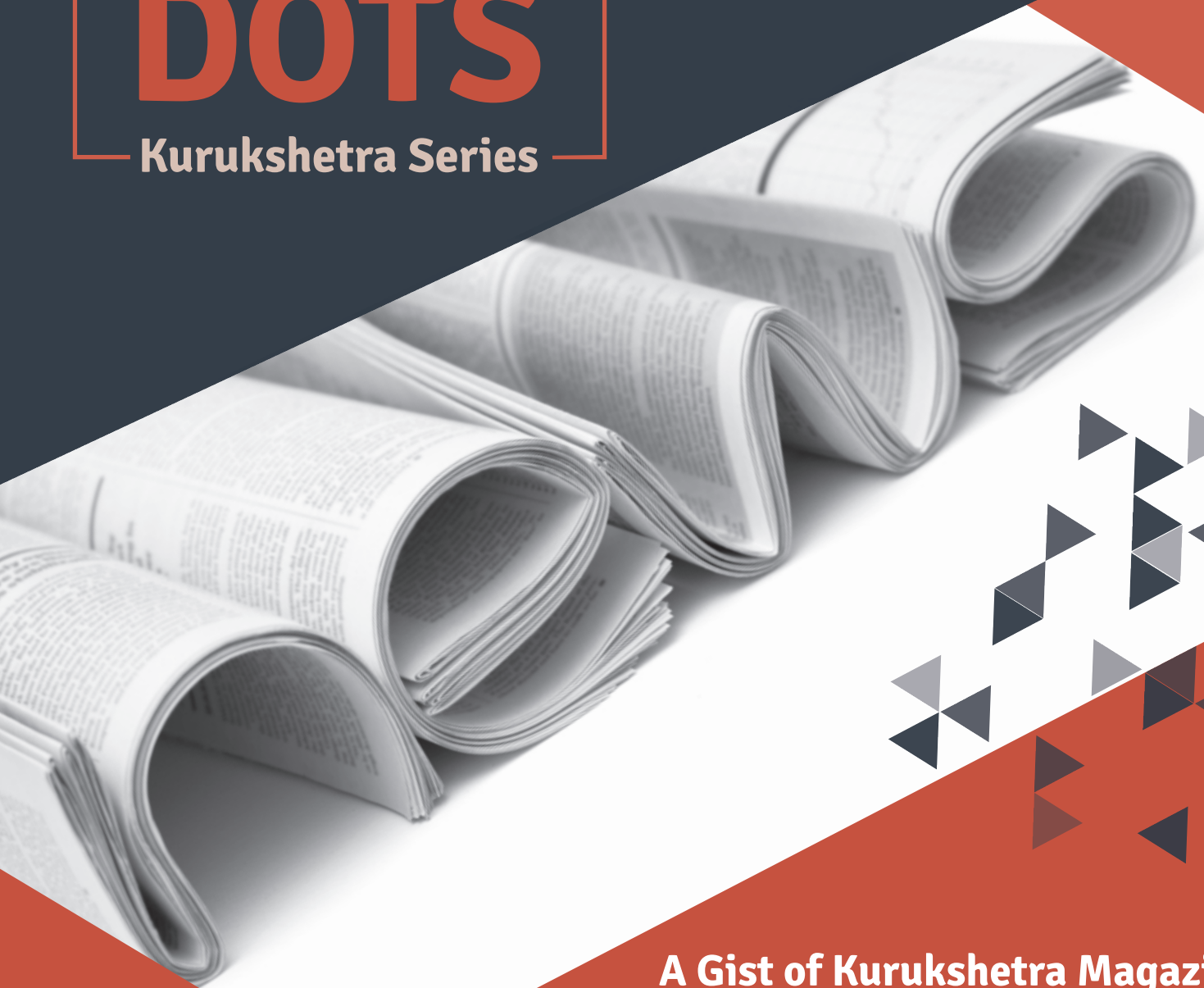


JOIN THE DOTS

Kurukshetra Series



A Gist of Kurukshetra Magazine (January 2021 Issue)

- Swachh Bharat Mission Phase - II
- Education in Rural India
- Panchayati Raj System
- Livestock: Key for Doubling Farmers' Income
- Rural Healthcare in India



FREE



LIVE Courses

— Available Courses —

UPSC Current Affairs Program

Newspapers, PIB, PRS, etc.

UPSC Editorials Program

Editorials of The Hindu & The Indian Express

Contents

1.	Adopting a Holistic Approach towards Rural Development.....	1
2.	Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-II Aims for Sampurna Swachhata.....	2
3.	Education in Rural India: Schemes for Women and Youth	4
4.	Recent Farm Bills and Benefits to Farmers	7
5.	Panchayati Raj System towards Changing Rural India.....	9
6.	Livestock: Key For Doubling Farmers' Income	11
7.	Rural Healthcare in India	13
8.	Importance of Infrastructure in Rural Development.....	14

Meet the Mentors

Trusted by 10,000+ Students for their UPSC CSE Preparation!



Ignacious Loyola Sir

Polity, International Relations
& Internal Security
Uses Alternative Method for Teaching



Anant Tripathi Sir

History, Art & Culture
Teaches History in a
Story-Like Format



Pravin Choubey Sir

Geography, Current Affairs, Environment
Connects Geography &
Environment with Current Affairs



Rajeev Ranjan Sir

Economy
Uses his Work Exp. to Make the
Subject Easy to Understand



M Siva Sakri Ma'am

Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude
(GS Paper – 4)
Has Accurately Predicted
Previous Main Questions



Ambuj Gautam Sir

Disaster Management & Indian Society
Helps in Developing Analytical
& Problem-Solving Skills



Preeti Sagar Ma'am

Current Affairs & Essay
Has Appeared Twice in
UPSC CSE (Main)



Aparna Aman Ma'am

Science & Technology
Has Appeared Twice in
UPSC CSE (Main)



8882-120-120



www.careerlauncher.com/upsc

Kurukshetra Compendium

January 2021

Perspectives of Rural Development

Adopting a Holistic Approach towards Rural Development

Introduction:

India has over 1.3-billion people spread over 650,000+ villages, 4000+ small towns and cities, and 8 Tier-1 metro cities. India also enjoys a demographic dividend with over 65% of its population under 35-years. Yet over 70% of the population are in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and in rural agri-dominant India. Over 70% of the formal and informal labour workforce of India is associated with the MSMEs of rural India.

Traditionally, Indian rural ecosystem has been an agrarian economy with the rural workforce dependent on agriculture as its primary source of income. But now, a shift in the recent few years has been witnessed, as the rural youth have started engaging themselves in various non-agro sectors.

