

राजीव कुमार सेन  
वरिष्ठ सलाहकार  
**Rajib Kumar Sen**  
Senior Adviser

Tel. : 011-23096727  
E-mail : rajib.sen@nic.in



भारत सरकार  
नीति भवन, संसद मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली - 110 001  
Government of India  
National Institution for Transforming India  
NITI Bhawan, Parliament Street  
New Delhi - 110 001

**D.O.No.I-34058/06/2024-SDGs**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dear *Madam/Sir,*

The Government of India has been placing the SDGs at the forefront, aligning them with the nation's key priorities. The implementation and achievement of the SDGs requires localized action and multi-level governance, especially at sub-national levels, to address interconnected and interlinked challenges. Since 2018, NITI Aayog has prioritized SDG localization by supporting States and UTs, recognizing their vital role in implementing India's development agenda, especially in sectors like health, education, sanitation, agriculture, and industry.

Localizing SDGs enables responsive decision-making, better reflects ground realities, ensures broader ownership of the development agenda, and supports the goal of "leaving no one behind." Over the last eight years, NITI Aayog and State/UT Governments with technical support from UNDP have advanced SDG localization through the establishment of SDG Coordination Centres (SDGCCs) in several States/UTs. These centres have created a clear, measurable, and well-defined pathway for progress—an essential element that had been notably underrepresented.

However, successive editions of the SDG India Index reveal uneven progress across States/UTs and Goals, particularly in gender and nutrition. With less than six years remaining to achieve the SDGs, a more focused, structured, and targeted approach is crucial for accelerating progress. To this end, an enhanced strategy for the SDGCC is proposed. NITI Aayog aims to support the establishment of SDGCAC (Sustainable Development Goals Coordination and Acceleration Centres) based on the following insights from the successes and experiences of States/UTs with established SDGCCs:

- Evolve the monitoring framework to yield tangible outcomes, with process indicators tracked at the most local level, supported by Line Ministries.
- Focus on developing SDG Accelerator plans tailored to their specific lagging goals.
- Invest in capacities for the private sector and CSOs, alongside government and in line with the 'whole of the society' approach.
- Go beyond the Planning Department by formulating a cohesive strategy that integrates all departments to effectively address interlinked development challenges.

These redefined centres will embrace innovative strategies to accelerate progress toward sustainable development, placing a stronger emphasis on action and results. The SDGCACs will play a crucial role in supporting and facilitating the implementation of SDGs at the ground level, thereby making significant contributions to effective localization efforts.

P.T.O



The indicative structure of the SDGCAC is as follows:

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Number</b>
SDGCAC Project Head	1
Integrated Planning & SDG Localization and Communication Specialist	1
SDG Statistics Specialist	1
Thematic Specialist (based State priorities/SDGs where the State lags behind)	2-3
Gender and Inclusion Analyst	1
Research Associate	1

States and UTs are expected to adopt a similar structure and focus on several key areas to enhance their efforts. These areas include strengthening institutional ownership, developing a robust monitoring framework, and formulating SDG Accelerator Plans. Additionally, they should prioritize building capacity for planning, monitoring, and implementation, while also establishing partnerships that support a whole-of-society approach.

NITI Aayog will provide support to States and UTs, if and as required, in the localization of the SDGs through the establishment of the SDGCAC thereby facilitating the achievement of the collective Agenda 2030.

*Best regards*

Yours Sincerely

  
**(Rajib Kumar Sen)**

### **The Planning Secretaries of all States/UTs**

Copy to:

1. The Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs
2. Ms. Geetu Joshi, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
3. PS to CEO, NITI Aayog
4. Ms. Meenkashi Kathel, Chief Advisor, SDG Acceleration Unit, UNDP India