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Preface

This is our 48th edition of Yojana Gist and 39th edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of March 2019. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

Every issue 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 the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

Think, learn, practice and keep improving! You know that's your success mantra 😊

Interim Budget 2019

Agriculture/Farm sector

- Total allocation for the Agriculture sector has seen an increase of 73% over 2018-19 (Revised estimate)
- The Government announced the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) scheme, which will provide a guaranteed income of INR 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers. This will involve an annual outlay of INR 75,000 crore, which is around 0.36% of the GDP (2019-20 Budget estimate).
- Interest subvention of 2% was announced for farmers affected by natural calamities. An additional 3% relaxation will be given for timely repayment of loans. This scheme has also been extended to farmers engaged in animal husbandry and fishery-related activities, and availing loans through Kisan Credit Cards.

Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs)

- 2% interest rebate for MSMEs registered under GST for loans up to INR 1 crore
- Requirement of sourcing by government enterprises from SMEs increased up to 25%, of which, at least 3% to be sourced from women-led SMEs
- Government E-procurement Marketplace (GeM) platform extended to Central Public Sector Enterprises

Social security for workers in the unorganised sector: The Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana has been announced for workers in the unorganised sector with a monthly income upto INR 15,000. The scheme will provide them with an assured monthly pension of INR 3,000. The scheme is contributory and the government will make a matching contribution.

Real estate/Construction: In the Affordable Housing sector, benefits under Section 80-IBA of the IT Act were extended by a year for projects approved till March 2020. This will allow Real Estate developers to deduct 100% of profits derived from development of affordable housing projects.

Personal Taxes

- While there are no changes proposed in personal Income Tax rates and slabs, the Government has made certain key proposals to provide relief to small taxpayers, especially to middle class and salaried earners in the form of:
- Rebate on tax for total income of up to INR 5,00,000 for individuals
- Increase in standard deduction from INR 40,000 to INR 50,000 for salaried employees

- Relief for owners of more than one house; second self-occupied house not to be subject to tax on deeming/notional basis; aggregate deduction of interest on home loan for self-occupied properties retained at INR 2,00,000
- Prescribed monetary threshold for deduction of tax on interest from bank or Post Office deposits increased from INR 10,000 to INR 40,000
- Proportionate exemption on long-term capital gains arising from proceeds of sale of residential house extended to purchase of two residential houses from one house, subject to: –
 - Amount of capital gain not exceeding INR 2 crore [no monetary threshold continues for investment in one residential house]
 - One-time opportunity to claim such exemption

Corporate Taxes

Domestic companies with a turnover not exceeding INR 250 crore during FY 2016- 17 continue to enjoy a reduced tax rate of 25% (increased by applicable surcharge and cess). The base year for this reduced tax rate is proposed to be extended to domestic companies with turnover not exceeding INR 250 crore for FY 2017-18. The provisions relating to TDS on rental payments provide for a monetary threshold of INR 1.8 lakh. This threshold has been enhanced to INR 2.4 lakh. Certain key amendments have been proposed in the Interim Budget to provide relief and give an impetus to the Real Estate sector, including the affordable housing market:

- The provisions were introduced vide Finance Act 2017 to tax notional income on rentals from property held as stock-in-trade for a period beyond one year from the end of the financial year in which the certificate of completion of property was obtained. This period of holding is proposed to be increased to two years.
- Under the present provisions, deduction on profits is available to developers who are engaged in developing and building affordable housing projects. One of the conditions, i.e. the time taken to seek approval for a project from the competent authority, is proposed to be extended to 31 March 2020.
- The Government envisages a push towards technology-intensive tax assessments and return processing within the next two years. This is directed towards eliminating personal interface and bringing transparency

Indirect Taxes

The Government has estimated the CGST collection for FY 2019-20 at INR 6.10 lakh crore. This assumes a growth of around 20% over the revised estimate FY 2018-19 at INR 5.04 lakh crore.

Given that overall growth in GST collection in the current year over last year is only 8% (INR 97,100 crore vs INR 89,700 crore on a month-on-month basis), it will be interesting to see how this ambitious target is achieved by the Government. It will need substantial expansion in the tax base and stringent control over revenue leakages.

