Industry Consultation
on
'Role of ICT Sector in accomplishing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India'

Friday, 31 July 2020

The Context and Introduction to TERI Approach

Business & UN SDGs – Recommendations of TERI CBS Executive Committee

January 2019: Ex-Com *Recommendations*	• *Many corporates in India already working towards addressing the SDGs* • *Need to collate the information to identify & prioritize issues to be addressed by businesses in India* • *TERI CBS should work towards developing a framework/format for corporates to work on SDGs*
TERI-NFCG (MCA, GoI) Partnership: *To 'augment & accelerate business action on SDGs in India'*	• *Developing the architecture of industry sector-specific SDG Roadmaps basis NIF, (MoSPI, GoI) to enable deeper business action on SDGs in India; and* • *Mainstreaming SDG reporting by Indian businesses by leveraging existing mandatory reporting frameworks & mechanisms to consolidate and report business actions on SDGs in India*
November 2019: *Ex-Com Response*	• *Buy-in & go-ahead from Ex-Com members on the project*

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Need for Enhancing Actions on SDGs By Businesses & Government

Rising Social Inequality Globally

Pressure on Nature will increase with growing demand for Food, Water, Energy

Climate Change

Consumers and Employees will prefer Companies With a Purpose

Investors Will Get More Active On ESG

- Post-COVID Recovery demands a stronger India, effectively equipped to address any crisis of such scale & magnitude.

- India has renewed its commitment on SDGs at HLPF 2020 & pledged to accelerate actions to impacting the SDGs in the 'Decade of Action' in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

- A critical source of finance, driver of innovation & technology, and a key driver of economic growth in India - business action crucial to accelerate implementation of SDGs in India.

- Representing a paradigm shift in its approach - from 'whole-of-government' to 'whole-of-society' - to implementing the SDGs, India's VNR 2020 report '*Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local*', for the very first time, takes into account industry contributions in the country's progress towards achieving the SDGs so far, underscoring the significant role that businesses are envisaged to play in the decade of action.

- For businesses, integrating the key elements of sustainability, SDGs provide a holistic framework to look at the socio-economic & environmental issues and ways to internalize them so as to prioritize their sustainability actions and goals, for equitable growth of the society and for the sustainable growth of the business itself.

TERI's Discussion Paper "*SDGs still remain relevant for accelerating focused sustainability actions by Indian businesses*" articulates a Call-to-Action for Indian businesses to act on SDGs, particularly in the post-COVID-19 world.

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Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Govt. of India and National Indicator Framework (NIF)

- MoSPI – Custodian of NIF – responsible for development & refinement of NIF
- 306 India-specific statistical indicators, mapped to relevant government ministries/ departments for monitoring purposes
- India accepted select indicators from the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) (~80) for which data are produced in India or can be produced from existing data sets
- Whereas, the comprises 231 indicators classified as:

Tier I (115)	Tier II (95)	Tier III
• Conceptually clear • Internationally established methodology & standards • Data regularly produced by countries	• Conceptually clear • Internationally established methodology & standards • Data not regularly produced by countries	• No internationally established methodology or standards • Methodology/ standards being developed or tested

As of 51st session of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), March 2020:
- No Tier III indicators; 2 indicators having multiple tiers; 19 indicators with tiering pending a data availability review

MoSPI's recently released "SDGs National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2020" highlights the progress made so far in the journey of SDGs' monitoring/achievement in India, and provides inputs in the preparation of India's VNR on SDGs and assist policy makers in identifying relevant focus areas.

Instructions for Participants

Instructions

- The session will be a mix of presentations and discussions to be conducted over a duration of 1.5 hours, starting with a brief presentation by TERI introducing the context and TERI's approach to the Project, followed by the Working Session.

- All tabs necessary to facilitate your participation are shown at the bottom of your screen.

- Participants are requested to kindly:
  - Put themselves on 'Mute' while another person is speaking.
  - Raise their hand by clicking on the 'Raise Your Hand' tab shown at the bottom of the screen and wait for their turn to speak.
  - Type their questions in the Conversation Window by clicking on the 'Show Conversation' tab. The questions shall be taken up during the course of the session at relevant times.

