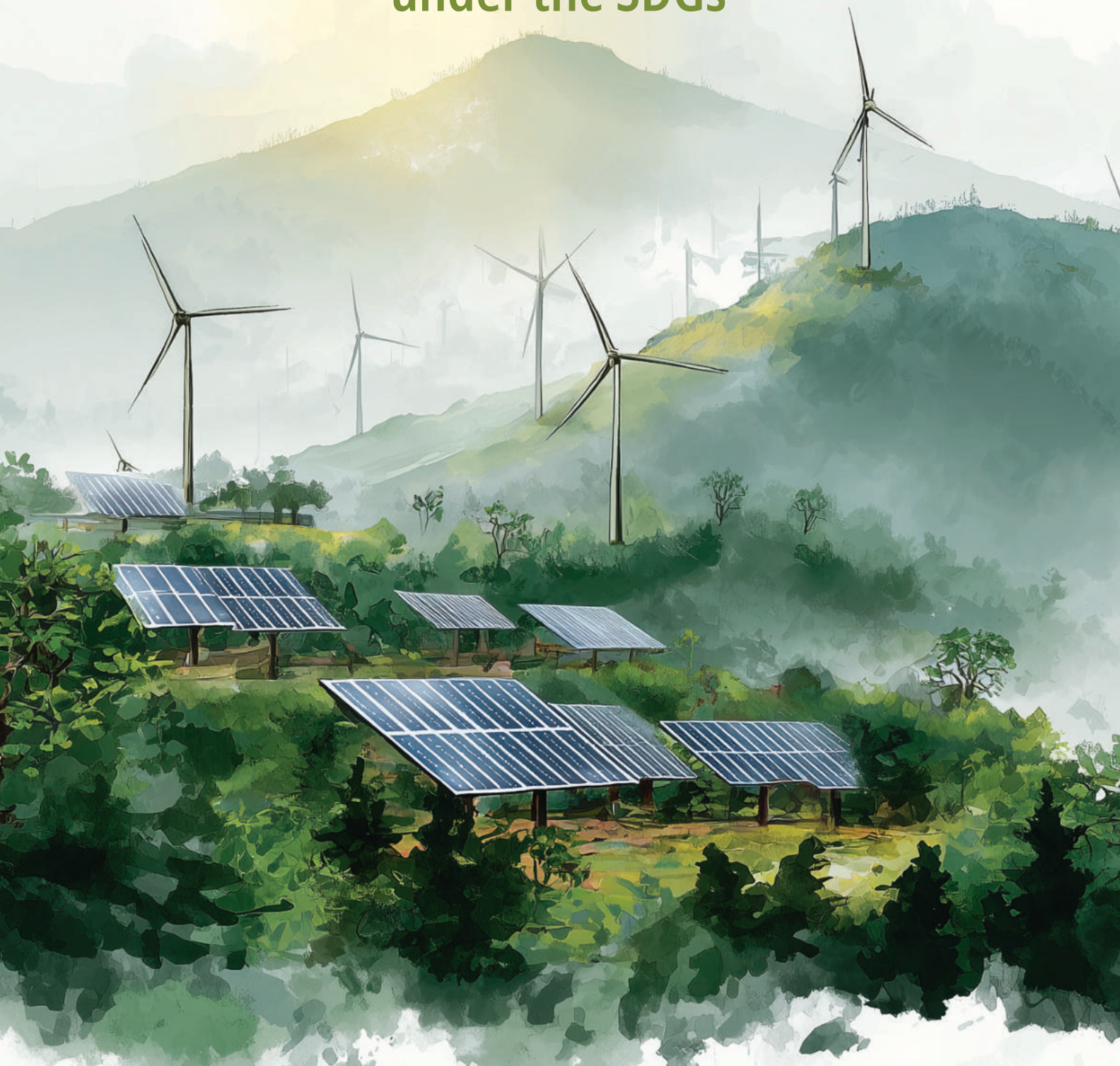
सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
National Statistics Office

Planet in Focus

Advancing Environmental Sustainability under the SDGs



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Planet in Focus under SDG

Chapter 1: Planet – Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Overview

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, at the heart of this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which came into effect on 1 January 2016 which rests on five interlinked pillars, namely People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships. Among these, the pillar of Planet holds critical significance as it addresses the protection of the Earth's ecosystems, the sustainable management of natural resources, and the urgent need to combat climate change. The "Planet" dimension recognizes that environmental sustainability is a prerequisite for inclusive growth and human well-being.