Growth Story of Industrialised Countries:

- In 1800s, Prussians came up with the idea of a “factory model of education” where schools are built to train future factory workers and that the students are essentially trained to become efficient factory workers.
- Inspired by this, the Industrial Revolution (IR) aimed at “manufacturing” employable workers for the huge pool of opportunities that had opened by the IR. The focus then was to create as many human resources as possible to meet the gap in demand and supply of labour.

This model created a huge impact in the way IR prospered and was propelled over the years, and thus lead the growth of economies.

Role played by Startups:

The advent of numerous startups and innovators are driving creation of jobs and up-skilling among the youth.

- In USA, startups are creating more new job opportunities per year as compared to the jobs generated by established firms.
- In contrast, Japan has lost its significance in the growing global economy due to stagnation in entrepreneurial activity.

Current State of Innovation in Rural-India:

As per a recently conducted study, percolation of startup environment and innovation has been fragmented and has not reached the rural, Tier-III and Tier-IV cities. The focus of these less percolated regions has been to create job seekers rather than encouraging/ enabling new entrepreneurs and job creators. It is time that we drive a focussed approach in all such regions by providing them with basic factors viz. startup capital, skill building institutions to boost innovator confidence, risk appetite culture etc.

Steps taken to encourage Rural Innovation:

Delivering Quality Education:

- The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages for a technology-driven practical education and experiential learning while also emphasising on developing relevant skillsets for an agile world that we live in today. One such program is the *Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)* launched by the *Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog*.
 - ✓ ATLs are state-of-art labs created in schools where children are introduced to new emerging technology toolkits like miniaturised electronics devices, 3D printers, Robotics, etc. These toolkits introduce the kids to a whole new world which runs on data and emphasises importance of computational thinking along while driving creativity.
 - ✓ Along with building the physical infrastructure, ATLs also focus on creating a pedagogy which makes quality delivery easy and accessible for all. This knowledge is passed via modules that are created and published in the public domain.

- ✓ There is also a year-round teacher training program which is run to equip the school teachers with the right skill set and introduce them to the new technologies.

These labs though not part of the approved mainstream curriculum, go a long way in making young school students equipped with the right skill sets required to adopt the next-gen technologies.

Developing Youth as Change Makers:

In India, we celebrate frugal Jugaad innovations but have clearly missed out on providing a sustainable path for the development and commercialisation of these developed innovations.

- We should now focus on providing an institutional-based structure to these young innovators and support them in their journey of solving community challenges through replicable scalable innovations via incubators/ accelerators and encourage them to try without the fear of fail.
- One such effort is being done by AIM is by establishing **Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs)** in the underserved/unserved regions which will focus on creating awareness about SDGs and focus on providing young innovators with an opportunity to grow.
- A similar effort is to be carried out by creating “**Rural Community Youth Fellowship Program**” focussing on harnessing the talent of a young innovator and creating a viable solution to a local SDG challenge.
 - ✓ By giving the youth support to start local enterprises, the fellowship would create much needed momentum required for entrepreneurship along with giving a kickstart to the rural economy.
 - ✓ It is also imperative that this fellowship program is strongly supported by a Public Private Partnerships (PPP) network. The private sector may drive the fellowship by providing the fellows with a relevant business challenges and guide the fellows through the entire process of developing the solution.
 - ✓ This fellowship can also be treated as an on-job-training for the fellows, at the end of which the fellow may receive a placement offer from the associated corporate.
 - ✓ The fellowship should also explore liaising with the state and district innovation cells and tapping into the currently unutilised District Innovation Funds to spur innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

Digital Push and Transformation of Agrarian Economy:

- Technologies like AI and blockchain will not only provide inputs on the growing patterns of crops but also provide farmers with the knowledge of domestic and global demands of the market.
- Startups can provide the farmers with quality seeds, technology-driven irrigation and precision agriculture mechanisms, water conservation, proper storage facilities and demand forecast-based market opportunities in the pre-harvesting phase.
- The startups can provide the farmers a direct market linkage or may decide to become the buyer of the farm product. The startup and farmers can also enter into an agreement to make a value-added product from the farm product and sell the product in the market together.

The Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) can work with the startups and provide the farmer with an added opportunity of creating a bigger value adding network.

Conclusion:

The youth have become aspirational and want to bring about rapid changes in the rural strata of the society and hence they must be provided with the futuristic 21st century skill sets. Better education will drive towards building better equipped budding entrepreneurs and better job seekers thus contributing to the ecosystem. The time thus has come to focus on building sustainable technology driven plans and approaches to drive the Indian economy to leapfrog towards the 5 trillion-dollar economy goal; with the right push towards creating more job creators and better job seekers this can be achieved.

Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-II Aims for Sampoorna Swachhata

Introduction:

The Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBM-G) in its first phase devoted itself in making India Open Defecation Free (ODF). It became the world's largest behaviour change program and India achieved the seemingly impossible task of becoming ODF in a period of 5-years which was possible only because the Mission was transformed into a **Jan Andolan** (people's movement).

Achievements of SBM-G Phase-I:

Various global agencies such as UNICEF and WHO have estimated significant economic, educational, environmental, health and social impacts of SBM's ODF achievements.

- Rural sanitation coverage has increased from 39% in 2014 to 100% in 2019 with over 10-crore toilets built across Indian districts, converting them to ODF.
- India achieved SDG Goal for providing safe sanitation for all 11-years before the targeted year 2030.

The success of the program is attributed to the **4 Ps** - political leadership, public financing, partnerships and public participation. However, there was still a lot to be done for effective solid and liquid waste management etc. and hence the need for Phase-II of SBM-G was felt.

About SBM-G Phase-II:

SBM-G Phase-II was launched with a total outlay of Rs 1.4 lakh-crore (along with 15th Finance Commission's tied-grants for sanitation) to focus on the solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) and on the sustainability of ODF status.

