

Q → G.O.I must work on addressing various issues to fulfil the intentions behind SDGs. Analyse

A → The Brundtland Commission defines Sustainable development as the "development of present generation for their needs should not compromise development of future generation for their needs".

Recent improvement in NITI Aayog's SDG Index from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2021 showcases our commitment to fulfil these goals.

Government efforts

- Localising SDGs to foster competitive spirit among states & UTs as well as enhance "cooperative federalism"
- Hunger or SDG-2 ⇒ National Food Security Act, 2013 as well as PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ~~was~~ is implemented & covers around 800 Million people

• Clean Energy

↳ PM-UJJWALA Yojana - Distributed LPG to 9 cr families & increased LPG cover from 55% in 2014 to 99.5% in 2021.

↳ PM-SAUBHAGYA scheme - Rural electrification

↳ National Solar Mission to achieve 100 GW of energy from solar by 2022.

Issues

• Regional disparities

↳ Majorly western & southern state showed significant improvement for eg- Kerala, Himanchal Pradesh ranked top, while Eastern & North-central states lagged behind, as Bihar remained the worst performer

• Strained federal structure as the union government has launched many centrally sponsored scheme which take up around 80% of state's revenue thus decreasing their financial ability to achieve SDGs.

• Rising Poverty & Mass unemployment

↳ Pandemic has forced millions into poverty as well as unemployment levels have been at 10-year high

well-recognised.

- Removal of Gini coefficient, Palma ratio to measure inequality will not ~~address~~^{show} the real picture of rising economic inequality propelled by the pandemic.

Way forward

- Innovative measures such as Sustainable Investment criteria, Eco-tax can be introduced to boost finances.
- ^{Public} Investment in health should be increased from 1% to 2-5% of GDP as mentioned in National Health Mission
- MGNREGA - like scheme should be implemented in urban areas as well to tackle mass unemployment & reap benefits of Demographic dividend
- Include Gini-coefficient in the assessment methodology.

While the better score for India will bring some cheer, government must work on addressing pressing issues such as increased inequality & economic despair.