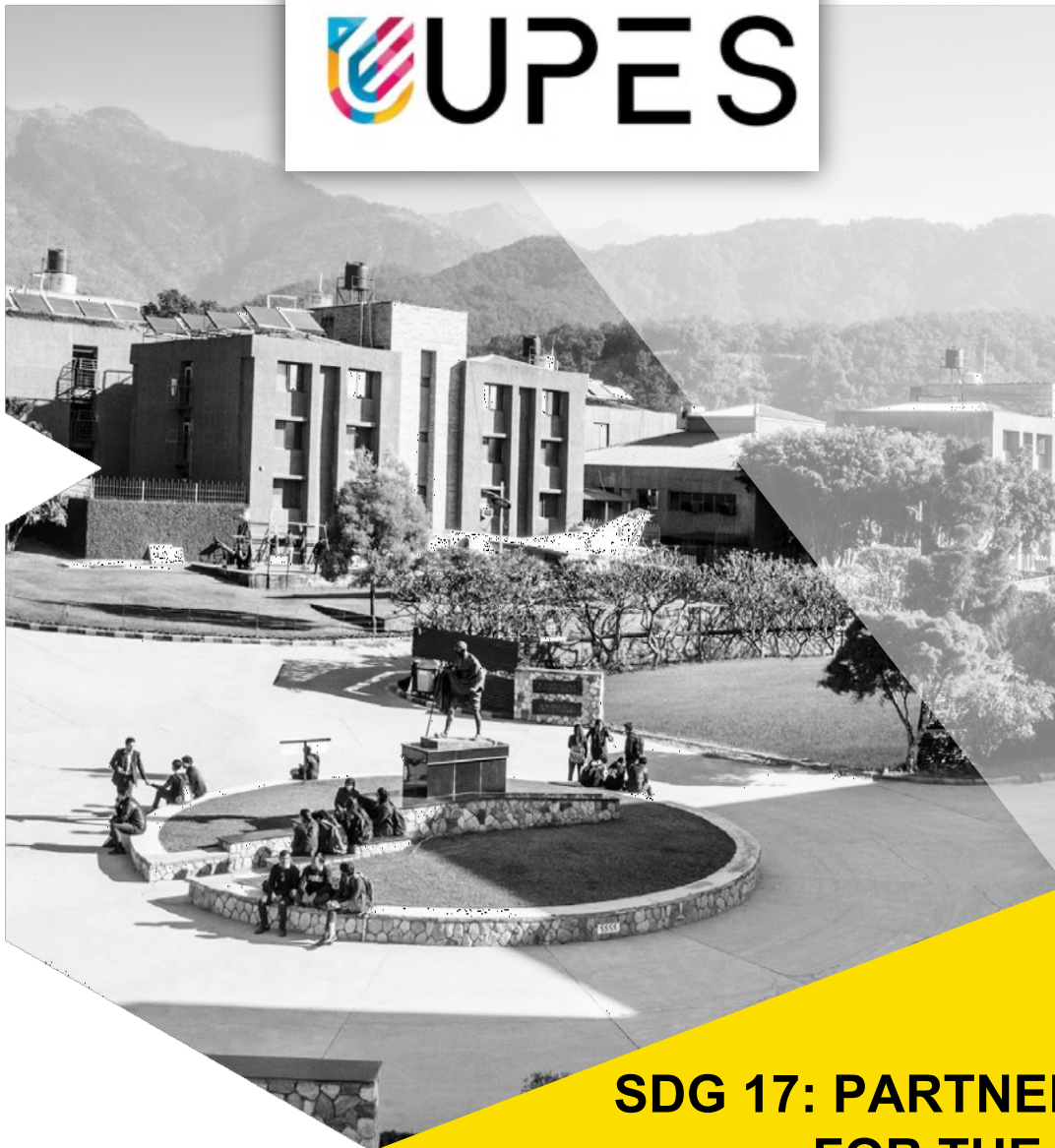




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS**

2025

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17.2.1 Does your university as a body have direct involvement in, or input into, national government SDG policy development - including identifying problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures with and without interventions, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management?