- **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** is implementing it in Mission Mode from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The Phase-II will provide impetus to the rural economy through construction of household toilets and need-based community sanitary complexes, as well as the infrastructure for solid and liquid waste management such as compost pits, soak pits, waste stabilisation ponds, bio-gas plants, material recovery facilities etc.
- **Objectives:**
 - ✓ Its key objective is to make villages across India **ODF-Plus villages** - village that sustains its ODF status and also ensures solid and liquid waste management and is "visually clean".
 - ✓ A village is called visually clean if at least 80% of its households and all its public places have minimal litter and minimal stagnant water, and the village does not have any plastic waste dump.
 - ✓ It is committed to achieve **Sampoorna Swachhata** by transforming the Mission into a Jan Andolan.
- **Components:**
 - ✓ Construction of individual household latrines; retrofitting of toilets; need-based construction of community sanitary complexes; biodegradable waste management;
 - ✓ GOBAR-dhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources-dhan); Plastic waste management; Grey-water management; and faecal sludge management.
 - ✓ Waste Segregation and Source, Menstrual Waste Management and Hygiene Promotion.
 - ✓ It also aims at behavior change of the masses to adopt better sanitation and hygiene practices. Therefore, 5% of the total project expenditure has been provided for IEC and Capacity Building.
- **Funding:**
 - ✓ SBM (G) is a **centrally sponsored scheme** with fund sharing pattern between Centre and States being **90:10** for North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of Jammu and Kashmir; 100% for remaining UTs and in a ratio of **60:40** for other States.
 - ✓ The funds are released to States/UTs based on their performance and ability of achieve program results.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
 - ✓ It has 2 aspects: (i) ensuring the status of ODF-Plus villages and (ii) created assets and expenditure incurred.
 - ✓ Monitoring activities are aimed towards attainment of program results through independent assessments, periodic reviews and field visits. Monitoring will be of both qualitative (outcomes) and quantitative (output) progress.

A village is declared ODF-Plus if it satisfies:

- All households to have access to a functional toilet facility.
- All schools, Anganwadi centres and Panchayat Ghars have access to a functional toilet, with separate toilets for female and male.
- Public places to be visually clean.

- At least 80% households and all public institutions have arrangements for managing biodegradable solid and liquid waste.
- The village has a plastic segregation and collection system.
- At least 5 ODF-Plus IEC wall paintings per village on 5 key themes of ODF sustainability, hand washing with soap, biodegradable waste management through compost pits, grey water management through soak pits and plastic waste management.

Important Guiding Principles for Implementation of SBM Phase-II:

- Ensuring that no one is left behind: Such households may be provided incentive to build toilets after identification by the GP/District.
- Promotion of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to reduce the generation of waste at source.
- Utilisation of existing SLWM infrastructure wherever possible by rejuvenation and upgradation. Community assets for SLWM to be prioritised and financed.
- Convergence with other schemes: For example, Finance Commission funds for co-financing of assets; Jal Jeevan Mission for grey water management; MGNREGS for dovetailing of funds and functionaries; and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for skill development of field functionaries.
- Priority to villages on the bank of Ganga and other water bodies for implementation of SLWM interventions.

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):

As per Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, **Sanitation is included in 11th Schedule**. Therefore, the role of Gram Panchayat (GP) is pivotal in implementing SBM(G) since SBM promotes decentralised sanitation interventions.

- Each GP is required to prepare a **Village Swachhata Plan** for all of its villages in a convergent and participatory manner involving women and marginalised sections. The plan should be presented in the Gram Sabha for its endorsement.
- Receiving funds, subject to conformity with State arrangements, and contributing from their own resources for the financing of community toilets and SLWM infrastructure are some of the important roles of the PRIs.
- GP is also the custodian of the assets such as community sanitary complexes, drainages and SLWM infrastructure. It also has to organise social audits of the SBM.

Conclusion:

The Swachh Bharat Mission in its second phase is committed to achieve Sampurna Swachhata by transforming the Mission into a Jan Andolan. It has to generate a bigger momentum than it did in Phase- I and that is a great challenge.

Education in Rural India: Schemes for Women and Youth

Introduction:

The vision of a modern India, free from poverty, rests overwhelmingly on the growth and development of rural India. The lasting change in India's villages can come only when the objectives of eradicating poverty and unemployment are fulfilled, not just by giving doles, but by a 3-pronged strategy of **Education, Infrastructure and Empowerment**. Education for children and skill training for adults is ultimately the only way to help rural Indians escape the poverty trap and make them self-reliant.

Status of Education:

The **Right to Education Act, 2009** has been successful in achieving near universal enrolment in elementary education, however retaining children remains a challenge for the schooling system.

- According to government data, in 2015- 16, *Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was 56% at senior secondary level as compared to 99% at primary level* (GER denotes enrolment as a percent of the population of corresponding age group). Data for all socio-economic groups indicates decline in GER as we move from primary to senior secondary for all groups.
- Further, the decline in GER is higher for certain socioeconomically disadvantaged groups, based on: (i) gender identities (female, transgender persons), (ii) socio-cultural identities (SC, ST), (iii) geographical identities (students from small villages and small towns), (iv) socio-economic identities (migrant communities and low-income households), and (v) disabilities.
- As per the National Sample Survey Report (71st round), more than 12% of rural households in India did not have secondary schools within 5-km, whereas in urban areas this percentage is less than 1%.

- According to 2018-19 All-India survey on Higher Education (AISHE), GER in higher education in India is 26%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. GER for male population is 26% and for females, it is 26% percent. For SC, it is 23% and for ST, it is 17% as compared to the national GER of 26%.
- While 70% of people in India belong to the rural areas, only 0.5% colleges are located in these areas, according to 2018-19 data.

Incomplete and poor-quality education translates into a workforce that is unable to find remunerative work, and survives on low paid, unstable jobs.

Steps takes for promoting Rural Education:

➤ **Samagra Shiksha Scheme:**

- ✓ It is an integrated scheme for school education with effect from 2018-19. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- ✓ It subsumes the 3 erstwhile centrally-sponsored schemes – *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA), *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* (RMSA) and *Teacher Education* (TE).
- ✓ Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the scheme. The scheme reaches out to girls and children belonging to SCs, STs, minority communities and transgender. The scheme also gives attention to urban deprived children, children affected by periodic migration and children living in remote and scattered habitations. Under the scheme, provision has been made for giving preference to Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Educationally Backward Blocks (EEBs), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, and aspirational districts.
- ✓ Acknowledging that issues such as lack of toilets in schools and unavailability of schools within a short distance play a big role in school dropouts, especially among girls, the scheme supports states for strengthening of school infrastructure including in rural areas.
- ✓ *Department of School Education and Literacy* is also implementing the component of vocational skills training under the umbrella of Samagra Shiksha.

➤ **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV):**

- ✓ The main objective of JNVs is to provide good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from the rural areas without regard to their family's socio-economic condition.
- ✓ The *Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme* envisages opening of one JNV in each district of the country.

➤ **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):**

- ✓ EMRS were introduced in 1997-98 to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.
- ✓ As per Budget 2018-19, every block having 50% or more ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons is to have an EMRS by the year 2022

➤ **Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS):**

- ✓ MDMS is targeted at young children studying upto Class VIII and it has been one of the most successful programs for keeping young children from disadvantaged sections like poor, dalits, tribals, girls and children of labour work force in schools.
- ✓ As per NSS 71st round, 70% children studying in class I to VIII in Government and aided schools, Special Training Centers (STCs) and madras and maqtabs supported under Samagra Shiksha, get nutritious mid-day meals in rural areas. Approximately 11.6-crore children in around 11.5 lakh schools benefit daily from MDM.
- ✓ Since it is not possible to provide hot cooked meals due to Covid-19, States are providing *Food Security Allowance* comprising foodgrains, pulses, oil, etc., (equivalent to cooking cost) to all eligible children till such time their schools are closed due to the pandemic.