Role of ICT Sector in Accelerating the Implementation of SDGs in India

ICT Sector and Government of India's Recent Initiatives

- **National Policy on Software Products, GoI (2019)** - to develop India as a software product nation

- **National Policy on Electronics 2019, MeitY (NPE 2019)** - to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM)

- **Major Schemes launched in March 2020** - to boost the electronics manufacturing in India
  - *Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme; Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) 2.0; and Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)*

- **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) Portal (May 2019)** - to give a boost to the emerging tech startup ecosystem of India

- **National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (Union Budget 2018-'19)** – National-level programme, set up by NITI Aayog, to leverage AI for inclusive growth in line with the Government policy of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'

- **National AI Portal (Interim Budget 2019-'20)** - announced by GoI as part of National Programme on 'Artificial Intelligence' to bring the benefits of AI and other emerging technologies to the common people

- **Identified as one of the 12 Champion Service Sectors (2018)** - for focused attention of GoI to promote its development & realize its potential of creating more jobs, and contribute to a higher GDP and export of services to global markets by 2022 *(GoI has set up a Rs 5,000 crore (US$ 745.82 million) fund for the 12 Champion Sectors)*

Opportunities for the ICT Sector in accomplishing and accelerating the implementation of SDGs in India, along with enhancing the sector's preparedness for post-COVID Recovery

ICT Sector: Role in Accelerating Implementation of SDGs in India

- **Individual Sectoral Contribution**
  - **Business Actions**:
    - Low-Carbon Transport options *(SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts)*
    - Data Centre Efficiency *(SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns)*
    - Increased share of RE in Energy Mix *(SDG07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all)*
  - **CSR**:
    - Community Development Programmes *(SDG06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all)*
    - Youth Skilling & Empowerment *(SDG04: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all)*

- **Catalyst/Enabler for other Industries and State Governments**
  - **Other Industries:**
    - Power sector (Smart Grid Technology) *(SDG07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all)*
    - Healthcare sector (improved access to healthcare information & services) *(SDG03: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages)*
    - Education sector (digital learning; AI) *(SDG04: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all)*
    - Financial Services sector (online access to banking & financial services)
    - Agriculture sector (provision of information, interactive agriculture services, and functions) *(SDG02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture)*
  - **State Governments**:
    - Sustainable/Smart Cities *(SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable)*
    - Disaster Management & Risk Reduction Strategies *(SDG01: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable)*

Industry Sector Consultation on 'Role of ICT Sector in accomplishing SDGs in India'

Objective:

To arrive at priority SDGs and key business actions & impacts/outcomes for enabling deeper and focused business action on SDGs by the ICT sector in India basis the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI, GoI)'s National Indicator Framework (NIF).

The Approach:

1. *Identification of Key Material Issues for the industry sector and their alignment with the NIF;*

2. *Articulation of sectoral-level business actions & impacts/outcomes for each of the identified material issues, basis the NIF; and*

3. *Identification of priority SDGs for the industry sector, and the timeframe required to realize the identified impacts/outcomes for priority SDGs*

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Working Session:
Developing the Architecture of SDG Roadmap for ICT sector in India

SDGs & ICT Sector in India: *Current Practices*

SDGs and Business Actions (*Operational and CSR*) by Companies in India:

Broadly:

- *Alignment is retrospective than strategic*

- *Mapping of sustainability actions is limited to Goals level; no alignment with SDG Targets or Indicators*

- *Lacking linkages between companies' key material issues and the SDGs*

- *No alignment with country-specific NIF (developed by MoSPI, GoI) that takes into account national socio-economic, environmental and development priorities*

Planned Next Steps

Planned Next Steps

- Tackling SDGs the New Way
  (SDGs & NIF-oriented Business Actions and Monitoring of Actions)

- Dialogues around developing business-specific indicators with MoSPI and NITI Aayog
  (Tier I, II, III classification)

- India's VNR 2020 – Recognizing Private Sector contribution
  (Improving Indian States and UTs' SDG performance)
  (SDG India Index 2019-2020)

Components for Developing the Architecture of SDG Roadmap for ICT sector in India

1. **Why:** *Focusing on Key Material Issues for ICT Sector and alignment with the NIF*

2. **How:** *Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector*

3. **What & When:** *Realizing Impacts & Outcomes for Priority SDGs*

01

Why: *Focusing on Key Material Issues for ICT Sector and alignment with the NIF*

Inputs solicited from Industry Colleagues

- Identification and validation of Key Material Issues for the ICT Sector as a whole
- Alignment of identified sector-specific Key Material Issues with the SDGs National Indicator Framework (NIF) developed by MoSPI, GoI
- Identification of gaps in sector-specific key material issues and indicators under NIF

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01. Why: Focusing on Key Material Issues for ICT Sector and alignment with the NIF

