

# Understanding Sustainable Development Goals, its Requirements and Implementation in India



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### **Abstract**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also called Global Goals are the universal endeavor to protect the environment, economy and society. In September 2015, when the global leaders met, they created a plan under which 17 goals were set up for the future of the world to get rid of poverty, protect the planet ensuring peace and prosperity for the world. These goals focuses on all the key areas which are necessary for the economy's prosperity. This is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which helps to incorporate the SDGs into national development plans and policies by the respective governments of the countries. India is playing very significant role in modelling these SDGs into India's national goals which are reflected in the SDGs. India has been dedicatedly involved in achieving these goals effectively through implementing various agendas and programmes. Thus, the present study first focuses on understanding the concept of Sustainable Development Goals and also examines the requirement of SDGs in India and their implementation strategies thereafter. Out of all 17 goals, the authors are centering their study on one of the major problems of water scarcity because people in India take drinking water and sanitation for granted which affects all the people around India. Many companies in India are playing very noteworthy role in the sustainable management of the water, ensuring its proper availability for drinking as well as for sanitation purposes. Hence, this study also tries to mention the commendable work of those companies who are working hard and providing their best cooperation for accomplishing the SDGs goals. The present paper is descriptive in nature and the data has been collected from the secondary sources like journals, various research papers, research articles, websites etc.

**Keywords:** Sustainable, development, goals, drinking water, UNDP, water management.

### **Introduction**

Sustainable development refers to the development which meets out the needs and requirements of the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generation. The true agenda behind the sustainable development is mainly protecting and preserving the world's resources so that not only the present generation could enjoy the natural resources today but we could also make it available for the future generation to enjoy it. Thus, sustainable development means the economic development in which the needs of everyone is met without making our future generations deprived of it. Its main focus is on maintaining the committed relationship between and among the activities of human and the natural resources of the world to ensure and enjoy the quality of human life to all. The concept of sustainable development is long term and integrated whose main aim is balanced economic growth and also to harmonize the economic, environmental and social sustainability in the world. The concept of sustainable development is necessary for development because it is about sustaining the natural resources of the world with considering the future in mind that is why it has gained a significant attention over the last decades. The Agenda 2030 is the most ambitious and impressive agreement of the world for the sustainable development ever.

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#### Background

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the goals which were established in 2000 to accelerate the progress with the help of its Eight goals which had their unambiguous targets and the deadline to achieve those targets also that was the year 2015. The millennium summit was held at United Nations with 191 member states and 22 international organizations. Those eight goals are:

1. To eliminate the poverty and hunger.
2. To promote education.
3. To promote gender equality and women empowerment.
4. To eradicate child mortality.
5. To improve and recover mental health.
6. To fight against HIV AIDS and other diseases.
7. To guarantee environmental sustainability.
8. To promote and develop a global partnership for development.

The MDGs drove progress for 15 years and had key achievements but were criticized on the grounds that it lacks analysis and validation behind the idea of choosing the goals and there was a lack of measurement of progress. That is why the need arises on working on new goals to maintain the legacy for millions of people because it was an urgent need to move towards farther sustainable path.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were innate or made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. These are the collection of 17 goals which were set by the United Nations Assembly. On 25 September 2015, the UN Assembly accepted and adopted the 2030 Development Agenda named "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainability Development". It came into effect on January 2016 where the global leaders of 193 member states of United Nations agreed upon the agenda 2030 for making the world better by focusing on the key areas like poverty alleviation, fighting inequality and prevent climate change. The global goals demand actions by all the countries and their governments whether it be developed, under-developed, general public of lower, middle or higher income groups to protect the planet, however, these goals are not legally binding that is why the Governments are making and launching programmes for their achievement. To achieve the sustainable development, it is very necessary to harmonize the interconnected core elements i.e., economic growth, social inclusion and environment protection because these elements are very important for the well-being of the people and the societies. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the leading organization endeavoring to fulfill the SDGs by 2030 and helps to incorporate the SDGs into national

development plans and policies by the respective governments of the countries. The 17 Global Goals are as following:-