➤ **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV):**

- ✓ KGBVs have been sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) under Samagra Shiksha.
- ✓ These are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

➤ **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):**

- ✓ BBBP scheme works to develop an enabling environment for girl child's education. It addresses the issues relating to declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and aims to change the mindset of people so as to make them appreciate the value of girl child.
- ✓ It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Education.
- ✓ The specific objectives of the scheme are (i) prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, (ii) ensure survival and protection of the girl child and, (iii) ensure education and participation of the girl child through coordinated and convergent efforts.
- ✓ While the Scheme does not enroll girls for any type of benefits from any segment of the society including rural areas, its biggest impact is in rural India where discrimination against the girl child is entrenched due to social attitudes, structural imbalances in society, and impediments in the education and empowerment of women and girls.
- ✓ Evaluation of BBBP scheme carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2020 has indicated a positive behavioural change towards the value of girl child. The sex ratio at birth has shown an improvement from 918 (2014-15) to 934 (2019-20).

Steps taken for empowering Rural Women:

➤ **Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme:**

- ✓ It is a centrally-sponsored scheme launched in 2017 under Ministry of Women and Child Development to empower rural women through community participation. The scheme aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programmes meant for women.

Steps taken for Adult Literacy:

➤ **Saakshar Bharat Program:**

- ✓ The Program (operational till March 2018) went beyond the '3' R's (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) for it also sought to create awareness of social disparities and a person's deprivation on the means for its amelioration and general well-being.
- ✓ This programme was formulated in 2009 with the objective of achieving 80% literacy level at national-level, by focusing on adult women literacy seeking to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 percentage points.
- ✓ It has 4 broader objectives, namely imparting functional literacy and numeracy to non-literates; acquiring equivalency to formal educational system; imparting relevant skill development programme; and promoting a leaning society by providing opportunities for continuing education.
- ✓ A district that had adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per 2001 census, were considered eligible for coverage under the program. The program provided for coverage of only rural areas in the eligible districts.
- ✓ As per 2011 Census, literacy rate in rural areas stood at 67.67% with rural male literacy rate 77% and rural female literacy rate 58%.

➤ **Padhna Likhna Abhiyaan:**

- ✓ It has been rolled out to replace Saakshar Bharat Scheme. Launched on Literacy Day in 2020, it focusses on achieving 100% literacy by 2030.
- ✓ Under this scheme, massive literacy projects will be launched in the tribal and forests areas, prisons, slums, etc., with technology as a facilitator.
- ✓ For this purpose, NITI Aayog has underlined 112 aspirational districts.

Skills Training in Higher Education:

National Education Policy 2020 emphasises integration between vocational and academic streams in all schools and higher education institutions. As per the policy, vocational education will start in school from the 6th grade and will include internship.

➤ **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)**

- ✓ Launched in 2019, it aims to cover 50-lakh students by 2022 by providing 'on the job work exposure' and stipend. SHREYAS is a program conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical, with a

view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promote apprenticeship as integral to education.

- **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)**
 - ✓ Instituted by Board of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training, Ministry of Education, it provides skill training to fresh graduates, diploma holders in engineering and technology and Plus 2 vocational passouts, which rural youth can take advantage of.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):**
 - ✓ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing PMKVY 2016-20 with an objective to provide skilling to 1-crore people under Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country for 4-years i.e. 2016-2020.

Conclusion:

The current public (Central and State governments) expenditure on education in India has been around **4.43% of GDP** and around **10% of the total government spending** towards education (Economic Survey 2017-18). The National Education Policy 2020 states that the Centre and states will work together to increase the public investment in education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

Recent Farm Bills and Benefits to Farmers

Introduction:

Barring sugarcane, all agriculture produce is marketed through APMCs marketing system domestically with some exceptions like basmati rice, grapes and a small fraction of onion and flowers being exported.

Issues in current marketing system:

- Agri-produce arrives in huge bulk in the market in a very short span of time beyond the absorption capacity of the domestic demand and the management capacity of the existing market infrastructure.
- The price discovery in markets of APMCs, except for those which are under e-National Agriculture Market (eNAM), has been opaque and heavily monopolistic.
- The advances like Contract Farming for a pre-decided and mutually-agreed price of a commodity experimented in the past had mixed response and farmers at large had reservations in entering the contracts.
- The investment and active private participation have been dismally low due to frequent imposition of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) limiting the storage. It cut on the larger private investment and proved prohibitive rather than facilitative.

Previous Attempts made to reform agri-marketing system:

- In 2003, **Model APMC Act** was formulated and shared with the States. As a follow up, the fruit and vegetables were brought out of APMC regulations and 20 States adopted to it.
- **Model Act on Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation), 2017, Model Act on Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) 2018** were formulated.

These Model acts, prepared after thorough consultation, were to facilitate States to enact their own laws suitable to their local needs and conditions but received very lukewarm response. Hence, government brought the 3-Bills viz.,

- (i) Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020;
- (ii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020
- (iii) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Apprehensions of the farmers:

There have been apprehensions among a section of farmers, especially among the biggest beneficiaries of APMC-dominated procurements and price realisation.

- That these 3 laws will lead to withdrawal of MSP, deprive the farmers from their lands in favour of big private players and cause hoarding of essential commodities.
- Another apprehension is about diluting the present-day agricultural marketing thereby affecting the benefits of millions of farmers.

