



ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN INDIA: REALIZING AGENDA 2030 AND SDG

16

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Abstract

The United Nations, in its 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, has made access to justice a key enabler in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which specifically aims at advancing the rule of law and closing the access to justice disparities among all. In India, a constitutionally determined welfare state with a strong socio-economic and cultural diversity, achieving this target of vulnerable groups, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women, children, persons with disabilities, transgender individuals, administered trafficking survivors, elderly citizens, and economically disadvantaged communities, is still fraught with systematic problems. These are caste- and gender-based discrimination, low conviction rates in atrocity cases, geographical isolation, judicial pendency of more than 50 million cases, digital divides and intersectional vulnerabilities, which increase exclusion by groups of Dalit women and tribal groups. In the following paper, the approach on SDG 16.3 in India will be thoroughly examined based on the official data on the topic, including the Voluntary National Review 2025, SDG India Index of NITI Aayog, NALSA reports, and the empirical research in India Justice Report 2025. It explores organizational processes the hierarchical legal assistance structure of the National Legal Services Authority, the alternative dispute resolution of crores of cases of Lok Adalats, and schemes focusing on marginalized peoples as source of legal empowerment and a reduction in the backlog. Major successes are observed in the field of outreach (millions of beneficiaries each year), modernization of criminal law (Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita 2023), and local programs such as Nari Adalat.

Nonetheless, incessant loopholes, such as lapse of enforcement, lack of infrastructures, state disparities and exclusion caused by technology, demonstrate that development is unequal and the susceptible groups still experience impunity and delayed justice. The discussion highlights the necessity of radical changes to be made to be in line with the principle of Leave No One Behind. The solutions include recommendations to improve judicial capacity, intersectional sensitivity training, to integrate the digital, to monitor communities and lead, and disaggregated data systems to close inequities. Finally, although India has adopted a multi-pronged approach, which has proven to be institutionally sound, equitable access to justice by 2030 would take a more inclusive step toward eliminating structural obstacles and establishing the accountable institutions toward Viksit Bharat.

Keywords

Access to justice, Sustainable Development Goal 16, Agenda 2030, Vulnerable groups, India, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Lok Adalats, Legal aid, Intersectional discrimination, Judicial pendency, Digital divide, Rule of law, Leave No One Behind

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development by the United Nations is a worldwide declaration on peace, prosperity and equity by handling the interconnected issues by applying 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2015). The key aspect of this framework is that SDG 16 implies to ensure peaceful and inclusive societies to sustainably develop, to provide equal access to justice to all people and to establish effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, with the Target 16.3 implying specifically promotion of the rule of law at both the national and international level and ensuring equal access to justice of all people (United Nations



Department of Economic and Social Affairs, n.d.). This objective acknowledges access to justice not just as an independent goal and objective but as one that will support the other SDGs in reducing poverty, equality among sexes, and inequalities through enabling the disadvantaged groups to assert their rights and settle conflicts in a fair manner.

In India, a country with a deep-rooted socio-economic diversity and historical inequalities, goal SDG 16 is intertwined with the requirements of the constitution. The Constitution of India under Article 39A inserted under the 42nd Amendment of 1976 guides the State to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity and will provide, in particular, free legal aid, by appropriate legislation or scheme or in any other manner, to prevent denial of the opportunities to secure justice to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities (Government of India, 1950, as amended). This clause is based on the Directive Principles of State Policy and emphasizes an idea of justice that goes beyond formal equality in order to deal with substantive obstacles to the disadvantaged. In reaction, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, created the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) as a statutory institution to plan free legal service, awareness-raising, and alternative dispute resolution systems nationally, at the state, district, and taluka levels (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023).

