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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS : INDIA'S PROGRESS

The Millennium Development Summit, 2000, coined the concept of *Millennium Development Goals*, with the most desirable goals of achieving better gender equity, better development and for ridding the world population from the scourges of poverty, illiteracy, healthcare-challenges, etc. and to move towards equitable growth and sustainable development. In order to realize this laudable objective, the Summit committed itself to achieving a number of goals, necessitating the member-countries to formulate their policies in a manner that they could reach these set goals by the year 2015. The UN General Assembly adopted the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration during its fifty sixth session in September 2001, thereby firming up its resolve to ensure basic developmental rights for people across the world.

The original formulation of the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* included 8 goals, comprising 18 targets to be achieved meeting 53 (48 basic + 5 alternate) indicators. Other selected indicators of development, which are not related to specific targets, include population, total fertility rate, life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate and gross national income per capita. It also envisaged that where relevant, indicators should be calculated for sub-national levels i.e., by urban and rural area, by region, by socio-economic group, and by age and gender. As a measure to supplement these goals, it espoused the need for integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes. It also stressed on a more fair and open financial system, committed to good governance at both national and international levels, thus seeking to usher in a development-oriented world order.

In this noble endeavour, India has been playing a pro-active role much on the lines of these goals, even before these were formally codified in the year 2000. We have followed a planned system of development since independence. All the Plans and Programmes are

statutorily and structurally supported. At the national level, the Planning Commission draws up Five-Year Plans reflecting the nation's developmental priorities in consultation with the various Union Ministries and the State Governments. The country has a fairly uniform pattern of devolution of responsibility between the Centre and the States and between the States and the local bodies. The 11th Five Year Plan (2007–2012) had set several targets for socio-economic development by the end of the Plan period in keeping with the MDGs and has put Government's commitment to a more inclusive development agenda to test. The 12th Five Year Plan (2012–17) also has targets more focussing on the MDGs in order to achieve 'faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth' which is in conformity with the MDGs and some of the targets of 12th Plan are more stringent than MDGs.

MDGs: A Global Perspective

Needless to say, the *Millennium Development Goals* aim at achieving specific objectives in order to strengthen mankind's need for having a better world and greater opportunities for living a happy and contented life. These goals, *inter alia*, call for reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day; reducing by half by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger; ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling; eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015; reducing by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate; reducing by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio; halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015. Significant strides have already been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals across the world. However, meeting all the goals by the 2015 deadline remains challenging, according to the MDG

Report 2013, the UN's annual progress report. At the launch of this report UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon observed that, MDGs have the most successful global anti-poverty push in history and significant and substantial progress has been observed in meeting many of the targets...but the achievement of MDGs has been uneven among and within the countries.

Continuing its mission to accomplish a compatible environment, it also emphasized on making individual country's policies and programmes more sustainable in the long run. Development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally, thus, got the prime attention while addressing the least developed countries' special needs. Emphasis was also laid on enhancing debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries and more generous Official Development Assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction. It also addressed the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.

India: MDG Tracking

India has been following an indicator-framework given in the United Nations Development Group (2003) which emphasizes on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals for the purpose of statistical tracking of the MDGs. Subsequently, a revised indicator-framework

drawn up by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDGs in keeping with the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report to the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly for inclusion of four new targets came into being in 2007. However, India has not endorsed this revised framework. As per the original framework adopted by India, there are 18 targets corresponding to the 8 Millennium Development Goals. For India, only 12 out of the 18 targets (Targets 1 to 11 and Target 18) are relevant and are statistically monitored. The remaining ones are related to landlocked/island/least developed countries. Corresponding to the 12 monitorable targets, India has adopted 35 of the 48 indicators prescribed by the United Nations as relevant for statistical tracking.