KEY MATERIAL ISSUES FOR ICT SECTOR

Economic Value Generated & Distributed	Business Sustainability & Resilience	Governance & Compliance	Innovation	Employee Benefits & Well-being	Diversity & Inclusion	Occupational Health & Safety	Talent Management
Water & Wastewater Management	Effluents & Waste	Energy	Emissions	Climate Change	Biodiversity	Responsible Supply Chain	Green Procurement
Education & Youth Empowerment	Women Empowerment	Livelihood Generation	Local Community Development	Urban Resilience	Client Satisfaction & Collaboration	Partnerships	
Economic Disclosures	Digitization	Cyber Security	Customer & Data Privacy	Green Buildings	Digital Inclusion		

The key material issues for the sector have been identified basis the material issues outlined by individual ICT sector companies in their Sustainability Reports

A. Why: Focusing on Key Material Issues for ICT Sector and alignment with the NIF

Alignment with MoSPI (GoI)'s National Indicator Framework (NIF)

Emissions

- 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total installed electricity generation
- 8.4.2 Per capita fossil fuel consumption (in Kg.)
- 9.4.1 CO2 equivalent emission per unit of value added
- 11.5.1 Number of deaths attributed to extreme climate per 1,00,000 population (similar to Indicator 1.5.1 and 13.1.2)
- 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
- 12.7.1 Green public procurement policy developed and adopted by the Central Ministries/States/UTs (Numbers)
- 13.2.1 Pre 2020 action: Achievement of pre-2020 goals as per country priority (percentage reduction in emission intensity of GDP, over 2005 level)
- 13.2.2 Achievement of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Goals in post 2020 period

A. Why: Focusing on Key Material Issues for ICT Sector and alignment with the NIF

Alignment with MoSPI (GoI)'s National Indicator Framework (NIF)

Education & Youth Empowerment

- 1.3.2 Number of Beneficiaries under Integrated Child Development Scheme - ICDS, (in number)
- 4.1.1 Net Enrolment Ratio in primary and upper primary education (in percentage)
- 4.1.3 Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher secondary education (in percentage)
- 4.1.4 Percentage of students in grade 3, 5, 8 and 10 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in terms of nationally defined learning outcomes to be attained by pupils at the end of each of above grades, 2017-18
- 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months
- 4.3.2 Proportion of male-female enrolled in higher education, technical and vocational education,2015-16 (in Ratio)
- 4.3.3 Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education, (in percentage)
- 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communication technology (ICT) skills
- 4.6.1 Literacy rate of youth in the age group of 15-24 years, 2011-12 (in percentage)

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02
How: *Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector*

Inputs solicited from Industry Colleagues

- Identification of Business Actions (Business & CSR) and Impacts/Outcomes for the identified Key Material Issues aligned with NIF
- Identification of NIF Indicators and proposed New Indicators, aligned with the identified Key Material Issues, Business Actions & Impacts/Outcomes.
- Identify priority SDGs for ICT sector in India

02. How: Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector

Example

① Key Material Issues
- Emissions
- Education & Youth Empowerment

② Business Actions
- Business: Reduction of Scope 1 & Scope 3 GHG emissions
- *CSR*: Youth empowerment through quality education and skill development training

③ Impacts/Outcomes
- Low Carbon Transportation
- Skill Development

Identification of **India-specific SDG Indicators for ICT Sector**:
- *NIF Indicators*
- *Proposed New Indicators*

Identification of **SDG Targets** basis India-specific Indicators *(NIF + Proposed New)* for ICT Sector

Priority SDGs for ICT Sector in India

SDG INDICATORS	SDG TARGETS	SDGs

Aligned with National Indicator Framework (NIF, MoSPI, GoI)

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Example 1

Key Material Issue

EMISSIONS

①

②

Business Actions

Business

- Meet 50% of electricity requirements of campuses across India in fiscal year 2020 from renewable energy, under commitment to RE 100 initiative.
- Increase in green power consumption and energy efficiency retrofits in buildings contributing to overall reduction in Scope 2 emissions.
- Zero-ODP refrigerants-based HVAC systems.
- Lease of EVs, and launch of corporate vehicle ownership and installation of charging points across facilities to encourage use of EVs by employees under commitment to EV 100 initiative.
- Implementation of purchase guidelines in accordance with Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Standard for desktops, laptops and display equipment for saving of electricity and reduction of GHG emissions in upstream supply chain.

CSR

- Generate offsets for Scope 1 and Scope 3 emissions through the implementation of community-based offset projects - construction of household biogas units or distribution of efficient cook stoves to replace traditional cooking methods in rural India.

