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HEALTH: ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES

YOJANA MAGAZINE GIST

QUESTION & ANSWER FORMAT

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Preface

This is our 3rd edition of Yojana Gist released for the month of JUNE, 2015 on Alternative Health in India. Yet the message delivered in the last edition remains the same. Yojana magazine (released by Ministry of I&B) is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains. Every Issue of Yojana deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through each and every Yojana magazine, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles in Yojana.

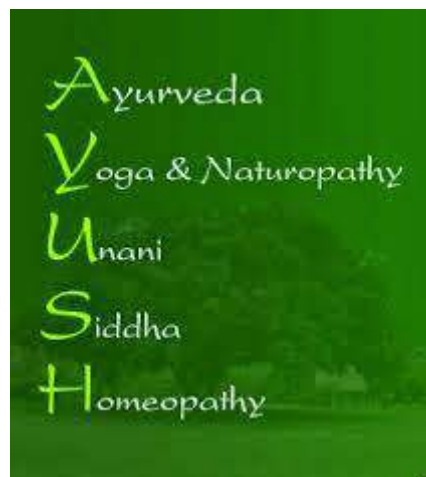
You need not put hours and hours in reading Yojana and making its notes in pages. We believe a smart study, rather than hard study, of Yojana can improve your preparation levels. Hence, instead of giving you a gist of articles, we are providing a Q&A format from both Prelims and Mains that can make you understand – How to read Yojana?

Think, learn, practice and keep improving! That is the key to success. 😊

INTRODUCTION

In the present day no one can ignore the impact and usefulness of modernization in our daily life especially on how these innovations have made day to day life hassle-free. This is particularly true about faster means of communication and travelling as well as field of medicine that is conquering new frontiers. State-of-the-art diagnostic techniques and treatment facilities have added an altogether different dimension to the profession of saving precious lives. The other side of the coin however, is too much of human interference with the nature and unhealthy lifestyle resulting in greater suffering in terms of severe and untreatable diseases. While modern technology has tried to find newer ways of treating diseases, it has not been able to stop or reverse the process. It is in this scenario that mankind has started looking back to the nature and that is exactly where the role of alternative medicine and therapies come into play. They work on the principle of restoring natural balance and bringing human life back in harmony with the nature. Indian traditional medicine system has been based on this principle focusing on holistic health rather than treating a disease.

“Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, yoga, unani, siddha, all these alternative therapies advocate a lifestyle which provides a healthy body, mind and overall Happiness”



1. Discuss about Holistic Health and popular traditional medicines in India.

Holistic Health is where science and caring meet. Ayurveda and yoga started their journey more than 5000 years ago as ancient Indian sciences. While Siddha is one of the ancient systems of medicines popular in south India, Unani, the traditional system of medicine has its genesis in ancient Greece. Homeopathy was developed in the early 1800s by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann. These systems have enjoyed continued patronage of people over the years. However, in recent times all alternative systems of medicine have gained global acceptance and popularity. The reason could be that apart from being effective, cheap, with no side effects, these therapies have been able to provide respite to certain chronic diseases and terminal stage patients. Modern medicine need not have a solution or answer to such situations. Institutions worldwide have undertaken researches to understand these systems more scientifically.



Governments world over are trying to evolve policies to promote these therapies amongst their people so that less privileged sections are more benefited. In India, full pledged ministry was created to focus on education and research in **Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy systems**. The ministry continues to lay emphasis on up-gradation of AYUSH standards, Quality control and standardization of drugs, research and development and awareness generation on the efficacy of the system domestically and internationally.

Alternative medicine is not an “alternative” at all, but the basis of our health care system and hence should become a part of everyone’s life. This, coupled with adequate and appropriate government policies, can ensure a healthy, blissful life for every Indian Citizen.

2. “Significant investment in physical infrastructure will also lead to employment generation, increased production efficiency, reduction in cost of doing business and improved standard of living”. Analyze

Government has taken several important steps to revive domestic investment, ensure ease of doing business, attract foreign investors so as to enable “Make in India” initiative a successful one for manufacturing-led job creation and growth.

Doing business in India is not easy as reflected by India’s rank of 142 among a total of 160 countries as mentioned in the global competitive index 2014.

Ease of doing Business

- ▼ Simplification, Rationalization and Digitization of processes
- ▼ Monetary limit for a case to be heard by a single member bench of ITAT increase from Rs 5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs
- ▼ Central Excise/Service tax assesses to be allowed to use digitally signed invoices and maintain record electronically
- ▼ Online central excise and service tax registration to be done in 2 working days
- ▼ Wealth tax replaced with additional surcharge of 2 percent on super rich with a taxable income of over 1 crore annually
- ▼ Domestic transfer pricing threshold limit increased from 5 crores to 20 crores



The budget 2015-16 proposed many measures to ease doing business in India. A few of them include, setting up of an expert committee to get rid of multiple prior permissions, commitment to goods and services Tax (GST), abolishing wealth tax, reducing corporate tax rates from the present 30% to 25% over the next four years, e-business portal which merges 14 regulatory permissions at one place, proposal to bring bankruptcy law for easier exit of investors, proposal to bring public contracts bill for dispute resolutions etc.