Numerous reports from the UN, NGOs, and the International Financial Institutions (IFI) have painted a contrasting picture of the progress achieved. Those specific to the South Asia Region, or developing countries, are greatly influenced by the conditions in India due to its large population size compared to other countries in the region. These reports clearly show that in the current state of affairs, and despite the progress achieved, all of the MDGs will not be met by 2015.

India's position for the MDG targets is summarized in the table given below:

Goal and Target	Status
MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the Percentage of Population whose income is less than one dollar per day (Indicator: Population below the National Poverty Line)	On track
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Slow
MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education	
Target 3: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education	On track
MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than by 2015	Nearly on track in respect of education indicators and slow for the remaining indicators.
MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five Mortality Rate	On track in respect of U5MR due to the sharp decline in recent years, likely to near to the target in case of IMR and slow in case of coverage of immunisation against measles.

Goal and Target	Status
MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health	
Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the Maternal Mortality Ratio	Slow
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases	
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	On track as trend reversal in HIV prevalence has been achieved
Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Moderately on track as trend reversal for Annual Parasite Incidence of Malaria and for prevalence of TB has been achieved
MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	
Target 9: Integrate the Principles of Sustainable Development into Country Policies and Programmes and Reverse the loss of Environmental Resources	Moderately on track
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the Proportion of People without Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation	On track for the indicator of drinking water but slow for the indicator of Sanitation
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Slum population as a percentage of urban population reporting slums has decreased
MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development	
Target 18: In co-operation with the Private Sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication	On track or fast

India's position with reference to the various Goals are indicated as below:

MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line.

Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

The poverty ratio according to the definition of Government of India is not the same as the international definition. Thus reporting of proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day is not relevant in the Indian context. Similarly, Hunger is not easy to define. However, the UNDP uses the proportion of underweight children as one of the criteria to measure progress towards this target. To achieve the Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, India has to reduce the proportion of people below the national poverty line from nearly

47.8¹ per cent in 1990 to about 23.9 per cent by 2015. The All India Poverty Head Count Ratio has declined from 37.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12, thus the Country has already achieved the MDG target ahead of 2015. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act enacted by India is a major step taken by the Government of India to help reduce the poverty ratio further.

All-India trend of the proportion of underweight (severe and moderate) children below 3 years of age shows India is going slow in eliminating the effect of malnourishment. From estimated 52 per cent in 1990, the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is required to be reduced to 26 per cent by 2015. According to the officially acclaimed estimates by the new standard, the proportion of underweight has declined by 3 percentage points during 1998-99 to 2005-06, from about 43 per cent to about 40 per cent and at this rate of decline is expected to come down to about 33 per cent only by 2015.

¹ Estimated on the basis of Tendulkar Methodology.

MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education.

To achieve universal primary education, India has to increase the primary school enrolment rate to 100 per cent by 2015 and wipe out at the same time the dropouts. The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER), which is the proportion of students of official school age of 6-10 years enrolled in the Grades I-V to the population of children of age group 6-10 years, is the MDG 2 indicator for primary enrolment. Universal primary education is within our reach as the net enrolment ratio in primary education is likely to reach the 100 per cent mark for both boys and girls before 2015. The overall NER of 99.89 per cent in 2009-10 against 83 per cent in 2000 indicates that the MDG target has already been achieved. The apparent survival rate in Grade V (ratio of enrolment of Grade V to I) is showing increasing trend from 78.08 in 2009-10 to 86.05 in 2011-12. The youth literacy rate (15-24 years) has also increased from 61.9 per cent in 1991 to 86 per cent in 2007-08. Towards achieving 100 per cent Youth Literacy by 2015, another target for MDG 2, India is well on track going by the rate of increase in the percentage of literates (15-24 yrs.) observed during 1991-2008. By the trend of literacy of 15-24 years old population, India is likely to attain 100 per cent youth literacy before 2015.

MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

To ensure gender parity in all education levels, India will have to promote female participation at all levels to reach a female-male proportion of equal level by 2015. The female-male proportion in respect of primary education was 76:100 in 1990-91 which has increased to 101:100 in 2010-11. During the same period, the proportion has increased from 60:100 to 88:100 in case of secondary education. Gender parity in the primary has already been achieved and secondary level is expected to be achieved by 2015 going by the rate of change observed between 1990 and 2011. The tertiary education has also shown considerable progress as the Gender Parity Index (GPI) moved from 0.54 in 1991 to 0.86 in 2010-11. Another indicator under MDG 3 is the ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old (literacy gender parity index) which is defined as the ratio of the female literacy rate to the male literacy rate for the age group 15-24 years. The ratio of literate women to men in the age group 15-24 years, which was observed to be 0.67 in 1991, 0.80 in 2001, and 0.86 in 2007-08 tends to exceed 1 (one) by 2015, implying attainment of

gender parity in literacy in the age-group 15-24 years by 2015.

The third important indicator for Target 4 under MDG 3 is share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, which is defined as the share of female workers in the non-agricultural sector (expressed as a percentage of total employment in the sector). The rate of change over time in India in respect of the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is rather slow. In 2011-12, the percentage share of females in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is 19.3 per cent and it is projected that at this rate of progression the share of women in wage employment can at best reach a level of about 22.28 per cent by 2015. Labour markets in industry and services sectors in India are heavily male-dominated and a 50:50 situation for men and women is too ideal to be true, given the market dynamics and existing socio-cultural framework.

MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the Under-five Mortality Rate.

The Under-five Mortality Rate is the probability (expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births) of a child born in a specified year dying before reaching the age of five if subjected to current age-specific mortality rates. The Goal aims at reducing under-five mortality rate (U5MR) from about 125 deaths per thousand live births in 1990 as estimated, to 42 in 2015. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data for 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06 indicate that the U5MR has decreased from 109.3 per thousand live births in 1992-93 to 74.3 per thousand live births in 2005-06 while Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2012 data puts it at 52 (per thousand live births) and by this trend, India is poised to reach U5MR near to the benchmark by 2015. More children are surviving their first year of life as the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 42 per thousand live births in 2012. It has to come down to 27 per thousand live births by 2015. By the trend so far, IMR is likely to be less than 40 per thousand live births by 2015. The proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles has increased from 42.2 per cent in 1992-93 to 74.1 per cent in 2009 (Coverage Evaluation Survey).

MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health

Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the Maternal Mortality Ratio.

To achieve this Goal, India has to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) from 437 deaths per 1,00,000 live births in 1991 to 109 by 2015. The SRS data indicates India has recorded a deep decline in MMR from 327 in 1999-2001 to 178 in 2010-11 per one lakh live births. Achieving the 2015 target for MMR is an uphill task, though the rate of decline from 1997-98 to 2010-12

is quite impressive. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has been continuously increasing, (from 47.6 per cent in 2002-04 to 76.2 per cent in 2007-08), thereby reducing the chances of occurrence of maternal deaths. With the historical rate of increase in deliveries attended by skilled personnel, the likely achievement for 2015 is only 77.29 per cent. However, acceleration in institutional deliveries and deliveries by skilled/professional personnel will continue to have direct bearing upon reduction in MMR.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases.

In India, the Adult (15-49 yrs.) HIV prevalence rate has come down from 0.45 per cent in 2002 to 0.27 per cent in 2011. India has a low prevalence of HIV among pregnant women as compared to other developing countries; the increase in prevalence rate from 0.74 per thousand pregnant women aged 15-24 years in 2002 to 0.89 in 2005 has been reversed and has come down to 0.39 in 2010-11. The prevalence and death rates associated with Malaria are also declining. The annual parasite incidence rate (per 1,000 population) has declined from 2.09 in 2,000 to 0.88 in 2012. The malaria death rate in the country has come down from 0.09 per one lakh population in 2000 to 0.04 in 2012. The death rate associated with Tuberculosis (TB) has come down from 38 deaths per 1,00,000 population in 1990 to 24 per 1,00,000 population in 2011.

