

# Sustainable Development Goals and India: A Cross-Sectional Analysis

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**Abstract:** On 25 September 2015, 193 countries of the UN General Assembly embraced the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were built on the success as well as on the shortcomings of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Over the years there has been an argument of MDGs being unfair as a parameter for all the countries alike. Few of the countries with required resources were able to strive towards the achievement of MDGs whereas those with substantially less resources were not able to catch up. As Ban-Ki-Moon rightly said, "We don't have plan B because there is no planet B!" This thought has paved the way for the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are an amalgamation of various goals covering every aspect of human development globally. The MDGs concentrated on curbing extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable disease, and were the most significant global development goals in the history of United Nations. The SDGs will resume the fight against extreme poverty but will add the challenges of ensuring more fair development and environmental sustainability, specifically the key goal of curbing the dangers of human-induced climate change.

This paper deals with the status of SDGs in India with the help of recent data. The analysis is based on the data collected from various sources for every Indian state. Every SDG has been attributed a variable which signifies the status of the specific goal. Preliminary analysis shows that India has grown substantially in last 15 years for few of the basic parameters and are on track of achieving the goals, but when we look deeply into the state-wise data a wide disparity is clearly visible. Some parameters which are acceptable overall is driven by few of the selected states whereas other states are substantially lagging. The paper attempts to rank each of the states based on the SDG Index. On the basis of the analysis, we find that the policy which may look sufficient on a national basis might not be appropriate on state level. The state-wise index also helps to understand the key areas where the policy makers should pay attention to. The index shows the clear disparity between India states and a lot must be done to achieve uniform success across states.

**Keywords:** Human development, Index, India, Policy, Sustainable Development Goals

## Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an amalgamation of seventeen goals built up on the success of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were established for the development of every nation in 2000. In the next twelve years the rate of progress was asymmetrical owing to the different capabilities of member countries. UN reviewed the status of goals and decided to include various other factors under the ambit of global development. As a result, SDGs came into existence on September 25, 2015.

These 17 Goals are closely associated – often the key to success on one will involve solving issues more commonly related with another.

These 17 Goals<sup>1</sup> 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 Institutions, Partnership for the Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 (UNDP, 2015) found that issues like hunger, climate change, access to basic water, sanitation services and forced displacement are few of the major roadblocks in achieving global sustainable development. Table 1 looks at the present status of key metrics under SDGs globally.

**Table 1:** Key metrics under SDGs: Progress report

SDG'S Main Metrics	Year	Year
Poverty: The proportion of the world's workers living with their families on less than \$1.90 per person a day	26.9% (2000)	9.2% (2017)
Hunger: The proportion of undernourished people worldwide	10.6% (2015)	11% (2016)
Good Health and Well Being: Under Five Mortality Rates	9.9 Mn (2000)	5.6 Mn (2016)
Good Health and Well Being: Incidence of HIV	0.4/1000 (2005)	0.26/1000(2010)
Education: Participation rate in early childhood and primary education	63% (2010)	70% (2016)
Gender Equality: percentage of women in single or lower houses of national parliament	19% (2010)	23% (2018)
Affordable and Clean Energy: global population with access to electricity	78% (2000)	83% (2016)
Employment: Global unemployment rate	6.4% (2000)	5.6% (2017)
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Carbon Intensity	0.38kg/\$ (2000)	0.31kg/\$ (2015)
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Manufacturing value added in GDP	15.2% (2005)	16.3% (2017)
Sustainable Living: Global urban population living in slums	28.4% (2000)	22.8% (2014)
Marine Resources: Global share of marine fish stocks	90% (1974)	69% (2013)
Biodiversity: Earth's forest areas	4.1 Bn Hectares (2000)	4.0 Bn Hectares (2015)

Source: UN SDG Report, 2018

The table clearly lays down the major developments and areas for improvement of the SDGs. However, if we go to granular level and assess the developing economies, there is a lot which needs to be achieved, especially for a country like India.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>, accessed on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

