Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India

Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in PRIs
Report of the Expert Group
Volume 1

Panchayati Raj

सुनील कुमार, आई.ए.एस.
SUNIL KUMAR, IAS

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

MESSAGE

India has played an important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, it is no surprise that the country's flagship programmes and national development goals are mirrored in the SDGs. As such, India has been effectively committed to achieving the SDGs even before they were fully crystallized.

The expression "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas," which translates as "Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth" and has been popularized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, forms the cornerstone of India's national development agenda. To fast track this agenda specially to address the implementation of SDGs in rural India through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has Constituted an Expert Group to provide recommendations and way forward for localization of SDGs through PRIs.

Ministry recognizes that realizing the objectives of National Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) requires the involvement of people, local governments and all stakeholders. These goals need to be translated into policies at the local level, which are relevant and applicable to the communities being served.

This Expert Group's report on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals is a welcome initiative to better understand how the SDG Goals can be localized to engage PRIs and all relevant stakeholders in rural India. The report recognizes current status of PRIs and highlights the importance in engaging and equipping local governments and all stakeholders with sufficient capacity to get involved in the process of localization of SDGs.

The report also elaborates on the need for greater coordination across governments and for multi-level governance to mainstream the SDGs at the local level. It provides a framework for "localizing" the implementation of the SDGs through capacitating local governments and involving them from planning to monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. This covers from settinggoals and targets to determining the best means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.

With revamping of the scheme of RGSA being underway, localizing SDGs would be one of the focus areas under the scheme to build strong local institutions by strengthening leadership and facilitating the process including collecting, analysing and using information to make informed decisions; formulating relevant and locally effective policies; and effectively designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating local development initiatives through PRIs.

I congratulate the Chair and the entire team of the Expert Group for their strenuous work in developing this report, which will be put for effective use by all stakeholders towards localization of Sustainable Development Goals in India.

7.10.21
(Sunil Kumar)

Message from the Chair

Jayashree Raghunandan IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu
Chair, Expert Group on Localizing SDGs in PRIs

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out the Vision in the Goals and Targets as articulated in the United Nations, and what the World leaders had all endorsed which had emerged after discussions and a common vision for a One World, One Planet for all. It had considered the different levels of development, various issues, socio, economic, geographical, environmental, and meshed together the SDGs with 17 goals and 169 targets that was positioned to give ourselves the Vision of the Future We Want by 2030.

Development across various sectors through various schemes being implemented by Central and State Governments has driven the Agenda of SDGs forward. GPDPs prepared by Panchayats have been resulting in development plans being prepared with a 5-year perspective, as well as annual plans, leading to improvements in specific areas. The key role of all levels of government in promoting sustainable development is well acknowledged.

The global targets are constantly followed through multiple agencies across all countries, highlighting the progress, the issues, drawing attention to core principles of Leave No One Behind, addressing the poorest and most vulnerable, and continuously interacting across various groups, levels, sectors, enabling a critical look at our position in progress and impact of actions and the environment. Data on SDGs to measure what are measurable indicators is a constant process showing how different countries are moving in the direction of the goals and targets. The UN Statistical Commission also undertakes review of indicators at global level annually. This is to highlight the importance of SDGs at the global stage, the commitment to it, the need to work on it constantly and measure its progress,

and the importance of Information and Communications Technology that facilitates the flow of information between governments and the public.

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a Decade of Action on three levels: global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals; local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and people action, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations. World leaders, at the SDG Summit in September 2019, endorsing on the Decade of Action, pledged to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Goals by the target date of 2030.

From early 2020, COVID has undoubtedly impacted the progress on the SDGs in the last over a year and half, and it is well known that the most vulnerable and women were the most affected. The recent Reports on Climate change show the red flag calling for most urgent action on it. The relevance of SDGs can be seen even more. This is a time of immense challenges to people, prosperity and planet. Re-building better, with attention to green economy is a necessity.

There is a pressing need and urgency for Localising of SDGs in PRIs.

Local Action and People Action is fundamentally at grassroots and in the domain of the PRIs. National and State Governments work in rural areas needs

to move to the accelerator that can be provided by the PRIs. The localization of SDGs, so as to reach all villages and benefit all people and address the issues that can only be done locally, need local level planning and implementation, with good governance, is to work with PRIs. Capacity building and IEC plays a key role in the ownership of all stakeholders to achieving SDGs. Progress monitoring through a framework of targets and indicators on an easily relatable Thematic view of the SDGs places measurable criteria in line with global and national targets and indicators as relevant to GPs. Financing SDGs is an area yet to pick up steam. However, incentiving Panchayats for progress on SDGs is necessary to capture interest and involvement, as well as appreciate the progress. Best practices need recognition bringing the progress achievement of Indian villages to the international level. Systemic set up is needed for this. Whole of Government approach, making it the responsibility of the Ministries, State Governments and Departments to make it easy for Panchayats to work with Departments, is necessary for the GPDP to have meaningful planning and successful delivery. Women, children and youth, non- governmental organizations, local agencies, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, universities and educational institutions, as well as other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, all need to be involved in a whole of society approach in processes that contribute to decision- making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels. The power and energy of Youth and children, whose future it is need to be involved as primary stakeholders. There is so much out there that needs to come and be a part of in here, for Panchayats. Women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development. In the PRIs, given the leadership role of women, it is the greatest available opportunity to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making.

This Report has attempted to identify the various challenges and suggest the way forward for localization of SDGs with PRIs. Given the different levels of devolution of powers to PRIs, PESA areas, the approaches across the country with regard to local self-government, diversity in the country, etc., States would need to work out their specific guidelines and instructions that would cover the aspects in the Report, and add further value to create an enabling environment for delivering on the SDGs working with the phenomenal capacity of PRIs.

(Jayashree Raghunandan)

1. About the Expert Group Committee

1.1 Background and Context

India is a signatory of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is committed to the achievement of SDGs through the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme. The RGSA scheme mandates to capacitate elected representatives for good governance through attainment of SGDs through participatory local planning at Gram Panchayat level. Among the 17 SDGs, MoPR has identified 9 goals where it could intervene at the grassroots level to achieve the targets at the grassroots level. Those 9 goals are – Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 7 (Clean and Affordable Energy), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), Goal 15 (Life on Land) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution). Through the 9 identified goals, MoPR has been progressing in attaining the SDGs but it is felt that more focused approach is required in localizing the concept of SDGs at the grassroots level.

1.2 Role and Purpose of the Expert Group

The role of Expert Group is to provide policy guidance to Ministry of Panchayati Raj on Localization of SDGs at the Panchayat level. The Expert Group supports the mandate of localization of SDGs through restructured RGSA beyond March 2022 in line with the draft Vision Document of MoPR and national obligations as well as recommend the roadmap for Capacity Building of relevant stakeholders Elected in achieving SDGs by 2030. The Expert Group would identify monitoring mechanisms for SDG localisation at GP level viz. Dash- Board for monitoring achievement and review progress in real time basis.