1. **No Poverty (End Extreme Poverty In All Forms by 2030)**



Source: mdgmonitor.org

2. **Zero Hunger (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)**



Source: mdgmonitor.org

3. **Good Health and Well-Being (Ensure Healthy Lives and promote well-being For All At All Ages)**



Source: mdgmonitor.org

4. **Quality Education (Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promoter lifelong learning Opportunities For All)**



Source: mdgmonitor.org

5. Gender Equality (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls)



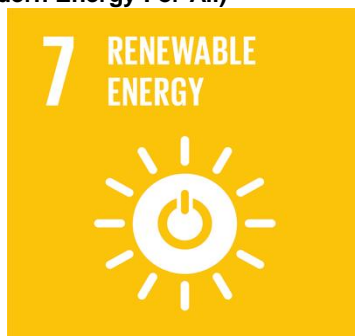
Source: mdgmonitor.org

6. Clean Water And Sanitation (Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation For All)



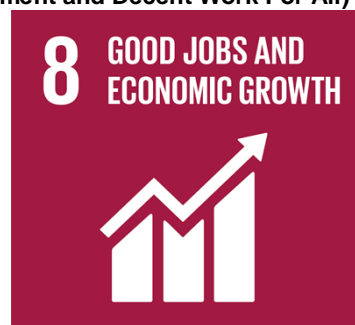
Source: mdgmonitor.org

7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY (Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy For All)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

8. Decent Work And Economic Growth (Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work For All)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (Build Resilient Infrastructure, promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

10. Reduced Inequalities (Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities (Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

12. Responsible Consumption and Production (Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns)



Source: mdgmonitor.org

**13. Climate Action (Take Urgent Action to combat Climate Change and Its Impacts)**

Source: mdgmonitor.org

**14. Life Below Water (Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development)**

Source: mdgmonitor.org

**15. Life On Land (Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss)**

Source: mdgmonitor.org

**16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions At All Levels)**

Source: mdgmonitor.org

**17. Partnerships For The Goals (Strengthen the means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global partnership for Sustainable Development)**

Source: mdgmonitor.org

**Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To understand the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. To examine the role of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.
3. To study about the how these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being implemented in India.
4. To study the companies which are providing their noteworthy contribution in water preservation and sanitation.

**Research Methodology**

The present study is planned to be carried on using the secondary data to know and understand the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their motive towards transforming the world into one. The required data has been collected from the various research papers, articles, literatures, UNDP Website and through other websites.

**SDG Impact**

A newly led initiative, SGD Impact, has been launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York to work with the private sector helping in channelizing private investment to accomplish the mission of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The initiative has been taken with a view to get innovative and best investment/finance in organizations and markets that helps in achieving SDGs and make the world poverty less and spread equality among all. There is still an annual gap of \$2.5 trillion of investment which the developing countries and the SDG relevant sectors are facing alone. Hence, UNDP is dedicated to support the 170 globally present countries by mobilizing the private sector for their development and prosperity. Through SDG Impact, it is aimed to make the business organizations and companies to familiarize and renovate their underlying business strategies to deliver the performance in accordance with the SDGs and get engaged in virgin markets which ultimately generate the investment opportunities in developing countries. According to the recent report of Better Business, Better world, SDGs are tremendously contributing to companies by offering new growth strategies and it is also opening