**Table 2: SDGs Status: India**

SDG Metric	Key Information for India
Poverty	The all India Poverty Head Count Ratio (PHCR) has decreased from 47% in 1990 to 21% in 2011-2012.
Hunger	Malnourishment in India has declined from 53% in 1990 to 40% in 2015.
Good Health and Well Being	Under Five Mortality (U5MR) declined from 125 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 49 per 1,000 live births in 2013.
Quality Education	The net enrolment ratio in primary education is 88%(2013-14). Nationally, male and female youth literacy rate is 94% and 92% respectively.
Gender Equality	Till 2015, only 12 % seats in National Parliament were held by women.
Clean Water and Sanitation	In 2012, 59% households in rural areas and 8% in urban India did not have access to improved sanitation facilities. Around 600 million people defecate openly, the highest number in the world.
Affordable and Clean Energy	The total installed capacity for electricity generation in India has a CAGR of 7% (2013-14).
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	India's CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are 1.67 (metric tons). In 2010, per capita annual electricity consumption was 626 kWh compared to the global average of 2977 kWh.
Reduced Inequalities	The Gini Coefficient of income inequality for India has risen from 33.4% in 2004 to 33.6% in 2011
Sustainable Cities and Communities	Only 32% of India's total population lives in urban areas (2013-14). Presently 17% of India's urban population lives in slums.
Climate Action	Fourth largest GHG emitter, responsible for 5.3% of global emissions.
Life on Land	Forest cover has increased to 21.23% - an increase of 5871 sq. km
Partnership for the Goals	Second highest number of Internet users in the world however, Internet penetration in the country is under 20%.

Source: NITI Aayog, as of 08/07/2018

Though India has made progress in few of the SDGs, it will take a while to achieve its intended targets. It is believed that India has done considerably well in terms of development, but it still has a lot of challenges in terms of poverty eradication, income distribution, women empowerment, GHG emissions and sanitation. Also, India being a nation where there are extreme differences amongst states, the questions which arise include – Are these achievements indicative of all the states? Should policy makers focus on meeting SDGs at the national level or at the state level? If India were to meet these goals, the policies must be customized as per the status of the goals at the state level. How far has that happened? Can we rate the states by an index which helps in policy making? This paper tries to answer these questions and provides basic policy implications for achievement of SDGs at state-level and track the SDGs in the form of a proposed SDG index.

The objective of the paper is to understand the Sustainable Development goals for India and their status as of now across different states of India. The analysis shows that India as a nation has improved remarkably in few of the goals while a lot needs to be done for the rest of the goals. However, the state level analysis showed that some of the states are lagging when compared with others in achieving the goals and hence no policy decision can be taken at a central level without considering state level nuances. The paper also attempts to create a Developmental Goal Index and rates various states of India based on the present status of these states on the various Sustainable Development Goals. The paper concludes with policy suggestions to achieve parity on these goals across different states. It tries to present forward the potential for government policies and the areas of focus in the coming years.

### Literature Review

The focus of development shifted from economic development to human development in the 1990s. Researchers like Sen A., (1985, 1987) and Dasgupta (1993) provoked the thought of improving quality of living through development of human capabilities. UNDP (UNDP, Human Development Report, 1990) highlighted this aspect and

laid the foundations of human development index. In the 2000s, the millennium development goals were accepted to fight extreme poverty. The targets were supposed to be met by 2015. Over the years there has been debate over the parameters, success and failure of the MDGs.

Researchers like Amir Attaran, have been talking about the infeasibility of MDGs through papers like “An Immeasurable Crisis? A Criticism of the Millennium Development Goals and Why They Cannot Be Measured” (2005). Whereas authors like Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko researched on “How should MDG implementation be measured: Faster progress or meeting targets?” (2010). Sachs (2012) provided an overview of how SDGs could benefit from the shortfalls and successes of MDGs.

Over the years, UN has published reports on how the countries are able to achieve and move towards attaining the MDGs and how many of them are lagging. As a result, the demand for new set of defined goals kept on rising. In 2012 UN’ special panel issued a report recommending the need of new goals which include other major goals for development as well. Renowned authors like Jeffrey D Sachs have published several papers stating the need of SDGs and why the UN body needs to introduce them for a better future. Authors like David Griggs, Mark Staffors-Smith and Owen Gaffney have been contributing to the selection of these goals through publications like “**Policy: Sustainable development goals for people and planet**” (2013). UN finally adopted the seventeen new goals to be achieved by 2030. Researchers like Ramendra Narayan Chaudhuri have aptly put the journey in “Millennium development goals to sustainable development goals: Journey continues for a better world” (2015). Studies on the state wise success of MDGs has also been discussed by Dr. Rajesh Panda and Dr. Madhvi Sethi in a research paper, “Millennium Development Goals and India: A Cross Sectional Analysis” (2017). Divergence has been scantily studied at the state-level for a country like India and for evaluation of achievement of sustainable development goals. Ghosh (2017), evaluated the human development and economic growth relationship and found that poor states in India could meet the human development parameters and caught up with the rich states though there was a huge difference in their per capital income.