Role of the Planet Dimension in the SDGs

As the world moved from the MDGs to the SDGs, the environment gained far greater importance. While the MDGs had only one environmental goal, the SDGs embed sustainability across the entire framework, recognizing that lasting economic, social, and human development depends on healthy ecosystems and a stable planet. The emphasis on "Planet" within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlights the importance of safeguarding the global environment as an integral part of development planning.

India's Environmental Legislative Framework

India's commitment to environmental sustainability under the Planet pillar of the SDGs is underpinned by a robust legislative and institutional framework aimed at protecting ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. Key legislations include:

1. **The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, which provides the overarching legal framework for environmental protection, pollution control, and environmental impact regulation.
2. **The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**, which seeks to curb deforestation and regulate diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.
3. **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which provides a comprehensive framework for the conservation, protection, and management of wildlife, including regulation of hunting and wildlife trade, and the establishment of protected areas.
4. **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, which promotes conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biological resources.
5. **The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**, Provides a statutory framework to prevent and control water pollution and led to the establishment of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards for monitoring and enforcement.
6. **The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, Establishes measures for prevention, control, and abatement of air pollution, including setting emission standards and designating air pollution control areas.
7. **Waste Management Rules (2016)**, Comprehensive regulatory framework under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 covering solid, plastic, e-waste, biomedical, hazardous, and construction & demolition waste, with provisions for scientific disposal, recycling, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Priority Areas under the Planet Pillar

1. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** Taking decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and strengthen adaptive capacities to climate-induced risks.
2. **Sustainable Water Management and Sanitation:** Protecting freshwater resources, ensuring equitable access to clean water and safely managed sanitation, and promoting integrated water resource management
3. **Biodiversity Conservation:** Preserving terrestrial and marine ecosystems, preventing biodiversity loss, and restoring degraded habitats.
4. **Sustainable Consumption and Production:** Advancing efficient use of resources, reducing waste, and fostering a circular economy approach to development.
5. **Land Degradation and Soil Conservation:** Combating desertification, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and restoring degraded land to secure food and livelihood systems.

Interlinkages with Other SDG Pillars

The Planet pillar is inherently cross-cutting in nature. Environmental protection contributes directly to poverty reduction, food security, health outcomes, and sustainable livelihoods under the People pillar, which focuses on human well-being and equity. This includes addressing poverty (SDG 1), ensuring food security through sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), improving health outcomes by reducing pollution and climate-related risks (SDG 3), promoting quality education for environmental awareness (SDG 4), and advancing gender equality by empowering women in resource management and climate adaptation (SDG 5).

Hence...

The **Planet** dimension of the SDGs underscores the shared global responsibility of protecting the environment as the foundation for sustainable development. Preserving ecological integrity is not only essential for meeting current developmental needs but also for safeguarding the well-being of future generations. A sustained policy focus on environmental sustainability, integrated across all sectors, is imperative for achieving the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

Chapter 2: Schemes and Policies of Government of India Addressing the Planet Dimension of SDGs

The Government of India has consistently accorded high priority to environmental sustainability and ecological conservation, recognising them as essential components of inclusive and sustainable development. In alignment with the Planet dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a wide range of schemes, policies, and missions have been implemented to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, address the impacts of climate change, and conserve biodiversity.

These initiatives span across domains such as clean water and sanitation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity protection, afforestation, and climate action. Together, they form a comprehensive framework aimed at achieving the targets under SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

National Policy Framework

Some of the overarching policies providing direction to environment and climate-related action include:

- **National Environment Policy (2006)**, which provides a comprehensive framework for sustainable environmental management.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC, 2008)**, with eight national missions and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs).
- **National Water Policy (2012),** focusing on integrated water resource management and efficiency.
- **National Forest Policy (1988; draft revision 2018)**, emphasising biodiversity conservation and participatory forest management.

