



RESURGENT INDIA

Addressing Rural Poverty: Livelihood Development and Diversification

Amarjeet Sinha

Energy – A Key Driver of Socio-Economic Growth

Sumant Sinha

Developing a Knowledge-based Society

Gopalan Madhavan Nair

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HIGHLIGHTS



- I extend warm greetings and best wishes on the 73rd Independence Day and on the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan to all the countrymen, brothers and sisters.
- As the country is celebrating the festival of Independence, people in several parts of the country are facing difficulties due to floods. Centre, States and other organizations are striving hard to bring the situation back to normal.
- To revoke Article 370 and 35A within 10 weeks of the formation of the new Government is a significant step towards fulfilling the dream of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The task that was not done in the last 70 years has been accomplished within 70 days. The abrogation of Article 370 and 35A was passed in both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha by two-thirds majority.
- If we can abolish Sati system, make stringent laws against female foeticide and take action against child marriage and dowry, we can also raise our voice against Triple Talaq. Similarly, we have enacted law against Triple Talaq to protect the rights of our Muslim women.
- Radical amendments were made in laws relating to terrorism and were made more stringent and powerful.
- In a significant step, transfer of about Rs. 90,000 crores to farmers' bank accounts is in progress to those who are beneficiaries of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
- Pension scheme to farmers and small entrepreneurs has been put in place which was never imagined earlier.
- To address challenges of water crisis, a new dedicated Ministry of Jal Shakti has been created.
- In coming days, Centre and States will together take forward the Jal-Jeevan Mission and an amount of more than Rs. 3.5 lakh crores has been earmarked for this.
- There is a pressing need for doctors, health facilities and systems in the country. In order to make Medical Education transparent, important laws have been enacted.
- The country has enacted strong laws for protection of children.
- While 2014-2019 was an era of fulfillment of needs, the period beyond 2019 is that of fulfillment of aspirations and dreams.

... continued on last page

September 2019

Volume-63



YOJANA

Since 1956 A DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY

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Business Wing (HQS): Phones: 011-24367260,
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Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides
Rig Veda

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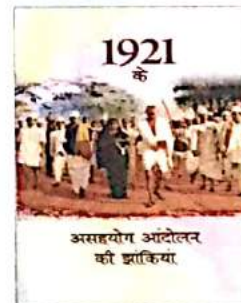
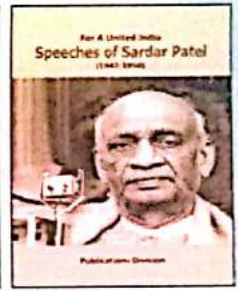
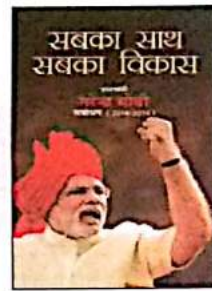
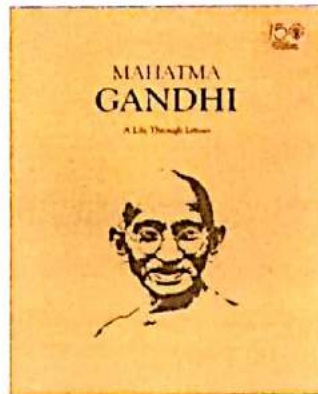
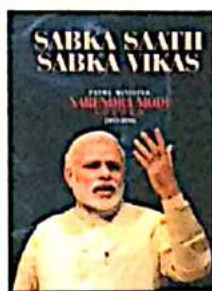
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On The Path of Progress

India today is consistently progressing and moving forward to attain newer heights in numerous sectors such as infrastructure, innovation, space technology, resource conservation and so on. From progress towards improvement in governance, policies and quality of institutions to setting international benchmarks, India has been making remarkable strides towards developing into a modern nation while retaining its strong traditional roots. It has rightfully earned its place of pride and eminence on the global platform.

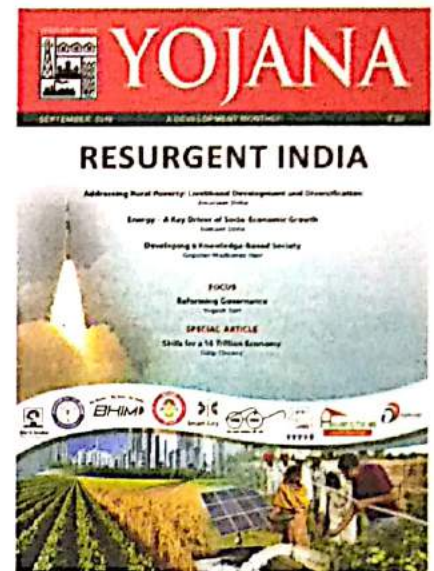
The wheels of transformation are thus moving towards paradigms that make the Government an “enabler” and not a mere “provider”. As the Prime Minister once observed, “If India is to meet the challenge of change, mere incremental progress is not enough. A metamorphosis is needed.” As he stated, the transformation of India cannot happen without a transformation of governance, the transformation of governance cannot happen without a transformation in mindset; and a transformation of mindset cannot happen without transformative ideas.

India is a unique combination of urban-rural, agricultural-industrial and formal-informal skill components and as such India's development plan or its trajectory is unique in terms of interventions, ideas as well as approaches. With one of the world's youngest population to its advantage, India has tremendous potential. Initiatives for employment and skill generation, focus on MSMEs and research, launch of ‘Study in India’ programme are among the numerous steps being taken towards progress. With initiatives such as the National Health policy 2017, the launch of Chandrayaan-2, Direct Benefit Transfer, among others, India is making significant strides in its quest for development. The Jal Shakti Ministry has been formed for a unified and integrated approach towards the conservation, development and management of the country's precious water resources.

India aims to achieve the 5 trillion dollar economy target by 2024. To catapult India into becoming future ready, various citizen oriented initiatives have been launched in diverse sectors like infrastructure, financial services, e-governance, banking, education, agriculture, healthcare and logistics, among others. Likewise, rural electrification, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat, Bharatmala and so on speak of the vast reach of initiatives for all round development.

Building effective, accountable and transparent mechanisms is thus an important part of building a nation that would make an inclusive path to rapid growth possible.

These initiatives have made public participation and inclusion possible like never before, thus making citizens active partners in the growth story where India stands connected globally and also contributes to global endeavours. The focus areas and role of the Government are ever widening and dynamic. With its pro-people, pro-growth, transparent and active engagement, the Government is consistently taking its people forward on a progressive path to development.





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dairy shed. The livelihood linkages in convergence with subsidy Programmes for animal resources and for agriculture contribute to improved incomes in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The increase in production of fruits and vegetables and the significant growth through animal resources over the last 4 years have been on account of this larger thrust on Rural Livelihood Development and Diversification. To illustrate some of the salient livelihood generating and Income and Employment supporting initiatives over the last 3 years are as follows:

- (i) 143 lakh hectares of land provided benefit of Water Conservation works.
- (ii) Nearly 15 lakh farm ponds and 4 lakh wells for irrigation besides a very large number of Water Conservation Community Structures came up during this period.
- (iii) Over 6222 Custom Hiring Centres managed by Women Self Help Groups fully functional during this period.
- (iv) 11000 Bank Sakhis and 773 Bank Mitras trained as Banking Correspondents (BCs) from among SHG Women.
- (v) 33 lakh women farmers supported under non-chemical based agro ecological interventions.
- (vi) 86000 Producer Groups and 126 Agri Producer Companies established.
- (vii) 449 vehicles under Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) for Rural Transport plying on roads with women drivers.
- (viii) Over 9 lakh Solar Lamps assembled by nearly 4000 Women Self Help Group Members in remote regions of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, etc.
- (ix) Over 6000 Barefoot Technicians trained and certified.
- (x) 3.54 lakh candidates successfully placed for wage employment under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and 12.65 lakh candidates settled for self-employment under Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in the last 4 years.
- (xi) 10949 Rural Masons trained and certified under the Housing Programme.

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

(NIPFP) was requested to assess the impact of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) on Income and Employment. The Report found that "By using information about the completed and under construction houses since 2016-17 that is made available through AwaasSoft and by the MoRD, we estimate that the scheme could have generated about 52.47 crore person-days. Of this, nearly 20.85 crore person-days are for skilled labour and the remaining 31.62 crore person-days are for the unskilled labour force in both years".

For Rural Infrastructure, the PMGSY has been a flagship Programme and during the last 4 years 1.69 lakh kms of roads were constructed. The average road length constructed annually since 2011-12 may be seen in Table IV.

Table IV – Total Road Length Constructed Per Day under PMGSY

Year	Average Road Length Constructed per day under PMGSY (in km)
2011-12	85
2012-13	66
2013-14	69
2014-15	100
2015-16	100
2016-17	130
2017-18	134

A significant stepping up of road construction Programme has also generated direct and indirect employment. On an average one-fourth of the total cost of construction of rural roads contributes to employment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled wage earners. Clearly these have also contributed to Incomes and Employment during this period. The Central Government annual allocation was increased to Rs. 19000 crore over the last 3 years. This is able to leverage Rs. 8000 crore to Rs. 9000 crore as State share. Over the last 3 years, this means that nearly Rs. 70,000 crore to Rs. 80,000 crore was available only for road construction. 25% creating direct employment is naturally a larger number with consequences for income and employment in rural areas.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been a major source of strengthening livelihood security with full transparency during this period.

- The Central Government's commitment to

Rs. 8000 to Rs. 9000 crore of State share each year which were not available earlier with PMGSY. A similar increase happened in Programmes that were brought on 60:40 share from the earlier 75:25, like NSAP, DAY-NRLM, etc.

- From 2017-18, under the Housing Programme, additional resources were mobilized through Extra Budgetary Resources (EBRs) as well. A total of Rs. 21,975 crore of Extra Budgetary Funds have been mobilized/are being mobilized in 2017 to 2019 period for PMAY-Gramin. Rs. 7329.43 crore has already been disbursed through EBR.
- The transfer of funds under the 14th Finance Commission awards has also registered a significant increase compared to the allocations earlier under the 13th Finance Commission. It can be seen in Table II.

Table II – Release under 14th Finance Commission

Year	Total Release (Rs. in crore)
2015-16	21510.46
2016-17	33870.52
2017-18	32423.72

- The fourth important factor to note is the leveraging of Bank Loans by Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) during this period. A total of Rs. 1.64 lakh crore have been mobilized as

Bank Loan by Women Self Help Groups in the last 5 years. The Bank Loan outstanding has more than doubled from Rs. 31865 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 69733 crore in 2017-18 under DAY-NRLM.

Besides the specific resource provision for Rural Poverty Programmes, the thrust on Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), increase in the allocations of Ministry of Agriculture and other Infrastructure and Livelihood Programmes for the poor, the total transfer of financial resources to Rural India has been very significant. A large proportion of the same goes into improvement in Incomes and Employment.

The Department of Rural Development has focused on Development and Diversification of Livelihoods of the poor households during this period. The Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 released in July 2015 provided an Evidence Based Criteria for Selection of Beneficiaries under various Government Programmes. The application of deprivation criteria of SECC to the Provision for LPG Gas connection under Ujjwala, free household electricity connection under Saubhagya, selection of beneficiaries under PMAY-G, and now selection under Aayushman Bharat for National Health Protection have ensured that the benefits of development reach the most deprived on a priority. The use of SECC in finalization of Labour

Budgets to States under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and insistence in enrolment of all women from households with deprivation under SHGs of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has also ensured that poor regions with larger number of poor households receive priority in Programmes of Rural Poverty. Table III highlights the kinds of deprivation.

All Programmes of Rural Development were aligned to Livelihood Development and Diversification. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) focused on durable assets and Water Conservation, and also provided for livelihood generating individual benefits like farm ponds, dug wells, goat shed, poultry shed, housing support, and support for dairy shed. The livelihood linkages in convergence with subsidy Programmes for animal resources and for agriculture contribute to improved incomes in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The increase in production of fruits and vegetables and the significant growth through animal resources over the last 4 years have been on account of this larger thrust on Rural Livelihood Development and Diversification. To illustrate some of the salient livelihood generating and Income and Employment supporting initiatives over the last 3 years are as follows:

Table III – Deprivation under SECC 2011

Particular	Deprived Households
Only zero room or one room with kutchha walls and kutchha roof (D1)	2,37,31,674
No adult member between 16 to 59 (D2)	65,15,205
Female headed households with no adult male member between age 16 to 59 (D3)	68,96,014
Disabled member and no able bodied adult member (D4)	7,16,045
SC/ST households (D5)	3,85,82,225
No literate adult above 25 years (D6)	4,21,47,568
Landless households as manual casual labour (D7)	5,37,01,383
Another 16 lakh households are automatically included as the poorest of the poor households	



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Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been a major source of strengthening livelihood security with full transparency during this period.

- The Central Government's commitment to ensure effective implementation of MGNREGS is reflected by the continuous increase in Budget allocation. Total Budget Allocation in FY 2017-18 was Rs. 55,167 crore which was highest since inception.



Year	Budget Allocation (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	33000
2015-16	37346
2016-17	48220
2017-18	55167

- **Fund Utilization:** The fund utilization (including Central and State share) has also seen a significant increase in comparison to previous financial years. The total expenditure in FY 2017-18 is about Rs. 64,288 crore (Provisional) which is highest ever since inception.
- The person-days generated under MGNREGS in the last 3 years has been in the range of 235 crore every year. This is higher than most years before, indicating how the thrust on durable assets and Individual Beneficiary Schemes (IBSs) has generated a steady demand for MGNREGS. The figures below affirm the high demand for Livelihoods security through durable assets of MGNREGS.

Year	Person-days of work generated (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	166.21
2015-16	235.14
2016-17	235.6
2017-18	234.3

The expansion of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) with a provision of rice at Rs. 3 per kg and

wheat at Rs. 2 per kg has facilitated food security in poor households. The increases in the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour has been modest on account of the low food price inflation during this period as food items comprise the largest chunk of the basket of goods and services for calculating the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour. The subsidies on Rice and Wheat, and the ready availability of cheap foodgrains to poor households need to be factored in while looking at wage rates for Agricultural Labour. Even with nominal increases in real wage, the purchasing power goes up as major expenditure items like rice and wheat are heavily subsidized with effective availability.

Rural poverty is truly multi-dimensional and there is a need to address it simultaneously for greater impact. The efforts over the last few years have been towards convergence of rural initiatives to make a real difference to the well-being of poor households. These interventions have targeted both the poverty of households and the poverty of geographies. The factors contributing to these are listed below:

Poverty of Households

- Lack of education and skills
- Under-nutrition and ill-health
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Assetlessness
- Lack of safe housing
- Limited access to public services
- Clutches of middlemen/corruption/moneylender

- Absence of Social Capital-collectives of women/youth/poor households

Poverty of Geographies

- Low price for produce - distress
- Violence/crime
- Unirrigated agri/vagaries of monsoon
- Lack of basic infra-roads, electricity, internet
- Lack of access to markets and jobs
- Lack of non-farm opportunities

It is evident from the data and interventions listed above that higher financial resources have been made available for addressing rural poverty over the last few years along with a much higher scale of leverage of bank loans for women Self-Help Groups. These have been contributing to both rise in incomes and employment through diversification and development of livelihoods. A few illustrative examples of such diversification have been listed above. Overall the challenges to rural poverty are being effectively addressed through the range of interventions outlined above. Evaluation studies by the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) have also confirmed increase in incomes, productive assets, and enterprises in villages where Women Self-Help Groups are active under DAY-NRLM. Similarly, Studies of Water Conservation works under MGNREGA by the Institute of Economic Growth confirmed increase in income, productivity, acreage, and the water table. Such increases are bound to generate employment on a large scale. ■

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India's Journey towards a \$5 Trillion Economy

Ranjeet Mehta

Seventy years after we became a Republic, India is poised to rise steadily on the path of becoming a global power. Our actions hold tremendous possibilities both for our people and the world in general. This presents us with both the opportunity and mandate to envision New India we aspire to create and the world order we wish to shape.

India's rise is an opportunity to reimagine an India in consonance with our highest civilisational ideals: joy, sustainable prosperity, responsible freedom, inclusive growth, peace and mutual respect. These ideals, when they influence our foreign policy, have the potential to shape a plural global order. As potential leaders and shapers of tomorrow, the current global environment calls on us to envision an inclusive global order and then strive to make it a reality. India needs a dream, an overarching vision to bring

coherence to our actions, to act as a balancing power and connect with individuals, nations and regions for achieving sustainable prosperity and progress.

India's Foreign Policy Approach

If one looks very closely within this churn, India's foreign policy approach has been undergoing a paradigm shift with economic and strategic relations gaining significant cultural undercurrents. The new approach is reflected in the foreign policy pillars of Panchamrit - Samman (dignity and honour), Samvaad (engagement and dialogue), Samridhi (Shared Prosperity), Suraksha (regional and global security) and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (culture and civilisational linkages). Panchamrit has begun to influence our international outreach. This has found place in our global engagements through the 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' approach, as evidenced by Prime Minister inviting the heads of all

SAARC countries to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014 and his counterparts in the ASEAN for India's Republic Day in January 2018.

More recently in the second term of this Government, the emphasis has shifted from SAARC to BIMSTEC and Indian Ocean Region (IOR), in particular. The BIMSTEC is fast replacing SAARC as the primary forum for India's regionalism. India's interest in the Bay of Bengal and its enduring focus on Indian Ocean island states underline the emerging maritime dimensions of India's neighbourhood policy.

In line with the stated policy, the Prime Minister undertook his first visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. He reiterated the priority India attaches to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the SAGAR Doctrine. SAGAR refers to "Security and Growth for All in the Region" a doctrine conceptualised by the Prime Minister aiming to keep the Indian Ocean region peaceful and secure. This move is a reflection of the Indian assessment that the Indian Ocean island states are the key to India's strategic geographical security. A beginning in this regard was made in 2015 when the Prime Minister travelled to Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka and outlined the SAGAR concept. The presence of the Prime Minister of Mauritius during the oath-taking of the Prime Minister of India in 2019 was a significant indicator in that direction.

