



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:  
CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION &  
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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## FOREWORD

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by 193 Member countries at a high level meeting of the UN General Assembly and which came into force on 1st January 2016, have now become guiding principles for Legislators, Executives and all stakeholders involved in the developmental process of the country. These Goals encompass all the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental. They are aspirational goals and are transformative in nature.

All the SDGs are inter-connected and inter-dependent, one re-enforcing the others. While discussing policies and programmes to achieve SDGs, it has to be kept in mind that development at the cost of culture and environment may not be sustainable. Many of our traditional practices talk about sustainable development, environment, clean water, good health, etc. It is essential that we align our policies in such a way that they give due consideration to our traditional practices and address the issue in a holistic manner. The members of Parliament who come from different parts of the country can even leverage their knowledge about local or regional practices with national policies in dealing with issues like health, environment and other goals.

The Constitution of India, in its Preamble and various other provisions, lays down the road map for socio-economic development of our people. All our legislative measures, planning processes and programmes and policies of the Government are geared towards the attainment of this objective. The spirit of SDGs has also resonated in numerous debates and deliberations in Parliament and its Committees.

The Parliament of India and its members have a significant role to play in realizing the SDGs in an inclusive way. The effectiveness of Parliament in policy making, in keeping the executive accountable and in having a stirring and enriching debate on issues of importance largely depends on the quality of participation of its members. Parliament's role in guiding the policy making process and providing a national dimension to globally adopted goals is indeed very important. I am pleased that the workshops organized from time to time by the Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) on topical subjects for the benefit of members have, in turn, contributed to informed debates in the House. I am glad that the Government of India has come out with the National Health Policy 2017 which seeks to reach everyone in a comprehensive integrated way to move towards wellness. It aims at

achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality healthcare services to all at affordable cost. It is heartening that the Business Advisory Committee has also decided to have a debate on SDGs during the current Budget Session.

The primary objective of this publication *Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges of Implementation and the Role of Parliament* is to serve as background information for all Hon'ble members regarding the steps being taken by the Parliament, Government and other stakeholders in realising the SDGs. This will enable Hon'ble members to peruse in a single publication comprehensive material on SDGs as evolved by the international community, the various schemes and programmes of the Government of India which may contribute to their achievements and the valuable discussions on SDGs in the House, in SRI and in the three Conferences organized by the Parliament in the last two years.

The ensuing debate is neither the first, nor it will be the last. The depth and breadth of the issues covered in the 17 Goals, 169 targets on the one hand and their vital importance to upliftment of our people from poverty, malnutritions, health related challenges, gender discrimination, infrastructure, economic growth and climate change-related challenges and so on will require focused issue-based discussion as progress is made towards their achievement. The Goal 3 along with other connected Goals like zero hunger and clean water and sanitation seeks to ensure health and well-being for all, at every stage of life and is central to all our development initiatives. This Goal aims at addressing all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health; communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. Given the importance of health in human development, it needs to be discussed in Parliament in a comprehensive manner with a view to promoting comprehensive health or *sampurna swasthya*. The decision to take up Goal 3 in the forthcoming dedicated debate on SDGs in Lok Sabha, I am sure, will provide a fillip to all the efforts being made to meet the health-related challenges.

I hope this publication will be useful for the Hon'ble members.

New Delhi  
March, 2017



**(SUMITRA MAHAJAN)**  
Speaker,  
Lok Sabha

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## PREFACE

The publication *Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges of Implementation and the Role of Parliament* provides an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals in general and the initiatives taken by the Parliament of India in particular. It also mentions the steps taken by the Government of India in this regard in its various programmes and policies. The publication encapsulates the deliberations held in the Parliament, the outcome of the workshops organised by the Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI), the discussions held and Declarations adopted at the Meeting of BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum, Jaipur in August 2016 and the South Asian Speakers' Summit, Indore in February 2017. These events are a reflection of the Hon'ble Speaker's belief and conviction in the philosophy and principle of the SDGs in attaining all inclusive development of India. Hon'ble Speaker believes that the successful implementation of the SDGs holds the key to saving the planet Earth for our future generations.

I would also like to thank the Research and Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for bringing out this publication. I am sure the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and others will find it informative and useful.

New Delhi  
March, 2017



(ANOOP MISHRA)  
Secretary-General,  
Lok Sabha



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## WHY SUSTAINABILITY?

‘Sustainable Development’ refers to the idea of development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future both for the people and the planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements - economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection - which are inter-connected and crucial for the well-being of the individuals and societies. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth by creating greater opportunities for all, by reducing inequalities, by raising basic standards of living, by fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and by promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainable development as a concept and strategy of socio-economic advancement entered the global discourse in the 1980s. Realizing the importance of maintaining sustainability in the process of development by the countries at the national and global levels, the global community came together to evolve a consensus on how to promote development without compromising on the quality of environment. In the series of such global efforts, the first UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, popularly known as the ‘Rio Earth Summit’ which adopted an agenda called ‘*Agenda 21*’ which became the global template for promoting sustainable development in the subsequent years.

### RIO EARTH SUMMIT, 1992: AGENDA 21

*Agenda 21* is one of the five documents agreed to at the UNCED held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and is a blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st Century, aimed at providing a high quality environment and healthy economy for all the peoples. It is a guide for individuals, businesses and Governments in making choices for environmentally less destructive developments and in translating understanding into action in developing sustainable lifestyles. Agenda 21 envisaged sustainable development as a way to reverse both poverty

and environmental degradation. It called upon Governments to work in collaboration with international organizations, business entities, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations and citizen groups to develop national strategies for sustainable development.

One decade later, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was organized in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 with a view to giving further impetus to the sustainable development paradigm. The full implementation of *Agenda 21*, the Programme for Further Implementation of *Agenda 21*, and the Commitments to the Rio Principles, was strongly reaffirmed at the WSSD. The Summit came up with the *Johannesburg Declaration* committing the nations the world over to sustainable development.

#### **JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION, 2002**

The Johannesburg Declaration, while committing nations to sustainable development, also affirmed multilateralism as the path forward. The Declaration particularly focused on the worldwide conditions that pose severe threats to sustainable development: hunger, malnutrition, armed conflict, illicit drug problems, organized crime, corruption, natural disasters, illicit arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, terrorism, intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds, xenophobia, and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The Declaration acknowledged that goals set at the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 were not met, and, therefore, pledged leaders to not only combat organized crime, poverty, corruption and terrorism, individually and collectively, but also protect the environment. A Plan of Implementation was also agreed upon.

#### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs): GLOBAL AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (2000-2015)**

In the meanwhile, the world community came together in the year 2000 and agreed to pursue a common development agenda that would provide every individual a life of dignity and right to freedom, equality and basic standard of living. At the Millennium Summit held in 2000 at the UN Headquarters in New York, eight development goals known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted, which formed the blueprint for countries to pursue their national development strategies for the next fifteen years (from 2000 to 2015). The Millennium Declaration,

which was signed by 189 countries including, 147 heads of State/ Government, included the following eight Development Goals:

#### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Goal 1: | Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger         |
| Goal 2: | Achieve Universal Primary Education          |
| Goal 3: | Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women    |
| Goal 4: | Reduce Child Mortality                       |
| Goal 5: | Improve Maternal Health                      |
| Goal 6: | Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases  |
| Goal 7: | Ensure Environmental Sustainability          |
| Goal 8: | Develop a Global Partnership for Development |

#### **TRANSITION FROM MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

During the period 2000-2015, collective efforts of the international community and individual countries towards achieving the MDGs have made a visible difference in the lives of the peoples across the globe. Nonetheless, from the regular monitoring reports on the MDGs at the national, regional and world level, it was concluded that the targets were unevenly achieved across the globe. In that light, a need was felt that fresh discussions were needed to assess the usefulness of the MDGs and to explore a possible successor to guide development cooperation around the world beyond 2015.