UPES—Direct involvement in India’s national SDG policy development

UPES has had **direct, formal involvement** in national-level SDG policy development and regulatory design—most notably through a **Government of India (NITI Aayog)–UPES Memorandum of Understanding** for energy policy work—and has provided **written inputs to a national regulator (PNGRB)** on gas-market reforms.

Through its **MoU with NITI Aayog** (policy design, state capacity-building, scenario analysis, and reporting), **formal submissions to PNGRB** (regulatory policy), **national-level programme roles with DST–UNDP** (knowledge partner & implementer), and **NITI-aegis policy workshops**, UPES provides **direct inputs** across the full policy cycle—**identifying challenges, developing policies/strategies, modelling futures, monitoring/reporting, and enabling adaptive management** [1] [2] [3] [4].

That work spans

- i. Problem identification,
- ii. Policy and strategy development,
- iii. Scenario and systems modelling,
- iv. Monitoring and reporting frameworks, and
- v. Adaptive management through capacity building and pilots.

In the last 3–4 years, UPES has also worked with DST–UNDP India as a knowledge partner and program implementer on SDG-linked community resilience, reflecting continuing national engagement [1] [5] [2] [3].

Institutional positioning & governance for policy engagement

- **Mandate & capability.** As an energy- and sustainability-focused university, UPES operates dedicated research and policy platforms (e.g., the **RISE—Research on Impact, Sustainability**

& ESG—Centre) to support SDG-aligned policy analysis, executive education and advisory projects [6].

- **Public SDG commitment.** UPES maintains a public SDG microsite and SDG-17 evidence pages that document policy-facing partnerships and government-aegis events [7].

Evidence of direct involvement/input into national SDG policy

National policy collaboration with NITI Aayog (Government of India)

A formal **MoU between NITI Aayog and UPES** established a framework to co-develop policy for India's energy transition. The MoU's agreed activities included:

- **Developing and implementing** a broad national **framework for energy efficiency** to improve India's energy intensity, and **appraising States** to devise implementation strategies;
- Analysing **market mechanisms** for residential energy efficiency;
- Providing **policy inputs** on **high renewable penetration** and **clean coal technologies** for India's energy scenarios;
- **Capacity-building of States** with an **objective evaluation framework** to **monitor** energy-efficiency policy and **scale up** implementation;
- **Outreach and reporting:** joint **policy briefs/newsletters** showcasing Government progress in energy [1].

UPES and NITI Aayog also undertook **joint analytical studies** on **renewable penetration and grid integration** (India–Japan comparison) and **clean-coal technology scenarios**, evidencing **scenario/modelling** inputs to national energy planning discussions [1].

Written policy input to national regulator (PNGRB)

UPES submitted a **formal response** to the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** on its **Concept Paper on unbundling** of natural-gas transportation and marketing—covering legal, structural and sequencing options; regulatory certainty; capacity trading; and indicators for when and how to unbundle. This is **direct expert input** into a central regulatory policy process [2].

National SDG programme roles with DST–UNDP India

In 2023, UPES served as knowledge partner at the UN STI Forum side-event organised by India's Department of Science & Technology (DST) with UNDP India, and is cited as an implementer of the DST–UNDP "Community Resilience Resource Centres (CRRC)" programme—a national SDG initiative focused on post-COVID socio-economic recovery via science and technology. UPES' PI presented how CRRCs enable community-level SDG outcomes and resilience. This reflects programme design/monitoring inputs in a national SDG framework [3].

National policy dialogue hosted under the aegis of NITI Aayog

UPES hosted the 2nd International Conference-Workshop on “Energy Innovation Initiatives for Attaining SDGs” (2019) under the aegis of NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Arizona State University and IPE Global (supported by Cairn). Sessions convened policy makers, regulators and experts to identify barriers, governance models, financing and ownership models for SDG-enabling energy interventions. A NITI Aayog Member delivered the keynote, underscoring the direct policy interface [4] [8].

