

NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK PROGRESS REPORT 2025 - ECONOMY

NEWS: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the following publications on **Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025**, along with another two reports.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

About the SDGs National Indicator Framework (NIF)

- **Purpose and Role:**
The **SDG NIF** acts as India's official monitoring tool for tracking progress on the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** at the national level. It offers strategic guidance to both **policymakers and implementing agencies** of central and state government schemes.
- **NIF 2025 Coverage:**
The 2025 version of the NIF tracks **284 indicators**, slightly fewer than the **290 indicators** tracked in the previous year.
- **Data Sources:**
Major data inputs are derived from **administrative records, national surveys, and census operations**, ensuring comprehensive and evidence-based monitoring.

II. Key Achievements across Selected SDGs

SDG 1 – No Poverty

- The **multi-dimensional poverty rate** (based on national definitions) fell significantly from **24.85% in 2015–16** to **14.96% in 2019–21**.
- **Social protection coverage** expanded substantially, from **22% of the population in 2016** to **64.3% in 2025**, reflecting broader access to welfare schemes and safety nets.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

- **Agricultural productivity** improved, with the **Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker** rising from **₹61,247 in 2015–16** to **₹94,110 in 2024–25**, indicating rising incomes for farm workers.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being

- The **neonatal mortality rate** dropped from **21 per 1,000 live births in 2015** to **19 per 1,000 in 2021**, showing progress in maternal and child healthcare.

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

- Access to **improved drinking water sources in rural areas** increased from **94.57% in 2015–16** to **99.62% in 2024–25**, indicating near-universal access to safe drinking water.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

- The **renewable energy share** in the total installed electricity generation rose from **16.02% in 2015–16** to **22.13% in 2024–25**, marking a shift toward cleaner energy.
- The **per capita renewable energy capacity** increased from **64.04 watts in 2014–15** to **156.31 watts in 2024–25**, reflecting significant investment in sustainable energy infrastructure.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- **Waste recycling infrastructure** improved, with the number of **recycling plants rising from 829 (2019–20) to 3,036 (2024–25)**.
- The number of **startups recognized under Start-up India** rose sharply from **453 in 2016** to **34,293 in 2024**, indicating a robust startup ecosystem and innovation climate.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality

- **Gini coefficient (a measure of inequality)** declined:
 - In **rural areas**, it dropped from **0.283 (2011–12)** to **0.237 (2023–24)**.
 - In **urban areas**, it decreased from **0.363 to 0.284** over the same period, reflecting reduced income inequality across both regions.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

- The **percentage of waste processed** rose significantly from **17.97% in 2015–16** to **80.7% in 2024–25**, indicating improved urban waste management.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

- The **emissions intensity of GDP** (greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP) declined by **36% in 2020** compared to 2005 levels, demonstrating India's shift toward a low-carbon economy.
- **Internet penetration** surged, with subscriptions rising from **302.36 million (2015)** to **954.4 million (2024)**, indicating massive progress in digital inclusion.

SDG 15 – Life on Land

- **Forest cover** as a share of total geographical area increased from **21.34% in 2015** to **21.76% in 2023**, showing steady gains in forest conservation.

III. Concerns and Challenges Highlighted in the Report

1. Fiscal Policy Constraints

- Government **expenditure on key sectors** — such as **education, health, and social protection** — saw a slight decline between **FY16 and FY24**, potentially impacting SDG progress.

2. Economic Growth Shortfall

- India's **GDP growth for FY25** is projected at **6.5%**, which is below the **7% annual target** set under **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**.

3. Agricultural Setbacks

- **Soil health card coverage** for farmers, which was once near-universal (2015–2017), dropped to **87.25% by FY25**, indicating gaps in agricultural extension services.
- The **net sown area** as a percentage of cultivable land has declined, pointing to issues in land use and agricultural viability.

4. Gender Inequality

- The **adolescent birth rate** for girls aged 15–19 slightly **increased from 11.1 per 1,000 (2015) to 11.3 (2021)**, raising concerns about early pregnancies.
- **Crimes against women**, including **dowry-related offences**, showed an upward trend between **2015 and 2022**, posing setbacks for gender equity goals under **SDG 5**.

5. Road Safety Worsening

- **Road accident fatalities** per 100,000 population increased from **11.81 (2015) to 12.4 (2022)**, highlighting persistent challenges under **SDG 3 (Health)** and **SDG 11 (Urban safety and mobility)**.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-sdg-report-2025-shows-progress-in-health-education-inequality-125062900567_1.html