It was in this context that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (called Rio+20), commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, initiated the debate and the work towards an ambitious and inspiring Post-2015 Development Agenda so as to maintain the momentum created by the developmental endeavours of many countries in the last one decade and more. In this direction, one of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 was the agreement by the member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### **CONCEPTUALIZATION OF SDGs**

SDGs have been conceptualized keeping in mind the growing realization around the world about inter-connectedness of the issues that affect development. In the emerging conditions, it is now realized at the United

Nations that the problems relating to development are not national any more but are increasingly becoming global in nature. What happens in one country influences the other - whether it is poverty or environmental degradation. All these issues are becoming trans-boundary in nature. So, the essential philosophy of the SDGs is based on the inter-connectedness of the global problems.

The second idea which led to the SDGs lies in the fact that goal setting has its own importance. When world leaders frame, set and adopt certain goals and objectives at the global level, these become the global dashboard to indicate where the world community has to go together, and to help them assess where the world is moving and the extent to which goals have been achieved.

The Rio+20 (2012) mandated the SDGs to be based on the *Agenda 21* and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to fully respect all the Rio Principles. The SDGs are expected to guide and contribute to transformative change as stipulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document titled '*The Future We Want*' in support of rights-based, equitable and inclusive processes that enhance sustainability at the global, regional, national and local levels. Reaffirming the global commitment to accelerate the achievements of the MDGs, the SDGs are required to address and incorporate in a balanced way all the three dimensions of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - and their inter-linkages. At the same time, SDGs are also expected to be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, aspirational, global in nature, and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and also respecting national policies and priorities.

## **FORMULATION OF SDGs: APPROACH AND CONSULTATION**

During the discussions on the formulation of SDGs, there were clear differences in the approaches of the developed and the developing countries. The developed countries wanted the agenda to be much broader than only development, including environment and political issues. From the developing countries' perspective, the Post-2015 Development Agenda was seen primarily as a 'development' agenda with an emphasis on poverty eradication. They felt that issues of sustainability could not be addressed without eradicating poverty and hunger.

India laid emphasis on priorities to lift the vast number of poor people out of poverty through rapid and inclusive economic growth. India also maintained that while a lot of work has already been done for infrastructure development, taking development to all sections of society still remains a

massive challenge. These challenges continue to be faced by all the developing countries across the world. India took the position that the Post-2015 Development Agenda has to be an agenda for development. While issues of poverty eradication and development through inclusive economic growth are the main development agenda, additional resources and capability-building initiatives are required to undertake these mammoth tasks. India, therefore, emphasized international cooperation to facilitate development. India also insisted on adequate means of implementation such as enhanced Official Development Assistance (ODA) and technology transfer on favourable terms for helping the developing countries.

Pursuant to the mandate of the Rio+20, an innovative and constituency-based system of representation was adopted to facilitate a thorough consultation process for the finalization of SDGs. Accordingly, a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) was constituted by the UN General Assembly in 2013 for preparing a proposal on the SDGs. India was also a member of the OWG.

While negotiating SDGs, the major positions adopted by India were:

- (i) There are no greater development objectives than eradication of poverty. End of poverty is the overriding objective without which no other objective can be achieved.
- (ii) Post-MDGs, developed countries suggested to keep sanitation and other social issues like child mortality and gender equality out of the ambit of the negotiation on SDGs. However, India and other developing countries opposed and, as a result, first six Goals under SDGs by and large cover social issues which are carried forward from MDGs.
- (iii) Third priority which India stressed on was holistic development. Sustainable development implies that social equality, economic growth and environmental protection should go hand in hand. None of these issues prevails on another.
- (iv) Another important priority for India was primacy of economic growth. Developed countries were not in favour of inclusion of industrialization or infrastructure creation as they cause pollution and climatic change. Developing countries argued that they are conscious of climatic change and environmental degradation, but, importance of growth, development and industrialization cannot be undermined.

- (v) The fifth important point of negotiation for India was the vast difference in lifestyles of the developed world and the developing world. Indian consumption patterns are derived from their tradition and culture. However, consumption patterns in the developed world are extremely wasteful. Developed countries need to moderate their life style in order to bring down emissions. This argument was recognized in the twelfth Goal which is focused on sustainable consumption and production.
- (vi) It was also argued that environmental protection does not mean only climatic change but a holistic view should be taken. Protection of terrestrial environment and ocean environment should, therefore, be given primacy.
- (vii) Seventhly, Indian negotiators put emphasis on means of implementation and importance of financial and technological support to developing countries. Goal 17 was agreed after great difficulty and negotiations. This Goal talks about provision of technological and financial resources to developing countries.
- (viii) Finally, it was very strongly argued that the agenda of SDGs cannot be meant only for developing countries. It is a common journey which can be achieved only if the South, which comprises the developing countries, does these actions along with the North, which means the developed countries. Thus the SDGs are a balanced agenda for the whole world which was accepted.

The OWG convened thirteen sessions from March 2013 to July 2014, and submitted its final report titled 'Open Working Group Proposals for Sustainable Development Goals' to the UN General Assembly in July 2014. The OWG Report was adopted during the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2014.

### **ADOPTION OF SDGs**

Convened as a High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, the UN Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York. On the first day of the Summit, the 193-member UN General Assembly formally adopted the Resolution on '*Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*' that enunciates the 17 SDGs and 169 targets (details of the Goal-wise targets may be seen at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>). The 17 SDGs which came into force on 01 January 2016 on the expiry of MDGs are as follows:

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The Prime Minister of India who also attended the UN Summit convened for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, made a statement. The highlights of the Statement are as follows:

***Highlights of the Prime Minister's Statement  
at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development***

- *Mahatma Gandhi once said, "One must care about the world one will not see". Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future.*

X X X X

- *Just as our vision behind the Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals are comprehensive. It gives priority to the problems that have endured through the past decades. And, it reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives.*
- *We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world.*

X X X X

- *A great Indian thinker, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, placed the welfare of the poorest at the centre of his thoughts. This is what we also see in the 2030 Agenda. It is a happy coincidence that we are beginning the celebration of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's 100th anniversary today.*
- *The goals recognize that economic growth, industrialization, infrastructure, and access to energy provide the foundations of development.*

X X X X

- *Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *Since Independence, we have pursued the dream of eliminating poverty from India. We have chosen the path of removing poverty by empowering the poor. We have placed priority on education and skill development.*

X X X X

- *We are focusing on the basics: housing, power, water and sanitation for all - important not just for welfare, but also human dignity. These are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Our development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family's mission.*

X X X X

- *We represent a culture that calls our planet Mother Earth.*
- *As our ancient text says:- "Keep pure! For the Earth is our mother! And we are her children!"*

X X X X

- *Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet. It will be a world of fewer challenges and greater hope; and, more confident of its success.*
- *Our success will give us more resources to share with our friends. As India's ancient saying goes, the wise look at the world as one family.*

X X X X

- *...the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is the bedrock of our collective enterprise.*

X X X X

- *As we see now, distance is no insulation from challenges. And, they can rise from the shadows of conflict and privations from distant lands. So, we must transform international partnerships on the strength of solidarity with fellow human beings and also our enlightened self-interest.*

X X X X

- *There is no cause greater than shaping a world, in which every life that enters it can look to a future of security, opportunity and dignity; and, where we leave our environment in better shape for the next generation. And, no cause that is more challenging.*
- *At 70, we are called to rise to that challenge, with our wisdom, experience, generosity, compassion, skills and technology.*

## HOW ARE SDGs DIFFERENT FROM MDGs?

There are 17 SDGs with 169 targets, in contrast to the 8 MDGs which had only 21 targets. The complex challenges that exist in the world today demand that a wide range of issues be covered. It is also critical to address the root causes of the problems, and not only the symptoms. The SDGs are the result of a negotiation process that involved 193 UN member States and also saw unprecedented participation of civil society and other stakeholders. This led to the representation of a wide range of interests and perspectives. On the other hand, the MDGs were produced by a group of experts behind closed doors.

