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***Building A Sustainable World Together: Stakeholder Roles In Advancing SDGs***

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***ABSTRACT***

*During the two decades from Stockholm to Rio “Sustainable Development” has come to be accepted as a viable concept to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystems. “Sustainable Development” as defined by the Brundtland Report means “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs”. We have no hesitation in holding that “Sustainable Development” as a balancing concept between ecology and development has been accepted as a part of the customary international law though its salient features have yet to be finalised by the international law jurists.<sup>3</sup> This paper explores the critical roles of various stakeholders in advancing sustainable development, with a focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India’s unique challenges and contributions to these goals. Drawing on the Brundtland Report’s foundational definition, sustainable development in India is examined through the lens of its complex socio-economic landscape, where environmental sustainability is not only a national priority but also a global imperative. The study discusses the contributions and responsibilities of the Indian government, private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and indigenous communities in fostering sustainable practices. Government policies, such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and flagship programs like Swachh Bharat Mission, demonstrate significant efforts toward climate action, clean energy, and sustainable urban development. Additionally, the paper highlights the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and corporate social responsibility*

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<sup>3</sup> Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India, (1996) 5 SCC 647 at page 657.

*(CSR) in supporting SDGs, as well as the contributions of NGOs and international bodies in promoting inclusivity and accountability. By examining India's holistic, multi-stakeholder approach, this paper sheds light on strategies and collaborations that could guide other nations toward sustainable development in a global context.*

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**Introduction**

The idea of sustainable development became a worldwide debate following the World Commission on Environment and Development's report "Our Common Future," published in 1987. This paper is called the Brundtland report because it contains the most well-known definition of sustainable development: "development that meets current demands without jeopardising future generations' ability to meet their own needs"

For India, a large country both populated and poor, to develop in an environmentally sustainable development is not an option but a requirement. On one hand, India is faced with environmental degradation from poverty and population pressures, and on the other, from pollution from increased activities due to economic growth and the consequent changing consumption patterns. While the poor depend on the environment for their livelihood, the process of economic development relies on using natural resources to produce goods and services. The waste generated from consuming and producing these goods and services are in turn released back into the environment impacting it. The environment provides security for present and future generations, the health of the environment is closely connected with the health of humans, and it is economically beneficial for countries to prevent environmental degradation. The challenge therefore, in making development compatible with the environment is to restructure the economic system in a way that it will not destroy the environment as economic progress continues.<sup>4</sup>

India's journey towards sustainable development holds global relevance. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and home to over 1.3 billion people, the choices and policies

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<sup>4</sup> Parikh, J., 2004. Environmentally sustainable development in India. Population (millions), 361(904), p.1027.

made in India resonate far beyond its borders. Furthermore, India faces a unique blend of developmental challenges, encompassing poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, and social inclusivity. Consequently, the strategies and challenges encountered here offer valuable insights for other nations grappling with similar issues.<sup>5</sup>

The meaning of Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations to ensure that development is equitable and environmentally responsible, promoting long- term well-being for people and the planet. The 17 SDGs are:

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Partnerships for the Goals.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Kumar J 5 & Shobana D (2023), "A Study on Strategies and Challenges of Sustainable Development Policy in India", International Journal of Social Sciences & Economic Environment, Vol. 8, Issue 2, 2023, pp 67-81, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.53882/IJSSEE.2023.0802005>

<sup>6</sup> The 17 goals | sustainable development <<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>> United Nations, Date accessed: November 05, 2024.

This paper emphasises the collective responsibility of multiple stakeholders in driving sustainable development, particularly in India. It highlights how the government, private sector, NGOs, indigenous communities, and international bodies each play vital roles in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Indian government has introduced policies and programs like the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the Swachh Bharat Mission to address climate action, clean energy, and sustainable urban development. Meanwhile, the private sector is encouraged to pursue sustainable practices through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, contributing innovations and resources to support the SDGs. NGOs mobilise communities, monitor progress, and hold institutions accountable, ensuring a people-centred approach to sustainability. Additionally, India's unique socio-economic and environmental challenges make its journey a valuable model for other developing nations. The paper argues that only by working together can these diverse stakeholders achieve meaningful progress toward a sustainable future for all.