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020:

- Post-1991 liberalisation, the gap in the income of the farmers and non-farm worker has been growing wider reflecting that the benefits of the reforms in farm sector were too little and fragmented and could not boost the income of the farmers.
- India is likely to produce huge surplus of agricultural commodities in next 10-years much beyond the absorption capacity of the domestic market. The inadequacies of infrastructure and systems of present-day agricultural marketing system may not be able to handle this surplus.
- We need to become more competitive in terms of handling, storage, quality standards for the global export destinations in developed and developing countries.
- Besides, for import substitution of edible oils, fruits and nuts and other agricultural items, we require investment for post-harvest infrastructure, and logistics which has not been coming due to restrictive regulations of the APMCs/ECA.
- A market or aggregation centre close to production sites with some mechanism of price assurance can encourage the small and marginal farmers (SMF) to diversify towards high-value crops.
- Although, the time from production site to markets has reduced over time due to road network development, agriculture markets are too sparse and fragmented leading to glut and price crash in some markets while shortage and high prices at major demand centres.
- The reforms will lead to creation of alternate channels of marketing and more competition in the transaction leading to transparent price discovery and better price realization to the farmers.
- The Agriculture Census 2015-16 has put more than 86% farmers under small and marginal category with average holdings of 0.38-ha to about 68.5% farm households. This means the likely surplus with them for offering to sale is low to approach any APMC mandi individually due to lack of economy of scale.
- On an average one mandi serve about 472 sq.km. against the norm of one market yard at about 80 sq.km. area. The aggregators come to rescue to the small growers but they offer much less price to producers.
- The FPTC Act provides for the freedom to sell and buy farm produce at any place in the country, promote e-commerce and allows setting up of an electronic platform. It also offers the opportunity to the Government to intervene to regulate the system, if the new system fails to work satisfactorily.
- It legalizes all the transactions which were earlier put under the regulations and restriction by the APMCs. The direct purchase from the farmers at their farm as provided in the FPTC Act, 2020 will be empowering him to decide the price of his produce.
- The State must encourage FPOs to become aggregators and in due course they will become active price negotiator rather than passive recipients of the price decided by the commission agents in the APMC mandis.

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020

- The old contract farming act was adopted by 20 States. This Act is an improvement over the old one.
- The Act will facilitate an assured price to the farmers for his produce as mutually agreed between farmers and sponsor before the commencement of production operations, and the technologies, services and inputs on mutually agreed terms and conditions for the production of desired quality produce.
- The sponsor's role is limited to buy the produce at pre-decided price as agreed in advance and supplying the quality inputs and services to farmers as per the contract.
- The sponsor neither permitted to lease-in the land of the farmers, nor he/she can erect any assets permanent nature on farmers' land or modifying it or acquiring the ownership rights. The farmers will be the sole custodian of all production operations as well.
- In fact, the Act is historic in the sense that farmers have been empowered to not only negotiate for the price of his produce before production but for the first time, a farmer will dictate his terms for price settlement to a buyer.
- However, apprehensions regarding this bill are that corporates will take away the lands of the farmers forcibly by manipulating the agreement. This is highly imaginary and devoid of any facts.

Case Study:

The contract farming with Nestle, for milk in Punjab's Moga district operating since 1961 could be an example to cite. Over 1-lakh farmers are associated with the contract. Nestle has been providing the technical guidance, feed, vaccines and veterinary services to milk producers. A high order supply chain has been established based on a pre-announced weekly price based on the fat and solid content in the milk. The assets of the farmers have not been taken by the MNC.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020:

- The supply of the commodities enlisted in ECA such as cereals, edible oils and oils can only be regulated under extraordinary circumstances like war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamities. The transparent criterion has been laid down on imposing or regulating stock limits.
- Government can intervene in the market for price control under the amended act as well. The recent action in imposing the stock limit on onions in October 2020 is the testimony of such provision.
- Further, the commodities like fertilisers and seeds, which are of much interest to farmers, have not been touched by the modifications.
- The modifications in ECA will encourage the big investment in creating much needed infrastructure like warehouses, cold storages, pack houses, and logistics.

Conclusion:

Government by enacting these 3 bills has tried to eliminate the unhealthy and exploitative rules and procedures. The APMCs not only remain functional as a platform for marketing of agricultural produce but will be strengthened and become more transparent due to increased competition which is a pre-requisite for a well-meaning market. The immediate action should be creating the awareness amongst farmers about the positives with some live examples and records of advantages based on real learnings.

Panchayati Raj System towards Changing Rural India

Introduction:

Panchayati Raj System has existed since ancient times in India. Villages used to have Panchayat (Council of Persons) who would have both executive and judicial powers and authority to settle disputes in the village.

Evolution of PRIs:

Recognising the importance of panchayats, the constitution makers included provision of Panchayat in Part-IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of Indian Constitution.

- Article 40 conferred the responsibility upon the State to take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.
- Prior to India's independence, Bihar was the first to adopt the Panchayati Raj System in 1947 which was a similar system of local self-government started by Lord Ripon in British-era.
- The formal organisation and structure of Panchayati Raj was firstly recommended by **Balwant Rai Committee (1957)**. It recommended the establishment of scheme of 'democratic decentralisation' which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj. It recommended a 3-tier system at village, block and district-level and it also recommended direct election of village level panchayat.
- On October 2, 1959, Rajasthan (Nagaur district) became the first state to introduce the panchayat system in India.
- In 1977, **Ashok Mehta Committee on Panchayati Raj** was appointed which recommended 2-tier system of panchayat, regular social audit, representation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections, provisions for regular election, reservation to SCs/STs in panchayats and a minister for panchayati raj in state council of ministers.
- In 1985, **G. V. K. Rao Committee** recommended measures to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). In 1986, for the first time recommended for the constitutional status of PRIs and suggested for constitutional provisions to ensure regular, free and fair elections to the Panchayati Raj Bodies.
- The PRIs were constitutionalized by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** (which came into force on 24th April, 1993) and a new Part-IX was added.

Key Elements of 73rd Amendment Act, 1992:

Article 243G intended to empower Gram Panchayats (GPs) by enabling the State Governments to devolve powers and authority in respect of all 29 Subjects listed in the **11th Schedule** for local planning and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice. Some provisions of this amendment are binding on the States and others have been left to be decided by respective State Legislatures at their discretion (like giving representation to the members of Central and State legislatures in district and middle-level PRIs, provisions of reservation for backward classes, financial powers to PRIs such as taxes, levy fees etc.)

➤ **Organisation of Gram Sabhas:**

- ✓ Creation of a 3-tier structure - village (gram panchayat), intermediate (panchayat samiti) and district (Zila Parishad). Exemption from intermediate-tier is given to small states having population less than 20-lakhs.
- ✓ Minimum age for contesting elections to the PRIs is 21-years.
- ✓ Except for the post of Chairman at district- and block-level, all posts should be filled by direct election.
- ✓ Provision for reservation of seats for SCs and STs in Panchayats, in proportion to their population, and for women in Panchayats up to one-third seats.
- ✓ State Election Commission to be set up in each State to conduct elections to PRIs.
- ✓ The tenure of PRIs is 5-years; if dissolved earlier, fresh elections to be held within 6-months.
- ✓ Creation of a State Finance Commission in each state every 5-years.