Achieving a \$5 Trillion Economy

At the Governing Council Meeting of the NITI Aayog recently,



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Prime Minister announced the target of a \$5 trillion economy for India by 2024. It is essential to think big when seeking to make a difference, for transformation does not come from modest plans. Keeping in mind the aspirations of New India, what would we like to see in the proposed \$5 trillion economy? Certainly, it will require design, funding and governance. The Economic Survey has pegged a GDP growth rate of 7 per cent for FY20, up from 6.8 per cent in the previous fiscal. And to achieve the \$5 trillion economy, the Economic Survey has laid a road map where it says India must grow at 8 per cent.

The Survey has the theme for enabling a “shifting of gears”, “to achieve the objective of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25”. It makes the case for investment, especially private investment as key driver, that drives demand, creates capacity, increases labour productivity, introduces new technology and generates jobs. It also suggested that “exports must form an integral part of the growth model because higher savings preclude domestic consumption as the driver of final demand”. The Survey stated “a virtuous cycle or a vicious cycle”. It says “when the economy is in a virtuous cycle, investment, productivity growth, job creation, demand and exports feed into each other and enable animal spirits in the economy to thrive”.

There is a need for the Government to focus on smoothening the process for private investments into infrastructure and other areas. Government has continued to create an enabling environment by setting in motion structural reforms, clarity in policy and processes, efficiency in allocation risk and resources. We need to focus on job creation and skill development in a fast-changing global economic order. There is a need to support the capital market through well-considered policies for the markets to play a greater role in funding economic activity.

Focus on MSME Sector

The significance of 65 million MSMEs who create about 120 million jobs and 30 per cent of the country's economic output and around 30 per cent of total employment generation cannot be underestimated. Keeping this in mind, the Government has

India's rise is an opportunity to reimagine an India in consonance with our highest civilisational ideals: joy, sustainable prosperity, responsible freedom, inclusive growth, peace and mutual respect. These ideals, when they influence our foreign policy, have the potential to shape a plural global order.

undertaken several transformational reforms in MSME sector recently.

New manufacturing operations will allow India to become part of few global value chains and help in raising exports to a trillion dollar mark. India has to focus on setting manufacturing ecosystem for product groups and take steps like setting-up machinery that manufacture the products, speciality materials, biologics, nanotechnology, integrated circuits, embedded systems, medical imaging devices etc. Not to forget computers, TVs, mobile phones, and telecom equipment, auto components, toys, furniture, footwear and apparels. These skill and labour-intensive products can absorb part of surplus people from the agriculture or informal sector. There is a need to emphasize on flexible labour laws as these are an essential precondition for large-scale manufacturing.

Focus on Agriculture Sector

Sixty per cent of India's population lives in rural areas and is mostly engaged in agriculture. The Government has committed to double Farmers' income by 2022. The real issue is not the level of productivity but how produce can be converted into value that will decide farmers' income. Today, no industrialised nation can survive without agriculture. Globally, 60 to 80 per cent movement of goods is around agriculture or its produce.

The focus has shifted from increasing per acre productivity to gainfully employing farm households in other farm-related activities and to improve post-production value-addition by pooling of land and aggregation of farmers' produce to give growers better bargaining power in the market. There have been several measures in recent times towards upgrading and harmonizing agri-logistics, agro-processing and agri-marketing. One of the many steps towards selling farmers' produce in better prices is creation of Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAM) and linking them with the electronic farmer marketplace, eNAMs, to sell their produce nationally.

And to do this the Government has focussed on development of sustainable and efficient cold-chain infrastructure in India for which National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD) has been working with private sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Focus on Services Sector

Services contribute to 56.5 per cent of GDP but create only 30 per cent of jobs. So far, IT sector has been the mainstay, exporting over 80 per cent of its \$150 billion turnover. But it is also to be seen that more than 50 per cent of IT revenues come from the US, therefore the future looks challenging at the backdrop of current US policies.

Now the sector needs to develop expertise in IOT, AI, VR and their applications. Travel and tourism, health and professional services can be the other key service sectors. Better delivery of infrastructure, education and essential services would also create a large number of jobs and growth.

The travel and tourism sector created 40 million jobs and contributed a significant 10 per cent to the GDP. Considering the variety of experiences India offers, the sector can grow manifold with project-driven investments in budget hotels, medical tourism, tourist safety and creating new tourist attractions.

Another big opportunity comes in global healthcare and wellness which is a \$8 trillion industry and would require over 100 million health workers in the next 15 years. There is an opportunity

India's digital consumer base is the second largest in the world and growing at the second-fastest rate amongst major economies. Our inclusive digital model is narrowing the digital divide within the country and bringing benefits of technology to all segments of people.

in converting India's 600 district hospitals as medical nursing and paramedical schools to train 5 million doctors, nurses and paramedics to meet the global requirement, who in turn can remit billions of dollars foreign currency every year. There is a huge potential in construction sector which contributes 10 per cent to India's GDP and it is the largest job-generating sector after Agriculture.

A Trillion Dollar Opportunity in Digital India

Digital India Initiative was launched by the Prime Minister on 1st July, 2015. With a strong foundation of digital infrastructure and expanded digital access through Digital India Initiative, India is now poised for the next phase of growth — creation of tremendous economic value and empowerment of citizens as new digital applications permeate sector after sector. India can create up to \$1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy in 2025, up from around \$200 billion currently generated.

India's digital consumer base is the second largest in the world and growing

at the second-fastest rate amongst major economies. Our inclusive digital model is narrowing the digital divide within the country and bringing benefits of technology to all segments of people. Half the potential economic value of \$1 trillion in 2025 could come from new digital ecosystems in diverse sectors, including financial services, agriculture, healthcare, logistics and transportation, jobs and skills market, e-governance and other areas.

Finally, there is no doubt that how quickly policymakers are able to provide the policy push will decide how fast we can achieve our goal of \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

The Prime Minister has seen a dream of a 'New India' which will be a \$5 trillion economy and a model of Good Governance for the world. PM has set the following Vision for New India:

1. To be free from poverty, full of prosperity;
2. To be free from discrimination, filled with equality;
3. To be free from injustices, ensconced in justice;
4. To be free from squalor, covered with cleanliness;
5. To be free from corruption, complete with transparency;
6. To be free from unemployment, enriched with employment;
7. To be free from atrocities against women, full with respect for women; and
8. To be free from despondency, full of hope.

His vision of 'Transforming India' is to touch each citizen's life and make India one of the top three economies in the world.

To conclude, it is absolutely essential to work on a framework that provides ease of business and predictability. It is also time to redirect energies on providing the environment to encourage private sector investments and innovation.

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Water Conservation as a National Movement

Savita

India is changing to a country when the whole world is recognizing it as a 'New India'. The world's largest democracy is now fast transforming into a rich, self-reliant, developed, net exporter of food, transparent and vibrant country, while having well-developed infrastructure, skilled and dynamic youth, up-to-date communication, advanced health and educational systems, improved governance and growing economy. Notably, India in recent times has become a globally recognized hub of IT industry, health tourism, space research & use of satellite technology and several other sectors.

Further, India is not only committed to fulfill its international obligations towards biodiversity conservation, environmental management, climate change mitigation, human rights, social justice, equity as well as peace but at the same time it is fully geared for planned accomplishments essential for nation building and meaningful contribution towards global agenda on sustainable development. Indeed, India is fast moving towards pro-people, participatory, visible and responsive economic prosperity while aiming to safeguard its long-term interests of ecological security by protecting the country's diverse and unique natural heritage.

Water Crisis - A Major Impediment

India has just 2.4% geographical area of the world while harbouring nearly one sixth of the global population and the world's highest owner of livestock (512 million



heads). Therefore, despite having made above cited notable progress and accomplishments in different sectors, India faces several limitations and global challenges in order to realise dreams, expectations and ever rising aspirations of its people. Amongst them, interrelated water crisis and food insecurity attract special attention as these attain highest risk values owing to burgeoning population, rapid urbanization; industrialization and infrastructure development; expansion and intensification of agriculture; loss of wilderness and degradation of natural resources (forests, grasslands, wetlands including rivers, marine and coastal ecosystems); large gaps between supplies and demands of various sectors and implications of climate change.

Signs of water scarcity by way of limited access, declining quantity and deteriorating quality are evident. Everyone realizes that water is not only essential for all life forms but it also connects every aspect of life. Human body is made of 'Panchtatvas' – five elements: Water, Air, Fire, Earth and Space, where about 72% per cent of the body weight is due to water content. Water is the driving force for nature.

Although the mother Earth is predominantly (70%) covered by water, only 2.5% is freshwater. India harbours only 4% of world's freshwater resources. Less than 1% of the freshwater is easily accessible in lakes and rivers. Disproportionately, agriculture sector alone consumes

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nearly 70% of the freshwater used by humans. Despite appreciating the importance of water to humanity, the extent and severity of water scarcity in different parts of the country is on the rise owing to increasing population; enhanced runoff due to deforestation and loss of green cover; urban 'grey' environment; changing life styles and enhanced consumption patterns; expansion of irrigated agriculture and resultant exploitation of depleting ground water; creation of physical barriers leading to storage of water in large reservoirs/barrages and diversion of water by canals; wastage of water by leakage and neglect; inadequate facilities for recycling and rainwater storage; and more importantly, pollution of water by sewage and dumping of urban wastes and unchecked flow of industrial effluents. While there is a growing focus on all-round rapid development in the country, availability and access to freshwater imposes restriction on development works. The country is expected to become 'water stressed' as per capita surface water availability is on the decline. Several metropolis and rural areas face acute shortage of even drinking water. Several parts of the country are prone to water-borne diseases and human health is a major concern in such pockets. Water crisis in many remote rural areas, particularly in the Himalayan region,

is a cause of drudgery as fetching water from long distances excessively affects women and takes away their considerable time from work, family care, and also results into loss of economic opportunities. Demand for water is expected to increase multi-folds in next few decades. At this juncture, when the country faces accelerated consumption, enhanced environmental degradation and the multi-faceted impacts of climate change, comprehensive science-based pathways, innovations, technologies are the need of the hour and also to ensure participation of all concerned so as to efficiently manage scarce freshwater resources of the country and competing demands.

Nature, Water and People

Nature, water and people have intricate relationships as nature plays a fundamental and unique role in regulating different features of the water cycle. Nature acts as a regulator, a cleaner and/or a supplier of water. Maintaining healthy forests and other natural ecosystems (grasslands and wetlands) directly leads to improved water security not only for wild denizens but for all.

Landscape features, its dynamic spatial patterns along various ecological processes influence soil formation, erosion, and sediment transport and deposition – all of which can exert major influences on

hydrology and the quality of water and the way it moves through the complex system. While forests often receive the most attention when it comes to land cover and hydrology, grasslands, wetlands and agriculture lands also play significant roles in water cycling. Soils are critical in controlling the movement, storage and transformation of water. Biodiversity has a functional role as it underpins ecosystem processes and functions and, therefore, the delivery of ecosystem services. In order to appreciate causes of water crisis and develop holistic approaches for ensuring water security in the country, the foremost requirement is to understand such interconnections in the country's different regions/landscapes.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is complex and daunting, particularly in a human dominated country like India having several competing demands. The result of excessive use, waste, pollution and allied activities have resulted in the current situation with reduced e-flow of majority of the country's dying rivers and other water bodies, deepening of water table and sites of unmanageable crowds at water distribution points. Water conservation primarily involves the following three objectives:

- (a) **Enhance water availability** – This could be mainly achieved by adopting a mixed strategy focussing on the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems (forests, grasslands and wetlands including rivers), increasing green cover aiming at source sustainability, managing riparian forest buffers, adoption of water efficient diversified agriculture, encouraging rainwater harvesting, undertaking massive soil and moisture conservation efforts, storage in reservoirs, water budgeting, recycling and reuse.
- (b) **Improve water quality** – This means effective law enforcement and stringent regulations,

pollution control, restrictions on pouring of sewage, urban waste, industrial effluents and even prohibition on use of toxics (pesticides and weedicides) in agriculture, establishment of STPs and water treatment plants and adoption of bioremediation techniques.

- (c) **Reducing water-related risks** – Considerable area of the country is being annually impacted by droughts, floods, long dry spells and different health hazards. Adoption of integrated watershed management programme, flood control mechanisms, climate resilient agriculture, promotion of alternate income generation activities and sustainable livelihoods can minimize risks and disaster management.

A National Movement

Considering the magnitude and complexity of water crisis and also in order to achieve above elaborated objectives of water conservation, it is essential to change from the “business as usual” approach, instead to earnestly work towards an accelerated effort to plan, manage and use the precious water resources sustainably and fairly adopting holistic, evidence-based, participatory and bottom up approaches. In addition, it is essential to optimally revive traditional methods, tools, techniques and best practices for rainwater harvesting and water use efficiency besides building resiliency to face water related risks. Innovative, ‘Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)’ are expected to make significant contributions towards concerted efforts aiming at water conservation. Moreover, current

Sustainable management of water resources requires striking a balance between supply and demand, between the immediate requirement during the current/ next year and decades into the future, between water quantity and water quality. These are crucial challenges but are not unfamiliar to water management specialists.

efforts demand a national movement.

The Government of India has realised the merit of adopting a comprehensive approach towards water conservation. The unified Central ‘Ministry of Jal Shakti’ has been made responsible for laying down policy guidelines and coordination of programmes for the development and regulation of country’s water resources including dealing with related disciplines, viz. establishment of multipurpose projects, development of ground water resources, river development and rejuvenation, irrigation, flood control, resolving inter-state river disputes and inter-linking of rivers. The Ministry has been asked to develop and adopt a comprehensive strategy. Accordingly, the Ministry launched ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan’, a campaign for water conservation and water security. The campaign will run through citizen participation while focus of the campaign would be on water-stressed districts and blocks in the country.

Besides, Ministry of Jal Shakti, other identified prominent Central

Ministries, national and State level Governmental and non-governmental Departments/scientific organizations in the country responsible for interrelated fields of environment, forestry, wildlife, agriculture, water resources, hydrology, meteorology, climate change, science and technology, river development, irrigation, rural development and urban development have been working for decades and have made significant contributions by launching various country-wide programmes and schemes facilitating water conservation.

For example, in recent decades, India has made huge investments towards implementation of ‘integrated watershed development programme’ and more or less it has taken a shape of a national movement, particularly in rainfed areas. Some of the other prominent programmes/schemes launched by concerned Ministries are: PMKSY – ‘Har Khet ko Pani’ and ‘More Crop Per Drop’; Jal Shakti Abhiyan; River Basin Management; National Water Mission; National Mission for Clean Ganga-Namami Gange, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission for Sustainable Himalayas; Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Programme; Interlinking of Rivers, Ground Water Management, Flood Control and Forecast, Biodiversity Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Green India Mission, CAMPA and National and State Level Action Plans on Climate Change.

From time to time, the country has enacted various policies and laws relevant to above fields. Day-by-day, law enforcement (forest, wildlife, environment) is becoming evident by frequent judgements pronounced by the Hon’ble Courts, National Green Tribunal and notable interventions by Central/State Level Pollution Control Boards. Despite all odds, the Central Government during the period 2014-19 has implemented the ambitious programme of Namami Gange aiming for Ganga rejuvenation (*Aviral* and





Nirmal Dhara) by way of forestry interventions, establishment and maintenance of STPs, conservation of aquatic life, etc. The programme is now being executed with more insight, experience, vigour and support. Further, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken an initiative on preparation of Detailed Project Report on forestry interventions for rejuvenating major Indian river systems.

Taking clue from national programmes, several States have also initiated their own flagship programmes related to water management. Some prominent ones are: 'Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA)' by Rajasthan Government and 'Green Mahanadi Mission' of Odisha Government focussing on water development in water starved desert region and rejuvenation of Mahanadi River, respectively. Participatory irrigation management backed by the 'Pani Panchayat Act, 2002' in Odisha is flourishing through efficient and equitable supply and distribution of water ensuring optimum utilisation by farmers.

Future Direction

Sustainable management of water resources requires striking a balance between supply and demand, between the immediate requirement during the current/next year and decades into the future, between water quantity and water quality. These are crucial challenges but are not unfamiliar to water management specialists. Water conservation calls for creating

an enabling environment for change, synergy between diverse stakeholders/sectors, suitable legal and regulatory frameworks, appropriate financing mechanisms and social acceptance. On the one hand, developing an understanding on interconnections among nature, water and people pose new hurdles; and on the other hand new vistas open up for sustainable water management,

seeking interaction across scientific disciplines and governmental entities. As the 'New India' moves in the direction of sustainable development, due emphasis is to given for formulation of strategies, guidelines and plans for sustainable use of the water resource, in other words, water budgeting.

In conclusion, following six priority actions are visualised for making water management sustainable in the country as a reality through an aggressive national movement:

- a. Institutions and Governance – Institutions working/contributing directly or indirectly towards water management would need strengthening and augmentation of manpower and financial resources and also a platform to bring in their efforts together for synergistic outcome. Governance at all levels would definitely matter to establish judicious water use and prevention and resolution of conflicts.
- b. Participatory Approach–The National movement certainly requires participatory approaches seeking involvement and empowerment of people so they can establish a mechanism to implement and enforce judicious use of water and efficient management of precious water resources.
- c. Knowledge Management–The complex subject of water resource management calls for collaborations/networking and institutionalising synergies

between various entities for development and exchange of evidence-based knowledge on ecosystem functions and development of suitable technologies to improve water resource management to ensure source sustainability. Development of 'Nature-Based Solutions' for various aspects of water management offer better opportunities and would be of immense help.

