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Partnership for Resurgent India: SDGs as Catalysts of Change



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RIS Work Programme on SDGs

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Foreword

We are deeply honoured for this opportunity to produce a brief digest on action-oriented approaches on some of the important social, economic and governance dimensions of development for the forthcoming Women Legislators' Conference. Our inputs take into account aspects of local challenges in these areas and the scope that exists beyond lawmaking for legislators and parliamentarians, particularly women, in adopting remedial measures as well as in implementing visionary ideas to catalyse economic growth and development locally. Such efforts, we believe, would go a long way in projecting women legislators and parliamentarians as agents of change and messengers of hope.

In our inputs we broadly cover the three themes of this conference, with special reference to the newly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals focussing on areas like health, education, entrepreneurship, and economic growth and the urgency of addressing issues of resources, innovation, and governance to achieve those. We hope that honourable MPs/legislators would find this document useful.

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EDUCATION FOR ALL

Transition from MDGs to SDGs

In fact most of the common goals of MDGs which were conceptualised in 2000 as a set of 8 global goals on diverse dimensions of development like poverty alleviation, health, education, gender equality, environment sustainability and aimed at building a global partnership for development have been inherent in the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; including the SDGs. The SDGs are an inter-governmentally agreed set of seventeen goals and 169 targets relating to sustainable development issues.

All the 17 goals of SDGs seem to be more extensive and ambitious than the MDGs, as the present agenda is relevant to all people in all the countries to ensure that '*no one is left behind*'. These SDGs too aim to end poverty, zero hunger, and improve education and health standards, gender equality, clean water, sanitation and energy, to combat climate change.

On issues pertaining to education, equity is clearly viewed as the key to social progress in all the countries. Collaborative efforts in sharing the rich experience and expertise in diversified areas such as universal mass education, higher and professional education and open and distance education with special emphasis on quality and gender equality was agreed upon.

SDG 4 : Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

- By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Primary Education in India: Challenges

India has made significant progress on access to schooling and enrolment rates in primary education but dropout rates and low levels of learning remain challenges for the state and central government.

- India is among the top five nations for out-of-school children of primary school age, with 1.4 million 6 to 11 year olds not attending school.
- In India, 29 percent of children drop out before completing five years of primary school, and 43 percent before finishing upper primary school.
- Children are not achieving class-appropriate learning levels
- High school completion is only 42 percent.
- Shortage of Teachers
- Arithmetic is a cause of concern

Specific policies to achieve SDGs on Education : Role for Women Legislators

Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB) – is a nationwide sub-programme to the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling i.e., classes I & II. As these classes are the important stages for developing the important skill of reading with comprehension and writing with a purpose. Children who fail to learn to read in the first two grades of school are likely to fall behind and have difficulty in learning other subjects as well. PBBB is planned in a twin track approach (i) to improve language development by creating an enduring interest in reading and writing with comprehension; and (ii) to create a natural and positive interest in mathematics related to the physical and social world.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) - The overall goal of the scheme is to Celebrate the Girl child & enable her education. The objectives of the scheme : Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination; Ensure survival & protection of the girl child; Ensure education of the girl child.

ICDS- The most comprehensive early childhood programme should focus on the issues related to malnutrition and early childhood learning. Investment in early childhood care results in greater cost savings than investment later in the life cycle. Its implementation will require a strong focus on the following

- Instructional content must be such that it develops early cognitive skills, especially reading and maths.
- Teams of trained specialists must be provided to Anganwadi workers to improve their instructional and interactive skills.

Quality Issues and Measures in Education

India has made progress in Quantitative expansion/Equity in education / But not in **quality** in education. Quality is difficult to define, more difficult to measure and monitor, as it should be inclusive of all dimensions of children's' holistic development includes skills, knowledge, values and attitudes, besides health.

- School preparedness: 1 year of pre-school education in Primary section to all children
- Curricular reforms/Value-focused curriculum/Skill inculcation/medium of instruction- language
- Assessment and examination reforms
- Continuous comprehensive environment
- An independent assessment of student learning that is tied to rewards for teacher, school administrators and parents can transform the quality of school education.

Saransh

- A CBSE initiative to provide an analysis of results of class IX-XII to take actionable decisions.
- It enables schools to compare their performance vis-à-vis other schools and within a category of schools.
- Covers both scholastic and co-scholastic areas. It also allows schools to identify areas of improvements for students. Parents and students can also compare results.
-

Shaala Siddhi (Self-assessment of all schools and External Evaluation of sample schools)

- An initiative that allows all schools to self evaluates and monitors their strengths and areas of improvement, both at the elementary and secondary levels. This will evolve into a comprehensive mechanism to address the developmental needs of the schools.

- All schools will carry out the self-assessment every year.

- 5% of all Government schools will be externally evaluated (around 60,000 schools) by May, 2017.
- Inclusion of private schools will be on a voluntary basis.
- **Outcome -- Improvement in overall performance of all schools including Teachers attendance and learning outcomes of all students.**

School Infrastructure and Learning Material

- School infrastructure/School buildings/boundary wall
- Classrooms/Drinking water/Toilets
- Ramps, boundary wall
- Teaching learning material
 - Textbooks, stationery
 - Maps, classroom equipment (maps, globes, science labs, libraries)
- ICT
 - Electrification
 - Infrastructure
 - Availability of computers
 - Internet facility
 - ICT for teaching/learning or for training teachers

School Leadership Development Programme

A curriculum framework for professional development of school head teachers

Access to learning resources through National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER)

An open source of resources that provides online access to all NCERT and other school textbooks, materials for teacher training and adult education

E-Paathshala

A portal of online educational resources launched by NCERT to provide educational resources for stakeholders. The resources include textbooks, audio-books, audio-visual material, teaching instructions and policy documents.

Facilitate creation of libraries for primary schools in rural areas.

Make National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) robust.

