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# Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)

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## CHANDIGARH'S PROGRESS TOWARDS **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

paryavaran patra

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# Chandigarh's Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established at the Rio+20 summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, where the creation of an Open Working Group was mandated to draft the agenda. This group, comprising representatives from 70 countries, held its first meeting in March 2013 and presented its final draft with 17 goals in July 2014. Subsequent member state negotiations led to the finalized goals and targets in August 2015. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are part of a transformative agenda - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 Member States at the UN General Assembly Summit in September 2015, and which came into effect on 1 January 2016.

The SDGs aim to address urgent environmental, political, and economic challenges, succeeding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2000. The MDGs set measurable objectives to combat poverty, hunger, disease, and educational disparities. The SDGs build on this foundation, aiming to tackle interconnected global issues. Unique in their universality, the SDGs reaffirm the global commitment to end poverty everywhere. They emphasize inclusivity, ensuring no one is left behind, and call for collective action to create a sustainable, safer, and more prosperous planet for future generations. (Sources: <https://www.undp.org/sdg-accelerator/background-goals> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals#history>)

## India and SDGs

India has embraced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a strong commitment to address the urgent environmental, social, and economic challenges of our time. India's journey towards the SDGs included the baseline report in 2018, which provided a snapshot of the country's initial standing and identified key areas for improvement. NITI Aayog, the policy think tank of the Government of India, plays a pivotal role in coordinating the country's efforts to achieve these goals. Through the SDG India Index, NITI Aayog monitors and evaluates the progress of states and union territories, fostering a spirit of competitive federalism to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been leading discussions for developing national indicators for the SDGs. State governments are key to India's progress on the SDGs as they are best placed to 'put people first' and to ensuring that 'no one is left behind'. The UN Country Team in India supports NITI Aayog, Union ministries

and state governments in their efforts to address the interconnectedness of the goals, to ensure that no one is left behind and to advocate for adequate financing to achieve the SDGs (source: SDG India Index & Dashboard 2020-21 Partnerships in the Decade of Action).

## SDG India Index Reports

To date, NITI Aayog has released four SDG India Index reports: the baseline report in 2018, followed by editions for 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2023-24 (Fig 1). These reports provide a detailed analysis of the progress made by various states and union territories in India toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They offer a comprehensive overview of the SDG index scores for India, highlighting both overall performance and goal-specific achievements.

The reports serve as a crucial tool for identifying areas where states and union territories need to focus their efforts to improve their rankings. They clearly distinguish between leading and lagging regions, offering actionable insights for policymakers. Each report follows a robust methodology, meticulously outlined within the documents, to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the index.

The SDG India Index categorizes the performance of states and union territories into four distinct groups based on their scores: Aspirants (0-49), Performers (50-64), Front Runners (65-99), and Achievers (100). These categories are color-coded for easy reference: red for Aspirants, yellow for Performers, green for Front Runners, and blue for Achievers. This color-coded system facilitates a clear and immediate understanding of each region's progress in relation to the SDGs, making it an effective tool for tracking development and promoting competitive federalism.



Fig 1: SDG INDIA INDEX Reports  
Source: V4.0 Report 2023-24

## SDG's and Chandigarh

### SDG Index performance Chandigarh w.r.t. National average

From 2018 to 2023-2024, Chandigarh consistently outperformed India's national average in sustainable development, maintaining its top rank among Union Territories. Starting with a composite SDG score of 68 in 2018, the Chandigarh improved to 70 in 2019-2020, reached 79 in 2020-2021, and slightly declined to 77 in 2023-2024 (Fig 2). Despite some fluctuations, Chandigarh excelled in clean water and sanitation, quality education, affordable clean energy, and urban sustainability.