Key Schemes and Initiatives

Scheme/Policy/ Mission	Nodal Ministry/Agency	Relevant SDG Goal(s)	Focus Area
Swachh Bharat Mission	MoHUA / Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6, 12	Safely Managed Sanitation, waste management
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	Safely Managed Drinking Water
AMRUT 2.0 Scheme	MoHUA	SDG 6, 11	Urban water supply & sewage infrastructure
PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY)	MoAFW / MoJS	SDG 2, 6	Irrigation & water-use efficiency
Mission Amrit Sarovar	Ministry of Rural Development	SDG 6	Rejuvenation of lakes & ponds
Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	Rainwater harvesting

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Atal Bhujal Yojana	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	Groundwater management
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana	MoAFW / MoJS	SDG 2, 6	Irrigation & watershed development
National River Conservation Programme (NRCP)	MoJS	SDG 6, 14	River cleaning & conservation
Namami Gange – Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6, 14	Ganga rejuvenation
National Perspective Plan (NPP)	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	River interlinking
Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)	MoEFCC	SDG 12, 13	Sustainable lifestyles
National Policy on Biofuels	MoP&NG	SDG 7, 12, 13	Biofuels & clean energy
PM-KUSUM Scheme	MNRE	SDG 7, 13	Solar pumps & renewable agriculture
RE-INVEST (Renewable Energy Global Investment Meet & Expo)	MNRE	SDG 7	Renewable energy investment promotion
National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)	Ministry of Finance	SDG 7, 13	Clean energy financing
National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)	MoEFCC	SDG 13	Climate mitigation & adaptation
National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem	DST	SDG 13, 15	Protecting Himalayan ecology
National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)	MoEFCC	SDG 11, 13	Air pollution reduction
National Mission for a Green India	MoEFCC	SDG 13, 15	Forest expansion & carbon sinks
Coastal Regulation Zone	MoEFCC	SDG 14	Integrated Coastal Zone Management

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National Water Mission	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	Water conservation & efficiency
CAMPA	MoEFCC	SDG 15	Afforestation funding
National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture	MoAFW	SDG 2, 13	Climate-resilient agriculture
National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project	NDMA	SDG 11, 13	Disaster risk reduction
Neel Kranti Mission (Blue Revolution)	Ministry of Fisheries	SDG 14	Fisheries & aquaculture
National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)	MoEFCC	SDG 14, 15	Wetland conservation
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana	Ministry of Fisheries	SDG 14	Fisheries modernization
Sagarmala Project	Ministry of Ports	SDG 9, 14	Port-led development
Interlinking of Rivers	Ministry of Jal Shakti	SDG 6	Water availability & flood management
National Coastal Mission	MoEFCC	SDG 14	Coastal zone protection
OSTORMS (Ocean Services, Technology, Observation, Resources, Modelling & Science)	Ministry of Earth Sciences	SDG 14	Ocean observation & forecasting
MISHTI – Mangrove Initiative	MoEFCC	SDG 14, 15	Mangrove restoration
National Afforestation Programme	MoEFCC	SDG 15	Forest regeneration
Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	MoEFCC	SDG 14, 15	Wildlife conservation
Project Tiger	MoEFCC	SDG 15	Tiger habitat protection
Project Elephant	MoEFCC	SDG 15	Elephant protection
Nagar Van Yojana	MoEFCC	SDG 11, 15	Urban forests

Chapter 3: India's Transformative Leadership in Achieving the Planet Dimension of the SDGs

A Nation's Environmental Metamorphosis

India's journey toward environmental sustainability represents one of the most remarkable transformations in contemporary global development. As the world's most populous nation with over 1.4 billion people, India has demonstrated that large-scale sustainable development is not only achievable but can be accelerated through innovative policy frameworks, grassroots mobilization, and unwavering political commitment.

