State of India's Environment Report 2019-2021

The State of India's Environment Report 2021 has been released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in June 2021. It provides comprehensive data on subjects such as Forest, Climate Change, Habitat, Water, Air Pollution, Rural Development, Biodiversity, and Industry. India ranked 117 out of 180 as per the latest report.

It analyses how the states of India have performed on sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The State of India's Environment Report is published by CSE, a public interest and advocacy group which lobbies for sustainable development.

State of India's Environment Report

Key Takeaways from 2021 State of India's Environment Report

- With regard to the 17 (SDGs), India's rank slipped to 117 in 2021 from its previous rank of 115 in 2020.
- Challenges such as hunger, low food security, achieving gender equality, fostering innovation are the reasons why India's rank slipped in 2021.
- India ranks below four South Asian nations such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Its overall score regarding SDGs is 61.9 out of 100.
- The State of Environment Report showed that India also ranked 168 out of 180 in the Environment Performance Index (EPI). The EPI is calculated on various indicators such as environment, health, climate, air pollution, sanitation, biodiversity etc.

State of India's Environment Report [Metrics-wise]

The country's performance in the Environment Report has been done based on the following metrics:

1. Air
2. Water
3. Development
4. Land and Agriculture
5. Health
6. Cities
7. Waste
8. Energy
9. Climate
10. Pollution
11. Poverty

12. Education

The following table shows India's performance in the above metrics. Please do note that most of the data for the metrics belong to the years 2019-2021.

Metrics for State of India's Environment Report 2019-2021

Metrics	Notes of Performance
Air	• Air pollution has caused 12.5% deaths in India. • Poor air quality affects about 100,000 children below the age of 5 leading to many fatalities. • Its national scheme to promote e-vehicles is yet to pick up pace despite making pledges to the contrary. • Out of the target of 15-16 million e-vehicles by 2020, only 0.28 million were active by May 2019.
Water	• As per the report, both the surface and groundwater in the country are under threat, with 86% of the water bodies critically polluted. • One of the reasons for the increase in the pollution of water bodies is the build-up of heavy industries which polluted the water bodies between 2011 and 2018. • There has been an unsustainable increase in the number of deep tube wells that has gone up by 80 per cent between 2006-07 and 2013-14.
Development	• Climate change poses the biggest economic threat and is a recurring point of discussion in the UN Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. • Out of the 13 SDGs the country is tracking, only a few indicators exist.
Land and Agriculture	• India's farm sector is under stress. While the input costs for major crops are rising, the average farmland size is shrinking. Even the share of the insured cropped area stands at a dismal 26 per cent. • The report indicates that India's rural infrastructure is under threat.
Health	• At least, there is a 35% shortfall in the number of 24×7 public health centres.

	- Another worrying trend is that the number of new doctors qualifying every year in the country has decreased by 60% between 2013 and 2017.
	- India also shares the world's largest absolute burden of 11 major [neglected tropical diseases](#), such as dengue.
Cities	- The report indicated that by 2050, India will have 416 million urban dwellers, home to about 58% of the total global population of urban dwellers.
	- India has 2,613 towns with slums. Of them, 57 per cent are in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
Waste	- India has recorded a 56% increase in the number of hazardous-waste generating industries between 2016-2017.
	- The burden of solid waste is becoming unmanageable. In fact, 79 major protests against unsanitary landfills and dump yards have been recorded in 22 states in the past three years.
	- At the same time, most of these industries are not properly maintaining their waste inventory, as mandated by the law.
Energy	- India's natural gas and hydro-based power plants are at the brink
	- Gas-plants are running at only 24% of their original capacity due to a shortage of domestic natural gas
	- Hydropower projects, on the other hand, are only running at 19% of their capacity
	- The country's progress in renewable energy in 2018-19 has been abysmal. Wind energy capacity was at 6.3% while solar energy was at 5.56%
Climate	- Besides, India phased out ozone depleting substances such as [chlorofluorocarbon](#) by 2011, it shifted to substances such as hydrochlorofluorocarbon, which have high global warming potential.
	- India continues to bear the brunt of extreme weather events. In 2018, 11 states recorded major extreme weather events that claimed 1,425 lives.
Pollution	- Of 88 major industrial clusters in the country, according to the [Central Pollution Control Board](#), 35 showed overall environmental degradation,

Poverty	• Covid-19 has made the world's poor poorer. Over 115 million additional people might get pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic, and most of them live in South Asia.
Education	• Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, over 500 million children were forced out of school globally and India accounted for more than half of them.

Aspirants can find complete information about upcoming Government Exams through the linked article. More exam-related preparation materials will be found through the links given below

State of India's Environment Report 2022:

 The target for the economy is to raise the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **to nearly USD 4 trillion by 2022-23.** But by 2020, the economy has grown only to USD 2.48 trillion.

The economy has largely shrunk during the Covid-19 pandemic, **making it even more difficult to meet the deadline.**

- **Employment:** The target is to increase the **female labour force participation** rate to at least 30% by 2022-23.
    - **It stood at 17.3% in January-March 2020.**
- **Housing:** The targets are to construct 29.5 million housing units under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (PMAY)-Rural and 12 million units under PMAY-Urban.
    - **Only about 46.8% and 38% respectively of the targets under 'Housing for All' have been achieved.**
- **Drinking Water**: The target is to provide safe piped drinking water to all by 2022-23.
    - **Only 45% of the target has been achieved.**
- **Agriculture:** The target is to **double farmers' income by 2022**. While the average monthly income of an agricultural household has increased to Rs 10,218 from Rs 6,426, this increase is largely due to increase in wages and income from farming animals.
    - The share of income from crop production in the average monthly income of an agricultural household has, in fact, dropped — to **37.2% in 2018-19, from 48% in 2012-13.**
- **Digitisation of Land Records:** Another target is to **digitise all land records** by 2022. While states like Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha have made good progress, states like **Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Sikkim languish at 5%, 2% and 8.8%** digitisation of land records, respectively.
    - Overall, **the target is unlikely to be met, particularly because 14 states have witnessed deterioration in the quality of land records** since 2019-20.
- **Air Pollution:** The target is to bring down **Particulate Matter (PM)** 2.5 levels in Indian cities to less than 50 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m3). In 2020, when vehicular

movement was restricted due to the pandemic, **23 of the 121 cities monitored for PM2.5 exceeded 50 µg/m³.**

- **Solid Waste Management:** The target is to achieve 100% source segregation in all households.
  - The overall progress is 78%, and while states like Kerala and Union territories like Puducherry have achieved the target, others like West Bengal and Delhi are woefully behind.
  - **Manual scavenging** is targeted for eradication, but **India still has 66,692 manual scavengers.**
- **Forest Cover:** The target is to increase it to 33.3% of the geographical area, as envisaged in the **National Forest Policy, 1988.**
  - **By 2019, 21.6% of India was under forest cover.**
- **Energy:** The target is to achieve **175 GW of renewable energy** generation capacity by 2022.
  - **Only 56% of this target has been achieved thus far.**

What was India's Performance on Sustainable Development Goals?

- India has **slipped three spots to rank 120** on the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 **United Nations** member states in 2015.
  - **In 2021 India ranked 117 among 192 nations.**
  - India's overall **SDG score was 66 out of 100.**
- India's **rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs** including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.
- India also **performed poorly in dealing with quality education and life on land aspects**.
  - In 2021, India had suffered on the fronts of ending hunger and achieving food security, achieving gender equality and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.