The vulnerable groups across India, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women, children, persons with disabilities, transgender people, trafficking victims, elderly, and those living in economic marginalized or remote areas face cumulative barriers to justice. They are systemic discrimination, low rates of conviction in cases of atrocity and gender-based violence, geographic isolation of access to courts, linguistic barriers, stigma as a deterrent to reporting, and economic barriers that prevent having personal legal representation (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023). These issues are intensified by intersectional vulnerabilities to

dominate the scene like Dalit women or tribal girls and continue the exclusion and impunity cycles. Having more than 50 million pending in the courts, and a lack of equality in legal awareness, especially in the rural sphere that makes up 68 percent of the population, equal access is not achievable despite the institutional structures (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023).

India has shown significant improvement in SDG 16, the national composite score of 74 is increasing in SDG India Index 2023-24 (classified as a Front Runner) indicating improvements in institutional reform and service delivery (NITI Aayog, 2024). Modernized criminal statutes (i.e., Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023) are also emphasized, and there are larger help lines to serve millions of women and children, rapid-track courts, and grassroots-led efforts such as Nari Adalat (NITI Aayog, 2025). The networks of NALSA which provide a multi-pronged approach to legal empowerment is reflected in its wide network of more than 49,000 panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, and individual schemes to assist disaster victims, trafficking survivors, and acid attack victims, and its Lok Adalats which resolve millions of disputes at a cost-effective manner (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023). However, the data disaggregation of marginalized communities, consistency throughout all states, and resolving digital gaps of technology-based services are still missing.

In this paper, the author investigates the path India follows to achieving SDG Target 16.3 among vulnerable groups by 2030 with the focus on institutional mechanisms, empirical gains, current obstacles, and policy suggestions. It aims to make a contribution to both scholarly and policy debate on how to translate global commitments into inclusive justice systems that are specific to local settings through a prism of cooperative federalism and the principle of Leave No One Behind.



SDG 16 in the Indian Context

India participation in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 can be described as a strategic approach towards the global commitment and national interests in prioritizing the concept of peace, justice, and inclusive institutions to enable the implementation of sustainable development in general. India has anchored SDG 16 on localized strategy and constitutional mandates and development priorities through cooperative federalism and has tracked SDG 16 progress through mechanisms like SDG India Index and voluntary national reviews (VNRs). The national composite SDG score was improved to 66 in 2020-21 and 71 in 2023-24, which is faster progress towards the goals, including peace and justice (NITI Aayog, 2024).

A paradigm of the SDG implementation based on the whole-of-society and whole-of-government is highlighted in the third VNR of India, which was provided in 2025 at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, and SDG 16 is viewed as one of the key drivers to equitable access to justice, reduced violence, and strengthened institutions (NITI Aayog, 2025). This method focuses more on localization based on sub-national planning, community involvement, and digital infrastructure, which is in line with the principle of Leave No One Behind. Systemic reforms and interventions have facilitated notable progress on Target 16.3 - promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice to all, but issues of data granularity and consistent application remain.

The major developments are the revision of the criminal laws of colonial era by the adoption of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023. Such reforms put the emphasis not on punitive actions but the delivery of justice, including victim-centred provisions, integration of technology and protection against new crimes (like human trafficking and forced labour) (NITI Aayog, 2025). In addition to these are special judicial systems

among which are more than 600 Fast Track Special Courts where cases of women, children (under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences), and atrocities against marginalized communities are handled expeditiously, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Units as well as the anti-rape units in the police stations.

By offering affordable and quick resolutions to minor cases, the alternative dispute resolution systems, especially the Lok Adalats, have added accessibility in terms of these disputes. Those piloted under programs such as Nari Adalat (combined with Mission Shakti) have been proven effective in the grassroots mediation, resolving women rights cases, and harassment in Gram Panchayats in states such as Assam and Jammu & Kashmir (NITI Aayog, 2025). The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been instrumental in organizing free legal assistance, making services available to the needy groups as well as accessing more than 15 million beneficiaries in recent years via an extensive net of clinics, panel lawyers as well as para-legal volunteers.