India's progress across **Planet dimension** reflects a **comprehensive transformation in ecological governance and resource management**. Through ambitious national missions, decentralized implementation, and community-driven initiatives, India has embedded environmental sustainability as a cornerstone of its development model, where economic advancement and social well-being go hand in hand with ecological preservation.

India's leadership across **SDG indicators** highlights progress in **water and sanitation, waste management, responsible production, disaster preparedness, education for sustainable development, and climate action, alongside focused interventions in marine and terrestrial ecosystem conservation.**

These achievements represent more than statistical progress, they signify a **paradigm shift in India's development ethos,** where sustainability is integral to national policy and governance. India has not only met but often exceeded international benchmarks, establishing itself as a **global leader in environmental stewardship** and a model for the Global South.

Through visionary leadership, innovative implementation, and the collective participation of citizens, India continues to redefine what it means to achieve sustainable development, demonstrating that environmental responsibility, economic growth, and social progress are mutually reinforcing pillars of a resilient planet.

India's Leadership in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Global South Cooperation

Leadership under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

- India has played a constructive and equity-focused role in global climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.
- In its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2022), India committed to:
    - Reducing the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels.
    - Achieving about 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
    - Promote "LIFE" – Lifestyle for Environment, i.e., a mass movement for sustainable lifestyles as a key qualitative component of India's climate action
    - Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

  - Adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.
  - To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in vulnerable sectors (agriculture, water, Himalayan region, coasts, health, disaster management
  - To mobilize domestic and new & additional funds from developed countries to implement mitigation and adaptation actions.
  - To build capacities and create domestic framework and international architecture for rapid diffusion and joint R&D of cutting-edge climate technologies.
- India has consistently advocated for climate justice, common but differentiated responsibilities, and enhanced support for developing countries.

Engagement under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- India is an active Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and During COP-11, India announced the Hyderabad Pledge, committing financial support to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts in developing countries (CBD Secretariat).
- National biodiversity policies and programmes are aligned with global biodiversity targets, with emphasis on conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing.

Commitments under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- Under the UNCCD, India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- India's national action programme emphasizes sustainable land management, drought resilience, and enhanced South–South cooperation through knowledge sharing and technical support (UNCCD, 2023).

Support to the Global South

- India actively promotes South–South cooperation by sharing best practices, technologies, and institutional knowledge in areas such as:
  - Climate adaptation and disaster resilience
  - Renewable energy and sustainable agriculture
  - Biodiversity conservation and land restoration
- Capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance provided by India contribute to strengthening environmental governance and resilience across developing countries