Initiative to start B.Ed Schools in all the states of India.

Develop State Plans, budgets and social and economic policies with focus on the most deprived children at the heart of the agenda

Successful Good Practices in Education

Gujarat : Migration Card and Migration Monitoring Software

It was introduced in Gujarat in 2001 to track and monitor students migrating from one cluster, block, district or state to other state with their parents. The programme also aims at increasing retention and reducing the dropout rate of students in Gujarat. Under the Migration Card Initiative, intra-state children are covered in seasonal hostels at their domiciles while inter-state-children are covered under Tent-Special training Programmes (Tent STPs) in temporary schools set up at the worksites of their parents.

Chhattisgarh : Pota Cabins – Residential Schools for Children in LWE-affected areas

It is an innovative educational initiative for building schools with impermanent materials like bamboo and plywood in Chhattisgarh. This initiative has helped reduce the number of out-of school children and improve enrolment and retention of children since its introduction in 2011.

Madhya Pradesh : Pratibha Parv – Strengthening Quality of Education in Government Schools

Pratibha Parv, a festival of excellence, is a comprehensive initiative of the School Education Department, Govt of Madhya Pradesh in 2011, for the assessment of teaching and learning and evaluation of educational facilities and activities. This initiative has successfully contributed to raising the attendance of primary school students from 71 to 78 per cent (2011-13), raised middle school attendance from 79 to 84 per cent and reduced the fear of conventional classroom examinations among students. This initiative has covered approx. 1,00,00,000 students in 1,12,788 schools.

Andhra Pradesh : Saakshar Bharat – Sustaining and Enhancing Efforts in Adult Education

This programme has facilitated opportunities for continuing education by extending educational options to adults who have dropped out of, or never entered the formal education system. With its emphasis on basic literacy, post-literacy and continuous education, the initiative forms a continuum as opposed to segmenting adult education. Enrolment of the programme has increased from approx. 15 lakhs to over 45 lakhs between the years 2010-11 and 2012-13. The number of adults enrolled through during this period is above 83 lakhs.

BRAZIL - Bolsa Familia

Bolsa Familia scheme plays an important role in targeting poor families in Brazil. At present, in terms of coverage and financing, it is the largest Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme in the world. Since its inception in 2003, its most developmental aspect is its conditionality – Government only transfers the money to persons who meet certain criteria. It provides monthly cash payments directly to poor households in response to the household fulfilling certain specific conditions such as minimum attendance of children in schools and their attendance at health clinics, full participation in immunisation programme for the specific age period of a child. Under this scheme, all the payments to the beneficiaries are made through banking system; in return recipients use a debit card to draw out the 31 money from their bank accounts at ATMs. To minimise risk of spending disproportionately on things like liquor, conditional cash transfer has to complement direct transfer. Sometimes, the CCT is withheld in case children's attendance is inadequate, or for failure to comply with child immunisation programmes, among other conditions. This way conditional transfers, which have been widely implemented, take care of specific policy objectives like poverty reduction, encourage poor families to utilise existing health care and education services, which are otherwise underutilised due to excess fees, transportation costs or time off from work. Civil societies play a very important role in targeting the neediest households and are also active in various community kitchens, community gardens and their association with the farmers. The impact of CCT schemes can be assessed from the point of view of their multiple objectives like transparency, alleviation of poverty and human capital formation. These schemes have a positive impact on school attendance rates and consequently in the number of years of schooling attained. It has been observed that the CCT programmes contribute to reduction in income inequality. There has been a marked impact on reducing children's participation in the labour market. As a result, regular health check-ups of pregnant mothers and children have increased substantially.

“Each One Teach One Method” of Mizoram

Mizoram is among those states where education was first initiated and popularized by the British. Today, the state of Mizoram is ranked at the first position in India with a literacy rate of 91.1 percent. It was after the state of Mizoram changed over to the “*each one, teach one*,” method in the post-1990 that excellent progress was made. A systematic effort was made to identify illiterates in far-flung villages. Once these villages were spotted, a number of volunteers, labeled as animators were appointed and simultaneously village adult education committees were formed to oversee the entire project. This method ensured the involvement of a broad spectrum of people and organizations such as village councils, church bodies, teachers and social workers. The Mizoram government drew up a detailed plan printed towards achieving total literacy. Each animator was given the task of teaching five persons at a time. As an incentive, animators were given prescribed teaching-learning material free of cost, a hurricane lantern and kerosene oil so as to carry on teaching even after sundown. Evidently, the method has paid off. Today, Mizoram is highly literate state but for the fact that a large

percentage of Chakma and Reang population, who form a minority in the state, are not as keen as their “Mizo counterparts to attain literacy.

Reaching to out of School children” Experience of Himachal Pradesh

The state government has gone to the extent of “embedding teachers, who travel and live with nomads in the hills in order to teach their children. The state has committed high levels of investment in provisioning elementary education in sparsely inhabited areas such as Lahaul and Spiti where formal schools are functioning for extremely small numbers of children and the average school size is very small. The average pupil teacher ratio in this district is very low. In all there are 204 primary schools serving 2594 children and 63 upper primary schools covering 1,475 children in 2006. There are no out of school children in this district.

HEALTH FOR ALL

India Health Profile

India at the time of Independence started with low levels of health indicators, as could be seen from the following Table 1:

Table 1

Indicator Name	Year	Value
Life expectancy (years) at birth (M/F)	1951	32/31
Infant mortality rate (probability of dying by age 1 per 1000 live births)	1951	127
Maternal Mortality Rate (deaths per 1000 live births)	1951	20
Child mortality (1-5 Years)	1949	639616
Total No. of Beds in Hospitals	1951	106478
Total No. of Hospitals	1951	2014
Total No. of Dispensaries	1951	6587
HIV Incidence rate (per 100 000 population per year)	1951	-
TB Incidence rate (per 100 000 population per year)	1951	-

Source: First Five Year Plan

Reliable statistics for many health indicators which are common now were not available at the time of Independence. But the above figures give a broad indication.