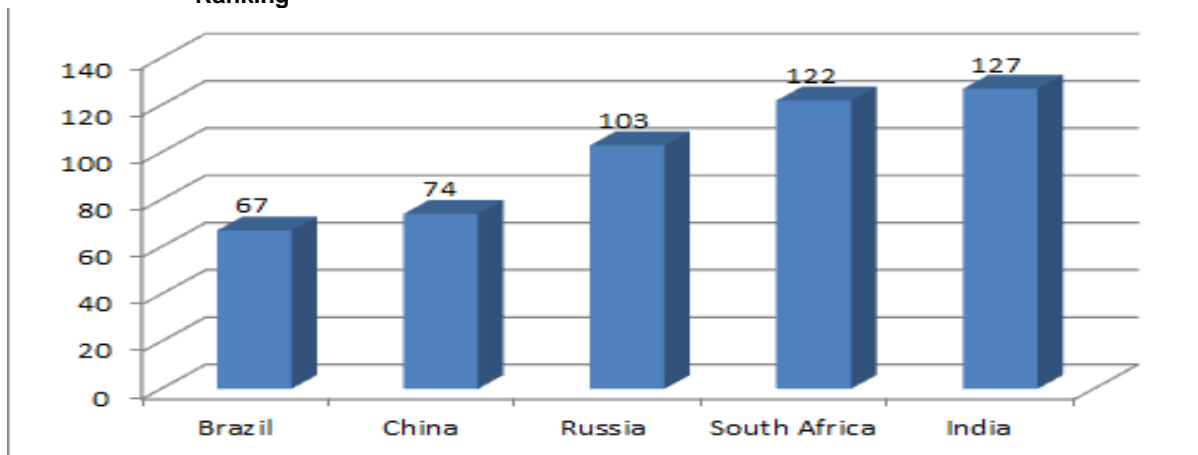
up the markets in the form of new commercial opportunities like opening up of the uncontested area markets, in food and agriculture, cities, energy, health and thus creating millions of jobs in the developing countries.

**Role of SDGs and its implementation in India**

India is playing very significant role in modelling these SDGs into India's national goals which are reflected in the SDGs. India is believing on the philosophy of "One World" and "Global Partnership" for the SDGs. India, over its past years, has concentrated its path way to manage and meet the requirements of employment, food, water, energy, fuel and eradicating poverty and targeted towards restoring its natural resources and having transparent and healthy governance system to ensure equality, respect for the women and best education to all. SDGs have given an opportunity to India by providing a wide range of interconnected issues which takes every social and global issue in consideration for the economic growth and development. As SDGs have very important and major implications, a developing country like India needs to realize the vision and frame ambitious plans and implementation strategies. For achieving the level, India must develop the capacity to meet the demands by establishing strong partnerships between private and public sector organizations, development institutions and also with the general public. India has been dedicatedly involved in achieving these goals effectively through implementing various agendas and programmes. The country's commitment towards achieving the SDGs is at its highest and the Government of India is being continuously working over it through organization of some ambitious and noteworthy programmes which are as follows:-

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojna (PMJDY)
2. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission)
3. SabkaSath, SabkaVikas (Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth)
4. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)
5. Pradhan Mantri UjjwalaYojna
6. Pradhan Mantri AawasYojna
7. Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojna

**Sustainable Development Goals 2030 BRICS Ranking**



8. Pradhan Mantri Krishi SichiYojna
9. Mid-Day Meal Programme
10. National Health Policy, 2017
11. BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child)
12. Maternity Benefit Programmes
13. UdyamSakhi Portal for Women Entrepreneurs
14. National Nutrition Mission
15. Ayushman Bharat
16. Mahila Shakti Kendra
17. Bharat Broadband Network Ltd
18. Make in India campaign
19. Start-up India Programme
20. Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System
21. Integrated National Fisheries Action Plan, 2016
22. SagarmalaProgramme
23. Direct Tax Reforms
24. Goods and Service Tax
25. International Solar Alliance at the UN Climate Change, 2015
26. National Rural & Urban Livelihood Mission
27. Soil Health Cards
28. National Food Security Mission
29. National Education Mission
30. National Rural Drinking Water Programme
31. National Mission for a Green India

When the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by India, the leading think-tank of Govt of India called NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was assigned the responsibility of supervising and administering the implementation of these goals. It has been entrusted with the mission of coordinating and monitoring the SDGs at the highest level in India. It is promoting a national network for resource institutions which is known as SAMAVESH. NITI Aayog has guided the preparation of VNR. A multi-disciplinary task force was established to review information collected at national as well as at all levels. Steps have been taken to accomplish the India's Development Agenda to fight against poverty, increasing infrastructural growth and industrialization as well as empowering women and poor too. Many important programmes are continuously being made to tackle the these problems so that India continues to extend its cooperation with its neighborhoods.