The SDGs are broad in scope because they address the inter-connected elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. The MDGs focused primarily on the social agenda, and targeted developing countries, particularly the poorest, while the SDGs apply to all countries - developed and developing. The 17 SDGs with 169 targets will go further than the MDGs by addressing the causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. These Goals will cover the three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development. Building on the success of and momentum created by the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals will cover more ground, with ambitious plans to address inequalities, to promote inclusive economic growth, and to create decent jobs, besides addressing the issues pertaining to cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.

## ELEMENTS UNDERPINNING THE SDGs

As already mentioned, the SDGs and related targets are global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. They are not independent from each other; rather, they need to be implemented in an integrated manner.

The 17 SDGs and 169 targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance: (i) **people**: to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions; (ii) **planet**: to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production; (iii) **prosperity**: to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives; (iv) **peace**: to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies free from fear and violence; (v) **partnership**: to mobilize the means required to implement this agenda through a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity.

## **MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT UNDER SDGs**

Spread over 169 targets, the 17 SDGs are evenly spread and balanced across the three dimensions of sustainable development - with six predominantly social goals (Goals-1 to 6), five economic goals (Goals-7 to 11) and four environmental goals (Goals-12 to 15). Goal-16 on peaceful societies and effective institutions covers related enablers of development. A stand-alone goal (Goal-17) on global partnership has been included to provide financial, technological and systemic support to the developing countries. Separate 'means of implementation' targets have also been included under each of the Goals. Thus, the Goals and targets are 'global and aspirational' in nature and the national level targets shall be determined by countries themselves, guided by the global level of ambition, but taking into account their national realities and circumstances.

In fact, an intense look at the SDGs reveals that the Declaration is based on the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility. There is common responsibility but differentiation in responsibility emanates from the historical footprints. One cannot argue that environmental goals are not for developing countries. Protection of environment is a common goal, but the understanding is that those who are at the higher per capita income level and higher per capita consumption level must take the lead.

SDGs are not legally binding for the sovereign countries, albeit these are like global objectives which are to be matched by them. Whenever the world leaders come together and adopt any agenda, there is moral responsibility of the political leadership to fulfill the same. That is more important than trying to create any legal binding force to compel countries to do something. The hallmark of success of the SDGs lies in the fact that countries seem to be wanting to implement them.

## **PERSPECTIVES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

A core feature of the SDGs is their strong focus on the means of implementation which include mobilization of financial resources, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies as well as data and institutions. Given the widespread disparity in the economic conditions of the countries the world over, and special needs of the developing and the least-developed countries in financing their developmental endeavours, particularly the SDGs, it is in the best interest of the whole world community to intensify global engagement and partnership in a spirit of common solidarity to facilitate and support implementation of all the SDGs. In this direction, financing for development has been recognized as a critical element for the realization of targets under the SDGs.

Notably, endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Outcome Document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015), the 2030 Agenda states that

mobilization of financial resources, both domestic and international, as well as capacity-building and transfer of technologies to developing countries on favourable terms will play a vital role in providing essential services and public goods. It also lays emphasis on the role and importance of international public finance, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the developed countries, in complementing domestic efforts of countries in mobilizing their resources. While the international financial institutions play an important role, the need to respect the domestic policy space of each of the countries, particularly the developing ones, has been well-recognized. Therefore, efforts need to be made to bring all the stakeholders - Governments, private sector, civil society, the UN system and other relevant actors - together to mobilize resources for financing development in the realization of targets under SDGs.

It has been argued that the ODA commitments during the MDG regime were not fully met by the developed countries. Therefore, relying solely on the ODA to achieve the SDGs may not be a practical proposition. The possibility of mobilizing financial resources from the private sector and other sources, therefore, needs to be explored. In this direction, in India, there is already in place the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility wherein the corporate houses shoulder some responsibility of socio-economic development in various sectors. Time has come to encourage and incentivize such practices with more focused interventions by the private players to yield better results.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF MDGs IN INDIA (2000-2015): MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS**

Despite certain under achievements, India made notable progress in the achievement of MDGs and related targets. Though many schemes/programmes were already under implementation in India at the time of conceiving the MDGs and their objectives were well-aligned with the intent and purpose behind the MDGs, a large number of new programmes were also launched during the MDGs period (2000-2015) with direct bearing on the achievement of the MDGs and related targets. Goal-wise details of major programmes/interventions are given in the table below:

<b>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>New Programmes/Interventions Introduced to Achieve the Goals</b>
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i> was launched on 25 December 2000 with the primary objective to provide good all weather connectivity to the unconnected habitations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with its legal force and rights-based approach was notified on 5 September 2005 with an objective to enhance livelihood security by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to the rural households.</li> <li>● The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was launched on 3 December 2005 with an objective to provide focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services, with emphasis on urban poor.</li> <li>● National Food Security Mission was launched in 2007 with an objective to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan</i> was operational since 2000 with an objective to universalize elementary education with the overall goals that include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children.</li> <li>● Right to Education Act, 2009 became operative on 1 April 2010 with an objective to universalize elementary education.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Education was adopted in September 2013 with an objective to promote inclusive, equitable and contextualized opportunities for promoting optimal development and active learning capacity of all children below six years of age.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan</i> was launched in 2000 to carry one of the core objectives to bridge all gender gaps at the primary and upper primary stages of education.</li> <li>● <i>Kishori Shakti Yojna</i> was launched in 2000 with an objective to improve the nutritional and health status of girls in the age group of 11-18 years as well as to equip them to improve and upgrade their home-based and vocational skills</li> <li>● National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level was launched in 2003 to be implemented in Educationally Backward Blocks to address the needs of the girls who are ‘in’ and ‘out’ of school.</li> <li>● The <i>Saakshar Bharat</i> Scheme was launched in 2009 with an objective to raise literacy level to 80 per cent and reduce gender gap in literacy to 10 per cent points by 2017.</li> <li>● Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls -‘SABLA’ was launched on 1 April 2011 with an objective to empower Adult Girls of 11 to 18 years by</li> </ul>

	<p>improving their nutritional and health status, up-gradation of home skills, life skills and vocational skills and also to mainstream out of school children to formal or non-formal education.</p>
<p><b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Health Mission was launched in 2005 with an objective to reduce infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate to ensure population stabilization and to prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases.</li> <li>● <i>Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram</i> was launched in 2009 with an objective to have trained persons involved in basic new-born care and resuscitation. Besides, <i>Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram</i> was launched in 2011 with an objective to mitigate the burden of out of pocket expenses incurred by pregnant women and sick new-born.</li> <li>● <i>Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram</i> was launched in February 2013 for Early Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies and development delays.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The National Health Mission (NHM) with two sub-missions – the National Rural Health Mission (2005) and the National Urban Health Mission (2013) – is India’s flagship health sector programme to revitalize rural and urban health sectors by providing flexible finances to State Governments.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National AIDS Control Programme: Though the first National AIDS Control Programme (NACP-I) was launched in 1992, followed by NACP-II in 1999, the Phase III of NACP was launched in July 2007 with the objective to halt and reverse the epidemic in the country. With a time frame of five-year period (2007-2012), the NACP-III focused on scaling up prevention efforts among High Risk Groups (HRG) and general population, and integrating them with care, support and treatment services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Green India Mission was launched in 2008 as one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with an objective to protect; restore and enhance India's diminishing forest cover and to respond to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Knowledge Networks were established in 2010 with the objective of inter-connecting all institutions of higher learning and research with a high speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaborative research to bridge the existing knowledge gap in the country enabling it to evolve as a Knowledge Society.</li> <li>● National E-Governance Plan was launched in 2006 with the vision of making all government services accessible to the common man in his/her locality through common service delivery outlets so as to ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man.</li> </ul>

