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GIST OF KURUKSHETRA

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Shankar IAS Academy™

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I N D E X

KURUKSHETRA - JUNE 2018

1. ACCELERATING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE	3
2. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDIA.....	5
3. EXTENDING TELECOM CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL INDIA	7
4. REFORMING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS.....	9
5. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL YOUTH	11
6. NEW PRIORITIES FOR AGRICULTURE.....	14



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1. ACCELERATING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

What is the present health status in India ?

- Infant mortality deaths per 1000 live birth is 29 in urban areas and 46 for rural areas.
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- Under five mortality rate shows that in urban areas it is 34 deaths per 1000 live births but it is 56 per 1000 in the rural areas.
- Institutional birth situation in urban India is 89 percent while in rural areas is 75 percent.
- The HHFS data reveals that there is an increasing trend in the immunisation levels but there is a divide in the immunisation levels between the urban and rural areas.
- The children under 5 who are underweight 29 percent are in urban areas while 38 percent are in rural areas.
- A very important factor for good health is cleaner fuel for cooking

and NFHS data shows 80.6 percent in urban areas and 24 percent in rural areas use cleaner fuels.

What are the salient features of National Health Policy 2017 ?

- The Policy seeks to reach everyone in a comprehensive integrated way to move towards wellness.
- It aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- This Policy looks at problems and solutions holistically with private sector as strategic partners.
- It seeks to promote quality of care, focus is on emerging diseases and investment in promotive and preventive healthcare.
- The roadmap of this new policy is predicated on public spending and provisioning of a public healthcare system that is comprehensive, integrated and accessible to all.
- It envisages private sector collaboration for strategic purchasing, capacity building, skill development programmes, awareness generation, developing



sustainable networks for community to strengthen mental health services, and disaster management.

- The policy proposes raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP in a time bound manner.
- Policy envisages providing larger package of assured comprehensive primary health care through the Health and Wellness Centers'.
- This policy denotes important change from very selective to comprehensive primary health care package which includes geriatric health care, palliative care and rehabilitative care services.
- The policy assigns specific quantitative targets aimed at reduction of disease prevalence/incidence, for health status and programme impact, health system performance and system strengthening.
- Towards mainstreaming the potential of AYUSH the policy envisages better access to AYUSH remedies through co-location in public facilities.
- The policy supports voluntary service in rural and under-served areas on pro-bono basis by

recognized healthcare professionals under a 'giving back to society' initiative.

- The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and proposes establishment of National Digital Health Authority (NDHA) to regulate, develop and deploy digital health across the continuum of care.

What are the initiatives taken by GOI with respect to NHP 2017 ?

- **Health and Wellness Centre:-** Under this 1.5 lakh centers will bring health care system closer to the homes of people. These centers will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.
- These centers will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services. The Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme.
- Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centers is also envisaged.
- **National Health Protection Scheme:-** The second flagship



programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme. Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.

2. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDIA

What are the landmark schemes for women and children launched recently in India ?

- **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)** comprise mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition, including a very robust convergence mechanism, ICT based Real Time Monitoring system, incentivizing States/UTs for meeting the targets, incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools, eliminating registers used by AWWs, introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), Social Audits, setting-up Nutrition

Resource Centres, involving masses through Jan Andolan for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.

- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** are available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) except those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, for first living child of the family as normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kind of challenges and stress factors.
- GOI notified **Supplementary Nutrition Rules, 2017** to regulate the entitlement of nutrient dense food for every pregnant and lactating woman till 6 months after child birth, and every child in the group of 6 months to 6 years.
- The Government is implementing **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)–‘Sabla’**, a Centrally-sponsored scheme in 205 districts selected from all the States/UTs and it aims at empowering Adolescent Girls (AGs)



(11-18 years) through nutrition, health care and life skills education.