### **Governments and Public Institutions**

In 1976, the Parliament added Articles 48A and 51A to the Indian Constitution. Article 48A mandates that the State should make efforts to protect and enhance the environment, including the preservation of forests and wildlife. Article 51A(g) places a responsibility on every Indian citizen to protect and improve the natural environment—such as forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife and to show compassion for all living creatures. Additionally, Article 21, which guarantees the fundamental right to “Life and Personal Liberty,” has been interpreted by the judiciary to encompass the right to a clean environment, including clean air and water, as essential aspects of this right.

The Indian population accounts for one-sixth of the global population, and our development needs are immense. Our levels of poverty or prosperity have a direct bearing on the world's overall economic landscape. Therefore, the Indian Government has to undertake significant measures to ensure sustainable development, aiming not only to advance India's welfare but also to contribute meaningfully to the global community.

As the most populous country, India will play a leading role in determining the achievement of the SDGs. In recognition of this responsibility, India has actively worked to achieve the 2030 Agenda aligning itself with the global commitment to sustainable development. The Government of India's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth is highlighted through its motto ‘Sabka Saath,



Sabka Vikas'. India, with its mission for inclusive and sustainable growth, resonates deeply with the core principle of the SDG framework - "Leaving No One Behind".<sup>7</sup>

India follows a holistic approach for achieving the SDGs by implementing a comprehensive array of schemes. Current flagship policies and programmes of Government of India such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have substantially contributed to India's progress in this regard.<sup>8</sup>

The Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in Rajya Sabha provided the following information,<sup>9</sup> "The Government has introduced policies to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to combat climate change and create sustainable cities and communities. Through the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), a broad policy framework guides climate actions across eight core Missions, including solar energy, energy efficiency, sustainable habitats, water management, the Himalayan ecosystem, Green India, sustainable agriculture, and climate knowledge. Aligned with the NAPCC, 33 States and Union Territories have developed State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC). Although India has no binding obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it voluntarily committed to reducing its GDP's emission intensity by 20-25% by 2020 (compared to 2005 levels) and achieved a 24% reduction between 2005 and 2016. Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the government has prepared City-Specific Clean Air Action Plans for 132 cities, focusing on reducing air pollution. Additionally, flagship programs like the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), and Metro Rail Projects contribute to SDG 11. To further enhance environmental health, the ministry recently banned single-use plastics."

The Supreme Court held in *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India*<sup>10</sup> that, "If the mere enactment of laws relating to the protection of environment was to ensure a clean and

<sup>7</sup> SDG India Index 2023-24 by NITI Aayog

[https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG\\_India\\_Index\\_2023-24.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG_India_Index_2023-24.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2019-20/economicsurvey/doc/vol2chapter/echap05\\_vol2.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2019-20/economicsurvey/doc/vol2chapter/echap05_vol2.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1843400>

<sup>10</sup> (1996) 5 SCC 281

pollution free environment, then India would, perhaps, be the least polluted country in the world. But, this is not so. There are stated to be over 200 Central and State statutes which have at least some concern with environmental protection, either directly or indirectly. The plethora of such enactments has, unfortunately, not resulted in preventing environmental degradation which, on the contrary, has increased over the years.”

### **Farmers and Agricultural community**

World leaders reaffirmed that, “it is the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. The Zero Hunger Challenge which was launched at Rio+20 called for the governments, civil societies, faith communities, the private sector, and research institutions to unite to end hunger and eliminate the worst forms of malnutrition.”<sup>11</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goal to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” (SDG2) recognizes the inter linkages among supporting sustainable agriculture, empowering small farmers, promoting gender equality, ending rural poverty, ensuring healthy lifestyles, tackling climate change, and other issues addressed within the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Many developing countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet their nutritional needs by utilizing sustainable agricultural methods. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger.

Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries. There are 821 million people estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2017, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought and biodiversity loss. Over 90 million children under five are dangerously underweight. Undernourishment and severe food insecurity appear to be increasing in almost all regions of Africa, as well as in South America.<sup>12</sup>

The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, in consonance with the role of farmers and agricultural communities in achieving the SDGs can be studied as under:

### **Support to small scale farmers and equal access to land**

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<sup>11</sup> Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012 (Rio+20).

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development, Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Published in 2015.

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Agriculture systems worldwide must become more productive and less wasteful. Sustainable agricultural practices and food systems, including both production and consumption, must be pursued from a holistic and integrated perspective. Extreme poverty and hunger are predominantly, with smallholder farmers and their families making up a very significant proportion of the poor and hungry. Thus, eradicating poverty and hunger are integrally linked to boosting food production, agricultural productivity and rural incomes.<sup>13</sup>

### **Sustainable agricultural practices to tackle climate change**

Land, healthy soils, water and plant genetic resources are key inputs into food production, and their growing scarcity in many parts of the world makes it imperative to use and manage them sustainably.

Boosting yields on existing agricultural lands, including restoration of degraded lands, through sustainable agricultural practices would also relieve pressure to clear forests for agricultural production and adopt regenerative agricultural practices.

Wise management of scarce water through improved irrigation and storage technologies, combined with development of new drought-resistant crop varieties, can contribute to sustaining drylands productivity.

Halting and reversing land degradation will also be critical to meeting future food needs. The Rio+20 outcome document aims to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development.

Minimise the use of harmful agro chemicals in cultivation and also integrate the usage of renewable energy sources into agricultural processes such as solar powered irrigation systems aligning with the goal of affordable and clean energy.

### **Scientific and technological knowledge**

There are many elements of traditional farmer knowledge that, enriched by the latest scientific knowledge, which is environment friendly, can support productive food systems through sound and sustainable soil, land, water, nutrient and pest management, and the more extensive use of organic

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development, Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture, Published in 2015.



fertilisers. With the use of modern technologies and with scientific knowledge given to farmers, they would be capable of attaining the SDGs.

### **Integrated policy approach**

An increase in integrated decision-making processes at national and regional levels are needed to achieve synergies and adequately address trade-offs among agriculture, water, energy, land and climate change.

### **Financial investments and assistance**

Given expected changes in temperatures, precipitation and pests associated with climate change, the global community is called upon to increase investment in research, development and demonstration of technologies to improve the sustainability of food systems everywhere.<sup>14</sup>

Ultimately, building resilience of local food systems will be critical in averting large-scale future shortages and to ensuring food security and good nutrition for all.

### **Private sector or business**

The private sector is essential in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, serving as a key driver of economic growth and employment. By offering affordable goods and services, generating tax revenue to fund social and economic infrastructure, and creating innovative solutions to address development challenges, the private sector plays an increasingly vital role in sustainable progress.

The role played by the private sector in development extends from the traditional approach supporting economic development to establishment of more comprehensive and detailed private public partnership. The capacity for introducing innovation, human resources, technical information and technological inputs or other potential contributions of the private sector. Promoting sustainable economic growth involving opportunities for value creation, the private sector plays an important role in development. It is certain that sustainable development action will also improve the business environment and markets. These business organisations also play an important role in combating climate change. Thus there will be a great opportunity for the companies to find solutions in a responsible manner by the way of the corporate social responsibility and quarter contributing towards the achievement of the SDG

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<sup>14</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs, 20 interconnected actions to guide decision-makers, Rome 2018.