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02. How: Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector

Example 1

Business Actions

Business

- Meet 50% of electricity requirements of campuses across India in fiscal year 2020 from renewable energy, under commitment to RE 100 initiative.
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CSR

- Generate offsets for Scope 1 and Scope 3 emissions through the implementation of community-based offset projects - construction of household biogas units or distribution of efficient cook stoves to replace traditional cooking methods in rural India.

Key Material Issue
EMISSIONS

Impacts/Outcomes

- **Energy Efficiency & Use of Renewable Energy**
- **Low Carbon Transportation**
- **Sustainable Built Environment**
- **Sustainable Production & Consumption**
- **Community Development**

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02. How: Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector

Example 2

②

Key Material Issue
EDUCATION & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

①

Business Actions

- **CSR**
  - ICT-based education in 300 government primary schools
  - Scholarships to academically bright students from low-income families
  - Early childhood care and development of children below 6 years
  - Bridge and remedial education support to out-of-school children
  - Access to quality education to undergraduate engineering & science students from disadvantaged sections to enhances their competencies and employability
  - Vocational training to underprivileged youth in fashion designing, nursing, and so on

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02. How: Designing Business Actions for ICT Sector

Example 2

Key Material Issue
**EDUCATION &
YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT**

①

② **Business Actions**

CSR

ICT-based education in 300 government primary schools

- Scholarships to academically bright students from low-income families
- Early childhood care and development of children below 6 years
- Bridge and remedial education support to out-of-school children
- Access to quality education to undergraduate engineering & science students from disadvantaged sections to enhances their competencies and employability
- Vocational training to underprivileged youth in fashion designing, nursing, and so on

③ **Impacts/Outcomes**

- Quality enhancement of government schools
- Reduced urban-rural divide through improved access to quality education
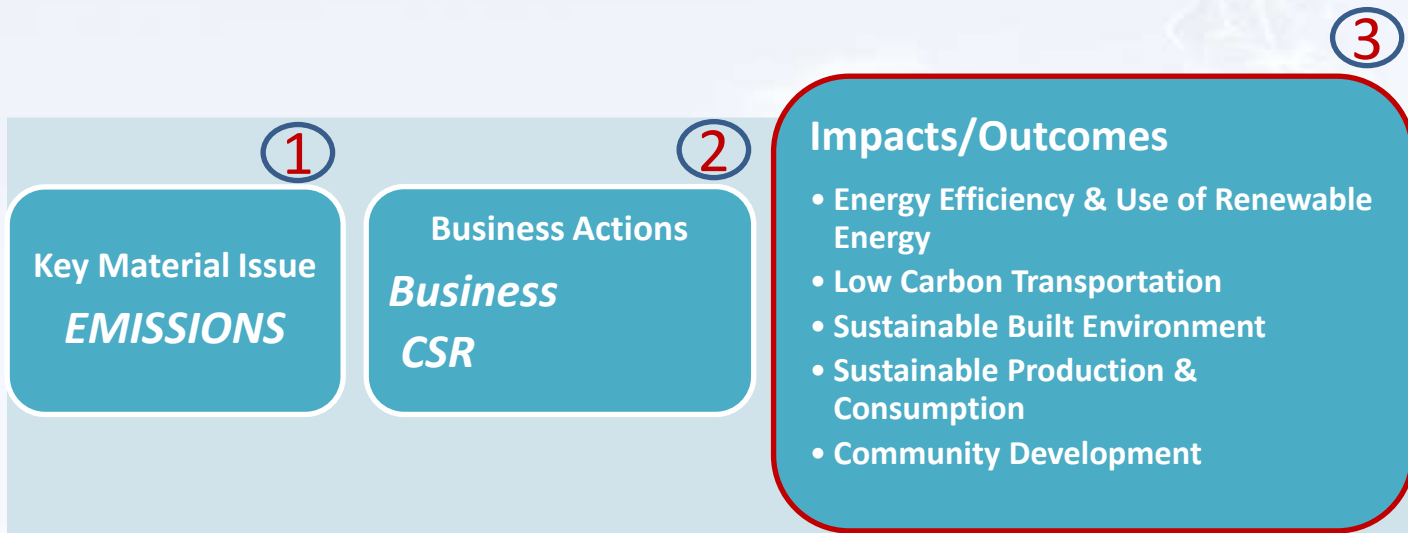- Enhanced employability of youth

03
What & When: *Realizing Impacts & Outcomes for Priority SDGs*

Inputs solicited from Industry Colleagues
- Identification of timeframe required to realize the identified impacts/outcomes for priority SDGs