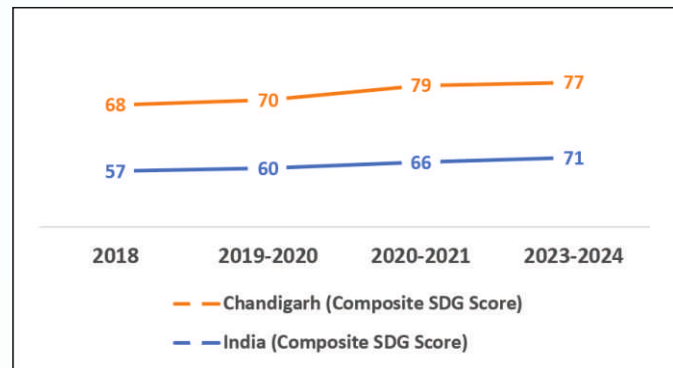


Fig 2: SDG Composite Index Score India and Chandigarh

Source: Baseline Report 2018, V2.0 Report 2019-20, V3.0 Report 2020-21, V4.0 Report 2023-24

### Comparative analysis of SDG Index Score of Chandigarh with other U.T.'s Year Wise

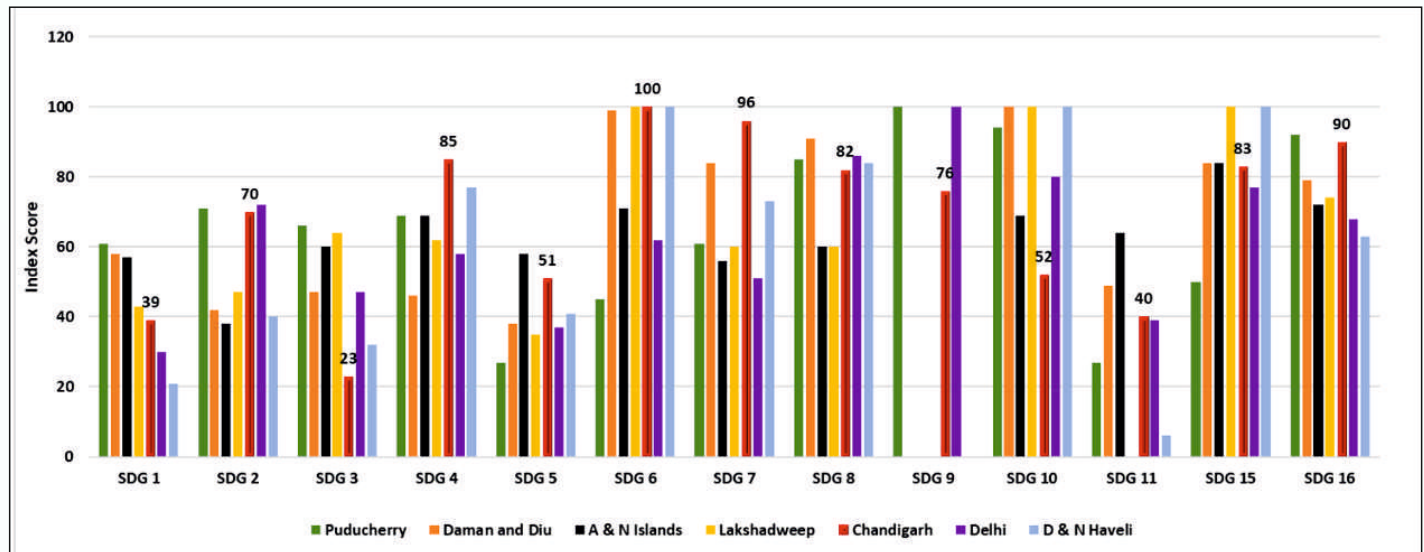


Fig 3: SDG Index score Goal wise for all U. T's 2018

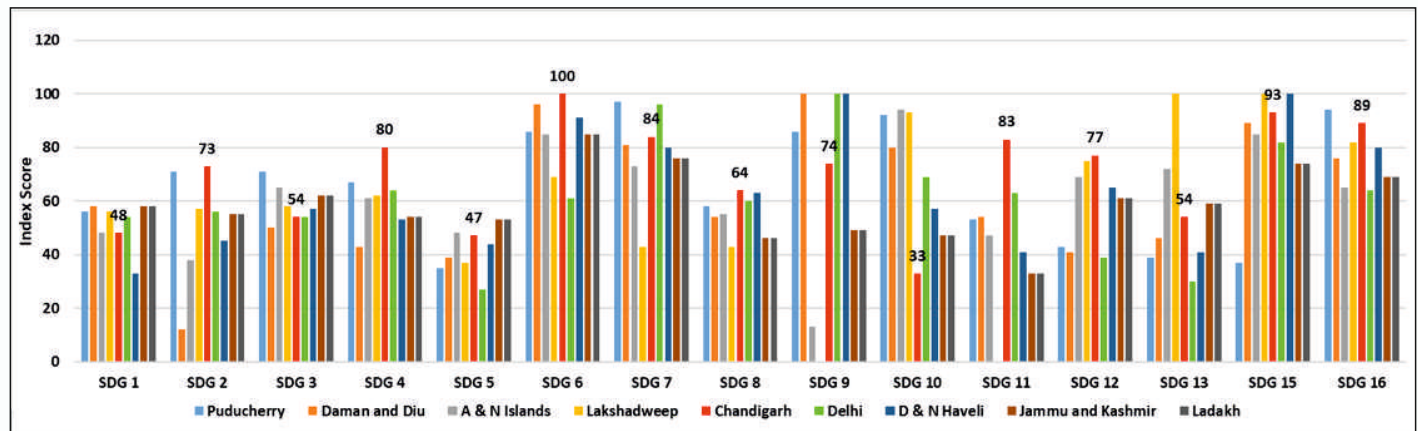
Source: Baseline Report 2018

Chandigarh consistently held the top position in the composite index ranking among Union Territories (UTs) for all four years: 2018, 2019-2020, 2021-2022, and 2023-2024. In 2018, Chandigarh lagged behind Puducherry, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep in SDG 1. For SDG 2, Delhi and Puducherry ranked higher than Chandigarh. Chandigarh had the lowest index for SDG 3 among all UTs but topped the index for SDG 4. It ranked second for SDG 5, following Andaman and Nicobar. Chandigarh scored a perfect 100 for SDG 6, tying with Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. Chandigarh maintained the top position in SDG 7 but fell behind Daman and Diu, Delhi, Puducherry, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in SDG 8. For SDG 9, Chandigarh was behind Puducherry and Delhi. Chandigarh secured the lowest rank for SDG 10. It ranked below Andaman and Nicobar, and Daman and Diu in SDG 11, and third from the bottom in SDG 15, after Puducherry and Delhi. Chandigarh was second in SDG 16, after Puducherry (Fig 3).





