

# State of India's Environment Report, 2022

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**In news**– Center for Science and Environment has released the 9th edition of the State of India's Environment Report at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2022 recently.

## About the report-

- This is an **annual publication of the Center for Science and Environment and Down To Earth**, that focuses on **climate change, migration, health and food systems**.
- It also **covers biodiversity, forest and wildlife, energy, industry, habitat, pollution, waste, agriculture and rural development**.
- This **9th annual edition also offers a special assessment of the state of development in the States through graphical analysis and data**.
- As per this report, **India is behind on at least 17 key government targets that have a deadline in 2022**. The slow progress made so far means that the deadlines are unlikely to be met.
- These targets have been set in a wide array of fields and sectors from economy and employment, to housing, agriculture, land records, sustainable environment and energy—and are a sharp compass of the progress made by the country.
- **The target for the economy is to raise the gross domestic product** to nearly \$4 trillion by 2022-23.
- **The target for employment is to increase the female labour force participation rate to at least 30 per cent** by 2022-23; it stood at 17.3 per cent in January-March 2020.
- **The targets for Housing 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 per cent and 38 per cent respectively of the targets under 'Housing for All' **have been achieved**).

- **When it comes to provision of drinking water, the target is** to provide safe piped drinking water to all by 2022-23; **only 45 per cent of the target has been achieved.**
- **Under 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 per cent in 2018-19, from 48 per cent in 2012-13.**
- Regarding **the digitisation of land records, the target is to digitize 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 per cent, 2 per cent and 8.8 per cent 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.
- **With respect to Air pollution**, the target is to bring down PM2.5 levels in Indian cities to less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). In 2020, when vehicular movement was restricted due to the pandemic, 23 of the 121 cities monitored for PM2.5 exceeded 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .
- **As part of Solid waste management, the target is to achieve 100 per cent source segregation in all households.**
- The overall progress is 78 percent; 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.
- With respect to **increasing the forest cover, the target is to increase it to 33.3 percent of the geographical area**, as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. **By 2019, 21.67 per cent of India was under forest cover.**
- **Under the Energy sector, the target is to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2022. Only 56 per cent of this target has been achieved thus far.**

### **Performance of the Indian states-**

- **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are below the national average in 11 and 14 SDGs**, respectively whereas **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh fared best.**
- **With respect to SDG 1 (poverty eradication)**, six of the poorest performers include Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- All these states – along with Meghalaya, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal – also feature in the list of worst performers as far as ending hunger and malnutrition is concerned (SDG 2).
- **In water and sanitation (SDG 6)**, the performance of Delhi, Rajasthan, Assam, Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh is a cause for concern.
- **SDG 7 – related to clean and affordable energy** – has seen an above average performance, with most states achieving the target.
- **In climate action (SDG 13)**, 13 states and two Union territories score below the national average. Odisha tops the good performance chart, followed by Kerala, Jharkhand and Bihar bring up the rear.

### **Center for Science and Environment-**

- It is a public interest research and advocacy organization based in New Delhi.

- CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
- Its aim is to raise these concerns, participate in seeking answers and – more importantly – in pushing for answers and transforming these into policy and so, practice.
- CSE's efforts are specifically designed to create awareness about problems and propose sustainable solutions.
- Research at CSE often consists of in-depth learning about an environmental problem and then finding answers in accordance with CSE's core values.
- CSE's tools for awareness raising are periodicals, publications, films/short spots, briefing papers, exhibitions, posters and other products.

**Further**

**reading:**

**<https://journalsofindia.com/sustainable-development-goals-of-the-un/>**