Rural allocations:

- Rs 60,000 crore for MNREGA
- Rs 19,000 allocated for construction of rural roads under Gram Sadak yojana

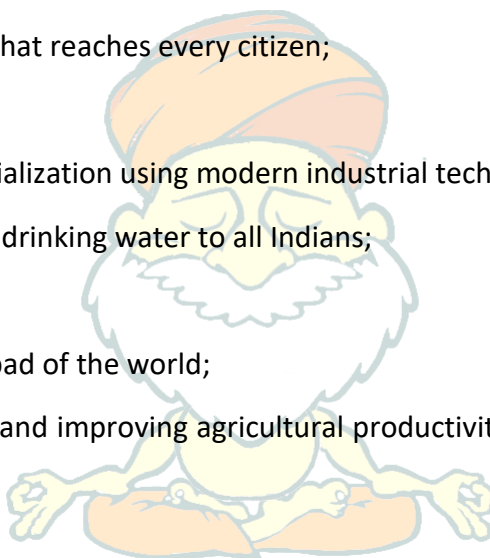
Defence Budget:

- Govt increases defence budget to over Rs 3 lakh crore. Govt will provide additional funds for Defence, if needed.
- We have disbursed 35,000 crore rupees under #OROP scheme in the last few years

A single window clearance for filmmakers: A single window clearance will be made available to filmmakers, anti-camcording provision to also to be introduced in Cinematography Act to fight piracy

Nine priority sectors for govt: To build next-gen infrastructure - physical as well as social;

- (1) To build a Digital India that reaches every citizen;
- (2) Clean and Green India;
- (3) Expanding rural industrialization using modern industrial technologies
- (4) Clean Rivers - with safe drinking water to all Indians;
- (5) Oceans and coastlines;
- (6) India becoming launchpad of the world;
- (7) Self-sufficiency in food and improving agricultural productivity with emphasis on organic food;
- (8) Healthy India;
- (9) Minimum Government Maximum Governance, with proactive, responsible and friendly bureaucracy



Strengthening the Financial System

Financial inclusion has been recognised as a key building block which will form the foundation for achieving several of UN's Sustainable Development Goals. As a construct, it provides much more than access to financial services.

Financial inclusion is a process of ensuring the availability of financial services to all sections of society, at an affordable cost. A key objective of financial inclusion is to help the unbanked population with institutional finance, to enable them to become self-employed and ensure a stable income.

- Banks began to implement financial inclusion as part of their business policy only after the RBI directed them to adopt a three-year board-approved financial inclusion policy (FIP) that began in 2010. It laid a firm roadmap for opening brick-and-mortar branches and spread of alternative modes of banking.
- Financial inclusion got a boost from the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) that added 336.6 million new basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) accounts, expanding the base of such accounts to 536 million by March 2018.
- The RBI has taken several initiatives that include a recent launch of a pilot project of setting up Centres of Financial Literacy (CFL) based on the hub-and-spoke model. Identified change agents will be trained at CFLs, who in turn would undertake financial education in villages. Looking to the rising customer base of banks and the lack of financial knowledge, the task ahead is daunting.

While applauding the outreach and development of banking infrastructure, the IMF bemoans that only 13 per cent of Indian adults borrow through formal channels. Despite priority sector lending norms, hardly 35 per cent of Indian farmers utilise institutional loans. The rest probably relies on alternative sources, including moneylenders/indigenous bankers, paying high interest rates. The agenda of financial inclusion includes development of entrepreneurship that can be nurtured only when bank customers can save, borrow, and remit/receive funds.

Digital pathway to financial inclusion: The level of internet penetration is still low—only 20% of households in rural India have access to internet. Contingent on strong internet penetration, tailored financial products and innovative and easy-to-use interfaces/platforms, the digital trend can improve over the years, altering how banking is done. That would have provided solid foundations to think of efficient ways to reach the bottom of pyramid population. This would also provide newer ways to think of implementing priority sector lending, which, going by the traditional route, has not achieved its mandate in its entirety.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- The primary rationale behind the launch of IPPB is to help in the government's goal of **achieving financial inclusion**, especially to the rural and unorganised sectors of the economy. (In short it will help in bringing the unbanked into the banking system).
- It will also **help reinvigorate the postal system**, which has a wide network of branches across India. (Holders of postal savings accounts are worth over ₹85,000 crore.)
- IPPB will also have a digital platform that is expected to **make financial services more accessible** even from remote locations.
- IPPB will also focus on providing **basic payments services** such as social security payments, utility bill payments and money transfers.
- It will also provide access to **third-party financial services** such as mutual funds, insurance, pension, and loan products.

