

**T**HE NEED OF HUMANS to develop at the fastest pace and surpass all competitors, has led to indiscriminate and irrational use of resources. The degradation of resources as well as the environment has outpaced the ability of the planet to recover. The gravity of this can be understood from the fact that a variety of species of living beings are becoming extinct. The need of the hour is prolonged sustainable development. The term, in the present world, means developing economically, socially, and environmentally but with judicious uti-

lisation of available resources without them getting depleted.

can be associated with the fact that these goals are merely a list, so their conceptualisation is in itself a task. Thus, the need for a framework addressing these challenges has been more strongly felt than ever before.

With that being said, the Social Progress Index (SPI), which is a simple yet rigorous framework measuring the social performance of a country, can help in alleviating the issue. Along with capturing the spirit of SDGs, the framework also provides us with a tool to achieve these goals. Since SPI generates scores for each indicator, they are easier to track and understand. They also provide the measure to evaluate progress made to-

India's progress on this front, however, has remained sluggish. The country hasn't been able to completely achieve any goal as of now. But significant progress has been made for several indicators. For instance, India has been able to pull 271 million people out of poverty, thus pushing it closer toward attaining the first goal of no poverty. Combating undernourishment has been moderate. At present, 14.8 per cent of India's population is undernourished. If the country pulls up its socks, the world will be 25.2 per cent closer to having achieved the SDG target of undernourishment. With policies such as biomedical waste management, restrictions on single-use

## India And The SDGs



wards achieving these SDGs and also indicate the areas needing immediate attention.

In the light of these facts, the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with the leaders of the world, launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. They comprise 169 targets, to be achieved by 2030. These ambitious SDGs aim at the holistic development of all the countries of the world with a focus on five P's – people, planet, prosperity, partnership, and peace.

However, the extensive nature of the parameters of SDGs often pose a threat to their successful actualisation. Shockingly, only one-third of the 230 indicators of SDGs can be captured. The reason

The scores of the sixth edition of SPI (2019) came as a bolt from the blue. The achievement of the target by 2030 seems to be quite far from reality. The index has raised concerns that fulfilment of SDGs at the current rate is not possible before 2073. However, this claim can be countered if India and China effectuate the goals rapidly. Both the countries have a monumental role to play in formulating the SDGs because of their vast population base.

plastics, etc., the country is focussing on fulfilling the goal of climate action. Thus, the onus of driving the world towards sustainable development lies on India's shoulders.

The UN's first-of-its-kind summit on SDGs held on 24 and 25 September helped determine the present scenario on SDGs. The event comprehensively evaluated the plausibility of implementation of the 2030 agenda. An in-depth analysis of SDGs using tools like SPI could provide the required insights and help in aiding a plan to make SDGs a tangible reality. [BW](#)

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