

## Economy

jeffrey sach's releases report of un's Millennium project

### India to miss development goals on four counts

Our Economy Bureau

**New Delhi, Feb 2** India is likely to miss the millennium development goals (MDGs) at least on four counts, says a recent report released by the Millennium Project director Jeffrey D Sachs on Wednesday.

The report 'Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals' says that India is off-track as far as four MDG parameters are concerned. These include reducing number of undernourished people, lowering rates pertaining to under-five mortality, infant mortality and maternal mortality and access to sanitation facilities in urban areas.

On the positive side, India is on-track as far as other targets are concerned. These pertain to reducing population below poverty line, ratio of girls to boys in primary education, percentage of population with substantial access to an improved water source in rural and urban areas. As far as literacy rate is concerned, India is likely to achieve the target though report made no remarks in absence of requisite data.

India is expected to achieve the MDGs, set up by the United Nations, by 2015. The MDGs are the world's targets for dramatically reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by 2015 — income poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter — while promoting gender equality, education, health, and environmental sustainability.

The MDG based poverty reduction strategies, the report said, should anchor the scaling up of public investments, capacity building, domestic resource mobilisation, and official development assistance. The report adds that these strategies should focus on a range of different sectors, such as rural and urban development, health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, water and sanitation, and science and technology and innovation.

According to the UN Millennium Project analysis conducted in partnership with IIM-Ahmedabad, the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, where bulk of poor live, would need average per capita investment of \$115, \$110 and \$113, respectively, during 2005 and 2015.

The report further said the developing country governments should craft and implement MDG-based poverty reduction strategies in transparent and inclusive processes, working closely with civil society organisations, the domestic private sector and international partners.

International donors, the report added, should identify at least a dozen MDG 'fast track' countries for a rapid scale-up of official development assistance in 2005, recognising that many countries are already in a position for a massive scale-up on the basis of their good governance and absorptive capacity. The UN millennium project analysis also shows that India will 'graduate' from the need for official development assistance well before 2015, given high levels of economic growth.

The high-income countries, according to the report, should increase ODA to 0.44% of GNP in 2006, and 0.54% of GNP by 2015 to support the MDGs, especially in low-income countries. It added that international donors should mobilise support for global scientific research and development to address the special needs of the poor in areas of health, agriculture, natural resource and environmental management, energy and climate, estimated to cost \$7 billion a year by 2015.

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