Source: counterview.net

## Role of Parliament of India

The Indian Parliament is also taking keen interest in making initiatives to boost the agenda to Global Goals 2030. Many important discussions on these goals are being organized by the Lower House of Parliament with the members of Parliament. National Women’s Legislator’s Conference and BRICS Women Forum was organized where focus was on the importance of gender equality. These conferences perceived that the women member of the Parliament can give their substantial contribution in molding and influencing the public in support of Sustainable Development Goals. One of the regional initiative was organized in 2017 named The South Asians Speakers Summit which was constituted on the theme of “Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Resources for SDGs”. This Summit advocated and insisted to all the members of Parliament to take actions collectively to expand and mobilize the additional resources with the main emphasis on achieving the target of SDG in the appropriate time given.

## 15 Year Vision Document

The first 15 year vision document will come into effect from 2017-2018 after the end of the 12th Five Year Plan. It will be formulated with the Centre objective of eradication of poverty. These will be framed keeping in mind the country’s social goals and the sustainable development agenda. According to NITI Aayog, the issue was discussed at the length and the decision has been taken at the highest level 15 year vision documents divided into two parts:-

### 7-years National Development Agenda

The first 15 year vision document will start from 2017-18, along with a 7 year National Development Agenda which will lay down the schemes, programmes and strategies to achieve the long term vision.

### 3-years National Development Agenda

The long vision documents comprises of the three year mass economic framework. National development agenda will be reviewed after a gap of every three years to ensure that it was aligned with financial needs and requirements. For the first development agenda the review will be done in 2019-20, in line with the termination year of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

1. 2017-18 to 2023-33 Vision Document

2. 2017-18 to 2024-25 National Development Agenda
3. 2017-18 to 2019-20 Review of Development Agenda (to be repeated after every three years)

## Compilation of Innovative Technologies on Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation: An Initiative by Government of India, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Making of this compendium and organizing exhibitions on innovative technologies was of great use because the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation aimed to provide the technical as well as the financial aid to the State Govt Officials in accomplishing the objective of providing safe drinking water and make open defecation free rural India. Honorable Prime Minister of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, launched ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ and made it extensively widespread to achieve this target by 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019. Aiming to realize the objective in the best and most economic manner, the Ministry, from time to time, has organized workshops on Innovative Technologies in the field of water and sanitation to implement thereof.

The list of the technologies adopted are as follows:-

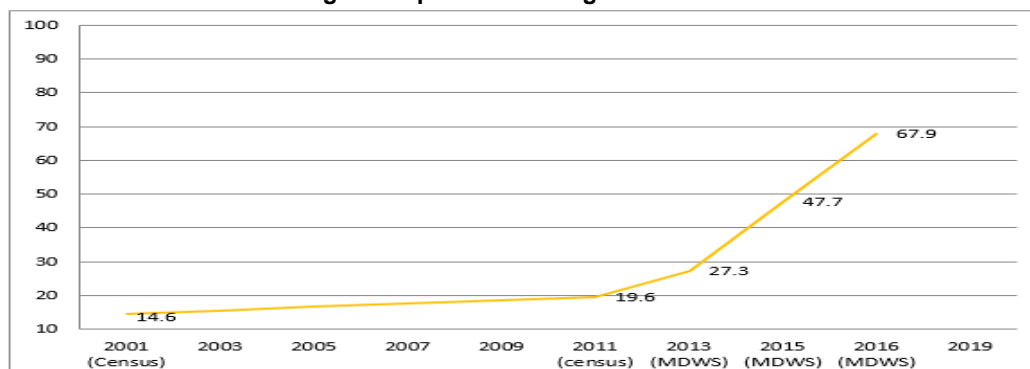
### For Drinking Water

1. PurAll online water purification device
2. Capacitive Deionization Technology
3. Jal Doot- Water on the Wheels
4. Solar operated water treatment plants
5. Aqua+ & Antenna WATA technology
6. Disinfection by electro chlorination
7. Water treatment by Electro Static Deionization
8. UV based water treatment system
9. Water treatment with R.O and UV radiation
10. Water purification plant for flood and relief system
11. Iron and Arsenic removal OxiMax system
12. Removal of Iron contamination by using specific Ion-Exchange resins