The latest status of treatment of TB under DOTS reveals that, the proportion of TB cases detected is 70 per cent and cured is 85 per cent under DOTS.

India is on track in respect of the target for these indicators.

MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the Principles of Sustainable Development into Country Policies and Programmes and Reverse the loss of Environmental Resources.

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the Proportion of People without Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation.

Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

The Goal aims at ensuring environmental sustainability. As per assessment made in 2003, total land area covered under different forests has been 20.64 per cent, which has gone up to 21.05 per cent as

per assessment for the year 2011. As a result of persistent efforts to preserve this natural resource, net loss of forest area has been arrested. A network of 689 protected areas has been established (as on 31.12.13) which covers about 5.06 per cent of the Country's geographic area.

The Energy Intensity (amount of energy consumed for generating one unit of Gross Domestic Product has shown a mixed trend during 1990-2012, while showing an overall decline from 0.1594 KWh (at 1999-2000 prices) to 0.145 KWh (at 2004-05 prices). The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation has to be halved by 2015. Proportion of rural households with sustainable access to improved drinking water sources was 55.5 per cent in 1991 and is required to be raised to 78 per cent by 2015. The proportion of rural households having sustainable access to improved drinking water sources has reached 88.5 per cent in 2012. Similarly, for urban areas, the proportion of households with sustainable access to improved drinking water sources was 81.4 per cent in 1991 and is required to be raised to 90 per cent by 2015 whereas the proportion has reached 95.3 per cent in 2012. Thus, India is early achiever of this target. Given the 1990 level for households without any sanitation facility at 76 per cent, India is required to reduce the proportion of households having no access to improved sanitation to 38 per cent by 2015. The NSS 2012 revealed 59.4 per cent and 8.8 per cent households in rural India and urban India respectively had no latrine facilities. It is expected that at this rate of decline, India may achieve to reduce the proportion of households without any sanitation to 61.11 per cent in rural areas against the target of 46.64 per cent and in urban areas to 12.14 per cent against the target of 15.84 per cent by 2015, missing the target in rural areas. In India, slum data have been collected for the first time in Census 2001. Slum population was estimated as 52.37 million in 2001 which increased to 65.49 million in 2011, but the share of slum population as percentage of urban population in respect of towns/cities reporting slums declined from 23.47 per cent in 2001 to 22.44 per cent in 2011.

MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Target 12-18: In co-operation with the Private Sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

Goal-8 is regarding developing global partnership for development. It is basically meant for the developed countries to provide development assistance to developing countries. It is a matter of satisfaction that actual disbursements of Official Development Assistance (ODA), in recent years, have shown a welcome reversal of the declining trend that lasted for almost a decade since the early 1990s. In this regard, it is important to realize that unless aid commitments translate into actual delivery, securing MDGs will remain elusive. India does hope that all the developed countries would scale up

the ODA to realize the goals reaffirmed at the 'Monterrey Consensus'².

With regard to one of the targets of the Goal 8, *i.e.*, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, India has made substantial progress in recent years. The overall tele-density has remarkably increased from 9.08 per cent in 2005 to 73.5 per cent in 2013. Use of Personal Computers has also increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to

19.6 million in 2006. There are 198.39 million internet subscribers including 15.2 million Broadband subscribers at the end of June 2013. The internet subscribers per hundred population accessing internet only through broadband connection is 1.2 and the corresponding figure including those accessing internet through wireless connections is 13.5.