1.3 Composition of the Committee

S. No	Name of the Expert	Organization/ Agency	Remarks
1.	**Smt Jayashree Raghunandan, IAS,** Additional Chief Secretary/Director General, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Training	Government of Tamil Nadu	Chair of the group
2.	**Smt Rekha Yadav,** Joint Secretary (CB Division)	Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India	Member Convener
3.	**Ms RV Shajeevana** (Addl director RD & Principal Chief Community Development Officer TNSCB)	Government of Tamil Nadu	Member
4.	**Sh Dibyendu Das,** Special Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj	Government of West Bengal	Member

S. No	Name of the Expert	Organization/ Agency	Remarks
5.	**Dr C. Kathiresan** Associate Professor & Head	Centre for Panchayati Raj, NIRDPR, Hyderabad	Member
6.	**Dr. Joy Elamon,** Director	KILA, Kerala, Trivandrum	Member
7.	**Dr. G S Ganesh Prasad,** Faculty (Planning and Research), ANSSIRD&PR, Mysuru, Karnataka	ANSSIRD&PR, Karnataka	Member
8.	**Ms. Nirmala Meena,** Director, Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj & Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Jaipur (State Institute of Rural Development), Rajasthan	SIRD, Rajasthan	Member
9.	**Sh Saroj Kumar Dash,** Joint Director	SIRDPR, Odisha	Member
10.	**Sh RSN Sharma,** National Project Manager (RGSA-NPMU)	Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India	Member
11.	**Shri Alen John Samuel,** SDG Officer	NITI Aayog	Member

1.4   Terms of Reference

Detailed terms of reference for the Expert group has been laid out as:

Identifying targets and broad indicators for the PRIs

Identifying institutions, partners and assigning mandate for delivery of SDGs at the local level

Mapping roles and responsibilities of Agencies/Ministries/State Governments in localising SDGs

Identification of factors for slow progress of integration of SDGs in GPDPs

Suggest measures for convergence between Agencies/ Ministries/ Departments in achieving SDGs at the Panchayats as per their mandate

Recommend appropriate CB &T activities for the Elected Representatives, functionaries and stakeholders of PRIs for delivering SDGs

Develop suitable framework for evidence-based monitoring of achievement of SDG parameters at the local level

Incentivising performance of Panchayats for localizing SDGs

Recommend measures to integrate SDGs in the revamped RGSA

Identifying mechanism/institutions for documenting best practices on localisation of SDGs at Panchayats

Any other issues of National importance

1.5 Working Methods

The Expert Group shall meet at regular intervals or at the request of the Chair or by any member through a request made to the Chair

A quorum shall be established when 5 members are present.

The Chair may seek contribution and reports from the members of the group

The Expert group may call for information from the states or other agencies if required

A work programme will be prepared and implemented by the Expert Group

The Expert Group, shall submit proposals and recommendations to MoPR in form of a report

2. Committee Meetings

In the course of developing a suitable strategy to recommend MoPR on the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in localizing SDGs, the Expert Group had 14 meetings. During the meetings, discussions were held on different topics and herewith is the listing of the meetings:

S.No	Date of the meeting	Presentation Topics
1.	21st May 2021	First meeting of the Expert group – Presentation of the ToR of the Expert Group and members experiences on working on SDGs
2.	26th May 2021	SDGs and GPDP, Role of MA Survey
3.	01st June 2021	State Experiences on localizing SDGs
4.	4th June, 2021	SDG Monitoring at GP level
5.	8th June, 2021	SDG Indicators, Dashboard for Panchayats, identifying Institutions
6.	12th June, 2021	Convergence strategies for Panchayat Committees, Incentivization of SDGs

S.No	Date of the meeting	Presentation Topics
7.	17th June, 2021	Evidence based monitoring, collaboration for SDGs, CB&T activities
8.	28th June, 2021	Planning and Monitoring of SDGs
9.	5th July, 2021	SDG target at local level, Thematic localization of SDGs, Issues of National Importance
10.	20th July, 2021	SDG Indicator for PRI, Good Governance, Theme Saturation
11.	27th July, 2021	SDG Indicators, Expert Group time Extension
12.	5th August, 2021	Issues of National Importance, Gender in achieving SDGs, Zero Hunger
13.	21st August, 2021	Review of Chapterization
14.	24th August, 2021	Presentation on progress to MoPR

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted in the UN General Assembly

September 2015 (Extracts)

Today we are also taking a decision of great historic significance. We resolve to build a better future for all people…As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

"We the peoples" are the celebrated opening words of the Charter of the United Nations. It is "we the peoples" who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community – and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success.

This is an Agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Our vision

In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realisation of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity. A world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

We envisage a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources - from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas - are sustainable. One in which democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.

We can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet. The world will be a better place in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives.

3. Summary of Recommendations

We reaffirm the key role of all levels of government in promoting sustainable development -
Future We Want, Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 27 July 2012,
Re-affirmed in the UN General Assembly in September 2015 -
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development

Localization of SDGs in rural India is to take root with the local self - governments – Panchayati Raj Institutions. It is now almost 6 years since the SDGs were adopted in the UN as universal goals for all and for planet Earth. UN decade of Action commenced over a year and half ago. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed back the pace and progress on the SDGs across the world, India is no exception. Localization of SDGs assumes even more an important role to reach the goals to the rural areas so as to build back better for all, to ensure **No one is left behind and no village is left behind.**

The localization of SDGs is an agenda of central importance
– NITI Aayog – Localization of SDGs – 2019

- Flagship schemes and multitude of schemes of Central and State Governments have substantial impact on SDGs, and are implemented in rural areas

- Schemes focus on scheme objectives' achievements, with progress as measured in financial and physical terms under the scheme.

- SDGs, its targets and indicators are yet to be on direct focus

- Working on SDGs is not supported by funds, but funds are in schemes.

- While the SDGs are global, their achievement will depend on the ability to make them a reality in constituent States, cities, districts and villages. Therefore, State governments have the prime responsibility in achieving SDGs and are essential stakeholders in implementing the Agenda 2030.
  – Niti Aayog – Localization of SDGs - 2019

- 29 subjects that are the responsibility of the Gram Panchayats cover the SDGs with varying levels of devolution in different States

- Skills and competencies of the department functionaries and ERs and orientation to the breadth, depth and universality of SDGs for people, planet, prosperity with peace and partnership yet to reach the desired space.

Setting in this context, localizing SDGs in PRIs is a function of Capacity building, framework of Targets and Indicators, monitoring, incentivizing, partnerships and collaborations, convergence in working of Ministries/Departments, State Government, NITI Aayog involvement and ownership of the three tiers of local self-government, the Panchayati Raj Institutions. It calls for a 'whole of Government' and 'whole of society' approach.

Localizing SDGs in PRIs is as much the responsibility of all Ministries as that of MoPR as work of most of the Ministries fall within the purview of rural areas covering all three tier PRIs. The crucial words are **Localizing SDGs**. Adding in **PRIs**, does not remove **rural areas**, rather adds PRIs into the process. Hence all Ministries

necessarily have the nodal role, with MoPR as the associated Ministry for SDGs, and need to work in tandem with local self-governments towards **achieving SDGs in rural areas and with PRIs**. Taking a lead role by MoPR and all Ministries joining together, there is a need to act on Localizing SDGs for achieving the objectives of SDGs in rural areas:

3.1   Vibrancy and Constancy

There are more than 2.65 Lakh Gram Panchayats in India with around 32 lakh elected representatives covering 34 States and Union Territories of the country. With this spread of Panchayats in India, the **fervor** at international level must vibrate with actions taken towards the achieving of SDGs at local level constantly and continuously:

Through use of various **forums**, platforms and media.

