



ACCELENSE

A Newsletter to Accelerate SDGs



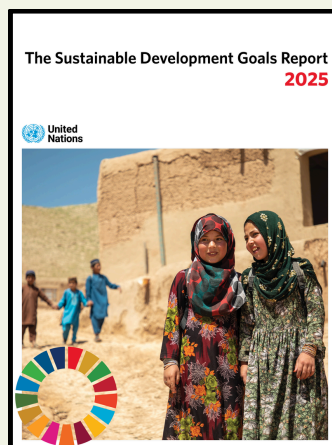
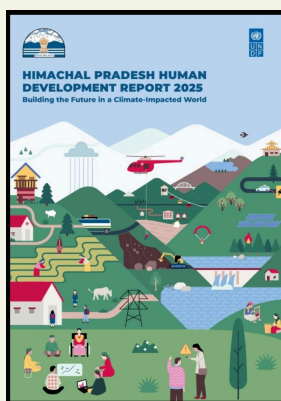
Edition 1: SOCIAL LENSE
Theme: People, Planet and Progress

SDG Coordination and Acceleration Centre (SDGCAC), Haryana welcomes you to their fortnightly newsletter series **SDG Accelense** - designed to help share knowledge, spotlight ideas and focus on innovations shaping sustainable development. We hope this “lens” provides multiple perspectives on developmental issues and drives real “acceleration” on the ground helping achieve a **‘VIKSIT HARYANA’**. Each edition will explore development through either of the three lenses – the **Social Lense**, capturing stories of people, inclusion, and environment; the **Tech Lense**, highlighting digital and technological enablers of change; and the **Economic Lense**, focusing on growth, finance, and resilience. Together, they will endeavour to provide impetus for the state to be a “Non -stop Life Force” in its path to become globally competitive, inclusive, and sustainable Haryana.

Aligning Social Resilience and Climate Action

The newly published Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report 2025 diagnoses a hard truth: social progress, so far marked by high literacy and strong health indicators, now faces disruption from climate impacts. Glaciers are retreating, springs are drying earlier, forest fires are intensifying, and extreme rainfall is becoming frequent (Government of Himachal Pradesh & UNDP, 2025). The report warns that unless policy becomes climate-sensitive, human-development gains may be reversed.

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-10/hp_hdr_summary_1.pdf



“With just five years to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to shift into overdrive.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General,
United Nations

UN Releases 2025 Sustainable Development Goals Report

With just five years until the 2030 deadline, the UN's tenth annual SDG assessment reveals a mixed picture of global progress. While significant gains have been achieved since 2015—including expanded education access, improved maternal and child health, reduced infectious disease burdens, and renewable energy growth—the current pace remains insufficient to meet all goals. Despite success stories like universal electricity access in 45 countries and elimination of neglected tropical diseases in 54 nations, millions still face extreme poverty, hunger, and lack of basic services. The report calls for accelerated action in six priority areas: food systems, energy access, digital transformation, education, jobs and social protection, and climate and biodiversity, emphasizing that while progress has been fragile and unequal, rapid advancement is still possible with increased international cooperation and sustained investment.

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2025.pdf>

Kerala Becomes First State to Eliminate Extreme Poverty

Kerala Achieves Historic Milestone - Zero Extreme Poverty: On November 1, 2025, Kerala became the first Indian state to officially declare itself free from extreme poverty, marking the successful completion of its four-year Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP). Through decentralized governance, community participation, and data-driven microplanning, Kerala reduced its poverty rate from 59.8% in the 1970s to 0.7% today—the lowest in India. The state identified and supported 64,006 families through targeted interventions including housing, healthcare, education support, and livelihood assistance. This achievement demonstrates how local governance and community-led approaches can effectively address multidimensional poverty, providing a replicable model for other states.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-declared-free-from-extreme-poverty-first-indian-state-to-do-so/article70228620.ece>

Local Inspiration: Rural Women Bloom in Kurukshetra

Closer home, a remarkable story is unfolding in Sura village, Kurukshetra. What began in 2020 as a ₹5,000 home project by a group of ten women has blossomed into a ₹15 lakh annual enterprise producing over 50 varieties of artificial flowers for fairs and local markets (ETV Bharat English Team, 2025). Supported by a self-help group framework, these women now earn ₹10,000–₹15,000 monthly while working from their homes. Their products feature at Geeta Jayanti Mahotsav, Surajkund Mela, and other state events. Beyond income generation, this model integrates social inclusion, women's entrepreneurship, and sustainable craft livelihoods.