- d. Ecosystem-Based Management Approach–The move from isolationist approaches to holistic approaches are desirable on a priority basis. Thereby, greater focus on river basins and riverscapes for planning, assessment and interventions are the need of the hour. The awareness and sensitization campaign on massive scale need to be undertaken for educating masses on the significance of maintaining our ecosystem's integrity.
- e. Continuous Care – This aspect seeks concerted efforts towards conservation of existing water sources as well as rejuvenation of rivers/restoration/recharging of depleted water resources. Utmost care is required to be taken for retaining the water sources, making them sustainable and ensuring judicious use thereof.
- f. Capacity Development – The task of water management is tricky. Success towards countering water wastage and degradation of natural ecosystems could be accomplished by creating awareness and appropriate capacity development of various stakeholders. Specialized agencies can be deployed for preparing the blueprint for budgeting the water resource within the framework of the legislation on the subject and then formulate strategies for its successful implementation. ■

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Reforming Governance

Yogesh Suri

The avowed objectives of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas and Sabka Vishwaas” and the Prime Minister’s clarion call of achieving a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25 necessitates putting in place a whole set of initiatives towards good governance. As many as 7 out of 41 chapters of the “Strategy for New India @75” document released by NITI Aayog, focussed exclusively on governance while in remaining chapters, most had emphasized on good governance for better service delivery and more effective outcomes. This article intends to highlight how recent measures for reforming governance can potentially transform India into a high growth economy capable of fulfilling the aspirations of people and facilitating achievement

of not only Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, but also help in India emerging amongst the most developed countries by 2047 i.e. the 100th year of Indian Independence.

Cooperative and Competitive Federalism

Ever since the inception of NITI Aayog w.e.f. January 1, 2015, there has been a renewed thrust on Centre-State relations through cooperative federalism recognising that strong States make a strong Nation. A number of initiatives have been taken to foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms of engagement with the States/Union Territories (UTs) on a continuous basis. These include meetings between Prime Minister/Cabinet Ministers with all Chief Ministers; sub-groups

of Chief Ministers on subjects of national importance; sharing of best practices; policy support and capacity development of State/UT functionaries; Aspirational Districts Programme for development of 115 most backward districts; theme based extensive engagements in various sectors; framing model laws for land leasing and agriculture marketing reforms; and area specific interventions for North Eastern, Himalayan States, and Island development.

A unique feature of this new strategy is to improve States’/UTs’ performances by encouraging healthy competition through transparent ranking in various sectors with a handholding approach. Some of the indices launched include Health Index, Composite Water Management Index, SDG Index and Performance

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of Aspirational Districts. Dynamic ranking portals have been put in place to facilitate States/UTs to feed data and monitor their performance in various sectors vis-à-vis other States/UTs, including third party validation of data. Once districts compete amongst themselves, States would emerge stronger and when States compete amongst themselves, the nation becomes stronger. This is one of the key elements of governance in a pursuit towards transforming India.

Direct Benefit Transfer and Use of Aadhaar

With Aadhaar now firmly in place especially in targeted delivery of subsidies, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) continues to make major inroads into policy and service delivery framework of the country. Currently about 439 schemes across 55 Ministries are covered by DBT. Cumulatively about Rs. 7.66 lakh crore has been transferred to beneficiaries through DBT mode with estimated gains of Rs. 1.42 lakh crore. Of this, DBT in LPG alone has contributed Rs. 59,599 crore (42% of total savings by deleting 4.23 crore duplicate/fake connections) while Public Distribution System (PDS) has contributed Rs. 47,633 crore (34% of total savings by deleting around 3

crore ration cards) (Figure-1). In 2018-19 there were 59 crore beneficiaries of DBT who got benefits in cash while more than 70 crore beneficiaries got it in kind (for instance, food and fertilizers).

On July 23, 2019, the President of India has given his assent to the Aadhaar and other Laws (Amendment) Act 2019 providing a strong regulatory framework for operation of Aadhaar and its voluntary use. States can also use Aadhaar for implementing their schemes. With 124 crore people having Aadhaar numbers, New India is expected to make increasing use of Aadhaar along with mobile numbers for better delivery of benefits in a leakage proof manner.

Outcome Based Monitoring

Over the last few years, there has been a structural change in the budget making process with removal of Plan/Non-Plan distinction and rationalization of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector schemes. A major step in this direction is introduction of Outcome Based Budgets since Union Budget 2017-18. This is in contrast to earlier mechanism of merely focusing on financial outlays, expenditures and outputs. This is a major step in improving governance as the thrust is on meeting the expectations of the

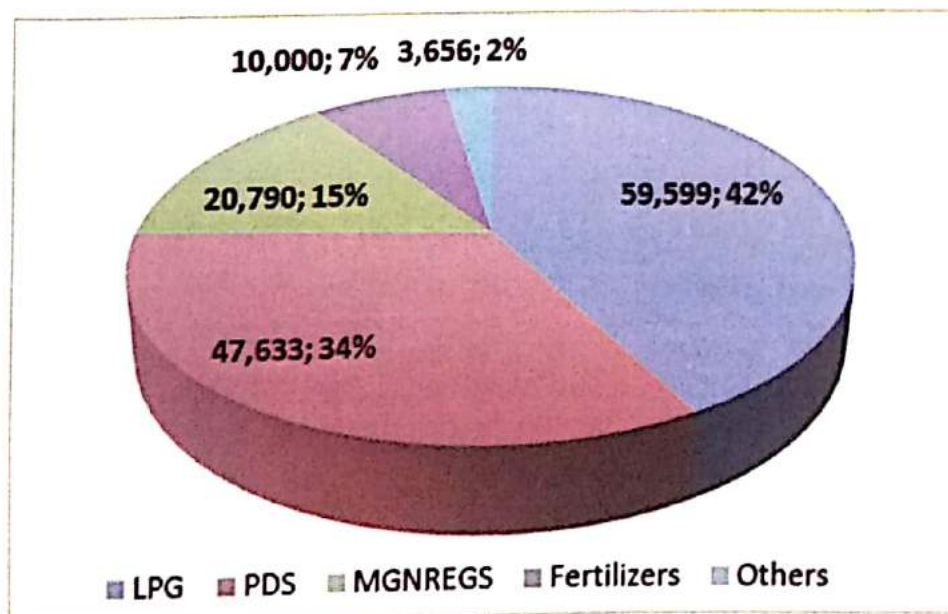
people by focusing on outcomes and not merely on how much expenditure has been incurred under the respective schemes. The Outcome Budget 2019-20 presented in the Parliament covers 163 major central sector/centrally sponsored schemes covering 95% of the outlays of the total of 591 schemes for which outcome budgets have been prepared by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministries/Departments. Currently, a major exercise of independent evaluation of 28 Centrally Sponsored Schemes with budgetary allocation of about Rs. 3.3 lakh crore in 2019-20 is underway in NITI Aayog. At implementation level also, for various schemes, there is greater thrust on creation of dash boards providing on-line and real-time data on schemes and their beneficiaries.

E-Governance

With advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) coupled with penetration of Aadhaar and mobile phones, it has been possible to provide many public services through online modes. Starting from biometric attendance of Government employees, digitizing database of beneficiaries across all schemes, seeding with Aadhaar numbers, using PoS machines for beneficiary authentication and finally transferring the funds to Aadhaar linked bank accounts, various initiatives have made marked improvements in the way services are delivered to the public.

Digital India programme being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is covering multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The programme is centered on three key vision areas viz. Digital Infrastructure as a core utility; governance and services on demand; and digital empowerment of citizens. Key elements of this programme include connectivity for all 2.5 lakh Gram

Figure 1: Estimated Gains from Direct Benefit Transfer (Rs. Crore; % of Total Gains) Cumulative (March 2019)



Panchayats through BharatNet, providing Aadhaar numbers, setting up Common Service Centers including in each Gram Panchayat, Digital Lockers for every citizen, digital life certificates, DBT, digital payments, and so on.

Besides, portals such as Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), the Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) and MyGov are in place providing information to citizens seeking feedback and resolving grievances. The extent of successful penetration of E-services in India can be gauged by the fact that under Electronic Transaction Aggregation and Analysis Layer (E-Taal), more than 3700 services across Central Ministries and State Governments have been integrated and more than 2000 crore transactions have taken place since January 1 to August 3, 2019, (4,200 crore in 2018) i.e. more than 9 crore per day.

Administrative Reforms

Administrative Reforms are a key component to facilitate Transforming India. Reforms in civil services are a continuous process and several initiatives have been undertaken, such as introduction of a multi-stakeholder feedback performance evaluation, dispensing with interviews for lower level positions, introduction of online mechanisms for appraisals and filing of various returns by employees, implementation of e-office, and strengthening training and merit-based postings. NITI Aayog has taken the initiative of inducting highly motivated Young Professionals and Consultants on contractual basis in its workforce so as to provide a fresh perspective in the way Government thinks and operates. The same is also being replicated in a few other Ministries/States.

The Strategy for New India

Starting from biometric attendance of Government employees, digitizing database of beneficiaries across all schemes, seeding with Aadhaar numbers, using PoS machines for beneficiary authentication and finally transferring the funds to Aadhaar linked bank accounts, various initiatives have made marked improvements in the way services are delivered to the public.

@75 document of NITI Aayog has proposed transformative measures, such as improving teeth to tail ratio, promoting officer oriented culture, bringing down number of civil services and allocating candidates as per competencies, encouraging lateral entries and specialization, bringing down entry age, strengthening municipal cadres, training and skill assessments, institutionalization of goal setting and performance evaluation, greater suo motu disclosures, protection of civil servants, E-initiatives and probity. Measures have also been proposed to improve governance in cities besides data led governance without compromising on the data security for citizens.

Law and Order

Legal and judicial reforms would need to be attended on priority so as to ensure safety of people and ensure access to justice in a timely and effective manner. Though law and order is a state subject, Government of India would need to continue engaging states to reform their policing. Some of the suggestions include adoption of the Model Police Act of 2015, filling up vacancies and greater representation of women, reforms in FIR system with greater usage of IT, training/sensitization of police personnel and inducting a

separate cadre for cyber-crimes, cyber threats and fraud.

In the area of judicial reforms, there is again a significant scope for improvement especially with the use of IT. There is a need to reduce criminalization by compounding of minor offences with steep penalties that act as a real deterrent. Focus needs to be more on arbitration so that most cases get resolved out of court. The court processes all across the country need to be automated with electronic court and case management. Redundant laws need to be repealed and new laws need to be written in a simple manner. Forensics and ballistics testing need significant improvements. Besides an All India Judicial Services examination on ranking basis, an Indian legal service may also be considered. The focus needs to move from litigation driven to creation of a law abiding society by sensitizing citizens right from the school level.

Summing Up

Transforming India, as a mandate, is by no means an easy task. It requires clarity of vision, well thought out strategy and action plans dovetailed to achieve that larger vision. The Sustainable Development Goals, of which India is one of the signatories, lay out the roadmap for all countries including India, to achieve by 2030. Accordingly, India is also aligning its goals and targets to achieve SDG objectives. While good governance is pervasive across all goals, Goal 16 specifically deals with access to justice and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. This cannot be done by the Government alone and needs collaborative approach of all stakeholders be it judiciary, civil society, corporates, think tanks, academia, media or citizens themselves. Only then the objective of Transforming India can be achieved in its truest sense. ■

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PM on launch of Chandrayaan-2 (July 22, 2019)



“Special moments that will be etched in the annals of our glorious history! The launch of #Chandrayaan2 illustrates the prowess of our scientists and the determination of 130 crore Indians to scale new frontiers of science. Every Indian is immensely proud today!



“#Chandrayaan2 is unique because it will explore and perform studies on the south pole region of lunar terrain which is not explored and sampled by any past mission. This mission will offer new knowledge about the Moon.



“Indian at heart, Indian in spirit! What would make every Indian overjoyed is the fact that #Chandrayaan2 is a fully indigenous mission. It will have an Orbiter for remote sensing the Moon and also a Lander-Rover module for analysis of lunar surface.



“Efforts such as #Chandrayaan2 will further encourage our bright youngsters towards science, top quality research and innovation. Thanks to Chandrayaan, India's Lunar Programme will get a substantial boost. Our existing knowledge of the Moon will be significantly enhanced.



Developing a Knowledge-based Society

Gopalan Madhavan Nair

July 22, 2019 was yet another red-letter day in the history of Indian Science and Technology. On that day ISRO commenced its historic journey to the moon by lofting its most complex satellite Chandrayaan-2 along with a lander and a rover for lunar exploration. The GSLV MKIII, nicknamed as Bahubali, placed the Chandrayaan-2 in a highly elliptical orbit around the earth. From there the rocket engines on the spacecraft will be fired to raise the apogee step-by-step and then the spacecraft will undertake the journey to the moon breaking the gravitational field of the earth. As it reaches the moon its velocity will be reduced so that the spacecraft will be pulled into the orbit around the moon. Initially the composite module will be stabilized in an orbit of 200 km around the moon. Aerial survey of the landing location will be made by the mother spacecraft based on which the landing sequence will be worked out. As stated by Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman ISRO, the next 15 minutes will be a nightmare, when the lander will be guided precisely to the landing location near the South Pole. A set of variable thrust of rocket engines, stereo cameras and laser ranging instrument will provide input to the onboard computer which is programmed to carry out these complex operations. This lander named as Vikram is going to soft land in a totally unknown territory with uncertainties about its trajectory and performance making India's maiden effort to land on the uncharted surface cluttered with meteors and

rocks. ISRO is planning to achieve this in September and India will reaffirm its well-established fourth position in the elite space club of developed nations. The unique mission as a rover carrying analytical instruments moving around the landing site and analyzing the samples is going to be a historical event. Confirmation of quality and quantum of water, Helium-3 and rare metals are going to be valuable inputs for enhancing fundamental knowledge about moon and inputs for future lunar missions. The first pictures of earth from Chandrayaan-2 were revealed by ISRO confirming normal performance of the spacecraft. These achievements of ISRO makes it the flagship of Indian Science and Technology. It also proves that India is second to none in mastering the complex technologies and using it for the advancement of scientific knowledge and their application for enhancing the quality of life of people in the country.

ISRO's long-term vision coupled with careful planning and above all the commitment of team ISRO is responsible for these unique achievements.

India was flourishing in the scientific thoughts and inventions starting from 5000 BC. There were



ample examples of excellent town planning, agricultural practices, Ayurveda, astrology and use of metals as seen in the relics from Harappa and Mohenjodaro on the banks of Sindhu and Saraswati rivers. The supremacy in the scientific knowledge and technology possessed by ancient India has led to contribution to the global economy.

Though we had a glorious past, 2000 years back, we can no more live on past glory. This realisation had led to drastic changes in our outlook on scientific activities. After independence, initiatives taken by the Government for setting up national, education institutes like IITs and research establishments

The author is former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

for atomic energy, space research, defence, agriculture etc. are paying rich dividends today. Achievements in the area of space research has already been highlighted. The R&D activities in atomic energy have enabled us to achieve self-reliance and use the energy for peaceful and military applications. Similarly in defence, powerful missiles and military aircrafts have been developed through indigenous efforts. The most important achievement is in the field of agriculture. In the mid-sixties a green revolution was brought in by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and his team. This is what enabled the country to achieve self reliance in several areas. In the past wherever we had focused and organized our activities in a mission mode we have succeeded.

If we look at the overall scenarios, there is lot to be done. It is heartening to know that the Government is taking a number of initiatives in creating a knowledge society by spreading digital connectivity and services in rural areas. The current year's budget has identified thrust areas like biotechnology, science education and industrial application of R&D results. But the budget allocation for the S&T

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sector is less than 0.8% compared to about 3-5% by developed countries, including China.

The decision taken by the Government to have a science council to focus and guide scientific activities in an integrated manner in the country is welcome. To site the example, atomic energy and space are having total autonomy with the respective empowered commissions to set guidelines and overseeing their activities. A similar model in other key sectors integrating related activities enabling them with empowered commissions is the need of the hour.

A few examples of aggregating can be in the following areas:

- Climate change;
- Water resource management;
- Agricultural land use;
- Medicine including Ayurveda; and
- Science Education.

About half a dozen empowered commissions will definitely bring in required focus on the research activities to be taken-up for solving the day-to-day problems of the people. Certainly, the level of funding has to go up so that world-class laboratories can be established providing access to researchers from even remote rural areas. The close liaison of research and industrial application is essential for economic growth.

For all these to be achieved, the investment in human resource development aiming at enabling the youth power with the scientific temper has to be given top most priority. The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) method could be implemented so that the children are enabled to think independently and analyze and take decisions in a logical manner. They can be groomed in the field of their interest. Their experimental and practical skill have to be developed right from the beginning so that when children leave school they will be able to undertake practical work in the relevant field.

Government support for identifying talents and to provide scholarships for pursuing higher education including research is inevitable. Though there are schemes for these, the number of scholars covered under the schemes is too meagre for a huge youth population.

India has to do a lot more to become a global player in S&T sector. It is not only necessary to enhance funding but also to put in place an empowered body for implementing these programmes in a focussed and time-bound manner. ■

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Earth as viewed by Chandrayaan2 L14 Camera



Energy – A Key Driver of Socio-Economic Growth

Sumant Sinha

As the Indian economy continues to grow at a rapid pace, one of the foremost challenges for the Government has been to ensure that supply of energy is sufficient to meet the steadily rising demand. As in other developing economies, access to affordable, stable and sustainable energy supply, is essential for maintaining a high growth trajectory. Energy access also enables the fruits of economic growth to trickle down to the bottom of the pyramid – transforming lives of the disadvantaged sections of society. For these reasons, the criticality of

the energy sector, especially for a developing economy like India cannot be over-emphasised.

India is the sixth largest economy in the world and is poised to become the second largest economy by 2030. It is also the third largest consumer of energy in the world, with demand rising by five percent annually. With energy demand set to double by 2040, India needs a robust and healthy energy sector. Consequently, the Government has rightly accorded top priority to the energy sector, recognizing the transformational impact that energy access can have on the country's socio-economic

fabric. There is empirical evidence which links energy consumption to rise in the Human Development Index, showcasing energy's role in influencing the many factors, which encompass human well-being. UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 pertaining to Access to Clean and Affordable Energy, has undeniable positive spill-overs in the achievement of other SDGs, including those pertaining to gender equality, poverty elimination, clean water and sanitation, and most importantly, environmental sustainability.

