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India's Path to Viksit Bharat@2047 through SDG 2030: Leadership and Opportunities in a Changing Global Order

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Abstract

India stands at a critical juncture in history, ready to redefine its development path and emerge as a leader in sustainable progress on the global stage. This transformative vision is intricately linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting India's commitment to global sustainability while addressing its national needs. This paper explores India's strategic journey toward becoming a developed nation, emphasizing the leadership roles it can play in a rapidly changing global landscape. It examines India's progress on key SDGs, the challenges posed by its complex socio-economic conditions and the opportunities available through global partnerships, policy frameworks and inclusive governance models. By integrating the SDG framework with national priorities, India can effectively navigate the transition toward equitable development, fostering sustainable growth and prosperity aligned



with its aspirations for 2047. Through a comprehensive analysis of India's leadership potential, this paper highlights the nation's role in guiding the global discourse on sustainable development while shaping a resilient and inclusive future.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat @2047, SDG, Global South, Sustainability, Leadership, Sustainable Growth

1. Introduction

As the world faces unprecedented challenges and opportunities, India has presented a bold vision for its future- Viksit Bharat @2047. This initiative aims to reshape India's developmental path by the centenary of its independence, positioning the nation as a global leader in sustainable and inclusive growth. Key milestones include achieving a \$30 trillion GDP, ensuring universal access to permanent housing and piped water, empowering female farmers with advanced technologies such as drones, expanding affordable healthcare through Jan Aushadhi Kendras and implementing policies prioritising sustainability and equity. These objectives reflect India's aspirations and its commitment to the global community.

India's development journey is intricately tied to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Meena (2023) observes that India's commitment to sustainable development predates the formal adoption of the SDGs, highlighting the nation's proactive approach (p. 173). With over 1.4 billion people, India's progress significantly influences the achievement of these global objectives.

SDG 2030 is a foundational element of India's roadmap to Viksit Bharat@2047, seamlessly integrating national priorities with global sustainability objectives. Prime Minister Modi's statement at the ET World Leaders Forum - "*A strong Bharat can drive substantial development for all of humanity*" - captures this alignment (Modi, 2024). India's development model, which combines traditional wisdom with technological innovation, is exemplified through initiatives like organic farming, the Digital Agriculture Mission and the promotion of sustainable practices such as millet cultivation. Additionally, the development of over 2,000



climate-resilient crop varieties underscores India's commitment to food security and environmental sustainability (Seli, 2024).

Sharma and Varshney (2023) caution that traditional North-South cooperation models are insufficient for achieving the SDGs, emphasising the need for innovative, localised strategies (p. 201). India could be pivotal in connecting the Global North and the Global South. At the Summit of the Future, which took place during the 79th UN General Assembly, Modi underscored India's accomplishments in sustainable development and offered to share its insights with countries in the Global South (ET Online, 2024). This commitment in itself reflects India's evolving role in a dynamic global order, emphasizing leadership, collaboration and shared responsibility.

This chapter emphasises the crucial intersection between India's developmental goals and global sustainability efforts. It offers insights into the nation's strategies, achievements and challenges. The chapter provides a comprehensive overview of how India aims to align its long-term vision with urgent global issues, highlighting the paths it is creating to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities in a rapidly changing world. By integrating an understanding of both domestic and international contexts, the discussion illustrates India's potential for transformation as a national powerhouse and a global leader in sustainable development. But first of all, to start with it is important what are these SDGs and how they can transform the world we live in.

2. Why Global Goals Matter

SDGs, often referred to as the Global Goals, were created by the UN in 2015 as an all-encompassing effort to eliminate poverty, safeguard the Earth and guarantee that by 2030, every individual enjoys prosperity and peace (UNDP, n.d.). This program centres on 17 SDGs, which serve as a pressing call to action for all nations, both developed and developing, to collaborate. These 17 goals are linked, recognizing that actions taken in one area can greatly affect results in others. This connection accentuates the necessity of balancing economic, societal and environmental sustainability in the quest for development.



The progress towards sustainable development did not happen overnight; it resulted from long and dedicated efforts that eventually led to the SDGs. Key milestones in this journey include the following (UN, n.d.):

- The Earth Summit (1992), Rio de Janeiro, marked a turning point by endorsing Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan for sustainable development.
- In 2000, the Millennium Summit set the stage for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), aiming to address global challenges.
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in South Africa in 2002 and reinforced global commitments to protecting the environment and reducing poverty.
- A decade later, the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) paved the way for the creation of the SDGs.
- By 2013, the UNGA had formed a 30-member Open Working Group tasked with drafting a suggestion for the SDGs.