Table below gives the indicator-wise achievement for the latest year as compared to the value for the base-year for selected indicators³:-

MDGs and Targets-Summary of Progress achieved by India					
Indicator		Year 1990 Actual/est. value	MDG target 2015	Likely achievement 2015	Latest status
MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER					
TARGET 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day					
On-track					
Proportion of population below poverty line (per cent) ⁴		47.8	23.9	20.74	21.92 (2011-12)
Poverty Gap Ratio	Rural	No base year targets			5.05 (2011-12)
	Urban				2.7 (2011-12)
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (MRP method)	Rural	No base year targets			9.76 (2009-10)
	Urban				7.11 (2009-10)
TARGET 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger					
Slow or almost off-track					
Proportion of under-weight children below 3 years (per cent)		52	26	33	40 (2005-06)
MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION					
TARGET 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling					
On-track					

² 'The Monterrey Consensus' emerged out of a meeting of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002. With more than 50 heads of State in attendance, along with representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) a new partnership for global development was conceived. The Monterrey Consensus is described by the UN as a 'landmark framework for global development partnership in which the developed and developing countries agreed to take joint actions for poverty reduction'. The Monterrey Consensus is distinguished by its recognition of both the need for developing countries to take responsibility for their own poverty reduction and the necessity for rich nations to support this endeavour with more open trade and increased financial aid.

³ For whole list of MDG Indicators refer to MDG Report 2009 of MoSPI.

These are according to the revised targets worked out for MDGs—States of India Report 2010 of MoSPI using comparable estimates of the three years: 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06 brought out in respect of India as a whole and the 29 States of the country in the Fact Sheets by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare following the National Family Health Survey 2005-06 (NFHS-3). Revision of NFHS estimates were made according to standards of the WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study Group, 2006 accepted by the Government of India in 2006.

⁴ Based on revised Poverty Head Count Ratio provided by Tendulkar Committee to review the methodology for estimation of poverty.

Indicator	Year 1990 Actual/est. value	MDG target 2015	Likely achievement 2015	Latest status
Net Enrolment Ratio in primary grade (per cent)	77	100.0	100	99.89 (2010-11)
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	Absolute targets for 2015	100		86.05 (2011-12)
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds	61	100.0	100	86 (2007-08)
MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN				
TARGET 4 : Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015				
On-track				
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education (Gender Parity Index of GER)	0.73	1.00	1	1.01 (2010-11)
Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education (Gender Parity Index of GER)	0.60 (1991)	1.00		0.88 (2010-11)
Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education (Gender Parity Index of GER)	0.54 (1991)	1.00		0.86 (2010-11)
Female: Male literacy rate of 15-24 year olds	0.67 (1991)	1.00	1	0.88 (2007-08)
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector (per cent)	12.7	50	23.1	19.3 (2011-12)
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (per cent)	Absolute targets for 2015	50		11.46 (2013)
MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY				
TARGET 5 : Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the Under-Five Mortality Rate				
Moderately on - track due to the sharp decline in recent years				
Under five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	126	42	50	52 (2012)
Infant Mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	80	27	41	42 (2012)
Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles	42.2	100	89	74.1 (2009)
MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH				
TARGET 6 : Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio				
Slow or off-track				
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	437	109	139	178 (2010-12)
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (per cent)	33	100	62	52 (2007-08)

Indicator	Year 1990 Actual/est. value	MDG target 2015	Likely achievement 2015	Latest status
MDG 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES				
TARGET 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS on-track as trend reversal in HIV prevalence has achieved				
HIV Prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years (per cent)	Target is trend reversal and not based on base year value	-		0.39 (2010-11)
Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate ⁵ (per cent)				5.2 (2005-06)
Condom use at last high-risk sex ⁶ (per cent)				74 (2010)
Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS				32.9 (2006)
TARGET 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Moderately on-track as trend reversal has achieved for Annual Parasite Incidence of Malaria and for prevalence of TB				
Annual parasite incidence (API) rate (Malaria)	2.57	-		0.88 (2012 p)
Prevalence of TB (including HIV) per 100,000 population	338	-		249 (2011)
Proportion of population in Malaria risk areas using effective Malaria prevention and treatment measures				Data not available
Deaths due to TB per 100,000 population	43	-		24 (2011)
MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY				
TARGET 9: Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Moderately on-track				
Area covered under forests as percentage of geographical area	Target is trend reversal and not based on base year value	-		21.05 (2011)
Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area (per cent)				5.06 (2013)
Energy use per GDP (Rupee)				0.1453 KWH (2011-12)
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita				1.41 MT (2013)
Consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)				998.5 (2007)
Proportion of population using solid fuels (per cent)				67.3 (2011)

⁵Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate among currently married women, 15-49 years, per cent.

