

HAPPY HOLI



Sustainable Development – Necessity for Life

'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the Brundtland Commission in its report *Our Common Future* (1987).

Sustainable development (SD) calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.

Core Elements of Sustainable Development

Three core elements of sustainable development are **economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection**. It is crucial to harmonize them.

Sustainable economic growth, achieving sustainable livelihood, living in harmony with nature and appropriate technology are important for sustainable development



Environmental Sustainability

- It prevents nature from being used as an inexhaustible source of resources and ensures its protection and rational use.
- Aspects such as environmental conservation, investment in renewable energy, saving water, supporting sustainable mobility, and innovation in sustainable construction and architecture, contribute to achieving environmental sustainability on several fronts.



Social Sustainability

- It can foster gender equality, development of people, communities and cultures to help achieve a reasonable and fairly-distributed quality of life, healthcare and education across the Globe.



Economic Sustainability

- Focuses on equal economic growth that generates wealth for all, without harming the environment.
- Investment and equal distribution of economic resources.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions.



Global issues Related to Sustainable Development

- * Inequitable growth of national economies (*North-South Divide*)
- * Loss of Biodiversity: Despite mounting efforts over the past 20 years, the loss of the world's biodiversity continues.
- * Climate Change: As a global problem, climate change requires a global solution. Within climate change, particular attention needs to be paid to the unique challenges facing developing countries.
- * Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing issues.
- * Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs): There is a need for welfare for all rich and poor to have affordable access to the results of innovation that can lead to sustainable development



Global Initiatives on Sustainable Development

- 🌳 **The Stockholm Conference, 1972:** It was the **first step** towards putting environmental concerns on the global agenda.
- 🌳 It resulted in the **Stockholm Declaration** which contained **principles** and an **Action Plan** containing recommendations for environmental policy.
- 🌳 **UNEP** was set up in 1972 to serve as a catalyst in developing and coordinating an environmental focus in the programmes of other organisations.

🌳 **The Earth Summit, 1992:** This was a direct consequence of the **Brundtland Commission's Report**. It was held in Rio de Janeiro. The results of the Conference were the following documents:

- * The Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**)
- * The Convention on Biological Diversity
- * The Statement on Forest Principles
- * The Rio Declaration
- * Agenda 21

🌳 **Kyoto Protocol, 1997**

🌳 **Rio +10, 2002:** A 10-year assessment of the Rio outcomes (Rio +10) took the shape of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in **Johannesburg**.

🌳 **Ramsar Convention, 1971**

🌳 **The World Heritage Convention, 1972:** It identifies and conserves the world's cultural and natural heritage. It draws up a list of '**heritage sites**', which are cultural, natural or mixed areas of '**outstanding universal value**' and therefore need to be preserved for all humanity.

🌳 **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973**

🌳 **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), 1979**

🌳 **Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985**

🌳 **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987**

🌳 **Basel Convention, 1989**

🌳 **Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992**

🌳 **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994**

🌳 **Rotterdam Convention, 1998**

🌳 **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001**

🌳 **Global Tiger Forum, 1993**

🌳 **International Whaling Commission, 1946**

🌳 **Minamata Convention, 2013**

🌳 **Climate change mitigation strategies:** Carbon sequestration, Carbon sink, Carbon Credit, Carbon trading, Carbon offsetting, Carbon Tax, Geo-engineering.

🌳 **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

🌳 **UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

🌳 **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**

🌳 **Climate Finance Architecture:** Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)

🌳 **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and REDD+**

🌳 **Paris Agreement 2015**

🌳 **The Clean Development Mechanism** is a way to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions through efficient and sound technologies.

