

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



# INTRODUCTION

- Goal 16 lays down the basic principles which enable the achievement of all the other goals mainly by building the foundations for peaceful and inclusive societies, robust system of justice for all, and inclusive and accountable institutions.
- Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development.
- The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018, the highest level recorded by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years.
- In 2019, the United Nations tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries.
- And the births of around one in four children under age 5 worldwide are never officially recorded, depriving them of a proof of legal identity crucial for the protection of their rights and for access to justice and social services.

# TARGET

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.



# THE INDIAN APPROACH

- In India, the judiciary is overburdened due to the large number of pending cases, with the backlog touching 35 million in June 2019 – 31 million cases pending in subordinate courts, 4.35 million in High Courts and 58,669 cases in the Supreme Court. India has prioritized the strengthening of justice through government initiatives including Pragati Platform, a public grievance redressal system, and the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary including Gram Nyayalays for villages.
- India's approach towards fostering peaceful and inclusive societies and ensuring justice and security for all revolves around enabling a sustainable development framework that is substantive and reflective of the needs and aspirations of the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.
- In ensuring that citizens not only have access to fundamental rights but can also effectively exercise the same, various national initiatives have been taken in the form of policies, schemes and programmes to uphold justice and ensure accountability and transparency at local, sub-national and national levels.

## ○ ACTION TAKEN

- It has enacted several legislations to help fulfil various rights of children, namely:-

I. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

II. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012

III. Essential amendments to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013

IV. The Right to Education Act of 2009

**NEED FOR  
ACTION TO BE  
UNDERTAKEN**

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graph TD; A[NEED FOR ACTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN] --> B[Reducing Violence]; A --> C[Access to Justice]; A --> D[Accountable and Transparent Institutions]; A --> E[Legal Identity for All];
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**Reducing  
Violence**

**Access to  
Justice**

**Accountable  
and  
Transparent  
Institutions**

**Legal Identity  
for All**



## REDUCING VIOLENCE:-

- India has a sound legal framework which protects everyone from violence and abuse. Presence of vibrant civil society and alert media support the work of the government.
- Since 2015, the crime rate has increased by 14.5 points, which may be majorly indicative of improved reporting. Incidence of murder and culpable homicide has come down by 9.2 per cent during the same period. The rate of crime against women has remained relatively stable during the period.<sup>103</sup> Concerning the crime against children, the total rate was 28.9 per one lakh population in 2017.
- The government implements a comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE:-

- The government has taken conscious efforts to end discrimination and exclusion of people belonging to different socio-economic statuses.
- The government has set up Special Courts to ensure speedy trial of atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the ground of caste. Initiatives have been launched for other vulnerable groups as well.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 lays down a concrete legal framework and provides higher visibility and entitlement to persons with disabilities.



## ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS

- Being a vibrant parliamentary democracy, the central government is fully accountable and answerable to the Parliament, which represents the people.
- The Right to Information Act 2005 has strengthened the accountability and transparency of public institutions.
- Further, the government has taken noteworthy technology-driven initiatives, such as the Digital India campaign (focussed on providing e-governance solutions for citizen-centric projects) and the PRAGATI platform (an IT-based grievance redressal and monitoring system extending to the district/sub-district level) to improve participatory governance.

## LEGAL IDENTITY FOR ALL

- Legal identity for all is fundamental to inclusive development and governance.
- Extensive coverage (about 1.2 billion assignees as of 15th June 2019 constituting 88.8 per cent of the total population of people under the *Aadhaar* biometrics-based unique identity system has secured their legal identity.
- It has enabled 237 million beneficiaries to access benefits under various government schemes and programmes directly, thereby saving INR 900 billion during the period 2014- 18. As of 2016, the level of registration of births is 86 per cent with 13 States/UTs have achieved the cent per cent level of birth registration.

# FACTS

India reported **2.2 murders** for every one lakh population



**86%** of total births are registered

**29** COGNIZABLE CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN REPORTED PER ONE LAKH POPULATION



**88.8%** of India's population is covered with *Aadhaar* that provides universal legal identity



**13 COURTS** PER 10 LAKH POPULATION

**33** INCIDENCE OF VIOLENT CRIMES PER ONE LAKH POPULATION





# CHALLENGES

- One of the biggest challenges besetting most of the targets of SDG 16 is the inadequacy of comprehensive and disaggregated data.
- Besides, the problem of data, adequate reporting of cases of violence as well as violation of other rights is an issue, though the extent of reporting has improved in recent years. It is essential to push for efforts to improve the availability of comprehensive and updated data on various types of offences and reporting on crimes against women, children and other vulnerable groups.
- Under the near-universal coverage of *Aadhaar*, citizens of the country have been provided with a legal identity, but there remain concerns about data privacy and security.