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An Overview of Sustainable Development Goals in India: Agenda 2030

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals are the part and parcel of country's longstanding tradition and heritage. These goals actually reflect the development agenda of the country. The country's national development goals are mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the programmes launched by the government i.e, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, NITI Aayog, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are the roads to attain these goals and make the country self reliant. India in the past years has directed its development pathway to meet the priorities of employment, economic growth, food, water, energy security and poverty alleviation. This paper makes an attempt to have an overview of some perspectives and approaches towards achieving a sustainable future.

Keywords:- Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi reflected the development agenda of India in his speech at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. He said, "Much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet." NITI Aayog has been designed after restructuring the Planning Commission of India.

Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To understand this concept one needs to consider the three pillars together: the society, the economy and the environment. The basic idea is that the people, habitats and the economic systems are interrelated.

Sustainable development is a process of change, may be the change in our outlook where we ignore the pollution created by our industries for making huge profits or when we pollute the soil by excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to increase the agriculture production manifolds or when we cut trees to make and broaden the roads and to construct buildings and

factories to earn money. It is also an end goal of identifying and fixing the problems in which the country has been entrapped since decades and finding solutions to reduce and remove them. These problems are poverty, unemployment, resource depletion, health care, malnutrition, social exclusion and so on.

Sustainable Development Goals in India: Agenda 2030

In the UN Summit in September 2015, 193 nations of the world adopted 17 goals for sustainable development. This officially came into force on 1 January 2016. These goals talk about improving lives of everyone and everywhere. These relate to incorporating new technologies without harming the planet. These are the combination of global goals which take care of everything, people, environment, biodiversity, atmosphere, animals, ecosystems, wetlands and what not.

Sustainable Development Goal 1:

End poverty in all its forms

The ministry of Rural Development has been made incharge of this goal. This goal aims to end poverty by 2030. It also aims to provide social protection to the poor people, increased access to basic services and support people harmed by climate and other economic, social and environmental disasters. Under this goal, the target is to eradicate poverty for all people everywhere by 2030 and currently it is measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day. In India, more than half population is dependent on farming which itself is dependent on nature for irrigation, the poor farmers are badly hit when the monsoons comes early or late. There is huge unemployment in urban sector which adds to the unending poverty. The programme 'Skill India' was launched with annual target of 2 million in 2014-15, where 1.3 million were covered under Pradhan Mantri KaushalVikasYojna, spent Rs 1500 crores to train 18 lakh persons and 12% of the trained were placed. Then Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee Schemes has been launched by NITI Aayog that benefited the vulnerable sections. Other centrally sponsored schemes are National Urban Livelihood Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Social Assistance Programme, National Land Record Management Programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

Sustainable Development Goal 2:

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

In order to achieve this goal, the target is to end hunger by 2030 and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in particular to the poor and vulnerable sections. Another target is to end all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant

and lactating women and older persons. Another target are to double the agricultural productivity, implement resilient agricultural practices, maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and animals, increase investment in rural infrastructure and agriculture research. To achieve these targets the main schemes are National Food Security Mission, National Livestock Mission, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Nutrition Mission and Targeted Public Distribution System. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been deputed to achieve this goal.

Sustainable Development Goal 3:

Ensures healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages

The ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been assigned this goal. In order to achieve the goal of healthy lives, it has been targeted to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and to end the preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age. Other targets are to reduce the premature mortality from non communicable diseases by one third, to strengthen the prevention of narcotic drug abuse and harmful abuse of alcohol, to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illness from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination and support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non communicable diseases. The Government of India formulated various schemes and yojanas to achieve the targets. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, National Health Mission, Human Resource in Health and Medical Education, National Mission on Ayush including Mission on Medical Plants, National AIDS Control Programme and Integrated Child Development Service have been formulated by the government to achieve these targets.

Sustainable Development Goal 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The HRD ministry have been deputed to achieve this sustainable goal. Various schemes have been formulated to achieve the targets under this goal. These are Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan, Scheme for providing education to Madrasas, Minorities and Disabled and Umbrella scheme for Education of ST students. The various targets under this goal are to ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2030, to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education by 2030, to eliminate gender disparities in education, to ensure that all youth achieve literacy by 2030 and to increase the supply of qualified teachers through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries.

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

The ministry of Women and Child Development have been deputed to achieve this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are National Mission for Empowerment of Women including Indira Gandhi Matritav Sahyog Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls(SABLA). There are related interventions 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana', 'Janani Suraksha Yojana', 'SWADHAR 2011', 'Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay' have been designed to support and promote the goal and the schemes. The various targets under this goal are to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, eliminate all harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, adopt and strengthen sound policies.