This paper fills this gap in research and contributes by providing an index which could help policy makers in focusing their efforts towards state-level SDG achievement and help in reaching the targets.

The objectives of the paper include:

- Assessment of different SDGs at the state level
- Creation of an index which could help in identifying the ranking of states in their achievements of SDGs

The next section describes data and methodology used to meet the objectives.

### Data & Methodology

UN has clearly laid down SDG’s and each SDG has several metrics. In this research, we collect the data for every SDG’s metrics based on availability of data for the different states in India. The data has been collected from various secondary sources. The SDG metrics and their source have been provided in Table 3.

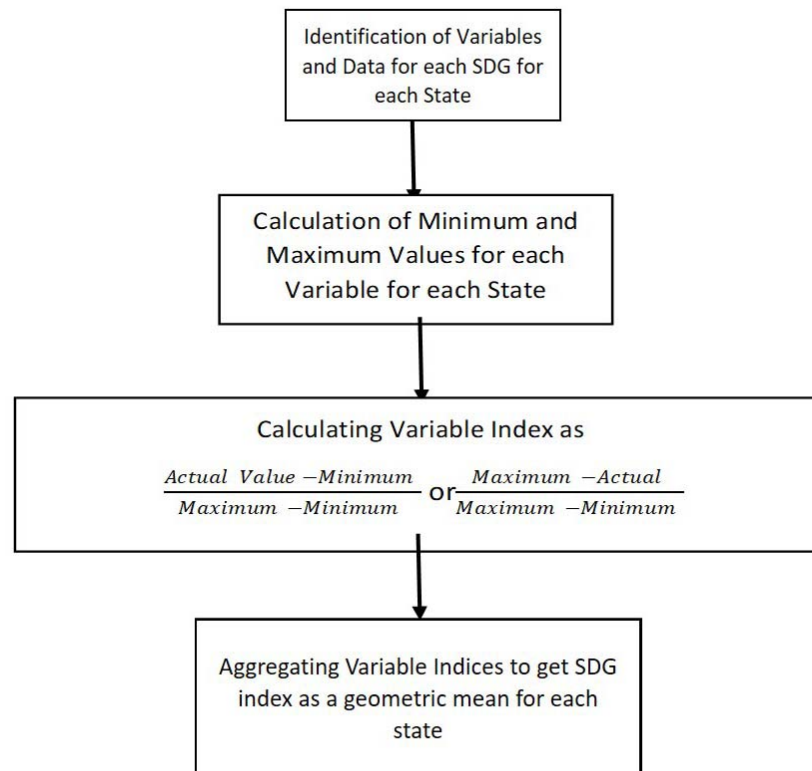
**Table 3: Variables Used and Source of data**

SDG no.	Variable Used	Year	Source of data
1	%BPL	2011-12	<a href="https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=18133">https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=18133</a>
2	Malnourished children	2015-16	<a href="http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/AHS/AHS_report_part2.pdf">http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/AHS/AHS_report_part2.pdf</a>
3	Under Five Mortality (U5MR) (per 1000 lives)	2015	<a href="http://niti.gov.in/content/under-5-mortality-rate-u-5mr-1000-live-births">http://niti.gov.in/content/under-5-mortality-rate-u-5mr-1000-live-births</a>