Logo of SDG everywhere - In every village/hamlet the SDG logo should be visible. Its awareness should be across all ages.

States need to put in place their mechanisms for Localizing SDGs with PRIs in rural areas and create the enabling environment for partnerships in action and keep the momentum constantly going, including raise it from time to time.

IEC of **all Ministries** together must ensure constant activity on SDGs in Gram Panchayats and lead to vibrant Gram Sabhas.

National & International days of importance to the Themes for Localization of SDGs in Gram Panchayats must be observed jointly with the Departments concerned.

3.2   Lead Role of NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog - National Institution for Transforming India being a Think Tank of the Government of India has twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country. NITI Aayog mandate in the context of the SDGs involves providing policy guidance, monitoring programme implementation and strengthening innovation across varied development sectors. The institution is well placed to bring in State Governments, Ministries/Departments and local self-governments to act on localizing SDGs. NITI Aayog to lead the localization of SDGs in PRIs with MoPR to be the associated Ministry to NITI Aayog for this.

Already NITI Aayog has brought out the Document 'Localizing SDGs - Early lessons from India' - in year 2019. Annual Progress Reports on Localizing SDGs in PRIs in future will provide direction and value.

Localizing SDGs in PRIs should be a subject in the Annual Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog which is headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and all Hon'ble Chief Ministers & Hon'ble Lt. Governors are members.

Presenting the achievements in rural India in international fora and in VNR in HLPF on SDGs.

3.3   Mission mode status

While various flagship schemes are taken in Mission mode, Localizing SDGs in PRIs taken in Mission mode would get the required thrust and attention. Mission mode status would communicate the importance from the highest level and attract attention to clearly defined objectives, scopes, and implementation timelines and milestones, as well as measurable outcomes

and service levels. This would also enunciate inclusion of components such as establishment of Institutional Framework with a Central Management Cell for coordination and implementation of different activities for Localization of SDGs and others to undertake e-Readiness Assessment of PRIs in all States and Union Territories ensuring sharing of information and seamless interoperability of data.

3.4 Whole of Government approach

Localizing SDGs in PRIs is to be recognized as the responsibility of all Ministries.

Key role of State Governments in this regard is to be emphasized, especially as the way it is taken for implementation in local self-governments in States depends on devolution of powers to PRIs by States, which varies from State to State. States to also issue clear guidelines to line Departments for working in convergence with PRIs.

Flagship schemes of Ministries address various SDGs and their action zone is in rural and urban areas. Hence pro-active participation of Ministries/Departments along with PRIs is necessary to take outputs & outcomes to the next level.

3.5 Themes Targets & Indicators - Local Indicator Framework (LIF)

> *We also underscore that sustainable development goals should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We also recognize that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development.*

Future We Want, Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 27 July 2012 and reaffirmed when adopting the SDGs in Sep 2015.

Achieving the objectives of SDGs can and should be built based on existing experience in goal setting, monitoring and implementation. The goals at GP level taken through Themes, targets and indicators are aspirational in nature, relevant and placing the global goals that are universally applicable, in line with national policies and priorities as well as taking into account local realities in a concise and easy to communicate manner.

The iterative process linking the global indicators and national indicators till the grassroots level until Gram Panchayats is ensured in the localization of SDGs. Most Targets and Indicators of the SDGs are to be achieved at the local level. Most SDGs are related to the subjects devolved to the Panchayats.

The following themes, targets, indicators and timeline and setting the tenor for the process is recommended:

Themes	• SDGs are to be taken through Themes that make it relatable to Panchayats - and the community. Themes cross-cut SDGs and action on a Theme has impact on different SDGs.
	
	• 9 Themes have been identified for Panchayats to aim to become, with a Vision Statement for each Theme:
	
	  ❖ Theme 1 Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods village
	  ❖ Theme 2 Healthy village
	  ❖ Theme 3 Child friendly village
	  ❖ Theme 4 Water sufficient village
	  ❖ Theme 5 Clean and Green village
	  ❖ Theme 6 Self-sufficient infrastructure in village
	  ❖ Theme 7 Socially secured village
	  ❖ Theme 8 Village with Good Governance
	  ❖ Theme 9 Engendered Development in village

Targets	• The Vision Statement for each Theme is broken down to Local Targets for the Gram Panchayats to work on. Most Targets link to the National Targets. They have been, and are to be presented for the Gram Panchayats as per what they will be identifying with from Gram Panchayat perspective. • The total number of Targets is over 150 and Panchayats need to be choosing their Targets based on Gram Panchayat priorities. • In keeping with National, State and sub-state issues, certain Targets would also be prioritized for Gram Panchayats to also work on. Mostly these would be already identified by Gram Panchayats automatically.
Indicators	• The Targets are measured by Indicators. These Indicators are to form the Local Indicator Framework. There are over 300 Indicators. The LIF is in line with the NIF as would apply at Gram Panchayat level and some LIF are unique to only Gram Panchayat level. • While Metadata & Data source have been given, MoSPI would need to work with MoPR and the Ministries closely to refine and bring out the LIF Meta Data Document using only latest annual data. • Department of Statistics in States along with the Departments in States would require to take this ownership in States on a continuous basis. • Targets and Indicators are to be reviewed annually. The numbers of Targets and Indicators taken up by Gram Panchayats can be different, as it is as per their felt needs. This grouping is to be put together for assessing SDG Achievement

Timeline	• There are some Targets/Indicators on which immediate action is called for, some which would be in the short term & some long term. It is necessary to work with Gram Panchayats to take up all 3 time-line targets/indicators, to not only take required actions in early years for long term outcomes, as also to bring in the attention to matters/issues immediate.
Choice of Indicators, targets, sub-goals, Themes	• A minimum number of indicators from the basket of indicators must be worked on by Gram Panchayats, which is suggested at not less than 50 in year 1. Certain mandatory indicators within the 50, around 10, may be fixed by National & State Governments, which are of National & State priority in line with SDGs. The rest is as per choice of the Gram Panchayat for SDG achievements in Gram Panchayats. • An entire set of Indicators for inter-panchayat comparison is to form the Panchayat Development Index. This set is to be decided by MoPR in consultation with Ministries & States &NITI Aayog. • Baseline data on all indicators needs to be collected in the year 2021-22 or at the earliest. • From this the data on chosen indicators is to be surely collected and updated annually based on Data source for it to assess change/progress. • Panchayats may choose to achieve specific Targets, sub-goals Eg: Zero Hunger - no one should go hungry in the Panchayat and move higher to choosing to achieve a Theme in totality in the Panchayat. Achieving a Theme is exceptional but necessary, and, in effect is achieving SDGs. • Target values would need to be fixed for some Indicators in the LIF. • In addition, there would be a Block Indicator Framework at Block level and District Indicator Frame work at District level, which are already being prepared by State and under guidance of NITI Aayog. The correlations between the DIF, BIF & LIF would be automatically there, while each has some that make meaning at that level only. These are to be seen as they evolve.

