

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

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- 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.

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- However an independent civil society organisation report highlights increase in inequality and poverty over the same period.

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- The report claims that MGNREGA has created **employment** opportunities and significantly reduced poverty.

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- Ground reality however reflects that budgetary allocation has come down and resulted in a huge sum of pending payments.

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- National Food Security Act was introduced with an aim to reduce **hunger**

and malnutrition.

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