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/offbeat/rural-women-in-kurukshetra-turn-artificial-flowers-into-a-blooming-business-enn25110700712>



Sukhomajri Model: Community-Led Watershed Revival Shows 15% Agricultural Productivity Gains

The Sukhomajri village in Haryana's Shivalik hills has become India's blueprint for integrated watershed management. Through community-led initiatives including contour trenching, controlled grazing, and rainwater harvesting, the village reversed severe ecological degradation. Recent research (2025) shows that widespread adoption of this model across India's 120 million hectares of degraded land could increase food grain output by 15% while halving sediment inflow into dams. The success hinges on social contracts - gram sabha-approved bylaws and women-led water user groups managing resources collectively.

<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/environment/sustainability/how-villages-and-communities-are-reviving-indias-drylands-one-watershed-at-a-time>



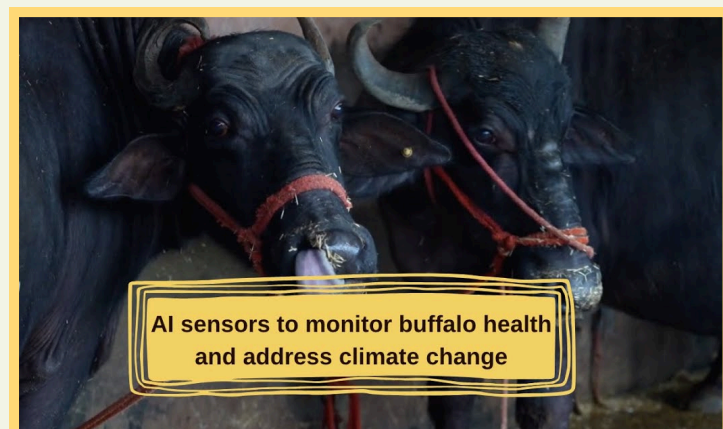
Gurugram Teens Build a Soil-Health Innovation for Haryana's Farmers

Four students from Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram—Navya Goenka, Aayush Anand, Gaurvica Gupta, and Simayah Jhingran—built a handheld soil-testing device called Mati Rakshak, paired with a bilingual app Agroww. Tested in Manesar, Kadarapur, and Sardhana, the tool measures nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium on the spot and gives farmers instant fertiliser recommendations. It's helping local farmers cut waste, save money, and protect their soil. The innovation won the CREST Gold Award (2025) for turning a simple question—what's really in our soil—into a practical solution that supports sustainable agriculture in Haryana.

<https://thebetterindia.com/490286/mati-rakshak-soil-testing-device-indian-farmers-agroventure-shiv-nadar-school-students/>

AI Sensors to Protect Buffalo Health in Haryana

The Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) in Hisar is piloting AI-driven sensors on 100 buffaloes — with plans to scale to 2,000 by 2029.. These sensors, including rumen boluses and accelerometers, monitor things like movement, rumination, and physiological stress. By analysing this data via AI, scientists hope to predict heat stress, detect early illness, optimise feeding, and improve reproduction. The system sends real-time alerts to farmers' phones, helping them act early. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is supporting the project (~₹150 million), in collaboration with IIT Ropar and the University of Adelaide.



<https://villagesquare.in/and-now-ai-sensors-for-buffaloes-in-haryana/>



UNDP Chief Visits India, Signals Stronger Focus on Inclusive Growth

UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu's visit to India focused on three priorities: accelerating inclusive growth, scaling digital public goods, and converting climate commitments into measurable action ahead of COP30. He highlighted India's leadership in platforms like CoWIN and eVIN and stressed the need for practical, locally driven solutions backed by finance and innovation. His emphasis on climate urgency and digital public infrastructure sets a clear direction for states to strengthen delivery systems, build resilient communities, and expand access through technology. These national-level priorities provide a useful frame for how states can align their SDG efforts over the coming year.

<https://undp.org/india/press-releases/un-under-secretary-general-and-undp-acting-administrator-visit-india-10-12-november>



UNDP Celebrates 60 Years in India

UNDP marks 60 years of partnership with India, highlighting decades of work shaped by innovation, community leadership, and locally grounded development solutions. The milestone reflects India's growing role as a global development partner and reaffirms UNDP's focus on climate action, digital public goods, and inclusive growth as the country advances toward the 2030 goals.

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Real acceleration happens when each district, each household, and each citizen sees the SDGs as their own responsibility.

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Upcoming consultation to shape Haryana's next phase of SDG acceleration is on the way. Stay tuned!



SDGCAC

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
COORDINATION AND ACCELERATION CENTRE



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