As per the Reports of the Commission, the report said that achieving the SDGs create at least US \$12 trillion in business opportunities by investing in the SDG implementation, the SDGs open up the market opportunities in the economic systems as examined by the commission. Those are Food and agriculture, clean energy and material, and health and well-being. They represent around 60% of the real economy and are critical to deliver the SDG. The total economic cost of implementing the SDGs could be 2 to 3 times bigger, if the benefits are captured across the whole economy and accompanied by much higher labour and resource productivity.<sup>15</sup>

As per the report titled “Uncharted waters”, it stated that the SDG is more present a major opportunity for the businesses to shape, store, communicate and report their strategies, goals and activities and allow them to capitalise on a range of benefits. Beyond the need to heed societies call for greater transparency and accountability, blending purpose with profit can generate a unique competitive advantage to meet expectations of the discerning consumers, investors and employees.

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The private sector, in this context, is an indispensable partner and has a critical role to play in advancing the global development agenda. In developing countries, private sector operations constitute, in average, 60 percent of GDP, while generating 90 percent of jobs and 80 percent of capital inflows (OECD). The private sector further contributes to development by providing goods and services, financing social and economic investments through taxes, and creating innovative solutions to help tackle development challenges. Innovation in the private sector across the world is a prerequisite for achieving the 169 ambitious targets, which collectively make up the 17 SDGs.<sup>17</sup>

Firstly, Innovation, the private sector can create innovative solutions to address the development challenges. The private sectors have the capacity for innovations and technology transfer which has potentially led to transformative solutions to address the challenges such as sustainable agricultural practices or green technologies.

Secondly the private companies possess substantial financial resources and investment capabilities that the government and multilateral organisations are eager to channel into their initiatives

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<sup>15</sup> Business and Sustainable Development Commission, “Better Business, Better World”, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> UNDP, business call to action, Deloitte and Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development.

<sup>17</sup> Business and the SDGs <<https://www.undp.org/sdg-accelerator/business-and-sdgs>> UNDP, Date accessed: November 4, 2024.

Thirdly the private sectors have the ability to create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth which is absolutely necessary for combating poverty and improving market places thus contributing to long-term sustainable development.

Fourthly, the private sectors have the ability to adapt and respond more quickly to the emerging sustainable issues and by promoting Corporate Social Responsibility CSR, they can achieve the goal of sustainable development.

Public Private Partnership PPPs, the private sectors can partner with the government and multilateral institutions to address the global development challenges and also to facilitate the infrastructural and developmental projects.

Knowledge of the role humans play in global ecological systems has grown considerably since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Yet, despite numerous sustainability pledges, many corporations continue to have negative impacts on people and the planet. Unsustainability remains the norm.<sup>18</sup>

Microsoft will be carbon negative by 2030. By 2050, Microsoft will remove from the environment all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975. Microsoft's carbon negative commitment is part of a long history of ambitious targets and actions to reduce GHG emissions. In 2009, Microsoft set its first GHG emissions target: a 30% reduction from 2007 levels by 2012. Microsoft has operated carbon neutral since 2012. Like many companies, its neutrality commitment relied on investing in offsets that paid others to not emit carbon, instead of removing carbon dioxide.<sup>19</sup>

MasterCard, along with a number of corporate partners, announced the priceless plan coalition, which is pledging to plant hundred million trees over five years. And in September 2020, Blackrock the world's largest asset manager, set a goal of 15% carbon emission reduction across all new investments where they control energy usage.<sup>20</sup>

Therefore the private sector plays a crucial role by considering the work by meaningfully engaging in sustainable development policies.

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<sup>18</sup> International Institute of Sustainable Development on the Evolution of Private Sector Action and Sustainable Development, Still Only One Earth: Lessons from 50 years of Sustainable Development Policy, 2021, Published by Dr Dina Hestad.

<sup>19</sup> Microsoft: Carbon Negative Goal <<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/un-global-climate-action-awards/climate-neutral-now/microsoft-carbon-negative-goal>> United Nations Climate Change Date accessed: November 4, 2024.

<sup>20</sup> Priceless Planet

<<https://www.mastercard.com/global/en/vision/corp-responsibility/priceless-planet.html>> Mastercard, Date accessed: November 4, 2024.