The current health profile is presented in Table 2. These data point towards the task that India will have to take up to achieve health for all by 2030, a goal set by the leaders of the world in the 2015 UN Declaration.

Table 2

Indicator Name	Year	Value
Life expectancy (years) at birth	2014	68.0
Infant mortality rate (probability of dying by age one per 1000 live births)	2013	41.4

Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1000 live births)	2013	52.7
Maternal Mortality Ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	2013	190
Public health expenditure (% of GDP)	2013	4.0
Private expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health	2012	69.5
HIV Incidence rate (per 100 000 population per year)	2013	11
TB Incidence rate (per 100 000 population per year)	2013	171
Total No. of Community Health Centres	2015	5396
Total No. Of Primary Health Centres,	2015	25,308
Total No. of Sub-Centres	2015	1,53,655

Rural sector is the one where much more focus than hitherto is required to be given to achieve the goal of health for all, which needs significant augmentation of the infrastructure. Table 3 below present the norms set by the country for the rural infrastructure and its current status:

Table 3
Average rural population covered by health facility

Centre	Norm	Status (2015)
Sub-Centre	3000-5000	5426
PHC	20000 - 30000	32944
CHC	80000 - 120000	154512

Two areas of particular weakness are infant mortality andmaternalmortality. While there have been achievements, there are strong variations across states, as presented in the following two figures:

Fig1: State-wise Infant Mortality Rate (2013)

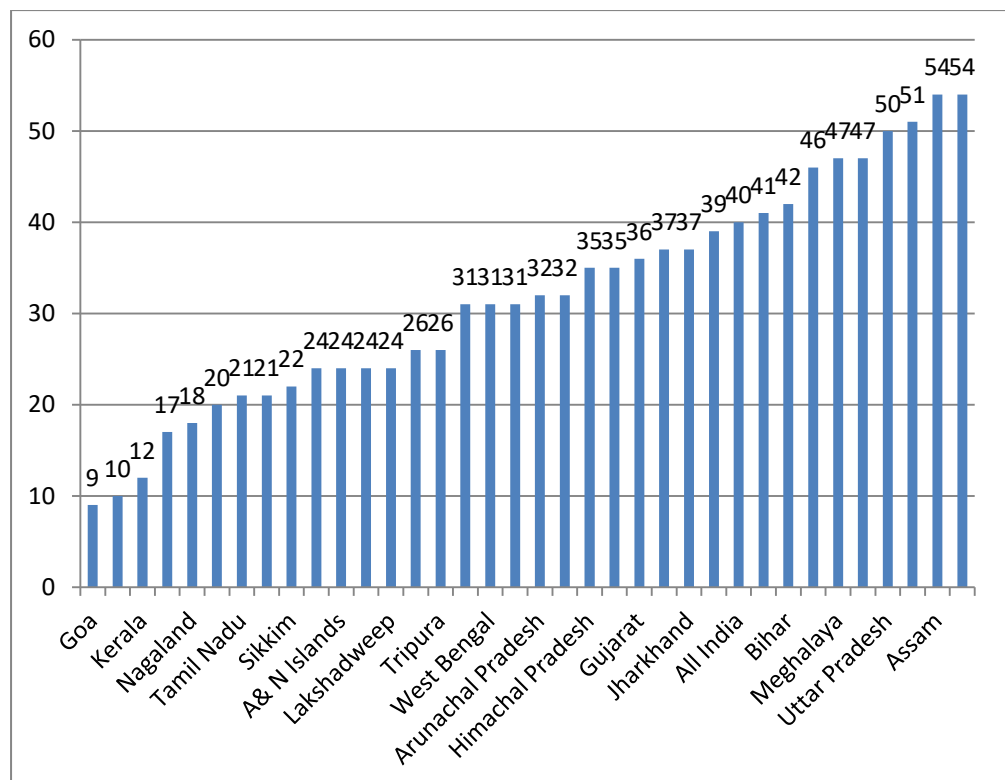
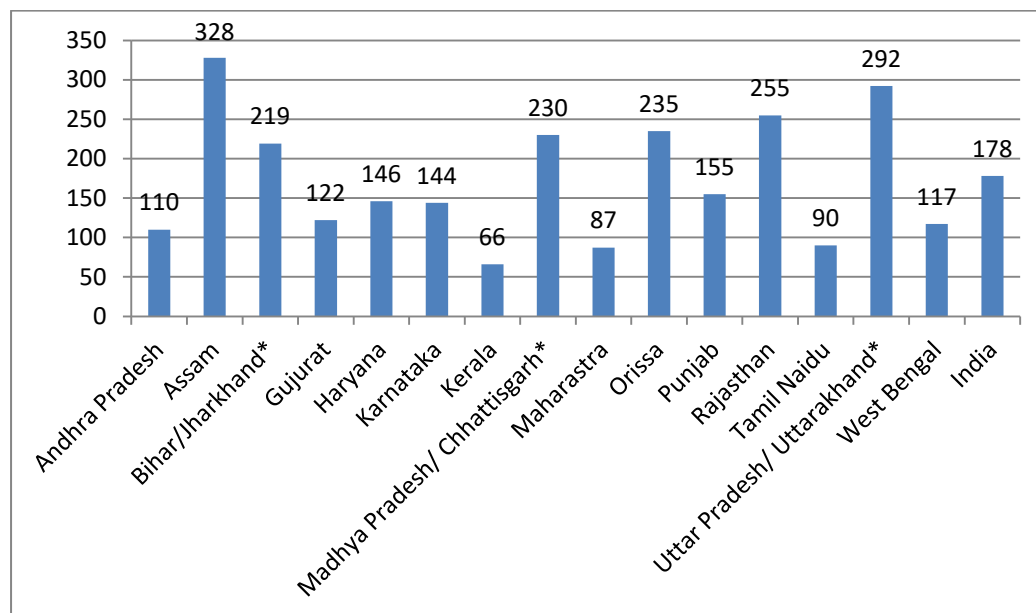


Figure 2: Maternal Mortality Ratio of Major States (2010-12)



Source for data: National Health Profile, 2015; WHO, World Health Statistics 2015 and UNDP, Human Development Report 2015

Some Best Practices in Health Care

Certain successful interventions done at local or state levels are presented in this section, from which lessons could be learnt both by the stakeholders concerned and others and adapt them suitably to address state specific issues.