Outputs included framing energy-innovation challenges and opportunities for the 2030 Agenda, thereby strengthening the national policy discourse around SDG-7 and cross-cutting targets [8].

How UPES’ work maps to THE’s required elements

THE criterion	UPES activities (with national link)	Evidence
Identifying problems & challenges	NITI-aegis conference workshop diagnosing barriers in energy innovation; UPES’ PNGRB submission detailing structural issues in gas-market reform.	[8] [2]
Developing policies & strategies	NITI Aayog–UPES MoU to develop a national energy-efficiency framework, policy options for residential EE, and coal/renewable strategy inputs.	[1]
Modelling likely futures (with/without interventions)	Joint studies with NITI on renewables-grid integration and clean-coal scenarios; analysis informing policy trade-offs.	[1]
Monitoring & reporting on interventions	MoU mandates an objective evaluation framework for States to track EE policy implementation; co-produced policy briefs/newsletters showcasing Government progress.	[1]
Enabling adaptive management	State capacity-building under MoU; DST–UNDP CRRC programme implementation/knowledge partnership translating evidence into iterative programme improvements.	[1] [3]

Highlights from the last 3–4 years

1. 2023 (DST–UNDP India)

UPES acts as **knowledge partner and implementer** for the **CRRC** programme presented at the **UN STI Forum** side-event convened by DST & UNDP India—demonstrating continuing national-level SDG engagement in programme design and learning [3].

2. 2024 (UPES RISE Centre)

Launch of a dedicated **impact, sustainability & ESG** hub to deepen evidence, executive education and advisory that underpin policy and corporate implementation aligned to SDGs [8] [6].

3. 2025 (Sustainability Fair 3.0 / HSFEA-2025; Energy Summit 2025)

Ongoing convenings that bring **policymakers and regulators** together with industry and academia to surface implementation lessons for **adaptive management** of SDG-linked energy and environmental interventions [9].

Depth of policy contribution—illustrative deliverables

1. NITI Aayog–UPES MoU deliverables (framework level)

National EE framework & state appraisal methods; market mechanisms for residential EE; grid-renewables and clean-coal policy inputs; state capacity-building with objective evaluation frameworks; joint policy briefs. These are explicitly enumerated MoU activities that enable policy design, evidence generation and feedback loops [1].

2. Regulatory design input: PNGRB

Written response proposing sequenced unbundling (accounting/legal/ownership), regulatory certainty, and capacity-trading mechanisms—concrete options for gas-market governance reforms aligned with SDG-7 (efficient, affordable energy) [2].

3. Policy dialogue & consensus-building under NITI aegis

Multi-stakeholder conference-workshop (UPES, 2019) with participation from NITI Aayog, UN agencies and national technical leaders to scrutinise SDG-energy trade-offs, finance and governance—strengthening problem identification and strategy formation [4] [8].

4. National SDG programme implementation (DST–UNDP India)

CRRC programme presentation and implementation inputs (community-resilience for SDGs) showcase **monitor–learn–adapt** cycles at national scale [3].

Evidence list (auditable sources on UPES/government/press domains)

1. NITI Aayog–UPES MoU (policy framework & activities) — press coverage detailing the scope, deliverables and joint studies [1].
2. PNGRB concept paper—UPES written response (regulatory design input on unbundling) [2].
3. DST–UNDP India STI Forum side-event (2023) — UPES as knowledge partner and CRRC programme implementer, presented alongside DST leadership and UNDP [3].
4. NITI-aegis policy workshop on SDGs (2019) — brochure (Govt. of India mission post) and event reportage (participation by NITI Aayog Member; policy-challenge focus) [4] [8].
5. UPES SDG-17 pages confirming NITI-aegis hosting/partnership positioning [10].

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