More than one-quarter of our population or about 311 million

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people, the vast majority of whom live in rural areas, still lack an electricity connection. Less than half of all households in the poorest income group have electricity and even those with a connection have to deal with sporadic supply. Another key issue is the per unit cost of power, that determines whether it is affordable for households that need it most. In 2017, the NDA Government launched the Saubhagya scheme targeting universal electrification and till date it has covered more than 99% of rural households, thus ushering a new era of progress. Similarly, on the distribution side, a major deterrent has been the poor financial and operational health of state discoms affecting their performance. The Government has announced the UDAY scheme to spark a financial revival of discoms, which would in turn help revitalize the entire sector. While focusing on energy security, equally important is to ensure that a bulk of it is generated sustainably, to help India honour its global commitments related to cutting down on carbon emissions. Since 2014 the Government has focused on creating a favourable policy environment for boosting the renewable energy sector, with an eye on developing renewables as a cleaner, better source of energy. This has paid rich dividends with India steadily increasing its renewables

Decentralized, clean energy solutions can greatly enhance the efficiency of primary health services delivery to the marginalized, low income sections of the population residing in remote corners of the country.

As the healthcare ecosystem in India gets increasingly digitized, energy access will accelerate the growth of tech enabled services like telemedicine and mobile health applications, and bring quality healthcare to the doorstep of the common man.

capacity while looking to achieve the target of 175 GW by 2022.

Energy access is essential for commerce and industry—to thrive and create income-generating opportunities and satisfy the huge number of job seekers. In the manufacturing sector, it enables capital investments in machinery and advanced technology, which exponentially increases operational capacity and output. Even on a micro-level, firms with energy access have higher labour productivity due to reasons of efficiency, comfort and resource optimization. Improved energy access will inject necessary

momentum into the Government's flagship schemes like Make In India, which was launched to boost domestic manufacturing. In India, where a large part of the population is engaged in agriculture, energy access can also help realize the Government's goal of augmenting farmer income through better irrigation, mechanized ploughing and harvesting and by ensuring a wider market for their output.

Our energy economy is also closely linked with a critical development indicator – women empowerment. As in other parts of the world, women in India also have to bear the brunt of energy poverty. Energy access has the potential to positively influence women's health, education, finance, and access to information, especially in backward regions. Our Government deserves credit for introducing the landmark Ujjwala Yojana under which 7 crore households benefitted with access to clean cooking gas, replacing firewood or coal – both major sources of indoor pollution. This was a game changer for women ensuring them a smoke free healthy lifestyle, reduced drudgery and more time to pursue alternate livelihood opportunities. A steady growth in renewable energy has opened up a lot of avenues for women entrepreneurship especially in rural India. Off-grid solutions and decentralized RE systems have enabled women to get trained in installing, operating and maintaining these units, providing them with much needed income, which translates into enhanced self-esteem and social standing. Steady access to energy also allows women to run their business more profitably and for longer durations, resulting in enhanced incomes. Energy access can catalyse a more gender equal society, where women are well-integrated into the economic mainstream, thus resulting in holistic and inclusive growth.

Not too long ago, the number of girls enrolled in village schools was





quite dismal and drop out ratio was also fairly high among them. Those who did go to school had to hurry back home before it got dark for security reasons. Today, solar energy powered schools in rural India have given young girls the opportunity to pursue quality modern education (ICT enabled), turn digitally literate and brighten their career prospects. Further, children can now return home in the safety of solar powered street lights and continue to study at their homes which are now electrified. There is empirical evidence that electrified schools do better in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, while also recording higher student attendance, better test scores and graduation rates.

Energy also has a key role to play in ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitation. Energy is essential for water extraction, water treatment and water distribution. The amount of energy used in the water sector is projected to double by 2040. With water demand set to rise with increasing population, there will be a growing need to treat the wastewater for industrial, agricultural and domestic purposes. The treatment of this water through energy, and then using energy to transport the water illustrates the critical water-energy nexus.

In the health sector as well, energy access is of paramount

importance. Most hospitals require energy for lighting, water, temperature control, ventilation and a host of clinical processes. Sporadic access to energy can lead to vaccine spoilage, interruptions in the use of medical and diagnostic devices and lack of lighting and communications can be extremely detrimental in the provision of emergency services. Decentralized, clean energy solutions can greatly enhance the efficiency of primary health services delivery to the marginalized, low income sections of the population residing in remote corners of the country. As the healthcare ecosystem in India gets increasingly digitized, energy access will accelerate the growth of tech enabled services like telemedicine and mobile health applications, and bring quality healthcare to the doorstep of the common man.

One cannot simply talk about energy propelling socio-economic

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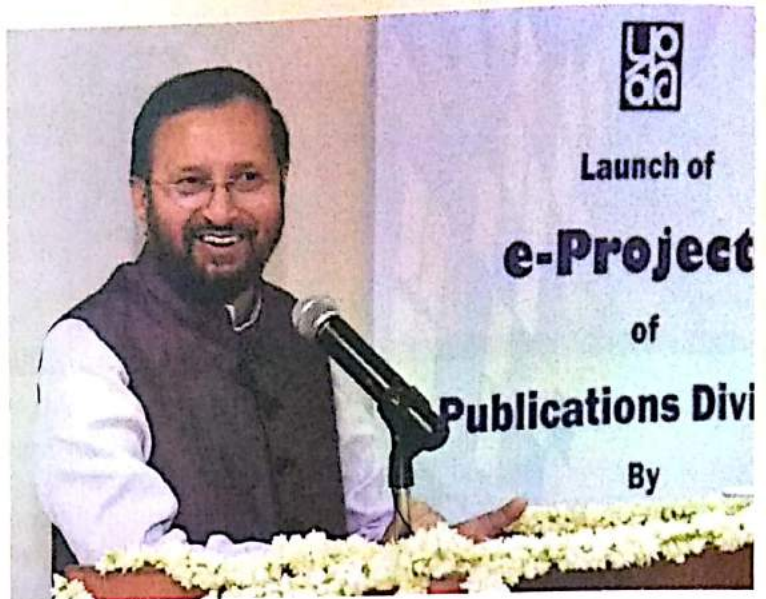
growth in India without referring to the upsurge in renewable energy capacity, on the back of a conducive policy environment. A strong renewable energy sector has set in motion an energy transition that is set to change the paradigm of energy access. A more diverse energy supply with rising share of renewables contributes to a cleaner, healthier planet for the future, by helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels that emit harmful greenhouse gases. However, more than just safeguarding the environment, it induces perceptible improvements in socio-economic parameters like education, health, employment opportunities, and gender equality, among others, thus playing a pivotal role in poverty alleviation and improving quality of life.

No country has traversed its development journey without providing access to energy in line with people's needs and requirements. Sustainable energy available in the right amount, at the right time, at the right place, and affordable for the entire society, can yield major socio-economic benefits, as enlisted above. With the government's razor sharp focus on universal energy access, we hope to see India maintaining its high growth trajectory, in a manner that is sustainable and inclusive, with all sections of society being able to partake in the benefits of economic growth. ■

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E-Projects of Publications Division Launched

Union Minister for Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar launched several e-projects of Publications Division including its redesigned dynamic website, mobile app, e-version of Rozgaar Samachar and e-book "Satyagrah Geeta" during his visit to Book Gallery at Soochna Bhawan in Delhi on 31 July, 2019. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Shri Amit Khare, senior officials of Ministry of I&B and other dignitaries graced the event.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Javadekar said that in line with the Prime Minister's call to citizens in 'Mann Ki Baat' 2.0 programme, to make reading a habit, we should revitalise the reading culture. He also urged for the creation of Reading Clubs in the neighbourhood to improve the reading culture. He added that the role of Rozgar Samachar can be improved. He suggested that Rozgar Samachar, when distributed in colleges, will help the students to improve their skill sets and make them better suited for the job market. He said that the revamped website of Publications Division looks attractive and dynamic. He was happy for the launch of a mobile app for Publications Division which would help in improving the reading habits of people in the era of e-books and Kindle.

The details of the e-projects launched are as under:

1. Redesigned Dynamic Website: The newly revamped dynamic website (www.publicationsdivision.nic.in) with integrated payment gateway is capable of providing real time purchase facilities as well as updated information about Publications Division's books and journals. The website will facilitate ease of purchase. All books are available on the website for sale via payment gateway of Bharatkosh.



The website has an attractive look and feel and a well planned architecture. Catalogue of books and updates and new books' releases are displayed prominently for effective engagement with aesthetic layout, soothing colour, well-designed icons with good contrast between background and text for easy viewing. The information is organised into different sections and categories, catering to all stakeholders, viz. readers, authors, other publishers, printers, agents etc. in neatly stacked lists, with proper visual material which is easy to understand.

The website is user-friendly with easily accessible Social Media tools. It is clutter-free with effective search features and informative menus and sub-menus.

The smooth interface provides easy interactivity in English and Hindi. It is accessible to everyone including specially abled persons (with a screen reader). Easy interface for feedback and suggestions with Facebook and Twitter links for connecting with the organisation on Social Media have also been provided.

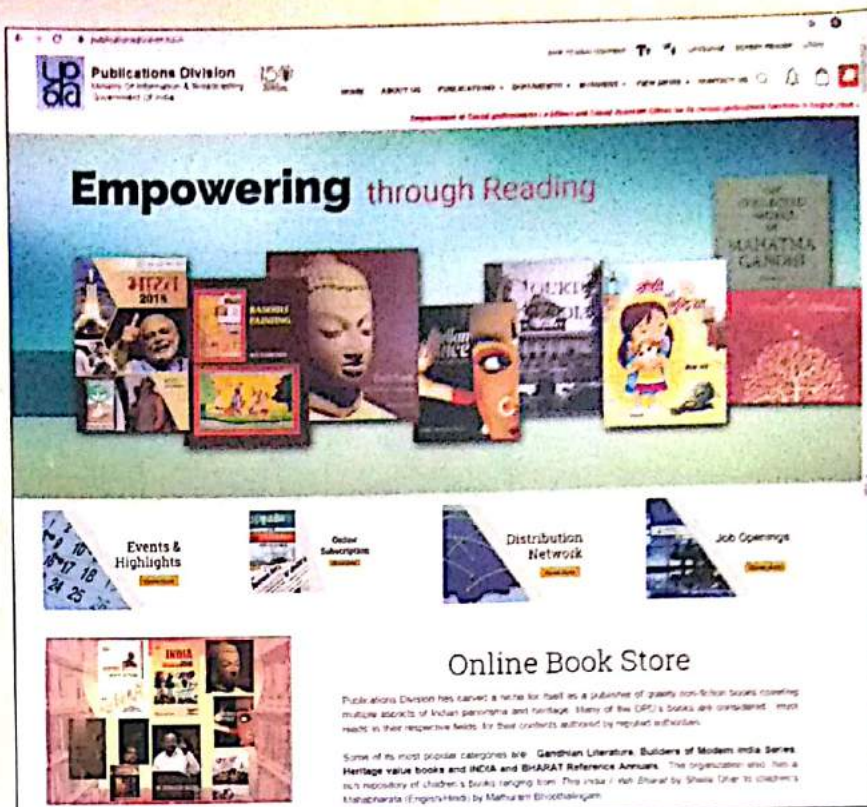
It has a special section on Gandhi@150. This section has special features including special Gandhi Catalogue, link to Gandhi Heritage Portal for reading volumes of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi and other Gandhian publications.

2. Mobile App: It is available for free download on Google Play Store and will facilitate tapping into the growing mobile commerce potential. The Mobile App is synced with the Digital Rights Management System to keep a check on a piracy and integrated with the Bharatkosh payment gateway for ease of payments.

3. e-version of Rozgar Samachar: Rozgar Samachar, a corresponding version of Employment News (English), is a prominent job journal in Hindi providing information about job opportunities in Central Government including Public Sector Enterprises. It also provides information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.

The e-Rozgar Samachar will provide the journal in digital form and is available for Rs. 400 for yearly subscription. It is expected to fulfil the growing needs of young readers, turning to electronic modes of communication.

4. e-book "Satyagraha Geeta": The heritage value book written by eminent poet Dr. Kshama Rao in 1930s in Sanskrit verses presents the life and activities of Gandhiji. As part of Gandhi@150 commemoration, DPD procured a PDF version of the book and prepared the e-version of the book. English translation has also been added to ensure wider reach. Divided in eighteen chapters (like *Adhyays* of *Bhagwat Geeta*), Satyagraha Geeta presents Gandhi's ideas, philosophy of life and his methods of action in Sanskrit verse form, capturing Gandhian ethos and tenets.



Source: PIB

SKILLS FOR A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY

Dilip Chenoy

The Prime Minister has set a target for India to be a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

A key enabler to this is having the requisite skilled manpower in the various sectors that would drive this growth.

India has a distinct advantage today over its competitors in terms of the age of working population. With half of its population below the age of 25, the country has the world's youngest population.

Along with this, India is also slated to go through a phase of sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades, as pointed out in the Economic Survey for 2018-19. This means that while the country as a whole will enjoy the "demographic dividend" phase, parts of it will witness the transition to 'an ageing society by the 2030s'.

The big challenge today, therefore, is of converting this transition into a dividend — the number of those gainfully contributing to economic growth equalling the number of those dependant on them.

There are various processes and pathways to do this. The first of these is education. Education for all, expansion of higher education and specific professional courses like architecture, law, medical, engineering and others are the key initiatives. The second is skill development for entry-level jobs — for those either in education or in employment or out of education and employment. The third is add-skilling, that is upskilling and reskilling those



who have been educated and have worked or are working, or those who have worked and out of job to meet the skill requirements of the new jobs or changed jobs.

According to the Economic Survey, 'the working-age population in the country will grow by roughly 97 lakh per year during the coming decade and 42 lakh per year in the 2030s'. It has projected that, "If we assume that the labour force participation rate (LFPR) would remain at about 60 per cent in the next two decades, about 55-60 lakh jobs will have to be created annually over the next decade." Also quoted

in the survey was the finding in the NSSO Report 2011-12, which found that only 2.3 per cent of the total workforce in India had formal sector skill training.

Early steps were taken when the National Skill Development Policy was initiated in FY2009 and the National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was established under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) and The National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) were established in FY2013.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme was initiated in 2016 to promote apprenticeship with provision for basic training and on-the-job training or practical training at workplace. Till June 2019, 11.87 lakh candidates and 76,860 establishments have registered under the scheme.

The author is Secretary General, FICCI.

Box 1: Key Central and State-Specific Skill Development Programmes

Central:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)
- UDAAN (Special industry initiative for J&K)
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Apprenticeship training
- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme
- Craftsmen Training Scheme
- DeenDayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana
- Samarth (Textile Sector)
- Modular Employable Skill under Skill Development Initiative
- Green Skill Development Programme
- Skill Development for PwDs (SIPDA)
- Sub-Mission on Polytechnics under the Coordinated Action for Skill Development
- Establishment of Centres for Training and Research in Frontier Areas of Science and

Technology (Fast)

- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills
- Skill Development for Minorities (Special Programmes)
 - a. Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)
 - b. Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)
 - c. Nai Manzil
 - d. Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills

Select State-Specific Programmes:

- Mukhya Mantri Kaushal Samvardhan Yojana (MMKSY) — Madhya Pradesh
- Kushal Yuva Program — Bihar
- Mukhya Mantri Shram Shakti Yojana — Bihar
- Kaushalkar.com — Karnataka
- Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra (KVK) — Gujarat
- SURYA — Haryana
- SAKSHAM — Haryana
- Seekho-Sikhao (Training of Trainers) — Haryana
- S-Mart (Skill Mart) — Haryana

In the first term of this Government, the efforts were enhanced and focussed. A comprehensive skill development programme has been implemented in the last five years with the setting up of the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in November 2014. The Government formulated the National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, under which the Skill India Mission by 2022 was formulated.

The Skill India initiative was launched in 2015. A flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is aimed at mobilising the youth to take up industry-relevant skill training and recognise and certify prior learning. PMKVY's first version, launched

in 2015, had a target to train 1 crore youth by 2020. During 2015-16, 19.8 lakh youth were trained as against the target of 24 lakh.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-2020 was launched under MSDE in 2016. More than 3 crore people have been trained under Skill India, and more than 50 lakh candidates so far under PMKVY.

PMKVY's second version for 2016-20 brought in mandatory provisions for placement tracking and achieved 54 per cent placement, about 12.05 lakh candidates, in the short-term training. Of the 30 lakh candidates who enrolled, 27.9 lakh were trained.

Besides the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY),

other flagship initiatives of the Government to promote skill development include Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK) and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). Also, MSDE initiated comprehensive reforms in the Apprenticeship Act in 2014 to make apprenticeship industry-friendly and, in 2018, launched operational guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at the national and state level. Other Ministries and States have their own skill programmes. An illustrative list is given in Box 1.

Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK), launched in 2015 to set up aspirational model training centres in every district, 851 PMKKs have been allocated and 601 PMKKs have already been established till June 2019.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme was initiated in 2016 to promote apprenticeship with provision for basic training and on-the-job training or practical training at workplace. Till June 2019, 11.87 lakh candidates and 76,860 establishments have registered under the scheme.

SANKALP, launched in 2017, aims to create convergence among all skill training activities, improve quality of skill development programmes and create industry-led and demand-driven skill training capacity. As on December 2018, the process of disbursements of funds to States and UTs is underway. Regional workshops with States and UTs are also being held to facilitate roll out.

STRIVE, another initiative launched in 2017, aims to create awareness through industry clusters, integrate and enhance delivery quality of ITIs.

NSDC Contribution

The NSDC, one of its kind, Public-Private Partnership Company, has acted as a catalyst in skill development. It has engaged in 235 private sector

partnerships for training and capacity building — each to train at least 50,000 persons over a 10-year period. FICCI is a shareholder of NSDC.