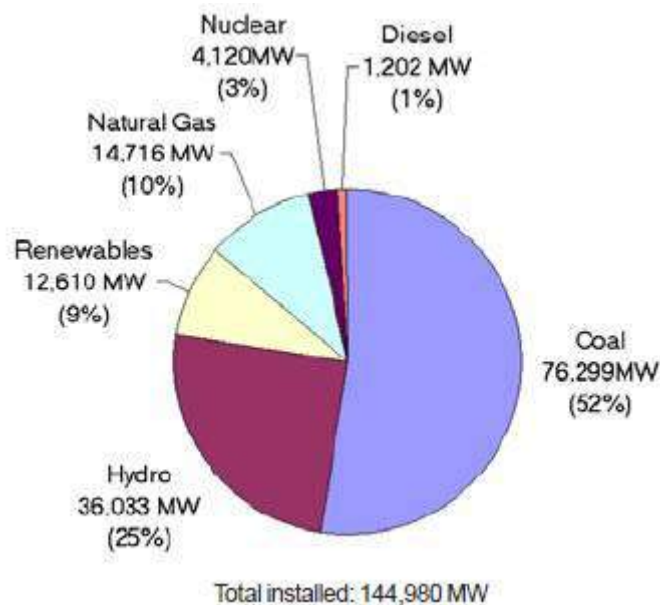
Boosting the manufacturing sector is an imperative for the Indian economy. Around one million people enter the workforce every month and unemployment hovered around 3.7 % in 2013. However, the contribution of the manufacturing sector has anguished at about 15% of GDP for years. The government has rightly identified the problem and focused on the manufacturing sector on a mission mode.

The huge increase in united resources would give states the fiscal space to design their own developmental scheme and programs according to their specific circumstances. However, there is also apprehension about the use of money by the states as the quality and capacity of state administration varies widely and therefore, the increased united fiscal transfers along with reduction in tied developmental plan schemes may lead to misuse of money.

Overall, the economic policy of the government has been focused on reforms, Infrastructure, ease of doing business to revive investment for manufacturing sector growth for job creation and improvement in standard of living.

3. Is India Scaling New Heights in Energy Sector?

India has come a long way in the power sector from a mere 1362 MW of power generation capacity of over 261,000 Mw. Though 60% of power comes from thermal power generation, basically coal and to a small extent gas, there is renewed emphasis on pushing non renewable energy.



The immediate goal of the government is to produce two trillion units (kilowatt hours) of energy by 2019. This will mean doubling the current production capacity in order to achieve provide 24*7 electricity for residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural use. There are vast tracts of land suitable for solar power in all parts of India exceeding 8% of its total area which are unproductive, barren and devoid of vegetation. The solar power potential of India can meet perennially to cater per capita energy consumption at par with USA/Japan for the peak population in its demographic transition.

India's Solar Energy Goals

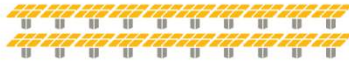
Solar Panels Installed:

3 GW



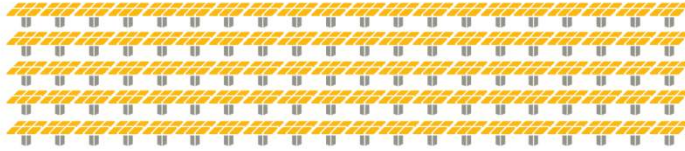
Previous 2022 Solar Goal:

20 GW



New 2022 Solar Goal:

100 GW



<http://bit.ly/1J9oL0z>

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

India is still a power deficit state despite massive scaling up of power generation since 1990's. So a lot more needs to be done and rightly the present government has taken several initiatives over the last one year to push power generation in the country.

4. “Nigging procedural hassles stymie efforts to modernize antiquated labour regulations”. Explain in the Indian Context.

For several decades now, rigid labour laws have been the major reason behind India's slow employment growth compared to the expansion of the country's labour force. Initiatives taken by the government in its first year of work have shown that **“Ease of doing Business”** and **“Shramevjayate”** (Glory of work) could go together and combine into a mechanism for a faster and more inclusive growth.



In a significant legislative move to make industry-running attractive, the centre is holding consultative meetings on the draft small factories **(Regulation of employment and conditions of services) Bill, 2014** which will regulate factories employing less than 40 workers.

The **Shramev Jayate Karyakaram** unveiled the good governance package with the belief that “ease in compliance” will create massive avenues of employment for the youth of this country and in turn promote “transition to formality” in a big way. The Government recognized that employability of rural youth is the key to unlocking India’s demographic dividend, as rural population still forms close to 70% of India’s population. The **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana** was launched keeping in view only this.

With more than 65% of population being young in the working age category, the government is responding to the vision of skill India to harness the potential of this unprecedented demographic dividend. Over the last one year, there have been major initiatives to promote demand responsive vocational training and career service to enhance employment and employability of the youth and other vulnerable sections of the workforce.