- **Swadhar Greh Scheme** targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs has envisaged engagement of **Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs)** in States/UTs who will act as a link between police and community and help women in distress.
- **Mahila Shakti Kendra** scheme has recently been launched to address women's issues at the village level through volunteers and they are mobilized through local colleges, NCC, NSS, NYK etc., will work with local women to help them access government schemes for their benefit.
- The GOI conducts **Training of Trainers of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj** to deliberate upon issues related to empowerment of women and functioning of PRIs; describe processes of participatory planning in local governance; and enable women to identify their own leadership potential to contribute effectively as change agents.
- WCD Ministry honors with **Nari Shakti Puruskars**, those women who have contributed to society but have remained unsung on International Women's day every year.
- The **National policy for Women, 2017** was drafted keeping in view of the social and economic changes that have occurred since the last policy of 2001 and it is in consideration.
- The **Gender Champions initiative** has been operationalized for sensitizing young students to create awareness on laws, legislations, legal rights and life skills education through 100 universities and 145 colleges.
- The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "**Child Protection Services**", under the umbrella scheme of Integrated Child Development Scheme, to provide Institutional and Non-institutional safety net for vulnerable children as envisaged under the JJ Act.



- **POCSO e-Box** is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against and timely action against the offenders under POCSO Act 2012.
- **One Stop Centres (OSC)** are intended to support women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race and culture will be facilitated with support and redressal.
- The **Scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline** envisages to provide 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to all women affected by violence both in public and private sphere, including in the family, community, workplace etc.
- **Passport rules have been amended** in favor of single mothers and now either mother or father's name can be provided in application form and applicants do not have to provide any certificate of marriage / divorce during the application.
- **Mahila e-Haat**, a direct bilingual online marketing platform for

women entrepreneurs, SHGs, NGOs etc to empower women through financial inclusion.

3. EXTENDING TELECOM CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL INDIA

What is the current scenario of internet usage in India ?

- 730 million Internet users in India.
- 75 % of new internet user growth from rural areas.
- 70 % of e-Commerce transactions via mobile phones.
- 75 % of new internet users to consume data in local languages.
- India is remaining the fastest growing internet market.

How 5G connectivity and OTT services help in rural areas ?

- 5G network could be remotely used to operate the sensors for irrigation and energy management etc which would be a great help for the farming community.
- Those rearing livestock could keep a track on their location via sensors and GPS technology, thus making management of livestock a simpler task.
- Applications like Skype is used to connect the teachers to students, farmers to scientists across



various locations including the remote areas.

- The Government's financial inclusion drives coupled with the unique national identity system (Aadhaar) and the ubiquity of mobile phones in India have given a big boost to App based payments and financial services in Rural India.
- Government services like pension, insurance etc., are increasingly delivered through local languages Apps by the central and state governments.
- Kisan Suvidha, app has a simple interface and provides information on five critical parameters- weather, input dealers, market price, plant protection and expert advisories.
- In Uttar Pradesh, two IT professionals, with a dream to transform the lives of thousands in rural India, have developed an app called 'SmartGaon', that not only connects an entire village population internally and with the developed world, but also serves as a knowledge and information centre, a marketplace, a helpline and a holistic development tool to make their village a smart village.

- Apps like MyGov that allow citizens to interface with the Government have a special meaning for rural India and remote parts of a country as it promotes the grass root participation in the decision making process.

How Internet of Things (IoT) can bring sustainable rural development ?

- **Sustainable Land and Water resource Management:** This includes an active monitoring system for monitoring the environmental and climate changes can massively impact agriculture.
- A real time monitoring system of monitoring would enable the users to make both short term and long term decisions based on the information.
- Add to the a real time visualization system for the conditions, as well as decision support system, and we will have an well rounded tool for managing agricultural and water resources.
- **Food Security :** Through the use of RFID / sensors every stakeholder in the movement of food products can view parameters like the lifetime, environment during transportation, shelf life etc.,



- Since water scarcity is a major hurdle to food security, automated drip irrigation can make sure that plants are watered in just the right areas and with exact amount needed, thus preventing wastage.
- **Disaster Management:** IoT systems can be used to predict earthquakes based on microscopic vibrations and helps in reducing the losses of the incidents.
- Similarly IoT devices can be used to predict the floods and can minimize the losses.
- **Public Health:** Wearable devices for patients will make it possible for their body conditions to be monitored without physical sessions with a doctor, and the treatment can be routinely adjusted with the information obtained.
- Similarly, people suffering from dangerous health conditions could wear a device that could alert an emergency services in the event of a sudden or drastic change in health conditions.

4. REFORMING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

Why Education is important ?

- Education is the most important tool for social, economic and

political transformation and a key instrument for building equitable society.

- A well educated population, equipped with the relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills is essential for economic and social development in the 21st century.
- This holds true especially in India which has the world's highest number of 10 to 24 year olds and who lay the foundation of the country's future.

How India is committed to elementary education ?

