

## Sustainable Development Report 2024

- **The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has released the Sustainable Development Report 2024**, a review of the annual progress on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 193 UN member states**. The SDSN, established in 2012 under the UN Secretary-General, aims to promote integrated approaches to implementing the SDGs and the Paris Agreement through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation.
- **Key Highlights of the Report**
  - Globally, **only 16% of the SDG targets** are on track to be achieved by **2030**.
  - SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) are particularly off track.
  - Progress on the SDGs varies significantly between countries, with Nordic countries leading, BRICS countries making notable progress, and poor and vulnerable countries lagging behind.
  - **Finland is ranked first**, followed by **Sweden and Denmark**.
  - India is ranked **109th out of 166 countries**, showing progress in poverty reduction and quality education but declining in sustainable cities and climate action.
  - A new index, the Support to **UN-based Multilateralism (UN-Mi)**, ranks countries based on their engagement with the UN system. Barbados ranks highest, India is at **139th place**, and the **USA ranks last**.
- **Recommendations by SDSN**
  - The sustainable development agenda should remain central to global cooperation until 2050 and be adequately funded.
  - Strengthen UN agencies and systematically monitor UN-based multilateralism.
  - Enhance multilateral governance of technological risks and ensure universal access to vital technologies and R&D capacities.
  - Establish a UN Parliamentary Assembly and reform the UN Security Council by adding India as a permanent member and adopting procedures to override a veto.

## HelpAge India Report: "Ageing in India – Exploring Preparedness & Response to Care Challenges"

- **Released on** The eve of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15th June).
  - The elderly population (aged 60 and above) will rise to 20.8% of the total population by 2050, up from 8.6% in 2011.
- **Key Findings:**
  - **Employment Status:**
    - Only 15% of elderly persons are employed.
    - Employment rate among elderly males is 24%, compared to just 7% for elderly females, indicating significant gender disparity.
  - **Social Security:** Only 29% of elderly people have access to social security schemes like pensions.
  - **Health Issues:** 54% of elderly persons suffer from two or more non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
  - **Digital Access:** 59% of elderly individuals do not have access to digital devices.
  - **Social Participation:** Only 7% of elderly people are members of any social organization.
- **Steps Undertaken for Elderly Care in India:**
  - **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (2015):**
    - A pension scheme providing regular income to senior citizens aged 60 and above.
  - **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (2017):**
    - Provides assisted-living devices and support services to senior citizens from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.
  - **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007):**
    - Ensures the maintenance and welfare of senior citizens, making it a legal obligation for children and relatives to support them.

- **Launch Year :** 2017
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Implemented by the **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)**.
- **Central sector scheme** funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund.
  - **Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund notified in the year 2016.**
  - All **unclaimed amounts from small savings accounts**, PPF and EPF are transferred to this fund.
- **Eligibility:** Senior Citizens, belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) category and suffering from any of the age related disability or infirmity.
- **Objective:**
  - To Empower Senior Citizens And Persons With Disabilities Across India
  - To Empower Senior Citizens And Persons With Disabilities Across India
  - These Camps Aim To Distribute Various Types Of Aid And Assistive Devices, To Over 12000 Person With Disabilities And Senior Citizen

## Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- **India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference Held in New Delhi**
- **About IORA:**
  - **Formation:** The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1997, inspired by the vision of Nelson Mandela.
  - **Purpose:** IORA aims to strengthen regional cooperation and promote sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.
  - **Members:** The association has 23 member countries, including India.
  - **Key Focus Areas:**
    - Maritime safety and security
    - Disaster risk management
    - Other priority areas include trade, investment, and blue economy initiatives.
  - **Specialized Agencies:** The Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) is one of the specialized agencies under IORA.
  - **Headquarters:** The IORA Secretariat is located in Mauritius.

## WHO Designates CCRAS-NIIMH as Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine Research

- **National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH)** has been recognized as the first **WHO Collaborating Centre (CC)** for "**Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine**" (**CC IND-177**).
- **Duration:** The recognition is for four years, starting from June 3, 2024.
- **Responsibilities of NIIMH as CC IND-177:**
  - **Standardizing Terminologies:** Assist WHO in standardizing terms for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa.
  - **Updating ICD-11:** Help update the Traditional Medicine Module-II for the 11th edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), which is the global standard for recording, reporting, and analyzing health data.
    - **Traditional Medicine Chapter:** This includes a dedicated chapter on traditional medicine.
    - **Module 2 Focus:** The supplementary chapter's Module 2 is focused on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani data and terminology.
  - **Research Methodologies:** Support member states in developing research methodologies for traditional medicine.
- **About NIIMH:**
  - **Establishment:** Founded in 1956.
  - **Nodal Ministry:** Operates under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush.
  - **Mandate:** Document and showcase medico-historical research in Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and other related healthcare disciplines in India.

## India's Environmental Performance in 2024

- India's latest ranking in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** for **2024 is 176th out of 180 countries**. This shows a slight improvement from previous years, but India remains among the lowest performers globally.
- The index, prepared by **Yale and Columbia universities**.