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## Sustainable development Goals and Challenges

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### **Abstract:**

The world economies have unified in their efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development. Sustainable development means attaining a balance between environmental protection and social, economic development between the present and future needs. It requires an integration of social, economic and environmental approaches towards development. Sustainable development has become a fundamental strategy to guide the world's social and economic transformation. The concept of sustainable development is still being developed and the definition of the term is constantly being extended, revised and refunded, its main components are the economic, social, and environmental factors. This paper focuses on the goals of sustainable development and studies the challenges of sustainable development.

**Keywords:** sustainable development; sustainable development goals, Challenges for sustainable development

### **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development includes the protection of future economic development and future growth. In other words, it means a better superiority of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. Sustainable development includes the protection of future economic development and future growth. Growth is essential, but sustainable development requires it to be different. It must become more concerned about the physical environment not only to present generation,

but to the future generation. It means that the current consumption cannot be financed for long by increasing economic debt and ecological imbalance which future generation will pay. Sustainable development constantly seeks to achieve economic and social progress in ways that will not exhaust the earth's finite natural resources. Sustainable development is a process of development in which economic and other policies are designed to bring about development which is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable. The concept thus is pro-people, pro-job and pro-nature. It gives highest priority to productive employment, poverty reduction, social integration and environmental regeneration.

#### **Objectives of sustainable development**

<b>Economic objectives</b>	<b>Social objectives</b>	<b>Environmental objectives</b>
Growth	Full employment	Healthy environment for humans
Efficiency	Equity	Rational use of renewable natural resources
Stability	Security	conservation of non-renewable natural resources
	Education	
	Health	
	Participation	
	Cultural identity	

The Three Pillars of Sustainable Development: At the core of sustainable development is the need to consider “three pillars” society, economy and environment.

#### **The Sustainable Development Goals**

UNO's Sustainable Development Goals have been adopted by 193 countries including India. 17 Sustainable Development Goals are further divided into 169 targets and 243 Global Indicators Government of India has developed a National

Indicators Frame work comprised 306 indicators NITI Aayog has identified 62 priority indicators.

The Sustainable Development Goals which came into effect on 1 January, 2016 is an improvement on the Millennium Development Goals. In India, as far as MDGs are concerned, considerable progress has been made in the field of basic universal education, gender equality in education, and global economic growth. However there was slow progress in the improvement of health indicators related to morbidity, mortality and various environmental factors contributing to poor health conditions. With Sustainable Development Goals in place the Indian government is now trying to integrate the efforts taken towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goals are wider in scope.

**The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:-**

Goal No.	Goal	Goal Strategy
1	No Poverty	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
2	Zero Hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030.
3	Good Health and Well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030.
4	Quality Education	Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2030.
5	Gender Equality	To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation by 2030.
10	Reduced Inequality	Reduce inequality within and among countries by 2030.

11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13	Climate Action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14	Life Below Water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15	Life on Land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss.
16	Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all.
17	Partnerships to achieve the Goal	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The suggestion contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These included ending poverty and hunger, improving education and health, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting forests and oceans.

## **Challenges of sustainable development**

### **1. Population**

Population is a major challenge for the sustainable development. In the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the population of the Earth reached seven billion, and is expected to level out between ten and eleven billion over the next 50 years. The basic challenges will be shortages of drinking water and arable land for food production.

### **2. Poverty**

Poverty is another major challenge because almost 25 percent of the world's population lives on less than USD 1 per day.

### **3. Inequality**

Inequality continues to be a serious obstacle to sustainable development with the number of people suffering from malnutrition. The fall of food prices over the past thirty years may have contributed to increases in consumption, but in many regions of the world arable terrains are limited, and the creation of new ones has

a destructive effect on the remaining ecosystems. In the future, the growth of food production should not come at the expense of nature.

#### **4. Shortage of drinking water**

The shortage of drinking water in many regions of the world is a major obstacle to sustainable development. It is expected that, at the current rate of development, every second person will suffer from water shortage.

#### **5. Human health**

Human health is also an barrier in sustainable development. In many cases, deaths in developing countries are avoidable. Humanity should direct more attention and money in the coming years to the fight against diseases. The imminent task is to reduce the death rate among children under five years of age by two-thirds, and the death rate of young mothers.

#### **6. Consumption of energy**

Consumption of energy is a major challenge for the sustainable development. Consumption of all forms of energy is continually rising. The improvement of access to reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly services and energy sources, as well as the creation of national programmes for energy effectiveness, is a particularly important task for the next some years.

#### **7. Deforestation**

Deforestation is mostly great challenge before the sustainable development. The world's forests diminish mainly due to expansion of agriculture. In the coming years, improving the recovery and management of the forests will be of utmost importance.

#### **8. Petrol consumption**

Petrol consumption is constantly increasing. The Summit emphasized the need to realize the decisions of the Kyoto Protocol for reaching an agreement on emissions norms for greenhouse gases in developed countries.

#### **India's Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**

The highlight and transformative agenda laid out by Sustainable Development Goals requires collaborated and robust actions nationally and sub nationally, at

macro policy, institutional and micro local levels, to put people and planet on the resilient path over the next some years. India is one of the key emerging economies with a gross domestic product growth rate of 6.5 percent in 2017-18. However, the benefits of its growth story have not seeped to the bottom of the pyramid. Marked by unique development issues, India will play a key role in influencing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level.

The Government of India is fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as evidenced by various policy statements. The fact that we live in “an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world” and pointed out that “much of India’s development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals”.

**Sustainable development progress is dependent on:**

1. Robust and high quality inclusive growth accompanied by job generation, with benefits shared widely across the public.
2. Effective domestic and global governance mechanisms that support corporate and environment sustainability and climate action.
3. Augmenting multilateral frameworks to harness finance; trade; and science and technology.
4. The ability of Governments to better leverage the strengths and resources of the private sector for sustainable development.

**Conclusions:**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Basically, sustainable development is a long-term solution to how we plan our indefinite progress in the future without causing damage to the environment so as to guarantee a safe habitat for the next generations, who will continue to develop their societies, economies and care for the environment with a similar ideal in mind. The concept covers a broad scope of matters such as social, environmental and economic development which continues to prove its importance in our lives as it affects all aspects of them. The United Nations have set out a number of Sustainable Development Goals and targets to serve as

strategy for the future and optimal conscious development. India is a country with the second largest population in the world. The steps taken by India for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals matter a lot to the world. Now it is time for humans to proceed with the remaining steps to achieve sustainability for both current and future generations.

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