

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2024

➤ The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has created the **SDG-NIF** in collaboration with various ministries, UN agencies, and other stakeholders. This annual report helps track the progress of the SDGs at the national level.

- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** focuses on **17 SDGs** and **169 related targets**.

➤ Key Highlights of the SDG-NIF

SDG Goals	National Indicator	2015-16	2023-24
No Poverty	Proportion of individuals (men, women, and children) living in poverty	24.85%	14.96%
	Number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with bank credit linkages (in Lakhs)	18.32	14.96
Zero Hunger	Gross Value Added in agriculture per worker (in ₹)	₹61,427	₹87,609
Gender Equality	Percentage of exclusive women SHGs among bank-linked SHGs	88.92%	97.53%
Clean Water and Sanitation	Percentage of rural population using improved drinking water sources	94.57%	99.29%
Reduced Inequalities	Percentage of budget allocated for welfare programs for SCs and STs	2.86%	6.19%
Sustainable Cities and Communities	Percentage of wards with comprehensive door-to-door waste collection	43%	97%

➤ Progress in Other Goals

- **Goal 3: Health and Well-being:**
 - **Maternal Mortality Ratio:** Decreased from 130 per 100,000 live births (2014-16) to 97 per 100,000 live births (2018-20)
 - **Under-five Mortality Rate:** Dropped from 43 per 1,000 live births (2015) to 32 per 1,000 live births (2020)
- **Goal 4: Quality Education:**
 - **Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Secondary Education:** Increased from 48.32 (2015-16) to 57.60 (2021-22)

Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)

➤ The **EPS scheme** has been updated to allow proportionate withdrawal benefits for members with less than six months of contributory service. Previously, completing six months of contributory service was required to receive such benefits.

➤ About EPS 1995

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment
- **Pension Scheme:** EPS is a "Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit" scheme.
 - **Contributions to the Employees' Pension Fund:**
 - Employer: 8.33% of wages
 - Central government: 1.16% of wages, up to Rs. 15,000 per month
 - **Withdrawal Benefit:** Available to EPS members who exit the scheme before completing 10 years of contributory service
 - **Minimum Superannuation Pension:** Rs. 1,000 per month

Anti-Dumping Duty

➤ India has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into the import of glass fibre from **China, Thailand, and Bahrain**.

➤ **About Anti-Dumping Duty:** Occurs when a country exports goods at prices lower than their normal value, considered an unfair trade practice.

➤ **Purpose:** To protect domestic industries from the impact of cheap imports.

➤ The use of anti-dumping measures is allowed under the **WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement** to ensure fair competition.

Smart City Mission

- The central government has extended the timeline for the Smart City Mission to March 2025.
- **About Smart City Mission**
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
 - **Launch Year:** 2015
 - **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
 - **Objective:** To develop cities with core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a high quality of life through the use of smart solutions.

Liberalised Remittances Scheme (LRS)

- Indians spent **\$17 billion** on overseas travel in **2023-24** through the **RBI's LRS**.
- **About Liberalised Remittances Scheme**
 - **Introduction:** 2004
 - **Benefits:**
 - All resident individuals, including minors, can freely remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
 - There are no limits on how often remittances can be made under the scheme.
 - The scheme is not available to corporates, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, etc.

RBI, ASEAN To Create Platform For Instant Retail Payments

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and ASEAN** countries are creating a platform for instant cross-border retail payments.
 - **Launch Date:** The platform is expected to go live by **2026**.
 - **Initiative:** RBI has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative for instant cross-border retail payments by linking domestic **fast payment systems (FPSs)**.
 - **Conceptualization:** Project Nexus is conceptualized by the **Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**.
 - **Founding Members:** The founding members and first movers of this platform include four **ASEAN countries (Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) and India**.
 - **Agreement:** An agreement was signed by BIS and the central banks of the founding countries — Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and RBI — in Basel, Switzerland.

Goods And Services Tax (GST) Completes 7 Year With Rs 1.74 Lakh Crore Monthly Collection

- The **101st Constitutional Amendment Act** introduced the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017**.
 - GST is a comprehensive indirect tax on the supply of goods and services and operates as a **value-added tax (VAT)**.
- **Key Features Of GST**
 - **One Nation, One Tax:** GST replaced multiple indirect taxes previously levied by the Central and State Governments, such as excise duty and service tax.
 - **Dual Structure:** GST has a dual structure comprising Central GST (CGST) and State GST (SGST). For inter-state transactions, Integrated GST (IGST) is applicable, collected by the Central Government and distributed to the respective states.
 - **Destination-based Tax:** GST is levied at each stage of the supply chain and is based on the destination of the goods or services.
 - **Tax Slabs:** The GST rates are categorized into five slabs: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
 - **Governance:** The GST Council is the key decision-making body for GST.
 - **Technology:** The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) provides the IT system for the GST portal.
- **Key Achievements of GST**
 - The number of GST taxpayers increased from 1.05 crore in April 2018 to 1.46 crore in April 2024.
 - GST has removed the cascading effect of taxes, where a tax is levied on top of another tax.
 - Small taxpayers benefit from reduced compliance requirements, such as through the composition scheme.
 - GST has facilitated an increase in both intrastate and interstate transactions.