Three-tier Structure of Panchayati Raj:

➤ **Gram Panchayat:**

- ✓ The civic functions relating to sanitation, cleaning of public roads, minor irrigation, public toilets and lavatories, primary health care, vaccination, supply of drinking water, constructing public wells, rural electrification, social health and primary and adult education, etc. are obligatory functions of village panchayats.
- ✓ Functions like preparation of annual development plan of panchayat area, annual budget, relief in natural calamities, removal of encroachment on public lands and implementation and monitoring of poverty alleviation programs were expected to be performed by panchayats.

➤ **Panchayat Samiti:**

- ✓ It provides a link between Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad. In Panchayat Samiti, some members are directly elected.
- ✓ Sarpanchs of Gram Panchayats are ex-officio members of Panchayat Samiti.
- ✓ Panchayat Samiti are the main hub of developmental activities. Some functions are entrusted to them like agriculture, land improvement, watershed development, social and farm forestry, technical and vocational education etc.

➤ **Zila Parishad:**

- ✓ Chairpersons of Panchayat Samitis are ex-officio members of Zila Parishads.
- ✓ Members of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Councils belonging to the districts are also nominated members of Zila Parishads.
- ✓ It prepares district plans and integrates Samiti plans into district plans for submission to the State Government. It looks after the developmental works of the entire district.

Devolution of Funds, Function and Functionaries to PRIs:

C and Functionaries form the 3-main components of devolution of power across states.

- A Devolution Report published by Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2015-16, stated that devolution has 2-main aspects: the operational core that includes funds, function, functionaries, and the support system that includes capacity building of PRIs, operationalising constitutional mechanisms and introducing systems of transparency and accountability.
- In terms of devolving function, functionary and finance, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka have performed better than other states.
- Another critical aspect of legislation following the 73rd amendment was insertion of a clause under the Article 280(3)(bb) that the Union Finance Commission would recommend measures to supplementing the resources of the Panchayats in the state on the basis of the recommendation of Finance Commission of the State.

Role of PRIs in implementation of Schemes:

- **MGNREGA:** For strengthening the process of decentralisation, Gram Sabhas has to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by PRIs. PRIs are primarily responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of the works that are undertaken.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Under JJM, local village community, Gram Panchayats and user groups are being involved in planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of water supply systems in villages to ensure long-term sustainability to achieve drinking water security. In every Gram Panchayat, Paani Samitis have been constituted for planning at village-level.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin:** The role of gram panchayats has been to identify beneficiaries under this flagship scheme.
- **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan:** It is being implemented from 2018-19 to 2021-22, with the primary aim of developing governance capabilities of PRIs to deliver on SDGs with the main thrust on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening PRIs in 117 Aspirational districts.

Steps taken to strengthen PRIs:

Government has initiated several measures such as incentivising the states which have devolved more functions, funds and functionaries to PRIs, providing financial and technical assistance for capacity building to PRIs and strengthening systems of budgets, accounting and auditing for bringing in transparency, accountability and efficiency in the functioning of PRIs.

- **Rising Financial Devolution to PRIs:** 14th Finance Commission (2015-16) has granted Rs. 1.8-lakh-crore for PRIs, while 15th Finance Commission (for the period FY 2020-21) has awarded a grant of Rs. 60,750 crores which has been the highest annual Finance Commission allocation for the PRIs so far.
 - ✓ On April, 24 (National Panchayati Raj Day), 2020, Government had launched a unified **e-GramSwaraj Portal** and mobile application **Swamitva** scheme.
 - ✓ The e-GramSwaraj helps prepare and execute Gram Panchayat Development Plans and will ensure real-time monitoring and accountability. It is a major step towards digitization down to the Gram Panchayat level.
 - ✓ Swamitva scheme helps to map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods. The scheme will ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection and provide clarity over property rights in rural areas.

Conclusion:

The institution of Panchayat used to represent not only collective will, but also the collective wisdom of the entire rural community. The term “Gram Swaraj” (village self-governance) was the vision of Gandhiji who advocated empowerment of Panchayats for the development of rural areas.

Livestock: Key For Doubling Farmers’ Income

Introduction:

More than 60-65% of population in India is dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. Due to population explosion, there is not only reduced farm-land availability but also less profits for farmers as a whole. Under this situation, livestock sector is showing huge potential for growth, investment, income and sustainability.

Potential of Livestock sector:

- Although livestock sector has only 5% share out of total agricultural investment, still it is exhibiting a promise for rising the income of farmers due to increase in the requirement of animal protein.
- In the past few decades, it has been observed that the growth of the agricultural sector and the income from it, is not up to the mark indicating a steady decline in the agriculture’s contribution to GDP. On the other hand, livestock sector has substantially increased its share in the GDP.

Statistics of Livestock:

- Agriculture contributes 17% to India’s total GDP, of which 27% comes from animal husbandry.
- Dairy, poultry and aquaculture contributes 4.4% to the nation’s GDP and provides employment opportunities to over 16-million people.

- India's livestock sector is one of the largest in the world. As per **20th Livestock census**, India is the owner of about 512.05 million livestock population. India is 1st in the total buffalo population in the world; 2nd in the population of goats and poultry market; 3rd in population of sheep.
- Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. It also provides employment to 8.8% of the population in India.
- The total milk production by 70-million farmers in the country is 188 million tonnes (per capita availability of milk = 394 gm/day) with an increase of 6.5% in milk yield compared to previous years.

Steps taken for promoting Livestock sector:

- To promote livestock and fisheries sector, Government in 2019 created a new Ministry by merging Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Department of Fisheries and renamed as Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
- Government has launched several schemes/programmes viz., *Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Animal Disease Control Programme, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund* and *National Programme for Dairy Development*.

Challenges in Livestock Sector:

- Large population of low-producing cattle needs genetic upgradation for improving milk-yield; Infertility in Bovines; unavailability of pedigreed Bulls of indigenous cow.
- Inadequate coverage of artificial insemination services; chronic shortage of feed along with quality of fodder and escalating price of feed ingredient like maize.
- Inadequate disease control programs including deficiency of vaccines of major diseases like FMD, Brucellosis etc.
- Low interest of youth in animal husbandry because of low market place and lack of knowledge in the area of value addition of livestock products.
- Only 5% of the total money has been invested in livestock and this window requires more funding.
- Inadequate availability of credit; Poor access to organised market; Limited animal insurance coverage.

Future Roadmap:

- Enhancing the unit production of milk, meat and egg with better feeding, breeding and management practices.
- Availability of affordable and quality feed and fodder throughout the year.
- Artificial insemination using semen from pedigreed bulls; Encouraging the rearing of indigenous cow.
- Diagnosis of sub-clinical forms of diseases to reduce the unit cost of animal production and health. Effective and regular health coverage including timely vaccination; Strengthening of veterinary and para-veterinary infrastructure.
- Integrated farming system along with implementation of biotechnology and its tool in animal production system.
- Value addition of animal products and their effective marketing.
- Extensive establishment of Biogas units and commercialisation of organic farming system.
- Establishment of cooperative units and ease in marketing and getting proper value of animal products.
- Bridging the gap between the farmers and market; farmers and government; and involvement of private sector.
- Fast, ease and prompt financial assistance from cooperative society/ banks to livestock farmers.
- Attraction of rural youth and women in animal husbandry enterprises.

