

# 1. POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## 1.1. INDIA'S SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR)

### Why in News?

NITI Aayog presented India VNR 2020 report titled **Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local** at UN's High-level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting.

### About VNR

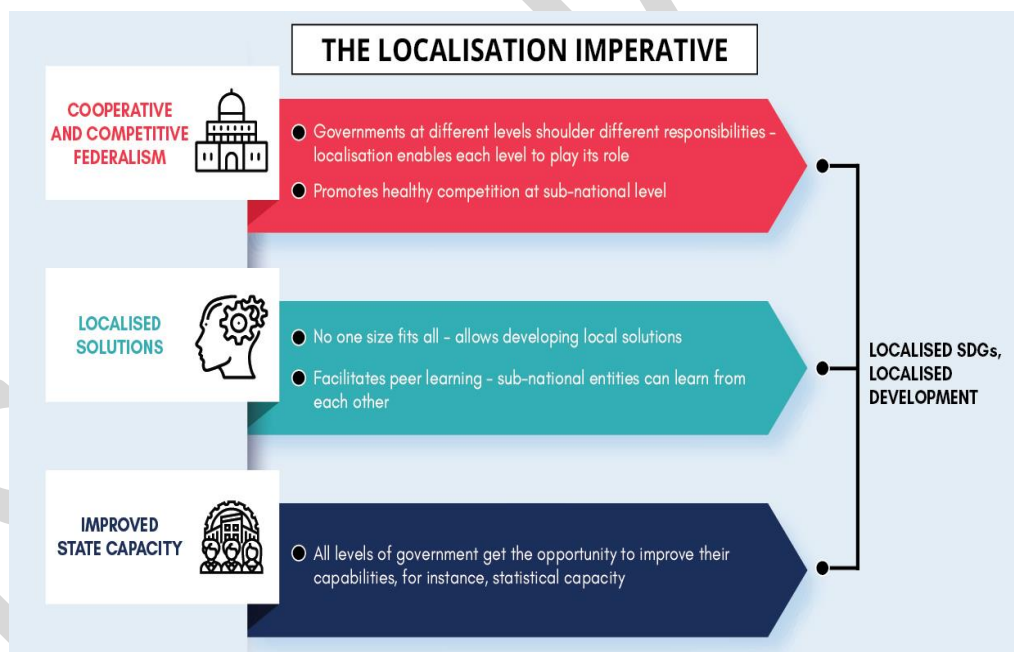
- VNR is a process through which **countries assess and present progress made** in achieving the global goals and the pledge to leave no one behind.
- **It facilitates the sharing of experiences**, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- It also **seeks to strengthen policies and institutions of governments** and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Indian VNR 2020 report presents** a review of progress on 17 SDGs, **India's approach to localising SDGs**, and strengthening means of implementation.

### About HLPF

- Establishment of HLPF **was mandated in 2012** by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), The Future We Want.
- It is the **central global platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs.
- It **meets annually** under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council.

### Need for localising SDGs

- Localising SDGs involves the process of understanding, adapting, planning, implementing and monitoring the SDGs from national to local levels by relevant institutions thus strengthening the implementation framework.
- Localisation relates both to how local and sub-national governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through **bottom up action** as well as how the SDGs can provide a **framework for local development policy**.
- These entail participatory planning, implementation, and evaluation and thus crucial to any strategy aimed at achieving the goals under 2030 agenda. (see infographic)



### India's Approach in Localising SDGs

- **Institutional mechanism:**
  - **At National Level**
    - **NITI Aayog** is **responsible for overall coordination and monitoring** of the SDGs in the country, in close collaboration with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
    - This includes target setting, assigning data responsibilities, bi-annual review and facilitating partnership building (supporting states in developing monitoring framework).
    - **Parliament:** Public Accounts Committee exercises legislative oversight on the progress of the SDG agenda through periodic reviews of NITI Aayog and related line ministries.
  - **At sub-national level**