⁶Condom use at last high risk sex is Condom use rate among non-regular sex partners 15-24 years.

Indicator		Year 1990 Actual/est. value	MDG target 2015	Likely achievement 2015	Latest status
TARGET 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation					
On-track for the indicator of drinking water, but slow for the indicator of Sanitation					
Households with sustainable access to an improved water source, (per cent)	Urban	87.12	93.56	97.5	95.3 (2012)
	Rural	58.94	79.47	96.3	88.5 (2012)
Households without access to sanitation (per cent)	Urban	24.1	15.84	12.14	8.8 (2012)
	Rural	87.1	46.64	61.11	59.4 (2012)
TARGET 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers					
The pattern not statistically discernible					
Slum population as percentage of urban population					17.36 per cent (2011)
MDG 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT					
TARGET 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications					
On-track					
Telephone per 100 population					73.5 (2013)
Internet subscribers per 100 population	(accessing internet only through wireline broadband connection)	Target is increasing trend and not based on base year value			1.2 (2013)
	Including wireless				13.5 (2013)
Personal computers per 100 population					Data not available

Parliament's Role:

In this endeavour, our Parliament has played an important role in bringing several path-breaking legislations, which could help significantly in fulfilling some of the major goals envisaged in the MDGs. Those legislative initiatives before and after these goals were formally announced by the Millennium Summit have begun to produce the desired result in addressing some of the areas of concern identified by the Summit. The 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts, providing reservation for women in local governance; the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prevention of Sex-selection) Act, 1994; the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005;

the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009; the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013; National Food Security Act, 2013 etc. are significant legislative initiatives in that direction. Besides, our Parliament has provided a potent weapon in the hands of the people by enabling them to elicit information on virtually every area of the functioning of the Government through the Right to Information Act, 2005. Apart from contributing towards enhancing accountability and thus the

effectiveness of the delivery mechanisms, this Act has made the policies and programmes of the Government more transparent by bringing them under larger public scrutiny and into the public domain.

Our Parliament has been consistently striving to usher in an era of development where all its citizens would be able to enjoy an acceptable quality of living, addressing the challenges of poverty, ensuring access to healthcare, education and employment to the people. Though we are conscious of the target date of Millennium Development Goals, it can be emphatically said that India has been working on these targets even before the MDGs came into existence and has been following its own targets in a planned manner. However, in spite of the financial constraints of a developing economy where there is always a mismatch between the resources available and the number of people to provide for, India is moving steadily towards achieving the targets set under the MDGs.

What can Parliamentarians do about the MDGs?

In line with our mission for bringing all-round development for the people on the lines of our commitments before the international community, there is a lot that our Parliamentarians can do in this regard. The following suggestions made by the '*Handbook for Parliamentarians on the MDGs*' (Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy), merit attention:

Being the people's representatives, they can effectively raise public awareness about the MDGs and participate in MDG campaigns at national and local levels. They can not only influence the government through multifarious ways in implementing the developmental goals, but also monitor them at various levels. They can also encourage and establish public forums for debate about issues related to MDGs. As law makers, MPs can design, adopt and oversee the implementation aspects of the legislations concerning the developmental objectives. They can also oversee the progress and ground level commitment of the government towards the achievement of the MDGs. Fulfilling their commitments to the States in a federal set up, they can also ensure that adequate and cost effective funding is provided to the State governments to help them meet the objectives of the various schemes and programmes launched from time to time. They are also in the best position to verify that budgetary allocations are in line with the approved government priorities for meeting the MDG commitments, besides ensuring that the budget reflects the importance of MDG targets for our country. They can also raise issues pertaining to MDGs in Parliament through Questions and other parliamentary devices and the implementation of social programmes corresponding to these goals. They can highlight the need for our Parliament to integrate the MDGs within the various facets of the functioning