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs IN INDIA

### Convergence of the Priorities under SDGs and those in India's Planning

There is a convergence of vision underlying the priorities set in the SDGs and those in India's development planning. The SDGs reflect India's evolving understanding of socio-economic and environmental inter-linkages and also a global vision towards a sustainable future. Today, many of India's development goals are mirrored in the SDGs as we have been pursuing the path of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas*. The Government of India has been implementing a number of Central Sector/Centrally-Sponsored Development Schemes and flagship programmes that aim at addressing many of the targets under the SDGs. In fact, even before the SDGs were adopted, the Government of India had initiated various developmental programmes for the improvement of sanitation, water availability, health, education, financial inclusion, security and dignity of all. This was also highlighted by the Prime Minister of India in his statement at the UN Summit in September 2015 during the adoption of the SDGs.

### Institutional Framework

#### *Role of the NITI Aayog*

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been assigned the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the SDGs in India. As part of this implementation process, the NITI Aayog has carried out a mapping of all SDGs, Central Ministries and the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes and of targets on other concerned Ministries. Further, considering the pivotal role of the States and Union Territories in the implementation of the SDGs, they have been requested to identify the departments that would take the process of achieving the Goals and targets forward. The NITI Aayog has initiated a series of national and regional consultations in collaboration with the other organizations to deepen dialogue on the SDGs with States and stakeholders including experts, academia, institutions, civil society organisations, international organisations and Central Ministries. Two rounds of consultation have also been held with the Chief Secretaries of the State/UT Governments to deliberate on strategies to achieve SDGs.

The NITI Aayog is *inter alia* emphasizing on sharing of new knowledge and best practices among all States and UTs in various thematic areas as a strategy to fast-track implementation of the SDGs across the country. A national workshop on best practices in social sector was also held in which States/UTs had participated. The NITI Aayog has already published a volume of such best practices. Further, a process of documenting, validating and sharing best practices emerging in course of implementation of SDGs has also been initiated in collaboration with the States/UTs. The NITI Aayog along with other partner organisations has held many national and regional level consultations with a view to arriving at a common platform so as to achieve the SDGs in an effective manner.

### ***Role of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation***

It is also felt important to evolve indicators to measure the progress and the extent of achievement of the targets and the Goals. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has done massive exercise to evolve common indicators taking the States and UTs on board. At present, consultations are underway for the finalization of relevant indicators for the relevant nationally defined targets. As many as 57 indicators have already been identified from the global list of indicators which can be adopted for our national indicator framework. Out of 57 indicators, 23 indicators can be easily compiled by the present statistical capacity of the national statistical system. While the statistical methodology is available to compile the remaining thirty four indicators, data is not presently collected in India. For this, capacity development efforts are required.

### ***Allocation of Funds***

There is no separate budgetary allocation for the implementation of SDGs. As such, funds are allocated in the Union Budget for various schemes and programmes of the Government to meet the corresponding Goals and targets of the SDGs.

## **GOAL-WISE NODAL MINISTRIES AND SCHEMES/INTERVENTIONS TO ACHIEVE SDGs IN INDIA**

### **Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

To achieve Goal 1, the Ministry of Rural Development is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

<b>Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>Other Related Interventions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act</li><li>● <i>Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana</i> - National Rural Livelihood Mission</li><li>● <i>Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana</i> - National Urban Livelihood Mission</li><li>● National Social Assistance Programme</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i></li><li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i></li><li>● <i>Atal Pension Yojana</i></li></ul>

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

To achieve Goal 2, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Green Revolution (<i>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</i>, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, National Food Security Mission, National Oilseeds and Oil Palm Mission, National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development, National Mission on Agriculture Extension &amp; Technology, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture)</li> <li>● White Revolution [Livestock Mission – <i>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</i> (RKVY), Dairy Development]</li> <li>● National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools</li> <li>● Interest subsidy for short term credit of farmers</li> <li>● Crop Insurance Scheme</li> <li>● Price Stabilisation Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Targeted Public Distribution System</li> <li>● National Food Security Act, 2013</li> <li>● <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i></li> </ul>

**Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

To achieve Goal 3, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Health Mission (National Rural Health Mission, National Urban Health Mission, Tertiary Care Programmes, Human Resources for Health and Education Medical Education, National AYUSH Mission)</li> <li>● Integrated Child Development Services (Anganwadi Services, National Nutrition Mission, Maternity Benefit Programme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Child Protection Scheme and Scheme for Welfare of working children in need of care and protection, National Creche Mission)</li> <li>● National Health Protection Scheme (erstwhile <i>Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana</i> – RSSY)</li> <li>● Family Welfare Schemes</li> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National AIDS and STD Control Programme</li> <li>● <i>Mission Indradhanush</i></li> </ul>

**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

To achieve Goal 4, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Education Mission (<i>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Teachers Training and Adult Education, Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan</i>)</li> <li>● <i>Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana</i></li> <li>● National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education</li> <li>● Scholarship for College and University Students</li> <li>● National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat</i></li> </ul>

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

To achieve Goal 5, the Ministry of Women & Child Development is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mission for Protection and Empowerment of Women</li> <li>● <i>Beti Bachao Beti Pado</i></li> <li>● <i>Sukanya Samridhi Yojan</i></li> <li>● One Stop Centre - Women Helpline, hostels, <i>swadhar greh</i>, gender budgeting, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) 2014</li> <li>● <i>Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay</i></li> </ul>

**Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

To achieve Goal 6, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the

following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Rural Drinking Water Programme</li> <li>● <i>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Rural and Urban)</i></li> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana</i></li> <li>● Namami Gange Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission</li> <li>● National River Conservation Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inter-linking of Rivers</li> </ul>

**Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

To achieve Goal 7, the Ministry of Power is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LPG connection to poor households (<i>Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana</i>)</li> <li>● <i>Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana</i></li> <li>● Integrated Power Development Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Solar Mission (as a part of the National Climate Change Plan)</li> <li>● Five new Ultra Mega Power Projects, each of 4000 MW to be installed</li> </ul>

**Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

To achieve Goal 8, the Ministry of Labour & Employment is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored

Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jobs and Skill Development (Employment Generation Programmes, <i>Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana</i>)</li> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana</i> and other Credit Guarantee Funds</li> <li>● Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)</li> <li>● Labour Welfare Schemes</li> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana</i> (PMPRPY)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Service Scheme</li> <li>● Social Security for Unorganised Workers including <i>Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana</i></li> </ul>

**Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

To achieve Goal 9, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i></li> <li>● Border Area Development Programme</li> <li>● Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission</li> <li>● Bharatnet</li> <li>● MRTS and Metro Projects</li> <li>● National Handloom Development Programme</li> <li>● MPLAD</li> <li>● Promotion of Electronics and IT HW manufacturing (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters)</li> <li>● Interest Subsidy and contribution for Guarantee Fund</li> <li>● Catalytic Development Programme under Sericulture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Atal Innovation Mission</i></li> <li>● <i>Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram</i></li> <li>● Minimum Government Maximum Governance</li> <li>● Make in India</li> <li>● Start Up India</li> <li>● Ease of Doing Business Initiative</li> <li>● Consolidated FDI Policy 2015</li> </ul>

### Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

To achieve Goal 10, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes</li><li>● Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes</li><li>● Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities</li><li>● Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups</li><li>● Stand-Up India</li><li>● National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Grants from Central Pool of Resources for North Eastern Region and Sikkim</li><li>● <i>Udan</i> Scheme for youth of Jammu &amp; Kashmir</li><li>● PAHAL - Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG (DBTL) Consumers Scheme</li><li>● Give it Up Campaign (for LPG Subsidy)</li></ul>

### Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

To achieve Goal 11, the Ministry of Urban Development is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The <i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</i> -Rural and Urban</li><li>● <i>Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana</i></li><li>● Urban Rejuvenation Mission: (AMRUT and Smart Cities Mission)</li><li>● National Programme for Persons with Disabilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana</li></ul>

**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

To achieve Goal 12, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● National Mission on Food processing (SAMPDA)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● National Policy on Bio-fuels</li><li>● National Clean India Fund</li><li>● National Clean Energy Fund</li><li>● Soil Health Card Scheme</li><li>● Mega Food Park Scheme</li></ul>

**Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

To achieve Goal 13, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Environment, Forestry and Wildlife (National Mission for a Green India)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● National Action Plan on Climate Change</li><li>● National Solar Mission</li><li>● National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency</li><li>● National Mission for Sustainable Habitat</li><li>● National Water Mission</li><li>● National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem</li><li>● National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change</li></ul>

**Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

To achieve Goal 14, the Ministry of Earth Sciences is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Blue Revolution - NKM (Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries)</li> <li>● National Coastal Zone Management Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System</li> </ul>

**Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

To achieve Goal 15, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Environment, Forestry and Wildlife (Integrated Development for Wildlife Habitat including Project Tiger, Project Elephant, etc.)</li> <li>● Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem</li> <li>● National River Conservation Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Environmental Policy (2006)</li> <li>● National Agroforestry Policy (2014)</li> <li>● National Action Programme to Combat Desertification</li> </ul>

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

To achieve Goal 16, the Ministry of Home Affairs is acting as the nodal Ministry. At present, the following Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes supported by other interventions are being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Modernisation of Police Forces (including Security Related Expenditure)</li> <li>● Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary (including Gram Nyayalayas)</li> <li>● Police Infrastructure</li> <li>● e-courts Phase II</li> <li>● Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan</li> <li>● Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Digital India</li> <li>● Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme</li> <li>● <i>Pragati</i> Platform (Public Grievance Redressal System)</li> </ul>

**Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

Given the importance of enablers in achieving SDGs, Goal 17 has been divided into seven sections focusing on - (i) Finance; (ii) Science and Technology; (iii) Capacity-building; (iv) Trade; (v) Policy and Institutional Coherence; (vi) Multi-stakeholder Partnerships; and (vii) Data, Monitoring and Accountability. Different Ministries are working as nodal Ministries in the relevant fields to achieve the targets under this Goal. At present, one Centrally-Sponsored Scheme supported by other interventions as detailed below, is being implemented to achieve the targets under this Goal:

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes	Other Related Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support for Statistical Strengthening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● South-South Cooperation</li> <li>● India Africa Summit</li> <li>● SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)</li> <li>● BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa)</li> <li>● NDB (New Development Bank - BRICS)</li> <li>● SAARC Satellite (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)</li> </ul>

## NOTABLE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGs IN INDIA

The 17 SDGs being interconnected in nature will have to be achieved with an integrated approach. No Goals can be achieved in isolation. That being so, the following Government interventions, though launched separately, will help achieve the SDGs in an integrated manner.

Schemes/Interventions	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Make in India:</b></li> </ul>	Launched on 25 September 2014, the 'Make in India' Programme is an initiative of the Government of India to encourage multinational as well as domestic companies to manufacture their products in India. The Programme aims at making India a manufacturing hub so as to facilitate job creation and skill development in twenty-five sectors of the Indian economy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Digital India:</b></li> </ul>	Launched on 1 July 2015, the Digital India Programme aims at transforming Indian economy by focusing on three core components which include - creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally and digital literacy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Skill India:</b></li> </ul>	Launched on 15 July 2015, the Skill India Programme aims at skill development to create jobs for the youth of the country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:</b></li> </ul>	Launched on 2 October 2014, the <i>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</i> aims at cleaning India by eliminating open defecation, eradicating manual scavenging, introducing modern and scientific municipal solid waste management practices, enabling private sector participation in the sanitation sector and changing people's attitudes to sanitation by creating awareness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana:</b></li> </ul>	Launched on 22 January 2015, the <i>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana</i> mainly aims at generating awareness of welfare services meant for girl child and women.

Schemes/Interventions	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Launched on 22 January 2015, the <i>Sukanya Samridhi Yojana</i> is a girl-child prosperity scheme under the <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao</i> campaign and aims at ensuring bright future for girls in India by facilitating their proper education and carefree marriage expenses. It is a small savings scheme and can be opened for girl child below the age of 10.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Launched on 28 August 2014, the <i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i> aims at promoting financial inclusion and ensuring access to the various financial services, particularly covering the weaker sections and low income groups. The plan envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance, pension facility and benefits under the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme of the Union Government.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) Bank Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Launched on 8 April 2015, the <i>MUDRA Bank Yojana</i> aims at providing loans to small businesses.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Launched in 2014, the scheme seeks to provide employment to youth residing in rural areas. The scheme is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. Innovation from partners is encouraged to build scale and capacity. The partners are supported through investment, capacity-building, strategies for retention, linkages to international placement and technology support for training purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Stand up India:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>The Scheme launched recently aim at promoting entrepreneurship among people from the marginalized sections including those</p>

Schemes/Interventions	Details
	from the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and women. Under the scheme, loans are provided starting from Rs. 10 lakhs and going up to Rs. 1 crore. Composite loans between Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 1 crore are also provided to entrepreneurs for setting up new enterprises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Atal Innovation Mission and SETU in NITI Aayog:</i></b></li> </ul>	With a view to giving substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit in the country, Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2015-16 announced the Government's intention to establish the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and a mechanism to be known as SETU in NITI Aayog. The aim is likely to help in the implementation of mission activities in a focused manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Smart Cities:</i></b></li> </ul>	Launched on 29 April 2015, Smart Cities Programme aims at developing 100 Smart cities in India in its first phase with cities for development selected from all the States.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM):</i></b></li> </ul>	The mission also known as National RU URBAN Mission aims at development of rural growth clusters which have latent potential for growth in all States and UTs, which would trigger overall development in the region. These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills and local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities. The Rurban Mission will thus develop a cluster of Smart Villages.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):</i></b></li> </ul>	The purpose of AMRUT is to - (i) ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection; (ii) increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks); and (iii) reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling).