1. Arogyakeralam Palliative Care Project: Ensuring care and support for the chronically ill and infirm

The Arogyakeralam project is based on the Pain and Palliative Care Policy initiative by Government of Kerala in 2008, declaring palliative care as part of primary healthcare with the aim of providing medical care and support to every citizen in need of palliative care. Arogyakeralam emphasises a community-based approach to healthcare and considers home-based medical care to be the cornerstone of palliative care services. The local self government institutions are involved in the project. NGOs also are involved as partners.

A home care team, namely, the Palliative Care Unit (PCU) comprising a medical officer, local Accredited Social Health Activists, Junior Public Health Nurses and elected representatives, visits the home of the patient at least once on fixed homecare days. The team assesses the medical, emotional and financial situation of the patient. Accordingly, medicines are given and further visits are scheduled. Family members are also given advice on the basic care of bedridden patients. If the patients require secondary level care, the team recommend the patient to Taluk or District hospitals. The PCUs run Out-Patient Department at health facilities, where the assigned doctors and nurses support and monitor the condition of the patient.

The personnel are given training at the district level. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the project is also undertaken at state level.

Basic implementation of the project is done using the existing healthcare infrastructure. Wherever needed additional infrastructure in the form of OPDs have been set up.

As of March 2014, the project had provided primary-level palliative care to an average of 48,339 and secondary level care to an average of 2,419 beneficiaries each month since 2008.

2. CATCH: Ensuring Quality Healthcare for All

The Comprehensive Annual and Total Health Check-up for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH) is a flagship programme of the Government of Sikkim which was launched to provide basic healthcare services at the doorstep of the state's rural population. The programme focuses on community-based comprehensive healthcare by conducting annual and periodic health check-ups free of cost for all the citizens of Sikkim and providing referrals as required.

By creating access to routine check-ups, preventive and remedial measures and primary healthcare services, CATCH aims to shift focus from cure to prevention. The programme's specific objectives are to track the health profile of all the people from the Gram Panchayat to the state level on yearly/periodical basis; address the key obstacles to promoting good health and prevention of risk factors for major public health problems and non-communicable diseases which are the main problems in the state; work towards long term policy change for positive health; bring down the cost of healthcare, especially for chronic diseases in the long run; and undertake early diagnosis of diseases and risk factors.

The state health infrastructure from state down to primary health centres and rural health workers are involved in the programme as stakeholders. Beneficiaries include pregnant women, sick infants, old people, and patients from BPL families and communities. The State government is responsible for conducting a free health check up for each citizen annually at the designated centres across the state.

District Health Society manages the operations and administrative work of health camps at various locations. The CATCH programme team comprising medical officers, doctors, nurses, lab technicians and pharmacists, delivers the services.

The comprehensive community healthcare model has introduced positive changes in Sikkim's healthcare system. Since its launch in 2010, CATCH has benefitted 5,52,767 people in the State, conducted 3,685 health camps and distributed 1,30,723 health cards to citizens.

3. KIDROP: Preventive vision loss in premature infants of underserved areas

The Karnataka Internet Assisted Diagnosis of Retinopathy of Prematurity (KIDROP) project was initiated in 2008 by the Narayana Nethralaya Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Bengaluru and was integrated with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Karnataka in 2009. It is India's first and largest rural tele-medicine programme using tele-ophthalmology to tackle infant blindness, caused by Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). The KIDROP project uses trained technicians and digital equipment to provide diagnosis and treatment to premature infants in the under-served areas of rural Karnataka.

The project is based on the 'triple T' philosophy – telemedicine; training of peripheral ophthalmologists; and talking to neonatologists, paediatricians and gynaecologists.

KIDROP is being implemented in PPP model. The Government of Karnataka is responsible for funding the equipment and logistics, and for providing salaries to the teams. Narayana Nethralaya is responsible for providing free screening and treatment to all the patients.

As of July, 2015, KIDROP has screened over 18,290 infants in over 85 neo-natal care centres across 19 districts of Karnataka since its launch in 2008. Out of this, 12,904 infants did not require any ROP. In 4067 cases ROP required only follow-up. The remaining 1319 infants received laser ROP.

4. Mo Masari: Using insecticidal nests to protect pregnant women and children from malaria

Mo Masari is a successful malaria prevention initiative implemented by the Government of Odisha to protect pregnant women and children in malaria endemic districts of Odisha. The scheme focuses on ensuring efficient distribution and proper use of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) by the targeted population. The accompanying information, education and communication and behavioural change communication campaigns are crucial to the successes of the programme.

The *Mo Masari* scheme was piloted in January 2010 in five districts of Odisha. It was focussed on pregnant women and their children upto five years of age and children studying in tribal residential schools. Later it was scaled upto cover other districts and also to cover children in orphanages.

Under the scheme, pregnant women receive family-sized LLINs, in which the mother, the new-born child and at least one other child can sleep. The residents at tribal schools and orphanages receive individual-sized nets. The nets are procured through a public-private partnership scheme.

Eighty-nine per cent of women receiving LLINs reported using it during pregnancy and up to 99.5 per cent pregnant women retained the LLINs with them.