4	male and female youth literacy rate	2011	<a href="http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=18127">http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=18127</a>
5	disparity in employment	2011	Census of india
6	access to improved sanitation facilities	2015	<a href="http://open_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12230975.pdf">http://open_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12230975.pdf</a>
7	Households having access to electricity	2017	NFHS-4
8	Average Nominal GSDP Growth rate (4 years)	2010-2014	Planning Commission
9	Share of total project cost	2017	<a href="http://niti.gov.in/state-statistics">http://niti.gov.in/state-statistics</a>
10	Gini Coefficient of income inequality (urban)	2016	<a href="https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2359">https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2359</a>
12	Hazardous Waste	2015	<a href="http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/climateChangeStat2015.pdf">http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/climateChangeStat2015.pdf</a>
13	Bio Mass Residual Burning	2008-9	
15	Forest cover (%)	2017	<a href="http://fsi.nic.in/isfr2017/isfr-forest-cover-2017.pdf">http://fsi.nic.in/isfr2017/isfr-forest-cover-2017.pdf</a>
16	Crime rate (per 100000)	2016	<a href="http://ncrb.gov.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2016/pdfs/NEWPDFs/Crime%20in%20India%20-%202016%20Complete%20PDF%20291117.pdf">http://ncrb.gov.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2016/pdfs/NEWPDFs/Crime%20in%20India%20-%202016%20Complete%20PDF%20291117.pdf</a>

The index calculation methodology has been adopted from the UNDP's calculation of Human Development Index (UNDP, UNDP Human Development Report, 2016). Figure 1 presents the methodology used.

After the index is calculated, each state is ranked based on the Index number arrived. The proceeding section provides the analysis and findings of the study.



**Figure 1:** Methodology to Calculate SDG Index

### Analysis and discussion

To begin with, we collected the required data as per the different states of India. Table 4 displays the data and values of the state for the different SDGs. It can be seen for SDG 1 that out of 29 states, Chhattisgarh has the highest percentage of people living below the poverty line (39.93%) while Goa has the least (5.09%). It can be observed that the value for all India (21.92) is higher than the average of all states (19.39). Moving on to the second parameter, i.e. percentage of malnourished children, it is observed that Sikkim (19.7%) has the least number of malnourished children, whereas Madhya Pradesh (60%) has the highest. Under this parameter also, there is a vast difference between the average (36.06%) and the All India value (42.5%). Under Five Mortality (U5MR) (per 1000 lives) is our next variable for SDG 3, shows that Assam and Madhya Pradesh (54) has the highest U5MR rate as compared to Goa (9) which is the least. As per all India level, U5MR rate stands at 40. In terms of SDG 4, the male and female youth literacy rate is lowest for the state of Chhattisgarh (61.8%) while highest for Mizoram (94%) and the average for all the states comes to 79.22%. Literacy rate for entire Indian sub-continent is 72.99%. If we talk about disparity in employment (SDG5), Delhi (42.41) shows the highest employment participation and Nagaland (8.68%) shows the least. SDG6, i.e. access to improved sanitation facilities, Kerala (95.2%) has the highest access rate as compared to Jharkhand and Odisha (22%). In this case All India (46.9%) access to improved sanitation facility is much lower than that of the average of all states (57.01%).

