

1. INTRODUCTION & UN FRAMEWORK

Adopted by UN Member States in 2015, the 2030 Agenda provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity. India actively aligns its national policies with the SDGs through institutional mechanisms like NITI Aayog and international cooperation frameworks.

NITI Aayog hosted the 4th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the Government of India-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI-UNSDCF) 2023-27.

Co-chaired by Shri Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, and Mr. Stefan Priesner, UN Resident Coordinator for India, the meeting brought together Members, CEO and senior officials of NITI Aayog; representatives of Union Ministries, and Heads of UN Agencies in India.

The agenda of the meeting was to review progress under the current framework and deliberate on the key priorities for the 2028-32 Cooperation Framework.

Emphasis was placed on strategies supporting Viksit Bharat@2047, stronger coordination between Central Ministries and States, and effective on-ground service delivery.

1. INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership.

Prelims Focus:

- **Origin:** Adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York (September 2015), succeeding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2015 timeframe).
- **Scope:** 17 Goals, 169 Targets, and roughly 231 unique indicators. Target achievement window: 2015 to 2030.
- **Nodal Body in India:** **NTI Aayog** is tasked with coordinating the Sustainable Development Goals nationally, mapping targets to central ministries and states.

2. MAINS EXAMINATION INTEGRATION

(Governance & International Relations), they offer benchmarks for human development, welfare schemes, and global commitments.

(Economic Development, Environment & Security), they guide sustainable growth models, climate action, and resource management.

(Ethics), they anchor discussions on distributive justice, intergenerational equity, and global ethics.

3. INDIA'S INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE & SDG INDIA INDEX

India follows a model of cooperative and competitive federalism to achieve the SDGs. NITI Aayog regularly publishes the **SDG India Index & Dashboard**, tracking progress across all states and union territories. States are categorized based on their composite score:

Category	Score Range	Performance Description
Aspirant	0 – 49	Initial stages of policy alignment and baseline creation.
Performer	50 – 64	Steady progress across core welfare and infrastructure sectors.
Front-Runner	65 – 99	Advanced implementation, high social sector indicators.
Achiever	100	Target achieved across measured metrics.

4. FLAGSHIP SCHEMES MAPPED TO KEY SDGS

Aspirants must interlink national welfare schemes with specific SDG targets to enrich Mains answers:

- **SDG 1 & 8 (No Poverty & Decent Work):** MGNREGA, PM-KISAN, and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (NRLM).
- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** National Food Security Act (NFSA), PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal scheme), and Poshan Abhiyaan.
- **SDG 3 (Good Health):** Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY), National Health Mission (NHM), and Mission Indradhanush.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation):** Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal) and Swachh Bharat Mission.
- **SDG 7 (Clean Energy):** PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access) and PM-KUSUM (Solar energy).

5. MASTER REFERENCE: THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

#	Goal Title	Core Objective & UPSC Relevance
1	No Poverty	End poverty in all forms; focus on social protection floors.
2	Zero Hunger	End hunger, ensure food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3	Good Health	Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all ages (Universal Health Coverage).
4	Quality Education	Inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning (NEP 2020 alignment).
5	Gender Equality	Empower all women and girls; eliminate discrimination and gender violence.
6	Clean Water	Sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Jal Jeevan Mission).
7	Clean Energy	Affordable, reliable, and modern energy access (Renewable Energy targets).
8	Decent Work	Sustained, inclusive economic growth and productive employment.
9	Industry & Innovation	Resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, and fostering R&D.
10	Reduced Inequalities	Reduce inequality within and among countries (fiscal and social policies).
11	Sustainable Cities	Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (Smart Cities mission).
12	Responsible Consumption	Sustainable consumption and production patterns (Circular economy).
13	Climate Action	Urgent action to combat climate change (NDCs under Paris Agreement).
14	Life Below Water	Conserve oceans, seas, and marine resources (Blue Economy focus).
15	Life on Land	Protect terrestrial ecosystems, halt deforestation and biodiversity loss.
16	Peace & Institutions	Promote peaceful societies, rule of law, and accountable institutions.
17	Partnerships	Revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development and resource mobilization.