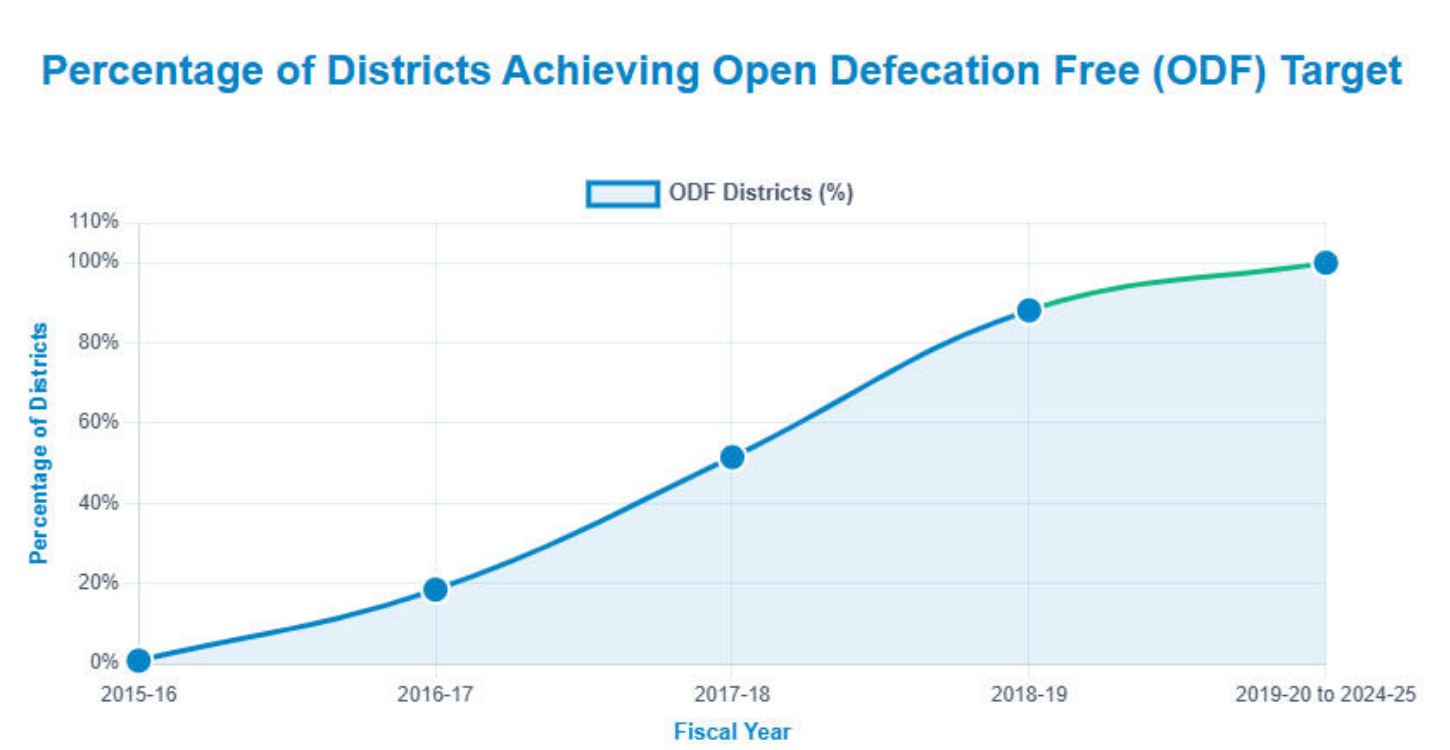
** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

Great Sanitation Revolution

Open Defecation Free Districts

India's sanitation initiative stands as perhaps the most impactful social transformation of the 21st century. The **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)**, launched in 2014, achieved what many deemed impossible: eliminating open defecation across an entire subcontinent within five years.

SDG 6.2.2: Percentage of Districts achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) target



India achieved 100% of districts ODF status by 2019-20.

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

Gender-Sensitive Sanitation: A Foundation for Inclusive and Equitable Education

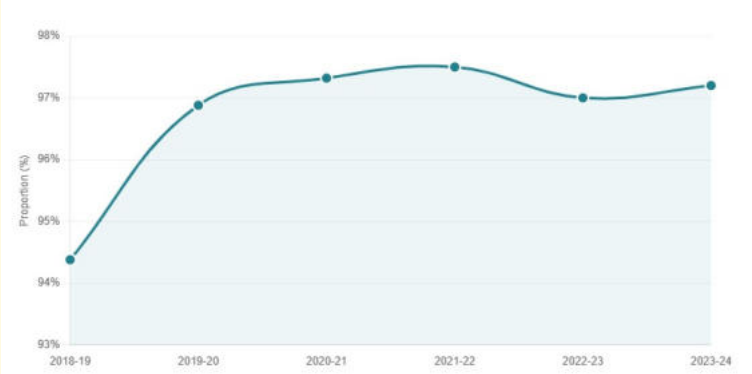
Gender-Sensitive Sanitation in Schools

97.2%

Schools with Gender-Segregated Toilets (2023-24)

India's commitment to **gender-sensitive sanitation** in schools reflects a strategic effort to link infrastructure development with **social equity and improved educational outcomes for girls.** The provision of separate, safe, and **functional toilets** has been central to addressing attendance barriers, especially for adolescent girls in rural and semi-urban areas.

