

Successful Launch of Indo-German Cooperation on SDG Localisation in Himachal Pradesh

Shimla, November 19, 2024 – The Government of Himachal Pradesh, in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), successfully hosted the inaugural event to launch the Support to the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) – NITI Aayog project Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG) implementation and localisation. The event marked a significant milestone in advancing sustainable development efforts under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) between the Governments of India and Germany.

The initiative, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), aims to enhance state-level efforts to implement and monitor Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in select states. Himachal Pradesh, a frontrunner in SDG implementation, was chosen as the first state to pilot this partnership's activities.

Event Highlights:

- Senior dignitaries, including the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh and representatives from NITI Aayog, delivered keynote addresses emphasising the importance of cooperative efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda.
- The SDG Coordination Centre, Himachal Pradesh re-emphasised the significance of the HP Drishti 2030 framework, outlining Himachal Pradesh's vision and priorities for sustainable development.
- Key government officials participated in interactive sessions to develop a shared roadmap for SDG localisation in Himachal

Pradesh, addressing challenges and identifying opportunities for progress.

- The GSDP initiative was formally launched, signifying the beginning of enhanced collaboration between India and Germany in strengthening SDG localisation.

Key Outcomes

The event provided a platform for dialogue among key stakeholders, including government officials from various state departments, NITI Aayog and GIZ. Participants identified priorities and potential mechanisms for achieving SDG targets collaboratively at the state and district levels. The participants also discussed innovative approaches to align planning, budgeting, and implementation with SDGs, ensuring a measurable impact on sustainable development.

The Chief Secretary, Sh. Prabodh Saxena, IAS, Government of Himachal Pradesh emphasised Himachal Pradesh's incredible performance, and stressed the need for accelerating efforts if the 2030 targets are to be achieved. Highlighted challenges in areas such as climate change and nutrition which require immediate action from all, he underline the critical role of the SDG Coordination Centre in closing data gaps and finding solutions for remaining challenges.

Principal Secretary, Sh. Devesh Kumar, IAS, (Planning and Finance), Government of Himachal Pradesh, emphasised the importance of SDGs and coordination, and guidance being provided by NITI Aayog. He requested to all the stakeholder department to work closely with Department of Planning, Government of Himachal Pradesh for developing further roadmap for SDG localisation and Drishti version-2.

Sh. Rajib Sen, Senior Advisor, SDGs, NITI Aayog, in his special address apprised participants on India's performance on different SDGs, and how Himachal Pradesh performance has been a front runner at the national level. Providing an overview of SDG localisation, he elaborated on the key elements of the SDGCC model focussing on grassroots implementation, data collection and synergies with the departments.

The event was joined by Dr. Basu Sood, Advisor (Planning), Joint Director (Planning), representatives from NITI Aayog, UNDP and state officers and officials from different departments along with GIZ India.

The event concluded with a collective commitment to advancing sustainable development in Himachal Pradesh and beyond, underlining the significance of collaboration among different stakeholders like civil society or private sector and across district, state and national level in achieving the 2030 Agenda.