**Table 4: State-wise data for major metrics SDG \***

States	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG12	SDG13	SDG15	SDG16
	%BPL	Malnourished children	Under Five Mortality (USMR) (per 1000 lives)	male and female literacy rate	disparity in employment	access to improved sanitation facilities	Households having access to electricity	Nominal GDP average Growth rate (4 years)	share of total project cost	Gini Coefficient of income inequality (urban)	Hazardous Waste	CO2 emissions per capita	Forest cover (%)	crime rate(per 100000)
	2011-12	2015-16	2015	2011	2011	2015	2017	2010-11 to 2013-14	2017	2016	2015	2008-9	2017	2016
Andhra Pradesh	9.20	32.50	39.00	86.63	20.82	49.60	98.90	14.17	0.05	0.32	0.09	8009.96	23.26	206.40
Arunachal Pradesh	34.67	32.50	32.00	67.02	13.62	62.00	88.70	15.74	0.06	0.34	0.03	80.78	61.39	192.30
Assam	31.98	36.40	54.00	65.39	31.13	64.90	78.20	14.12	0.01	0.35	0.00	1460.41	32.21	313.90
Bihar	33.74	55.90	42.00	72.19	27.40	23.10	58.60	22.68	0.04	0.32	0.00	5077.03	6.87	157.40
Chhattisgarh	39.93	47.10	46.00	61.80	15.89	24.60	95.60	15.40	0.04	0.43	0.01	1110.69	44.21	211.70
Delhi	9.91	26.10	24.00	87.22	42.41	46.90	99.80	16.53	0.01	0.38	0.00	25.40	6.88	974.90
Goa	5.09	25.00	9.00	86.05	34.84	46.90	99.80	20.81	0.00	0.34	0.01	39.19	33.09	135.60
Gujarat	16.63	44.60	36.00	70.28	33.78	57.40	96.00	16.29	0.06	0.29	0.24	6835.92	11.04	233.20
Haryana	11.16	39.60	41.00	76.24	32.65	68.60	91.70	15.14	0.02	0.39	0.00	13907.71	3.53	320.60
Himachal Pradesh	8.06	36.50	35.00	87.10	13.87	69.10	99.50	14.45	0.02	0.33	0.00	635.45	66.52	188.10
Jammu and Kashmir	10.35	25.60	37.00	86.21	29.00	51.20	97.40	15.93	0.01	0.34	0.00	1403.12	9.10	196.60
Jharkhand	36.96	56.50	37.00	88.70	20.66	22.00	80.10	17.22	0.02	0.34	0.03	1939.61	29.61	120.40
Karnataka	20.91	37.60	31.00	78.03	27.13	51.20	99.00	16.23	0.06	0.42	0.03	8987.46	19.96	237.20
Kerala	7.05	22.90	12.00	75.55	34.50	95.20	99.20	14.26	0.01	0.44	0.01	184.66	29.10	727.60
Madhya Pradesh	31.65	60.00	54.00	82.80	20.92	28.80	89.90	18.61	0.05	0.39	0.04	3032.18	30.72	337.90
Maharashtra	17.35	37.00	24.00	67.16	24.94	53.10	92.50	14.71	0.12	0.39	0.22	10335.70	20.01	217.10
Manipur	36.89	22.20	10.00	66.41	13.02	89.30	92.40	14.82	0.00	0.34	0.00	109.00	78.01	121.90
Meghalaya	11.87	48.80	47.00	75.37	14.50	62.90	91.40	13.13	0.00	0.34	0.00	76.71	42.34	120.90
Mizoram	20.40	19.90	35.00	94.00	16.19	91.90	95.90	18.47	0.00	0.34	0.00	15.56	26.76	227.30
Nagaland	18.88	25.20	18.00	91.85	8.68	76.50	97.00	12.39	0.00	0.34	0.00	141.23	55.62	57.60
Odisha	32.59	40.70	51.00	69.32	28.95	22.00	85.50	15.45	0.03	0.36	0.02	1984.66	37.34	191.30
Punjab	8.26	24.90	26.00	82.34	41.24	79.30	99.60	12.75	0.01	0.32	0.01	32299.31	6.12	137.00
Rajasthan	14.71	39.90	47.00	89.22	16.35	35.00	91.00	18.05	0.03	0.37	0.11	4202.19	9.57	246.20
Sikkim	8.19	19.70	22.00	74.43	20.59	87.20	99.40	19.24	0.01	0.34	0.03	18.95	82.31	124.47
Tamil Nadu	11.28	29.80	21.00	91.33	27.51	48.30	98.30	15.45	0.06	0.35	0.05	5099.67	17.59	258.80
Tripura	14.05	39.60	26.00	89.56	32.20	86.00	92.70	14.88	0.00	0.34	0.00	173.76	60.02	295.70
Uttarakhand	11.26	42.40	50.00	72.89	30.96	65.80	97.50	14.08	0.07	0.40	0.01	1146.20	71.05	102.40
Uttar Pradesh	29.43	38.00	32.00	85.85	22.99	35.70	70.90	17.10	0.01	0.42	0.02	33701.42	6.88	128.70
West Bengal	19.98	38.70	31.00	75.84	38.99	58.90	93.70	15.42	0.03	0.39	0.03	8219.03	13.38	101.80
All India	<b>21.92</b>	<b>42.50</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>72.99</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>46.90</b>	<b>88.20</b>	<b>14.46</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>149240.68</b>	<b>21.35</b>	<b>188.20</b>
MIN	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MAX	50.0	70.0	60.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	25.0	0.2	0.5	1.0	50000.0	100.0	2000.0

\*SDG 11, 14 and 17 metric data were unavailable for majority of the states so they have been ignored in this analysis