Schemes/Interventions	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>The <i>Yojana</i> aims at providing power (electricity) to rural areas of the country. The scheme seeks to help in: (i) improvement in hours of power supply in rural areas; (ii) reduction in peak load; (iii) improvement in billed energy based on metered consumption; and (iv) providing access to electricity to rural households.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana</i> aims at providing water to all fields in the country and is to be implemented with an area development approach, adopting decentralized State level planning and execution, allowing the States to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/blocks plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years. States can take up projects based on the District/State Irrigation Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Soil Health Card Scheme:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Soil Health Card Scheme was launched in 2015. Under the scheme, the Government plans to issue soil cards to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilisers required for the individual farms to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs. All soil samples are to be tested in various soil testing labs across the country. Thereafter the experts will analyse the strength and weaknesses (micro-nutrients deficiency) of the soil and suggest measures to deal with it. The result and suggestion will be displayed in the cards. The Government plans to issue the cards to 14 crore farmers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Pradhan Mantri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana:</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Launched on 11 October 2014, the <i>Pradhan Mantri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana</i> as a village development project, urges every Member of Parliament to take the responsibility of developing physical and</p>

Schemes/Interventions	Details
	institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019. It aims at keeping the soul of rural India alive while providing its people with quality access to basic amenities and opportunities to enable them to shape their own destiny.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan:</b></li> </ul>	Launched in 2016, the <i>Abhiyan</i> aims at improving rural livelihoods and rural development by strengthening <i>Panchayati Raj</i> Institutions and by promoting social harmony. To foster farmers' progress, the mission also seeks to create awareness by providing information on agriculture related schemes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ujjwala Yojana:</b></li> </ul>	This Scheme aims at providing 5 crore LPG connections to BPL families, particularly in the name of women beneficiaries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mission Indradanush:</b></li> </ul>	Mission <i>Indradhanush</i> was launched in 2014. The Mission depicting seven colours of the rainbow, aims at covering all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases which include diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Namami Gange:</b></li> </ul>	Commencing the execution on 7 July 2016, the <i>Namami Gange</i> Project aims at integrating the on-going efforts and planning to create a concrete action plan for future to clean and protect the Ganga river in a comprehensive manner and achieve Ganga Rejuvenation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD):</b></li> </ul>	PRASAD launched in 2015, aims at improving the infrastructure at pilgrimage places. Under PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Swadesh Darshan:</b></li> </ul>	Introduced in the Union Budget 2014-15, <i>Swadesh Darshan</i> aims at creating tourists

Schemes/Interventions	Details
	circuits on specific themes to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation and to provide complete tourism experience by enhancing tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in various thematic circuits. Under the Programme, the following five circuits have been identified for development: North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit and Krishna Circuit.

## IMPLEMENTING SDGs IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AHEAD

In India, in order to achieve the targets set under the SDGs, policies have to be reformulated, keeping in view the under-achievements and the challenges we faced during the implementation of MDGs so as to yield better results. As a developing country with more than 1.2 billion population, India faces the challenge of financing and meeting the developmental needs of its growing population. This is compounded further, given the fact that India accounts for only 2.4% of the world's surface area whereas it supports about 17.5% of the world's population. India is also home to the largest proportion of global poor. Given the infrastructural deficit represented by different indicators, there is considerable skepticism as to how India is going to meet the challenges of development, while conforming to the agenda of inclusive growth under the SDGs. Therefore, while formulating policies towards achieving various targets under the SDGs, India needs to address its domestic developmental challenges.

Keeping in view the fifteen-year experience on MDGs, the following initial challenges can be visualized while implementing the highly ambitious SDGs:

- (i) **Problem of Financing:** Financing for development has been recognized as a critical element for the realization of the SDGs and related targets because achieving ambitious SDG targets (spread through 17 Goals and 169 targets) requires huge resources. Given the nature of the targets fixed under different SDGs, financing this transformative development agenda remains the most daunting challenge before the policy makers. For India, as per the preliminary estimates, on an average, the financial requirement is US \$565 billion per annum for the fifteen years to achieve SDGs.

- (ii) **Promoting broad-based Economic Growth:** The fruits of economic growth across the country have not percolated to the bottom of the society commensurate with the rate of economic growth. Rather, the gap between the rich and poor in society has widened over the years. Thus, the challenge in the implementation of SDGs is to make the developmental processes more inclusive and broad-based – widely participated by all segments of society and equally beneficial to all.
- (iii) **Ensuring Effective Delivery of Public Services:** Scarce public resources can be squandered, if not used effectively and efficiently. Thus, one of the challenges of implementing SDGs is ensuring effective delivery of public services by strict monitoring, regular evaluation and restructuring of the public services.
- (iv) **Promoting Development of Basic Infrastructure:** The implementation of the SDGs will depend on the availability of basic infrastructural support, both in rural and urban areas. Hence, promoting the development of basic infrastructure remains one of the major challenges for successful implementation of the SDGs.
- (v) **Technology and Capacity-building:** Science, technology, innovation and knowledge sharing are the main drivers of economic growth and prosperity. Goal 17 highlights the imperative need for easy access to innovative and affordable technologies. India will have to strive to pursue with the developed countries for taking benefits of the innovative and affordable technologies available with them.
- (vi) **Implementing SDGs' Targets Locally:** Effective operational policies can only be introduced and implemented if the targets under the SDGs are suitably absorbed in the national, sub-national and local contexts. Therefore, global developmental targets will have to be made locally relevant, viable and then implemented.
- (vii) **Ensuring Close Coordination:** Implementation of policies towards SDGs also requires better coordination among all the stakeholders. This is because all the 17 SDGs are highly inter-linked, and cannot be implemented in isolation. Thus, the need is to develop strategies to implement the SDGs in such a way as to encourage different sectors to work together.

- (viii) **Monitoring and Follow-up:** Monitoring and progress on a regular basis is a real challenge. Indicators will be the backbone of monitoring of SDGs at the local, state and national levels. National monitoring should rely on nationally defined indicators, responding to national priorities and needs. In this direction, setting the right and relevant indicators scientifically to measure the outcomes of the policies to be implemented to achieve the various targets under different SDGs will be the prerequisite for giving appropriate direction to the efforts to be made by the policy makers and the executors of the related schemes and programmes. It will, therefore, be an initial challenge for us to scientifically work out the indicators that will be used in measuring the success and outcomes of various policies and programmes to be formulated and implemented in the course of meeting the SDG targets.

## **ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN ACHIEVING SDGs**

With most Legislatures responsible for legislating, policy oversight and budget approval, Parliaments are central to the development agenda. Parliament is, therefore, uniquely positioned to influence the shape and content of the national development agendas and ensure the implementation of the SDGs through the following:

**Lawmaking:** It is important to note that the adoption of the SDGs does not make them binding for the UN member States. Each country needs to chart out its own course and proceed in adopting the main principles in national legislations. As Parliament has the power to make legislations, it has the responsibility to give national perspective to the development agenda, thereby creating ownership and ultimately having the responsibility of formulating credible laws and establishing relevant institutions within the context of national realities.

**Parliamentary Oversight:** A key role and responsibility of the Parliament is to exercise oversight over the government's work and achievements. Parliament as an institution has the means to ensure oversight, accountability, transparency and the strengthening of the institutions of good governance at the national level. For SDGs to succeed, Parliament needs to oversee the government's execution of laws, national policies and strategic plans concerning the SDGs. With this oversight function, Parliament could closely monitor the implementation of the SDGs. Parliamentarians can also raise issues pertaining to SDGs in Parliament through various parliamentary devices to oversee the implementation of various programmes corresponding to the specific goals.

**Debates and Discussions:** Debates in Parliament can catalyze a wider public discussion on the SDGs. This is a prime opportunity available with the members of Parliament to inform citizens of the role of Parliament and the Government in implementing the SDGs. They can also open a discussion with the civil society organizations who are critical stakeholders in any implementation strategy. Through debates on the floor of the House, the parliamentarians can use this opportunity to campaign for specific laws or amendments in the existing laws they intend to propose for effective implementation of the SDGs.