Signs of less violence also help paint the picture of development; the purposeful murder rate is a half of the world average, as per National Crime Records Bureau statistics referred to in the VNR (NITI Aayog, 2025). Reporting and rehabilitation has been strengthened by the use of support systems such as the 605 One-Stop Centres, 404 Shakti Sadans (shelters to women and trafficking victims), and 181 Women Helpline (serving over 8.4 million women by early 2025). Apps (e.g., Nirnay or Meri Panchayat) and campaigns (e.g., Prashasan Gaon ki Aur) enhance transparency and participatory justice locally by use of digital tools.

In spite of these efforts, the differences are still observed. There are infrastructure inequalities in rural and remote locations, and awareness and stigma make it difficult to utilize in intersectorally vulnerable populations. The VNR recognizes the implementation differences between states and the necessity of more disaggregated data to monitor access metrics in a



holistic way (NITI Aayog, 2025). In general, SDG 16-related progress in India shows some signs of institutional stability and innovation which establish justice as the foundation of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, but targeted capacity building, investment, and monitoring must continue to reduce the existing gaps by 2030.

Vulnerable Groups and Barriers to Justice

When considering the context of the endeavors by India to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.3, focusing on equal access to justice by all, there are multidimensional barriers that are ingrained and embedded within the system, leading to the perpetuation of exclusion and inequality among vulnerable groups. Scheduled Castes (SCs, or Dalits), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women (especially those of a disadvantaged background), children, people with disabilities, transgender individuals, trafficking victims, elderly citizens, and the economically disadvantaged population in rural or remote locations are the main vulnerable groups in India (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023). These are such overlapping groups that share the intersectional identities and are disadvantaged systemically such that they cannot pursue redress in formal justice systems regardless of the constitutional protections and the statutory protections.

One obstacle is caste based discrimination and impunity, which is overrepresented in SCs and STs. Regardless of such laws as the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, implementation is still weak, which is evidenced by the low conviction rates, delays in registering First Information Reports (FIRs), and ineffective investigations (Prema et al., 2021). As an example, dominant caste groups, police indifference, and even social pressures often result in under-reporting or the need to compromise, thus the perpetration of atrocities, e.g., land encroachments, violence, and manual scavenging, remain unaddressed (Prema et al., 2021). The studies point out to the problem of economic dependency on the upper castes increasing

vulnerability, making the witnesses unfriendly, and creating cycles of injustice (Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sansodhan Sanstha [ASVSS], 2012).

These challenges are further aggravated by gender-based violence and patriarchal institutions particularly among women in SC/ST groups. Women of Dalit caste experience the three-layered discrimination (by caste, gender and class) and are at high risk of sexual violence with little options (Equality Now & Swabhiman Society, 2020). Intersectional discrimination makes their experience invisible in the justice system whereby hegemonic power dynamics allow offenders of dominant groups to go scot-free. These barriers are reluctance of policing to register the case, slow arrest and charge sheet, giving of bail to serious crimes, and stigma in the society that prevents reporting (Equality Now & Swabhiman Society, 2020; ASVSS, 2012). There is also an abysmal rate of conviction, which is usually less than 2% on atrocity cases of SC women, which is because of non-compliance in the procedures and settlements out of court that are forced by community elders (ASVSS, 2012).

Rural and tribal population is further alienated by geographical, economic and infrastructural barriers. As remote locations frequently situated in the forested zone, ST communities face physical inaccessibility to the court, as well as language barriers and insufficient understanding of the law (Krishnan et al., 2014). Indigent litigants are scared by the high cost of litigation, the expenditure of earnings during court appearances, and arbitrary fees, whereas judicial delays (enhanced by vacancies, frequent transfers, and overstretched staff) can prolong a case over several years (Krishnan et al., 2014). Persons with disabilities and transgender individuals face additional stigma, with limited accessible infrastructure or specialized support, while children in exploitation cases often encounter evidentiary hurdles and insensitive proceedings.

These barriers are intersectional and reinforcing: a Dalit woman in a rural area may face caste intimidation, gender stigma, economic deprivation,



and geographical isolation simultaneously, amplifying exclusion (Equality Now & Swabhiman Society, 2020; Prema et al., 2021). Such systemic failures hinder India's progress toward SDG 16.3, as unequal access perpetuates violence, erodes trust in institutions, and undermines the "Leave No One Behind" ethos. Empirical studies underscore that without addressing root causes—through sensitization, robust enforcement, and disaggregated data tracking—equitable justice remains aspirational rather than achievable.

