From Global Commitments to Local Action: Governance Pathways for Achieving the SDGs

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ABSTRACT

According to Aristotle " The state is existed to provide minimum basic needs and it is continued to be for better life for each individual" as the statement, every sovereign state tries to use its full strength to develop its country by using all its natural resources. In the second half of the 20th Century, the world countries have entered in the process of globalization which encourages each country to gain maximun share for their productive goods. It was a disaster for the environment because of industrialization of all the world countries which caused greater pollution to the all natural resources like, land, Air and Water. Environment Pollution of the world has alarmed the future fate of the world.

In this regard, all the world countries under the UN General Assembly has met and resolved to implement 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and the aim of the UNGA might be fullfiled by 2030.The goals build on the vital principle of "leaving no one behind", and emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

As signed country, India has been trying to fulfill its commitments through various schemes for the target groups and schemes should be implemented through e-governance. In my full paper, I would mention the various schemes and the nature of its implementation by the Indian government and I also analyze various governance pathway for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Environment, Governance, Industrialization, Globalization

Introduction

According to Aristotle "The state is existed to provide minimum basic needs and it is continued to be for better life for each individual" State and Individual are interdependent on each other in the process of modernizing the world. The emergence of Democracy and Capitalism in the early modern age in Europe had facilitated greater bond between the State and Individual. The Glorious Revolution in England (1688) brought great relief to the people who had been struggling since ancient times to challenge the tyrannical power of kings. The revolution has disposed James II and he was replaced by his daughter Mary II and her husband William of III orange by accepting primacy of Parliament over the British crown.

In the 17th century in England, in additon to the glorious revolution, there were many constitutional acts have been provided to form democratic form of government and individual liberties to the people. The new democratic governments in England has taken several intiations to devolop the country with upcoming industrial revolution by motivating the people to invest their capital. The economy of England has been transformed from men made to meshine made with the invention of new technologies as part of Industrial revolution. The sudden change in the production of goods has opened new avenues in the supply -demand chain of the european markets such as growing Urbanization, established labour intensity industries, huge employement opportunities for the middle class, availbility of variety of goods, etc. England called as a world workshop as soon as it became democratic and capitalist country.

In the 18th and 19th centurey, the other european nations had inline with the development along with the england created surplus production which would not have the market in the europe. In search of new markets, the european countries have established colonies in the long distance from their homeland in asia and african contenents. The europen countries fought each other for new colonies for selling their goods as well as to get raw materials for the industries back in the home. The competetion between european countries for the colonies in asia and africa is called imperialism from the half of the 19th centurey and in the 20th century. The european countries have looted the human and natural resurses in large scale from Asia and African countries and these resurses made european countries affluent. The prosporty of European countries through the industrial revolution led to the heavy environment pollution. The environment pollution because of the industrial revolution is the first phase in the history of world environment polution.

The second phase of world environment polution is because of globalization process which was immediately started after the second world war by the USA with the establishment of World Bank (IBRD) and IMF for providing credit to reconstruct their economies which were devasted by the Second W.W.II. Especially, the european countries had utilized the loans offered by the World Bank and IMF and it is very essential for USA to contain the expansion of communist idealogy in the europe. Most of the third world countries like, China, India have also eneted in the globalization process for development of their countries. These third world states had focused on the economic development of the country which was the solution for all the problems facing in their societies. The concept of development has associated with the globalization process in which evey country has opened their economies for the foreign invenstment and goods.

In this process of Globalization, every nation, with the intention of benefiting, is cutting down forests to set up large industries in their respective countries, and encouraging rapid urbanization resulting in air, water and soil polution from isdustries and vehicles. In the second half of the 20th century especially in the 1970's, the environment pollution has alarmed in a greater impact that idicated that the ozone layer is depleting in the poles. To address the problem all the world countries under the leadership of UNO met in the stockholm (Swedon) and expressed the need of awarness about environment and sustainable development. Since then there were series of summits and protocols to reduce the environment pollution

at the level of pre industrialzation period. But all the countries are failed to implement the agreed goals under the different protocols and they committed for the development of their nations.

