

India likely to hit SDG 1.2 target before the schedule

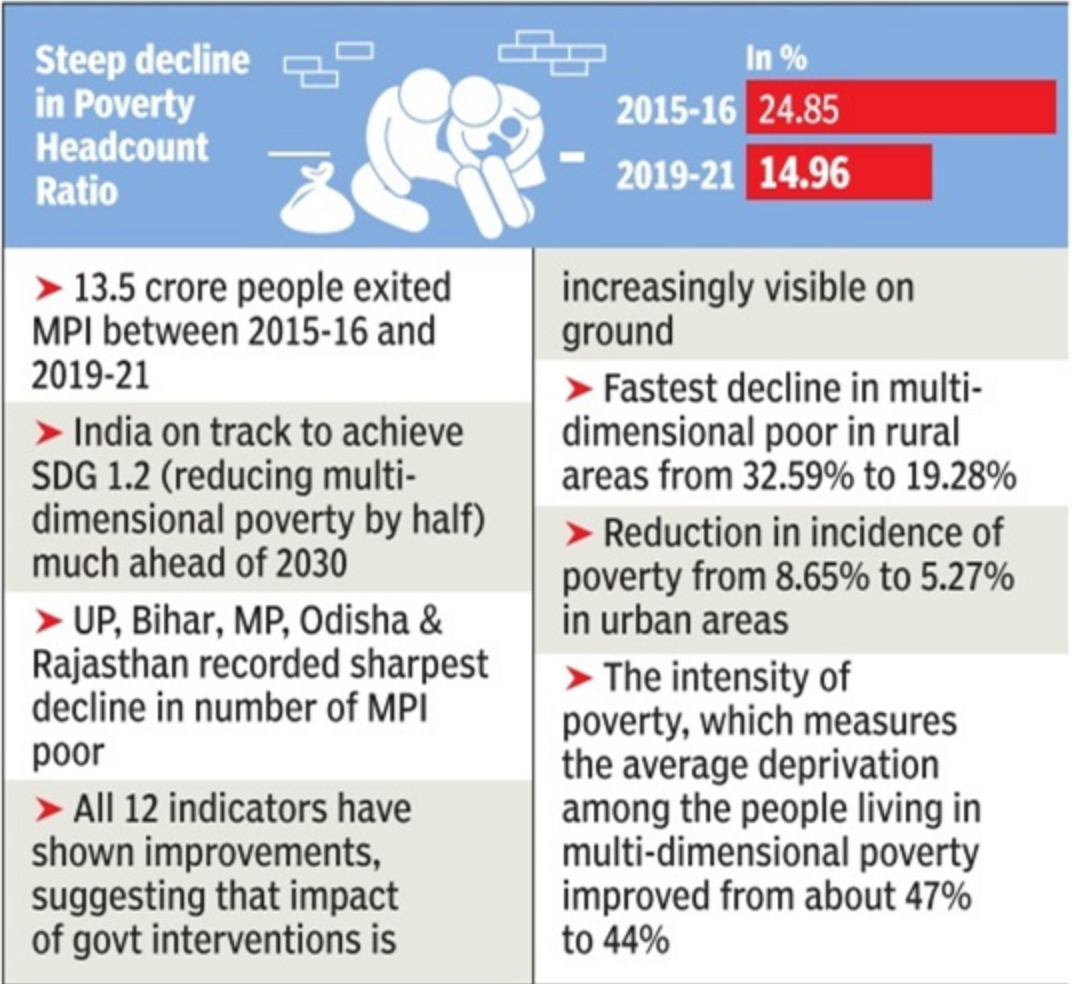
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Niti Aayog report released on Monday provides multi-dimensional poverty estimates for India's 36 states and Union territories and 707 districts. The broad methodology followed is in consonance with the global practices. Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty has reduced from 47% to 44%, thereby setting India on the path of achieving the SDG target 1.2 (of reducing multi-dimensional poverty by at least half) much ahead of the stipulated deadline of 2030.

"It demonstrates the government's strategic focus on ensuring sustainable and equitable development and eradicating poverty by 2030, thereby adhering to its commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," according to an official statement.

The national MPI measures deprivations across health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators. These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health,

NATIONAL MPI 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts. Marked improvement is witnessed across all the 12 indicators, according to the report.

"I am happy to note that between NFHS (National Family Health Survey)-4 and NFHS-5, all states and UTs have made commendable progress. India's multi-sectoral approach in addressing pov-

erty has been evident in the reduction of multi-dimensionally poor people to nearly half, accounting for 14.96%, and the improved MPI score highlighted in this edition," said Niti Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery.

The Centre's focus on improving access to sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, drinking water and electricity has led to significant advancements in these areas.