5. Decentralisation of ICDS Supplementary Programme: Ensuring timely and quality nutrition to all beneficiaries

The Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) of Odisha has undertaken decentralisation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) supplementary nutrition programme in the state to streamline and strengthen the programme and ensure universalisation with quality in a time bound manner. The initiative reaches out to all beneficiaries with a standard weekly menu, meeting the protein and calorie norms with the allocated ration cost, removing contractors and encouraging women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in adherence with the directives of the Supreme Court prescribing the minimum nutrition provision that must be guaranteed under the ICDS.

Under decentralisation all procurement, except for rice and wheat, are carried out locally at the village level. Rice and wheat will be procured from the Food Corporation of India, as per the Centre's Guidelines. Joint accounts will be opened for each *Angan Wadi* Centre (AWC) AWC in the names of the *Angan Wadi* Worker (AWW) and a ward member. A pre-decided menu chart will be provided indicating the type of morning snack and hot cooked meal served on each day of the week. Only e-transfers are permitted for all fund transactions. A new grassroots body called *Jaanch* Committee is to be formed.. All stakeholders are given training on the new guidelines.

Results from a social-audit in 2011 indicate that 71 per cent of the respondents felt that the menu chart was being followed. It also showed that decentralisation had empowered women SHGs.

Source for best practices: Social Service Delivery: Good Practices Resource Book 2015, UNDP

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG Targets to be achieved by 2030

- Reducing maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030
- Reducing neonatal mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births and under – 5 mortality to at least 25 per 1,000 live births by 2030
- End epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and effective combating of hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases by 2030
- Reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases to one third through prevention and treatment by 2030
- Promotion of mental health and well-being
- Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- Halving the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, by 2020
- Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- Achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection
- Ensuring access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- Substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination, by 2030
- Strengthening tobacco control
- Strengthening R&D in vaccines and medicines

Focus Areas of Action

- Persuasion of state and central governments to bring in effective coordination between health departments and other departments like, education, environment, women & child development, SC/ST. energy, transport , etc. to build in health related targets in their programmes
- Creation of awareness among people and local bodies to focus on preventive health care through developing healthy eco-system in their areas through providing sanitation and clean drinking water facilities and developing healthy food habits
- Facilitation of creation and supervision of effective mechanisms for regular periodic monitoring of health care indices in their locality
- Persuasion of local schools and colleges to have mental health counselling of students
- Scrutinize all government schemes and programmes for the ultimate human wellness impact of the same and suggest appropriate remedial measures

- Monitor local availability of affordable essential medicines, vaccines and diagnostic kits
- Monitoring of nutrition levels and specifically handling issues like anaemia which leads to morbidity
- Effective integration and use of Indian systems of Medicine in health programmes

CATALYSING ECONOMIC GROWTH LOCALLY: ROLE FOR MPS AND MLAS

Essentials of Economic Growth:

- Growth of national income remains the cornerstone of economic policymaking. In countries like India, with large populations to support, per capita incomes remain low despite sustained economic growth measured in terms of per capita GDP. However, greater national income facilitates upgrading into more productive economic activities and allows enhanced spending on development.
- India registered a GDP growth rate of 7.3 percent in 2014-15 (measured in 2011-12 prices) fastest among large economies.
- Nevertheless, narrowly defined objectives of economic growth have been questioned time and again and sustainability concerns are increasingly intruding the consciousness of policymakers, civil society and global citizenry to ensure environmental resilience as well as social justice.
- Centrality of economic growth has been recognized under the SDGs as the key instrument to facilitate social sector outcomes. Of the 17 SDGs, in Goals 8 and 9 combined, the focus is on economic growth and distribution; and jobs and industrialization.
 - Goal 8. *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*
 - Goal 9. *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*
- However, economic growth cannot be influenced without focussing on its drivers i.e. human and physical capital, resource availability, and supportive infrastructure.
- Beyond policy facilitation by the Centre and the State Governments towards achieving economic growth, there is always a case to guide adoption of such policies locally keeping in mind uniqueness of local contexts in terms of economic activity and resource availability.
- In an environment of deeply integrated global economy, there are trade-offs involved in all policy decisions directed at competitiveness of particular sectors. The rationale for building local capacities on one hand and integrating with global value chains on the other hand requires careful policy choices.

- Further, in order to promote economic growth it is also important to have conducive social and political pre-conditions in place that ensure local stability in terms of credible social sector development, reduced inequities and social harmony.
- While, Goals 8 and 9 of the SDGs stress on improved and enhanced economic opportunities for all, the essential preconditions outlined above remains important. These also capture the objectives of several other SDGs on human development, peace and justice.

Agenda for Local Economic Transformation:

- Understanding the local fabric in terms of mix of economic activities and their potential for income and employment generation need to be considered.
- Identifying prominent economic activities within a region based on local advantages is important for policy planning and institutional intervention to promote growth.
- On the average agriculture accounts for 15 percent of India's GDP. Contribution from Industry and Services are 25 percent and 60 percent respectively.
- While primary sectors still support large employment in India, income generation is least in such sectors. Appropriate local conditions through policy and institutional support need to be nurtured that can foster economic transformation i.e. movement from primary to secondary and tertiary activities.
- Either industry or the modern services sector or both needs to be introduced beyond urban centres to facilitate this transformation. Switch to new industries and modern services are desirable across regions. It is a matter of grave concern that despite policy push manufacturing sector in terms of contribution to GDP has remained stagnant.
- Globalization may adversely impact traditional economic activities. Vulnerable livelihood options within a region need to be cared for and alternate future possibilities need to be jointly explored both at the level of policy making as well as through community mobilization and skill development.
- Agriculture remains to be the key economic activity across rural India and key contributor to India's GDP. While, India has made remarkable progress in agricultural productivity, farming has been less attractive among new generations for a variety of reasons. Adequate policy support needs to be provided to sustain agriculture (including animal husbandry) and livelihood in rural India.
- Moreover, with increased exposure to global economy, and due to fluctuating weather patterns, distress in agriculture has emerged as a challenge in several parts of the

country. All policy options and institutional support (like insurance, price support, information, and extension services) need to be explored in facing up to this challenge.