The year 2015 was particularly pivotal in advancing international efforts toward sustainability. This year saw the adoption of several groundbreaking agreements:

- In March, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was launched to enhance resilience against natural disasters.
- July witnessed the introduction of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which outlined strategies for financing sustainable development.
- September brought the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 SDGs, during a landmark session in New York.
- Finally, December culminated in the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a historic commitment to combat global warming.



These events demonstrated a commitment to sustainable development on a global scale. Now let's look at what these SDGs are.

Table 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL	SDG THEME	CORE FOCUS
1	End Poverty Everywhere	Eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring economic security for all individuals.
2	Hunger-Free World	Promoting sustainable agriculture and ending hunger for communities worldwide.
3	Health and Well-being for All	Providing access to quality healthcare and promoting healthy lives for all.
4	Inclusive and Quality Education	Ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for everyone, everywhere.
5	Empower Gender Equality	Advancing equal opportunities and rights for women and girls globally.
6	Safe Water and Sanitation	Guaranteeing clean water and adequate sanitation to support public health.
7	Clean and Accessible Energy	Expanding sustainable energy sources and technologies for everyone.
8	Fair Work and Economic Progress	Fostering productive employment and inclusive economic development.
9	Build Innovation and Infrastructure	Encouraging resilient infrastructure and innovative industries.



10	Equity and Fairness for All	Reducing disparities among and within nations for a more just world.
11	Sustainable Urban Living	Designing cities that are resilient, inclusive, and environmentally friendly.
12	Responsible Consumption	Promoting efficient use of resources and sustainable production patterns.
13	Urgent Climate Action	Addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation efforts.
14	Protecting Marine Life	Safeguarding oceans, seas, and marine ecosystems for sustainable use.
15	Conserving Life on Land	Preserving biodiversity, forests, and terrestrial ecosystems.
16	Fostering Peace and Justice	Building strong institutions to ensure justice and prevent conflict.
17	Global Partnerships for Progress	Strengthening international cooperation to achieve the SDGs collectively.

Note. From "THE 17 GOALS / Sustainable Development," by United Nations, n.d. Copyright 2024 by United Nations.

3. India's Progress Toward SDG 2030

India has made remarkable progress toward achieving the SDGs for 2030. According to the latest SDG India Index, the country's overall score improved from 66 in 2020-21 to 71 out of 100 in 2023-24. Similarly, the scores for individual States and Union Territories now range from 57 to 79, reflecting notable growth compared to the earlier range of 42 to 69 in 2018. Significant strides have been made in key areas such as SDG 1, SDG 8, SDG 13 and SDG 15. Of these, SDG 13 showed the most significant progress, with its score rising from 54 in 2020-



21 to 67 in 2023-24. Despite these achievements, challenges persist in addressing issues like SDG 2 and SDG 5 (UN India, 2024).

India possesses a significant advantage with its vast and largely untapped renewable energy potential. This renewable energy is not only helpful for India but will indirectly impact the whole region. India's potential for solar energy is estimated to be over ten thousand GW, while its wind energy potential could exceed two thousand GW (NITI Aayog, 2015, p. 11). India has made decent progress and we can analyse them through some case studies. As stated by the UN itself all the 17 Goals are interconnected. For simplification, we analyse the achievements India has made towards SDG Goals through three fundamental indicators.

3.1 Renewable Energy

For decades, India's electricity demand has led to extensive use of conventional power sources. With the commercialisation of solar, wind, and other renewable energy resources, policymakers now have more options to consider for a forthcoming energy infrastructure that promotes economic development (NITI Aayog, 2015, p. 4). The Indian progress can be divided into two parts before and since then. The installed renewable energy capacity excluding large hydropower is shown in Table 2 (Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy, 2024).