Global commitments to implement sustainable development goals:

Finally, the world countries have realised that the environment pollution is adversely impacting the economic growth of all the countries by ever growing temperature on the earth causing melting of icebergs, rising sea level, low productivity of food grains etc. in this situation, 193 UN Member countries have come together and adopted **17 global goals** in **2015** under the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by **2030**. In which there were three types of goals mainly social, economic and environmental. The document mainly focussed that the economic and social development of the nations is depended on the global ecological system so, that the nations economic and social activities should be inline with the sustainable development as per the SDGs.

Table:1 – Categorization of SDG's

S. No	Social Goals	Economic Goals	Environmental Goals
1	No Poverty	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Clean Water and Sanitation
2	No Hunger	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Affordable and Clean Energy
3	Good Health and Well being	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Climate Action
4	Quality Education	Responsible Consumption and Production	Life below Water
6	Gender Equality	Partnership for the Goals	Life on Land
7	Reduced Inequalities	-	-
8	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	-	-

India as a one of the member country of UN and signatory on the SDG's has strongly decided to implement and achieve the goals before 2030. For this, the responsibility of the implementation is laid on NITI Ayog which is planning and executing the SDGs through its policies. India is ranked 99th among countries on the 2025 SDG Index, marking its first entry into the top 100 nations on SDG performance. India's score is 67 on a scale where 100 means full achievement of all 17 goals. This rank shows progress compared to earlier years (e.g., India was 109th in 2024).

The Government of Inda has adopted a holistic, multi-level governance farmwork to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 heavily anchored by NITI Aayog as the nodal institution.

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This approach integrates the global 2030 Agenda with national, stat, and local policies, driven by the principles of cooperative and competitive federalism.

Key Governance Pathways.

Institutional Framework & Mapping; NITI Aayog leads the implementation by mapping 17 SDGs and 169 targets to various central ministries, flagship schemes, and state-level initiatives.

Monitoring and evaluation (The 'SDG india Index"): MoSP (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) has developed the National Indicator Framework (NIF) to track progress The NITI Aayog's SDG India Index and Dashboard ranks states and union territories (UTs), fostering a competitive, data-driven approach to progress.

Localisation of SDGs; The government actively pushes for the adoption of SDGs at the sub-national level, including district and Local Self Government (LSG) bodies, ensuring grassroots participation.

Digital Governance & Service Delivery: The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) serves as a core mechanism for delivering social services directly, enhancing financial inclusion and efficiency.

"Whole-of – Government" Approach: Flagship programs like Swachh Bharat Mission (sanitation), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (education/gender) and Ayushman Bharat (health ar systematically aligned with SGD targets.

Policy Integration & Finance: The integration of sustainability into national planning (e.g Viksit Bharat @ 2047) is supported by sustainable finance mechanisms like sovereign green bonds.

Key Focus Areas and Flagship Schemes

Poverty & Social Protection: The government of India has introduced many of the programmes which has been eliminating the poverty by implementing all the flagships programs. The programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (financial inclusion) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY- Housing programme) Social welfare schemes. To make India hunger free, the Government of India has enacted National Food Security bill through Parliament in 2013 and implemented many programmes such as PM-POSHAN, Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission), Annapurna Schemes, Shree Anna and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyana Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) through Public Distribution System.

Health & Nutrition: To make ensure healthy lives and promote will-being for all at all ages SDG -3, the government has brought National Health Policy in 2017 under which many schemes like Ayushman Bharath Programme (PMJAY – Insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs per family) Mission Indradhanush (Universal Immunisation Programme), National Mental Health Programme, National Tobacco Control Programme and National AIDS control programme. Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrition) Programme is also attached to the health schemes.

Clean Energy & Environment: National Solar Mission, FAME India (electric vehicles) and National Green Hydrogen Mission. NITI Aayog has prepared proposals for enhancing the economy of End-life-Vehicles management, waste tyres and e-waste mechanisms

Urban & Infrastructure: Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Gati Shakti.

Behavioural Change: The LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign, which promotes sustainable habits at the individual and community level.

Conclusion

Translating global commitments on the Sustainable Development Goals into meaningful local action depends largely on effective governance. While international frameworks provide vision and direction, their success lies in national and local implementation through inclusive institutions, decentralized planning, policy coherence, and strong monitoring mechanisms. Participatory governance, inter-governmental coordination, and partnerships with civil society and the private sector are essential to ensure that development is people-centric and sustainable. Ultimately, achieving the SDGs requires aligning global goals with local realities, ensuring that no one is left behind.

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