### For Sanitation

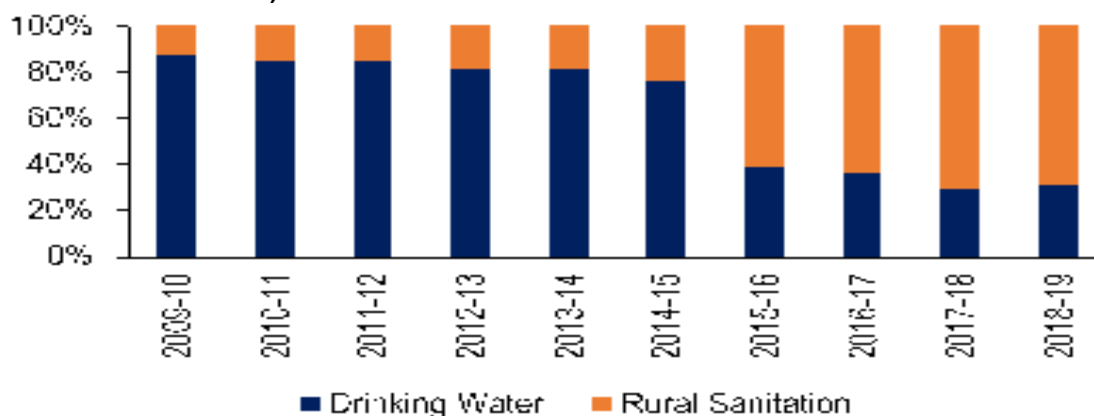
1. Soil Bio technology for sewage treatment
2. Phytoid technology for waste water treatment
3. Bio digester system for human waste disposal
4. Biogas technology
5. Sequential batch reactor technology for sewage treatment
6. Membrane bio reactor for waste water
7. Moving bed biofilm reactor technology for waste water

Percentage of Population Having Access to Toilets



Source: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

**Share in Budget Allocation over the years (Rs Crore)**



**Schemes Launched by Government of India to Provide Clean Water Swajal Scheme**

The Swajal Scheme is an initiative taken by the GOI to provide 115 districts, a continuous water supply to the rural people in rural areas. These districts are chosen on the basis of the health, education, nutrition, skills, infrastructure and water resources availability. This project is funded by Government and by the beneficiary communities in the ratio of 90:10. The swajal scheme is operated and managed by the local villagers and many technicians are bring trained to maintain the units and the pipes which are used for the supply of water are taken care by these technicians. The water is supplied through the fitted pipes to eliminate the chances of contamination of the water.

**Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)**

This programme was commenced in 1972-73 by the Government of India to aid the states and union territories to boost and extend coverage of supply of drinking water. It was introduced with a mission to launch technologies for Drinking Water, ensure sustainability, monitor water quality and to provide safe drinking water upto 40 litres per capita per day to all rural habitants and develop sources and enhance the efforts of the Govt towards Minimum Needs Programme.

**Prime Minister’s Gramodaya Yojana-Rural Drinking Water (PMGY-RDW)**

It was introduced by the Govt of India in 2000-01 as a new ingenuity to attain the sustainable human development at the village level. About 25% of the total fund allocated by Govt was to be utilized for the projects like water conservation, harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of the sources of drinking water in the deserts, drought prone areas for the States and Union territories and remaining 75% was utilized for monitoring and tackling water quality.

**National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM)**

The NDWM has been set up by Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India in 1986. It was established with the primary objective of refining the performance of the

**Source:** Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation programmes made for rural drinking water supply by utilizing the appropriate technologies, maintain its cost effectiveness with ensuring the sufficient quantity of water to make it available for the longer period of time. This mission has also contributed in conducting surveys of the sources of the water, train both governmental as well as non-governmental workforce, especially to the women personnel, making people aware and educate them regarding the conservation of water in terms of both quality and quantity. It also conducts health education programmes, campaigns and encourage public for the community participation.