Table 2: Installed Renewable Energy Capacity (MW)

Sector	Accomplishments (as of 31.03.2014) (in MW)	Accomplishments (as of 30.11.2024) (in MW)
<i>Wind Energy</i>	21042.58	47959.13
<i>Solar Energy</i>	2821.91	94167.83
<i>Small Hydro Energy</i>	3803.68	5084.25
<i>Biomass Cogeneration (Bagasse)</i>	7419.23	9806.42



<i>Biomass Cogeneration (Non-Bagasse)</i>	531.82	921.79
<i>Waste-to-Power</i>	90.58	249.74
<i>Waste-to-Energy (Off-grid)</i>	139.79	363.25
Total	35849.59	158552.41

Note. Adapted from “Year wise Achievements,” by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, 2024, Government of India. <https://mnre.gov.in/en/year-wise-achievement/>. Copyright by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

The renewable energy sector in India has seen significant growth between 2014 and 2024, with an overall improvement of 342.27%. Solar power experienced the most remarkable surge, increasing by an astounding 3237.02%, reflecting its pivotal role in India’s renewable energy expansion. Wind power also saw a significant increase of 127.91%, maintaining its position as a key contributor. Waste-to-power and waste-to-energy off-grid systems grew impressively by 175.71% and 159.85%, respectively, showcasing advancements in energy recovery from waste. Smaller but more notable improvements were seen in small hydropower (33.67%) and biomass cogeneration from bagasse (32.18%) and non-bagasse sources (73.33%), indicating steady progress across diverse renewable sectors.

In November 2024, India achieved a notable achievement in its renewable energy progression by surpassing a total capacity of 200 GW. This growth aligns with India’s bold goal of reaching 500 GW from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. As reported by the Central Power Authority, the country’s total renewable energy generation capacity reached 203.18 GW in 2024, representing a 13.5% increase from October 2023. Additionally, India’s capacity for non-fossil fuels increased to 211.36 GW in 2024, which includes contributions from nuclear energy (PIB Delhi, 2024).



3.2 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty is a big issue in India. Due to the large population and developing economy, poverty is hard to solve easily in the subcontinent. According to the 2023 National Indicator Framework Progress Report, the percentage of individuals living under the national poverty threshold in India was 21.92% in 2011-12 (Government of India, 2023). Based on this percentage and the population data from that period, it is estimated that approximately 270 million people were living in poverty in India during that timeframe.

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) research indicates that around 415 million individuals in India ascended from poverty between 2005 and 2021. The occurrence of poverty has diminished from 55% (645 million individuals) in 2005-06 to 16% (230 million individuals) in 2019-21 (Pandit, 2023). Substantial decreases were observed in multiple deprivation indices, including nutrition, child mortality, access to cooking fuel, sanitation, potable water, power and housing. In 2024, around 12.9 crores of individuals in India are surviving on less than \$2.15 (approximately Rs 181) each day, which places them in extreme poverty. This figure marks a decrease from 431 million in 1990, according to a report by the World Bank (Rajora, 2024).

Between 2020-21 (Index 3) and 2023-24 (Index 4), Goal 1 (No Poverty) showed significant progress, improving by 12 points and transitioning from the Performer group to the Front Runner group. Multidimensional poverty declined from 24.8% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21, with a further estimated reduction to 11.28% by 2022-23. Over the period from 2013-14 to 2022-23, approximately 24.8 crore individuals were lifted out of multidimensional poverty. In 2023-24, 99.7% of individuals who applied for work through MGNREGA were provided employment. Additionally, according to NFHS-5 (2019-21), 95.4% of households live in pucca or semi-pucca structures, while 41% of families had at least one individual included in a health insurance policy or program, up from 28.7% as reported in NFHS-4 (2015-16) (NITI Aayog, 2024).



During the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2023, UNGA President Dennis Francis highlighted India's substantial achievements in poverty alleviation and their global implications. He emphasised that India's focus on uplifting millions of people out of poverty, driven by initiatives like digitalisation and inclusive development, has a ripple effect on the global stage due to the sheer scale of its population (Singh, 2024; ANI, 2024b). Over the years, the Indian government has worked towards reducing poverty and the social protection initiatives have helped the cause.

3.3 Health

India has seen notable advancements in its healthcare industry throughout the years. Programs such as Ayushman Bharat aspire to extend health insurance to more than 500 million individuals, tackling Sustainable Development Goal 3. Life expectancy in India has increased from approximately 32 years in 1947, 63.2 years in 2000 to 70.62 years in 2024 (Panda, 2022; WHO, n.d.; MacroTrends, n.d.). This improvement can be attributed to better healthcare services, medical treatment advancements and living conditions. Since the 2015 goals life expectancy in India has increased which is shown in Table 3 (MacroTrends, n.d.).

Table 3: India's Life Expectancy from 2015-2024

<i>Year</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
<i>Life Expectancy</i>	68.37	68.67	68.97	69.27	69.50	69.73	69.96	70.19	70.42	70.62

Note. Adapted from "India Life Expectancy 1950-2025", MacroTrends, n.d., <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/IND/india/life-expectancy>. Copyright by 2010-2025 Macrotrends LLC.