To enable industry led competency building — a prerequisite to achieve the \$5 trillion economy goal, 38 Sector Skill Councils (SSC) are there, some of which are promoted by FICCI. The SSCs have created 2242 Qualification Packs with over 7000 unique National Occupational Standards (NOS). These are constantly being reviewed and added to enable skills for the new economy. Additional qualifications for meeting the needs of industry 4.0 are being created.

To enable those enrolled in schools to obtain skills, Vocational training in 10 States, covering 2400+ schools are being coordinated by NSDC. NSDC has also created the Skill Development Management System (SDMS) with 1400 training partners, 28179 training centres, 16479 trainers, 20 job portals, 77 assessment agencies and 4983 empanelled assessors.

To increase aspirations of youth for skill development a comprehensive programme for skill competitions at the State level followed by national competition are being organised. The winners of the national competition represent India in the World Skills Competition. The last one was held in Kazan in August 2019.

A degree or certificate brings value to its holder. NSDC launched a recognition of prior learning scheme



to enable those who are in work to obtain a certificate that serves as a recognition of their skill level and helps them in the labour market. Under PMKVY, 16.60 lakh candidates of a total of 22.65 lakh who enrolled for recognition of prior learning passed as on 13 May, 2019. About 17.84 lakh candidates were assessed for RPL from the 22.08 lakh who got trained.

To enable India to be the skill capital of the world, youth are being trained for specific skills for overseas markets. Agreements with Japan, UAE and other countries are enabling youth in India to be trained to their skill and language levels for specific jobs in those countries.

To assist youth to understand and decide on which skills they require, counselling centres, many of them as PPP, have been set up. More are underway.

Impact

The impact analysis of the short-term training under PMKVY on employment shows that training and certification has led to a nine-percentage point increase in proportion of employed individuals.

The training part alone has contributed eight percentage points on employability.

In terms of income, PMKVY training and certification has contributed 15 per cent to the mean monthly income. The training part had an impact of 9 per cent, as mean monthly income of PMKVY trained individuals was seen to be Rs. 8283

as compared to Rs. 7584 of the comparison group. Certification has been found to have an impact of 9 per cent on the mean monthly income.

Also, assessment of the impact of the recognition of prior learning on income indicated a significant difference of 19 per cent in the mean monthly income of certified candidates.

Many training organisations, even though not training under the PMKVY or other Government programmes, have started using these qualifications to meet the needs of employers. Universities and colleges are doing add on programmes with the Skill Councils to make students work ready or to do programmes for those in work to upskill them.

There are also changes on the anvil. The New Education Policy aims to introduce skills in schools, colleges and Universities. The MSDE is in the process of restructuring the NQSF and the National Council for Vocational Training. There are also discussions on revamping the PMKVY.

Conclusion

The skills ecosystem that has been created could also address the needs of those firms who find it difficult to identify the right people to employ. It could be done by developing the qualification pack for the job role, getting it approved and then working with a training partner to enable the right person to be trained and recruited. Similarly, we could train for the world. ■

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Best Practices for Ground Water Harvesting

Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security through citizen participation is underway from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019. Union Jal Shakti Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, announced the commencement of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security. An additional Phase 2 will be run from 1st October, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 for States receiving the North East retreating monsoons. The focus of the campaign will be on water stressed districts and blocks in different states.

Some best practices for ground water harvesting in different parts of the country, which are also supportive to achieve the goal of water conservation may be seen as below:

- **Dobha Construction for Rain Water Harvesting, Jharkhand**

Dobhas are indigenous structures for water conservation which were prevalent in the region, regaining popularity during the ongoing water crisis. Dobhas store rainwater which can be used for irrigation purposes during non-rainy months. This reduces the dependence of the farmers on monsoons and helps them diversify their cropping patterns. The construction of one lakh dobhas (farm ponds) was taken up by the State Government in mission mode during 2016 in order to deal with water conservation in the wake of severe heat and poor rains in the last two years. Under the scheme, the beneficiary applies for a dobha, which has to be sanctioned by the State Government. There are four sizes – 15x15x10, 20x20x10, 25x25x10 and 30x30x10 (all in feet) – that are to be constructed over farmers' land.



- **Kapil Dhara Construction of Dug Wells Under MGNREGA, Madhya Pradesh**

Construction of dug wells for irrigation purposes and various water conservation structures like Check dams, stop dams, Contour Trenches etc. have enabled farmers to irrigate their fields and they are able to sow wheat and rice in place of jowar and maize which were grown earlier due to shortage of irrigation facilities. In addition to this they have started growing vegetables also which has resulted in growth of their income.

- **Farm Pond On Demand Scheme, Vidarbha and Marathawada Region, Maharashtra**

For construction of farm ponds, Government of Maharashtra has set the target of 1,11,111 farm ponds. Farm ponds have several benefits. It reduces dependence on ground water, reduces power required to pump water as compared to ground water, cultivation on bunds generates extra income and recharges ground water. As per latest information, total of 4,08,734 online application forms were received. The taluka level committee has given approvals of 2,15,786 applications and 1,89,253 work orders given to beneficiaries. 90,180 farm ponds have been completed and an amount of Rs. 369.48 crores has been released to beneficiaries.

- **Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan, Maharashtra**

This includes arresting rain water within the village boundaries, increasing ground water level, creation of decentralized water bodies, rejuvenation of the old water storage structures, creation of new water bodies, restoring the storage capacity, increasing area under protective irrigation by efficient water use, implementation of Ground Water Act, de-silting of structures with people participation, creation of water awareness, publicity and sensitization among the people, people's participation in water budgeting. Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan was launched in 2015-16.

- **Sujalam Sufalam Jalsanchay Abhiyan 2018, Gujarat**

The aim was to increase the storage capacity of the existing reservoirs by de-silting of check-dams and deepening the ponds, lakes and riverbeds, besides cleaning the rivers to accommodate more rain water. The campaign was initiated on the 59th Foundation Day of Gujarat with 527 JCB machines and nearly 27,000 labourers.

Through the campaign 11,000 lakh cubic feet of water storage capacity was enhanced in the State and 5,500 km canals cleaned by taking out silt and other garbage. The soil dug out from lakes and rivers were given to farmers and they used fertile soil in their farms which would further increase agriculture productivity.

- **Pani Panchayat: Odisha Water Resource Consolidation Project**

The primary objective of Orissa Water Resource Consolidation Project (OWRCP) was to improve the planning and development process for the state's water resource; thus increasing the overall agricultural productivity through investments for improvement of the existing scheme. Participatory Irrigation Management was introduced in Orissa in 1995 on a pilot basis under Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (OWRCP) under the banner of Farmers Organization and Turnover (FOT). Experiencing its success at large, it was extended to all the commands of Major, Medium, Minor and Lift Irrigation Projects.

The main objectives of the intervention were to promote and secure equitable distribution of water among its users, adequate maintenance of irrigation system, efficient and economical utilization of water to optimize agricultural production and to protect the environment and ensure ecological balance, inculcating a sense of ownership of the irrigation system in accordance with the water budget and the operational plan.



- **Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan, Rajasthan**

Rain water harvesting - Construction of various water conservation structures, Participatory Approach, IEC activities. Creation of additional storage capacities to harvest 128 Mcum (4516 Mcft) water coupled with extensive and vigorous watershed development activities in an exhaustive and scientific manner helped in intercepting additional 11170 Mcft monsoon water that resulted in: (a) Better availability of potable water during summer, (b) Improvement in ground water, (c) Revival of defunct handpumps, tubewells and open wells, (d) Enhanced water availability for lean season irrigation resulted in increased area under lean season crop & orchard, (e) Developing and sustaining flora and fauna, (f) Mitigating drought abuses and reducing plight of masses.

- **Artificial recharge for Spring rejuvenation, South Sikkim district, Sikkim**

Staggered trench for artificial recharge in the spring shed. Enhancing yield of springs for spring rejuvenation.

- **Mission Kakatiya, Telangana**

Mission Kakatiya programme for restoring all the minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana State. The objective of Mission Kakatiya is to enhance the development of agriculture based income for small and marginal farmers, by accelerating the development of minor irrigation infrastructure, strengthening community based irrigation management and adopting a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks.

Source: http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/BP_State.pdf

Steps Taken to Improve Job Orientation of Higher Education

Higher education system has many educational streams which are directly job-oriented. In order to enhance job orientation and employability, the following steps have been taken:

- There are 1109 skill-oriented courses being run by University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) through 556 institutions (300 B.VoC colleges, 188 Community Colleges and 68 DDU Kaushal Kendra Colleges) in which 38414 students are receiving skill training with education.
- New and updated vocational curricula are being developed in

line with industry demand in B.VoC. programmes.

- AICTE has launched an Internship portal to facilitate industry internship to students. Internship has been made mandatory for students of engineering colleges.

- Wheebox Employability Skill Test (WEST) for all pre-final and final year graduates of AICTE approved institutions to identify the core strengths of students and certify the same.

- Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) Phase-III is under implementation to enhance quality, equity and employability in selected engineering education institutions.

- National Career Service (NCS) portal has been launched as a common platform to bring together stakeholders like job seekers, employers, counsellors, local service providers and trainer etc. to facilitate convergence of information and link job seekers with job providers.

- MHRD is working in co-operation with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) which comprise representatives of Industry and Service Sectors to develop curricula that reflect industry-demanded skills so that higher education can be linked with employment opportunities.

Source: PIB

Transforming Indian Health Systems

Chandrakant Lahariya

It is the effective and timely implementation (through programmatic interventions) of well-designed health policies which results in improved health outcomes. By mid of 2019, health sector in India has arguably crossed the policy formulation stage and is in early stage of implementation. The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 has provided a concrete shape giving direction to health sector and has universal health coverage as its central goal. In the process of policy drafting, the key health system challenges have been identified and documented. The need for strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) system has been well recognised.

The period of 2017-20 is also a time when India is completing 'conventionally accepted' 15-year 'policy-to-implementation cycle'. In 2002, India had released second National Health Policy (NHP), which was followed by announcement of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005. NRHM is often referred to as the first major health system reforms in India, since the report of Sir Joseph Bhore Committee in 1946. The initiatives under NRHM, in the decade to follow, resulted in India eliminating polio, yaws and maternal and neonatal tetanus; reduced incidences of many communicable diseases and brought attention on strengthening PHC system. The country achieved a faster-than-ever decline in child and maternal mortalities. India reached very close



to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5 (and according to some estimates, it did achieve them). Major health sector policy and programmatic interventions in India since 2002 are listed in Box 1. In 2017, that 15 years cycle seems to have been completed with new epidemiological realities, i.e., non-communicable diseases being the major burden of diseases and other health challenges. Health outcomes in India are yet to catch up with countries with similar economic status. Understandably, the new and third National Health Policy (NHP) was released in 2017, followed by Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP) in 2018 as an implementation component. In Union Budget 2019-20, one of the 10 components of 'vision for India' in the decade ahead is "Healthy India: Ayushman Bharat, well-nourished women and children". This vision can serve as the third step to sustaining the (health) policy implementation and ensuring that

the country achieves health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In short, the period of 2017-20 has the potential to become the second wave of health system reforms in India, if policy initiatives started are scaled up and implemented well and then sustained for the next few years. Strengthening of PHC would be the key in this process. This article proposes a few action-steps to ensure that the country is on track for better health outcomes for the people of India.

Put Primary Health Care (PHC) First

In the recent years, key policy discourse has been the need for strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) system. Not surprisingly, NHP 2017 has proposed to use two-third or more of Government spending on PHC system. Indian states have an elaborate network of nearly 200,000 Government Primary Health Care Facilities (GPHCFs),

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Box 1: Key Health Sector-related Developments in India since Year 2002

2002	National Health Policy (NHP-2002)
2005	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
2008	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
2008	Jan Aushadhi Yojana (relaunched as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJAP) in 2016)
2009	National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)
2008-17	State-specific social health insurance schemes for specific target populations
2010	The Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010
2010	Report of High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
2013	National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)
2014	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
2014	National Mental Health Policy
2015-16	Task force on strengthening primary health care (PHC) in India
2017	National Mental Healthcare Act
2017	National Health Policy (NHP-2017)
2018	POSHAN Abhiyan /National Nutrition Mission
2018	Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP) with two components of (a) Health & Wellness Centres (HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

which deliver around 10% of total out-patient services (excluding Mother and child health services). This network of GPHCFs has the capacity to deliver much more. The NHP 2017 has proposed to increase overall utilization of Government health services from 30% to 50%. The Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP) can make that difference and prioritize that. Alongside, the PHC strengthening is evidence based and desired in any health system. It is well known that Government spending on PHC makes health services efficient; reduces the cost (both by people and government) and helps in increasing provision of preventive and promotive health services. Evidence points that the PHC system can tackle up to 80% of health needs and can reduce the need for specialized health services. Thailand started on strengthening PHC in 1971, nearly 30 years before starting on famed Universal Coverage Scheme in 2001. Unarguably, there

is need for boosting and rapid strengthening of PHC system in India.

The concept has withstood the test of time, have been reiterated time and again since Alma Ata in

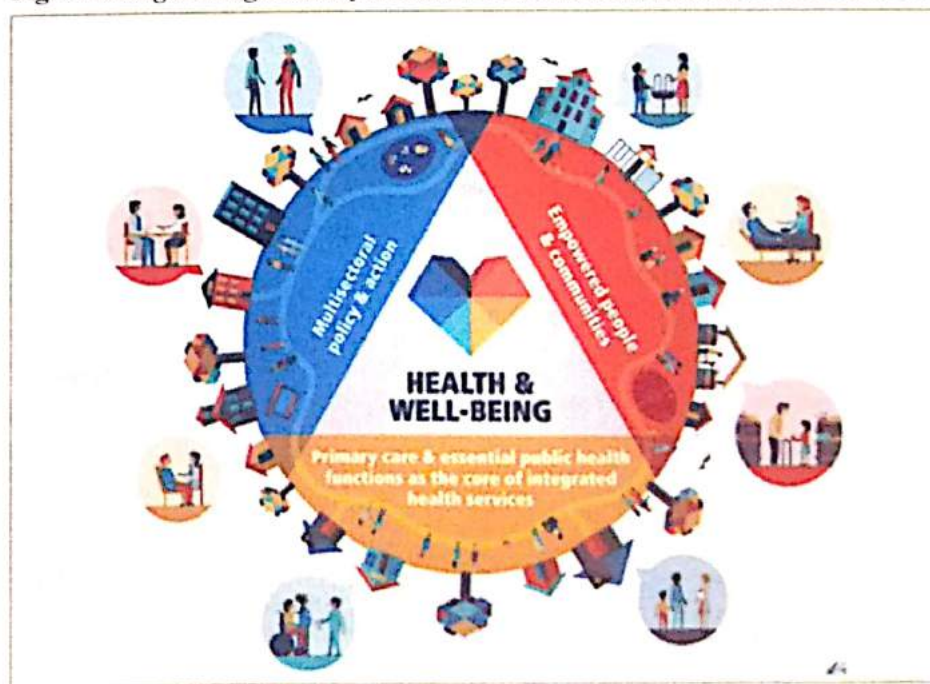
1978 and more recently in Astana in 2018. PHC is a comprehensive approach with focus on health and well-being of all people. World Health Organization has proposed that this is possible through interventions through (a) Primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services (to tackle core health determinants); (b) multi-sectoral policies and actions (to tackle social determinants of health) and (c) empowered people and communities (Figure 1). India needs to consider adopting similar approach to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare.

Stronger Health Systems through Stronger PHC System

The policy is clearly supportive for strengthening PHC system in India. Our country is in the implementation stage and there is a lot of evidence available which can be used for effective programme design, implementation and scale up.

- **Re-design PHC system based upon available local evidence:** The key ingredients of what makes PHC system functional seems to have been decoded for Indian settings. A study of best performing PHC in 4 states

Fig. 1: Strengthening Primary Healthcare Needs Actions in Three Broad Areas



Source: WHO, 2019

of India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Meghalaya) identified (a) an assured package health services with 'limited intention to availability gap'; (b) Appropriate mix and sufficient availability of providers; (c) continuum of care with functional referral linkages; (d) initiatives to achieve quality standard; (e) stronger local level leadership; and (f) community engagement as some of the common characteristics in these facilities. The similar interventions and approaches in countries such as Brazil, Ghana and South Africa, have shown good or promising outcomes. The proposed Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat programme have been derived from these learnings and it can be hoped that will improve PHC services in India. In addition to HWCs, a number of states in India have started additional initiatives to strengthen PHC such as Delhi (through Mohalla Clinics), Telangana (through Basthi Dawakhana), Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu by focussing on strengthening

An effective planning of health services and tackling inequities in health outcomes need a sub-district unit level planning. Every block level can have a hospital, public health unit and the planning for health services (funding, human resources and detailed planning) should be done at this level.