Moving ahead Delhi and Goa (99.8%) have the highest percentage of households having access to electricity (SDG7). Bihar (58.6%) has the least percentage in the same parameter. Overall 88% of India has the access to electricity. SDG 8 i.e. Average Nominal GSDP Growth rate (4 years) shows that Bihar (22.68%) has shown the highest growth rate as compared to Nagaland (12.39%) which has shown the lowest growth. Not much difference can be seen in the overall growth rate (14.46%) and the average growth rate of all the states (15.98%). SDG 9, shows that Maharashtra (0.12%) has the maximum share in the project cost whereas Mizoram (0.0%) has the least. Talking about income levels, SDG 10 (Gini Coefficient of income inequality (urban)), we can observe that Kerala (0.44) leads over all and Gujarat (0.29) trails the rest. SDG 12 is displayed with the variable, Hazardous wastes. Data shows that Gujarat (0.24) leads the bandwagon whereas Nagaland (0.0) has no hazardous waste to be calculated. SDG 13 tells us about the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita in India. Due to lack of data, it is calculated as Bio mass residual burning. Uttar Pradesh (33701.42) has the highest emission and Mizoram (15.56) has the least. SDG 15 represents ensuring environmental sustainability and the metric used is forest cover as a percentage of geographical area. India has 21.35% forest cover overall with Sikkim (82.31%) being the state with the highest forest cover. Talking about law and order, SDG 16 uses Crime rate (per 1000000) as its metric. Goa (974.9) has the highest crime rate whereas Nagaland (57.6) has the least.

This analysis clearly shows that Indian states contribute to the SDGs in different capacities and policies which would work for one state might not be applicable to other states. The areas of focus need to be diverse so that collectively the states can lead to meeting the SDGs, not only at the nation level but also at the grassroot level.

To understand the condition better, the SDG index was developed. The maximum and minimum values (Table 4) have been taken as hypothetical values which are representing a logical range within which the values of a specific SDG might lie. Though there is no literature available on this, the research assumes that like HDI, the thresholds could be arrived at by the respective governments of different countries for the parameters mentioned in calculating the SDG Index as well. The proposed index values are presented in Table 5. The index values which have been calculated considers all the SDGs.

Table 5 also displays the rankings of the states based on the index. As can be seen, as per calculation, the highest number is for the state of Sikkim while the lowest is for the state of Uttar Pradesh. Looking at the numbers presented and the ranks, the state which is performing the worst in a specific SDG could be identified and hence, policy measures could be directed towards that factor. States like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand need to provide measures to reduce poverty and states of Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh need to improve literacy rates. The index provides a progress report which could help in determining overall effectiveness of the initiatives taken by the states. Not only does it provide the success of the past policies but also provides the road map for the future initiatives.



**Table 5:** SDG Index

<b>RANK</b>	<b>STATES</b>	<b>SDG INDEX</b>
1	Sikkim	0.5987
2	Himachal Pradesh	0.5846
3	Tamil Nadu	0.5602
4	Arunachal Pradesh	0.5583
5	Andhra Pradesh	0.5416
6	Uttarakhand	0.5159
7	Maharashtra	0.5156
8	Goa	0.5057
9	Karnataka	0.4992
10	Tripura	0.4788
11	Kerala	0.4773
12	Nagaland	0.4764
13	Gujarat	0.4755
14	Jammu and Kashmir	0.4735
15	Rajasthan	0.4687
16	Manipur	0.4664
17	Mizoram	0.4590
18	West Bengal	0.4521
19	Jharkhand	0.4321
20	Madhya Pradesh	0.4193
21	Odisha	0.4182
22	Meghalaya	0.4112
23	Delhi	0.4028
24	Chhattisgarh	0.4026
25	Haryana	0.3997
26	Bihar	0.3977
27	Assam	0.3837
28	Punjab	0.3828
29	Uttar Pradesh	0.3685