Over the 10 years, life expectancy in India increased by 2.25 years, which is a notable achievement. This overall improvement underscores the positive impact of enhanced healthcare infrastructure, better nutrition, widespread immunisation, and successful public health policies. There has also been a notable reduction in maternal and child mortality rates.



The infant mortality rate which was 37 in 2015 has reduced to 26 in 2022 (UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, n.d.). The reduction in infant mortality rate is a positive sign of progress towards better health outcomes for infants in India.

India has initiated multiple national programs to address communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS. Certain approaches have facilitated the management and diminution of the prevalence of certain disorders. The Indian government has invested heavily in healthcare infrastructure. India has achieved considerable advancements in healthcare via multiple efforts. As of September 2024, the Ayushman Bharat scheme has extended health coverage to more than 550 million individuals from 120 million impoverished and disadvantaged families (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2024). The National Health Mission has constructed 200,000 Health and Wellness Centres, markedly enhancing healthcare accessibility, particularly in rural regions (IDI, 2023). The Digital India programs, like as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, have generated over 568 million Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers, hence improving healthcare accessibility and efficiency (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, 2024).

The healthcare sector has experienced a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22% since 2016, directly employing 4.7 million individuals. The sector might provide an additional 2.7 million employment from 2017 to 2022 (Sarwal et al., 2021, p. III). The Indian hospital sector was estimated at \$98.98 billion in 2023 and is anticipated to keep expanding, with an anticipated CAGR of 8.0 percent from 2024 to 2032. By 2032, the marketplace is expected to reach a value of \$193.59 billion. Moreover, the telemedicine sector is predicted to attain USD 5.4 billion by 2025, reflecting a remarkable CAGR of 31 percent. Moreover, applications of artificial intelligence in healthcare are expected to expand at an extraordinary yearly pace of 45 percent by 2024, signifying a substantial move on the road to technologically enabled medical services (ANI, 2024a).



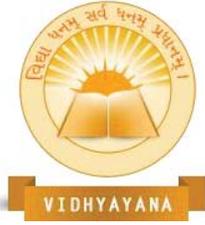
4. India's Role in a Changing Global Order

India has emerged as a regional or to say a global player and source of inspiration through its strategic initiatives and contributions across various sectors. India has significantly influenced and committed to the SDGs, connecting them with national development aims. India has incorporated them into its national policy framework, emphasising five principal domains: People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (P. Kumar et al., 2021, p. 33). The government has instituted multiple initiatives and development projects to attain SDG targets. India's international trade and investment policies have significant implications for SDG attainment, affecting financial growth, environmental sustainability, and social development.

As for Goal 3, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, India has shown its dedication to global health by distributing vaccinations to about 100 nations via the Vaccine Maitri program and engaging in multilateral efforts such as the COVAX facility. As of June 15th, 2023, India has supplied 301.2465 million COVID-19 vaccines around the world (Ministry of External Affairs, 2023). Additionally, schemes like Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) have provided affordable healthcare to over 30 crore beneficiaries, inspiring nations to prioritize universal health coverage.

New Delhi has leveraged diplomatic forums like the G20 and climate change discussions, including the Conference of the Parties, to promote a progress outline tailored to emerging economies, emphasising global health challenges such as climate resilience and pandemic alertness. Roul (2024) claims that this approach aligns with India's enduring support for other developing nations.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has effectively delivered tap water connections to more than 14.9 crore households, whereas the Swachh Bharat Mission has built over 11 crores of toilets in rural areas. Together, these programs have significantly improved sanitation and water access on an unprecedented scale. They serve as benchmarks for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 and have inspired similar initiatives in other countries. Furthermore, initiatives like the Skill India Mission and PM Mudra Yojana have empowered millions of workers and entrepreneurs. By creating opportunities for youth and promoting financial inclusion, these programs have



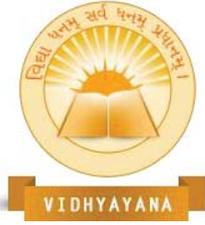
become models for economic expansion and satisfactory employment globally, aligning with SDG 8.

India's leadership in global climate initiatives, including its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and its active participation in COP26, demonstrates its dedication to SDG 13. The International Solar Alliance further illustrates India's capability to inspire global adoption of renewable energy. Additionally, India's democratic processes, marked by high levels of electoral participation, highlight its strong institutions and commitment to inclusive governance. This serves as a model for other nations striving to build transparent and accountable systems, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 16.