**Parliamentary Committees:** The sectoral focus of the Parliamentary Committees allows their members to invite expertise on particular subjects or areas or request specific information that relate to SDGs and related schemes. The availability of sectoral knowledge and expertise will make it feasible for the Committees to follow up on the implementation progress of the specific SDGs, in coordination with the relevant Ministries and Government Departments. By regularly holding hearings and bringing out reports, Parliamentary Committees can bring the SDGs to the attention of the public and the media, thereby encouraging accountability at all levels. In the Indian Parliament, there is an elaborate Committee System, including three Financial Committees and 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) which cover almost the entire gamut of the governmental activities. Today, given the limited time of the House, most of our Parliament's detailed oversight functions are carried out in these Committees. Once the various SDGs are integrated and institutionalized into the policies and plans of the appropriate Departments/ Ministries, these Committees could closely monitor the progress of the various SDGs. For example, in relation to gender equality (SDGs' Goal 5), there is a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women that examines the activities of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and related agencies and scrutinizes the budgetary allocations for various schemes and programmes relating to women implemented by the Ministries/Departments concerned. It provides a forum for parliamentarians to scrutinize all proposed legislations from a gender perspective, to enhance gender aspects of the public issues and the legislative agenda, and generates public discussion on women - specific issues.

**Cross-Party Collaboration:** SDGs are more likely to be implemented through collective work and shared efforts on the part of the politicians. Parliamentarians from different parties, who share the same interest in SDGs or in one specific goal, can join forces and create cross-party group as a platform to discuss and support the implementation of the SDGs. It is also possible to create a caucus for the same reason, where like-minded parliamentarians come together to discuss and work on any of the SDGs.

***Financial Concerns and the Budget:*** Through the annual parliamentary reviews of the proposed government expenditures, Parliament can ensure that adequate financial resources are allocated for the achievement of the SDGs and that sustainable development priorities are reflected in the national budgets. Parliament is in the best position to verify whether the budgetary allocations are in line with the approved government priorities for meeting the SDG commitments.

***Cooperation with the Executive:*** Integrating the SDGs agenda in the established national strategies requires cooperation between the legislative and the executive branches by which the Government and other state institutions provide the practical and technical support for the agenda adopted by Parliament. That being so, parliamentarians can highlight the need to integrate the SDGs into the developmental priorities fixed by the Government. For example, parliamentarians can help build infrastructure in their respective constituencies using schemes like the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

***International Cooperation and Conferences:*** Parliamentarians can leverage their participation in international conferences to raise issues relating to the SDGs. In implementing the SDGs, it is important to stay up to date on what is happening and where the agenda is heading. This can be achieved by being part of the international network working on the SDGs, and by participating in networks and organizations that provide support on the SDGs agenda. These include Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, etc. of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), and regional networks like the South Asian Speakers and Presiding Officers Summit, etc.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Further, the following aspects are worth mentioning in the context of the role and responsibilities of the individual parliamentarians in achieving the SDGs:

- **Delivery of Public Services:** Effective delivery of public services is a key to success in achieving the SDGs. As local leaders and people's representatives, parliamentarians can facilitate effective and efficient delivery of the services provided by the Government by engaging themselves in the design, implementation and monitoring of public services – such as flow of funds, credible reporting, objective and timely evaluation of outcomes and properly targeting the services. This will certainly help achieve the targets under the SDGs.

- **Development of Infrastructure:** The role of parliamentarians in infrastructure development cannot be over-emphasized. Parliamentarians can help build infrastructure such as roads, transport, power, healthcare facilities, etc. which support growth and facilitate development in their constituencies through their personal initiatives and involvement.
- **Developing Innovative Partnership:** Parliamentarians can develop and strengthen innovative partnership with civil society organizations to scrutinize and assess various Government programmes concerning SDGs.
- **Creating Awareness:** Parliamentarians can create awareness by organizing seminars, workshops, etc. on the assessment and monitoring of the schemes through instruments such as social audit focused on achieving the SDGs. Through such means, they can help reorient State level programmes towards SDGs by bringing the views and aspirations of the citizens into the development arena.
- **Local Level Interventions:** Parliamentarians' constant interest in the execution of developmental schemes at the local level and timely intervention by way of critical inputs, which they can easily gather through regular field visits and interactions with the people and target groups, can be of great help to both the policy-makers and the administrators responsible for the formulation of policies and their implementation within the framework of the defined SDG targets.
- **Representative Functions:** By exercising their legislative, oversight and representative functions judiciously, parliamentarians can actively engage themselves not only in the development and implementation of policies but also in making the laws adequately pro-poor, minority- and gender-responsive, and environmentally sensitive, so that the broad objectives inherent in the Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved.
- **Specific Role of the Women Parliamentarians:** Women parliamentarians are generally seen most active in women-related issues, gender equality, social and community matters and family-related matters, indicating that a parliamentarian's gender has a distinct impact on policy priorities and developmental works. Active participation of the women parliamentarians in the implementation of SDGs is, therefore, essential as their meaningful participation will impact both the range of policy issues that are considered and the types of solutions that are proposed.

## **INVOLVING CITIZENS AND PROMOTING PARTICIPATION**

Broadly speaking, the SDGs will witness meaningful implementation only when they are owned by people and make a real difference in people's life at the grassroots level. That being so, the SDGs cannot be implemented successfully until and unless the citizens are properly involved not only in the process of decision-making but also in the implementation of the various local level schemes meant for achieving the targets under the SDGs. Because, a citizen has many needs and aspirations which range from the basic needs of preserving and sustaining life, reducing poverty to ensuring peace, security and stability. The citizens have the aspirations of improving the quality of their life. Responding to their needs and aspirations would involve all the domains and levels of governance: legislature, executive, judiciary, village, district and city councils as well as the other relevant agencies. This exercise is bound to be collective, requiring the participation of the people, institutions and agencies of governance, civil society and the private sector.

Citizens can raise their grievances through their elected representatives and have them addressed through the various parliamentary devices available to the members of Parliament. Most of the members may have an office in his/her constituency as well as in the national capital where the Parliament is based. This office provides a key point of contact for electors with their representative and seeks assistance in resolving issues for access to water and sanitation, community facilities, basic infrastructure, and so on. Here members can have a direct role in initiating development projects in their constituencies by (i) helping the government define development priorities and supporting them in their implementation; (ii) assisting the municipal and local bodies in securing funds for the related projects; (iii) collaborating with NGOs in local schemes; and (iv) making recommendations to the Ministries concerned for the allocation of funds for their constituencies. Besides, members can apprise the citizens of the schemes and programmes initiated by the Government and also highlight the means and ways to utilize the governance services.

## **PROMOTING HOME-GROWN SOLUTIONS**

The Indian concept of life is embodied in a coherent worldview in which all its aspects exist in a state of inter-related harmony being governed by a universal order that is reflected in all realms of human experience. This harmony between human beings and nature is integral to the Indian tradition and ethos. In fact, in India, nature and natural resources are treated as sacred. The planet earth is respected as a mother and all other elements of nature are worshipped. Sustainable and environment-friendly

practices focusing on the three Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - continue to be an integral part of people's lives in India even today. Simple sustainable consumption values are nurtured and imbibed in homes from a young age. Nature is valued and forests are revered. Planting of trees is considered to bring *punya*, a spiritually rewarding activity. Thus, sustainability and environmental ethics have always been at the core of Indian culture and philosophy. That being so, following our age old traditions and practices, we will have to strive to achieve the targets under the SDGs with the help of the dedicated flagship programmes and appropriate policy interventions with due emphasis on home grown solutions to the varied developmental and environmental challenges that our country is faced with today. Home grown solutions, if promoted at all levels and in all possible manners, would be more relevant and effective in the implementation of the SDGs in our country.

## **SDGs AND PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been engaging increasing interest and attention of the parliamentarians over the world. Our Parliament, being the country's apex representative and supreme law-making body, has not only been monitoring the performance of the Government with regard to the SDGs through the various parliamentary devices at hand but also striving to provide parliamentary input and guidance in the implementation of SDGs.