## 2019-2020

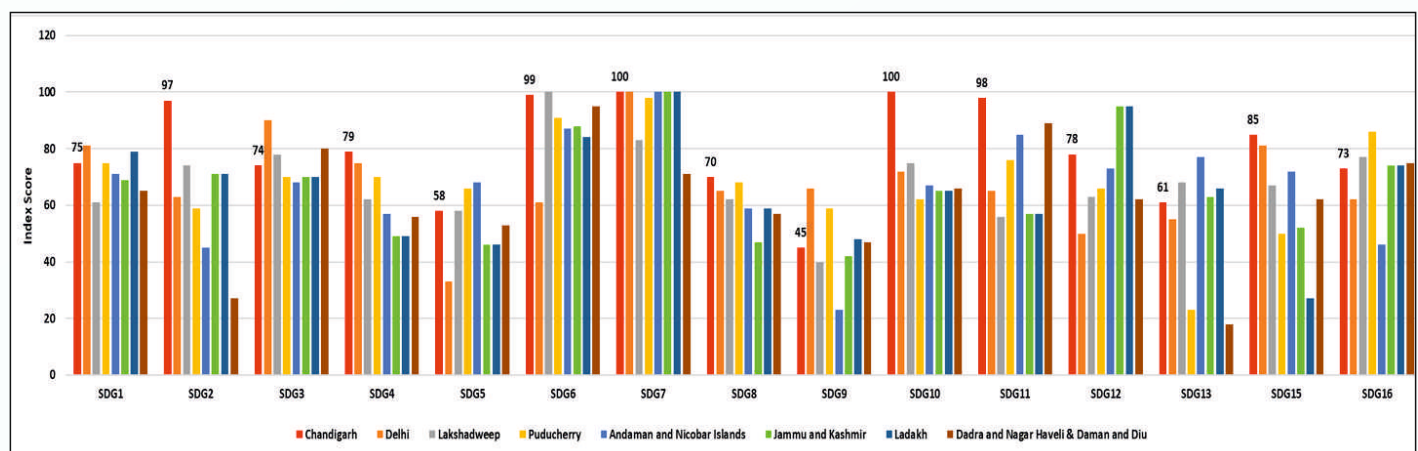


**Fig 4: SDG Index score Goal wise for all U. T's 2019-2020**  
Source: V2.0 Report 2019-20

In SDG 1, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranked second from the bottom, just above Dadra and Nagar Haveli. For SDG 2, Chandigarh secured the top position. In SDG 3, Chandigarh and Delhi were second from the bottom, ranking just above Daman and Diu. Chandigarh excelled in SDG 4, securing the top position. In SDG 5, Chandigarh ranked third, after Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Jammu & Kashmir/Ladakh. Chandigarh achieved a perfect ranking in SDG 6. In SDG 7, Chandigarh maintained the third position, following Puducherry and Delhi. However, Chandigarh topped the index score in SDG 8. For SDG 9, Chandigarh ranked third, behind Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Daman and Diu (first position) and Puducherry (second position). In SDG 10, Chandigarh had the lowest ranking compared to other UTs. Chandigarh topped the index scores in both SDG 11 and SDG 12. In SDG 13, Chandigarh secured the fourth position, following Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Jammu & Kashmir/Ladakh. In SDG 15, Chandigarh ranked second after Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Finally, in SDG 16, Chandigarh secured the second position, following Puducherry (Fig 4).