### Non- Governmental Organizations

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play a vital, hands-on role in gathering citizen-centred data, mobilising resources, and identifying key issues, ensuring that governments and businesses are held accountable in their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They foster an environment that encourages contributions to the SDGs and document their activities, producing progress reports to track achievements. Additionally, NGOs work to raise public awareness, engaging people in the progress toward sustainability.

According to the Report, India has been ranked 112<sup>th</sup> globally amongst 156 countries in the SDG global ranking. While it scored more than 75% in its performance towards SDG 1, 12, 13 and 50% score in SDG 5,9,15,17 and average score of SDG in 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16. Kerala has been attributed to providing its superior performance in good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and with quality education Himachal Pradesh ranks high on providing clean water and sanitation, in reducing inequalities, and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh takes the lead in providing exemplary performance in providing clean water, and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, generation of decent work and economic growth, and quality education.<sup>21</sup>

The UNDP (ICPD 2018 to 22), which was signed with the Government of India aims at transformative change and development impact at a scale. In line with this UNDP as it initiated active support to many state governments in mainstreaming the SDGs with their schemes and programmes as a part of UN system to SDG for achieving the vision and planning in India.<sup>22</sup>

The following are the Non-Governmental organisations along with the project they have undertaken in achieving the targets of SDGs:

**Society for all-round Development, Gurugram** has undertaken the project titled as “Integrated Community Development Programme” (SDG 4 – quality education) This organisation focuses on promotion of education vocational skills education programmes infrastructure with a funding of Rs 2.1 Crore. The project provides an impact on children from slums and local villages falling in the age group of 3 to 18 and their families.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> The NITI Aayog, SDG India Index, Baseline Report, 2018.

<sup>22</sup> UNDP India Country Program Document(CPD 2018-2022)

<sup>23</sup> Sardindia, <[https://www.sardindia.org/pdf/SARD%20decade%20experience%20\(2set%20300%20matt%20cover%20170%20matt%20inner\).pdf](https://www.sardindia.org/pdf/SARD%20decade%20experience%20(2set%20300%20matt%20cover%20170%20matt%20inner).pdf)> Date accessed: November 4, 2024

**Prayas social welfare Society, Harayana** has adopted the project titled “last mile health care” (SDG 3 - good health and well-being) Project focuses on eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting healthcare, sanitation and providing safe drinking water with a funding of Rs. 1.8325 Crore. The impact of this project is on 4000 to 5000 patients every month.<sup>24</sup>

**Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses** has undertaken the project titled “Hathim” (SDG 1 - overcome poverty, good health and well-being) Project focuses on rural developmental projects by providing drinking water facilities, financial literacy hospital infrastructure, poverty elimination programs and rural livelihood with a funding of Rs 2.5 Crores in Pawal village of Haryana. The object of this project is to uplift 303,000 rural families from poverty through comprehensive and targeted interventions.

**Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE)**, This organisation with global recognition, generates interdisciplinary knowledge to inform policy and practice towards sustainability and conservation operative for almost two decades. It aims to build an army of next generation environment warriors through its programs, studies and workshops.<sup>25</sup>

**Chintan Environmental Research Action Group**, This organisation is focussed on promoting sustainable and equitable growth for every member in the society ensuring sustainable and responsible consumption, thus, protecting the environment by raising voice against the air pollution, waste management and create awareness. They manage over 30 Tonnes of solid and electronic waste each day in and around Delhi.<sup>26</sup>

Thus, the role of reputable NGOs is significant in establishing their importance in the implementation processes, developing tools, and securing adequate funding to concentrate on priority areas of the SDGs, helping to calibrate and align efforts with the goals.

### **Indigenous people**

India's government has taken steps to preserve their cultural identities by preserving their languages, script and cultural elements and providing them with quality education and economic and political power. Some of them are mentioned below:<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> What We Do <<https://www.prayassws.org/what-we-do/>> Prayas Social Welfare Society (Regd.) Date accessed: November 4, 2024

<sup>25</sup> Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment <<https://www.atree.org/programmes/>> Programmes, Date accessed: November 4, 2024.