Institutional Mechanisms and Progress

India has formed a strong institutional framework in order to promote SDG Target 16.3, which focuses on free legal assistance, awareness, and alternative dispute resolution to vulnerable populations. Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has given rise to a hierarchal system where National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) heads the rest of the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), and Taluk Legal Services Authorities run across the country. It provides preventive, strategic, and remedial legal services, prioritizing vulnerable groups based on the criteria of the Section 12, such as SCs/STs, women, children, people with disabilities, industrial employees, and those in custody or living below poverty lines (National Legal Services Authority, 2024a). NALSA organizes national policies, schemes, and monitoring and lower authorities carry out grassroots delivery in the form of legal aid clinics, panel lawyers and para-legal volunteers (PLVs). It has seen improvement in increased access: by 2024-2025, an estimated thousands of legal services clinics will be operating in villages, prisons, and community centers, which will be supported by digital providers such as Tele-Law that allows rural beneficiaries to access lawyers via video conferencing (Department of Justice, 2025). Between 2022-2025, NALSA and its deputies helped millions, as over 44 lakh beneficiaries received direct legal assistance during specific intervals, and even more beneficiaries were influenced

by awareness and settlement schemes (Press Information Bureau, 2025a).

Lok Adalats and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Lok Adalats (People Courts) are part of the foundation of affordable justice, and provide free, voluntary and rapid settlements in the absence of any formal processes. Awards are final and unappealable but facilitate backlog in the courts and allow disputants to have more power (National Legal Services Authority, n.d.). They are National Lok Adalats (country wide on certain dates), State Lok Adalats, Permanent Lok Adalats (public utility services a maximum of 1 crore jurisdiction), and daily/regular Lok Adalats.

The improvement has been vast: In the year 2022-23 and 2024-25, more than 23.58 crore cases have been disposed of in different Lok Adalats and businesses have been settled, which are settlements of huge monetary recoveries on litigants, especially in cases of motor accidents, bank recoveries, and matrimonial cases (Press Information Bureau, 2025b). In 2024 alone, millions of pending and pre-litigation cases were settled in National Lok Adalats, and the 4th National Lok Adalat of 2025 alone settled more than 4 crore cases in courts and tribunals (National Legal Services Authority, 2026). E-Lok Adalats and mobile Lok Adalats also increased the accessibility during and after COVID-19, to remote regions and vulnerable litigants who cannot travel.

With settlements made monthly, mediation centers, which are incorporated with courts, supplement Lok Adalats (National Legal Services Authority, 2024b). These mechanisms are in line with SDG 16 because they decongest the courts (less pendency) and offer fair resolutions, particularly the economically disadvantaged groups who do not want to go through lengthy litigation.



Specific Interventions in the High Risk Groups

NALSA has developed special plans dealing with intersectional vulnerabilities, which guarantees personalized legal services:

- Women and Children Nari Adalat Community level mediation and assistance to victims of domestic violence, acid attacks and child marriage through the NALSA (ASHA - Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat) Scheme (National Legal Services Authority, 2025a).
- SCs/STs and Tribal Communities - Schemes such as NALSA (SAMVAD Scheme, 2025) of Adivasi and denotified tribes, aimed at raising awareness and assisting the process of atrocities, land claims, and forest rights (Press Information Bureau, 2025c).
- Persons with Disabilities and Mental Illness The NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, offers psychosocial and guardianship services and institutional services (National Legal Services Authority, 2024c).

Other Groups Schemes to victims of trafficking, drug abuse rehabilitation (DAWN Scheme, 2025), victims of human-wildlife conflict (2025), disaster-affected victims, elderly citizens and unorganized workers (National Legal Services Authority, 2025).

They are facilitated by the presence of helplines (e.g., 112 Emergency Response, 181 Women Helpline), One-Stop Centres, and prison clinics. In emergencies, including natural disasters or the pandemic, NALSA organized fast assistance, including migrants and disadvantaged groups.