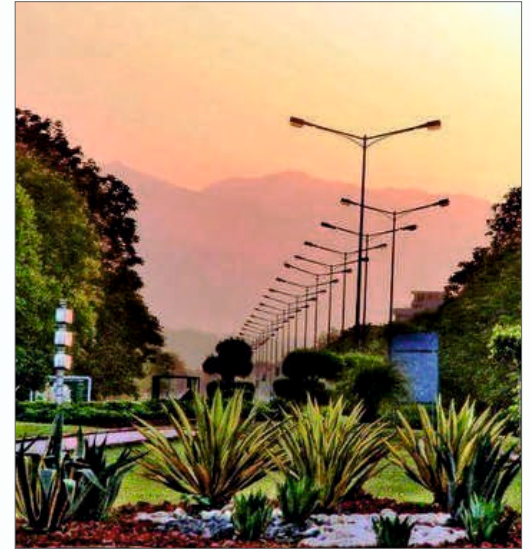


## 2020-2021

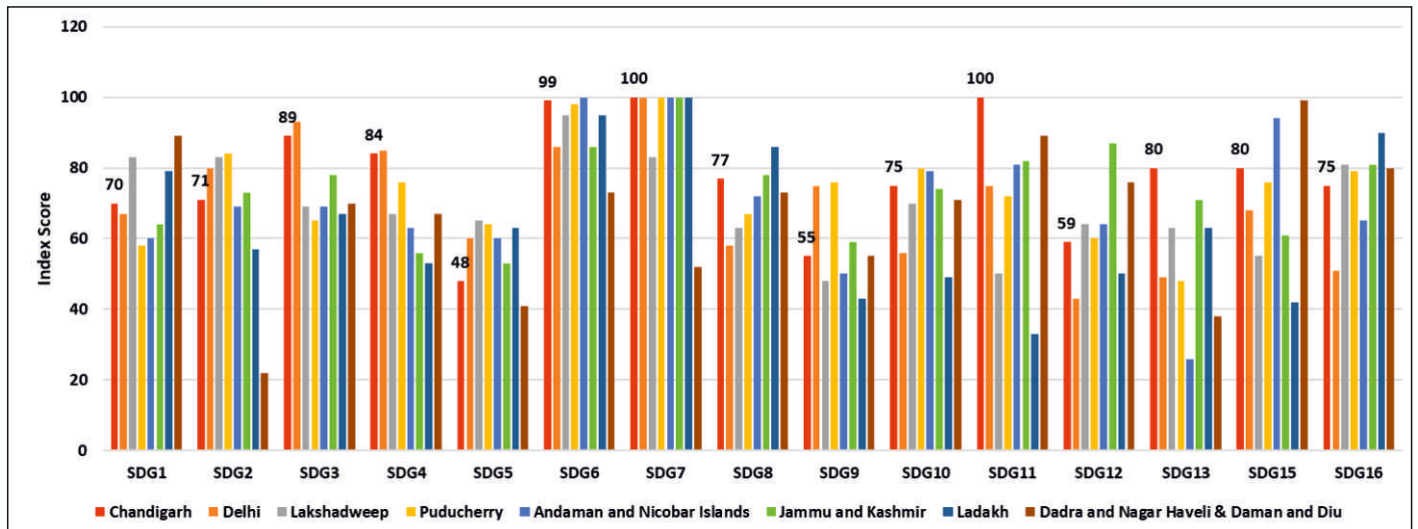


**Fig 5: SDG Index score Goal wise for all U. T's 2020-2021**  
Source: V3.0 Report 2020-21

In SDG 1, Chandigarh and Puducherry ranked third, following Delhi and Ladakh. For SDG 2, Chandigarh secured the top position. In SDG 3, Chandigarh ranked fourth, below Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep. Chandigarh excelled in SDG 4, securing the top position. In SDG 5, Chandigarh ranked third, following Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry. Chandigarh achieved a near-perfect ranking in SDG 6, second only to Lakshadweep. In SDG 7, Chandigarh secured the top position, along with Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. In SDG 8, Chandigarh ranked first. For SDG 9, Chandigarh ranked fifth, following Delhi, Puducherry, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu. In SDG 10, Chandigarh topped the index score. Chandigarh also topped the index scores in SDG 11. In SDG 12, Chandigarh ranked second, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh being first. In SDG 13, Chandigarh secured the fifth position, following Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. In SDG 15, Chandigarh ranked first. Finally, in SDG 16, Chandigarh secured fifth position, following Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir/Ladakh (Fig 5).



