



SDG Progress & Challenges

For Prelims: [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Index 2024](#), [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), [Paris Agreement](#), [ESG Reporting](#).

For Mains: SDGs, challenges associated with it and way forward.

[Source: BS](#)

Why in News?

India has shown **significant improvement** in its [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) index 2024](#) ranking which has improved to **109th** out of 166 countries.

- **States** have also demonstrated **better performance**, with an average increase of **five units** in the composite index over the past three years.

How Has India Performed on SDGs So Far?

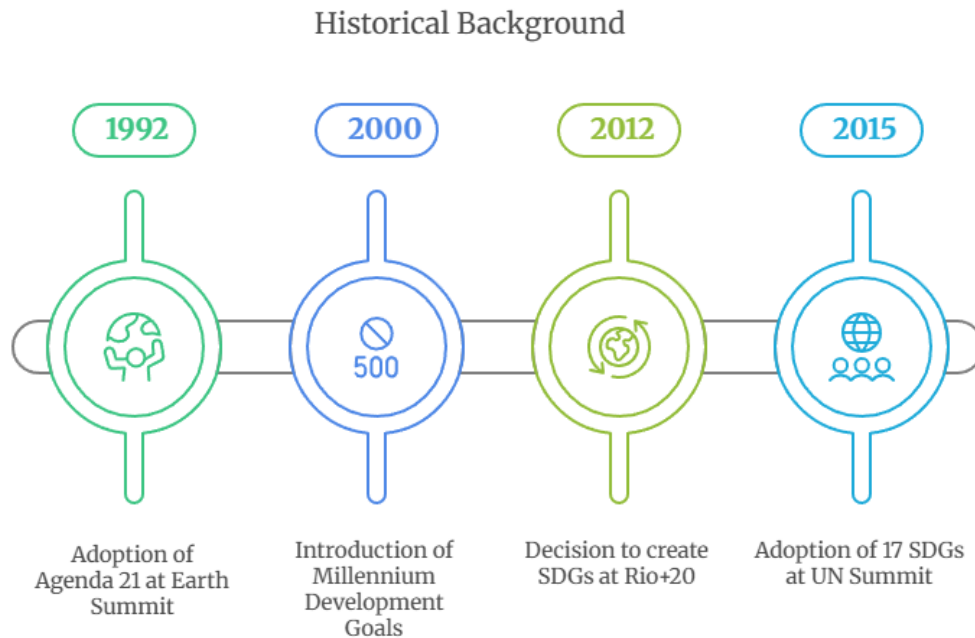
- **Overall Progress:** India's **SDG index score improved from 57 (2018) to 71 (2023-24)**.
- **States Performance:** **Kerala & Uttarakhand** lead with **8 goals each** scoring above 80 (above 80 score is an indicator of **achievement**).
 - However, over **9 states** recorded a decline in **No Poverty (Goal 1)**, **Gender Equality (Goal 5)**, **Reduced Inequality (Goal 10)**, and **Strong Institutions (Goal 16)**.
- **Target Specific Progress:**
 - **SDG-3:** [Maternal Mortality Ratio](#) reduced from **130 (2014-16)** to **97 (2018-20)** per 1,00,000 live births.
 - **SDG-4:** The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in **higher education** rose from **23.7% to 28.4%** between 2014-15 and 2021-22.
 - **SDG-6:** Over **95%** of people in **rural areas** and **97.2%** in **cities** are having access to improved sources of drinking (potable) water during 2020-2021.
 - **SDG-7:** India's renewable energy capacity increased from **180.80 GW** in December 2023 to **209.44 GW** in December 2024.
- **Budgetary Allocations:** Some states (like **Haryana, Odisha, Meghalaya**) now publish **SDG-specific budgets**.
 - Developing nations need **USD 4 trillion annually** to meet SDGs.

What are the Key Highlights of the SDG Report, 2024?

Click Here to Read: [Key Highlights of the SDG Report, 2024](#)

What are Sustainable Development Goals?

- **About:** SDGs are **17 interconnected goals** addressing global challenges like **poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation**.
 - It was adopted in **2015** by **193 UN Member States** as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- **Aim:** It aims to achieve **peace, prosperity, and sustainability** by **2030** through **global partnership**.
- **Historical Background:**



- **Core Principles of SDGs:**
 - **Universality:** Apply to **all countries** (developed & developing).
 - **Integration:** Progress in one goal affects others (e.g., poverty reduction improves education).
 - **Leave No One Behind:** Focus on **marginalized & vulnerable groups**.
 - **Multi-Stakeholder Approach:** Requires **governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens**.
- **SDGs List:**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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

What are the Challenges in Implementation of SDGs?

- **War & Political Instability:** Conflicts in key resource-producing nations (e.g., **30% of global wheat exports from Russia & Ukraine**) trigger **food shortages** worldwide.
 - In war-torn regions, basic needs like **healthcare (SDG 3)** and **education (SDG 4)** become unattainable.
- **Economic Disparities:** Developing nations rely on **forestry, mining, and fossil fuels** for economic growth, conflicting with **climate goals (SDG 13)**.
 - Wealthier countries push for **sustainability**, but poorer nations **lack funds & technology** to transition.
- **Governmental Challenges:** Some governments **prioritize short-term economic gains** over sustainability (e.g., **fossil fuel lobbying**).
 - Shutting down polluting industries without alternatives **increases unemployment (SDG 8)** and poverty (SDG 1).
- **Poverty & Inequality:** **650 million people** still face hunger, while **10% lack electricity**—key barriers to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 7 (Clean Energy).
 - Rural areas lag in **education, healthcare, and jobs**, worsening inequality (SDG 10).
- **Global Economic Crises:** Covid-19 pushed millions into poverty, **reversing years of progress** (e.g., 5 million in Southeast Asia alone).
 - **Economic downturns** in one country (e.g., US recession) hurt trade partners (e.g., Mexico), disrupting SDG progress.

Way Forward

- **Conflict Resolution:** Increase **UN-mediated negotiations** to resolve ongoing wars (e.g., Ukraine, Sudan).
 - Expand initiatives like **Finance for Peace** to fund post-conflict recovery.
- **Finance for SDGs:** Developed nations must fulfill their **0.7% GDP aid** commitment to unlock **USD 4 trillion annually**.

- **Private sector** engagement through impact investing and **SDG bonds** can support developing nations.
- **Country-Specific SDG Strategies:** Each nation should focus on **most urgent SDGs** (e.g., India improving **Gender Equality (SDG 5)** and **Reduced Inequality (SDG 10)**).
- **Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Mandating **environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting** for large firms can strengthen **corporate SDG commitments**, while **AI** and **blockchain** can enhance SDG monitoring.

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

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)

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)