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13 July 2024

National and International News

**SDG India Index
2023-24**

Why in the news?

- **SDG India Index 2023-24**, the **fourth edition** was released by **NITI Aayog**.

About SDG India Index 2023-24:

- **Release and Launch:** Released by **NITI Aayog**.
- **Purpose:** Measures and tracks national progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all States and UTs.
- **Indicators:** 113 indicators aligned with **MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF)**.
- **Scoring and Progress:**
 - **Scoring:**
 - Composite scores for States and UTs **range between 0-100**.
 - **Higher scores indicate greater progress.**
 - **National Progress:** India's composite score improved from **57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21, and 71 in 2023-24**.
 - **Significant Goals:** Notable advancements in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action) which are in the 'Front Runner' category (score 65-99).
- **Government Interventions:**
 - **Housing:** Over 4 crore houses under **PM Awas Yojana (PMAY)**.
 - **Sanitation:** 11 crore toilets and 2.23 lakh **Community Sanitary Complexes in rural areas**.
 - **Cooking Fuel:** 10 crore LPG connections under **PM Ujjwala Yojana**.
 - **Water:** Tap water connections in over 14.9 crore households under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
 - **Healthcare:** Over 30 crore beneficiaries under **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
 - **Food Security:** Coverage of over 80 crore people under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.



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ADDAPEDIA

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medical Access: 150,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandir for primary medical care and affordable generic medicines.○ Financial Inclusion: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of ₹34 lakh crore through PM-Jan Dhan accounts.○ Skill Development: Skill India Mission trained and upskilled over 1.4 crore youth and reskilled 54 lakh youth.○ Entrepreneurship: PM Mudra Yojana sanctioned 43 crore loans totaling ₹22.5 lakh crore.○ Renewable Energy: Increase in solar power capacity from 2.82 GW to 73.32 GW in the past decade.○ Electric Capacity: Added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity between 2017 and 2023, 80% from non-fossil fuels.○ Digital Infrastructure: Reduced internet data costs by 97%, fostering financial inclusion.
<p>Eklavya Residential Schools (EMRS)</p>	<p>Model Schools</p> <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Centralised hiring leads to language, cultural barriers in Eklavya schools. <p>About EMRS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction: EMRS are aimed at providing quality education to tribal students in remote areas.● Objective: To bridge the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal populations, providing equal opportunities for higher education and career advancement.● Establishment: Initiated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in 1997-98.● Purpose: To provide holistic education to Scheduled Tribe students from Class VI to XII, enabling their overall development.● Curriculum: Follows the CBSE curriculum with emphasis on both academics and extracurricular activities.● Facilities: Includes well-equipped classrooms, laboratories, libraries, hostels, sports facilities, and residential quarters for staff.● Funding: Fully funded by the Central Government under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.● Infrastructure: Built to accommodate at least 480 students, with provisions for boys and girls hostels.● Teachers and Staff: Recruitment is centralized, and teachers are often from different states, leading to cultural and language adaptation challenges.● Locations: Spread across various states in India, especially in areas with a significant tribal population.



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Public Distribution System (PDS)

Why in the news?

- The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** impact on household expenditure.

About PDS:

- PDS is a **government-sponsored chain of shops** responsible for **distributing basic food and non-food commodities** to the **needy at subsidized prices**.
- **Purpose:** To **provide essential items like rice, wheat, sugar, and kerosene to the poor at affordable prices** and to **ensure food security in the country**.
- **Implementation:**
 - Operated through a network of **Fair Price Shops (FPS)** across the country.
 - Managed by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- **Components:**
 - **Central Pool:** Food grains procured by the government and stored for distribution.
 - **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** Categorizes households into **Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)**.
- **Legislation:**
 - **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Legal entitlement to subsidized food grains for approximately two-thirds of India's population.
 - **Coverage:** Ensures food grains at subsidized rates to up to **75% of the rural population** and **50% of the urban population**.



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<p>Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a notification allowing resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). <p>About LRS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a foreign exchange policy initiative introduced by the RBI in 2004.• It is intended to simplify and streamline the process of remitting funds outside India.• This scheme helped Indians overcome international fund transfer restrictions as set by the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999.• Under LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year (April–March).• Only individual Indian residents are permitted to remit funds under LRS. Corporates, partnership firms, HUFs, trusts, etc. are excluded from its ambit.• The remittances can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency.
<p>Technology Development Fund scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has approved seven new projects for the private sector under the Technology Development Fund scheme. <p>About Technology Development Fund scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiative: Part of the 'Make in India' initiative to promote self-reliance in defence technology.• Ministry: Ministry of Defence.• Execution: Managed by DRDO to meet the needs of Tri-Services, Defence Production, and DRDO.• Encouragement:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Encourages participation from public/private industries, especially MSMEs and startups.○ Aims to create an ecosystem for enhancing cutting-edge technology capability in the defence sector.



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- **Benefits:** Provides **grants-in-aid for indigenous technology development** and other benefits to the industry.
- **Funding Support:**
 - **Project Cost:** Up to INR 50 crore.
 - **Funding Amount:** Up to 90% of the total project cost.
 - **Collaboration:** Industry may collaborate with academia or research institutions (academia's involvement should not exceed 40% of the total project cost).
- **Project Duration:** Maximum development period of four years.
- **Ownership:**
 - Must be **owned and controlled by a resident Indian citizen**.
 - Entities with more than **49% foreign investment are ineligible**.
- **Startups:**
 - Must be recognized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
 - **Nascent startups** (incorporated less than three years from the application date) must be incubated at government-assisted incubators.
 - **Should not have received any similar government grants**.
 - Must be **owned and controlled by a Resident Indian citizen with at least 51% shareholding**.

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