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

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is the nodal ministry to achieve this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and National River Conservation Programme. The various targets under this goal are to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and paying special attention to the needs of women and girls, improve water quality by reducing pollution, protect and restore water related ecosystems including mountains, forests, wetlands, participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

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

The ministry of power is the nodal ministry for this goal. The related interventions are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, National Solar Mission, India Energy Policy, Power Electrification of the 20000 villages including off grid Solar Power by 2020 and 5 new Ultra Mega Power Projects, each of 4000 MW to be installed. The various targets to attain this goal are ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries.

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

The department of labour and employment has been deputed for this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes and the related interventions are National Service Scheme, Skill Development Mission, Social Security for Unorganised Workers including Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Deendayal Upadhyaya Antodaya Yojana and National Urban Development Mission. This goal has been targeted to sustain per capita economic growth, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in least developed countries, achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, promote development oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, take effective measures to secure prohibition and elimination of worst forms of child labour, protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture.

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

The ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal ministry for this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are Border Area Development Programme, National Handloom Development Programme, Catalytic Development Programme under Sericulture, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Make in India, Start Up India, FDI Policy, Ease of doing business initiative and Minimum Government Maximum Governance programmes. The various targets in this goal are to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, increase the access of financial services and affordable credit to small scale industries and other enterprises, enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all the countries, support domestic technology development in developing countries and increase access to information and communication technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in least developed countries by 2020.

Sustainable Development Goal 10:**Reduce inequality within and among countries**

The department of Social Justice & Empowerment has been deputed as nodal ministry for this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities, Backward Regions Grant Fund, Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes, Scheme for Development of Other Backward Classes and Scheme for development of

Economically Backward Classes. The related interventions are Udaan Scheme for youth of Jammu & Kashmir, PAHAL- Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG consumers scheme, Give it Up Campaign and Mudra Yojana. The main targets under this goal are to progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average, empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, origin, religion or economic status, ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of incomes, adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies and improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets.

Sustainable Development Goal 11:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The department of urban development is the nodal ministry to achieve this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are Rajiv Awas Yojana, Indra Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, National Programme for Persons with Disabilities, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Some of the related interventions are Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana. The major targets under this goal are to ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services for all and upgrade slums, provide access to safe, affordable, sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, disabled and older persons, strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage, provide universal access to safe, green and public spaces for women, children, disabled and older persons, paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

Sustainable Development Goal 12:

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The ministry of environment, forest and climate change has been deputed to work for this goal. The major schemes for this goal are National Policy on bio-fuels, National Clean India Fund, National Clean Energy Fund, Soil Health Card Scheme. The main targets under this goal are to implement 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, ensure that people have relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, and develop and implement tools for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

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

The ministry of environment, forest and climate change is the nodal ministry for this goal. The related work plans are National Action Plan on Climate Change, National Mission for a Green India, National Solar Mission, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission for sustainable habitat. The major targets under this goal are to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, improve education and awareness on climate change and promote mechanisms for effective climate change related planning and management in least developed countries.

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

The ministry of Earth Sciences has been deputed to achieve this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, Sagarmala Project and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem. The major targets are to prevent and reduce marine pollution of all kinds, manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, minimize the impacts of ocean acidification, regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices.

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**

The ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been deputed for this goal. Some of the centrally sponsored schemes are National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Development of Wild Life Habitats, Project Tiger, Project Elephant, National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. There are numerous targets under this goal. To ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems by 2020, to promote implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation by 10 % globally by 2020, to ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems and biodiversity by 2030.

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

The ministry of Home Affairs is the incharge of this goal. The centrally sponsored schemes are Digital India, RTI, Pragati Platform, Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan, Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The targets under this goal are to reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, to legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030, to promote and enforce non discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development, to sustainably reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, to provide legal identity for all including birth registration by 2030, to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development and so on.

Sustainable Development Goal 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The ministry of Finance, Science & Technology, Commerce & Industry has been deputed for this goal. The Centrally sponsored schemes is Support for Statistical Strengthening. The related interventions are South-South Cooperation, India Africa Summit, SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), BRICS (Brazil,Russia, India, China and South Africa). The major targets under this scheme are to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, to improve domestic capacity for tax and revenue collection, to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, to mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from development.

Conclusion

The various schemes formulated under different ministries reveal that our country has already moved on the road to achieve sustainable development goals. The 193 member nations of United Nations are required to prepare a Voluntary National Review Report to outline the progress of the sustainable goals in the respective countries and present this report to UN High Level Political Forum.

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