Way ahead:

Having achieved considerable progress in financial inclusion, the next stage is to harness immense rural potentiality for business growth. Steady and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders are necessary, more at the local level by disseminating financial and digital literacy. Banks may have to innovate strategies to extend credit by setting up credit kiosks on the model of digital kiosks.

- **Democratisation of credit:**
 - Availability of credit remains a major roadblock for a vast majority of the population.
 - The biggest deterrent to resolving this has been the lack of tangible data points, which can help the credit bureaus put together better underwriting models for these unbanked customers.
 - This problem is now slowly being resolved as these bank accounts are linked to Aadhaar providing a consistent flow of payments data, an increasingly important parameter whilst underwriting individual credit.
- **Financialisation of savings:**
 - The last couple of years have seen intensive flows into investment avenues like mutual funds.
 - The challenge will now be to translate this model to the bottom of the pyramid. However, a one-size-fits-all approach will not work here.
 - With the investible surplus being much lower for this segment, innovation will hold the key in designing products which are suitable for this segment.
- **Promoting financial literacy:**
 - Increasingly enhancing financial literacy across society is critical for the success of any other initiatives for financial inclusion.

- This needs to be achieved across all age groups, for the younger populace through school education and through special programmes for the adult population.
 - A financially literate society makes the job of financial inclusion that much easier.
- **Changing the mindset of financial institutions:** The need is to convince such institutions, especially commercial banks, that financial inclusion is a viable business proposal.

Connect the Dots:

1. Critically examine the efficacy of financial inclusion as a tool to ensure inclusive growth.
2. Payments banks signalled a new revolution in the country's banking sector and enormous hope was generated on how financial inclusion is going to happen. Do you think the experiment has succeeded? Comment in light of the recent developments in the banking sector.
3. In the quest for financial inclusion, SHGs have played a prominent role in India. Examine the guiding principles of the working of SHGs in the area of financial inclusion.

Designing financial products for women

Marketers from a growing range of industries have gone to great lengths to create consumer markets that are segmented along gender lines—from soaps to two-wheel vehicles to vacation packages. However, financial services providers (FSPs) remain largely oblivious to the needs of women.

1. Across the globe, a billion women remain financially excluded, with a gender gap of 9% persisting stubbornly in developing countries.
2. Further, the 2017 Global Findex survey conducted by the World Bank found that in India, while the gender gap in access to bank accounts has decreased to 6% from 20%, the percentage of women who are active users (35%) is less than that of men at 47%.
3. Poor financial product design for women contributes to this.
4. The micro-credit movement brought these women into the formal financial fold for the first time, with loans and passbooks issued in their names.

Challenges and concerns

- Women were not necessarily considered active consumers of financial services. Rather, they were often seen just as conduits to push credit into households with the hope of eventually lifting people out of poverty.
- There is limited evidence on the scale-up and success of women-led enterprises financed by micro-credit.

- Governments in developing countries institutionalised conditional cash transfers (CCTs) to link social transfer payments to women's bank accounts. But again, broadly, CCTs have been built with an emphasis on the social welfare of the family, rather than the economic benefit of individual women beneficiaries.
- In the financial services models, women have been conflated with 'family' and considered merely an avenue to pursue social welfare.
- Financial service providers have been surprisingly lackadaisical and unimaginative in sensing a business opportunity around the millions of poor women who have bank accounts at their retail branches. Evidence from India suggests that financial service providers haven't invested much resources in supporting women agents and their enterprises.
- Innumeracy, distinctly apart from illiteracy per se, acts as a cognitive barrier and hinders women from developing familiarity with FSPs or their business correspondents (agents).
- Often, men take advantage of this handicap, using it as a pretext to deal with FSPs on 'behalf' of the women in the household, who, they claim, "would get duped or would be unable to transact".

Way forward

There is an urgent need to consider women as a distinct segment with specific financial services requirements, without disguising male-focussed products as gender neutral. To enable this change, one needs to study the myriad social and behavioural impediments impacting women, and use this knowledge to design customized financial product offerings.