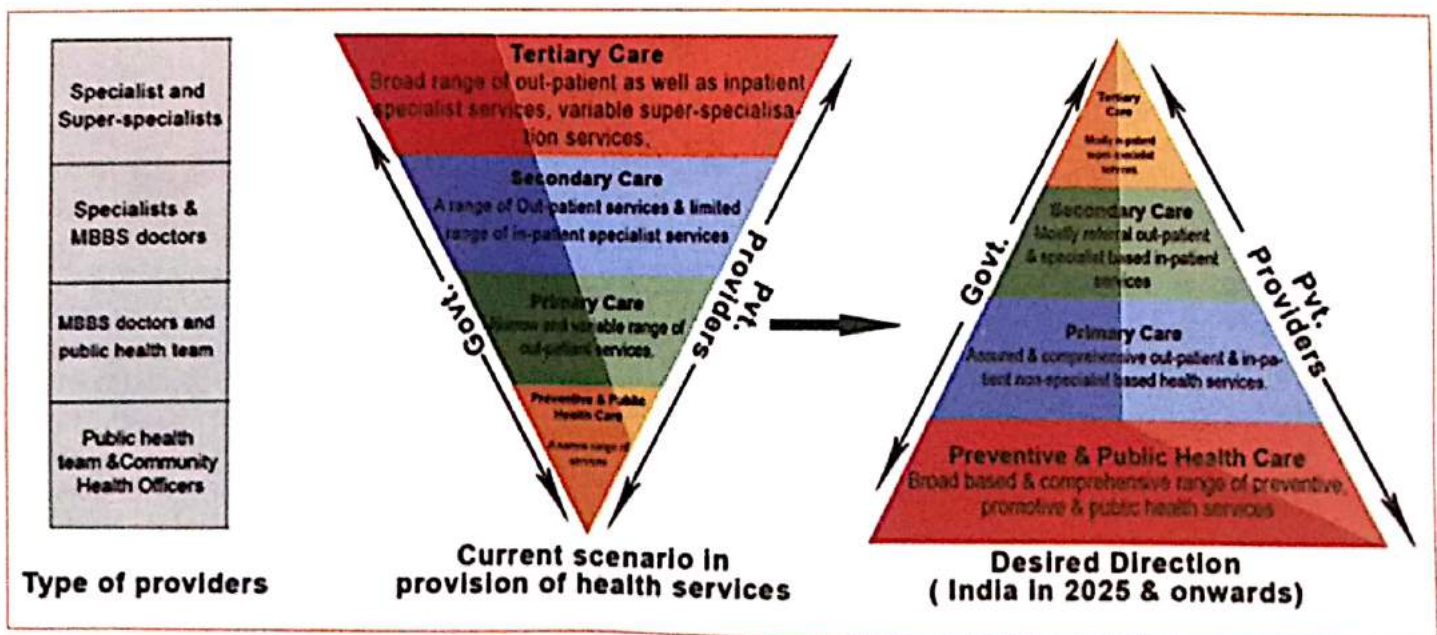
of PHC system. Though PHC strengthening has been prioritised by Indian states, the initiatives need to be rapidly scaled up and sustained.

- **Correct 'the inverted pyramid' of health services provision and utilization:** A large proportion of health services in India are delivered and used at secondary and tertiary level. Ideally, these services should be available at PHC level facilities. In short, the pattern of service utilisation and delivery is inverted (Figure 2). India (and Indian states, which has responsibility for health as per constitutional provision), needs to develop strategies to correct the inverted pyramid by both

re-organising and strengthening the health services at PHC level (supply side) and changing behaviour of people to use these services at PHC level (demand side). An indicative approach on direction is provided in Figure 2. This could be a vision for health service delivery in India.

- **Start focussed initiatives to tackle social determinants of health (SDH):** A lot of determinants for better health – improved drinking water supply and sanitation; better nutritional outcomes, health and education for women and girls; improved air quality and safer roads – are outside the purview of Health Ministry. An estimated half of the health outcomes are dependent upon these SDH. These issues are increasingly being recognised with emerging challenges such as Anti-microbial resistance (AMR), air pollution and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). There is need for multi-sectoral planning and 'Health in all policies' approach, where initiative of different departments and Ministries are developed and planned in coordination, accountabilities assigned and

Fig. 2: Changing 'Pyramid of Inverse Care System' for Better Health Outcomes in India



Source: Author, 2019

progress monitored jointly. An approach could be that initiatives to tackle SDH is added as third component under ABP, in addition to existing HWCs and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

- **Establish Sub-district-based health system in India:** Indian districts are on average 20 lakh (or 2 million population) of around 2,000 villages or hamlets. In other countries with well-functioning health systems, districts are usually 100,000 to 500,000 people. The Indian equivalents of districts in other countries are blocks/tehsils, which have population around 100,000-300,000 thousand or around 100 to 300 villages. An effective planning of health services and tackling inequities in health outcomes need a sub-district unit level planning. Every block level can have a hospital, public health unit and the planning for health services (funding, human resources and detailed planning) should be done at this level. A sub-district-based health system needs to have population linked and registered at the facilities. Two-way referral linkage with secondary and tertiary level facilities should be adopted. This would need reforms in salary and structure of human resources for health. Doctors and other health staff should be recruited at this level. The PHC should be team-based approached and not a doctor-centric models. Funding for PHC based upon as proportionate of state budget, possibly mandated by law is needed. A formal mechanism should be developed to establish sub-district-based health system. This way, India need to have nearly 8,000-10,000 planning units and chief medical and health officers.

Box 2: Build Upon Ongoing Initiatives and Supplementary Steps to Transform Health in India

- a. Develop a road-map for a possible health insurance/assurance programme, for secondary and tertiary level hospitalization with no financial cap covering up to 80% Indian population, under *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana* (PM-JAY). Though, non-poor may be asked for mandatory contribution.
- b. Link existing secondary and tertiary level insurance schemes with financial cover for non-hospitalisation (out-patient consultation) services. In other words, effective hospitalisation and out-patient coverage linkage. The services should be designed to be free at the point of delivery.
- c. Revise the norm for Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) from one for every 50,000 population to one for every 25,000 population by 2022 and for every 10,000 population by 2028.
- d. Establish additional 50,000 HWCs by 2022 to fill the shortage of Government primary healthcare infrastructure in India. More such facilities need to come up in urban areas and with innovative approaches.
- e. All Indian states to set up public health cadre to strengthen preventive and promotive health services.
- f. Consider an All India cadre of specialist doctors (on line of erstwhile Indian Medical Services) to address the shortage of specialist doctors at public health facilities. This approach can help, along with designing of sub-district-based health system, to address shortage of specialist doctors which is in the range of 60-80% in most of the states.
- g. Establish independent and autonomous institutional mechanisms for operational/implementation research and for technical support to provide evidence and guidance for health systems strengthening. The health sector is a specialised field and dedicated and evidence-based technical advices by full time staff is desirable for effective and large-scale health initiatives in India.
- h. Plan health services so as to see both primary healthcare and hospital in continuum of care with effective functioning at all levels. Evidence suggests that a strengthened PHC system performs better when supported by an equally well-functioning hospital services/system, with two-way referral. In this context, there is need to consider establishing stronger linkage under Ayushman Bharat Programme between HWC and PMJAY.

- **Strengthen urban health governance for multi-sectoral collaboration:** India has increasing urban population and is expected to reach 60 crore (600 million) by 2030. The PHC system in urban areas need faster and effective interventions, if inverted pyramid of service delivery need to be tackled. This, in addition to other interventions, need stronger governance of urban health services. The responsibility of primary healthcare in urban areas was delegated to elected urban local bodies (ULBs) in 73rd &

74th Amendments in Constitution of India. An effective and functioning coordination mechanism has to be developed to improve urban health governance in Indian states and major cities.

- **Use of Behavioural Economics for better health outcomes:** The Economic Survey of India 2018-19 has underscored the importance of behavioural economics (propounded by Nobel laureate Richard Thaler). This has worked for Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Beti Bachao, Beti

Padhao (B3P) initiatives. Health seeking behaviour of people can be significantly influenced by behavioural change. This is needed to ensure that people seek early care to prevent complications and late stage diseases and seek care at appropriate level, which will reduce burden from higher level of facilities. The appropriate interventions and initiatives can be designed and launched by the Government.

- **Focus on public health cadre:** Public awareness and education about good nutrition, improved sanitation and health promoting behaviour is an integral part of health service delivery. Many countries have dedicated cadres and workforce to deliver public health services. Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra have a dedicated cadre and a few more

Indian states are considering the same. Thailand has a vast cadre of health workers delivering preventive and promotive health services. Indian states need a dedicated public health cadre and initiatives to deliver preventive and promotive health services.

In addition to the action-oriented interventions, there is need for a few supplementary initiatives for improving health services in India to transform health outcomes (Box 2).

Conclusion

India has crossed the health policy formulation stage and is embarking on its implementation. There is focus on strengthening overall health systems with revitalisation of Primary Health Care (PHC) system, which can address up to 80% health needs of population. In this process, it will be important that (a) available

local evidence are used to reform PHC system (b) inverted pyramid of health service delivery is corrected; (c) new initiatives for tackling social determinants of health are started; (d) sub-district based health systems is designed and developed; (e) urban health governance is strengthened; (f) behavioural economics to address demand side aspects of health services utilization is used and (g) public health cadre is established etc. Clearly, India is at a juncture, where it can build on past initiatives to transform health outcomes so as to have a healthy and prosperous nation, with minimal inequities. This would ensure that India achieves Universal Health Coverage as envisaged in the National Health Policy 2017 as well as achieves health-related Sustainable Development Goals well before the proposed timeline of 2030. ■

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Swachh Survekshan 2020 Launched

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020), the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry on 13th August, 2019. On the occasion he also launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar – an integrated waste management app and AI enabled mSBM App.

Speaking at the launch event, Shri Puri said, “The Swachh Survekshan 2020, with field survey to be conducted in January 2020, is particularly significant since it gives us the opportunity to reaffirm once again our promise for a Clean, Garbage Free and Sanitary “New India”. The Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit launched by the Minister contains the detailed survey methodology and component

indicators with scores to help cities to prepare themselves for the survey.

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA made a presentation on SS 2020 in which he mentioned, “Every year, the Swachh Survekshan is redesigned innovatively, to ensure that the process becomes more and more robust”. He also elaborated on the key differentiators of SS 2020 from SS 2019.

The Ministry also launched the Water PLUS Protocol and the accompanying Toolkit. Moving beyond ODF, ODF+ and ODF++, the Water PLUS protocol aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain. This is in line with the Government’s focus on water conservation and reuse under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and also aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals on clean water and sanitation.

This year, the citizen-centric focus has been enhanced substantially through verification of the progress made by cities on Swachhata through direct responses from citizens. Continuing with its focus on providing integrated waste management solutions to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and citizens, The Swachh Nagar Mobile App, with features such as tracking of waste collection by ULBs through route and vehicle monitoring, notification to citizens, online collection of user fee for waste collection and an effective grievance redressal mechanism was also launched on the day.

The event also saw the launch of AI enabled mSBM App, a mobile app developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that helps detect the beneficiary face and toilet seat in the photo uploaded using Artificial Intelligence (AI) model at the backend.

Source: PIB

Infrastructure Development for the Next Generation

Krishna Dev

The Government has emphasized on creating world-class infrastructure for building a New India. It has undertaken various projects such as the Sagarmala Project (for accelerating port-led development), the Bharatmala Project (to link India from west to east), the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project (for building the country's largest sea bridge) and the Setu Bharatam Project (making national highways free of railway level crossings) among others, to improve the present conditions of infrastructure. It also connected various villages through the construction of roads providing significant relief to the rural masses. The Government has also provided impetus for regional air connectivity, increased safety measures in railways and the development of smart cities for urban transformation. All these developmental efforts have paved the way for a better India with a strong economic base.

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (PMAY)

The Government has launched a comprehensive mission "Housing for All by 2022". The scheme aims to construct more than four crore houses across the length and breadth of the nation within a span of next seven years (2015-2022). The scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

The objective of the PMAY is to provide every family with a pucca house, with a water connection, toilet facilities, and 24x7 electricity supply and access and to build 2.95 crore housing units in rural areas and 1.2 crore housing units in urban areas. This mandate also includes upgradation of slums. Achieving the goal of 'Housing for All' will be a big step in the realisation of New India Vision 2022 that will trigger economic growth and create millions of jobs for skilled as well as unskilled workers. Moreover, given the forward and backward linkages of the housing sector, the focus on affordable housing could bring rich dividends for other sectors such as steel and cement.

The target beneficiaries of the scheme would be poor and those living under EWS and LIG categories in urban establishments of the country in 4041 statutory towns as per Census 2011 with focus on 500 Class I cities that would be covered and carried out in three substantial phases as follows:

PMAY Phase I: April 2015 to March 2017;

PMAY Phase II: April 2017 to March 2019;

PMAY III: April 2019 to March 2022.

Since 1985, the Government of India has been implementing a rural housing scheme for families living below the poverty line (BPL). A new scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

was launched in 2016. This scheme provides per unit assistance of Rs. 1,20,000 in plain areas and Rs. 1,30,000 in hilly states/integrated action plan districts/difficult areas. This support is provided to homeless families or to those who live in kutcha houses as per the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data.

PMAY-G is converged with Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the construction of sanitary toilets and also to provide the unskilled wage component.

PMAY-G aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022. A total of 1.54 crore rural homes have been completed in the last five years. In the second phase of PMAY-G, during 2019-20 to 2021-22, 1.95 crore houses are proposed to be provided to the eligible beneficiaries. With the use of technology, the DBT platform and technology inputs, average number of days for completion of houses has reduced from 314 days in 2015-16 to 114 days in 2017-18.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) aims to achieve the objective of 'Housing for All' by 2022 through its four pillars (a) in-situ slum redevelopment; (b) affordable housing through a credit-linked subsidy scheme; (c) affordable housing in partnership between public and private agencies; and (d) subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house

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construction or enhancement. Over 81 lakh houses with an investment of about Rs. 4.83 lakh crores have been sanctioned of which construction has started in about 47 lakh houses. Over 26 lakh houses have been completed of which nearly 24 lakh houses have been delivered to the beneficiaries. There is large scale adoption of new technologies for construction of these houses. Over 13 lakh houses have so far been constructed using these new technologies.

ENERGY

The Government's on-going energy sector policies aim "to provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy". At the convergence of its domestic goals and the global development agenda, it also intends to hit the following milestones:

- Make available 24x7 power to all by 2019;
- Achieve 175 Giga Watt (GW) of renewable energy generation capacity by 2022; and
- Reduce imports of oil and gas by 10 per cent by 2022-23.

India is the world's third largest energy consumer. However, in 2017, its per capita energy consumption was about 625.6 kilogram of oil equivalent (kgoe) against the world average of 1860 kgoe.

In the power sector, the all-India installed power capacity is about 334 giga watt (GW), including 62 GW of renewable energy. On energy supply, India is still heavily dependent on petroleum imports to meet its requirements. India imported approximately 82 per cent of crude oil and 45 per cent of natural gas requirements during 2017.

Some of the major challenges on achieving the milestones set for 2022-23 are

1. Overall energy: A variety of subsidies and taxes distort the energy market and promote the

The Government has emphasized on creating world-class infrastructure for building a New India. It has undertaken various projects such as the Sagarmala Project (for accelerating port-led development), the Bharatmala Project (to link India from west to east), the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project (for building the country's largest sea bridge) and the Setu Bharatam Project (making national highways free of railway level crossings) among others, to improve the present conditions of infrastructure.

use of inefficient/over efficient fuels and also make Indian exports and domestic production uncompetitive as energy taxes are not under GST, and hence, no input credit is given.

2. Power: The high industrial/commercial tariff and the cross-subsidy regime have affected the competitiveness of the industrial and commercial sectors.
3. Oil & Gas: Lack of market-driven gas prices for old fields disincentivises further production. Also, the gas pipeline infrastructure is not adequate.
4. Coal: There is a tendency to expand open-cast mining and discourage underground operation even for better quality coal reserves.

5. Renewable energy: High energy

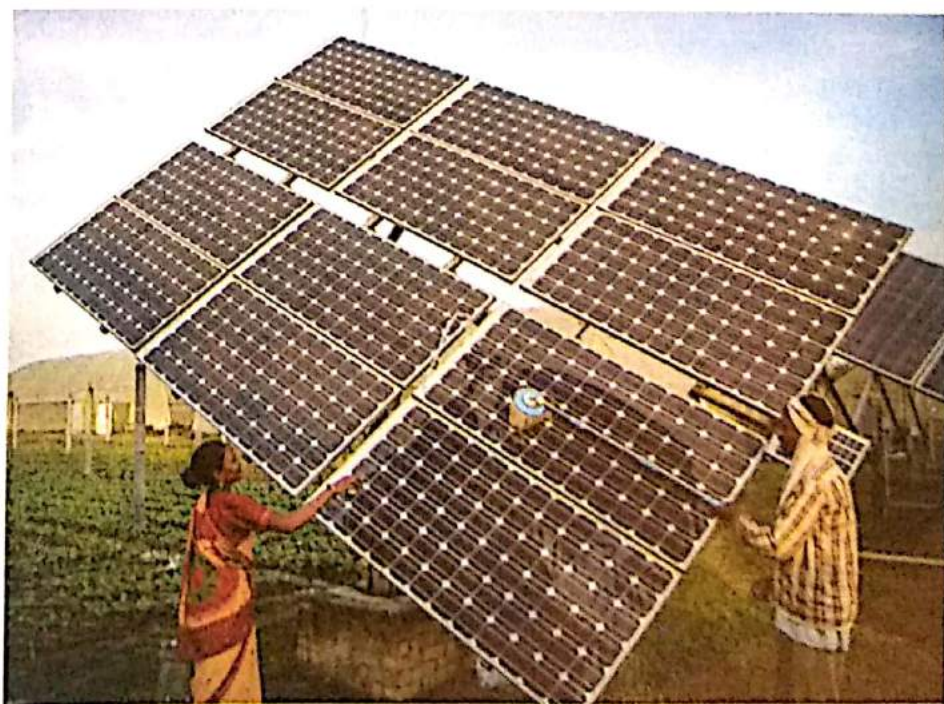
costs result in reneging on old Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and erode their sanctity. This leads to uncertainty regarding power off-take and consequently endangers further investments.

6. Energy efficiency: Limited technical capabilities, high initial capital expenditure, limited market and other issues have affected efforts to achieve energy efficiency.

Way Forward

1. Overall Energy: Oil, natural gas, electricity and coal may be brought under GST to enable input tax credit and the same GST rate may apply for all forms of energy to enable a level playing field.

2. Power: All PPAs including those



with State generation companies should be based on competitive bidding. For agriculture, an upfront subsidy per acre of land through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) may be considered instead of providing separate subsidies for fertilizers, electricity, crop insurance etc. Moreover, it is necessary to actively promote cross-border electricity trade to utilize existing/upcoming generation assets.