- With the formulation of National policy on Education, 1986 , India initiated a wide range of programmes for achieving the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE).
- These efforts were intensified in the 1980s and 1990s through schematic and program interventions like Operation Black Board, etc.,.
- And then Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship scheme in partnership with the state governments for UEE across the country was launched.



- This was further strengthened with the passage of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which gave an legal mandate to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years.

What is the progress achieved at elementary level ?

- Today SSA has covered 19.67 crore children enrolled in 14.6 lakh elementary schools.
- The spread of SSA is mainly in rural areas as these areas account for 85.4 % of all elementary schools and 74.5 % of total enrollment in the elementary level.
- As per UDISE, Gross Enrollment Ratio is 99.21 % for primary and 92.81 % for upper primary which indicates near universal enrollment at the primary level.
- The Pupil Teacher ratio is improved from 32 in 2009 to 25 in 2016.
- The average dropout rate has come down from 6.76 % in 2009 to 4.16 % in 2016.
- The Gender Parity Index which indicates the gender balance in the total enrollment in schools at elementary level has reached 0.93 for primary level and 0.95 at upper primary level.

What are the recent initiatives ?

- Introduction of four year B.Ed. integrated programme with multiple pathways- with specialization for pre-primary, elementary, secondary and senior secondary teachers for enabling regulatory framework and orientation of all existing Teacher Education Institutions will be introduced from the academic session 2019-2020.
- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) will accelerate and amplify solutions, experiments and innovations that are underway, and is being attempted in the areas of teacher training and professional development.
- In another landmark achievement, the Amendment to the Section 23(2) of the RTE Act to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament on 1st August, 2017.
- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has initiated a pilot project for connecting students and their



teachers through tablets preloaded with relevant e content to facilitate easy classroom transaction, creation of genuine interest among students and effective learning of the students.

- The SHAGUN portal was launched in January 2017 to enable real time monitoring of the SSA components and various decisions on elementary education taken based on the feedbacks obtained in the portal.
- Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was launched to recognize, inspire and celebrate excellence in sanitation & hygiene practice in Government Schools in the areas of water, sanitation, hand washing with soap, operations and maintenance, behavior change and capacity building.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is establishing the National Digital Library (NDL) under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) with the objective to host a national repository of existing e-content available across educational institutions in the country.

- “Swasth Bachche Swasth Bharat” programme was launched to measure various components of physical fitness of all the students in the age group of 5 to 8 years and 9 to 19 Years.

5. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL YOUTH

What is the background for Skill Development Mission ?

- Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development in a country.
- According to World Bank, about 13 million people enter the working age every year but only 3 million jobs are created every year.
- As opposed to developed countries, where the percentage of skilled workforce is between 60% and 90% of the total workforce, India records a low 5% of workforce (20-24 years) with formal vocational skills.
- Realizing the importance, more than 20 Ministries/Departments run 70 plus schemes for skill development in the country.
- The National Skill Development Mission launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and



Entrepreneurship on July 15, 2015, aims to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities.

- Besides consolidating and coordinating skilling efforts, it also aims to expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards.

What are the skilling programmes for rural youth ?

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing flagship scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on pan-India basis.
- PMKVY enables large number of prospective youth, which also includes tribal, for taking Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) through accredited and affiliated training partner/training centers.
- The schemes run across 252 job roles related to 35 Sector Skill Councils, which is a diverse and exhaustive representation of the industry.
- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) :** It is a scheme uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- As a part of the Skill India campaign, it plays an instrumental role in supporting the social and economic programs of the government like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaigns.
- Over 180 million or 69% of the country's youth population between the ages of 18 and 34 years, live in its rural areas.
- **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes :** An initiative of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to have dedicated infrastructure in each district of the country to impart training and skill upgradation of rural youth geared towards entrepreneurship development.
- RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras:** In year 2017, MSDE focused extensively on building



industry standardized infrastructure for driving skill development training under which it launched its Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK).

- PMKK has the potential to become the benchmark of skill development infrastructure, training, and placement in the respective district and; also in the country.
- **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS):** These are state of the art center of excellence being set up across the 5 regions of India on the lines on ITE Singapore.
- Total budget of Rs. 476 Crore has been laid down for building IIS, which will provide “hands-on” training in advanced courses such as energy efficient construction, industrial electronics and automation etc.
- **Fee Based Trainings:** Under the Fee based model of skill development training being implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), MSDE has trained more than 74 lakhs till date since its inception.
- In 2017 alone, more than 7 lakh candidates have been enrolled out of which more than 50% have

already been placed in job roles which are in demand like Masonry, Field Sales Technicians, Financial Literacy, Refrigeration mechanic, Certificate in insurance training, Field Technician for Washing Machines etc.