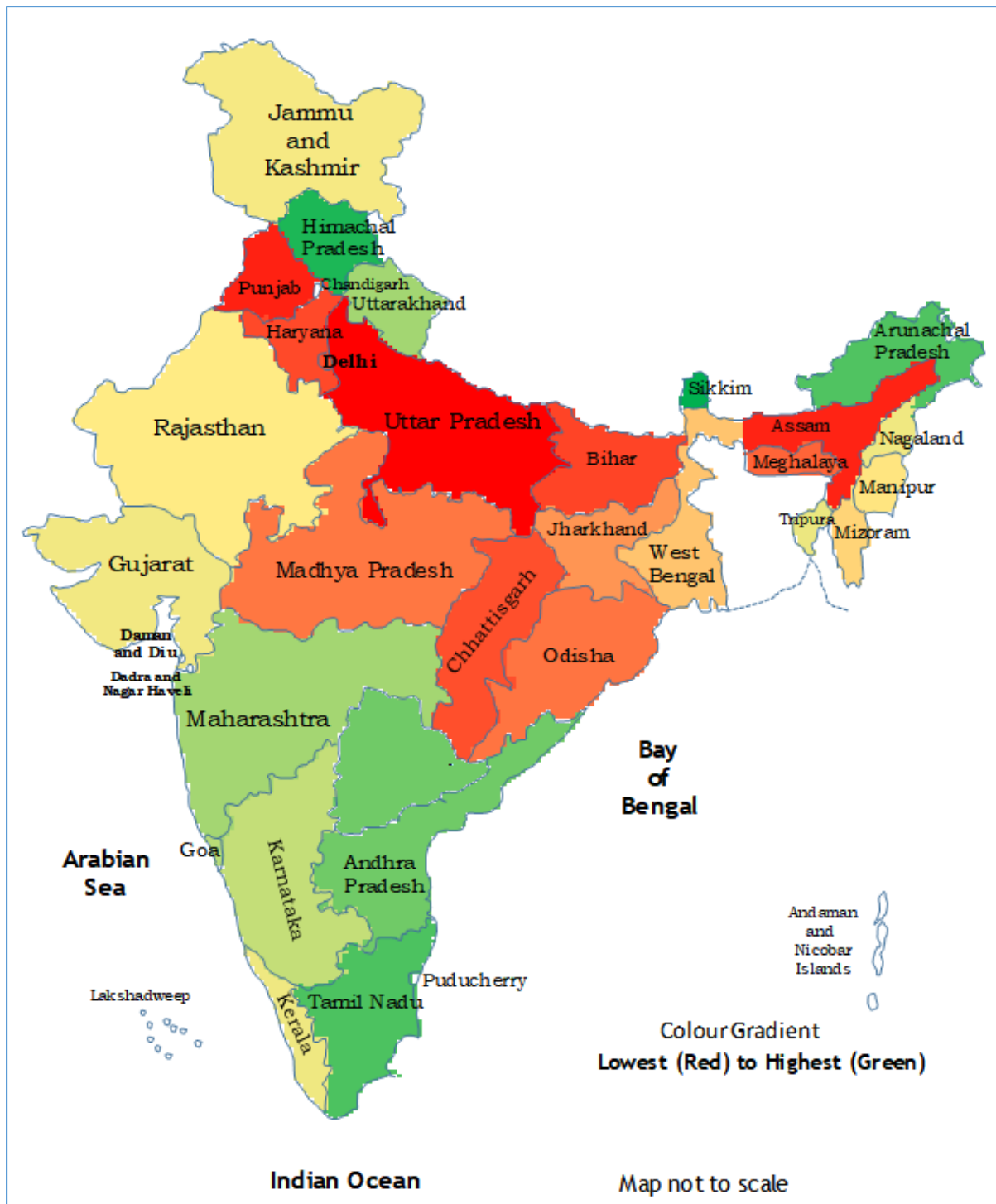


Figure 2: SDG Index for Indian states

## Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goals have gained a lot of interest due to the partial success of MDG in eradication of poverty and human development. Countries have taken a lot of initiatives to meet the targets for the same and have

achieved progress in this regard. However, countries like India, need to keep approaching the targets as they have progressed in some goals and lagged in others. With social spending on interventions such as MGNREGA and the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), introduction of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), National Policy on Children (2013); National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Education; Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and other initiatives focusing on holistic child development, introduction Janani Suraksha Yojana etc. the government has shown commitment towards meeting the global targets for the seventeen SDGs. However, progress has been slow. Since India is a conglomeration of diverse states, it becomes imperative to analyse the achievement of SDGs at state-level. This paper tries to analyse some metrics of the SDGs and provides a state-wise comparison of the same. The paper also proposes an index to aid in ranking the states so that state-wise policies could be initiated in developing the parameter in which the state lags. This research study contributes to the immense developmental economics literature and tries to provide implications for policy makers in a developing economy like India. It not only highlights the past success but also suggests a way to provide roadmap for policy initiatives in the future. There are some limitations of this study and there is a lot of scope to take this research further. The limitations include data availability for the states and hence only some metrics for SDGs could be used. If the data is made available, then the index could be made more accurate and comprehensive.

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