**Water Policy and Action Plan for India 2020**

The plan focuses on the improvement of the efficient utilization of water as it has the diverse uses. It also aims to make public aware about the water scarcity and it should be conserved and preserved for the future generations also. The plan laid emphasis on spreading awareness through various means and in different sectors like domestic sector, industrial sector, agriculture sector, sewage and pollution etc.

**Contribution of the Companies towards Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation**

The authors are centering their study on one of the major problems of water scarcity because people in India take drinking water and sanitation for granted which affects all the people around India. It is very essential to have the sufficient availability of water and that too with the proper quality to all because water is the basic need for our livelihood. There are numerous number of activities where we have to use the fresh water like for drinking purposes, sanitation purposes, household activities, businesses, etc. Thus, it should not be wasted and preserved for the future generations to come and enjoy the bliss of water. Everyone on this earth has a right to have access to use the fresh and safe drinking water. This is the one of the major goal of SDGs for 2030 among all 17 goals. Water scarcity affects the healthy living of about 40% of people in the world and it is assumed and predicted that this percentage will be increased due to the climatic changes. Hence, it is very necessary to get aware and make aware people about the water management and its preservation more likely by the international cooperation,

introducing water treatment technologies etc. Many companies in India are playing very noteworthy role in the sustainable management of the water, ensuring its proper availability for drinking as well as for sanitation purposes. Hence, top 5 companies which are doing commendable and working hard and providing their best cooperation for accomplishing the SDGs goals are as follows:

#### **AQUA Innovative Solutions**

It was established in 2016 as a leading company in water treatment in India. It supplies fresh drinking water in a packaged bottle to household, public, commercial and industrial undertakings. It has its mineral water manufacturing department and water treatment department. It has innovative solutions to purify the drinking water from untreated water.

#### **ION Exchange India Ltd**

The company has been recognized in the year 1964 having ISO 9001:2000 certification, headquartered in Mumbai. It is a well-known company engaged in the processes of water recycling, water treatment, waste water treatment and its purification.

#### **SFC Environmental Technologies Private Limited**

It was founded in 2005 as a part of the SFC group and it has its headquarter in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It has its branches in 7 countries and it purifies the water by large water treatment projects for cities and metro towns.

#### **VA Tech Wabag GMBH**

Wabag GMBH was established in 1924 in Vienna and it has its Indian headquarter in Chennai in India. It has the water treatment company, world's largest market because it uses German technologies and equipment. It has been awarded by ASSOCHAM with Water Management Excellence Award for "Outstanding Contributions in Water Efficiency & Conservation" and 3 prestigious awards (i) Best Rewards & Recognition Program (ii) Most Effective CSR Strategy (iii) Most innovative L&D program from HR Association of India at the HR Distinction Award in New Delhi in 2018.

#### **Thermax India**

It came into being in 1980 and centered in Pune. Thermax company is most successful water treatment company which deals with waste water resolutions for municipal corporations and industrial concerns. It uses highly technological and engineering equipment and carry on projects for all type of industries.

#### **Conclusion**

The study suggested that the role of sustainable development goals in India is a long way forward. SDGs are universal, integrated and transforming the whole world into one to achieve and make all the countries contributing somehow, declare, zero poverty, providing equality to and among all, providing proper and fresh water for drinking and sufficient for sanitation purposes which ultimately impacts the health of the people, ensuring education and job opportunities to all etc. SDGs are wide in scope in comparison to the MDGs because it covers social as well as environmental factors like gender,

sanitation, infrastructure, nutrition, education etc. In a developing country like India, SDGs have a segment on a means of implementation which influences on having the resources required for their implantation. Thus, the Govt of India through its various programmes, mentioned above, have a strong intention to achieve the agenda 2030 by executing these programmes on a district level, state level as well as on a economy level. At the end, it is also very important to mention the involvement of the companies in accomplishing the mission by preserving the water, providing highly technology based water treatments and supplying the purified drinking water to all. These companies are becoming the active stakeholders by identifying good practices and challenges in the mission. That is why, the emphasis is laid down on ensuring greater flow of finances and technologies from developed countries into the developing countries to endeavor the India's commitment regarding 2030 Agenda.

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