- **Takshashila (Trainers and Assessors Portal)** - National Portal for Trainers and Assessors is an initiative by NSDC under Skill Indian Mission.
- The portal is a dedicated platform towards the management of trainers and assessors training life-cycle and would function as the central repository of information concerning the development of quality Trainers and Assessors in the Indian skill eco-system.
- **What are the skill development schemes in LWE Districts ?**
- **Udaan** is a national integration scheme with the goal to mainstream J&K youth with rest of the country.
- The scheme not only provides skill enhancement and job opportunity but also connects these bright youths from the J&K with the vibrant corporate sector of India.



- The Programme **Himayat**, was launched by the Central Government in Jammu and Kashmir to train and give jobs to over one lakh youth from poor families.
- The priority will be given to youth who are school and college drop-outs and training will be provided at each of the block headquarters.
- **Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan)** is a centrally sponsored Scheme on entrepreneurship education and training being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.
- The Scheme aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship development through Entrepreneurship education and training; Advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship support network and Promoting social enterprises for inclusive growth.
- The Government is implementing the **National Career Service (NCS)** Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment

related services like job matching, career counseling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, etc. which are offered through the Employment Exchanges.

- The NCS portal provides for registration of employers, job seekers, placement organisations and training providers to offer employment related services online.

6. NEW PRIORITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

What are the steps taken by GOI to double farmer's income ?

- The GOI launched the Soil Health Card Scheme to assess the soil condition over 12 parameters and continuously for the period of every three years and it will aid the farmers in choosing the better crops.
- Ten lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be taken up by making productive use of the allocations under MGNREGA.
- Rs. 500 Crores have been allocated under the National Food Security Mission and various other



allocations are made to enhance the pulses production in the country.

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana was launched to promote the organic farming and this will end in creating the produce pesticide residue free, contribute to improve the health of consumer, raise farmer's income, create potential market for traders and finally motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilisation for input production.
- Crop productivity can be significantly increased by managing soil health facilities and adopting best management practices, so interstate exposure schemes and training schemes are devised to facilitate that.
- As most of the land under cultivation is rain fed many water conserving methods and programs are devised to ensure the all round availability of water and on the other scale promotion of dry crops also taken.
- The GOI is taking measures to check flood of spurious pesticides in market by fly-by-night operators

by regulating restrictions, strengthening quality enforcement and tackling corruption through provisions of joint testing of samples.

- As Biotechnology has the potential to increase productivity in crops and facilitate incorporation of genes for resistance to pests, diseases and abiotic stresses and it is set to play a critical role in crop production and livestock production and many measures are taken to introduce the GM crops.
- The GOI increased the target of agricultural funding from 50,000 crores to 8.5 lakh crores to facilitate easy availability of credit and to remove the farming community from the clutches of money lenders.
- The government has initiated the new insurance scheme wherein, the farmer would be able to at least recover the basic inputs he puts in, in the uncertainties created by more than one reasons.

What are the steps to be taken to double farmer's income ?

- Farmer is concerned with the profit he gets from a particular crop, so



there should be an upward push in the MSP of various crops to promote the diversification of the crops.

- Promotion of intensive vegetable production using improved varieties, organic manure and drip irrigation can provide five times higher annual income, to the tune of 2 lakhs per annum.
- The promotion of integrated farming system should be made as it decreased cultivation cost through multiple use of resources and providing much needed resilience for predicted climate change scenario.
- The Kisan Card facilities are now available to only for the crop production and it should be extend to the farmers who actively engage in aquaculture and animal husbandry.
- Operation Greens addresses the price volatility of perishable commodities such as tomatoes, onion and potato and it must be increased to other crops as this will promote FPO, agri logistics and processing facilities and professional management in the sector.
- Reducing the post harvest losses by strengthening grain storage infrastructure, cool chain systems for perishables, post harvest processing and value addition, transport, marketing, commerce and trade is essentially important.
- APMC act should be amended to encourage competitive marketing environment and to introduce the method of contract farming, which will promote the farmer's income in a efficient way.

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