3.6 Dash Board

Panchayat Dashboard offers all constituents a chance to explore progress till the Panchayat level and further down to the habitation level. The platform provides engaging experience while answering, "Are we there yet?", "how far away are we?", "where are we lagging?", "What needs attention?" regarding development covering all the relevant goals for the Panchayats. Different levels can see how their contributions can make a difference, and it brings to light data supported evidence for guiding policy decisions. The Panchayat dashboard incorporates approximately 310 data indicators necessary to measure progress toward localization of SDGs. The dashboard includes information for each indicator, such as the indicator's targets, timeline, rationale, limitations, and data sources. The Dashboard enables cross-comparison among states and within states with similar conditions and trends to uncover examples where best practices may be found—and where actions on one Theme/Target/Indicator may help or hinder achieving other goals. The dashboard is to be the information hub of activity on SDGs at the Panchayat level and is to provide the following:

Panchayat SDG Dashboard to reflect information of progress in Panchayat, developments in other panchayats, in block, district, State, Country and internationally.

Best practices portal is to be linked to Dashboard.

Dashboard to be the work board for Panchayats to prepare the GPDP.

Dashboard to integrate all data portals & IT linked developments in MoPR and in other Departments.

Activity plans of Gram Panchayat are to be communicated to all in the Panchayat from Dashboard to mobile phones as well.

Information from SIRD, State Departments & highlights for special activities by Ministries are to link to Dashboard.

Integration of Panchayat SDG Dashboard to State & sub-State level, as well as National Dashboard of NITI Aayog is to be done.

The Panchayat SDG Dashboard is to be used at all the tiers of local government and to link the GPDP to the BPDP and the DPDP and to plan, review, analyze and modify for their inputs at their level.

High degree of visualization with localized presentation perspective to be ensured.

Content management and IT support Team at MoPR, State & District level with Ministerial/State Departmental IT Team involvement should be there.

3.7 Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been providing support to States as well as Union Territories (UTs) to develop State/UT specific guidelines for GPDP converging all the resources in setting local development agenda and finding local solutions to development issues. In the localization of SDGs in rural areas, the GPDP is to be reflective of the Thematic Goals and Targets in a manner in which the local planning and execution of actions can contribute to the Panchayat in achieving the Thematic goals and thus the objectives of SDG by 2030. The following activities emphasize the role of GPDPs in a much broader manner:

The preparation of GPDP should be based on the Thematic framework

MA Survey should cover the survey data required for the value of the indicator. Data required must come from Departments and Gram Panchayats own data.

Convergent action should ensure that the various inputs from the schemes of Departments feed in to the preparation of GPDP for the Indicators / Targets. On the other side, that which is required should be provided from the resource envelope of the schemes in the Panchayat area.

GPDP preparation on Dashboard as a work board is to be done, including detailing various activities to be taken up in the Gram Panchayat.

Position of Gram Panchayat in relation to various targets and indicators on the Themes is to be presented in the dashboard, with visualization rather than numbers only, to be supportive for decision making for the future plan of action to be reflected in GPDP.

The Themes chosen to be worked on, down to specific detail, with budgetary allocations for them, and what is left out is to be shown.

Child budget, gender budget is to be shown based on the choices being made by the Panchayat in GPDP.

As Dashboard is open to all, the GPDP to be finalized in Gram Sabha meeting is to get communicated through the Dashboard mechanism as well.

Before the next year's GPDP, all the current/latest data is to be collected and entered as a standardized system with relatively focusing to cover Block and District Panchayats Development Plans

The visualized Development Status Report would get automatically generated, thematically for the Gram Panchayat

Capacity building and assistance in this process, with handholding and mentoring, including involving programme personnel, youth and institutions is necessary.

Discussions on GPDP with Departments concerned in Standing Committees, Scheme Committees, to be put in the joint calendar worked out with Departments (can be included in Capacity building of RGSA or of the departments)

3.8 Quality Circles

Quality Circles is the essential mechanism for concurrent and continuous handholding and follow up. It enables regular, relevant, continuous program inputs, flexibility, mid-course corrections, feedback, process and output follow up, monitoring and convergence. The presence of Quality Circles enables exchange of information between the Panchayati Raj institutions and various partners for achieving effective consolidation of strategies, activities and interventions.

Quality Circles to be established with Panchayat Presidents/Panchayat Standing Committees representing from Gram Panchayats in the area, along with the field next level official and area Elected Representative of Block and District. NGOs and other Institutional partners working with the Gram Panchayats to also be invited as part of Quality Circles.

Regular meetings are to be held on various Themes every 2 months.

Quality Circles to be at block/sub-block level and feeders for next level reviews.

Chair can be on rotational basis with Departments concerned /Elected Representatives to chair. Convenor to be the DPRC/BPRC.

3.9 Best practices and documentation

This is to be a key part in the process of Localization of SDGs in Panchayats. It should become a systemic tool systematically used.

Bringing out effective processes, developments, insightful, inspirational and thought-provoking issues, motivating action, through this. Special focus on sustainability and inclusiveness of best practice identified is important.

Best practices in addition to being of tremendous use in Capacity building & IEC, is to be used to bring convergence, used as the yardstick in impact monitoring, evaluation and incentivization, leading change and spurring changes.

Credit to departments must be given for their role in supporting the progress in the Gram Panchayats.

Documentation by journal/newsletter at local, (sub-state), State & National level, and multi-media documentation to be ensured and monitored.

Best practices online portal giving District, State, Country and International practices, theme wise, sub-goal wise, by 'sankalp', to be set up immediately, as user friendly, in local language, (Hindi and English) for easy access to PRIs and general public, sharing processes and outcomes. Content management teams are required for online portal management

Community radio, radio, TV, with interviews and video coverages, short films and sponsored programmes in Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan and popular channels to be used for this.

National & International exposure through linking with reputed Organizations and UNSDG and other SDG sites along with participation in events to be done.

Train dedicated teams in MoPR, States and Districts to effectively take forward the systematization of best practices. Institutional/professional tie ups towards such system i.e. establishment of best practices, mentoring, continuing support and dissemination to larger sections of society across the country and globally

MoPR review calendar must have systematic inclusion on priority to ensure best practices are captured, documented, shared and upscaled.

MoPR in CEC annual approval must provide for all the above in States' calendar and activities.

3.10 Incentivization

Incentivization is necessary for action on SDGs and for recognition of efforts by Gram Panchayats.

Incentivization by Ministries, States, Organizations

Not only MoPR but all Ministries to incentivize aspects of the Themes, in part or full, jointly and / or independently (Eg: WCD on Nutrition and Gender related targets, Education for Child friendly panchayat).

Fund pooling for incentives by Ministries responsible for schemes to increase available financing and add substantial interest of Ministry and Panchayats

Sponsored incentives from Local organizations, business, private sector to be encouraged and drawn in by Districts & States.

Both Centre and States to incentivize the PRIs

States may choose same pattern as Centre or choose to cover more/almost all panchayats by scaling incentives to progress levels.

Assessments for incentives

Multi-dimensional and multi-level pyramidical structure of incentives to be in place.

