

Voluntary National Review report of SDGs

Why in News?

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 Government has come out with the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on progress in achievement of SDGs to be presented at the ongoing UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

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India's report is prepared by the NITI Aayog.

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Does the report reflect the ground reality?

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 \bullet This report provides an assessment of progress on issues like poverty, hunger, health and gender inequality. \n

• But the claims made in the report are in contrast to the ground reality in many factors.

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- On **poverty** the report claims a sharp reduction in the last two decades attributing it to economic growth after liberalisation.
- \bullet However an independent civil society organisation report highlights increase in inequality and poverty over the same period. \n
- The report claims that MGNREGA has created employment opportunities and significantly reduced poverty.

- Ground reality however reflects that budgetary allocation has come down and resulted in a huge sum of pending payments.
- National Food Security Act was introduced with an aim to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

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- \bullet The measure of mandatory linkage of ration cards with Aadhaar to ensure transparency has actually excluded the most-needy in interior tribal areas. \n
- The claims on National Mission on Sustainable **Agriculture** falls short with the reality of farmers committing suicide.
- Provision of soil health cards and crop insurance has failed to benefit small and marginal farmers.
- \bullet Dispensing with the procurement system to replace PDS by cash transfer is said to affect small scale farmers. $\ensuremath{\backslash} n$
- India has for sure made progress in basic health indicators like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), institutional deliveries and vaccination coverage.
- \bullet However out of pocket expenditure for health is a still a huge burden on poor and the middle class. $\mbox{\sc h}$

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Quick Facts

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SDGs

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 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global goals with aims to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

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• SDGs are an outcome of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit.

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