03. What & When: Realizing Impacts & Outcomes for Priority SDGs

Example

① **Key Material Issue**
EMISSIONS

② **Business Actions**
Business
CSR

③ **Impacts/Outcomes**
- Energy Efficiency & Use of Renewable Energy
- Low Carbon Transportation
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Sustainable Production & Consumption
- Community Development

Aligned with National Indicator Framework (NIF, MoSPI, GoI)

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2022-23)
- *Cumulative reduction of 16% in GHG intensity translating into absolute reduction of 23,700 tonnes of Scope 1 & Scope 2 GHG emissions by 2021*
- *Increase renewable energy procurement by 55% to a target of 120 million units in 2021-22*
- *Scale up use of EVs to 1000 by 2023*

Medium-term (2025)
- *Scale up use of EVs to 5000 (nos) by 2025*

Long-term (2030)
- *Transition global fleet to EVs by 2030*
- *Clearly defined SBTs for reduction in Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions till 2030.*
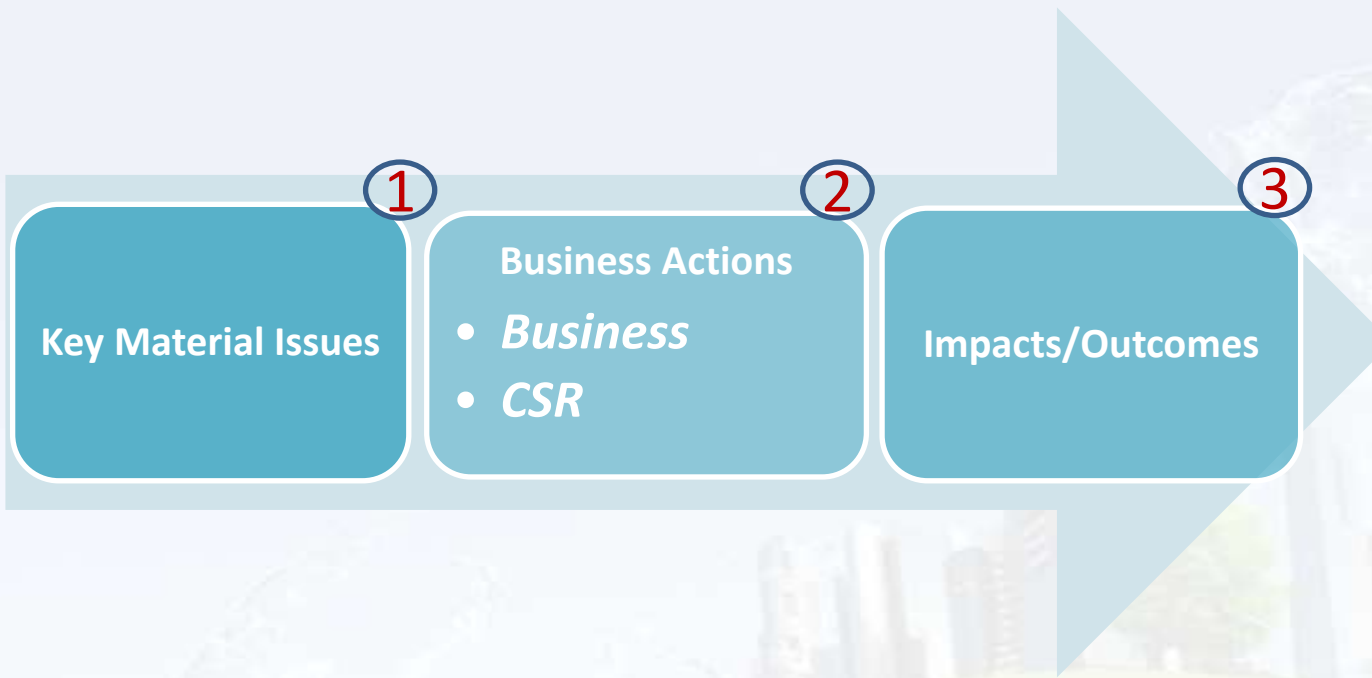
For implementing Business Actions & realizing Impacts/Outcomes for Priority SDGs

The Way Forward:
Developing the Architecture of SDG Roadmap for ICT Sector in India

Developing the Architecture of SDG Roadmap for ICT sector in India

④

① **Key Material Issues**

② **Business Actions**
- *Business*
- *CSR*

③ **Impacts/Outcomes**

Aligned with National Indicator Framework (NIF, MoSPI, GoI)

Identification of **India-specific SDG Indicators for ICT Sector:**
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- *Proposed New Indicators*

Identification of **SDG Targets** basis India-specific Indicators *(NIF + Proposed New)* for ICT Sector

Priority SDGs for ICT Sector in India

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