Assessment to be made based on -

1. Panchayat Development Index

2. SDG Achievement Progress

3. Thematic achievement

4. Special initiative & innovation

Incentivization is to be multi-level - Gram Panchayat, IP/BP and DP on the above multi-dimensions.

Report Card as a mechanism for evidence in assessment to be also used. Eg: Report Card from children on Child friendly Panchayat

PDI is the inter-panchayat comparison to be used similar to SDGII of NITI Aayog with regularity of data updated annually. Indicators are to be chosen in consultation with States, Ministries by MoPR with NITI Aayog.

SDG Achievement progress is what individual Panchayats choose to work on, given their specific circumstances, interest and pace they want for progress. It is to be based on delta change. This basis for assessment, has to be encouraged as there is maximum ownership and internal drive-in panchayats for this. The support from State & Centre for this gives due respect to institutions of local self-government and recognizes the wide diversity in the country.

Thematic achievements to receive highest incentive (jointly funded by Centre, (concerned Ministries), State (Departments concerned) and not less than Rs.20.00 L (as of current year 2021-22). These will be more in later years.

Thematic achievements by Panchayats can provide them with Stars as ratings - a Star per achieved theme, **'Navaratna'** for 9 stars for a Gram Panchayat achieving all themes.

Special awards incentive for going the extra mile beyond minimum of 50 indicators and progressing, as well as for innovative work in Gram Panchayats to be given.

Incentivization in initial years and later years would be different.

More Panchayats to be covered in incentives in initial years to raise awareness, interest and draw them.

Year on year bar to be raised on all categories assessment for incentives.

Fall back and re-rise cannot be considered for incentive again.

Assessments is to be of like with like- a good basis being population, and location (hilly and plains).

Effectively managing process of incentivisation, as a transparent and continuous process every year is required.

Independent evaluation process for National awards would add further evidence to the selections for incentives.

MoSPI at Centre and Statistics Department in States to support the assessment process/for incentivization. NIC or /and external agency to be also engaged, as required.

Types of Incentives

Incentivization by cash award must be there, of graded amounts from recognition at Block level award for Gram Panchayat to National level awards.

Rather than directly funding buildings/certain other infrastructure from schemes, giving incentives will improve progress across many parameters and incentive funds can support infrastructure.

Incentivization by recognition, interview in radio, TV, press, display on website, in journals/newsletter, resource person for training, etc. must be effectively built in.

Select Panchayats which have done exceedingly well may be sponsored for participation in International Conferences on SDGs that take place on various aspects of SDGs; this can be done by Ministry along with MoPR.

Youth involvement can be jointly recognised with Ministry of Sports & Youth Welfare and **Young Champions of SDGs**, may be awarded at various levels.

More recognition & incentives does not dilute the value, but adds interest to the Localizing SDGs in PRIs from all stakeholders.

Maintenance of achieved levels - Maintenance is to be done by Panchayats and needs support to do so. It needs to be treated as an incentive in future, and link to devolution from Finance Commission may be considered.

Awards to States, Blocks, Districts.

Best States (1 & 2) award for Localizing SDGs under PDI and SDG achievement to be given by NITI Aayog in Governing Council Meeting.

Aggregation of Gram Panchayats achievements at Block level will be the Block achievement and at District level, the District Achievement.

Celebrating achievements - recognizing contributions

When SDGs are achieved in Panchayat area, it is credit to work of Department and work of Panchayat. Celebrating progress and achievement of various targets and sub-goals by the Gram Panchayat as milestones with appreciating the work of the field functionaries and other partners including from the Panchayat can become a special event.

3.11 Partners

From 'whole of government' to 'whole of society', partnerships and collaborations are necessary.

NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog, more than partner, has leadership role in the localizing of SDGs in PRIs. With placing the subject in the Meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog, including in the Document of the SDGII and bringing out the Localization of SDGs in PRIs, annually, and presenting India's progress in the HPLF of the UN, the NITI Aayog will engage the States, Ministries, PRIs and share it in international forums.

The State ranking award on Localizing SDGs in PRIs in States is to be given in the Meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog.

Ministries/Departments

Localization of SDGs in PRIs is not the job of MoPR only in Centre and of Planning & Development Departments in States. All Ministries/Departments schemes contribute hugely to SDGs, though not stated. Partnering with PRIs for achieving SDGs in rural areas needs to be clearly stated and needs to be ensured to improve scheme outcomes exponentially.

State Government

Critical role is of State Governments and their partnership and interest is to be encouraged with greater recognition, and resource support through Ministries and as a devolution parameter

Organizations & Institutions

UNICEF, and other international and national organizations working in different sectors to be partnered for their core strengths. Banks and business work on SDGs can be drawn in (eg: Financial inclusion, gender equality)

Universities speak SDGs

Universities/Educational Institutions' participation in SDGs will benefit panchayats& universities. The concept of universities speak SDGs, is to be taken up to expand across the country and look to have Young Champions and SDG advocates, working with panchayats. Universities should themselves be implementing SDGs on campuses.

eg: Use of renewable energy, waste segregation, gender equality, etc.

Youth and children

The future is theirs.

Their energy and potential to involve and participate in various ways is to be utilised. For eg: IEC, events in Gram Panchayat and at higher levels on Themes, etc, events in their own Institutions. Report card on Child Friendly Panchayat is from them.

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports Welfare along with NYKs and Youth based Organizations involving with this can ensure many events and actions.

Women

Gender equality and cross-cutting areas of action directly connected to women, leading to improvements in various SDGs to be emphasized.

PRIs & SHGs have been identified as natural partners in progress. This needs to be strengthened with focus also on Localization of SDGs in PRIs.

NGO, private sector, Civil Society

NGOs working in rural areas, Women's associations, private sector, collaborations from CSR and various business units as well as local associations, and individuals for their expertise, need to become partners for working with PRIs.

3.12 Roles and responsibilities

When working together, clarity on roles and responsibilities needs to be spelt out for preventing overlap, finding gaps to fill and engage in a planned manner.

Major players, the Ministries/State Departments, fundamentally need to recognise from the top level to the field level that SDGs in PRIs & with PRIs is their responsibility and very much part of their role.

Broadly, their role covers in working jointly (including guiding) in planning, implementation, training and capacity building, data sharing and monitoring results, reviewing progress regularly, identifying best practices and incentivization and participating in various SDG related programmes.

Roles and responsibilities of all other partners needs to be stated at level at which they are involved for clarity.

3.13 Mapping

Mapping of various players from National to local level to be done by sector, activity and linked to Theme Targets.

Resource mapping of infrastructure, personnel and scheme inputs especially at District and sub-district levels to be done.

Theme/Target, indicator correlation to schemes, resource mapping would provide who are there already and doing what, leading to working out their involvement in the action plan and process for the Gram Panchayats.

Gap filling & effective utilisation of resources to be worked by area plans for coverage of Gram Panchayats. All partners to be covered in this process to draw on existing unused resources and redeploy available overlaps of resources.

3.14 Convergence

From identifying partners, mapping of existing resources, potential resources, and preparing the broad lines of understanding of roles and responsibilities to area plans and micro plans for Gram Panchayats, convergence is to be brought to shape at all the 3 levels of PRIs.