- There is a need to actively employ oral informational management tools such that these women can transact independently.
- Also, women prefer to learn and work with peers. A collaborative approach reduces financial risk within a peer group and helps pool resources like time and labour. FSPs must make use of this critical element, given the strong influence it has on the uptake of personal financial services by poor women.
- Behaviourally as well, women customers take more time to develop trust in a particular agent, requiring more interaction with him or her. The presence of women agents can help in this context, especially because women customers consider them more trustworthy and better at maintaining confidentiality.
- Studies have shown that women-owned enterprises have stronger repayment records with non-performing loans being 30-50% lower than male entrepreneurs. They also have a likelihood of availing more products (up to three times) than men. This is a significant business opportunity that FSPs fail to utilize.
- The FSPs can use big data analytics to make sense of gender-disaggregated data points. Specifically, they can assess and track the benefits of providing financial services to poor women, both in terms of repayment and social benefits to households.

- FSPs can also use proxies, such as adherence to cash transfer schemes, as a measure of financial discipline and stable cash flows.
- Furthermore, women-led micro enterprises expect much more than the delivery of financial products—especially in terms of business advisory support in managerial capacity-building, bookkeeping, technological upgradation, skill development, and legal procedures to scale-up their businesses.
- Also, women-led micro and small enterprises not only struggle to access capital, but also to formally register their enterprises. This restricts their business development activities and engagement with e-commerce distribution channels.

Conclusion

- By providing support on all these fronts, financial services providers will gain by getting access to a more credit-worthy customer segment. In turn, they will transform the lives of women entrepreneurs and reduce the gender gap in access to financial services—all this while positioning themselves as engineers of social change for good.
- An immediate push to bring gender-centricity as a lens and a mindset to the forefront of policy framework and product design can do wonders. It will bring about gender equality in the financial services space, adding a customer base vastly underserved woman. FSPs have to be mindful of the impact that each design attribute will have on the lives of women. The twin advantages of pursuing this course will be to transform women's lives and offer a business value proposition for financial services providers.

Good Governance: Cornerstone to Development

What does it mean?

Bhagvad Gita provides numerous cues for good governance, leadership, dutifulness and self-realization which are re-interpreted in modern context. In **Kautilya's Arthshastra** (2nd-3rd century BC), welfare of people was considered paramount in role of King. **Mahatma Gandhi** emphasized "**su-raj**" which essentially means good governance.

Importance of governance is clearly inscribed in **Indian Constitution** which is built on premise of Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic committing itself to democracy, rule of law and welfare of people. Under **Sustainable Development Goals**, Goal 16 can be considered to be directly linked as it is dedicated towards improvement in governance, inclusion, participation, rights and security.

UN has defined 8 pillars of good governance as:

1. Consensus Oriented
2. Accountable
3. Transparent
4. Responsible
5. Equitable and Inclusive
6. Effective and Efficient
7. Rule of Law and Participatory

Pillars of Good Governance

Participation requires that all groups, particularly those most vulnerable, have direct or representative access to the systems of government. This manifests as a strong civil society and citizens with the freedom of association and expression.

Rule of Law is exemplified by impartial legal systems that protect the human rights and civil liberties of all citizens, particularly minorities. This is indicated by an independent judicial branch and a police force free from corruption.

Transparency means that citizens understand and have access to the means and manner in which decisions are made, especially if they are directly affected by such decisions. This information must be provided in an understandable and accessible format, typically translated through the media.

Responsiveness simply involves that institutions respond to their stakeholders within a reasonable time frame.

Consensus Oriented is demonstrated by an agenda that seeks to mediate between the many different needs, perspectives, and expectations of a diverse citizenry. Decisions need to be made in a manner that reflects a deep understanding of the historical, cultural, and social context of the community.

Equity and Inclusiveness depends on ensuring that all the members of a community feel included and empowered to improve or maintain their wellbeing, especially those individuals and groups that are the most vulnerable.

Effectiveness and Efficiency is developed through the sustainable use of resources to meet the needs of a society. Sustainability refers to both ensuring social investments carry through and natural resources are maintained for future generations.

Accountability refers to institutions being ultimately accountable to the people and one another. This includes government agencies, civil society, and the private sector all being accountable to one another as well.

Civil Service, Legal, Judicial and Police Reforms

Major area of governance reforms is reorientation of administrative set up, legal as well as judicial system and maintenance of law and order.