Altogether, these mechanisms have shown a big step on the way of Agenda 2030 as millions of people have been empowered every year. Nonetheless, persistent funding, sensitivity training, and digital inclusion are essential to make an even greater change on intersectional vulnerabilities.

Challenges and Gaps Toward 2030

Although there have been laudable institutional improvements and outreach activities, the underlying structural, systemic, and socio-cultural challenges that continue to affect the trend of India achieving full realization of SDG Target 16.3, which is the realization of equal access to justice by all by the year 2030, are limiting the progress. Vulnerable groups are overrepresented in these gaps, leading to the worsening of inequalities and the undermining of the principle of Leave No One Behind, which became the focus of the 2030 Agenda. Although such mechanisms as NALSA and Lok Adalats have increased the service provision, empirical research has shown that major indicators such as judicial efficiency, protection laws enforcement, and inclusive digital penetration have stagnated or even decreased (Tata Trusts et al., 2025; Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023).

One such issue lies in the under-performance of the judicial system due to chronic backlog and pendency that leads to slow delivery of justice and loss of confidence in the judiciary mostly by the marginalized litigants who depend on formal court to assert their rights. By 2024-2025, the pending cases in the Indian courts have hit more than 50 million cases, and pendency has increased almost 20-30 percent since 2020 (The New York Times, 2024; Tata Trusts et al., 2025). The ratio of judges to population is pathetic: it is 15-20 judges per million population, so against the recommendations of the Law Commission, which suggests 50 these figures (Tata Trusts et al., 2025; The Hindu, 2025). Most SC/ST atrocity and gender-based violence cases are processed in lower courts which lack adequate infrastructure, vacancies, and sufficient workforce leading to delays that may take decades and discourages reporting (Krishnan et al., 2014).

Poor enforcement and conviction rates of protective laws further encourages impunity particularly caste and gender based atrocities. In the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the conviction rate is below 30-40 percent in the whole country, and it is even lower in certain states



because of the violation of procedures, intimidation of the witnesses, prejudice of the police and their acquittal (The Hindu, 2025; Drishti IAS, 2025). These caste failures and gender discrimination make Dalit women and tribal communities ineligible to recurring violence, thus lacking redress (Equality Now & Swabhiman Society, 2020). Gender violence cases also show similar trends, with bias in society, evidentiary challenges, and lack of sensitivity in handling them all contributing to high rates of acquittal, which impedes the efforts towards intersectional justice (Center for Law and Policy Research, 2023).

The digital divide is a new but serious barrier to justice delivery with much of the justice delivery moving towards technology based sites such as e-Courts, Tele-Law, and virtual hearings. The rural and remote population, which constitutes a substantial part of the vulnerable population, has limited access to the internet, low education and digital skills, and the lack of infrastructures, making these innovations unattainable (Daksh, n.d.; National Human Rights Commission of India, n.d.). The COVID-19 crisis exerted pressure on this disparity, since the lower-tier courts could not implement a transition to online operations, virtually shutting out indigent litigants who did not have a smartphone or an internet connection (Chauhan, 2023). Unless deliberate measures are taken to close this gap like offline options and community digital centers, there is a risk that the technology will only expand the disparities in justice but not reduce them (Shodhai, 2025).

Further gaps consist of implementation, state-level disparities, lack of disaggregated data to track SDG 16 indicators (especially the intersectional vulnerabilities), and the lack of sensitivity training among the actors of justice (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, n.d.). Lack of funding constrains the expansion of legal aid programmes and stigma and lack of awareness keeps the demand levels down among the LGBT+ people, individuals with disabilities and tribal groups. Globally, SDG 16 is a threat of being left behind, and violence reduction and

access to justice have not improved, this tendency is also reflected in the Indian issues even though the country scores high in the SDG (UNDP, 2023).