SDG 6.2.3: : Proportion of schools with separate toilet facility for girls



States and UTs with 100% Compliance

Delhi	Goa
Chandigarh	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Lakshadweep

Many other states report coverage levels around 99%, including West Bengal, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Odisha.

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

Sustainable Waste Management Revolution

Circular Economy Transformation

India has achieved a rapid and measurable transformation in municipal and plastic waste management, driven by targeted policy reforms, large-scale infrastructure expansion and technology-enabled implementation.

Transformative Outcomes

Impact of Circular Economy Transition

The combined policy, technology and investment push has strengthened a robust waste-management ecosystem generating multiple co-benefits across economic, environmental and social dimensions.

Employment Generation

Large-scale waste management infrastructure creates direct and indirect employment across collection, processing, and valorization

Environmental Pollution Reduction

Diversion of waste from landfills reduces methane emissions and soil/water contamination

Economic Resource Creation

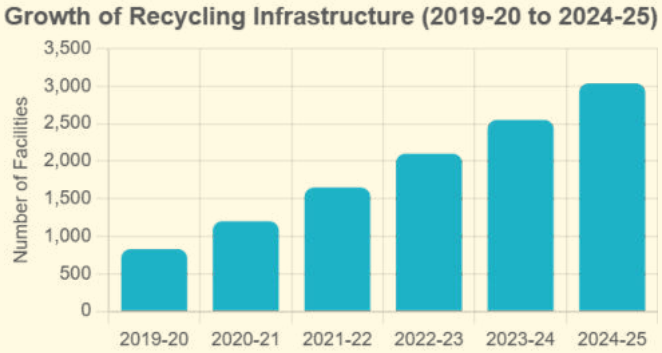
Waste streams are converted into valuable products, compost, and clean energy

Material Diversion

Systematic processing keeps 103+ lakh tonnes of plastic waste out of landfills

SDG 12.5.1: Number of waste recycling plants installed

The country's waste-recycling infrastructure expanded from **829 facilities** in 2019–20 to **3,036 facilities** in 2024–25, reflecting a national-scale move toward sustainable consumption and production as per SBM-U, MoHUA.



