GOAL-WISE PERFORMANCE (INDIA)

Bar chart values (2023-24): SDG 1 No Poverty = 72; SDG 2 Zero Hunger = 52; SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being = 77; SDG 4 Quality Education = 61; SDG 5 Gender Equality = 49; SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation = 89; SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy = 96; SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth = 68; SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure = 61; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities = 65; SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities = 83; SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production = 78; SDG 13 Climate Action = 67; SDG 15 Life on Land = 75; SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institution = 74

	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 15	SDG 16
2023-24	72	52	77	61	49	89	96	68	61	65	83	78	67	75	74
2020-21	60	47	74	57	48	83	92	61	65	67	79	74	54	66	74
2019-20	50	35	61	58	42	88	70	64	65	64	53	55	60	66	72
2018	54	48	52	58	36	63	51	65	44	71	39			90	71

● Aspirant (0-49)   ● Performer (50-64)   ● Front Runner (65-99)   ● Achiever (100)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

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)

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)**

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/2nd-edition-of-the-ner-district-sdg-index