- Additionally, initiatives to support best practices like climate resilient agriculture and soil health may be introduced.
- There is need to encourage use of appropriate technology across sectors – agriculture (machines, agricultural practices, and better varieties), industry (product and process innovations) and services (innovation in models of delivery).
- To ensure environmental sustainability, sustainable business practices, reduction of carbon footprint, and environmental standards need to be promoted.
- Additional measures are required in ecologically sensitive zones like coastal regions, forests, Himalayan territories, and inland water systems.

Human and Physical Capital Needs:

- India is enjoying a demographic dividend with large proportion of young population.
- Education and skills are considered crucial elements to promote sophisticated economic activities and gainful employment. While, India has achieved primary enrolment, higher skills (comprehension and numeracy) are lacking in general. Quality of education has therefore emerged as a key challenge apart from equity and access.
- Nevertheless, India has also emerged as a hub of unconventional, frugal and grassroots innovation and local entrepreneurship promoting best practices around such innovations needs to be considered.
- Economic growth is also dependent on healthy and mentally agile workforce. Promotion of health, nutrition and sanitation is essential to ensure health and wellness.
- Infrastructure and connectivity are important areas that facilitate economic activity. Poor infrastructure is inimical to economic activities. Priority areas need to be identified locally to implement infrastructure projects.
- As India embarks on greater ICT penetration, it is important to bridge the digital divide further to take advantages of services delivered online to the masses. This in itself would boost new businesses targeting Indian consumers.

- Increased financing from formal sources need to be facilitated to promote economic activity. Credit crunch has often been cited as key constraint by entrepreneurs. The problem is particularly acute for small and medium investors.
- Finally, the issue of land use need to be contextualised and mapped to promote new economic activity without disturbing the balance between farm and non-farm activities or environmental sustainability.

Governance Issues:

- To promote economic growth it is important to achieve strong law enforcement, social harmony and minimum crime rates. This ensures confidence among all stakeholders.
- Apart from government sponsored incentives mean to attract investment it is important for local agencies to take adequate measures in projecting potential of particular locations to enhance prospects of domestic and foreign investments.
- Bureaucratic hurdles to investment promotion must be minimized at all levels. Ease of doing business may be addressed locally as well by relevant authorities.
- There is need to bring down levels of local corruption in sectors like public procurement and distribution.
- It is important to take adequate measures locally to influence taxpaying behaviour of individuals to expand local tax base which in turn improves resource availability with the government. Local records of tax evasion, tax avoidance, unlawful invoicing, and illegal transactions (mostly in border areas) may be maintained under the oversight of people's representatives.

EVALUATING DEVELOPMENT LOCALLY: ROLE FOR MPS AND MLAS

Rationale:

- While *growth* is ensured through macroeconomic policies, developmental outcomes measured in terms of well being of citizens and reducing inequities is largely achieved through affirmative action and social welfare programmes apart from strengthening infrastructure for basic human needs.
- India, along with the global community has recently adopted the 17 SDGs covering areas like social sector development; economic progress; environmental sustainability; justice and inclusion. The SDG agenda adopted globally to achieve the above nationally and to ensure global partnership commitment over the next 15 years till 2030 recognizes diversity in country contexts and allows countries to adopt nationally determined strategies.
 - Para 59 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states: *We recognize that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development; and we reaffirm that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions.*
- However, development may be conditional upon local socio-economic conditions and driven by issues related to governance and partnerships.
- Attaining faster pace of development is often hindered by absence of leadership, inadequate institutional capacities, irregular funding support, lack of awareness, corruption and vested interests.
- At the operational level, therefore, it is extremely important to devise institutional mechanisms (formal and informal) to monitor and evaluate developmental outcomes locally. Role of elected representatives at the level of legislators and parliamentarians can be of immense importance in this regard.
- So far, in the Indian context, scope of interventions in this regard by legislators and parliamentarians has been limited. While there are agencies within the government who perform such tasks accountability remains a grey area.

- New social welfare programmes like MNREGA incorporates role of grassroots democratic institutions like gram panchayats in monitoring and evaluation of service delivery under such schemes.
- However, such initiatives fail to bridge an important gap i.e. to institutionally involve members from state legislatures or the parliament in the running of such schemes in their constituencies.
- Some institutionalized provisions of evaluation of progress of developmental schemes by elected representatives from state assemblies and parliament would only strengthen partnership and collaboration and ensure better delivery of public services. This would also empower the office of local legislator/parliamentarian and fill a perceived gap in our democratic superstructure.
- Under Follow-up and Review of the SDGs, the declaration envisages role of parliaments and other democratic institutions:
 - Under Follow up and Review, Para 74 d. states: *They will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders.*
 - Para 79 states: *We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country led and country driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.*

Objectives:

- The World Bank defines the scope of monitoring and evaluation as:
 - *Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of development activities provides government officials, development managers, and civil society with better means for learning from past experience, improving service delivery, planning and allocating resources, and demonstrating results as part of accountability to key stakeholders.*
- The principal components for M&E for government funded social programmes and infrastructure development projects can be:

- Selection of sectors – defining the order of developmental gaps and matching them with appropriate government programmes.
- Tracking Performance (selecting statistical input and outcome based indicators)
- Measuring progress by linking outcomes with original philosophy and objectives of a policy and programme.
- Understanding level and flow of public money; and cost-benefit analysis of specific programmes.
- Impact evaluation in terms of intended and unintended benefits; short term and long term implications.
- Similarly, impact evaluation in terms of environmental/resource sustainability; and, adverse impact, if any and impact on people outside the target group

Strategies:

The tools for M&E for elected representatives may be as follows:

- Quantitative Component: Results from pilot surveys through participatory methods by engaging volunteers (or crowd sourcing information through ICT modes)
- Qualitative Component: Reporting institutional, systemic and capacity bottlenecks; accountability gaps; and appraisal of political economy conditions through workshops
- The national indicator framework (currently available at the district level and recently revised and re-launched by NITI Aayog) may be used. The upcoming indicator framework (being developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI) to be adopted by the country under its commitment on the SDGs can also be referred to track the progress of the SDGs locally.

