WHAT ARE SDGs?
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 nations in September 2015 at the UN summit, are a set of quantifiable objectives across social, economic and environmental dimensions, all to be achieved by 2030. This 2030 Agenda on sustainable development encompasses 17 goals and 169 targets across a range of pressing global challenges from poverty and hunger, improved quality of health and education, to climate change. The SDGs resolves to “take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path”.

WHY SDGS
The SDGs provide a framework for Governments to:

- have a common language and shared purpose for effective communication and policy action;
- promote long term agenda for development at the national and sub-national level despite changing political requirement and electoral processes;
- set priorities and commence goal-based planning;
- facilitate the streamlining of existing and new government schemes for measuring quantitative results;
- put in place policies, institutions and systems necessary to generate sustained investment and growth;
- bring together relevant stakeholders, including public-private partnerships, to address the world’s most urgent social challenges.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SDGS

INDIA’S ROLE IN ACHIEVING GLOBAL SDGS
The bold and transformative agenda laid out by SDGs requires collaborated and robust actions nationally and sub nationally, at macro (policy), meso (institutional) and micro (local) levels, to put people and planet on the resilient path over the next 15 years. India is one of the key emerging economies with a GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent in 2017-18. However, the benefits of its growth story have not seeped to the bottom of the pyramid. Marked by unique development issues, India will play a key role in influencing the achievement of the SDGs at the global level.

The Government of India is fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as evidenced by various policy statements from the Hon’ble Prime Minister in different fora. He drew attention to the fact that we live in “an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world” and pointed out that “much of India’s development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals”.

MAINSTREAMING THE SDGS
The integrated and interdependent nature of SDGs provides a holistic framework to the governments in envisioning the national/ sub national priorities, set ambitious goals and targets
and take requisite development action. At the national front, emphasis is laid down on having common understanding and coordination, developing monitoring system and reporting mechanisms. This process is spearheaded by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), along with support with from other line departments. NITI Aayog has been identified as apex coordinating agency and it takes a lead in

- mapping of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), related intervention to the SDGs and targets and identification of lead and supporting ministries for each target;
- preparing the 15 year vision, 7 year strategy and 3 year action plan.
- has ranked all states and UTs based on the SDG India Index, launched in December 2018

MoSPI has -

- designed the National Indicator Framework consisting of 306 indicators
- prepared the national SDG dashboard in collaboration with United Nations India, to be launched soon
- been actively contributing to the deliberations at the global level on the indicator framework for the SDGs

The status of progress on SDGs and on setting up mechanisms at the state level for working on SDGs is reviewed annually by the NITI Aayog as part of the yearly conference of Chief Secretaries of States and LGs of UTs

LOCALISING SDGS IN MAHARASHTRA

WHY LOCALISE?

For India to achieve SDGs, partnership of state governments is equally important. Most of the functions that have a bearing on SDGs are in the State or Concurrent list of the VII Schedule of the Constitution indicative of the prime responsibility of the state governments in achieving SDGs. State governments are therefore essential stakeholders if the Agenda 2030 is to be realised. This is also due to the geographical and demographic diversity in the country as well as the disparities across gender, social and economic aspects which are unique.
Maharashtra is one of the most prosperous states in India and is also known as the financial capital of the country, with an estimated growth rate of 7.3 percent and contributing nearly 15 percent to the national GDP in the year 2017-18. The state ranks 4th out of 29 states with a score of 64 compared to the all India score of 57 on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index, published in December 2018.

However, lag areas such as poverty, hunger, gender equality and sustainable cities remain major concerns. The new, comprehensive, and multi-dimensional SDGs assume particular importance in Maharashtra to address possible areas which require priority intervention.

**HOW TO LOCALISE SDGs?**

State governments are both policy makers and implementers of the policy. Thus, they are best placed to link the SDGs to the needs and priorities of the region and local communities. One of the cornerstones of the localising process is building a robust institutional structure for planning, budgeting, implementing and monitoring for SDGs. This involves

- Identification of a nodal department for coordinating work on SDGs;
- Setting up mechanisms for convergence of all departments & stakeholders in planning at Panchayat, Block & district levels;
- Sensitising and capacity building of the bureaucracy as well as elected representatives at the state, district and grassroots level about the Vision 2030;
- Aligning the planning, decision making and budgeting processes with SDGs;
- Developing departmental action plans with short and medium term targets to achieve the SDGs in a time bound manner;
- Analysing adequacy of current interventions, identifying critical gaps & devising suitable interventions;
- Developing a State Indicator framework for monitoring progress, identifying data sources & nodal officials for collecting/managing data

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

- **Planning Department and DES:** The Planning Department acts as an ‘orchestrator’ for leading the localisation of SDGs in the state government. It is the key actor in building strategies to achieve the SDGs, monitoring and reporting; and providing the necessary course-correction. The department also coordinates with other state line departments and NITI Aayog, at the centre. DES supports the Planning Department in integrating the SDG monitoring framework at the state level and addressing the data requirements for the same.

- **Legislative Body:** The Legislature is uniquely positioned to act as an interface between people and state institutions and to promote and adopt policies and legislations that are people-centric and aligned with the adopted SDG framework.

- **Line Departments:** They ensure that all departmental schemes are mapped to the concerned SDGs and targets and effective monitoring of the selected indicators.
Department specific short and medium term action plans are prepared to provide a continuous direction to their planning and decision making process.

- **District Administration**: SDGs at the district level provide a bottom-up approach towards designing of policies addressing regional issues. Further, district administration plays an important role in providing SDG specific data management and monitoring systems.
- **Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats**: As local bodies are the administration centres that are nearest to people, they play a key role in ensuring ‘leave no one behind’. They are best positioned to design and implement locally relevant policies aligned to local priorities.