Whole of Government

Ministries /Departments

- ❖ Certain Flagship Schemes of Ministries have already stated in existing guidelines, (Eg: SBM), specifically the linkages of the scheme implementation mechanism with PRIs and feed into GPDP. The gap between guidelines and implementation is to be closed and utilization of existing resources and schemes for same (similar) outcomes to be identified and effectively communicated.

- ❖ In schemes where it is not clear, the guidelines/instructions towards the working of PRIs and the field personnel implementing the scheme needs to be identified and stated upfront.

- ❖ This has to be clear to both the PRIs as well as the Department field personnel and up to State level and brought to implementation not by paper communication alone, but mechanisms like special joint webinars, district and sub – district level meetings.

- ❖ What is being done in various Ministries related to the Themes needs to be taken stock of and how it can be integrated into Localization of SDGs identified. eg: NYK working with Youth.

- ❖ MoPR needs to conduct series of workshops with others Ministries for establishing these points of convergence, clarity on roles and responsibilities and communication with States so that it is taken all the way down to the field.

State Governments

- ❖ Different States would have different structure of convergence with Standing Committees / sub-committees / local committees / working groups in the process of preparation of GPDP and need to work out of that and on how it can be improved in localization of SDGs

- ❖ State should issue guidelines to the line departments for proper integration with GPDP for holistic & comprehensive planning and to work more closely with the Standing Committees of Panchayats.

- ❖ State level meeting under the Chief secretary with the Department Secretaries and HoDs concerned needs to be held with these being stated for clear understanding and field follow up.

- ❖ States may consider to take this through the State Planning Commissions/ Boards for a whole of Government approach in localization of SDGs

Ease of working with Ministries/Departments for PRIs

- ❖ A scorecard for Ease of working with Ministries /Departments for PRIs to be developed on parameters such as Clarity and role of PRI in guidelines, Data sharing, Participation in Training, joint training plan, Participation in GPDP preparation, Participation in review meetings, Information of resource envelope of Schemes of Department to PRI, Participation in Standing Committee meetings, Participation in Scheme Committee meetings, etc.

- ❖ This is to be measured in all Ministries, States & State Departments on regular basis till desired scores is reached.

Inter - Ministerial Coordination Committee for SDGs - This committee at National level will need to be set up for addressing convergence in the localizing of SDGs in PRIs/rural areas.

Prioritizing of Convergence

- ❖ Due to inherent difficulties in this, so as to get going and progress in that direction, along with the scorecard, some quick wins and essentials for convergence to be taken up. Amongst the Ministries/departments few of them play an important role at the village level –such as Education, Health, Women and Child Development, Jal Sakthi and RD.

- ❖ Schemes where indicators are same as of LIF

- ❖ Sectors of priority to Panchayats

- ❖ Guidelines are already providing for role of PRIs.

- ❖ Emerging and potential areas with no entrenched system eg: Youth & children, Universities speak SDGs etc.,

- ❖ Ensure Joint working of Department Scheme Committee with Standing Committee.

- ❖ Ensure PRI - SHG Convergence as per guidelines already given since 2018 in NRLM and also in RGSA.

- ❖ Use the instructions given for SAGY on convergence of Ministries' scheme to Localization of SDGs beyond SAGY areas & extend it.

Convergence in Combined Training Plan, preparation, utilization of resources and resource persons, for PRIs' and other stakeholders' training to be ensured.

Whole of Society

Convergent action required with all partners to be worked with all after mapping.

National Days and International Days to be worked out with Departments for events in Gram Panchayats and other levels as well as involving women, youth and children wherever possible.

3.15 Capacity building & Training

Effective Capacity Building & Training can bring sea changes. Design of Capacity Building & Training and IEC needs to be highly effective that the programme impacts the participants with the burning desire & motivation to work on the issues. (ichhasakthi), while also improving knowledge and skills (kriya sakthi).

Capacity building is required for Elected Representatives, Committees, Sector enablers / agents of change, People's Plan Campaign (PPC) and GPDP Facilitation Team, Officials and Field functionaries, Community, all partners, and also for all the persons engaged as Resource Persons for the process

A major shift is from quantitative monitoring of CB & T to actual qualitative monitoring

Shift from standard Training of Trainers cascade mode to multi-modal training, use of digital technology and social media.

Approaches & design to be substantially improved and full spectrum covering online training, videos, kalajathas, T.V, radio, hybrid, Satcom, etc., (as stated in NCBF 2014 and in the report) utilized.

Joint trainings of field functionaries, Committees -scheme and standing, and those working together are highly recommended

In Flagship schemes (and other major schemes/programmes), joint IEC program planning to be worked out with IEC teams of Panchayat Raj at sub-state to State level.

Pre-approval to be done through joint teams of Ministries and MoPR, presented by joint teams of State.

AAP approval of CB &T in CEC to ensure the joint planning.

RGSA CB plan to only fill that gap which is left towards the needed IEC after the coverage by various flagship schemes IEC. This must be ensured while approving the annual plan.

Workshops and seminars must be held every month on a Theme, sharing best practice progress and information.

Review of IEC/CB&T must include officials from other Ministries & MoPR.

Identified officials, who are part of Training and Field activities of various Departments are to be formed into units at block, sub-block level. At District level/Regional level and State level, units consisting of officials from Departments and Training Institutions (SIRD, ETCs/RIRDs, DRCPs,) with their role in the process of Training being stated not only by MOPR, but by Ministries/State Departments as well are to be in place. The role of NIRD&PR is pertinent in the entire process. Where there are existing Sub- district, district, regional level Training and field activities units, engaging with them by joining them, rather than form a separate one needs to be worked through to ensure effective planning and qualitative delivery of CB&T

3.15.1 Roadmap for Capacity Building & Training

Roadmap for Capacity building is to have purposeful outcomes.

- Changes come through the series of programmes as modules and sub-modules of the Themes to be conducted, inclusion of quality circles, workshops and seminars, use of multi-mode training, how the IEC will be interwoven with programmes for village community and programmes for Elected Representative, Standing Committee, Scheme Committee, other stakeholders.

- It needs to integrate programmes of other schemes and partners with programme under RGSA.

- Space to be provided for periodic reviews, block level, district level, state level meets, presentation of annual progress report and special days - National & International days.

- Roadmap for Capacity Building & Training needs to be incorporating use of technology and dashboard, assessment mechanism, evolving partnerships, training in best practices and documentation, etc.

- Check boxes for the Roadmap for Capacity Building and Training to ensure the relevant items are included in Calendar and its monitoring done.

- Roadmaps for what is planned at Gram Panchayat level, at Block level, District level, State & National level, are to be prepared.

- The TNA for IEC & CB & T to be worked based on progress, areas (Themes/targets) that need to be addressed in different Panchayats, ease of working with Departments in Panchayats, and programs designed accordingly. IEC Programs at Panchayat level are to be also conducted based on demand of Panchayat.

