

Meghalaya ranks 23rd in the SDG India Index 2020-21

The third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was released by NITI Aayog on the 3rd June 2021. Since its inaugural launch in 2018, the index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The state of Meghalaya has seen an advancement in their ranking **from the 25th position, in the NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2019-20, to the 23rd position** with an improvement in its composite score, from 54 to 60. Progress is seen in 9 goals which led to a positive push in our overall performance towards achieving the SDGs. The state came out as the **top performer in SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality)** with an index score of 88 among the states.

Performance of Meghalaya- SDG India Index

Sustainable Development Goal	Index score		Growth	Rank
	2020- 21	2019- 20		
1: No Poverty	77	68	9	9
2: Zero Hunger	37	35	2	25
3: Good Health & Well Being	70	53	17	15
4: Quality Education	48	55	-7	20
5: Gender Equality	51	34	17	11
6: Clean Water & Sanitation	75	70	5	24
7: Affordable & Clean Energy	50	52	-2	28
8: Decent Work & Economic Growth	63	65	-2	10
9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	25	22	3	27
10: Reduced Inequality	88	76	12	1
11: Sustainable Cities & Communities	51	22	29	25
12: Responsible Production & Consumption	73	60	13	18
13: Climate Action	62	36	26	8
15: Life on Land	64	99	-35	14
16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	72	59	13	15
Overall Performance	60	54	6	
Rank of the State	23	25		
	Aspirants- 0 to 49			
	Performer- 50 to 64			
	Front Runner- 65 to 99			

While improvements were seen in many SDGs, the state, however, needs to improve and focus on the goals in aspirant's category - such as Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 15 (Life on Land).

Initiatives taken to improve progress on the SDGs:

- The Government of Meghalaya has formed an SDG Cell at the State level for implementation of SDGs including organization of capacity building programmes, preparing knowledge products and progress reports and playing an overall support-oriented role.
- Meghalaya has developed the State Indicator Framework adapting from MOSPI's National Indicator Framework and through consultation with various departments. The State Indicator Framework comprises localized /disaggregated State, District and Block level performance indicators. The Meghalaya State Indicator Framework consists of 173 Indicators against 89 Targets of 16 Goals.
- The process of monitoring progress against the SDGs has started from establishing the Baseline and setting the Targets for 2030 against each Indicator through a digitized App.
- The state has also initiated a process of ranking the Districts based on the SDG scores and preparing a District level SDG Action Plan to identify the priority areas of improvement and create a healthy competition among Districts.

Way Forward

- The SDG Cell in Planning Department will conduct a detailed analysis of district wise data to identify the low performing goals in each district and the analysis will be communicated to the respective Deputy Commissioners. Workshops will be held with all officials of line departments and districts.
- The SDGs which are in the aspirant category and those indicators which have seen a drop in performance compared to the previous index, will be specifically monitored for progress.
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya has announced a Catalytic Fund to each Deputy Commissioner for taking immediate measures to improve the SDG performance in the Districts by taking up any initiative/project or meeting any expenditure of capital nature.
- Districts will be continuously monitored and those which have shown an improvement in performance will be further incentivized to bring in a spirit of competition among districts for improvement in SDG rankings.