Conclusion:

Animal husbandry has been the most important integral part of Indian agriculture system since ancient times. It provides livelihood to two-third of rural population, especially the landless and marginal farmers. It acts as an insurance against natural calamities and crop failure. The integration of animal husbandry with agriculture will definitely help to accomplish the objectives of doubling the farmer's income by 2022.

Rural Healthcare in India

Introduction:

India's public health system suffered massively under the colonial powers with most public health efforts directed towards British residents and Indians who worked for them. India's traditional medical practices like Ayurveda and Unani were neglected for an exceptionally long time and suffered due to lack of funds and were constantly projected as inferior by western medicine practitioners.

Evolution of Public Health System in independent India:

Empirical evidence suggests that poor socio-economic conditions, low education levels, limited exposure to media and lack of health services in rural India were the reasons why they had lower and under-reported morbidity numbers.

- In 1983, India's first **National Health Policy** acknowledged that the efforts to expand western healthcare services had benefited only the upper-class people and failed to serve the urban poor or those in rural India. The policy recommended a decentralised health care system, encouraged community participation, and invited private sector participation.
- It is with this background that **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** was launched in 2005. Because **health care is a state responsibility**, central government can play a supplementary role only. Through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, central government can launch national level health programs.
- It was a bottom-up approach where the onus and focus of health care delivery was on the villages and went up till the district-level.
- The principles were to provide states with adequate and flexible financing and allow them to design their own health interventions for health service delivery in rural India.
- The idea was to communitise, i.e., devolve funds, functions, and functionaries to local community organisations and PRIs.
- The socioeconomically backward states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, and Uttar Pradesh, known as the **Empowered Action Group (EAG) states**, the north-eastern states, Himachal Pradesh and the then state of Jammu and Kashmir were the focus states.
- In 2013, NRHM became a sub-mission under the over-arching **National Health Mission** with the addition of National Urban Health Mission (NUMH) as the other sub-mission of the program.

Coverage and Access for Rural Healthcare:

- Rural healthcare delivers services through a **3-tier** system of **Sub-Centers (SC)**, **Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC)** and **Community Health Centers (CHC)**. While SCs are the first point of contact in the primary health care system and the community in a rural setup, PHCs serve as the first point of contact between the community and a medical officer. CHCs provide specialised medical care through surgeons, obstetricians and gynecologists, physicians, and pediatricians.
- Access to health care agents was another big challenge that was addressed through NRHM. **Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)** is a grassroot level health worker who is selected from a village to serve that village. The ASHA works as a liaison between the local rural community and the public health system. They share information on basic health and hygiene practices; counsel women on child birth and related issues and act as the first point of repository of basic health kits. As of March 30, 2019, there were 9.29 lakh ASHAs in the country, which is 34,175 more than the required numbers.

Some Programs for Rural Healthcare:

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana:** It is a cash incentive programme designed to encourage women to use formal healthcare services for institutional deliveries. The objective is to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality among poor, pregnant women, especially those in rural India.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram:** It was launched in 2011 to eliminate the out-of-pocket expenditure for both pregnant mothers and sick infants upon accessing institutional health care. This program provides free drugs, consumables, free diagnostic, free blood and free diet for 3 days during normal delivery and 7 days for caesarian section deliveries. This initiative also covers all ante-natal and postnatal emergencies.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:** It was a similar program launched in 2016 to provide quality antenatal care, free of cost and universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month in their 2nd and 3rd trimesters of pregnancy, that can be availed at all government facilities. It also engages with the private sector to create campaign awareness and participation.

- **Laqshya or the Labour Room and Quality Improvement initiative:** It was launched in 2017 to as a focused and targeted approach to strengthen key processes related to the labour rooms and maternity operation theatres. The objective was to achieve time bound targets and ensure desired outcome of an institutional delivery that ensured new mothers and newborn babies were safe and healthy.
- **Special Newborn Care Units** were established at district levels and sub-district level hospitals with an annual load of more than 3000 to provide care for sick newborns who did not need assisted ventilation or major surgeries.
- **Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram:** It targets adolescents between the age of 10-19 years. The aim is to provide adolescent-friendly health care services to improve nutrition, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, prevent injuries and violence, substance abuse and non-communicable diseases.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram:** It screens children under the age of 18 for four birth deficiencies - defects at birth, diseases, deficiency in nutrition and development delays including disabilities. It has made significant impact on reducing the child mortality rates under the NRHM.
- **Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB):** It targets newborns and infants, school age children, adolescent boys and girls, women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women. It uses 6 interventions - provision of folic acid supplements, deworming, year-round behaviour change initiatives, communication campaigns, text alerts, mandatory provision of folic acid fortified foods in public health programmes and addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets like malaria and fluorosis.
- To strengthen the national immunisation programme, the government has initiatives like **Teeka Express**, which is a mobile van that provides vaccine services in far reaching areas along with construction, and safe operation of cold chains points for storing vaccines; routine immunisation and training of field volunteers and medical staff, among other provisions.
- The rural health care system also has family welfare initiatives that deliver family planning management services, education and use of contraceptives, menstrual hygiene schemes, sterilization services and awareness campaigns through public programs.

As a result of these schemes, the number of institutional deliveries increased from 38.7 percent to 78.9 percent in the 10 years from 2005-2015.

Conclusions:

The rural focus of the programs has gaps that must be bridged. To begin with, focus on incentivising medical staff to serve the rural community is a starting point to ensure all programs are efficiently delivered. Instead of launching new programs frequently, the mandates and budgets of existing programmes can be expanded. This creates an opportunity for better fund allocation and staff management. ASHA network has to be optimally compensated and trained. As we move towards gaining from our demographic dividend in the next 20-30 years, we must ensure quality and timely delivery of services across the country.

Importance of Infrastructure in Rural Development

Introduction:

The development of rural areas is slow due to improper and inadequate provisions of infrastructure as compared to urban areas. The government's effort is to reduce poverty and increase the quality of life of the rural poor by introducing rural infrastructure comprising transport including rural roads bridges; water and sanitation which includes irrigation (dams, channels, embankments, etc.), waste management, water supply etc.; communication including telecommunication and telecom services; and social and commercial infrastructure. Rural infrastructure provides essential production conditions which is required for social and economic growth and for promoting the quality of life in rural areas.

