India- Sustainable Development Goals

There is compelling evidence that the rapid growth India has achieved following the economic reforms initiated in 1991 has led to significant reduction in poverty. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, for instance, has generated over 2 billion person-days of employment during 2016-17 alone, largely for the disadvantaged sections of society. Additionally, initiatives have been launched for providing pension and insurance to workers in the unorganised sector, widows and differently abled. Over 130 million people have accessed life and accident insurance under these programmes.

Poshan Abhiyan: it’s a scheme launched for children and women who are suffering from malnutrition with budget of 3 years being ₹9,046 crores ($1.27 Billions) commencing from 2017-18. The Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 57 in 2005-06 to 32 in 2016-17. The government is aiming to immunize all unimmunized and partially immunized children against vaccine preventable diseases by 2020. Towards achieving universal health coverage, a health insurance cover of ₹100,000 (USD 1,563) is being extended to all poor families.

Beti Bacho Beti Padhao is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India. The scheme was launched with an initial funding of ₹100 crore ($14 million) this was increased to ₹280 crore ($ 39.4 million) Simplification of procedures to report harassment, discrimination, open bank accounts, getting passport/visa has also been suggested. With respect to the behavioural changes, the Economic Survey has suggested mandating organisations to report the ‘gender pay gap’. Further, it added that television advertisements and school curriculum should also enforce gender equality.
‘Namami Gange Programme’, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as ‘Flagship Programme’ by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of ₹ 20,000 Crore ($ 2.81 billion) to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

Swachh Bharat mission, run by the Government of India, the mission aims to achieve an "open-defecation free" (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing 100 million toilets in rural India at a projected cost of ₹1.96 lakh crore ($ 28 billion).

The government has launched a scheme FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India)- 2 to encourage the people to adopt electric vehicle keeping in mind to control the air pollution.

The Government’s FAME phase 1 budget was around ₹795 to ₹895 crore which was introduced in 2015 whereas the budget of govt. for 2019 for phase 2 is around ₹1 lakh crore ( $14.08 billion)

The Government of India has launched the Smart Cities Mission on 25 June 2015. The objective is to promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of ‘Smart’ Solutions. A total investment of Rs.2.01 Lakh crore ($ 28.3 billion) has been proposed by the 99 cities under their smart city plans.
Major Challenges


2) India needs to spend nearly $2 (₹140) per day per person to remove poverty, while rest of Asia-Pacific countries have to spend nearly $1 per day per person till 2030 to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3) The UNESCAP, a regional arm of the UN, notes in the report that the region needs additional annual investment of $1.5 trillion equivalent to a dollar per person per day to achieve SDGs by 2030.

4) While capital markets provide opportunities to pique investor interest in emerging sectors, India’s incipient market raises questions of its effectiveness in mobilizing funds towards achieving the SDGs.

5) The advent of green bonds brought in a stream of investments initially, however, the potential of the green bond market is yet to be realized in India, to be able to make a substantial impact on achieving the country’s development goals.

6) Measuring Progress: Lastly but most importantly is the question of measuring progress or achievement. By the government’s own admission, non-availability of data (particularly in respect to sub-national levels), periodicity issues and incomplete coverage of administrative data, made accurate measuring progress virtually impossible.

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Some Remarkable Achievements

1) Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) – India has performed better for this SDG as compared to the US, Canada, Australia and most of Europe. Shout-out to the responsible Indian citizens!

2) Climate action (SDG 13) – Another SDG where India has proudly performed better than China, Russia, Australia, the US, Canada and most of Europe! Nepal, Bhutan, Uganda, Congo, Sudan have achieved this SDG.

3) Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) – Asian countries perform better for this SDG compared to North America and Australia, however, ‘significant challenges remain’ for them.