- **South-South Cooperation:**

India has been a crucial leader in South-South Cooperation, aggressively collaborating with other developing nations to attain the SDGs. India has demonstrated its commitment to shared progress and sustainable growth in the Global South through various initiatives. Through its diplomatic efforts like Act East, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Neighbours First, the India-Africa Partnership and the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS), Sharma and Varshney (2023) opined that India aims to maintain positive relations with neighbouring countries and seeks to engage actively in South-South Cooperation by offering technical and financial assistance tailored to the specific needs and priorities of other nations (p. 201). B. Singh et al. (2024) thus rightly state India's strategy towards the Global South illustrates its growing status as a key figure in global diplomacy.

Established in 2017, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund demonstrates India's dedication to South-South Cooperation. The fund supports projects related to all 17 SDGs in developing nations, particularly focusing on emerging nations and fragile island states. As of 2024, the fund has endorsed 84 projects in 62 nations, with a pledge of \$150 million over the forthcoming years (UNOSSC, 2024, p. 9).



Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the annual finance deficit for the Sustainable Development Goals in underdeveloped nations was estimated at US\$ 2.5 trillion. According to UN projections, this deficit has increased to US\$ 4.2 trillion yearly following the pandemic. Bhowmick (2024) suggests that India might promote Sustainable Development Bond Guarantees globally through the G20 group, facilitating international development banks to offer credit guarantees for SDG-oriented projects in developing nations. India's leadership can act as a bridge between developed and developing nations, emphasizing equitable growth. India's trade with African nations was US\$ 4.45 billion in 2000-2001, reached US\$ 51.67 billion in 2010-2011 and stood at US\$ 97.84 billion in 2022-2023 (Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), 2023, pp. 8–10). This trend emphasizes its commitment to SDG 17 (Partnerships). India's leadership can act as a bridge between developed and developing nations, emphasizing equitable growth.

- **Digital India Campaign:**

The Digital India Campaign, initiated in 2015 by PM Modi, seeks to convert India into a digitally enabled society and knowledge. The initiative emphasises three fundamental elements: establishing secure digital frameworks, delivering government services through the Internet, and promoting widespread digital literacy (Narsimulu, 2024, p. 20; Kapur, 2019, p. 159). Given that over 70% of India's population lives in rural regions, the initiative intends to bridge the digital gap by providing high-speed internet access to these communities.

By April 2024, 95.15% of towns are connected to the internet via 3G/4G mobile services. The count of internet subscribers rose from 25.16 crores in March 2014 to 95.44 crores in March 2024 (Ministry of Communications, 2024). The nation attained a digital payments adoption rate of 87%, exceeding the international average of 64%, so ranking India third worldwide in digital payment utilisation, behind the U.S. and China (Bokhari, 2023).

In October 2024, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) reached a significant milestone with 16.58 billion transactions recorded in a single month (Ministry of Finance, 2024). Introduced in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI has transformed the payment landscape in India by integrating various bank accounts into one mobile application



for seamless monetary transfers, commercial transactions and person-to-person payments. It is currently operational in seven nations, namely Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, UAE, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and France.

The Digital India campaign has garnered global recognition, with leaders and tech giants like Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, and Elon Musk supporting the initiative. India's success in digital transformation has inspired other countries to adopt similar models, promoting global digital inclusion.

5. Present State

India has made significant progress across various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as discussed earlier in detail, in the SDG India Index 2023-24 (NITI Aayog, 2024). Indian government's efforts have paid off over the years and significant developments have been made. To have a brief overview of the developments as of 2024.

- Under Goal 1 (No Poverty), the score improved from 60 to 72 between 2020-21 and 2023-24, with multidimensional poverty declining from 24.8% in 2015-16 to an estimated 11.28% by 2022-23, lifting 24.8 crore individuals out of poverty. Nearly 99.7% of MGNREGA applicants were provided work during 2023-24.
- For Goal 3, health insurance coverage rose to 41% in 2019-21, and over 30 crore people benefited from the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- Clean water and sanitation efforts under Goal 6 extended tap water connections to 14.9 crore households and established over 11 crore rural toilets.
- Under Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 10 crore LPG connections were distributed, and solar power capacity surged to 73.32 GW.
- Progress in Goal 8 is notable with 43 crore loans sanctioned under PM Mudra Yojana and over 1.4 crore youth trained under Skill India.
- Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) saw 95.4% of households living in durable homes.
- Goal 13 (Climate Action) recorded the most significant improvement, with the score increasing to 67 due to advancements in renewable energy.



Collectively, these achievements reflect India's strategic initiatives in driving sustainable and inclusive development.