## 2023-2024



**Fig 6: SDG Index score Goal wise for all U. T's 2023-2024**

Source: V4.0 Report 2023-24

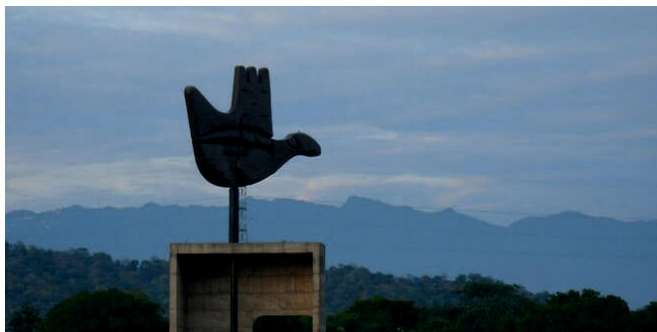


In SDG 1, Chandigarh secured the fourth position after Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Ladakh. For SDG 2, Chandigarh attained the fifth position, following Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir. In both SDG 3 and 4, Chandigarh was in the second position after Delhi. In SDG 5, Chandigarh was second to last, with Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu in the last position. For SDG 6, Chandigarh achieved the second position after the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In SDG 7, Chandigarh scored one hundred, sharing the top rank with Delhi, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. In SDG 8, Chandigarh was in the third position after Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. Chandigarh attained the fourth position in SDG 9. In SDG 10, Chandigarh was in the third position, following Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In SDG 11 and SDG 13, Chandigarh maintained the top position. For SDG 12, Chandigarh was in the fifth position, behind Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands/Lakshadweep, and Puducherry. In SDG 15, Chandigarh was in the third position after Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Finally, in SDG 16, Chandigarh held the fifth position after Ladakh, Lakshadweep/Jammu & Kashmir, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Puducherry (Fig 6).



# SDG Index for the Chandigarh, Aspirant, Performer, Front Runner and Achiever SDGs Year wise

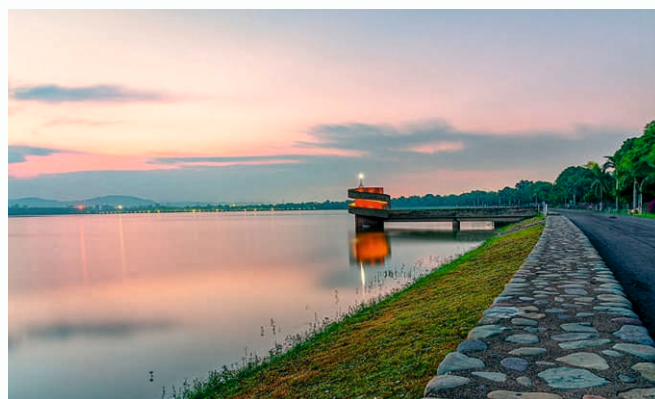
**2018:** In the 2018 baseline SDG Index for the UTs, Chandigarh ranked first due to its outstanding achievement in delivering clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), achieving a perfect score of 100(Achiever) (Table 2). Additionally, it has shown significant advancement in economic growth, quality education (Goal 4), and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), among other areas. However, Chandigarh's Index Scores for SDG 1(No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) are in the Aspirants category, with scores below 50. Overall, Chandigarh achieved a composite score of 68.



**2019-2020:** In 2019-2020, one of the most significant improvements was in Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11), where the score increased dramatically from 40 to 83, reflecting substantial progress in urban sustainability (Table 2). The city also made considerable strides in Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3), with the score rising from 23 to 54. Additionally, Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12) was reported for the first time, achieving a score of 77, which is a positive indicator of efforts towards sustainability. However, there were some setbacks as well. The score for Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8) dropped from 82 to 64, suggesting challenges in maintaining economic stability and job creation. Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10) also saw a decline, with the score falling from 52 to 33, indicating increased social disparities

## 2020-2021

In the year 2020-2021, Chandigarh continued to make progress on several fronts, although some challenges persisted. Notably, the U.T. was achiever in both Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10) and Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7), with each scoring 100. These improvements reflect successful initiatives in promoting social equity and sustainable energy practices. Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3) also saw continuous improvement, reaching a score of 74. The score for Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (Goal 9) dropped significantly from 76 to 45, made this SDG come under Aspirant category (Table 2).



## 2023-2024

By 2023-2024, Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3) continued its upward trajectory, improving to a score of 89, showcasing the city's ongoing commitment to enhancing public health. Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11) achieved a perfect score of 100, indicating excellent urban sustainability practices (Table 2). Additionally, Climate Action (Goal 13) saw significant progress with a score of 80. However, Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12) experienced a decline from 78 to 59. Gender equality (Goal 5) was only SDG under aspirant category. These mixed results highlight the UT's achievements and areas that require ongoing attention and intervention.