Roads in Rural India:

It is the key to success of the rural economy; rural health; education; and for better road connectivity with the rest of the world. It is the main component to reduce the rural poverty by increasing the agricultural income.

- Government has launched **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** in 2000 with the aim to provide all weather access to eligible unconnected habitations. It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) which covers only rural areas (urban roads are excluded from its purview).
- Under **PMGSY-I**, the scheme was to provide access to the eligible unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 persons and above (Census 2001) in plain areas. In respect of Special Category States, the objective is to connect habitations with a population of 250 persons and above.

- **PMGSY-II** aims to cover up-gradation of existing selected rural roads based on their economic potential and their role in facilitating the growth of rural market centres and rural hubs.
- **PMGSY-III** envisages consolidation of the existing rural road network by upgradation of existing through routes and major rural links that connects habitations to Grameen Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools, and hospitals.

This not only helps the farm production, but also yields many direct and indirect benefits such as minimising the spoilage of perishable goods like fresh fruits and vegetables and ensures adequate remunerative prices for them. Also, all-weather roads have shown a very positive correlation to improvement in health indicators.

Energy:

- **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY):**
 - ✓ It was launched in 2015 with 2 components: (i) to separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders facilitating judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas; (ii) strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission & distribution infrastructure in rural areas, including metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers end.
 - ✓ It also included rural electrification for the completion of the target laid down under **Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)** for 12th and 13th Plans by subsuming RGGVY in DDUGY.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):**
 - ✓ It is providing deposit-free LPG connections to women of poor households, especially in rural areas.
 - ✓ The scheme increases the usage of LPG and helps in reducing health disorders, air pollution and deforestation. Use of fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow-dung, firewood etc. has serious implications on the health of the rural women and children.
 - ✓ Under PMUY, cash assistance up to Rs.1600 is provided for releasing deposit free LPG connection.
- **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya):**
 - ✓ Under Saubhagya, free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided.
 - ✓ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency.
 - ✓ It provides Solar Photo Voltaic based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost-effective.
- **PM-KUSUM:**
 - ✓ It aims to provide 20-lakh farmers for setting up stand-alone solar pumps by enabling them to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.
 - ✓ The scheme has the objective of increasing farmers' income, providing reliable source for irrigation and de-dieselise the farm sector, removing farmers' dependence on diesel and kerosene and linking pump sets to solar energy.

Social and Commercial Infrastructure:

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen):**
 - ✓ Under "**Housing for All by 2022**" slogan, Government has initiated PMAY-G scheme from 2016 to provide pucca houses to all rural homeless and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated houses.
 - ✓ Government has also aimed at providing a dignified life to the beneficiaries by providing basic amenities such as improved sanitation, piped drinking water, electricity & gas connection, etc under convergence with existing Central and State sponsored schemes.
 - ✓ Due to pucca house that can withstand all weather conditions, a considerable reduction in open defecation post-PMAY-G, usage of the toilet and floor cleaners, etc., have led to clean and hygienic conditions. There has also been an improvement in the schooling of children of the households post-PMAY-G period in terms of both enrolment and performance at school owing to pucca house.

Water and Sanitation:

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal):**
 - ✓ It envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

- ✓ The program also implements source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.
- ✓ The Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen):**
 - ✓ Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and UTs in India declared themselves “open-defecation free” (ODF) by 2nd October 2019.
 - ✓ To ensure that the ODF behaviours are sustained, the Mission is moving towards the next Phase-II of SBM-G i.e., ODF-Plus. It will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages.

Communication:

Government’s vision is that all public in at Gram-Panchayat level such as Anganwadis, health and wellness centres, government schools, PDS outlets, post offices and police stations to be provided with digital connectivity.

- **BharatNet:** It is the world’s largest rural broadband network project whose aim is to provide broadband connectivity to all the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats (GPs) across India. Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections through BharatNet had linked 100,000-gram panchayats already.
- **Mapping of India’s genetic landscape** is critical for next generation medicine, agriculture and for biodiversity management. To support this development, the government initiated national level Science Schemes, to create a comprehensive database.

Conclusion:

Infrastructure is the backbone of any country. It plays a very important role in supporting nation’s economic growth. Rural infrastructure is crucial for agriculture, agro-industries and poverty alleviation in the rural areas. The infrastructure schemes for the rural areas have improved the lives of the rural people in different ways and helped in reducing the poverty. Infrastructure has brought social and economic change among the rural households and empowered them to live their lives with dignity and safety with improved living standards.

हमारे UPSC Mentors

—• 10,000+ छात्रों ने अपनी UPSC परीक्षा की तैयारी के लिए उन पर भरोसा किया! •—



डॉ. आदर्श कुमार सर

राजनीति, शासन, और नैतिकता (GS-IV)
PhD, MSc, MA, LLB



सुमित कुलश्रेष्ठा सर

भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था
MA, LLB



डॉ. उदयभान सर

आंतरिक सुरक्षा, अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध, और सामाजिक मुद्दे
प्रसिद्ध लेखक और पूर्व संपादक
सिविल सर्विसेज टाइम्स



प्रमोद शर्मा सर

भूगोल
लेखक और पूर्व व्याख्याता
एचपी विश्वविद्यालय



अनुज शर्मा सर

इतिहास, कला और संस्कृति
यूपीएससी और राज्य पीसीएस
साक्षात्कार का अनुभव



ज्ञानेश सर

पर्यावरण और आपदा प्रबंधन
यूपीएससी साक्षात्कार का अनुभव



प्रीती सागर मैम

निबंध
यूपीएससी मुख्य परीक्षा का अनुभव



अपर्णा अमन मैम

करंट अफेयर्स, विज्ञान, और प्रौद्योगिकी
यूपीएससी मुख्य परीक्षा का अनुभव



8882-120-120



www.careerlauncher.com/upsc

Trusted by
10,000+ Students
for their
UPSC CSE Preparation!



— NO DISTANCE IN LEARNING —

Congratulations!

6 Students in Top 50 Ranks in UPSC CSE 2019



Jatin Kishore
AIR 2
CL ID: 9784490



Pari Bishnoi
AIR 30
CL ID: 2697371



Natisha Mathur
AIR 37
CL ID: 10018977



Dipankar Choudhary
AIR 42
CL ID: 10217313



Safna Nazarudeen
AIR 45
CL ID: 393731



Yuvraj Seddharth
AIR 49
CL ID: 11224946

Our Previous Years' Toppers



Anudeep Durishetty
(CSE-2017)



Tina Dabi
(CSE-2015)



Gaurav Agarwal
(CSE-2013)

Join Career Launcher. Join IAS!