Geographic Distribution

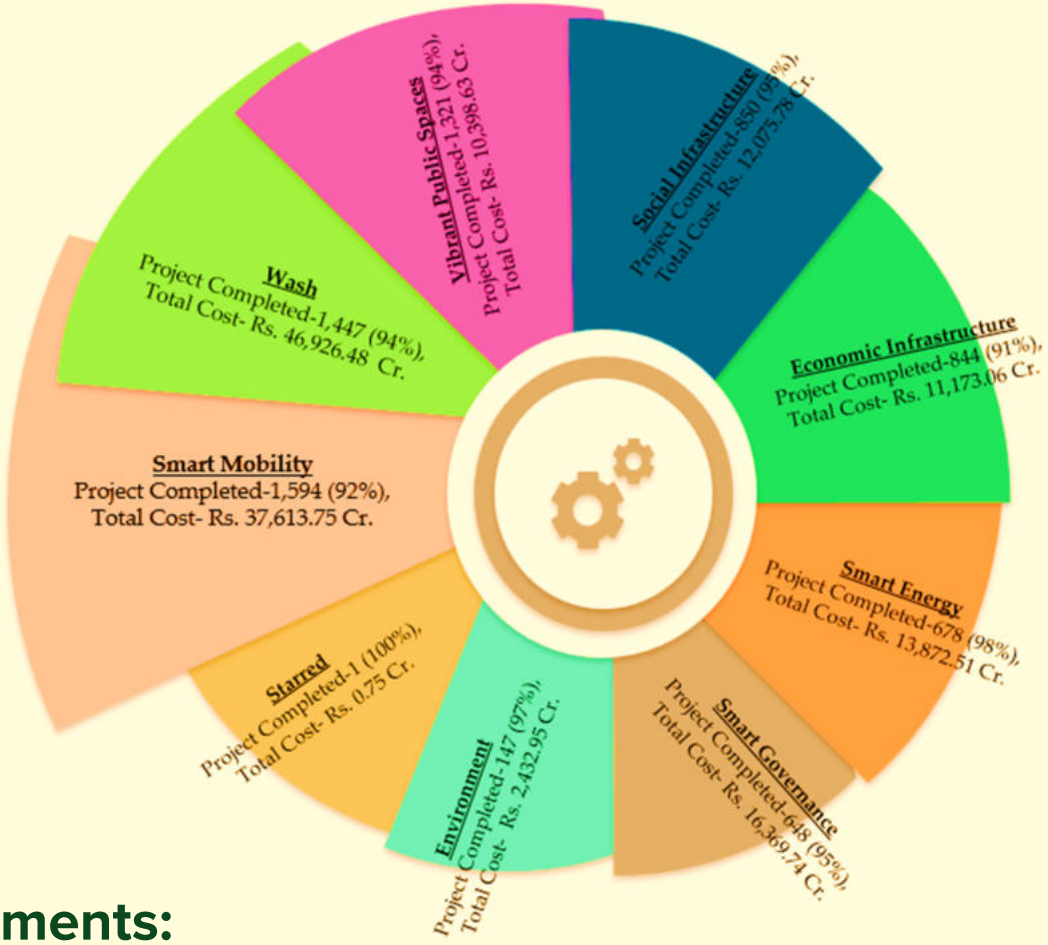
State-wise Recycling Infrastructure

Waste-recycling infrastructure shows concentrated presence in leading states, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for approximately 27% of national capacity. This concentration reflects both historical industrialization patterns and focused policy implementation.

Uttar Pradesh	832	≈27% of national total
Madhya Pradesh	290	≈9.5% of national total
Maharashtra	289	≈9.5% of national total
Odisha	208	≈6.8% of national total

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

India's Smart Cities Mission (SCM), launched in 2015, represents a transformative approach to urban development by integrating technology, sustainability, and citizen-centric planning. The mission aims to create 100 smart cities that ensure efficient urban services, improved quality of life, and environmental resilience.



Key Achievements:

- **Solid Waste Management:** Over 70% of waste in smart cities is now processed scientifically, reducing landfill dependency and promoting recycling.
- **Smart Water and Sanitation:** Deployment of sensor-based water management systems and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities in schools and public spaces, aligning with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- **Green Mobility:** Introduction of electric buses and smart traffic systems to reduce emissions, contributing to SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- **Urban Green Spaces:** Development of parks and biodiversity zones to enhance livability and support SDG 15 (Life on Land).

National Resilience

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies

SDG 13.1.2: Whether the country has adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Achieved in 2019

11 years ahead of 2030 target ● Full compliance with Sendai Framework

India's rapid advancement in disaster risk reduction demonstrates a systemic and forward-looking transformation in strengthening national resilience. In alignment with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)**, it has significantly enhanced its institutional architecture, scientific capabilities, early-warning systems, and community preparedness.

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Integrated Alert System

36 States/UTs

enabling geo-targeted hazard alerts through multiple channels in regional languages.

Community Preparedness & Response

Aapda Mitra Programme

100,000+
Aapda Mitra Volunteers

350
Multi-hazard Districts

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

India's professional response system has expanded battalions, strategically positioned for rapid deployment across the nation.

Scientific Innovation & Forecasting

IITM-Earth System Model (IITM-ESM)

India's first indigenous climate model contributing to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (IPCC-AR6), supporting long-term projections on rainfall variability, extreme weather and climate change impacts.

Mission Mausam

Aimed at making India "Weather Ready" and "Climate Smart" through enhanced observation, modelling and forecasting systems.

Damini

Real-time lightning alerts for general public and infrastructure managers, enabling proactive safety measures.

Meghdoot

Agro-weather advisories specifically designed for farmers and agricultural communities, linking weather information with farming decisions.

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Disaster Preparedness

Local Government Leadership

SDG 13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

India's strong performance on **SDG 13.1.3** underscores the **central role of local governments in national disaster resilience**. The **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP 2019)** has institutionalized district- and local-level Disaster Management Plans aligned with the **Sendai Framework**, ensuring that all districts and most urban bodies maintain updated, risk-informed strategies.