Table 2: SDG Index Score for Chandigarh 2018- 2023-24

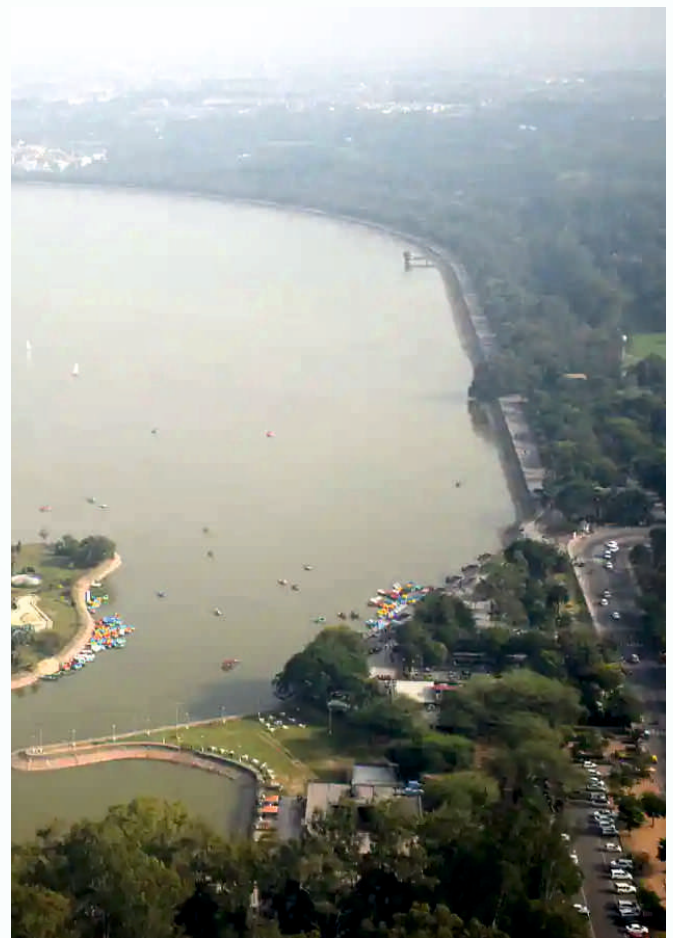
SDG INDEX SCORE	2018	2019-2020	2020-2021	2023-2024
1 NO POVERTY	39	48	75	70
2 ZERO HUNGER	70	73	97	71
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	23	54	74	89
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	85	80	79	84
5 GENDER EQUALITY	51	47	58	48
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	100	100	99	99
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	96	84	100	100
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	82	64	70	77
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	76	74	45	55
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	52	33	100	75
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	40	83	98	100
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	—	77	78	59
13 CLIMATE ACTION	—	54	61	80
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	—	—	—	—
15 LIFE ON LAND	83	93	85	80
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	90	89	73	75
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	—	—	—	—

Source: Baseline Report 2018, V2.0 Report 2019-20, V3.0 Report 2020-21, V4.0 Report 2023-24

## Way Forward

Overall, the analysis of Chandigarh's SDG Index scores from 2018 to 2023-2024 presents a dynamic landscape of progress and challenges. The U.T. has achieved remarkable success in areas such as clean water and sanitation, quality education, affordable and clean energy, and urban sustainability. These accomplishments reflect Chandigarh's strong commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, there are still significant challenges in poverty reduction, industrial innovation, and sustainable consumption that need to be addressed.

Despite these challenges, Chandigarh's consistent improvements in key areas demonstrate its potential and dedication to creating a sustainable and equitable future. With continued focused efforts and strategic interventions, Chandigarh is well-positioned to overcome these challenges and set an exemplary standard for other regions to follow. The U.T.'s journey toward sustainability and development is a testament to its resilience and ambition, promising a brighter future for its residents and serving as an inspiration for sustainable urban development.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## 17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS



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