### **Discussions on SDGs in the House**

The popular House of our Parliament *i.e.* the Lok Sabha has had discussions on the SDGs twice - first from 5 to 12 August 2015 and again on 3 and 5 August 2016. During the discussions, members took note of the fact that the SDGs are a set of common development goals of the world for moving ahead without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their needs. Members made the point that on the development front, India will have the demographic dividend as by 2030 the average age of the working population in India will be 29 years. The members emphasised that eradication of poverty, food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture must get precedence in the process of development. Since quality education is one of the important focus areas under the SDGs, attention was drawn to effective implementation of the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* through necessary policy formulation and adequate budgetary allocations. At the same time, an effective partnership between the developed and the developing countries was emphasised for meaningful implementation of SDGs.

On the matter of food security, it was noted that developed nations throw away waste food when the developing nations go hungry. To eliminate hunger and malnutrition, attention was drawn to the working of the National Nutrition Mission. Since agriculture is an important sector of sustainable development as it involves use of land and water, the need for multi-crop cultivation with a proper land use policy was emphasised. Affordable and clean energy being one of the important areas finding mention in SDGs, it was suggested during the discussion that energy sector must shift towards renewable and clean energy. The task of ensuring universal access to affordable electricity by 2030 by investing in clean energy sources such as solar, wind and thermal was highly emphasised.

As far as poverty eradication is concerned, reference was made to the Prime Minister's *Ujjawla Scheme, Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas*, etc. In the context of empowerment of women, schemes such as *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Special Mahila Police Volunteers* and capacity-building of women *sarpanchs*, etc., were discussed and the members emphasised on taking the related issues in the right direction. Realising the importance of inclusive development, addressing effectively the problems of widening disparities in income by adopting sound policies aimed at promoting economic inclusion of all regardless of the sex, race and ethnicity, was emphasised.

Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way urban spaces are built and managed. Making cities safe and sustainable would mean ensuring access to safe and affordable houses and upgrading slum settlements. On this issue, the members called for enhancing public investment in social sectors in a massive way, particularly in the sectors like health, education and housing which are crucial for achieving SDGs.

### **Speaker's Research Initiative: Workshops on SDGs**

Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI), which is the brainchild of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan to promote interaction between the Members of Parliament and subject/domain experts with a view to evoking an informed and all-round parliamentary debate on subjects of topical concern, has so far organised three Workshops on Sustainable Development Goals.

In the **First Workshop**, an opinion emerged that while achieving SDGs that especially focus on food security, nourishment, elimination and eradication of poverty and access to energy, the challenges particularly emanating from the global financial systems, markets and commodity trades will make it difficult to achieve the related targets. It was driven that

besides the Government, the elected representatives of the people, the civil society, the research institutions and the corporate sector are the other important and fundamental actors who have a meaningful role to play in the implementation of the SDGs. It was, therefore, emphasised that the members of Parliament must become the development evangelists and catalysts for the developmental activities in their own constituencies and they must strive to find new ways of mobilising funds for financing development in their constituencies with greater focus on schemes relating to renewable energy, sanitation, safe drinking water, schools, healthcare centres, skill development, etc. Besides, the need for promoting the role of the corporate sector in socio-economic development, enhancing energy security, expanding micro-credit and crop insurance facilities for the farming community, and incentivising people to invest in agriculture, was highlighted in the Workshop.

In the **Second Workshop**, a common feeling emerged that India has a major role to play for the success of SDGs globally. Making a reference to the Statement made by the Prime Minister of India on 25 September 2015 in the UN Summit held in New York for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it was impressed upon as to how the world community has increasingly been coming to accept India's stand and viewpoint on SDGs. Realising the fact that in the area of economic development, the developed countries have lived with and derived the fruits of industrialisation, it was emphasised that the developed countries must take tangible and concrete deliverables in their policy objectives so that the developing countries like India are not left in a disadvantageous position while meeting the challenges of development they have been facing. On the front of environment, India's stand that while addressing the challenges of climate change, all issues having a bearing on environmental protection and the protection of oceans and biosphere should be addressed simultaneously, was highlighted and reiterated .

The **Third Workshop** focused on Goals 1, 4 and 8 which are interlinked and aim at addressing the poverty and other related issues. On the matter of poverty eradication, it was viewed that skilling must lead to poverty eradication and education must give a quality outcome rather a mere outcome in quantity so that on the employment front people not only have the talent but also have a marketable talent. The Workshop noted that skill development initiatives should spread to different parts of our country so that villagers can get better employment opportunities. During the Workshop, a reference was made to various on going schemes/programmes including the new initiatives taken by the Prime Minister of India.

## **Parliamentary Conferences/Meetings Focussing on SDGs related Issues**

***Meeting of BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum:*** It is quite evident that SDGs comprise goals across diverse areas of mutual interest calling for cooperation and partnership among the countries. The BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum emerged as a result of increasing cooperation among the countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Interaction among BRICS Parliamentarians has been continuing on areas of mutual interest for quite some time. In the series of such cooperation, a meeting of the BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 20-21 August 2016 to discuss on the theme '*Women Parliamentarians: Enablers for Achieving SDGs*'. The Forum underlined that women parliamentarians through their legislative, representational and leadership roles can play a meaningful role in the effective implementation of SDGs. They can enhance parliamentary cooperation in the relevant fields. Keeping in view the fact that it is important to mobilise various stakeholders to make joint efforts to uphold the principle of people-centric approach and to facilitate participation of all individuals in promoting sustainable development, the Forum exhorted the women parliamentarians to take the lead in actively participating in the implementation process both at the national and the global levels, calling for cooperation. The Forum observed that the women parliamentarians can make a major contribution in shaping public opinion in favour of the new global development goals.

***South Asian Speakers' Summit:*** Recently on 18-19 February 2017, the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals was held in Indore. The Summit deliberated on the theme '*Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Resources for SDGs*'. Taking cognizance of the fact that the South Asian Region shares a common history as well as destiny, the Summit emphasised that Parliamentarians of the South Asia region should share and learn, and benefit from the best practices followed in the South Asian countries. The Summit urged upon the Parliaments to collectively work for advancing action, strategies and cooperation among all stakeholders to mobilise additional resources so as to achieve the targets under the SDGs in a time bound manner. Noting the importance of gender equality as a crucial factor in the achievement of SDGs, the Summit stressed the need for taking necessary legislative measures to protect women against all kinds of discrimination, violence and atrocities.

***National Conference of Women Legislators :*** Recognizing that the participation, contribution and agency of women who constitute almost half the population of a country are critical for any developmental

endeavour, a National Conference of Women Legislators was organized in New Delhi on 05-06 March 2016 at the initiative of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan to deliberate on the theme '*Women Legislators: Building Resurgent India*'. A first of its kind, the Conference brought the women members of the Parliament and State Legislatures together to discuss various developmental issues and to explore the areas where women legislators can play a key role.

The Conference, spread over three business sessions, focused on the role and contribution of women legislators in the areas of social and economic development, better governance and legislation. These business sessions discussed in detail varied developmental issues and challenges relating to education, health, equality, women empowerment, financial inclusion, skill development, e-governance, social harmony, etc., which have a great bearing on the targets set under the SDGs. Highlighting the important role the women legislators can play in the development process, the Conference brought to fore as to how they can proactively engage themselves in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the development schemes in their respective constituencies and States.

All the above conferences adopted Declarations for necessary follow up so that necessary parliamentary perspective can be given to the process of implementation of the SDGs which, in the ultimate analysis, will help achieve the ambitious targets under the SDGs in a meaningful and purposive manner.