🌳 **Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)**

🌳 **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**



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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

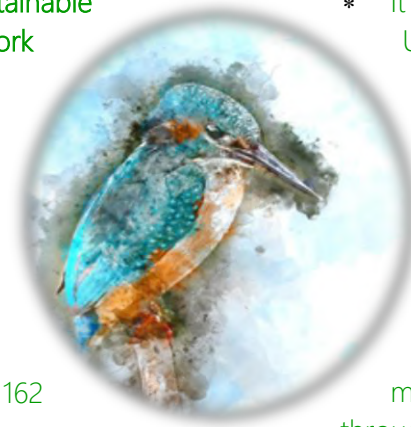
- 🌳 To bring sustainable development in the mainstream **United Nations (UN)** launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.
- 🌳 This **universal**, integrated and transformative agenda aims to spur actions that will end poverty and build a more sustainable world over the next 15 years.
- 🌳 There are 17 goals and 169 targets specific targets to be achieved by 2030. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts – governments, businesses, civil society and people everywhere all have a role to play.
- 🌳 SDGs are **not legally binding**.



Various methodologies have been evolved to monitor the progress of SDGs.

🌳 Sustainable Development Index (SDI), 2019

- * It is released by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.
- * The SDI seeks to help countries identify gaps that must be closed in order to achieve SDGs by 2030 and to identify priorities for early action.
- * India ranked **115** out of 162 countries.



🌳 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), 2019

- * It is the **first GSDR** prepared by the United Nations. It is entitled **"The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development"**.
- * It evaluated **progress** on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- * The report finds that the current development model is **not** sustainable, and the progress made is in danger of being reversed through **worsening social inequalities** and potentially **irreversible declines** in the natural environment that sustains us.

Progress

As per the Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2019

- * Extreme poverty has declined considerably.
- * The under-5 mortality rate fell by 49 % between 2000 and 2017.
- * Immunizations have saved millions of lives.
- * The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity.
- * Countries are taking concrete actions to protect our planet: marine protected areas have doubled since 2010.
- * Countries are making concerted efforts to address illegal fishing.
- * 186 parties have ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change, and almost all have communicated their first nationally determined contributions.
- * About 150 countries have developed national policies to respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization, and more than 70 countries and the European Union now have more than 300 policies and instruments supporting sustainable consumption and production.
- * A wide range of other actors—international organizations, businesses, local authorities, the scientific community and civil society—have engaged with the SDGs in a manner that generates great hope for the coming decade.



Challenges

As per the Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2019

- * Increasing inequality among and within countries requires urgent attention.
- * 3 out of every 4 stunted children live in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- * Young people are more likely to be unemployed than adults.
- * Barriers in achieving gender equality.
- * Global hunger has been on the rise after a prolonged decline.
- * Extreme poverty declined from 36% in 1990 to 8.6% in 2018, but the pace of poverty reduction is starting to decelerate as the world struggles to respond to entrenched deprivation, violent conflicts and vulnerabilities to natural disasters.
- * Extreme poverty is three times higher in rural areas than in urban areas.
- * 2018 was the fourth warmest year on record. Levels of CO² concentrations continued to increase in 2018.
- * Natural environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate.
- * Sea levels are rising.
- * Ocean acidification is accelerating. Ocean acidity is 26% higher than in pre-industrial times.
- * 1 million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction.
- * Land degradation continues unchecked.

Way Forward

- ✿ To make the process of sustainable development feasible and operational, it is important to establish a common focus that can **integrate the outlook and efforts of various participants in development**, worldwide, realising the diversity, in terms of geography, society, economics, level of science and technology capabilities and capacities and education standards/levels.
- ✿ **Developed countries need to change patterns**, including by limiting the use of fossil fuels and plastics, and investments that align with the SDGs.
- ✿ **Environmental commons**—such as oceans—must be safeguarded as crucial sources of ecosystem services and natural resources. All stakeholders must work together to conserve, restore and sustainably use natural resources.
- ✿ The food system must undergo widespread changes to the infrastructure, cultural and societal norms, and policies that are supporting the current, unsustainable, status quo.
- ✿ The much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals.
- ✿ A far more optimistic future is still attainable only by drastically changing development policies, incentives and actions.



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