3. **Oil & Gas:** It is important to provide for a common carrier and open access to gas pipelines and separate the developmental and regulatory functions of the PNGRB. In addition, providing for shared infrastructure for evacuation of oil and gas from small and scattered on-shore and offshore fields should be made possible.
4. **Coal:** Detailed exploration through exploration-cum-mining leases based on production/revenue sharing model and with the onus on concerned State Governments.
5. **Renewable energy:** Central level agencies like Central Electricity Regulatory Commission or National Load Despatch Centre should socialize the costs of balancing inter-state transmission systems (ISTS) connected power plants, over the entire system, on the lines of the point of connection (PoC) or a similar mechanism.
6. **Energy efficiency:** Promote the mandatory use of LED and the replacement of old appliances in government buildings with five-star appliances. Focus the UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) programme on lower-income households and small commercial establishments. The number of appliances covered under the Standards and Labelling (S&L) programme

PMAY-G aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022. A total of 1.54 crore rural homes have been completed in the last five years. In the second phase of PMAY-G, during 2019-20 to 2021-22, 1.95 crore houses are proposed to be provided to the eligible beneficiaries.

should be increased. Widen and deepen the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) programme; make Energy Saving Certificate (ESCert) trading under the PAT scheme effective by ensuring strict penalties against defaulters. Promote the use of the public transport system.

TRANSPORT

Roads

It is a matter of pride that India is the world's second-largest road network, and most dense among countries according to size. Increasing the coverage and quality of roads and highways is critical to enhancing connectivity and internal and external trade. By 2022-23, India should achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase connectivity by expanding the road network: (a) achieve the Bharatmala Phase-I target by completing 24,800 km by 2021-22, including 2,000 km of coastal and port connectivity roads, (b) complete Phase I of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) with quality monitoring at every stage, (c) double the length of national highways (NHs) to 2 lakh km by 2022-23 from the existing 1.22 lakh km, and (d) widen single/intermediate lane (SL/IL) NHs and reduce the length of SL/IL NHs to less than 10 per cent of total length by 2022-23 from the present 26.46 per cent.

2. Improve the regulatory framework for roads to achieve better compliance, seamless connectivity, road safety and quality.
3. Reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities by 50 per cent by 2020.

The road sector in India accounts for the largest share in the movement of both passengers and freight. Driven by a rapidly growing economy, access to vehicle finance and improved road connectivity, the demand for mobility on roads has risen continuously, leading to a sharp rise in the number of road transport vehicles. Over the years, both accessibility and mobility have improved through construction of new roads and development of existing roads.

Challenges

1. **Capacity:** The existing length of the NH network is 1.22 lakh km, which is 2.2 per cent of the country's total road network of 56.03 lakh km. The existing NH length with 4-lane and above NH standards is 27,658 km (22.59 per cent), and that with single/intermediate lane width is 32,395 km (26.46 per cent); the remaining 62,379 km (50.95 per cent) is of 2-lane NH standard.
2. **Maintenance:** Regular preventive maintenance has to be an integral element of road investment.
3. **Land acquisition:** Existing land laws should be amended to complete infrastructure projects at a fast pace.
4. **Inter-agency co-ordination:** Horizontal and vertical inter-agency cooperation is needed for planned land use to ensure inter-modal connectivity and to connect well with other parts of the network to boost overall capacity.
5. **Funding:** Sources for road funding are principally commitments from gross budgetary outlays,

though these may stem from earmarked revenue streams, taxes and cess, dedicated road funds, or special development programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

6. **Institutional arrangements:** Large number of institutions and agencies are responsible for design, construction, operation and maintenance at all levels of Government. No single institution should be expected to successfully negotiate the multitude of responsibilities and functions associated with all classes of roads.

Way Forward

1. Increase connectivity by expanding the road network: To achieve this, the four very important projects to be undertaken: (i) Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I: complete 24,800-km by 2021-22, (ii) Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-Eastern region (SARDP-NE), Phase 'A': improve about 4,099 km in the North-East, (iii) 'North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase I': improve infrastructure in Meghalaya and Mizoram and enhance connectivity with inter-state roads and international

borders and Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna.

2. Improve road maintenance and safety: Maintain NH assets by adopting a maintenance management system (MMS).
3. Streamline land acquisition: Sensitize stakeholders to iron out details of land acquisitions like determining market value, deciding a compensation amount, disbursement of compensation, etc., as detailed in the 2017 guidelines issued by MORTH.
4. Skill development: Introduce vocational training courses on road construction in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and ensure stringent testing of driving skills before granting driving licences by adopting technologically advanced methods such as the automated driving testing system.
5. Increase emphasis on research and development (R&D): Earmark 0.1 per cent of MORTH's annual budget for R&D, establish a transport data centre at the national level for applied research on roads, enhance R&D on IT-enabled traffic management systems, and periodically revise codes/standards/guidelines related to technology use in line with the latest technological

developments in the highways sector.

6. Increase the capacity and reach of public transport: Transform State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) and promote public transport, rural transport and last mile connectivity and the Central Government will have to work with states to develop bus terminals and provide support on technologies/software such as VAHAN (for vehicle registration) and Saarthi (for driving licences).
7. Expand the reach of the electronic toll collection (ETC) system: Streamline the 'FASTag' charging system, and engage with stakeholders and concessionaires (for PPP toll plazas) to ensure that all toll plazas have the requisite infrastructure for ETC.

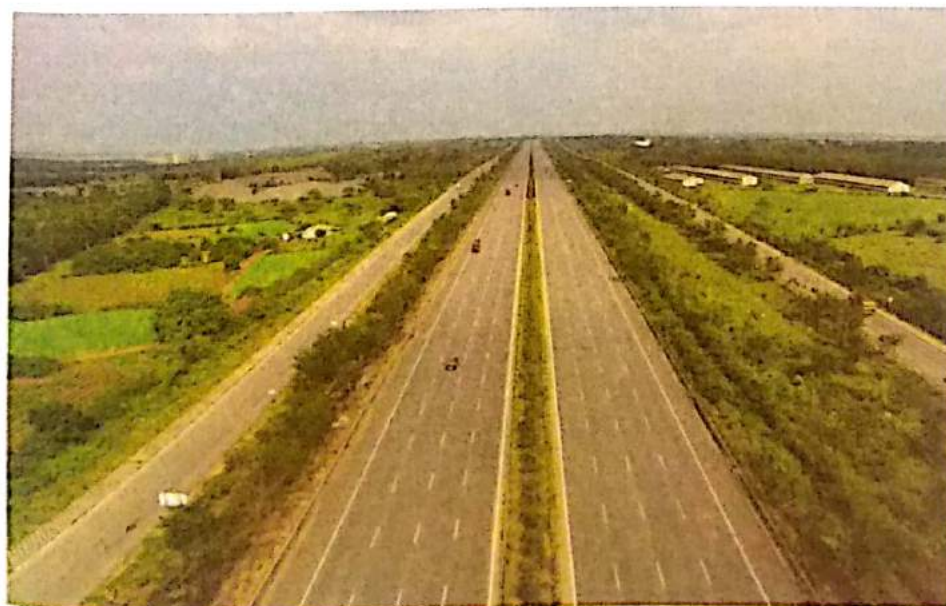
Railways

The Indian Railways (IR) is the third largest railway network in the world under a single management and is the fourth largest network in the world in terms of route km (67,368 km in FY17). It is also the largest passenger (1,150 billion-passenger km in FY17) and fourth largest freight (620 billion net-tonne km in FY17) transporting railway system globally. In FY17, 13,329 passenger trains carried over 22.24 million passengers daily while the freight transported was 1.1 billion tonnes.

IR's golden quadrilateral and its diagonals make up only 15 per cent of the total route of the railways but it transports 52 per cent of passenger traffic and 58 per cent of total freight load.

By 2022-23, India should have a rail network that is not only efficient, reliable and safe, but is also cost-effective and accessible, both with respect to the movement of people and goods. This requires achieving the following objectives:

- Augment the capacity of existing railway infrastructure.





- Increase the speed of infrastructure creation from the present 7 km/day to 19 km/day by 2022-23.
- Achieve “100 per cent” electrification of broad-gauge track by 2022-23 from the 40 per cent level in 2016-17.
- Increase the average speed of freight and mail/ express trains to 50 km/hr (from about 24 km/hr in 2016-17) and 80 km/hr (from about 60 km/hr), respectively.
- Improve the safety of the railways, achieving zero fatalities.
- Enhance service delivery, achieving 95 per cent on-time arrivals by 2022-23.
- By 2022-23, the railways should have a freight load of 1.9 billion tonnes and an improved modal share of 40 per cent of freight movement from the current level of 33 per cent.
- Increase the share of non-fare revenues in total revenue to 20 per cent.

Challenges

Over-stretched infrastructure with 60 per cent plus routes being more than 100 per cent utilized, leading to a reduction in average speed of passenger and freight trains. Moreover, negligible non-fare

revenues and high freight tariffs have led to a sub-optimal freight share.

Way Forward

Prioritize ongoing projects to improve capacity utilization and timely completion of these projects will generate more revenue. At the same time, we need to maintain and upgrade the existing network to ensure that supply keeps up with demand.

Ensure that the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) earlier planned and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) are completed on schedule. DFCs should be fully commissioned by 2020; feeder routes to the DFCs should be developed simultaneously. Also, opening up the ownership and operations of freight terminals and ownership of locomotives and rolling stock and consider transferring coach and locomotive manufacturing and repairs to the private sector under a

It is a matter of pride that India is the world's second-largest road network, and most dense among countries according to size. Increasing the coverage and quality of roads and highways is critical to enhancing connectivity and internal and external trade.

transparent, neutral (non-railway) and fair regulatory mechanism. This will improve performance and attract private players and investments.

Monetize land resources with the railways, particularly through developing non-railway revenues such as through retail or other activities. Also, increasing retail revenues from railway stations by investing in facilities, modernizing stations and contracting space to private players can be done.

Focus must be on increasing the use of proven, advanced technologies such as automatic train protection, fog safety devices, end of train telemetry devices and on-board/online condition monitoring systems.

There is a need to redevelop 100 out of 400 identified railway stations by 2022 on top priority basis.

CIVIL AVIATION

India's civil aviation sector has been growing steadily; the number of passengers was 158 million in 2016-17. Domestic passenger traffic increased at a CAGR of almost 10 per cent between 2007-08 and 2016-17 and international passenger traffic grew at a CAGR of 8.07 per cent during the same period. Between 2014-15 and 2016-17 in particular, traffic growth in the domestic passenger segment was 48 per cent and 20 per cent in the international segment. There has been an increase in air cargo, both domestically and internationally, in 2016-17. IATA has forecast that India will cross over into the top 10 air freight markets in 2018-19. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, 2018 ranks India as 53rd out of 140 countries worldwide in air transport infrastructure.

Objectives

- Enhance the affordability of flying to enable an increase in domestic ticket sales from 103.75 million in 2016-17 to 300 million by 2022.

- Double air cargo handled from about 3.3 million tonnes in 2017-18 to about 6.5 million tonnes.
- Expand the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) industry from USD 1.8 billion in 2017 to USD 2.3 billion.
- Expand airport capacity more than five times to handle one billion trips a year.
- Enhance availability and affordability of regional air connectivity and revive/upgrade 56 unserved airports and 31 unserved helipads through the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN).
- Ensure that airport tariffs, taxes on fuel, landing charges, passenger services, cargo and other charges are determined in an efficient, fair and transparent manner.

Challenges

- Adequate hangar space and availability of land to expand airports at their current sites, particularly in major cities, are needed.
- Skilled workers: According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian aviation could directly support 1.0 to 1.2 million jobs by 2035. This implies that about 0.25 million persons will need to be skilled over the next 10 years.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has mandated that all airports move from a single to a hybrid till structure.
- Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is relatively expensive in India.
- The number of aviation safety violations needs to be controlled.

Way Forward

- Enhance aviation infrastructure: Complete the planned airports under the UDAN initiative in a time-bound manner, in addition

to completing two new airports for Delhi and Mumbai by 2022.

- Increase investment in the sector through financial and infrastructure support.
- Increase skilled manpower: Promote collaboration between original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), industry and educational institutes to teach the latest concepts in the aviation industry including management principles, IT in aviation, etc.
- Ease the regulatory environment for airports: Adopt a consistent model for tariff determination so that it reduces passenger cost and align taxation and pricing structure to global benchmarks by considering bringing aviation turbine fuel (ATF) under the rubric of GST.

PORTS & SHIPPING AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT (IWT)

Objectives

- Double the share of freight transported by coastal shipping and inland waterways from 6 per cent in 2016-17 to 12 per cent by 2025.
- Increase the port handling capacity to 2,500 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2022-23.
- Reduce the turnaround time at

major ports from about 3.44 days (2016-17) to 1-2 days (global average) by 2022-23.

- Increase the throughput of inland waterways from 55.20 MMT in 2016-17 to 60-70 MMT by 2022-23.
- Augment the capacity of inland water transport by increasing the least available depth.

Ports and Shipping

India has a coastline spanning about 7,500 km, forming one of the biggest peninsulas in the world. Around 90 per cent of India's external trade by volume and 70 per cent by value are handled by ports. Twelve major ports and 205 non-major ports operate on India's coast. It is the most cost-effective and efficient mode of transportation.

The Ministry of Shipping's Sagarmala programme focuses on modernising and developing ports, enhancing port connectivity, supporting coastal communities and stimulating port-linked industrialization. Sagarmala aims to reduce the logistics costs for foreign and domestic trade, leading to an overall cost savings of Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 crore annually by 2025. It also aims to double the share of water transportation in the modal mix.

The Government has set up the



Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL) to provide funding support to special purpose vehicles (SPVs) set up to implement projects and the Indian Port Rail Corporation Limited (IPRCL) to undertake port-rail connectivity projects under Sagarmala.

Inland Waterways

Inland Water Transport (IWT) carries less than 2 per cent of India's organized freight traffic and negligible passenger traffic. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is mandated to develop and maintain infrastructure for fairway, navigational aids and terminals. Until 2015, there were only five National Waterways (NWs) in the country. In April 2016, 106 more waterways spread over 24 states were declared as NWs. The Ministry is augmenting the capacity of NW-1 under the Jal Marg Vikas project. The project will enable the movement of larger vessels of 1,500-2,000 tonnes on inland waterways.

Challenges

- A minimum draft depth of 18 metres is needed to enable mother vessels to dock at ports.
- It is difficult to attract capital for building inland vessels as it is a significant investment.

Way Forward

- Dredging market to open up attracting more players, particularly international players, in dredging activities.
- Expedite the completion of various projects under Sagarmala.
- IWT should be integrated to multimodal/ intermodal connectivity.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the implementation of the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) to augment the capacity of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) with technical assistance and



investment support from the World Bank at a cost of Rs. 5369.18 crore.

LOGISTICS

The contemporary definition of logistics involves the integration of information, transportation, inventory, warehousing, materials handling and packaging. Logistics management includes the design and administration of system to control the flow of material, work-in-progress, and finished inventory to support business unit strategy.

Objectives

- Achieve multi-modal movement of cargo on par with global logistics standards.
- Reduce the logistics cost to less than 10 per cent of GDP from the current level of 14 per cent.
- Expand the logistics market to USD 215 billion by 2020 from the current level of USD 160 billion.
- Improve logistics skilling and increase jobs in the sector to 40 million by 2022-23 from about 22 million in 2016.

Challenges

Absence of last mile connectivity and infrastructure, competition and underutilized capacity, lack of interoperability of software systems used by the authorities governing different modes of transport leads to increase in transit time.

Way Forward

Rationalize tariffs and determine prices in an efficient manner across different modes, create an overarching body that maintains a repository of all transport data to internal stake-holders and conduct robust analysis of the data, setting up multimodal logistics parks etc. will help address issues related to infrastructure development.

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Development with Inclusive Policy

Shashi Rani

India is the world's largest democratic country. It is known for its social, cultural and regional diversity. The Constitution of India binds all citizens in a common thread with security of fundamental rights and it is guiding the States to follow Directive Principles of State Policy to deliver services in the best interest of its citizens with an inclusive approach.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Inclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect in January 2016, and they will continue to guide United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) policy and

funding until 2030. India is signatory to it and is committed to global society agenda to reduce all forms of inequality. The SDGs are focussing on global efforts to end poverty, to end discrimination and ensure peace and well-being of all. All SDGs are based on certain themes such as people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.¹ In the context of inclusion the Goal 10 of Sustainable Development is "to reduce inequality within and among countries". The Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.²

Inclusive Policy, Strategies and Interventions

Under the Constitutional framework, it is the duty of the Government to protect the social and economic interests of the marginalised and excluded sections of the society with various policies, strategies and interventions. The present Government has taken many initiatives through policies and programmes to create an inclusive society by focussing on marginalised sections of society especially in the areas of social and gender equality, education, health, livelihood, entrepreneurship, electrification, sanitation, drinking water etc.

Women and Girl Child:
The Government has realised that



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



gender equality and development is one of the areas which need special focus. In order to bring gender equality and empowerment of women many schemes have been launched such as *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)* for protection of a girl child and to prevent from biased sex selection. It is to ensure the survival, protection and education of girl child. The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994, is aimed at prohibition of misuse of technology to determine the sex of the foetus or to assist in pre-birth sex selection. *Swadhar Greh Scheme* is merger of two important schemes: first Swadhar Scheme 2002 and Short Stay Home Scheme 1969. These two schemes have been merged in Swadhar Greh Scheme to set up homes in each district with a capacity of 30 women. This capacity can be extended up to 50 to 100 on the basis of need assessment.

The special intervention for adolescent girls is done through

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) by using the ICDS infrastructure with the aim of breaking the inter-generational life-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage, thus providing a supportive environment for self-development of adolescent girls. The key objective of this scheme is to facilitate, educate and empower adolescent girls so as enabling them to become self-reliant and aware citizens. To improve the health status the emphasis is on enabling the adolescent girls (AGs) for self-development and empowerment, improve their nutrition and health status, promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, provide information/guidance about existing public services such as Primary Health Centres, Rural Hospitals/CHCs, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

The Maternity Benefit Programme has been implemented from 1 January, 2017 in all the districts of the country. The programme is named as '*Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana*' (PMMVY). Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of ₹ 5000

is provided directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for first living child of the family, subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health. *Kilkari & Mobile Academy* is to create proper awareness among pregnant women, parents of children and field workers about the importance of Anti Natal Care (ANC), institutional delivery, Post-Natal Care (PNC) and immunization. It was decided to implement the Kilkari and Mobile Academy services in pan India in a phased manner.

To protect the rights of women and child the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed in which leave was extended to 26 weeks, up from 12 weeks. The bill is benefiting around 1.8 million women working in the organised sector.³ *Mahila Police Volunteers*, *Mahila E Haat*, *Mudra Loan*, and *Ujjwala Yojana* are very important initiatives. Among all other important schemes, construction of toilet at household level is being done under *Swachh*

Bharat Abhiyan to protect dignity and safety of women.

Scheduled Castes (SCs): The Constitution guaranteed special provisions for protection of the social and economic rights of the Scheduled caste population. The Government through various Ministries and Departments has many provisions for protecting their rights. *Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)* is for construction of hostels for scheduled caste students, both girls and boys, to provide them equal opportunity for education. *Pre-Matric scholarship* for children of those engaged in hazardous occupations and prone to health problems has been provided by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. *Pre-Matric scholarship for SC children studying in classes IX and X*; Free coaching for preparation of competitive examinations for employment in public and private sector are some other schemes available.

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) has various schemes such as *Micro Credit Finance*. NSCFDC provides term loan for project(s)/unit(s) costing up to Rs. 5 lakhs. Financial Assistance up to Project Cost of Rs. 60,000 is provided for small income generating activities. *Mahila Samridhi Yojana* is a Micro Finance scheme for females with rebate in interest. Financial Assistance up to Rs. 60,000 is also provided. *Mahila Kisan Yojana* is exclusively for rural women for taking up agriculture and/or mixed farming-related economic activities for projects cost up to Rs. 2,00,000. *Shilpi Samriddhi Yojana* provides financial assistance up to project cost of Rs. 2,00,000 for small income generating activities. *Laghu Vyavsay Yojana* is for providing financial assistance up to 90% where unit cost is Rs. 5 lakhs in the form of loan and easy repayment basis for small income generating activities.⁴

The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is considered as one of the strong measures to protect dignity and freedom of SCs and STs. The Article 17 of Constitution of India laid the foundation for providing legal protection to SCs and STs against offences related to untouchability and atrocities.

Scheduled Tribes (STs): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs focusses on the social and economic development of STs. New initiatives are taken for economic empowerment and to recognise the tribal culture. Museums have been constructed to highlight the contribution of tribal freedom fighters. Various schemes are initiated to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general population and tribal population. Major thrust is given on setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) with the aim of expanding the reach of good quality education among the tribal persons. There are arrangements for school buildings including hostels and staff quarters, provision for a playground, students' computer lab, teacher resource room etc. *Pre Matric*

Under the Constitutional framework, it is the duty of the Government to protect the social and economic interests of the marginalised and excluded sections of the society with various policies, strategies and interventions. The present Government has taken many initiatives through policies and programmes to create an inclusive society by focussing on marginalised sections of society especially in area of social and gender equality, education, health, livelihood, entrepreneurship, electrification, sanitation, drinking water etc.

Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarship, National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for higher education of ST students, *National Overseas Scholarship* for ST students have also been provided. The *Van Dhan Yojana* aims to provide skill upgradation and capacity building training along with setting up of primary processing and value addition facility. Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized a National Tribal Festival named as '*Aadi Mahotsava*' to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce. More than 1000 Artisans from 20 States, 80 Tribal Chefs and 14 Dance Troupes comprising more than 250 Artists participated in the Mahotsav.

An outlay of Rs. 118.65 crore has been made to various States under the scheme Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) and grants under Article 275(1) for skill development of more than 31,000 male and female tribal beneficiaries. Skill development covers various trades such as planning and management including office management, solar technician/electrician, beautician, handicraft, skills required for construction works (such as plumbing, mason, electrician, fitter, welder, and more. An online monitoring system has been put in place by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)/Schedule Tribe Component (STC) funds. A customized proforma has also been developed to capture the location of ongoing projects and beneficiary details.⁵

Other Backward Classes (OBCs)/De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)/Economically Backward Classes (EBCs): The Government of India also initiated many schemes for protection of educational and economic interest of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs. *Assistance for Skill Development of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs (NGO Scheme)* is to involve the Voluntary Organization and National Backward Classes Finance

and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) to improve educational and socio-economic conditions of the target group, i.e., OBCs/DNTs/EBCs, with a view to upgrade their skill to enable them to start income generation activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other. The beneficiaries whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources including the income of beneficiary does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh per annum are eligible under the Scheme. Scheme of *Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students* is to provide coaching to enable them to prepare for competitive examinations for jobs of public and private sectors.

Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) provide interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies to promote educational advancement of students from OBCs and EBCs. This is a Central Sector Scheme to provide interest subsidy to the student belonging to the OBCs and EBCs on the interest payable for the period of moratorium for the Education Loans for overseas studies to pursue approved courses of studies abroad at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. level.⁶

Entrepreneurial schemes of NBCFDC is for women belonging to backward classes known as *New Swarnima Scheme*. If women belonging to backward classes having income less than double the poverty line are eligible to get loan up to Rs. 1,00,000 at the rate 5% from NBCFDC. Other schemes such as *Shilp Sampada*, *Mahila Samridhi Yojana*, *Krishi Sampada* are for the Backward Classes as notified by Central Government/State Governments from time to time. The annual family income of the applicant should be less than Rs. 1,03,000 p.a. in urban areas and Rs. 81,000 p.a. in rural areas.



Divyangjan: Under Assistance to Divyangjan for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP) schemes, 1456 ADIP camps were organised and more than 2.40 lakh Divyangjan were provided Aids Assistive Devices in the year 2018. The *National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)*, 2018 were given to awardees at a function organised by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi on 3 December, 2018 on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. *Accessible India Campaign (AIC)* was launched on 3 December, 2015, for creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Built Environment, Transport, and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem.

The *Unique Disability Identification Project* is aimed to create national database for PwDs, to issue Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card along with disability certificate to everyone. So far, 463 districts of 27 States/UTs have generated 11.20 lakh e-UDID Cards.

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, and Inclusive India Initiative was launched. First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words was developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi. A Composite Regional

Centre for Persons with Disabilities at Narsingarh, West Tripura was inaugurated on 8 June, 2018.

For disseminating information and creating awareness various workshops and events were held at national and international level and all stakeholders participated in these events to extend their support. Indian Sign language Research and Training Centre celebrated "*Sign Language Day*" on 23 September, 2018. A National Workshop on Physical and Mental Disabilities in the light of Global Best Practices in Care under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment was conducted. The aim is to encourage adaptation of global best practices in the Indian context.

Minorities: There are many Government schemes that are focussing on providing equal opportunities to minorities. Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) namely Minority Concentration Blocks (MCB), Minority Concentration Towns (MCT), and Minority Concentration District Head Quarters (MCD Hq) are relatively backward and have been identified on the basis of select socio-economic and basic amenities parameters of Census 2011 data by identifying areas having more than 25% minority population, where socio-economic or basic amenities parameters are found below the national average. These areas have been identified for implementation of *Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJK)* to improve such parameters which are below the national average by focussing on the areas of education, health and skill development, apart from the other areas, wherever need is felt. *Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJK)* restructured Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) implemented in identified Minority Concentration Blocks, Minority Concentration Towns, Minority Concentration District Headquarters and clusters of villages for infrastructure development. In the area of education, *Pre-Matric*

Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme aim at educational empowerment. Maulana Azad National Fellowship is for empowerment of research fellows. Naya Savera is a free coaching and allied Scheme to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates for their employment through competitive examinations and admission in technical and professional courses. Padho Pardesh Scheme is for interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies in technical and professional courses. Nai Udaan is to support students clearing Preliminary Examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC), etc. Jiyo Parsi Scheme is for containing the population decline of Parsis. Nai Roshni Scheme is for leadership development of minority women. Seekho aur Kamao is a Skill development initiative for minorities. Nai Manzil Scheme is for formal school education and skilling of school dropouts. USTTAD is for upgrading the skills and training in traditional arts/crafts for development. Hamari Dharohar Scheme is to preserve the rich heritage of minority communities under the overall concept of Indian culture.

Economically Weaker Sections (EWS): For protection of right of health of the poor population two major initiatives in health sector have been taken under the Ayushman Bharat Programme. First is Health and Wellness Centres and second is the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS). The goal of this intervention is to address health needs in holistic manner in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion. National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) is providing coverage up to 5 lakh rupees per family

The Maternity Benefit Programme has been implemented from 1 January, 2017 in all the districts of the country. The programme is named as 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY). Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of Rs. 5000 is provided directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for first living child of the family, subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health. Kilkari & Mobile Academy is to create proper awareness among pregnant women, parents of children and field workers about the importance of Anti Natal Care (ANC), institutional delivery, Post-Natal Care (PNC) and immunization.

per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. The beneficiaries will not be required to pay any charges and premium for the hospitalisation expenses. The benefit also includes pre- and post-hospitalization expenses. 'Ayushman Mitra' is to assist patients and will coordinate with beneficiaries and the hospital in each empanelled public and private hospital. National Nutrition Mission (NNM) has been set up as a comprehensive approach towards raising nutrition levels in the country on a war footing. ICT is used to reach out to the women, children and poor.

For economically weaker sections (EWS) of the society the Government announced 10 per cent EWS Reservation. The persons belonging to EWS who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs shall get 10 percent reservation in education and employment. Articles 15(6) and 16(6) have been inserted in the Constitution, vide the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme is to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganised sector workers. Rs. 3000 per month after the 60 years of age with an affordable contribution of only Rs. 100/55 per month. Twelve crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under PM-KISAN.

Way Forward

In view of the social and economic disparities between marginalised and the general population, large number of initiatives have been taken by the Government and some of which are mentioned above in this article. Participation of all stakeholders especially local administrative bodies is required; orientation and training of key personnel is important for removing attitudinal barriers and adoption of an inclusive approach. Use of all possible means of communication in regional languages is required for awareness generation and publicity of government schemes.

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On the anniversary of Quit India Movement, Shri Prakash Javadekar presents Gandhi Albums to President of India

On the anniversary of Quit India Movement (9 August, 2019) Union Minister for Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar presented the Album "Mahatma Gandhi: A Life Through Lenses" to the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Album narrates the pictorial story of the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi through 550 photographs. It has been brought out by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Secretary, Ministry of I & B, Shri Amit Khare, Principal Director General, Publications Division, Ministry of I & B, Smt Sadhana Rout and the team of Publications Division involved with the project were also present at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion.

With rare photographs detailing the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi, the Album not only portrays the birth of a shy boy, his early years and education, making of a Mahatma (in South Africa), his experiments with truth through his various movements—first in South Africa and then in India, but also the story of the intensive Indian freedom struggle of 20th century, of which he was the main architect.

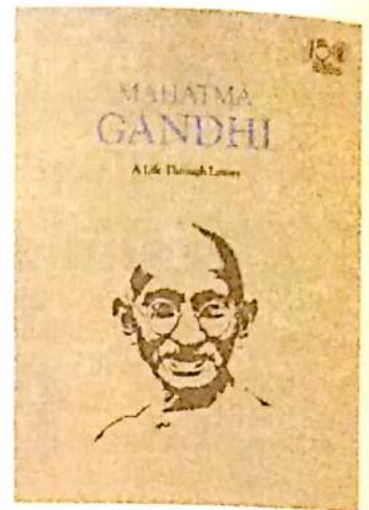
For the first time, a Hindi version of the Album, "Mahatma Gandhi: Chitramaya Jeevan Gatha" has also been brought out in order to increase the outreach and cater to a wider reader base.

This English version of the book was first brought out in 1954, taking photographs from the Sarvodaya Diwas Pradarshni, organised at Rajghat in January 1949 to mark the first anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death. This heritage publication, along with the new Hindi version, with photo support from National Gandhi Museum, has now been reprinted with better design and production quality.

Shri Prakash Javadekar apprised the President about efforts of I&B Ministry towards celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar presented an overview of the books to the President, terming these albums as a kaleidoscope of India's freedom struggle. He also highlighted the efforts of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Publications Division towards celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The task of the Ministry is not merely limited to its own efforts but also includes highlighting the efforts of all other Ministries of the Government through its Media Units in order to reach out to people effectively.

The Minister also apprised the President about the publication of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, which is available in e-version as well. To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Publications Division has brought out around twenty books and fifty e-books, including a book on Kasturba Gandhi during the commemoration year of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The President Shri Ram Nath Kovind appreciated the efforts of I&B Ministry in spreading the values and ideals which Gandhiji stood for. He asked the officials to further augment the efforts in the week preceding Gandhi Jayanti this year. He also exhorted all Government employees to participate actively in the celebrations marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



'Mahatma Gandhi: A Life Through Lenses' & 'Mahatma Gandhi: Chitramaya Jeevan Gatha' brought out by Publications Division, Ministry of I & B, being presented to the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind by Union Minister for I & B, Shri Prakash Javadekar. Also seen are Secretary I & B, Shri Amit Khare and Principal Director General, Publications Division, Dr Sadhana Rout.

Source: PIB

HIGHLIGHTS



- The country can no longer wait for incremental progress but should strive for giant strides.
- For development of modern infrastructure, an amount of Rs. 100 lakh crore has been earmarked for this period which will create new job opportunities besides improving the living standards.
- India dreams of a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy. In the 70 years of independence, the country became a 2 Trillion Dollar Economy but in the last 5 years, we have made it a 3 Trillion Dollar Economy and at this pace, we can become a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy.
- By 75th year of independence, farmers' income should double, every poor should get a pucca house, every family should get electricity connection and every village should have optical fibre network and broadband connectivity besides facility of long distance education.
- We have to lay stress on Blue Economy (Ocean resources). Our farmers should become exporters and every district of the country should be an export hub. Value added goods from every district should reach global markets.
- It is our responsibility that the aspirations of the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are fulfilled and dalits living there should get equal rights as enjoyed by the rest of the dalits in the country. Similarly, communities like Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis, Sippies or Balties should get political rights. After partition, lakhs of people got displaced and settled in Jammu & Kashmir were devoid of basic human rights and citizenship rights.
- J&K and Ladakh can become role models of peace and prosperity and contribute significantly towards India's development. The state can greatly contribute to India's development. Today every Indian can proudly say 'One Nation, One Constitution'.
- GST achieved the dream of 'One Nation, One tax'. We successfully attained 'One Nation, One Grid' in the power sector. We also developed 'One Nation, One Mobility Card' system and today there is a discussion in the country for 'One Nation, One Poll' and it should happen in a democratic manner.
- Population explosion can create new problems specially for the future generations. But there is also an enlightened section of society which is aware of this challenge. We have to ponder on this issue taking along all the sections of the society.
- Corruption and nepotism have harmed the country beyond imagination. We have taken several steps driven by technology to fight this menace.
- Ease of living is the necessity of independent India. We should build an eco-system in which there should be less Government interference in daily life.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is a matter of pride for India that we are progressing at a high growth rate with price rise under control.
- A stable government provides for policy predictability and a stable system creates international trust. The world is looking at India with admiration for its political stability.
- The fundamentals of our economy are very strong and reforms like GST & IBC have created a new faith in the system. Our investors should invest more, earn more and generate more jobs. We should stop viewing our Wealth Creators with suspicion: they deserve greater respect. Greater wealth creation will lead to greater distribution and help in the welfare of poor people.
- India is strongly fighting against the forces spreading terrorism. India in league with other nations of the world will expose those harbouring, promoting and exporting terrorism. To abolish the menace of terrorism, our security forces and security agencies have played an exemplary role and I salute them.
- India's neighbours - Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka are suffering from terrorism. Our good friend in the neighbourhood - Afghanistan is going to celebrate its 100th independence day in four days to come. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, I give my greetings to the people of Afghanistan who are marking 100 years of freedom.
- I had flagged the issue of Swachhata from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2014 and a few weeks from now on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, India will become an open defecation free nation.
- As a Tourist Destination, India can become a wonder in the world. All Indians should promote tourism, because tourism sector provides more jobs with less investments and also strengthens economy.
- Our country has been debating for long about reforms in Armed Forces and many commissions and their reports underline the same. To further sharpen coordination between the forces, India will have Chief of Defence Staff, CDS which will make the forces even more effective.
- I wish the countrymen to pledge to make India free from single use plastic by 2nd October. For this every citizen, municipalities and gram panchayats should come together.
- Our priority should be a 'Made in India' product. For a better tomorrow, can we think of consuming local products and also help improve rural economy and the MSME sector.
- Our digital payment platforms are evolving strong. We should lay stress on digital payments for our village shops, small outlets and smaller city malls.
- We are spoiling health of soil by use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. When Gandhiji has already shown us the path, can't we reduce by 10%, 20% or 25% use of chemical fertilizers. I am sure our farmers will oblige my wish.
- Indian professional are recognized globally. Our scientists have proved their mettle in Chandrayaan which is reaching the uncharted territory of the moon.
- In the coming days, 1.5 lakh wellness centers will be created in villages. One medical college in the midst of three Lok Sabha constituencies, housing for two crore poor people, drinking water supply in 15 crore rural households and 1.25 lakh km roads in rural areas, besides connecting every village with broadband and optical fiber network are some of the targets to be achieved. More than 50,000 new start ups are also being planned.
- Indian Constitution is completing 70 years, the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and this year is also important for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji. Let us move forward by imbibing the teachings of Baba Saheb and Guru Nanak Dev for a better society and a better country.



Source: PIB