

# India's Progress in Sustainable Development Goals: Achievements and Challenges

India has entered the top 100 countries in the Sustainable Development Report for the first time since the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) began publishing this data in 2016. This presentation examines India's journey, highlighting key achievements and areas requiring attention as the nation continues its sustainable development path.

 by OJAANK IAS



# India's SDG Ranking: A Steady Climb

India has made significant progress in the Sustainable Development Report rankings:

- Ranked 110th out of 157 countries in 2016
- Climbed to 99th position in 2024 out of 167 nations
- Achieved an 11-point improvement over eight years

This improvement reflects better metrics and more granular comparisons, but there's still significant work ahead to address remaining gaps.



# Poverty Reduction: Notable Progress

**22%****Poverty Rate  
2012****Based on NSSO  
data****12%****Poverty Rate  
2023****World Bank  
estimate****₹33****Rural Poverty  
Line****Per day  
(Rangarajan line)****₹47****Urban Poverty  
Line****Per day  
(Rangarajan line)**

India has performed well in poverty reduction (SDG 1), with proxy data suggesting poverty has nearly halved between 2012 and 2023. However, this progress is clouded by controversy due to a lack of publicly available consumption expenditure data since 2018 and outdated poverty line measurements.







# Zero to Hero

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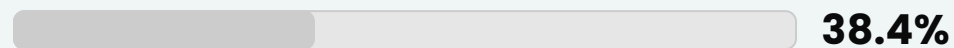


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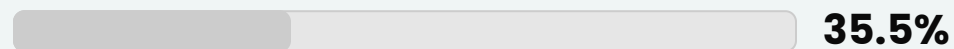
# Zero Hunger: Persistent Challenges

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) remains a significant concern for India, revealing wide disparities between income groups and rural-urban areas in access to nutritious diets:



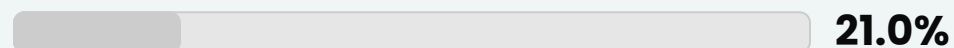
**Stunting 2015-16**

NFHS-4 data



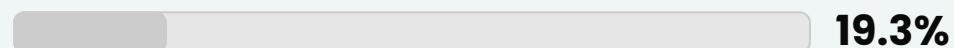
**Stunting 2019-21**

NFHS-5 data



**Wasting 2015-16**

NFHS-4 data



**Wasting 2019-21**

NFHS-5 data



Obesity in the working age population (15-49 years) has almost doubled between 2006 and 2021, concentrated primarily in wealthier urban areas, highlighting the dual burden of malnutrition.

# Energy Access: Electrification Success



## Universal Electrification

India has achieved near universal household electrification in the past two decades, marking significant progress in SDG 7.



## Renewable Energy Leader

India ranks as the fourth largest renewables capacity deployer globally, primarily in solar and wind energy sectors.

Despite the impressive electrification coverage, quality of power and duration vary vastly based on regions and urban/rural fault lines, indicating areas for continued improvement.



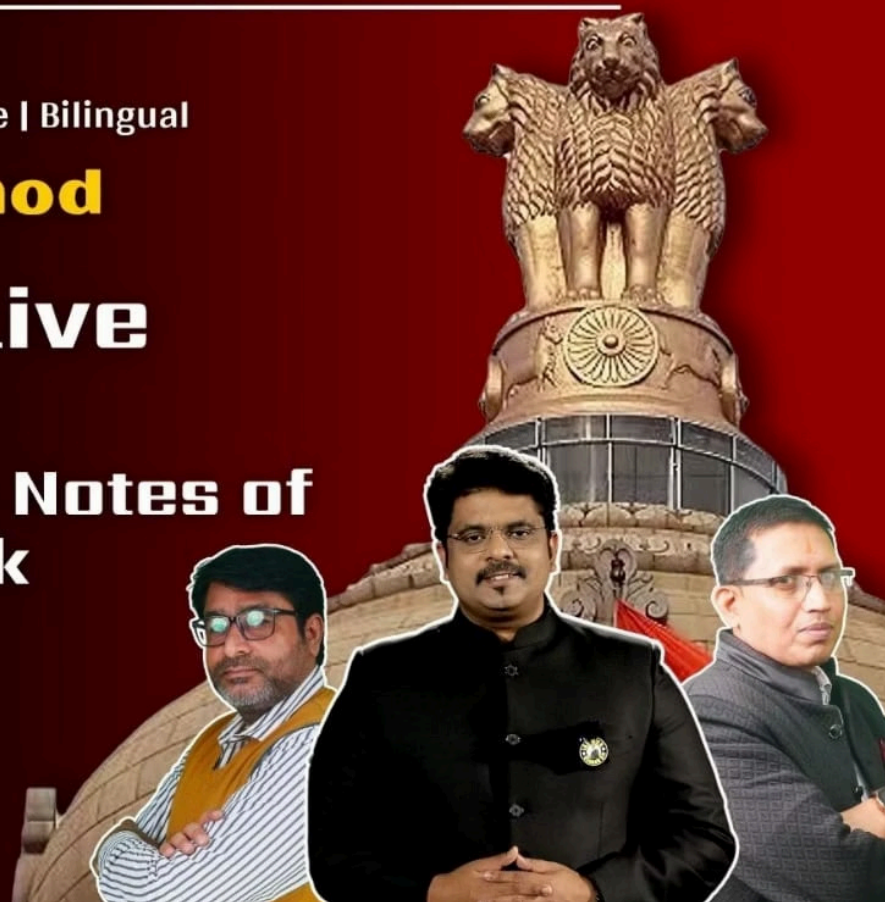
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# Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion

## Infrastructure Achievements (SDG 9)

- Rapid mobile penetration across the country
- Expanded financial inclusion through UPI-linked digital payment gateways
- Improved transportation networks connecting rural and urban areas

These developments have significantly contributed to India's improved SDG 9 score, creating a foundation for economic growth and social development.



COVID-19 revealed stark differences between rural and urban internet penetration, highlighting a digital divide that must be addressed to achieve higher educational outcomes (SDG 4).



# Governance: A Lagging Indicator

## Rule of Law Challenges

Throughout the Modi years, India's performance in governance and rule of law metrics has consistently lagged behind other SDG areas.

## Press Freedom Concerns

Declining press freedom indicators have negatively impacted India's overall SDG 16 performance.

## Institutional Independence

The strength and independence of institutions remain areas requiring significant improvement to advance in SDG rankings.



# The Path Forward: Addressing Disparities

## Key Areas for Improvement

- **Update poverty measurement methodologies and collect reliable consumption data**
- **Accelerate nutrition interventions to address stunting and wasting**
- **Improve quality and reliability of electricity supply in rural areas**
- **Bridge the digital divide between urban and rural communities**
- **Strengthen governance, press freedom, and institutional independence**



**While India's entry into the top 100 SDG rankings is commendable, sustained focus on addressing regional, rural-urban, and income disparities is essential for continued progress and inclusive development.**



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