3.16 Evidence -based Monitoring

Continuous monitoring from sub-district level to National level on capacity building, GPDP, progress sharing and use of SDG Dashboard to be key areas. Convergence needs monitoring of the process of convergence. Actions at Ministry level need to be monitored

for ensuring inter-ministerial convergence. Monitoring progress as changes, processes, outputs and outcomes. Institutional structures at the National, State and sub-State levels, such as nodal SDG department, monitoring and review structures, dedicated SDG teams, and district-level structures, which help dissolve silo-based functioning by facilitating Goal- driven partnerships are required.

Levels of monitoring and frequency

National level

NITI Aayog - annually through Governing Council and bringing out the Documents Localizing of SDGs in PRIs and covering it in the SDGII Report on annual basis

Ministries

❖ Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for SDGs - high level monitoring is recommended once in 4 months.

❖ MoPR - bi-monthly

❖ In this the representatives from other Ministries not below the level of Joint Secretary need to attend at least for initial year

❖ Inter-Ministry PMU heads/Associates monthly convened by MoPR on various Themes for enabling discussions also with State Project Units online with half the number every month.

State level

State SDG High Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary half yearly, to review progress highlights and resolve inter departmental issues, if any

State Planning Board/Commission can also be assigned substantial role in various aspects of monitoring, including Reports, Workshops, Seminars of appropriate levels for Localisation of SDGs in PRIs in the State

RD & PR Department once every 2 or 3 months with all Districts to review all aspects of the Localization of SDGs along with Planning & Development Department and other Departments at Government level.

Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (HoD), once in 2 months along with other Department HoDs and Department of Statistics reviewing progress in Districts.

District level

District SDG Committee formed in States already-monthly, initially

DISHA - formed by MoRD can be reviewing progress in localizing SDGs with PRIs(Anyone should be enough).

Block level - monthly on different Themes with various departments, PRIs and other organizations representatives, covering capacity building and field progress of process and impact.

Self-monitoring and Community monitoring – This is by far the best form of ownership by the GP and forms the basis for GPDP, involvement of Grama sabha, ensuring reduced inequalities, prioritizing aspects and assessing progress for achieving SDGs.

Subjects for review

Initial reviews will need to be on process progress and capacity building, Mapping, tie- ups and partnerships, roles and responsibilities communicated with feedback from field, reports of convergent action, special and noteworthy events and impact. Best practices get built up from sub-block (QC) level to National level while being shared simultaneously.

Monitoring of performance under PDI, SDG Achievement progress, Thematic progress and special and innovative work on regular annual basis through Dashboard.

Activity on Localization of SDGs taking place in States to local level & by Departments can be monitored by different levels using Dashboard data.

Reports, Documents, Assessments.

Calendar of Reports & Documents to be prepared and brought out at various levels in partnership with Institutions. These Reports & Documents are to be also jointly done with Departments. eg: Sub-theme, targets level progress (addressing malnutrition and hunger; ensuring all entitlements for Persons with Disabilities, no Kutcha houses in Village, etc.)

Platforms and Forums

Opportunities for sharing exceptional progress must be regularly provided in the joint calendar of Department and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj at District level and as a monitoring mechanism to assess progressive changes. (These can be integrated with workshops and seminars under Capacity Building)

3.17 Buy-in

Localization of SDGs with PRIs needs the involvement of Ministries and States and PRIs, and has to provide for the variations in approaches towards the common end, within the broad framework and path.

Workshops and discussions with Ministries to find common ground for jointly working on Localizing of SDGs with PRIs.

Workshops and discussions with States to enable States to suitably set up mechanisms and systems around this framework for Localizing SDGs with PRIs.

Separate attention for PESA areas in States to evolve systemic framework for Localizing SDGs in Gram Panchayats.

Set benchmarks & milestones for States to meet for accessing fund support.

Work intensely where there is more interest forthcoming, and where there is need for greater support.

Aspirational Districts may be the first place to concentrate on forthwith.

Pilot testing of sub-modules in the process, such as Dashboard, training programme design, assessment process, etc., needs to be done.

Phasing within States is necessary, to bring greater focus, not waste energies and take it forward exponentially.

All panchayats will not be in the same level and progress and process differentiation needs to be built in.

3.18 Roadmap for Localizing SDGs with PRIs.

Road map for localizing SDGs with PRIs to be there to follow up regularly on all that needs to be happening covering NITI Aayog leadership role, on boarding Ministries - discussions with Ministries, identifying common ground, issues of instructions, field penetration, States involvement, Ease of working with Departments for PRIs, developments on dashboard, best practices, Capacity Building plans, monitoring mechanisms, incentivisation, workshops, seminars, Panchayats involved, events, reports etc.

Road map to be prepared annually and with involvement of Ministries as localizing progresses

RGSA must be devised around this enabling ecosystem to be created, and to provide all soft components which does not come from other Departments.

Focus on monthly plans of constant action with various Ministries and Departments so as to take to field and keep the events of different SDGs and themes happening in the process of Localizing SDGs with PRIs.

Ministries /Departments reports and Policy Notes should cover localization of SDGs in PRIs; to be placed before the Elected Representatives in Parliament and Legislative Assembly.

Appropriate communication and mode for involving Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs in the Localizing of SDGs in PRIs needs to be decided at both Centre and States.

Commence the programme in Aspirational districts where the existing systems can work to localize SDGs in PRIs as envisaged and add value to grassroots level involvement of ERs, and further enhance progress there.

3.19 Centre for Localizing SDGs, Advisory Group and Programme Management Unit

At MoPR, a cross - sectoral Advisory Group to provide continuity and expert guidance to the Localizing of SDGs in PRIs, to be formed. Naturally, the period should be not less than 3-5 years, with some overlapping years of continuity till 2030.

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) with select committed and competent persons needs to be dedicated to the challenging task for working on Mission mode, and provide lead to the Localizing of SDGs in PRIs under MoPR, and all assistance to the MoPR and Advisory Group.

States also need to establish such an Advisory Group, PMU and further units in Districts as Programme Implementation Unit (PIU).

Utilizing existing resources of personnel/positions already sanctioned, the PMU, PIU and sub - units can be formed in States and Sub – State levels.

Centre for Localizing SDGs - At national level, a Centre for Localizing SDGs may be set up in partnership with NITI Aayog, UN agencies, International Organizations, Financial Institutions, pool funded also by all Ministries and the private sector. This Centre is to work on Localizing SDGs in both urban and rural areas, and across all SDGs. This is to be an inclusive body with stakeholders and representation from various sectors, experts and specialists, including NGOs, academicians, Statisticians and Information Technology.

The Centre would be working with various Ministries and States, and perform an Advisory role to all including MoPR in localization of all SDGs and with PRIs

(If such a Centre is set up, the Advisory Group within MoPR may be taken to be the Centre itself and another Advisory Group may not be required.)

3.20 Build-up Year

The period from now to implementation in 2022 is to be a Build-up year to ensure no time is lost in setting up and putting all the guidelines and technology in place, and creating the enabling environment to kick start the Localizing of SDGs with PRIs as soon as it is formally launched.