of our Parliament and effectively scrutinize government policy positions on a continuous basis, in order to ensure that the government is meeting its obligations to achieve the Goals. The public can be awakened through organization of seminars on budgetary procedures, assessment and monitoring, and the factoring in of budgetary indicators related to each of these Goals. They can also develop and strengthen innovative partnerships with civil society insofar as scrutinizing and assessing the various government programmes, etc. are concerned. The MPs can also initiate steps to establish a Standing Committee on the MDGs so as to strengthen the measures to oversee the MDGs in its true perspective. Going a step further, they can ensure that Parliament scrutinizes all government policies to ensure that they are consistent with national and international development objectives. They can also sensitize the people by establishing the practice of having parliamentary debates ahead of all major international meetings and signing of international treaties, including WTO ministerial meetings, etc. Last but not the least, they can use foreign visits or international conferences as occasions to raise concerns about the obligations of more developed countries to increase the quality and volume of aid, and their effectiveness *vis-a-vis* the millennial goals.

In the Indian Parliament, Parliamentary Forums have been constituted with the objective of equipping members with information and knowledge on specific issues of national concern and in assisting them to adopt a result-oriented approach towards related issues. A Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals was constituted in our Parliament on 11 December 2013. This Forum was constituted in order to enable parliamentarians, cutting across party lines, to come together to a common platform to discuss different views and concerns, and also engage with experts and civil society groups and to bring convergent knowledge to influence the policy making process. In all, there are eight Parliamentary Forums in our Parliament. Forums such as those on Children, Youth, Population and Public Health, etc. have focused on MDGs. We also have Departmentally Related Standing Committees covering all the Ministries which deal with issues concerning the MDGs. Discussions on MDGs are also held in the House from time to time.

Governmental Initiatives:

The Government of India, over the years, has been seriously pursuing different welfare-oriented schemes for the people. Schemes like the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Total Literacy Campaign of the National Literacy Mission, National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, National Health Mission, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK), Total Sanitation Campaign and Bharat Nirman, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Rural Drinking Water Programme, National Rural Employment Scheme,

National Health Mission etc. merit special mention. In addition, the inclusive development agenda articulated in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012) followed by 12th Plan (2012-2017) setting several targets for socio-economic development to be achieved by the end of the Plan period, in keeping with the MDGs. India is on track or ahead in respect of 4 out of 12 MDG targets and nearly on track for 4 more targets. Progress is, however, slow in respect of some. In the case of a few, India is slow by some indicators and on-track by other corresponding indicators. India has been credited with eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in a steady manner and is on track as far as the MDG target is concerned. In achieving Universal Primary Education, India is moving quite fast. In respect of gender equality and empowerment of women, we are very close to the target for education indicators. Regarding reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, we are showing faster improvement in the recent years, thereby narrowing the gap between the target and likely achievement. In so far as combating HIV/AIDS and in

combating malaria and other diseases, we are on track. In ensuring environmental sustainability, we have attained mixed results. It is noteworthy that in developing a Global Partnership for Development, especially by harping on the new innovations in Information and Communications Technologies, we have made commendable progress.

The implementation of the MDGs have left us with good positive results in establishing a more equitable socio-economic order in tune with the larger objectives of our Constitution. In spite of this, we have to address certain core issues to ensure that these goals are achieved within or ahead of the time schedule. For this, we have to address the challenges associated with their implementation at several levels—Central, State and Local Governments, and in a more concerted manner. As a democracy, since we are committed to an inclusive and rights-based framework in dealing with the developmental process, it is inevitable that the pace of progress and the methodology adopted will have to conform to the demands of an accountable democratic order.

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