<sup>26</sup> What We Do <<https://www.chintan-india.org/what-we-do>> Chintan, Date accessed: November 4, 2024.

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Honouring and Empowering the Adivasis of India (2022) 20 Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Eklavya Model Residential Schools

To complete SDG 4 (quality education), the Government of India launched the ‘Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)’ in 1997-1998 to provide quality education to the tribal communities with residential facilities. According to recent information, there are around 690 ERM Schools in India. It also provides financial assistance to ST students from the pre-matric to post-matric levels through fellowships and scholarships.<sup>28</sup>

Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY) was approved for implementation during 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. To provide quality education and improve the quality of life in tribal areas, the scheme was initiated with a total cost of Rs. 26135.46 crores. Its objective is the holistic development of the tribal communities. It aims to bridge the gap in infrastructure with a focus on quality.<sup>29</sup>

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was established in August 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. It was created under the then Ministry of Welfare of India to provide socio-economic development to the tribal communities. It supports retail marketing of tribal products to support the livelihood of the tribals. It also includes the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), which has the vision of supporting the market and ensuring fair returns to the tribal gatherers.<sup>30</sup> This will help to fulfil SDG 8 by providing opportunities for economic growth.

The Pradhan Mantri Adi Aadarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) aims to fulfill the basic aim of shelters in villages with tribal populations. The existing schemes of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) have been revamped as PMAAGY and are to be implemented between the years 2021-2022 and 2025-2026.<sup>31</sup> The aim of the programme is to transform villages with tribal populations

<sup>28</sup> ‘Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana’ (Vikaspedia, 27 July 2023) <<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/scheduled-tribes-welfare/pradhan-mantri-vanbandhu-kalyan-yojana>> accessed 18 February 2024

<sup>29</sup> TRIFED, Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana Scheme Guidelines.

<sup>30</sup> Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana’ (Ministry of Tribal Welfare, 17 March 2022) <[https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/SCA\\_To\\_TSS/PMAAGYGuidelines.pdf](https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/SCA_To_TSS/PMAAGYGuidelines.pdf)> accessed 18 February 2024.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

into model villages (Adarsh Gram). It improves the infrastructure in vital sectors like health and education.<sup>32</sup>

### **International bodies**

The United Nations in India supports the participation of civil society organisations, think tanks and the Indian media in discussions and side sessions at the International Conference on Financing for Development at Addis Ababa and during the General Assembly in New York.<sup>33</sup>

The UN in India currently supports five State governments (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, and Odisha) in localising the SDGs to address key development challenges at the state level.<sup>34</sup>

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a multifaceted approach, with active contributions from various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, the private sector, and international organisations. Each stakeholder brings unique resources and expertise, making their involvement crucial in advancing the SDG agenda. Governments provide policy frameworks and funding for infrastructure, while NGOs help mobilise grassroots support, ensure accountability, and raise public awareness. Their combined efforts create an environment that fosters progress toward sustainable development.

The private sector, with its vast resources and capacity for innovation, plays a pivotal role in generating economic growth and creating sustainable solutions. By investing in green technologies, promoting responsible business practices, and engaging in public-private partnerships, businesses can drive significant advancements in SDG-related areas such as climate action, clean energy, and economic growth. This engagement not only helps businesses gain competitive advantages but also reinforces their commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Ultimately, the collaboration among these stakeholders amplifies efforts to address complex global challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. By working together, stakeholders can build a more inclusive and sustainable future, ensuring that progress in one area supports growth in others. This collective approach is essential for achieving the SDGs by 2030, creating a world where current and future generations can thrive in harmony with the planet.

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<sup>32</sup> 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' (United Nations) <<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>> accessed 18 February 2024

<sup>33</sup> Report of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. 2015. Available from <http://www.undocs.org/A/CONF.227/20>

<sup>34</sup> David, M.P.C., 2018. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)-challenges for India. *Indian Journal of Public Health Research and Development*, 9(3), pp.1-5..