Utilizing the period to bring convergence within government and keen involvement of States in a 'whole of government' approach, identification of Partners and evolving partnerships for coordinated action in a 'whole of society' approach for achieving SDGs in Panchayats, Institutional and Monitoring structure to be put in place, Reflection of the Themes and processes in the AAPs of various Flagship Schemes, Mapping of Resources of Schemes, Guidelines of Schemes, etc., Evolving plans for localization of SDGs in PESA areas, and preparation of Implementation guidelines for Localizing SDGs in PRIs having the Dashboard ready Preparation of a Roadmap for Capacity Building and Training by States, and developing a set of high impact initial programmes on the Themes and way forward, are only some that are highlighted to be done in the Buildup Year.

Policy brief on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through PRIs

The country has shown considerable progress across SDGs as seen in the SDGII as a result of the implementation of various flagship schemes of the Government of India as well as schemes of State & UT Governments, and the monitoring of the progress of SDGs by NITI Aayog. Progress has been pushed back across the world impacted by COVID, with the most vulnerable the most affected. Climate change calls for urgency in the Decade for Action and the need to build back better is well recognized. Number of policy initiatives and programmes have been announced towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat. States too have shifted gears in response to the crises. The move from National context and State context to Localisation of SDGs in context of local self-government is one of the most necessary of policy decisions.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda: Transforming our World, in the villages depends on progress made in Localizing SDGs in PRIs, for the country to achieve SDGs in rural India. It needs to find feet at the grassroots, for local action, for it is 'We the people' with all 5 Ps in tandem - People, Prosperity, Peace, Planet and Partnership.

This policy brief highlights the relevant support and actions required to further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving SDGs by Localisation of SDGs in PRIs.

1. The lead role of NITI Aayog with MoPR as the nodal Ministry for Localisation of SDGs in rural areas through PRIs is required to pave the way and take into Mission-Mode.

2. Blue print for Localisation of SDGs covering all Ministries and different tiers of Panchayats for the process in transformation of Global goals to Local goals to be prepared and monitored.

3. Finalization of result-based framework (LIF) based on the different Themes of development in tune with the Goals & Targets of the SDGs at Gram Panchayat level. This will include understanding, analysis and reflection for taking local actions by the Gram Panchayats. The framework will review the progress of the activities and track the progress towards achievement of the national targets.

4. Ministries/States to map and align their schemes' progress assessments to the indicators at Gram Panchayat level, Block Panchayat level and District Panchayat level. In this respect, guidelines are to be issued from Ministries and State Governments relating to Localisation of SDGs involving and stating clearly role of various institutions below the State level till the GP level.

5. Panchayat Development Index and assessment framework with Themes, Local targets and Indicators for measuring progress worked through MoSPI and States Statistics Departments, linking to evidenced based plan & budget with SDG markers is to be put in place, covering all schemes operating at Gram Panchayat level.

6. Issue of clear guidelines from all Ministries for the vision enshrined in Thematic achievements stating roles and responsibilities of the line Departments for the preparation of integrated and holistic plan and budget with activities at all three tiers of Panchayats incorporated in the GPDP, BPDP and DPDP based on Localisation of SDGs, linked with sectoral annual action plans under schemes and SDG markers.

7. Convergence in planning and action with pooling human, capital and technical resources in an organized and participatory manner at resource level and service delivery level. Detailed guidelines relating to convergence approach to be adhered to may be issued by Cabinet Secretariat.

8. Various Ministries need to jointly and continuously use Capacity Building & Training and related resources and processes to ensure effectiveness and focus in delivery for Thematic outcomes and progress in targets and indicators for Localisation of SDGs.

9. Establish a robust data sharing and monitoring mechanism covering all the LIF targets and indicators and linked to reports of performance for Departments/Ministries and PRIs on Localising SDGs. SDG Dashboard and LIF progress monitoring to be linked and correlated with scheme performance.

10. Preparation and use of Index of Ease of working with Departments (Ministries) for PRIs for ensuring support and action to Localisation of SDGs

11. Set up and utilise the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for convergence and Localisation of SDGs in PRIs on regular basis.

12. While ensuring the 'Whole of Government' approach actually falls in place, to consciously move to a 'Whole of Society' approach evolving micro-plans and monitoring progress thereon.

13. Bringing in the power of Youth and the expertise of Academia in 'Universities speak SDGs' for rural India with the Ministry of Human Resources Development and Ministry of Youth Welfare.

14. Financing for SDGs and suitable incentivization by all Ministries, as well as by mechanisms to involve States and private sector in furthering involvement of PRIs in appreciation of progress towards achieving SDGs.

15. States may be provided two types of financing under RGSA - Basic funding for Capacity Building and Training activities and incremental financing for performance based on the parameters connected to Localisation of SDGs in PRIs. Further, all other key/Nodal Ministries for SDGs, may also earmark a part of the funding linked to performance on localization of SDGs in PRIs.

16. The devolution of the Finance Commission grants can be considered to be linked to Road maps and Milestones to be clearly stated and monitored by all Ministries and MoPR for creating an enabling environment for Localisation of SDGs and achievements.

17. Mapping of the SDGs to the Rights based Approach and Local Governance Initiatives as a local democratic institution for people's participation, reaching out to the unreached and planning for the most vulnerable and weaker section of the society.

18. Localizing SDGs in areas covered under Vth Schedule, PESA and VIth Schedule with detailed consultation and clear guidelines to ensure achieving SDGs with diverse approaches as suitable and applicable.

19. Phasing and focusing on low performing indicators and interested Panchayats, (Block Panchayats and District Panchayats/Districts) and States, commencing with Aspirational Districts with expansion to cover all Gram Panchayats in 3 years and providing scope for flexibility and diversity.

20. Annual Thematic focus/select target achievements across the country such as achieving Zero hunger in two years, as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

21. Setting up a Centre for Localizing of SDGs with international partnership, Ministries and NITI Aayog.

22. The Key Recommendations of the Expert Group and Report may be appraised to the States for comments and Ministries by MoPR, followed up by a core Committee comprising MoPR, Ministries, Resource Agency and NITI Aayog at the earliest for rolling out of Action Plans, guidelines, for ensuring all are on board.

We are part of an ambitious global effort that is underway to deliver the 2030 promise—by mobilizing more governments, civil society, businesses and calling on all people to make the Global Goals their own. Accelerated efforts are needed to boost sustainable solutions to the biggest challenges we face. It asks for transformative economic, social and environmental solutions. We will need inspiration and creativity at global, local and individual levels – from national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and youth. A transformative recovery from COVID- 19 should reduce the risk of future crises and re-launch. Localizing SDGs with PRIs is the urgently required accelerator for us.

> **"We reaffirm that planet Earth and its ecosystem are our common home and Mother Earth"**
> **- UN Summit for Sustainable Development 2015.**

(Smt Jayashree Raghunandan)
Chair of the group
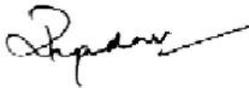
(Smt Rekha Yadav)
Member Convener

(Dr. Joy Elamon)
Member

(Sh Saroj Kumar Dash)
Member
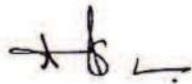
(Sh RSN Sharma)
Member

(Ms RV Shajeevana)
Member

(Sh Dibyendu Das)
Member
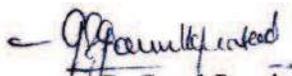
(Dr. G S Ganesh Prasad)
Member

((Dr C.Kathiresan)
Member

Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India