These inter-relational loopholes are a risk to the realisation of equal justice by 2030, as they continue to create cycles of exclusion and hinder overall sustainable development. To deal with them, it is necessary to instigate rapid reforms of judicial capacity, enforcement, comprehensive digital policies and strong data technology so that no risk group is discriminated.

Recommendations

India needs a multi-dimensional, evidence-based approach to facilitate the development of the country towards SDG Target 16.3 and equitable access to justice by vulnerable populations by 2030. These proposals are based on the gaps identified such as judicial delays, enforcement weaknesses, digital divides, and intersectional discrimination, and relies on the current institutional strengths such as NALSA, Lok Adalats, and localized efforts.

1. Increase Judicial capacity and infrastructure: Overcoming pendency by vigorous recruiting of new judges to attain the recommended 50 judges per million population with priority given to courts of lower courts dealing with atrocities and gender cases. Expend on court infrastructures, such as gender sensitive (different washrooms, creches) and easy access architectures by the disabled. Extend Fast Track Special Courts and rural access through evening/mobile courts as have been successful in other states.
2. Enhance Enforcement and Sensitivity Training: Require frequent, intersectional sensitivity training to police and prosecutors and judges about caste and gender and disability and transgender issues and include modules used in other successful programs such as Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, n.d.). Make the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act compliant with strict adherence with time based investigations



and independent monitoring units. Create witness protection programs that are specific to the vulnerable populations in order to fight intimidation and enhance conviction rates.

3. Bridge the Digital Divide to Include Technology: In addition to increasing the e-Courts, Tele-Law and virtual Lok Adalats, focus on offline options and community digital centres (e.g. Common Service Centres) in rural/tribal localities. Conduct intensive digital literacy efforts with women, with SC/ST communities, and with persons with disabilities and such efforts must be multilingual and accessible (i.e. screen-reader friendly). Law-assist AI tools ought to be trialled with countermeasures against bias.
4. Encourage Localization and Community-based Mechanisms: Further localize SDGs through the empowerment of Gram Panchayats and tribal councils through PESA, with justice facilitating functions, and Nari Adalat and para-legal volunteers to provide early intervention functions. Create community monitoring committees of vulnerable group representatives to monitor the delivery of legal aid and refer to the gaps to increase accountability and confidence.
5. Enhance Data Systems and Allocation of Funds: Build disaggregated, intersectional data systems to SDG 16 indicators, tracking metrics of access by caste, gender, disability and geography. It should also raise budgetary allocations to legal aid (less than 0.1 percent of the justice sector expenditure today) and victim compensation plans, and should create incentives to be used by performance based on states that produce inclusive performance.
6. Build Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Work with civil society, academia and international organizations on innovative pilots, including community paralegal networks based on effective models in other countries.

Adaptive policy-making should be informed by regular impact assessment of NALSA schemes. Implementation of these recommendations demands sustained political will, inter-ministerial coordination, and civil society engagement to transform access to justice from aspirational to tangible for India's most marginalized.

Conclusion

India's journey toward SDG 16 exemplifies a committed yet uneven pursuit of equitable justice amid profound socio-economic diversity. Institutional mechanisms—NALSA's expansive legal aid network, Lok Adalats' efficient dispute resolution, and targeted schemes for women, SC/STs, and other vulnerable groups—have empowered millions, contributing to improved national SDG scores and reduced violence indicators. These efforts align with constitutional mandates and the 2030 Agenda's inclusive ethos, demonstrating innovation through digital tools and grassroots mediation. However, persistent barriers—judicial pendency, enforcement lapses, digital exclusion, and intersectional discrimination—reveal that progress remains fragile for those at the margins, such as Dalit women, tribal communities, and persons with disabilities. Without addressing these systemic gaps, the vision of justice for all risks remaining elusive, perpetuating cycles of impunity and inequality that undermine broader sustainable development.

Achieving Agenda 2030 requires transformative action: prioritizing vulnerable voices, bridging divides, and fostering accountable institutions. With concerted reforms, India can model how a diverse democracy translates global commitments into localized empowerment, ensuring no one is left behind in the quest for a just and inclusive society by 2030 and beyond.

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