Examples from Africa:

- South Africa has mandated M&E under the oversight of legislators: As representatives elected by South Africa's voters, Government and all its structures are accountable to legislatures and municipal councils. Legislators and councilors must exercise consistent and informed oversight of the bodies accountable to them, using insight gained from M&E systems.

- In Ghana there are frameworks for M&E at the district level: In order to strengthen capacity in sectors, regions, and districts to respond to M&E needs at national, sector and district levels, M&E guidelines have been developed to assist sectors and districts with developing M&E plans.

FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Definition

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian Economy over the last five decades. This has increased continuously during 2007-08 to 2014-15 period, overcoming difficult global economy. Promotion of the MSMEs also has been recognized under SDGs, in Goal 8 (target 8.3) which also focuses on policies on decent work and economic growth.

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

In India Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 classify MSMEs as:

Enterprises (Type)	Investment in Plant & Machinery (Manufacturing)	Investment in Equipment (Service)
Micro	Up to ₹ 25 lakh	Up to ₹ 10 lakh
Small	Above ₹ 25 lakh upto ₹ 5 crore	Above ₹ 10 lakh upto ₹ 2 crore
Medium	Above ₹ 5 crore upto ₹ 10 crore	Above ₹ 2 crore upto ₹ 5 crore

Source: Entrepreneurs Memorandum (part-II) Data on MSME Sector

MSMEs mainly produces food products, chemical and chemical products, basic metal and metal products, electrical machinery and parts, rubber and plastic products, machinery and parts except electrical goods, hosiery and garments, wood products, non-metallic mineral products, paper products and printing, transport equipments and parts, leather and leather products, miscellaneous manufacturing items, other services and products, beverages, tobacco and tobacco products, repair services, cotton textiles, wool, silk, synthetic fiber textiles, jutes, hemp and mesta textiles and other services.

Major Competitiveness Challenges of MSMEs in India

- High informality of the SME sector
- Absence of adequate and timely banking finance
- Weak market information and market orientation

- Weak transparency and linkages to other suppliers, buyers and further market channels
- Non-availability of suitable technology
- Low production capacity
- Weak access to capacity building and knowledge intensive learning processes
- Bureaucratic hurdles
- Lack of research based inputs & information

International Practices to Promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)

A report from United Nation Economic Commission for Europe has highlighted some of the determinants of systematic competitiveness in SME which are listed below.

Micro Level- (Business level)	Meso level- (Institutional Support)	Macro Level- (Policies)	Meta Level- (National Socio- Cultural Value System)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra firm effort to improve efficiency, quality, flexibility, responsiveness, business strategy • Formal and informal cooperation, networks, alliance, collective learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Policies to strengthen the competitiveness of industries such policies are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Export promotion ○ Regional policy ○ Infrastructure ○ Locational policy and economic promotion ○ Industrial Policy ○ Environment Policy ○ Educational Policy ○ Technology Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable, competition oriented macro-economic, political and legal framework conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exchange-rate policy ○ Monetary policy ○ Budgetary policy, fiscal policy ○ Anti-trust policy ○ Trade policy ○ Consumer protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development oriented patterns of political and economic organization • Competitive economic system • Value systems which encourage learning and change • Social status of entrepreneurs • Capacity to formulate visions and strategies • Collective memory • Social cohesion social capital

Source: "Review of the International Best Practice in SME State Support", National Strategy of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development, United Nation Economic Commission for Europe

According to OECD, Industrialized countries focus their SME promotion activities mainly on four areas:

- Promotion of entrepreneurship cultures and the improvement of macroeconomic framework conditions for new start-ups, existing businesses and for potential new investors.
- Increasing knowledge flows between SMEs and between SMEs, large enterprises and knowledge institutions. In this regard intervention strategies often differentiate

between high-growth- or knowledge intensive firms to encourage radical innovations and traditional SMEs with incremental innovation potentials like e.g. improving products, processes of production, or the quality and value addition of products

- Strengthening entrepreneurial human capital and access to finance through the improvement of skills development programs and better access to financial and non-financial business development services. This also involves the creation of entrepreneurship skills in schools and universities
- Encouraging local and decentralized network approaches and innovation systems as well as integrating networks of SMEs and local knowledge institutions into global knowledge networks on the other hand.

Best Practices from States towards Fostering Entrepreneurship

1. Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP): Fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship in Meghalaya

Objectives

- IBDLP's primary objective is to ensure robust growth during 2012-2017 through an inclusive and sustainable entrepreneur-led model implemented in convergence mode.
- To promote knowledge-centric development through capacity building, particularly in natural resource management and entrepreneurship.
- Promote the creation of the required physical infrastructure in a convergent and participatory manner and set up efficient, adaptive and responsive governance systems for facilitating the process.

Impact

- **Attitudinal shift towards entrepreneurship:** Bringing in change in people's mindset has been one of IBDLP's biggest achievements as the state Meghalaya is mainly involved in subsistence farming and dependent on doles and subsidies.
- **Greater access and efficiency for all stakeholders:** the enterprise facilitation centres function as a single window through which partners receive all the services, which saves them from running pillar to the post.

2. Panchayat Banks: Providing banking facilities at the village level in Jharkhand

Objectives

- Introduction of Panchayat Banks in Jharkhand has been exemplary because it has created new spaces for rural citizens to become entrepreneurs in the process of

making banking services as well as the benefits of government schemes more easily accessible to rural communities.