A. Civil Service Reforms

- Improve teeth to tail ratio and promote officer-oriented culture
- Reduce number of current 60 plus separate civil services at central and state level through rationalization and harmonization of services
- Encourage lateral entry by inducing specialists especially at higher levels
- Bring down entry age in civil services
- Strengthen municipal cadres and outsource service delivery in possible areas.
- Develop inclusive citizen-centric framework in terms of service delivery, grievance redressal and public access to information with enhanced use of ICT.
- Ensure probity in governance by strengthening institutional mechanism for prevention and detection of corruption, while at same time protect honest civil servants.

B. Legal Reforms

- Create repository of all existing central and state laws, rules and regulations.
- Repeal redundant laws and remove restrictive clauses in existing laws.
- Reform criminal justice and procedural laws with focus on pre-institution mediation.
- Merge and rationalize tribunals to enhance efficiency
- Reduce criminalization of violation and move towards compounding of minor offences.
- Prioritize court process automation and ICT enablement for electronic court and case management, including electronic management of court schedules and migration of all courts the unified national court application software.
- Introduce administrative cadre in judicial system. An all-India judicial services examination on a ranking basis can be considered to maintain high standards

C. Police Reforms

- Modernising police forces and implementing Model Police Act of 2015.
- States to ensure greater representation of women in police force.
- Introduction of remodelled training modules, refresher courses and continuing education for police personnel.
- Reform of FIR lodging mechanism, including introducing filing e-FIRs for minor offences
- Launch common nation-wide emergency contact number to attend to emergency security needs of citizens.
- Instituting separate cadre for cyber-crimes, cyber threats and fraud.
- Integrate the Lokpal and Prevention of corruption Acts into police reforms to enhance accountability.
- A separate cadre for exclusively looking into cyber-crimes, cyber threats and fraud needs to be developed.

- A panel of experts in psychology, negotiation, language proficiency and training may be put together.
- D. **E-Governance:** To ensure New India by 2022, some fundamental principles may need to be prioritized. These include:
- Making services available to public in faceless, paperless and cashless mode
 - Providing connectivity and digital identity to all
 - Targeting benefits through Aadhar enabled DBT
 - Simplifying forms and processes and providing e-platforms.
 - AI can play major role in better implementation.
 - Portals like Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMs), UMANG and MyGov need to be made more effective in information exchange, seeking feedback and addressing grievance of citizens.

Aspirational districts

A serious re-imagination of government and governance, and deepens cooperative federalism. The programme is informed by the failures of the past and therefore has a more contemporary vision of how public services are best delivered to those who need them most. The 115 districts were chosen by senior officials of the Union government in consultation with State officials on the basis of a composite index of the following:

- deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census
- key health and education performance indicators
- the state of basic infrastructure

A minimum of one district was chosen from every State. The areas that have been targeted for transformation are: education, health and nutrition, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, basic infrastructure and skills. Deliberately, the districts have been described as aspirational rather than backward so that they are viewed as islands of opportunity and hope rather than areas of distress and hopelessness. Attitudes and narrative matter for outcomes.

Achieving success in this programme requires three tiers of government, the Centre, States and district administrations, to work in tandem. India's long history of a dominant state apparatus has led to an entrenched perception that government is the sole actor capable of and responsible for the transformation of India. The ADP has opened its door to civil society and leveraged the tool of corporate social responsibility to form partnerships which will bring new ideas and fresh energy with boots on the ground from non-government institutions to join the "official" efforts. The force multiplier on outcomes from such participation is potentially massive.

Connecting the Dots:

1. The concept of good governance is linked with the citizens' right of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. This could be secured in a democracy only through the rule of law. Comment.

2. What do you understand by 'citizen centric governance'? Why is so much importance being given to this concept? Is it compatible with the idea of 'minimum government-maximum governance'? Analyse.
3. What are the parameters to measure good governance? Examine the performance of the State on at least two of those parameters.
4. In the emerging multi- faceted nature of governance, the civil society institutions can play a constructive role not only in harnessing the resources of the government but also in tapping the structure and resources of the market to give a fair deal to the people, and in creating an environment where sustainable development takes place. Comment.
5. In India E-governance is more about the 'E' and less about 'governance'. Examine the statement in the light of the initiatives taken by the government since the beginning of the National E-governance Plan (NeGP).

Paving the Way for Better Health Outcomes

Healthcare challenges in India:

- The country's diversity in terms of geography, culture, and demography
- Political system
- Unsafe boundaries
- Huge population burden
- Poor investment in health

Ayushman Bharat – An attempt to transform India's Healthcare Map

Innovative and path-breaking scheme in the history of public health in India. It may have a transformative impact if implemented in an effective and coordinated manner.

- **Aim:** To make path-breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems
- **Objective:** Prevention + Promotion (Health and Wellness)
- Full proof mechanism while allowing States to accommodate the existing schemes, keeping the flavour of Digital India intact

Two major initiatives:

- **Health and Wellness Centre:** Foundation of India's health system
 - 1.5 lakh centres will provide – comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services, provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services
 - The budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme
 - Contribution of the private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres is also envisaged.
- **National Health Protection Scheme:**
 - Will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries)

- Coverage of up to ₹5 lakh a family a year will be provided for secondary- and tertiary-care hospitalization (50 crore beneficiaries)

Ayushman Bharat can be a Game Changer only if:

- **Collaboration is the key:** The Central government collaborates successfully with State governments and the industry, and focusses aggressively on the operational and implementation aspect of these initiatives. Government and industry should develop partnerships with the focus on improving the coverage and providing access to quality healthcare services to the people.
- **Capacity building of the existing resources:** Increased capacity-building of the resources at hand during policy formulation.
- **Technology:** Strong emphasis on the adoption of technology by the entire healthcare ecosystem to provide accessible and affordable patient care to the last mile of the country.
- **Role of States:** State ownership and commitment of them is critical as the states are expected to agree for 40 per cent share under the NHPS (Health: State subject). Also, absorptive capacity of States needs to be increased.
- **Clarity on the Services being provided:** More clarity on the kind of services that will be provided by government health facilities and for which conditions patients will have to use private parties and what mechanisms are being thought of.
- **Price matters:** Establishment of uniform pricing systems for various health interventions, including diagnostics and medicines, and making them transparent by displaying them in hospital premises.
- **Community Engagement:** Continuum of care system needs to be established by linking institutions or hospitals, with health centres and the community. Community engagement is thus crucial in planning and implementation of the programme and in ensuring that the health and wellness centres and the primary health centres are responsive to the needs of the community.
- **Special Unit to measure success, course correct:** For effective implementation, an independent body or unit may be set up within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to plan, coordinate, and provide technical backstopping to states, including in capacity building and development of standards and guidelines for the programme. Such a unit will ensure uniform and systematic approach to programme implementation across the country.

BUDGET 2019

There is an increase of more than Rs 7,000 crore in nominal terms from last year's expenditure on health in this year's budget — the outlay has increased from Rs 56,045 crore to Rs 63,298 crore. Accounting for inflation, this amounts to a 9.2 per cent increase in real terms.

Some concerns and Way Ahead

Poor public health spending: Government aims to increase public health spending to **5% of GDP**. However, current health spending is only **1.15-1.5% of GDP**. To reach its target, the government should **increase funding for health by 20-25% every year** for the next five years or more.

Poor allocation in Interim Budget: The total allocation to healthcare is ₹61,398 crore (an increase of ₹7,000 crore from the previous Budget). However, there is **no net increase** since the total amount is 2.2% of the Budget, the same as the previous Budget. The increase roughly equates the ₹6,400 crore allocated for implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). The modest increase in budgetary allocations in health should have been prioritised towards improving the worn-out public sector district hospitals, community health centres, primary health centres and sub-centres in under-served areas.

Per capita spending on health: Public per capita expenditure on health increased from ₹621 in 2009-10 to ₹1,112 in 2015-16. Per capita spending on health for 2018 is approx. ₹1,500. Therefore, despite the doubling of per capita expenditure on health over six years, the public spending figure is still abysmal.

Strengthening of the country's primary healthcare system taken a backseat: Allocation under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) — which provides funds for rural primary healthcare — has been reduced in real terms (accounting for inflation). Its share in the health component of the budget has declined steeply over the past four years — from 52 per cent in 2015-16 to 41 per cent this year. Within the NRHM, there have been budget cuts for reproductive and child healthcare projects and maintenance of rural healthcare infrastructure.

Ranking on the basis of Per capita Budget expenditure on health: It is among the lowest in the world. It is important to note that U.S.'s health expenditure is 18% of GDP, while India's is still under 1.5%. In U.S. allocation for healthcare is 23.5% of the budget and per capita spending on health in the Budget is \$3,150. In India, allocation for healthcare is merely 2.2% of the Budget and per capita spending on health in the budget in India is approx \$30. There is \$4,000-\$5,000 per capita spending in OECD countries.

High out-of-pocket expenditure: Out-of-pocket expenditure in India is at a massive 67%. Although, the ₹6,400 crore allocation to Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY in the Interim Budget will help reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health.

Note:

Health: State subject

PM-JAY app: The app has been introduced within just four months since the launch of the scheme and is aimed at helping users get easy access to information on the scheme, check eligibility, find hospitals nearby and get assisted help.

National Health Authority (NHA): Aims to effectively implement PM-JAY. The National Health Authority with a stronger mandate would be able to prevent, detect and control frauds, abuse and redress grievances, thus resulting in the reduction of leakages.

National Health Stack (NHS): A national electronic registry usable by both the Centre and the States across public and private sectors.

- One of the components of the proposed project is to store every Indian's Personal Health Records (PHRs). This will involve medical history, medication and allergies, immunisation status, laboratory test results, radiology images, vital signs, personal stats such as age and weight, demographics, and billing information, and use of multiple health applications.
- Various layers of the National Health Stack will seamlessly link to support national health electronic registries, coverage and claims platform, a federated personal health records framework, a national health analytics platform, as well as other horizontal components.
- The stack will embrace health management systems of public health programmes and socio-demographic data systems.
- The population level base of such an IT system would be individual health records logged through the Health and Wellness Centres in rural areas, and corresponding primary health care in urban areas.
- The National Health Stack rests on the JAM trinity of Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar, and mobile numbers.

The new Digital Information Security in HealthCare Act (DISHA):

- It makes any breach punishable with up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5 lakhs.
- It redefines personal information of the patients. It adds, "use of narcotic or psychotropic substances, consumption of alcohol, human immunodeficiency virus status, sexually transmitted infections treatment, and abortion" related information of the patient to the list of sensitive information.
- DISHA also defines a 'clinical establishment' as well as the term 'entity' clearly and unambiguously to include individuals, trusts, private and public establishments, hospitals, diagnostic centres, pathological laboratories, radiology laboratories, etc.
- It also accords great significance to "informed consent" of individuals and emphasises on obtaining explicit consent before transfer and use of digital health data.

₹250 crore has been allocated for setting up health and wellness centres under the National Urban Health Mission. Under the National Rural Health Mission, ₹1,350 crore has been allocated for the same.

Nearly 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres would be set up under Ayushman Bharat.

The non-communicable diseases programme of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke has been allocated ₹175 crore, from ₹275 crore.

Allocation to the National Tobacco Control Programme and Drug De-addiction Programme is only ₹65 crore, a decrease of ₹2 crore.

Must Read:

- [Lessons from Kerala : Transforming Primary Care](#)
- [Regulating Private Hospitals](#)
- [Right to health – A Fundamental Right](#)
- [Mental Health and Insurance](#)
- [Lifestyle Diseases Biggest Health Risk for Indians](#)
- [Bridge Course: Addressing human resources gaps in primary healthcare](#)
- [Branded Generic Drugs: Strengthening Indian healthcare](#)

Connecting the Dots:

1. Critically analyse the health care roadmap of India.
2. Ayushman Bharat is one of the most ambitious health schemes ever launched in India. What can be the key challenges in proper implementation of this scheme?
3. Although the private sector can play a constructive role in the provisioning healthcare services, the overall health policy discourse must retain the 'public good' character of the health sector. Comment.
4. Ensuring behavioral change for the success of any policy is crucial, same is the case when it comes to health policy. Discuss. Also suggest measures to bring the behavioral change for the success of healthcare efforts.

Harnessing Women Power for Development

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development.

In all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and well-being as a result of being overburdened with work and of their lack of power and influence. In most regions of the world, women receive less formal education than men, and at the same time, women's own knowledge, abilities and coping mechanisms often go unrecognized. The power relations that impede women's attainment of healthy and fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public.

Achieving change requires policy and programme actions that will improve women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources, alleviate their extreme responsibilities with regard to housework, remove legal impediments to their participation in public life, and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication. In addition, improving the status of women also enhances their decision-making capacity at all levels in all spheres of life, especially in the area of sexuality and reproduction.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

Vulnerable, marginalised and Women in difficult circumstances

Women Impacted by Violence

- Domestic violence
- Rape victims
- Women in trafficking
- Women suffer under witch-hunting
- