

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF INDIA

CHAPTER 6: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT: BIG TENT – PART-2

LECTURE-5

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1) SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMEEN)

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SBM(G)) was launched on 2nd Oct 2014 to ensure cleanliness in India and make Indian Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- Having **achieved the ODF status in all villages in the country** as of 2nd Oct 2019, **phase-II of SBM (G)** is now being implemented during FY21 and FY25, with the focus to sustain the ODF status of villages and covering all the villages with Solid and Liquid Waste management i.e. **to convert the villages from ODF to ODF Plus**.
- **Progress:**
 - More than 1.2 lakh villages have been declared ODF plus till 10th Nov 2022.
 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands has declared all its villages as ODF Plus, thus becoming the first Swachh, Sujal Pradesh.

2) PRADHAN MANTRI UJWALA YOJANA (PMUY)

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas which is implementing this scheme (this ministry is perhaps implementing a welfare scheme for the first time)
- **Key Provisions PMUY** (later called PMUY 1.0)
 - The **PMUY** was originally launched in May 2016 as a flagship scheme to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, dung cakes etc.
 - Initially it aimed to provide **5 crore free cooking (LPG) connections** to BPL families in 3 years (i.e. by 2018). Later, the target was revived to 8 crore free LPG cylinders/connections by 2020.
 - The scheme provided a financial support of Rs 16,00 for each LPG connection to the BPL families. In Feb 2018, to increase the coverage, government expanded to coverage for all SC/ST households, beneficiaries of PMAY (G), Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Forest Dwellers, most backward classes, tea and ex-tea garden tribes, people residing in island and rivers etc. in addition to SECC data.
 - The connection was provided in the name of women of the households.
 - **Tagline of the Scheme:** Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.
 - **Outcome:**
 - The release of 9.5 crore LPG connections under the scheme has also helped in increasing the LPG coverage from 62% on 1st May 2016 to 99.8% on 1st April 2021.
- **PMUY Phase 2** (PMUY 2.0) (or Ujjwala 2.0)
 - Launched in Aug 2021.
 - In the Union Budget for FY 2021-22, provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the PMUY scheme was announced.
 - These additional PMUY connections aim to provide deposit free LPG connections to those low-income families who couldn't be covered under the earlier phase of PMUY.
 - **Other than deposit free LPG connections**, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide **first refill and hotplate free of cost to beneficiaries**.
 - Further the enrollment process will require minimum paperwork.
 - Here, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof. A **self-declaration** for both 'family declaration' and as a 'proof of address' will suffice.
 - **Progress:** Under Ujjwala 2.0, **1.6 crore connections** have been released until 24 Nov 2022

3) PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

- PMGSY was launched in the year 2000, as a centrally sponsored program by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- The primary **objective** of the programme was to provide
 - **Connectivity by way of all-weather roads** to unconnected habitations of designated population size of more than 500 in plain areas and 250 in north-east, hill, tribal and desert areas as per the census 2001.
 - **Upgradation of selected roads** to provide full farm to market connectivity.
- **Funding**
 - Initially, it **was fully funded by central government.**
 - **But lately**, since the 14th Finance Commission's recommendation for more devolution of tax pool to states, it is funded by both center and state government in 60:40 ratio (90: 10 in some north eastern and hilly states)
- **Connecting left wing affected areas Scheme:**
 - To improve rural road connectivity in the left wing extremism affected districts from security angle, the Cabinet had in 2016 approved the centrally-sponsored "**Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas**" scheme.
 - The Project was implemented as a vertical under PMGSY to provide connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures of 44 worst affected LWE districts and adjoining districts, critical from security and communication point of view.
 - **Development of Major District Roads (MDRs):** PMGSY guidelines don't permit construction/upgradation of MDRs. However, keeping special circumstances of LWE area in view, MDRs were also taken up under the scheme as a special dispensation.
 - The National Highways and State Highways would be excluded from the project.
 - **States covered**
 - Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, MP, Telangana and Maharashtra
- **Targets**
 - PMGSY Phase 1: Habitation (250+) covered by March 2019.
 - PMGSY Phase 2 (Habitation 100+) and LWE blocks covered by March 2020.
 - Phase 3 focuses on sustainable maintenance of the roads.
 - Phase 3 was launched in July 2019
 - It is aimed at **consolidation of 1 lakh 25 thousand Kms** through routes and major rural links that connect habitations to GrAMs, Higher Secondary Schools, and Hospitals.
- **Progress:**
 - Since its inception, a total of 1,84,984 roads measuring 8,01,838 km and 10,383 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) have been sanctioned under all the interventions/ verticals of PMGSY.

4) ELECTRICITY RELATED SCHEMES

A) SAUBHAGYA – PRADHAN MANTRI SAHAJ BIJLI HAR GHAR YOJANA

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Power
- **Introduction:**
 - The government launched PM Saubhagya in **2017** with the objective to achieve universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all willing un-electrified households in rural areas and all willing poor households in urban areas in the country by March 2019.

- With this it also wanted to improve environment, public health, education and connectivity with the help of last mile power connections across India.
- **Main provisions**
 - **Free or small Fee:** The electricity connection will be free for people identified by SECC, 2011 and will be given at 500 Rs, payable in 10 instalments in the bill for others.
 - **Solar Photo Voltaic based stand alone system For unelectrified households in remote and inaccessible areas.**
 - **Rural Electrification Corp** was the **nodal agency** for the scheme throughout the country while public institutions and panchayats were authorized to collect application forms, distribute bills, and collect payments in consultation with Panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies.
- **Funding mechanism**
 - The scheme will be funded by Central grants (60%), Bank Loans (30%), and States (10%).
- The scheme complements DDUGJY which was launched in 2015, under which 100% of the 18,000 villages have been electrified.
- **Progress So Far**
 - **The Saubhagya scheme has successfully completed at the close of March 2022**

B) DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAM JYOTI YOJANA (DDUGJY)

- The scheme, launched in July 2015, draws its inspiration from similar pioneering scheme implemented by the government of Gujarat.
- This scheme **aims** at providing round the clock power to rural households and adequate power to agriculture consumers.
- The earlier scheme for rural electrification viz. Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in the new schemes as its rural electrification component.
- **3 Components**
 - i. **Feeder separation** (rural households and agriculture)
 - ii. Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network including metering at all levels (input points, feeders and distribution transformers);
 - iii. Micro grid and off grid distribution network and Rural electrification - already sanctioned projects under RGGVY to be completed.
- **The scheme extends financial assistance for capital expenditure by distribution companies (discoms)** for strengthening and augmenting distribution infrastructure, including rural metering.
-

3. DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (DBT)

- **Cash transfers under various Central Schemes** are made through DBT. To make DBT schemes more accessible and transparent, major DBT schemes are being end-to-end digitized (EED) with provision for online and mobile based access.
 - 150 of central government schemes are available on Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance (UMANG) mobile platform.
- **Progress in DBT Scheme:**

- DBT was launched in 2013 to re-engineer the then-existing delivery processes using modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to transfer benefits directly into the preferably Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of accurately targeted beneficiaries.
- As of **Dec 2022**, it covers 300 Central schemes and more than 2000 state schemes across India.
- **Over the year DBT paradigm has enabled:**
 - Accurate identification & targeting of beneficiaries.
 - Greater inclusion and ease of availing services through online application.
 - Transparency in fund transfers to beneficiaries.
 - Curbing of leakages in the benefit delivery processes through the elimination of middlemen/agents;
 - Creation of greater accountability on behalf of the Government;
 - Facilitating reforms in Government processes through re-engineering;
 - Increase in efficiency in scheme delivery processes; and
 - Effectiveness of schemes through timely implementation.

4. SCHEMES TO PROMOTE GOVERNANCE AT STATE LEVEL

1) RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN (RGSA)

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
 - It was approved in 2018 for implementation during the period from FY19-FY22.
 - **Primary Aim:**
 - **Strengthening PRIs** and address critical gap that hinder its success.
 - **Thus on convergence with Mission Antyodaya** in the 117 aspirational districts.
 - The scheme extends to all states and Uts of the country including institutions of rural local governments in non-part IX areas, where Panchayats don't exist.
 - The scheme has a **Central Component** - National Level activities including "National Plan of Technical Assistance", "Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayat", "Incentivization of Panchayats" and **State Component** - Capacity building of PRIs.
 - The Central Component will be fully funded by Central Government.
 - **State component** will have Central-State Funding (60:40) for all states and (90:10) for North-eastern State and Hilly areas.
- **Focus Area:**
 - Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) to empower PRIs and to prepare convergent plans at the respective level of Panchayats.
- **Key outcomes:**
 - Around 31 lakh elected representatives (ERs) have been capacitated through various modes of training.
 - Functionaries and other stakeholders of Panchayats including SHG members have been provided training for better SHG-PRIs convergence at the grassroot levels to create an ecosystem to prepare inclusive village poverty reduction plan.
- **The scheme has been revamped and approved in April 2022** for implementation over the period FY23 to FY26.
 - The focus of the scheme of Revamped RGSA is on re-imagining PRIs as vibrant centres of local self-governance with a special focus on the Localisation of SDGs (LSDGs) at the grassroots level adopting thematic approach through concerted and collaborative efforts of Central Ministries and State line departments and other stakeholders with **'Whole of Government and Whole of Society'** approach.
 - The Scheme has been formulated with the aim to strengthen the capacities of institutions for rural local governance to become more responsive towards local development needs, prepare participatory plans

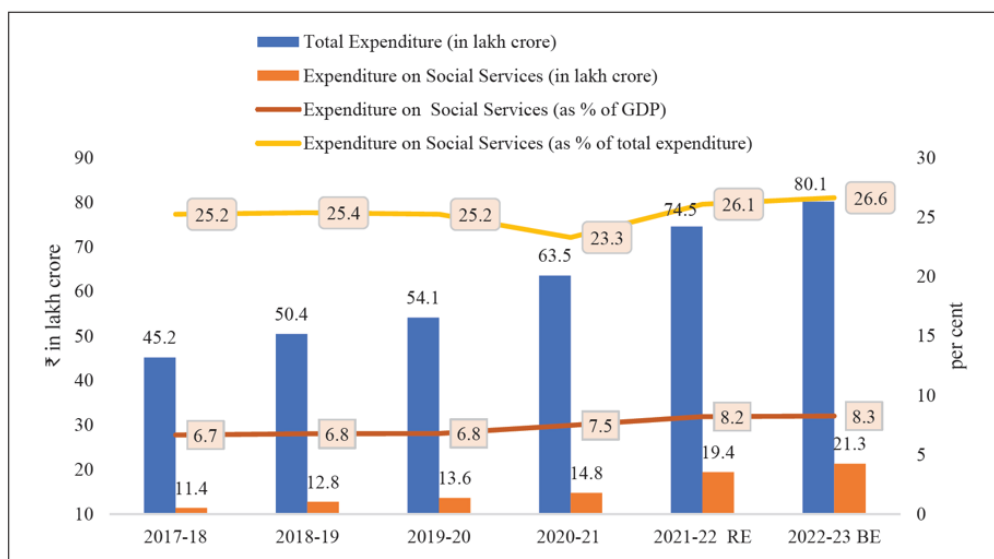
leveraging technology, and efficiently utilise available resources for realising sustainable solutions to local problems linked to SDGs adopting the nine thematic approaches of LSDGs

2) SVAMITVA (SURVEY OF VILLAGES AND MAPPING IN VILLAGE AREAS) SCHEME

- **About SVAMITVA Scheme**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** which is aimed to provide 'Record of Rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in village.
 - Under this scheme the land parcels in rural inhabited areas are being surveyed using Drone Technology.
 - Beneficiaries will get property cards of their houses and thus will have a right, a legal document of owning their houses.
- **Pilot phase** of the scheme was launched in FY21 and later on 24th April 2021, the scheme was launched nationally. During 2021-25, the scheme would be implemented across the country in a phase manner and would eventually cover all the villages of the country.
- **States/UTs** need to sign MoU with Survey of India for implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme.
- In the states, the Revenue Department/ Land Records Department will be the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Departments.
- **Note:**
 - The scheme is not being implemented in Delhi as there are no rural local bodies in Delhi and villages of Delhi are under the administrative jurisdiction of municipalities.
- **Achievements so far:**
 - As on 31st Dec 2022, drone surveys have been completed in 2.15 lakh villages across the country, and saturated in the States of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Goa, and UT of Lakshadweep, A&N Islands, Delhi, Puducherry, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu.
 - Over 1 crore property cards have been prepared for nearly 65,000 villages. Property cards of all the inhabited villages of Haryana followed by Uttarakhand and Puducherry has been prepared.
- **Significance**
 - A record will give people a sense of confidence and will facilitate monetization of properties and enable bank loan -> this will bring financial stability in rural India.
 - Reduce property related disputes
 - Facilitate comprehensive village level planning, which would be steppingstone towards achieving Gram Swaraj in the true sense and making rural India Atmanirbhar.
 - Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the Gram Panchayats directly in states where it is devolved or else, add to this state exchequer.
 - Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
 - Support better quality Gram Panchayat developmental plan by making use of GIS maps.

5. SOCIAL SECTOR EXPENDITURE KEEPING PACE WITH GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE SECTOR

**Figure VI.1: Trends in social service sector expenditure by General Government
(Combined Centre and States)**



Items	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 RE	2022-23 BE
Total Expenditure	3760611	4265969	4515946	5040747	5410887	6353359	7453320	8008684
Expenditure on Social Services	915500	1040620	1139524	1278124	1364906	1479389	1944013	2132059
<i>of which:</i>								
Education	391881	434974	483481	526481	579575	575834	681396	757138
Health	175272	213119	243388	265813	272648	317687	516427	548855
Others	348348	392527	412655	485829	512683	585868	746191	826065
As per cent of GDP								
Expenditure on Social Services	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	7.5	8.2	8.3
<i>of which:</i>								
Education	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Health	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.2	2.1
Others	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.2
As per cent of total expenditure								
Expenditure on Social Services	24.3	24.4	25.2	25.4	25.2	23.3	26.1	26.6
<i>of which:</i>								
Education	10.4	10.2	10.7	10.4	10.7	9.1	9.1	9.5
Health	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.9	6.9
Others	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.6	9.5	9.2	10.0	10.3
As per cent of social services								
Education	42.8	41.8	42.4	41.2	42.5	38.9	35.1	35.5
Health	19.1	20.5	21.4	20.8	20.0	21.5	26.6	25.7
Others	38.0	37.7	36.2	38.0	37.6	39.6	38.4	38.7

The ratios to GDP at current market prices are based on 2011-12 base till 2021-22.

GDP for 2022-23 is as per Union Budget 2022-23.

Sources: Budget Documents of Union and State Governments.

3) IMPROVING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS

- 'Human Development' is the key enabler for upward social mobility.
 - But the COVID-19 pandemic and then the Russia Ukraine war has impacted the development trajectory of India and the world.
 - These developments led to global decline in Human Development.
 - As per UNDP, 90% of the countries have registered a reduction in their HDI value in 2020 or 2021. This indicates that human development across the world stalled for the first time in 32 years.
- **India's HDI:**
 - India ranked 132/191 countries and territories in the 2021/22 HDI report.
 - India's HDI value of 0.633 in 2021 places the country in the medium Human Development Category, lower than the value of 0.645 in 2019.

Table VI.2: India's position and trends in the Global HDI 2021

	HDI 2021		HDI Rank 2020	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Expected years of schooling (years)	Mean years of schooling (years)	Gross national income per capita (2017 PPP \$)
	Rank	Value					
Switzerland	1	0.962	3	84.0	16.5	13.9	66,933
Norway	2	0.961	1	83.2	18.2	13.0	64,660
United Kingdom	18	0.929	17	80.7	17.3	13.4	45,225
Japan	19	0.925	19	84.8	15.2	13.4	42,274
United States	21	0.921	21	77.2	16.3	13.7	64,765
China	79	0.768	82	78.2	14.2	7.6	17,504
Brazil	87	0.754	86	72.8	15.6	8.1	14,370
South Africa	109	0.713	102	62.3	13.6	11.4	12,948
Indonesia	114	0.705	116	67.6	13.7	8.6	11,466
India	132	0.633	130	67.2	11.9	6.7	6,590
South Asian region		0.632		67.9	11.6	6.7	6,481
World average		0.732		71.4	12.8	8.6	16,752

- **India's Gender Inequality Index (GII)** value is 0.490 in 2021 and is ranked 122. This score is better than that of South Asian region (value: 0.508) and close to the world average of 0.465. This reflects government's initiative and investment.

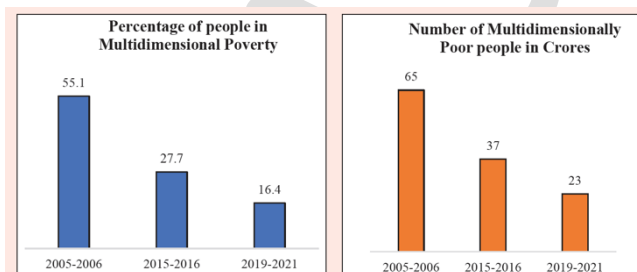
4) UNDP'S MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (UNDP MDI, 2022)

- **Introduction:**
 - Generally, poverty is primarily measured in terms of **lack of monetary means** for a decent living. However, by definition 'poverty' has wider implications and leads to multiple disadvantages at the same time – such as poor health or malnutrition, lack of sanitation, clean drinking water or electricity, poor quality of education etc. **Focusing on one factor alone, such as income, is not enough** to capture the reality of poverty.
- **Multidimensional poverty measures** are hence used to create a more comprehensive picture. It reveals who is poor and how they are poor and the range of different deprivations experienced by them. One such measure is the **United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** which measures acute **multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries**.
- The methodology involves measuring each person's overlapping deprivations across 10 indicators in three equally weighted dimensions: health, education, and standard of living.

- The health and education dimensions are based on two indicators each, while the standard of living is based on six indicators.
- All the indicators needed to construct the MPI for a country are taken from the same household survey. Each indicator is equally weighted within its dimension, so the health and education indicators are weighted 1/6 each, and the standard of living indicators are weighted 1/18 each.
- The MPI ranges from 0 to 1, and higher values imply higher multidimensional poverty. The MPI complements the international US\$ 1.90-a-day poverty line by identifying who is multidimensionally poor and shows the composition of multidimensional poverty

- MPI for India

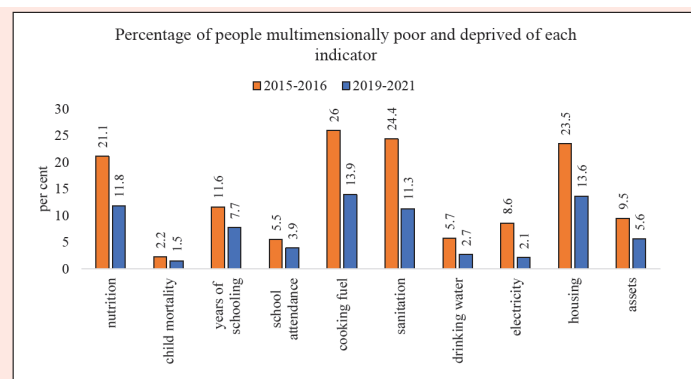
- The 2022 report of the UNDP on MPI was released in October 2022 and covers 111 developing countries.
- As regards India, the survey data for 2019-21 has been used.
 - Based on these estimates, **16.4 per cent of the population in India (228.9 million people in 2020) is multidimensionally poor** while an **additional 18.7 per cent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (260.9 million people in 2020).**
 - The **intensity of deprivation in India**, which is the average deprivation score among people living in multidimensional poverty, is 42 per cent.
 - **The MPI value**, which is the share of the population that is multidimensionally poor adjusted by the intensity of the deprivations, is 0.069 (i.e. $16.4 * 0.42$)



Source: UNDP Report on Multidimensional Poverty, 2022

- The report also compares multidimensional poverty with monetary poverty measured by the percentage of the population living below the 2011 PPP of US\$1.90 per day.

- It shows that **monetary poverty does not present the complete picture.** The headcount or incidence of multidimensional poverty is 6.1 percentage points lower than the incidence of monetary poverty. This implies that individuals living below the monetary poverty line may have access to non-income resources.



- The findings of the **report suggest that in India, 41.5 crore people exited poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-21,**

demonstrating that the SDG target 1.2 of reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions by 2030 is possible to achieve.

- The poorest states and groups (children, lower castes and those living in rural areas) reduced poverty the fastest in absolute terms, although the data do not reflect post-Covid-19 pandemic changes. Among the multidimensionally poor, deprivation prevalence declined across deprivation categories

5) TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROGRAM

- Introduction

- Transformation of Aspirational Districts program (under the aegis of NITI Aayog) was launched in Jan 2018, with an aim to **quickly and effectively transform some of the most under-developed districts** in the country. This would improve standard of living of citizens and ensure inclusive growth of all in the burgeoning economy.
- NITI Aayog has **identified 117** most backward districts from 28 states/UTs, at least one from each state, in a transparent manner using a composite index of key data sets.
- **Need of developing these districts:** Inclusive growth; improve overall national performance; Internal security -> fight LWE
- The program focuses on **practical and measurable social progress outcomes, in six main themes:**
 - Health and Nutrition (30%)
 - Education (30%)
 - Agriculture and Water Resource (20%)
 - Financial Inclusion (5%)
 - Skill Development (5%)
 - Basic Infrastructure (10%)
- **Core Strategies of Transformation of Aspirational District Program** (Convergence, Collaboration and Competition)
 - **Convergence** of central and state schemes
 - **Collaboration** of central, state and district level officers
 - **Competition** among the districts driven by a "mass movement" or a Jan Andolan.
 - Under this program, NITI Aayog releases **Delta Ranking** that ranks districts based on monthly improvement achieved in the six focus areas. This Delta ranking is provided on the programme's **Champions of Change Dashboard**.
- **Other Key Strategies:**
 - **States** - act as driver of the scheme in that particular state.
 - The program is **driven by mass movement**.
 - **Focus on low hanging fruits** for immediate improvement
 - With states as the main drivers, this program focuses on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
 - **Availability of real time data** -> better monitoring
 - **Public Private Partnerships**
 - For e.g. in March 2018, NITI Aayog signed on a statement of interest with Piramal foundation which will work with government authorities to improve the identified indicators by strengthening the existing public systems, especially in health, education and nutrition sectors.
- **Institutional Framework (remember for Pre)**
 - **NITI Aayog anchors the program** with support from central ministries and the state governments.
 - NITI Aayog is steering the program in 30 districts, various central ministries oversee 50 districts besides the Ministry of Home Affairs focuses on 35 LWE affected districts.
 - Officers at the level of Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary have been nominated to become the '**Central Prabhari Officers**' of each district.
 - States have appointed '**State Nodal and Prabhari Officers**'.
 - An Empowered Committee under the convenorship of the CEO, NITI Aayog will help in the convergence of various government schemes and streamlining efforts. They will also be responsible for necessary policy adjustments.

- **NITI Aayog** has developed a broad template for the formulation of district plans. Since different districts have different opportunities and challenges, they have been advised to customize the template.
- **Achievements of the Program:**
 - **Many ADs** have surpassed the average state values in several indicators under the health and nutrition theme monitored under the program.
 - **All districts** have made significant progress across different indicators for instance, under health and nutrition, 46 districts have improved up by 45%.
 - **ADs** have performed better than non-AD districts in financial inclusion (Bank accounts, insurance, MUDRA loans etc.)
 - **Several ADs** have reported saturation in the basic infrastructure indicators like the percentage of households with electricity connections: percentage of habitations with access to all weather roads and PMGSY.

6) THE ADP AS TEMPLATE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE – MISSION UTKARSH AND ‘ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAM’

- Two programs have been along the line of ADP design – “**Mission Utkarsh**” and “**Aspirational Block Program**”

A) MISSION UTKARSH

- Launched in Jan 2022
- Under this, 15 central ministries having an interface with the public, have identified their low performing 10-15 districts.
 - Following, the ADP templates, ministries have launched actions to bring these districts at part with an average district in the state in one year and close to all-India average in another (i.e. 2 years)

B) ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAM

- The program was launched in Jan 2023 and is aimed at improving the performance of blocks lagging on various developmental parameters.
 - It was launched during the 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries, which was held on January 5-7.
- The Central government and states have come together to use the ADP template to identify backward blocks and use similar data monitoring and competition-based programs to improve the most under developed blocks in the country.
- In order to further strengthen this initiative, 500 most backward blocks across states and UTs have been identified for rapid development.

6. PROGRESSING LABOR REFORM MEASURES

- **Codification of 29 laws into 4 codes:**
 - Against the background of above challenges, and after the recommendations of Second National Labour Commission (2002), and several other reports, Union Government unified 29 statutes and passed four codes on wages, safety (and health), industrial relations and social security.
 - The Code on Wages was passed in Parliament in Aug 2019, and other three in Sep 2020.
- **Summary of the 4 codes:**
 - **Code on Wages, 2019**
 - It universalizes minimum wage for all employees in both organized and unorganized sectors.
 - It also amalgamates the definition of wages across all the legislations.

- There is a provision for review of minimum wage every five years and guarantee of timely payment of wages to all workers.
- **Code on Social Security, 2020**
 - It aims to **extend social security to all employees and workers** both in the organized and unorganized sector including Gig Workers and platform workers.
 - **Increased coverage of ESIC:**
 - The coverage of ESIC have been extended pan-India as against the notified districts/areas.
 - ESIC coverage on voluntary basis for establishments having less than 10 employees has been introduced. Further, ESIC can also be made applicable to establishment with less than 10 employees if the workers are involved in hazardous or life threatening activities.
 - Envisages a **Social Security Fund (SSF)** for formulating schemes for welfare of the unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers.
 - At the time of retrenchment, worker would be provided 15 days' wages for re-skilling.
 - Benefits of pension scheme (EPFO) to all workers of organized, unorganized and self-employed sectors.
 - Requirement of minimum service has been removed for payment of **gratuity** in case of fixed term employees.
- **Code on Industrial Relations, 2020**
 - It streamline laws related to trade unions, employment conditions for industries, and a comprehensive handling of industrial disputes.
 - It provides for **recognition of trade union(s) by employers**, a labour right that eluded workers for seven decades.
 - The code also **introduces new conditions for carrying out a legal strike**.
 - For e.g. the code says that no person employed in an industrial establishment shall go on strike without a 60 day notice and during the pendency of proceedings before a Tribunal or a National Industrial Tribunal.
 - **A Labour Tribunal** with vibrant mechanism for speedy disposal of cases would be institutionalized - Faster adjudication would lead to faster justice and improved Ease of Doing Business
 - **Greater flexibility to employers: More flexibility of hiring and firing: Increase in threshold** relating to layoff and entrenchment in industrial establishments having 300 workers from 100 workers or more at present.
- **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code**
 - It aims to ensure that employees across all sectors are treated equally and have safe working conditions.
 - **Anomalies of the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979** have been comprehensively addressed in the code.
 - Earlier, only workers appointed by contractor were recognized as Inter-State Migrant Workers. However, under the new provisions of the Code, workers can be Aatmanirbhar as they can now register themselves as Inter-State Migrant Workers on the National Portal. By this provision, the workers would get a legal identity which would enable them to get benefits of all social security schemes.
 - **National database** would be created for the Inter-State Migrant workers.
 - **Providing appointment letters** to the workers has been made mandatory.
 - **Mandatory, free annual health checkup of the workers** has been provided by the employers.
 - **Women Empowerment:**
 - Right to women workers to work in all types of establishments.

- Women have been given right to work at night with their consent. Employer would also ensure adequate arrangements to provide safety and facilities to women workers at night.
- It allows **employers** to stay compliant with **fewer registration formalities and promotes ease of doing businesses in India**. It will be applicable to every organization that employs more than 10 employees.
- **Other key advantages:**
 - **Use of technology**, such as, web-based Inspection has been introduced to ensure transparency and accountability in enforcement.
 - **Decriminalisation** of minor offences has also been provided in the Labour Codes
- Rules made under the Codes have been entrusted to Central Government, State Government and at appropriate level.
 - There is a **requirement for pre-publication of Rules in their official Gazettes** for public consultation.
 - As of **13 December 2022**, 31 States also have prepublished the draft rules under the Code on Wages, 28 States under Industrial Relations Code, 28 States under Code on Social Security, and 26 States under Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code.

A) E-SHRAM PORTAL

- **By:** Ministry of Labour and Employment
- **Introduction: Mains:** The government has been working on improving the life and dignity of labor force of the country, by protecting and safeguarding the interest of workers, promoting their welfare, and providing social security both in organized and unorganized sector.
- **eShram portal** is a national database of unorganized sector workers, which is verified by Aadhaar.
 - It captures details of workers like name, education, address, occupation type, educational qualification, and skill types., for the optimal realization of their employability and extend the benefits of the social security schemes to them.
 - It is the first ever national database of unorganized workers, including migrant workers, construction workers, gig, and platform workers etc.
 - Currently, e-Shram portal has been linked to NCS portal and ASEEM portal for seamless facilities of services.
- **Progress:**
 - As of Dec 2022, **28.5 crore unorganized sector workers** have been registered on eShram portal.
 - Female registration stood at 52.8% of the total and 61.7% of total registration belonged to the age group of 18-40 years.

B) ASEEM PORTAL

- **Ministry:** MSDE
- **ASEEM (AtmaNirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping)** is an AI based digital platform to bridge the demand supply gap of skilled workforce across sectors.
- The portal will map details of workers based on regions and local industry demands.
- Database of labour migrants in Indian states and overseas citizens, who returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission and filled Swadesh Skill Card, has been integrated with the ASEEM Portal



- Candidate data coming to Skill India Portal from various state and central skilling schemes will be integrated including PMKVY, Fee-based Programs, National Urban Livelihoods Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana and Seekho aur Kamao.

C) NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE

- **Ministry:** MoLE
- The portal has been developed primarily to connect the opportunities with the aspirations of youth.
 - This portal facilitates registration of job seekers, job providers, skill developers, career counsellors etc.
 - It provides a job matching service in a highly transparent and user friendly manner.

7. AADHAAR: THE MANY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNIQUE IDENTITY

- **Introduction**
 - Aadhaar is an ambitious scheme of providing 12 digit unique identity number to all the residents in the country.
 - The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is mandated to develop the policy, procedure, and system for issuing an Aadhaar number to each resident individual and performing authentication. It also has the responsibility to take necessary measures to ensure that the information stored in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) is secured and protected against unauthorised access or misuse.
 - UIDAI issues this number to individuals after taking a person's biometric details such as IRIS scan, fingerprints, demographic information etc.
 - **UIDAI** has evolved from a body created by Planning Commission's notification in 2009 to a statutory authority through the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- **Advantages of having a unique Identity Number:**
 - **Improved governance ->**
 - plug leakage.
 - improved performance of government employees through Aadhaar enabled biometric attendance system.
 - ONORC
 - COWIN
 - Promotes cashless economy (DBT, AEPS);
 - Aadhaar has emerged as an essential tool for social delivery by the state.
 - **318 Central schemes and over 720 state DBT schemes** are notified under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, and all these schemes use Aadhaar for targeted delivery of financial services, subsidies, and benefits.
 - Aadhaar is the foundation of India's digital integration.
 - Improved tax compliance (linking of PAN with Aadhaar);
 - Better Crime Detection and Prevention; Potential of reforms in electoral system;

8. EMPLOYMENT

- Employment situation in India can be studied in two different ways
 - Supply Side of the Labour:**
 - Household surveys such as Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by MoSPI
 - Demand Side of the Labour**
 - Enterprise or establishment surveys - such as Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by MoSPI, Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) by Labour Bureau etc.

- These two methods together present a complete view of the labour market.
- **ESI 2022-23** highlights a broad-based improvement in the Employment Situation both in the supply side and demand side data.
 - **Unemployment rates** have fallen from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2020-21, and there is a noticeable rise in rural FLFPR from 19.7% in 2018-19 to 27.7% in 2020-21.
- **Recent urban unemployment** data shows progress beyond pre-pandemic levels as the unemployment rate declined from 8.3% in July-Sep 2019 to 7.9% in July - Sep 2022.
- The **net EPFO payroll** is steadily moving upward, with the majority share coming from the youth.
- **As per QES data,** employment in major sectors has increased by 10 lakh over the year 2021-22.
- **As per ASI 2019-20 data,** employment in the organized manufacturing sector has also been rising over the years.

1) SUPPLY SIDE OF EMPLOYMENT:

- **Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey:**
 - As per usual status, the labour force participation rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR) in PLFS 2020-21 have improved for both males and females in both rural and urban areas.

Table VI.4: Employment trends as per usual status
(principal status + subsidiary status) for persons of all ages

(per cent)

		Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban		
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Male	LFPR	55.1	56.3	57.1	56.7	57.8	58.4	55.6	56.8	57.5
	WPR	52.1	53.8	54.9	52.7	54.1	54.9	52.3	53.9	54.9
	UR	5.6	4.5	3.9	7.1	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.1	4.5
Female	LFPR	19.7	24.7	27.7	16.1	18.5	18.6	18.6	22.8	25.1
	WPR	19.0	24.0	27.1	14.5	16.8	17	17.6	21.8	24.2
	UR	3.5	2.6	2.1	9.9	8.9	8.6	5.2	4.2	3.5
Person	LFPR	37.7	40.8	42.7	36.9	38.6	38.9	37.5	40.1	41.6
	WPR	35.8	39.2	41.3	34.1	35.9	36.3	35.3	38.2	39.8
	UR	5.0	4.0	3.3	7.7	7.0	6.7	5.8	4.8	4.2

Source: Annual PLFS 2017-18 to 2020-21, MoSPI

Usual Status: For a person to be **categorized as employed as per usual status (ps + ss)**, he/she must have pursued an economic activity at **least 30 days** during the 365 days preceding the date of survey.

According to the PLFS, LFPR is the **% of working population engaged in work or making tangible efforts to seek 'work' or being available for work if it is available**. 'Work' includes self-employment (subsistence agriculture and collection of firewood, poultry farming, etc. for self consumption), regular wage, salaried employment, and casual labor.

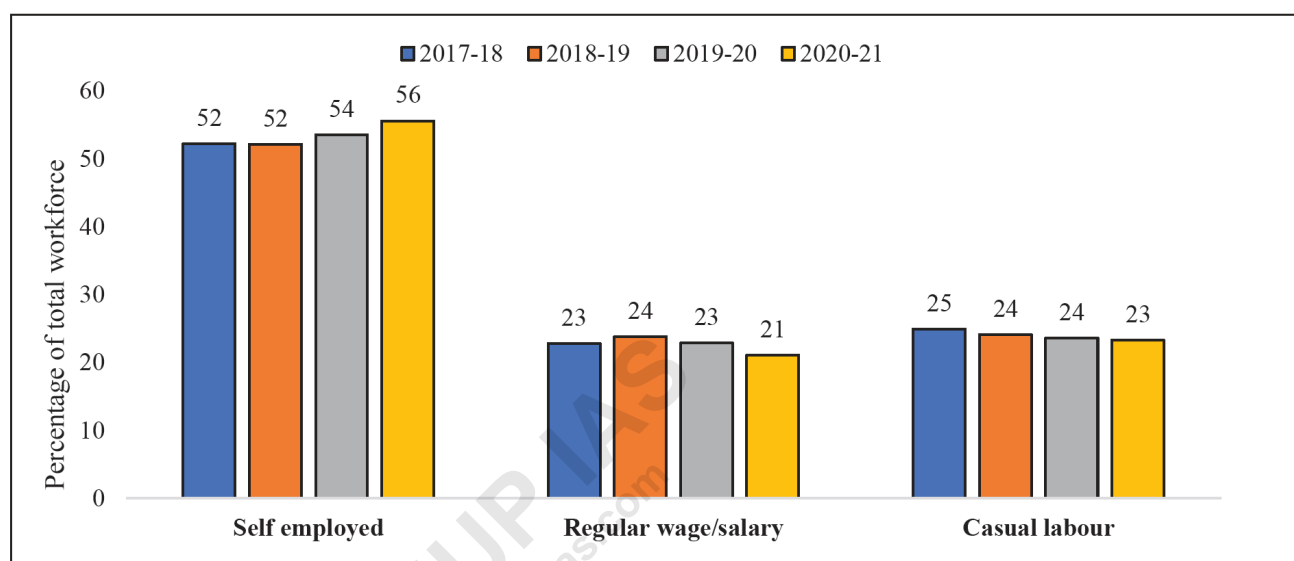
WPR is the % of employed population in the total population

UR is defined as % of unemployed persons in the labor force.

For a person to be categorized as **employed as per weekly status**, he/she must have pursued an economic activity for at least 1 hour during the seven days preceding the date of survey.

- **Share of Self Employed is increasing.**

Figure VI.3: Trends in broad employment status (Persons, rural+urban)



Source: Annual DLFS, MCSI

A) FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

▫ Measurement issue in Female Labor Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)

▪ Three key Issues:

- Use of Overly broad categories clubbing productive work** (collection of firewood, poultry farming etc.) with **domestic duties**:
- No recovery questions in the PLFS questionnaire**: The survey design relies mainly on a single question for measuring the labor force status of individual, which eliminates the scope to rectify any error in self-reporting, considering the large rural population and literacy levels. This is contrary to ILO recommendations which provides for recovery question. ILO recommends using multiple probing or recovery questions.
- Measurement of "work" alongside "Employment"**: There is a need to broaden the horizon of measuring work, which constitutes the whole universe of productive activities alongside employment.
 - According to latest ILO standards, limiting productive work to labor force participation is narrow and only measures work as a market product. It doesn't

- include value of women's unpaid domestic work, which can be expenditure saving work such as collecting firewood, cooking, tutoring children etc.
- **Thus**, a wholesome measurement of "work" may require improved quantification through redesigned surveys.
- It may be noted that 75% of rural female workers are employed in the agriculture sector. This implies a need to upskill and create employment for women in agriculture related sectors such as food processing. Here, **SHGs can play a crucial role.**

B) ROLE OF SHGS IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- The **Self-Help Groups (SHGs) movement**, based on the principles of group solidarity and microfinance, has existed in India for 50 years in one form or another, with its roots tracing back to the formation of the Self-Employed Women's Association in 1972. The transformative potential of SHGs, exemplified through their key role in the on-ground response to Covid-19, has served as the fulcrum of rural development through women empowerment.
- India has around **1.2 crore SHGs, 88 per cent being all-women SHGs.** Success stories include **Kudumbashree in Kerala, Jeevika in Bihar, Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahila Mandal** in Maharashtra, and recently, **Looms of Ladakh.**
- The **SHG Bank Linkage Project (SHG-BLP)**, launched in 1992, has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project. The SHG movement, now in its 30th year, has emerged as a powerful intervention to cover the small and marginalised sections. Currently, bank-linked SHGs are promoted through Central Government, State Governments, NGOs, etc. They must practice the **'Panchasutra' of regular meetings, regular savings, regular inter-lending, timely repayment and up-to-date books of accounts to avail of loans from banks.** With the active collaboration of stakeholders, the SHG-BLP covers 14.2 crore families through 119 lakh SHGs with savings deposits of `47,240.5 crore and 67 lakh groups with collateral-free loans outstanding of `1,51,051.3 crore, as on 31 March 2022. The number of SHGs credit linked has grown at a CAGR of 10.8 per cent during the last ten years (FY13 to FY22), while credit disbursement per SHG has grown at a CAGR of 5.7 per cent during the same period. Notably, SHGs' bank repayment is more than 96 per cent, underscoring their credit discipline and reliability.
- **Impact of SHGs: Empowered Women, Empowered Hinterland**
 - Women's economic SHGs have a positive, statistically significant effect on women's economic, social, and political empowerment, with positive effects on empowerment achieved through various pathways such as familiarity with handling money, financial decision-making, improved social networks, asset ownership and livelihood diversification.
 - According to an recent assessment of DAY-National Rural Livelihood Mission, which is being undertaken through the SHGs, both participants and functionaries perceived high impacts of the programme in areas related to women empowerment, self-esteem enhancement, personality development, reduced social evils; and additionally, medium impacts in terms of better education, higher participation in village institutions and better access to government schemes
- **Covid-19 Response as a montage of SHG's potential**
 - Government's Covid-19 Package for SHGs
 - Under PMGKY, the limit for collateral-free loans for women's SHGs was doubled from `10 lakh to `20 lakh. This is expected to benefit 63 lakh women SHGs and 6.85 crore households.
 - NRLM allowed for an additional Vulnerability Reduction Fund of `1.5 lakh to be extended to Village Organisations (VOs) in Covid hotspot areas and for vulnerable groups.
- **SHGs in action during Covid**

- The years of pestilence acted as an opportunity towards mobilising SHG women to unite, transcend their group identity and collectively contribute to crisis management.
- They emerged as pivotal players in crisis management, leading from the front in -
 - producing masks (with cultural variants such as Gamusa Masks in Assam), sanitisers, and protective gear, creating awareness about the pandemic (e.g. Patrakar Didis of Jharkhand), delivering essential goods (e.g. Floating supermarkets in Kerala), running community kitchens (e.g. Prerna Canteens in Uttar Pradesh), supporting farm livelihoods (e.g. Pashu Sakhis for animal health care services, Aajeevika Farm Fresh Online selling and distribution mechanism for vegetables in Jharkhand), convergence with MGNREGS (in UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh), and in delivery of financial services (e.g. Bank Sakhis managing bank rush for availing Covid-relief DBT cash transfers). The production of masks by SHGs has been a noteworthy contribution, enabling access to and use of masks by communities in remote rural areas and providing vital protection against the Covid-19 virus.
 - As on 4 January 2023, more than 16.9 crore masks were produced by SHGs under DAY-NRLM.

- **Way forward**

- SHGs are well-placed to facilitate overall rural development owing to their access to the last mile, ability to draw on communities' trust and solidarity, knowledge of local dynamics, and ability to swiftly manufacture simple products and services through the aggregation of members' economic activities.
- The demonstration of **their resilience and flexibility during crises**, including Covid, needs to be thus regularised for long-run rural transformation.
 - This includes, among other things,
 - Addressing inter-regional disparity in the deepening of the SHG movement
 - graduating SHG members into micro-entrepreneurs
 - culturally contextualised skill development for moving up the value chain in products and services, and
 - including the least privileged under the SHG umbrella

2) DEMAND SIDE EMPLOYMENT

- The **QES**, conducted by Labour Bureau, covers establishments with ten or more workers in nine major sectors viz. manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation, & restaurants, IT/BPPs, and financial services.

- Note: These nine sectors account for around 83% of the total employment in establishments with ten or more workers.

- So, far results of four rounds of QES have been released covering four quarters of FY22.

- **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2019-20**

- The ASI conducted by MoSPI, is an important source of industrial statistics of the registered organized manufacturing sector of the economy.

Figure VI.6: Estimated Number of Workers according to QES (in FY22, in lakh)

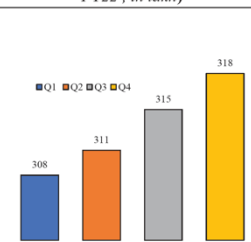
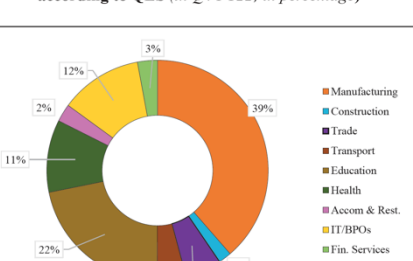


Figure VI.7: Sector-wise share of total employment according to QES (in Q4 FY22; in percentage)



Source: QES Reports, Labour Bureau

- It covers all factories registered under Sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, i.e., those factories employing ten or more workers using power; and those employing twenty or more workers without using power.
- **Key Findings:**
 - As per ASI FY20, employment in the organized manufacturing sector has maintained a steady upward trend over time, with the employment per factory increasing gradually.
 - **In terms of share of employment** (total persons engaged), the food products industry (11.1%) remained the largest employer, followed by wearing apparel (7.6%), basic metal (7.3%) etc.
- **Formal Employment**
 - The organized sector job market conditions measured by payroll for Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and ESIC reveal the benefits of the government initiatives towards improvement in the labor market.
- **Demand for Work Under MGNREGS**
 - The number of persons demanding work under MGNREGs was seen to be trending around pre-pandemic levels from July to Nov 2022. This could be attributed to the normalization of economy due to strong agricultural growth and a swift recovery from COVID induced slowdown, culminating in better employment opportunities.

3) NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE PROJECT

- The **'National Career Service (NCS)' project** was launched in July 2015, as a one-stop solution providing an array of employment and career-related services. It works towards bridging the gap between candidates and employers; candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling.
- NCS portal has a job fair module to streamline the process of job fair activity on a single online platform by engaging all stakeholders i.e. model career centres, nodal officers, job seekers and employers. It is also supported by a dedicated helpline (multi-lingual) for assisting users
- As on 5 January 2023, 2.8 crore jobseekers and 6.8 lakh employers have registered in NCS portal, 2.5 lakh active vacancies and 1.2 crore total vacancies have been mobilised, and more than 9,100 job fairs have been organised as part of the Project.
- NCS has partnered with private sector under DigiSaksham programme to offer a free, self-paced Online/Offline Training Programme on "Career Skills", to equip the jobseekers with an array of soft and digital skills with the mandate of improving their employability. This programme also includes advanced computing areas and is being provided free of cost.
- NCS is also working closely with Ministry of Education All India Council for Technical Education and All India Survey of Higher Education) to ensure that its benefits are reaching to prospective students/ candidates. Online integration with EPFO and ESIC has also been done to link the willing employers for enabling them to shortlist right candidates through a countrywide database of workforce on NCS portal. NCS has also integrated with DigiLocker to enable candidates to upload their documents/ certificates and make them available to the employers to quicken the hiring process.
- As per budget announcement of 2022-23, NCS portal has been successfully interlinked with e-Shram, Udyam, and Skill India portal (primary data source of ASEEM portal). This has resulted in development of an employment ecosystem to facilitate job search and matching for both jobseekers and employers.
- NCS has recently added **'International Job' module on the portal in March 2022,** which facilitates employers registered with the Ministry of External Affairs to post international job opportunities on the NCS portal and the

jobseekers to search and apply for these opportunities via the NCS portal. So far, more than 400 plus Recruiting Agents have registered on the NCS portal and posted around 1400 plus international vacancies

9. ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

1) SCHOOL EDUCATION: ENROLMENT AND DROPOUT

- In FY22, a total of 26.5 crore children were enrolled in schools.
- The enrolment increased across all levels - Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary except for pre-primary levels.
 - At the pre-primary level, enrolment reduced from 1.1 crore in FY21 to 1.0 crore in FY22.
- **School Drop-out** rates at all levels have witnessed a steady decline in recent years. The decline is for both girls and boys.
 - Total drop out (in %) was 1.5% at Primary levels, 3.0% at Upper Primary Levels, and 12.6% at secondary levels.
 - The schemes such as Samagra Shiksha, RTE Act, improvement in school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings, availability of teachers, regular training of teachers, free textbooks, uniforms for children, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and the PM POSHAN Scheme play an important role in enhancing enrolment and retention of children in schools

2) IMPORTANT SCHEMES FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION LAUNCHED IN FY23

A) PM SCHOOL FOR RISING INDIA (PM SRI)

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched on 7 September 2022.
- These schools will be equipped with **modern infrastructure and showcase the implementation of the NEP** and emerge as **exemplary schools** over a period, while offering leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood.
- Under the scheme, there is a provision for setting up more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools, over the period FY23 to FY27 by strengthening the existing schools from those managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies.
- These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible.
- They shall also be **developed as green schools** with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.
- More than 20 lakh students are expected to be direct beneficiaries of the scheme

B) THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (NCF) FOR FOUNDATION STAGE:

- It has been launched as the new 5+3+3+4 curriculum structure which integrates early childhood care and education for all children of ages 3 to 8.
- As articulated in NEP 2020, the NCF uses 'play,' at the core of the conceptual, operational, and transactional approaches to curriculum organisation, pedagogy, time and content organisation, and the overall experience of the child. It will deal with the role of teachers as well as parents and communities in enabling and enhancing the developmental outcomes that are sought during this stage

C) PILOT PROJECT OF BALVATIKA:

- With a focus on developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities and also early literacy and numeracy for students in the age groups of 3+, 4+ and 5+ years, Project Balvatika, i.e., 'Preparatory Class', was launched in October 2022 in 49 Kendriya Vidyalayas.

D) TOY BASED PEDAGOGY:

- A handbook for Toy-based pedagogy has been designed to promote the integration of indigenous toys and their pedagogy into the curriculum of school education, early childhood care and education and teacher education.
- This will help teachers select or create age-appropriate toys to explain various concepts to students

E) SCREENING TOOLS (MOBILE APPS) FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES:

- **PRASHAST**, a **Disability Screening mobile app**, has been launched, covering 21 disabilities, including the benchmark disabilities as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.
- PRASHAST App will help in screening disability conditions at the school level and will generate the school wise report, for further sharing with the authorities for initiating the certification process, as per guidelines of Samagra Shiksha

F) NATIONAL CREDIT FRAMEWORK (NCRF):

- Taking the vision of the new NEP, the NCrF is an umbrella framework for skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling, accreditation and evaluation, seamlessly integrating the credits earned through school education, higher education, and vocational and skill education by encompassing the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF), National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF).
- This would be a game changer by opening numerous options for further progression of students and inter-mingling of school and higher education with vocational education and experiential learning, thus mainstreaming skilling and vocational education. The Framework has been released for public consultations on 19 October 2022.

G) STRENGTHENING TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES (STARS)

- STARS Project is being implemented as a CSS in six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala over a period of 5 years i.e., till FY25, partly funded by a loan from the World Bank. The objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality and governance of school education in the selected states

H) VIDYANJALI (A SCHOOL VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE):

- With the aim of strengthening schools and improving the quality of school education through community, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and private sector involvement across the country, the Government has initiated Vidyanjali (a school volunteer management program).
- The Vidyanjali portal (<https://vidyanjali.education.gov.in/en>) enables community and volunteers/organisations to interact and connect directly with the Government and Government aided schools of their choice and share their knowledge and skills and/or contribute in the form of assets/material/equipment to meet the requirement of the schools.
- As of **20 January 2023**, 3,95,177 schools have been onboarded and 1,14,674 volunteers have registered on the Vidyanjali portal.

I) SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME: INTEGRATED SCHEME FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION (LAUNCHED IN 2018)

- It is an overarching program for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12. It focuses on the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It subsumed erstwhile three Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education.
- **It focuses on:**
 - **Administrative Reforms** - Single and unified administrative structure to harmonized implementation
 - **Quality Education**
 - **Digital Education**
 - **Strengthening of Schools**
 - **Girl Education**
 - **Inclusion**
 - **Skill Development**
 - **Physical Education**
 - **Regional Balance**
- **The Samagra Shiksha Scheme** has been aligned with the recommendations of the NEP 2020 and extended from FY22 and FY26.
 - Under the ICT component of the Scheme, there is a **provision to impart computer literacy and computer-enabled learning to children**, by developing and deploying curriculum-based interactive multimedia, digital books, virtual labs etc. across the country.
 - It supports the establishment of smart classrooms, and ICT labs in schools, including support for hardware, educational software, and e-content for teaching.
 - It envisages covering all Government/Government-aided schools with classes VI to XII. Till November 2022 (since inception), ICT labs have been approved in 1,20,614 schools and smart classrooms in 82,120 schools across the country.

3) HIGHER EDUCATION

- Indian higher education system is the laboratory of change for one of the largest young populations in the world, with more than 27 per cent of India's population in 15-29 years age bracket.
- Current Situation:
 - The **infrastructure** for higher education has been enhanced overtime.
 - Number of Medical colleges in the country have been increased from 387 in 2014 to 684 in 2022 and the number of MBS seats have increased from 51,348 to 96,077.
 - **Number of IITs** have increased to 23 and **IIMs** have increased to 20 in 2022.
 - There are 1,113 universities in the country in 2022 (which was 723 in 2014)
 - The **total enrolment** in higher education has increased to nearly 4.1 crore in FY21 from 3.9 crore in FY20.
 - Female enrolment has also increased to 2.0 crore in FY 21.

4) INITIATIVES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN FY23

A) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CELL (RDC) IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (HEIS)

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) launched an initiative to establish an RDC in HEIs with the mandate for promoting quality research that contributes meaningfully towards the goal of a self-reliant India, aligned with the provisions of NEP 2020.
- The RDC would help create a research ecosystem for reliable, impactful, and sustained research output.
- The Guidelines for the same were issued in March 2022 providing for:
 - the creation of a conducive environment for enhanced research productivity;
 - encouraging collaboration across industry, Government, community-based organisations, and agencies at the local, national, and international levels and
 - facilitating greater access to research through mobilisation of resources and funding.

B) GUIDELINES FOR PURSUING TWO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS SIMULTANEOUSLY

- The UGC, in April 2022, issued Guidelines to allow the students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously keeping in view the objectives envisaged in NEP 2020, viz. providing flexible curricular structures to enable creative combinations of disciplines for study, that would offer multiple entry and exit points, thus, removing currently prevalent rigid boundaries and create new possibilities for life-long learning through critical and interdisciplinary thinking.
- The Guidelines provide that a student can pursue two full-time academic programmes in physical mode or pursue two academic programmes, one in full-time physical mode and another in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/Online mode; or up to two ODL/Online programmes simultaneously.
- These will be governed by Regulations notified by the UGC.

C) INTEREST SUBSIDY ON EDUCATION LOANS:

- Under the Central Scheme on Interest Subsidy (CSIS), launched in 2009, full interest subsidy is provided during the moratorium period (course period plus one year) on education loan taken by students from economically weaker sections (EWS) having parental income less than ₹4.5 lakh per annum for professional study in India.
- The scheme provides Education loans without any collateral or third-party guarantee

D) AKHIL BHARTIYA SHIKSHA SAMAGAM

- A three-day Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam was organised at Varanasi on 7-9 July 2022 by the Ministry of Education in association with the UGC and Banaras Hindu University.
- The event brought together over 300 Vice Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities, educationists, policymakers, as also industry representatives to deliberate on how the implementation of NEP 2020 can be taken further across the country after successful implementation of several initiatives in the last two years.
- The Summit provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions that helped articulate the roadmap and implementation strategies, foster knowledge exchange, build networks through interdisciplinary deliberations, and discuss challenges being faced by educational institutions and articulate solutions.

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