- The primary objective of this initiative was to provide banking and financial services at the Panchayat level.
- The idea was also to provide access to government schemes such as pensions and MGNREGA payments, which bring numerous benefits to people

Impact

- **Improved Access to financial services**, particularly in rural areas.
- **Reduction in corruption and leakages** due to the usage of biometric authentication and the direct transfer of payments to beneficiary accounts
- **Increase in savings**, as customers are now able to withdraw only as much as they need
- **Increase efficiency of banks**, as the reduced load on bank branches has enabled them to devote more time to core operations
- **Livelihood generation**: The panchayat bank model provides entrepreneurial opportunities to community member

Promotion of Start-ups in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech to the Indian Diaspora in US pointed out that, “The convergence of technology integration across diverse fields, distributed architecture and people willing to back an idea, have opened a new world for enterprise. —I see Start-ups, technology and innovation as exciting and effective instruments for India’s transformation, and for creating jobs for our youth.¹”

Importance of Start-ups

- New technology and business ideas need to be converted into successful business models by budding entrepreneurs and experienced professionals.
- Innovative business models provide critical support to manufacturing and services value chain and support expansion of job opportunities.
- Innovation led business models lead to dynamic global firms and initial conditions from successful cases may be adjusted to local contexts to get similar results.
- Economic theory suggests that variety improves consumer welfare. Therefore, such new business models need to be promoted to boost domestic consumption led economic growth.
- Such model of entrepreneurship can also be leveraged to cater to the needs of the poor by improving quality of products and services at their disposal keeping in mind issues related to access.

¹ Speech by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Startup Event (27 September 2015, San Jose, California)

The government has made start-ups a top priority evident in the adoption of the new Start-Up policy. Some of the latest policy initiatives for start-ups in India are listed below.

- To simplify the regulatory framework the government introduced the Ease of Doing Business wherein an MSME unit has to fill in a single one page self-declaration online form called **Udyog Aadhaar**.
- **The Apprentices Act, 1961 was amended** to enable even the MSME units engage apprentices which will enable the units to get trained labour as well as in turn supply skilled labour.
- Under the **Apprentice Protsahan Yojana**, 50 percent of the stipend payable to the apprentices would be reimbursed by the Government for the first two years which is an incentive for MSME units to take in more apprentices.
- To boost Make in India Programme, **MSME Ministry has launched the ASPIRE Scheme**, a scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship. The objective of the scheme is to set up a network of technology and incubation centers to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote start-ups for innovation and entrepreneurship in agro-industry.
- **Launch of MUDRA scheme-** Micro Units Development & Refinancing Agency, operated by SIDBI for providing refinance to micro units.
- **Atal Innovation Mission-** This programme operated from NITI Aayog is about an Innovation Promotion Platform involving academics, entrepreneurs and researchers and draw upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D and scientific research in India.
- **Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)-** Techno-Financial, Incubation and Facilitation Programme to support all aspects of startup businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas operated from NITI Aayog.
- **Electronics Development Fund** to promote innovation, research and development, and product development in the field of semiconductors, nano-electronics, IT and associated sectors by bringing in established companies and startups on board.
- **Digital India Programme** to provide broadband connectivity in rural and urban areas.
- **Intellectual Property Rights** to protect one's products from impersonators. The start-ups need to go for design patents, trademarks, copyright or trade secrets protection as the need maybe before marketing their product.
- **India Aspiration Fund** A ₹ 2000 crore fund was launched by SIDBI to boost start-ups fund-of-funds ecosystem in the country. This fund is invested in various venture capital funds for meeting the equity requirement of MSME start-ups.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

The importance of environment has been highlighted in the SDGs. Out of the 17 SDGs, 7 Goals are linked to environment. The goals are as follows:

- ***Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation***
Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- ***Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy***
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- ***Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities***
Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- ***Goal 12- Responsible Consumption and Production***
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- ***Goal 13 – Climate Action***
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- ***Goal 14 – Life Below Water***
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
- ***Goal 15 – Life on Land***
Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

COP21

The Conference of Parties (COP), in 2015 took place in Paris. COP21, **also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.**

Urbanization

Urbanization is taking place at a rapid pace in India. Due to better education, employment, health and infrastructure facilities, people move to cities. As a consequence, there is an enormous amount of pressure on natural resources like land, water and air in major cities. Urbanization has led to environmental degradation in the form of deteriorated air quality, water pollution and land degradation.

In the recent initiative, Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure like adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, efficient public transport, health, education and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of ‘Smart’ Solutions.

Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is one of the major environmental concerns in India and most people are unaware of the hazards it can cause. As per the Prevention and Control of Pollution Act implemented in 1981, the noise is termed as an 'air-pollutant'. According to the WHO guidelines, for a sound sleep, the noise in that room should not be more than 30dBA. For maintaining concentration in any classroom, it should not exceed 35dBA. The noise levels more than these limits on a continuous basis, may harm mental as well as physical health on a short term and long term basis.

Honking car horns is a major contributor to noise pollution leading to a significant amount of disturbance to the nearby areas and the residents. In 2014, a group of people in Mumbai took an initiative and developed 'Oren horn usage meter' to reduce the usage of horns in the city. The meter allows for a limited amount of honking, after which it causes the vehicle's tail-lights to flash and alert the traffic police, who could then issue a fine.

Another initiative, aimed to attack drivers' conscience, 'Project Bleep' involves a little red button on the dashboard that beeps and flashes with a frowning face.

How Can Legislators Contribute?

- In order to reduce noise pollution, legislators should encourage initiatives in their states and learn from innovative initiatives undertaken in other states, like 'Project Bleep' in Maharashtra.
- A key reason for increase in vehicular growth is lack of public transport. Increasing the availability of pollution - free public transport can help in tackling with challenges of air pollution.
- Enhancing employment prospects and quality academic institutes in all states to reduce migration burden on major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. Reducing population burden in these major cities is a matter of great concern.