

# Wider than ent Goals



the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were conceptualized in 2000 as a set of eight goals on diverse dimensions with most direct relevance to universal developmental outcomes. The MDGs encapsulated eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development. The time period allocated for MDGs was fifteen years which ended in 2015. At the conceptual and operational level SDGs may not merely

be an extension of MDGs, but focus on global systemic reforms to remove main impediments to development and secure an accommodating international environment for sustainable development. The SDGs have been evolved through participatory consensus building process at various levels and collectively adopted by nations in 2015 including India. The SDGs cover 17 goals and 169 targets. India is already following an impressive national agenda of sustainable development guided by the vision and leadership of the Prime Minister. The high volume of India's aspirations and actions is however unmatched by others and India is steady on its path of paradigm changes both at the conceptual as well as operational level. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968) was one of the tallest political thinkers of the 20th Century, who has been highly influential in guiding India's post Independence political trajectory and social movements. He glorified the notion of integrated existence of 'man and nature' rooted in ancient Indian philosophy and spiritualism. He called this philosophy as 'Integral Humanism'. This rendition of the old Indian wisdom suggests prosperity, happiness and progress of society wherein physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual well-being of every individual is essential constituents. He underlined that Indian culture stands on the foundations of interdependence, cooperation and concord, rather than conflict, contradiction and discord. He was of the firm view that despite their variegated characteristics, different nations can play a complementary role in the building of world unity. He suggested that 'Man' is not only integrated in society, he is also an integral part of the world or nature. In Indian tradition nature is worshipped as 'Mother'. To pollute nature is a sin. We need a system in which man's own initiative remains unobstructed and in which his relation with the rest of society, human values do not suffer. He considered individual to be the expression of the integral of body, mind, intellect and the soul. Progress