5.1 Challenges Hindering SDG Progress in India

There have been many improvements in the basic level of the society in India. But if we compare it to the Western i.e. developed standards, more focused efforts are further required at every level. For instance, Kumar (2023, p. 2) identifies numerous challenges confronting India's health sector, issues like insufficient infrastructure, a lack of healthcare specialists, disparities between urban and rural areas, high out-of-pocket costs, limited public healthcare capital, a disjointed healthcare system and the growing burden of both non-communicable and communicable diseases. These problems highlight the necessity for ongoing investment and policy reforms to enhance India's healthcare industry. India encounters financial limitations in executing the SDG objectives, with an anticipated deficit of ₹533 lakh crores over 15 years (Meena, 2023, p. 175).

Mishra (2020) claims that the Indian government has not yet delineated a strategy for mobilising cash on such a massive scale. Furthermore, structural deficiencies exist in India's calamity management framework and the principal law (p. 60). He further highlighted that climate change poses a major threat, with India ranking sixth most vulnerable to its impacts (p. 73).

Wealth inequality is another significant issue in India. India's top 1% of the population holds control over 40% of the nation's total wealth (Bharti et al., 2024). India also faces Water Scarcity, impacting SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). India comprises approximately 17% of the global population yet possesses merely 4% of the world's freshwater resources (Dhawan, 2017, p. 3). Access to potable water is a significant issue. NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index research indicates that 75% of households in India do not have access to safe drinking water.



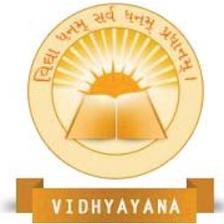
5.2 Strategies for Future

Now the question arises: what can be done to overcome these challenges? First of all, this is not just a national endeavour; it is essential to strengthen alliances to enhance access to green technologies and pioneering funding models for the implementation of the SDGs. India can leverage innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds, climate funds and sustainable development bonds to address its financing gap for achieving the SDGs. As the second-largest provider of green bonds in emerging markets, India has already demonstrated its potential in this area. Expanding these initiatives can mobilize substantial resources for clean energy projects and sustainable infrastructure development, thereby accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) offer a robust framework for enhancing sustainable projects by combining private-sector innovation with public-sector resources and regulatory oversight. These partnerships facilitate improved project efficiency, access to diverse funding sources, and risk-sharing mechanisms, while also delivering high-quality public services. The collaboration between public and private entities can significantly advance sustainable infrastructure, promoting inclusive and equitable growth.

To combat the growing risks of climate change, India must prioritize disaster preparedness and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure. Programs such as the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC) have shown encouraging results but require scaling up to cover broader geographical areas and diverse communities. Strengthening such initiatives can mitigate the adverse impacts of climate-related disasters and safeguard vulnerable populations.

Social equity programs should focus on bridging income inequalities and promoting gender parity in economic participation. Initiatives like PM Mudra Yojana and Skill India have empowered women entrepreneurs and provided opportunities for skill enhancement, contributing to the economic empowerment of marginalized groups. However, these programs need broader implementation and sustained policy support to maximize their impact and reach.



India's large youth population presents a unique opportunity to drive sustainable development through a comprehensive approach. By improving skill development programs in emerging sectors such as environmentally friendly power and sustainable agriculture, and by incorporating sustainability into educational curricula, India can equip its youth with the knowledge necessary for innovation. Additionally, leveraging digital platforms for awareness campaigns and gamifying sustainability education can further engage young people, making environmental responsibility both interactive and accessible.

6. Conclusion

India's journey toward Viksit Bharat@2047, intertwined with the global SDG framework, is a testament to its ambitious vision and strategic initiatives. Despite significant progress in areas like renewable energy, poverty alleviation and healthcare, challenges such as wealth inequality, urbanization pressures and climate vulnerability persist. Addressing these requires innovative policies, robust public-private partnerships and enhanced global collaboration. To achieve its aspirations, India must integrate SDG milestones into national planning, leverage its demographic dividend and invest in sustainable technologies. Strengthening local governance, fostering public awareness and aligning development policies with global goals will be critical. India's path forward holds immense potential not just for its development but as a blueprint for other nations striving for sustainability. As Prime Minister Modi aptly stated, a strong and prosperous Bharat can drive global progress. By staying committed to this vision, India can lead the world toward a future defined by equity, sustainability and shared prosperity. India's journey toward 2030 and beyond represents not only a significant national effort but also a critical global responsibility.



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