Region-Specific DRR Strategies

India's decentralized system empowers local governments to create context-specific DRR strategies, reflecting their unique environmental risks. Each region develops tailored approaches based on their specific hazard profiles.

698 out of 784 local governments in India have adopted and implemented disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies aligned with national frameworks.

Coastal Districts

Hazards: Cyclones, storm surges, coastal erosion

Coastal districts prioritize cyclone preparedness, storm-surge mapping, and ecosystem restoration

Himalayan Districts

Hazards: Landslides, avalanches, GLOFs

Himalayan districts implement landslide zoning, avalanche forecasting, slope stabilization and GLOF monitoring under NMSHE.

Drought-Prone Districts

Hazards: Water scarcity, agricultural stress

Drought-prone districts undertake aquifer recharge, water conservation and climate-resilient agriculture under the NWM and NMSA.

Urban Local Bodies

Hazards: Urban flooding, heat waves, air pollution

Urban local bodies advance flood early-warning systems, heat-action plans and pollution emergency responses under (NCAP).

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

Sustainable Fisheries Management

Achieving Remarkable Yield Enhancement

SDG 14.4.1: Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in fishing (in Million Tonne/Year)

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) increases from 3.078 million tonnes 5.311 million tonnes.

Sustainable extraction capacity has risen from **3.078 million tonnes in 2015–16 to 5.311 million tonnes in 2024–25**, marking a remarkable **72% increase** and underscoring the effectiveness of India's fisheries management strategies.

Blue Revolution

The Blue Revolution laid the groundwork for sustainable fisheries growth, establishing the initial framework for sector transformation and setting the stage for comprehensive development.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

PMMSY represents a comprehensive transformation initiative for India's fisheries sector, focusing on production, infrastructure, value chains, and market access expansion.

ReALCraft

ReALCraft, a web-based portal for registration and licensing of fishing vessels, issuance of biometric identity cards to marine fishers and vessel communication and support system supported under PMMSY is helping in prevention of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

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Global Leadership in Wetland Conservation

India's Ramsar Sites and Wetland Ecosystem Preservation

SDG 15.1.3: Area of Ramsar sites as a percentage to the total wetland area

Ramsar Coverage Doubled: 4.15% to 8.90%

1,359,435.62

Hectares designated as Ramsar sites (2024)

15.26 Million

Total wetland area in India (estimated)

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems

Under the NPCA, the Government of India has significantly scaled up its wetland management initiatives with multi-state implementation and integrated ecosystem preservation approaches.

Habitat Restoration & Climate Resilience

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)

The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) is a Government of India programme aimed at restoring and expanding mangrove ecosystems along India's coastline, estuarine and intertidal areas. By promoting mangrove afforestation and sustainable community-based livelihoods, MISHTI seeks to enhance coastal resilience, mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect biodiversity, and support local economies. The initiative leverages scientific planning, convergence with existing schemes, and community participation to create long-term ecological and socio-economic benefits. Implementation of MISHTI activities were started in the FY 2024-25 and a total of Rs. 88.44 crore has been released to five State and one Union Territory for restoration of mangroves of 9536 ha of degraded mangrove area till date (2024-25 and 2025-26).

Ramsar-Accredited Wetland Cities

International Recognition - First Indian Cities

Indore (Madhya Pradesh)

First Indian city recognized as Ramsar-accredited Wetland City

Focus: Urban wetland conservation

Udaipur (Rajasthan)

First Indian city recognized as Ramsar-accredited Wetland City

Focus: Heritage conservation

** Based on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025, MoSPI*

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Disclaimer:

The publication has been prepared on the basis of data given in Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report 2025, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Though effort has been made in preparing this publication to ensure correctness of information, MoSPI accepts no responsibility for the differences between the stated figures and those published elsewhere. Due to the dynamic changes in the datasets, users are requested to check for updates with the source agencies.

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