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Uttar Pradesh improves in Niti Aayog's sustainable development goal index

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh has improved on its score in Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) index for the second straight year, getting an average score of 60 out of 100 in 16 goals defined by the thinktank.

When the first study was conducted in 2018, UP scored 42 which went up to 55 in 2019-20. In 2020-21, it improved its aggregate to 60 against the national average of 66. Based on the score, UP has been ranked as a 'performer' state, ahead of Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam.

The state's best performance comes in the seventh sustainable goal of affordable and clean energy. UP, along with 14 other states, has scored a perfect 100 for this goal.

Niti Aayog looked at the coverage under household electrification, for which UP scored 100% and the percentage of LPG and PNG connections against the number of households for which the state recorded 106.83%. In 2019-20 index, UP scored 63 under this SDG.

The state has also registered improvement in five other SDGs where its ranking has changed. This includes SDG 3, 'Good Health and Well Being', in which the state's score of 60 against last year's 34 took it from 'aspirant' category to 'performer'.

Similarly, from 48 in SDG 4 of 'Quality Education' last year, it went up to 51 moving the state to 'performer' category. UP also jumped to 'performer' category in SGD 5, 'Gender Equality', where it recorded a score of 50.

In SDG 11 of 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and SDG 12, 'Responsible Consumption and Production', the state jumped from 'performer' category to 'frontrunner' with scores of 77 and 79, respectively.

However, the state saw its score drop in SDG 1 of 'Reduced Inequality' in which it came last. The score also dipped in SDG 1 'No Poverty', SDG 2 'Zero Hunger', SDG 9 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure' and SDG 13 'Climate Action'.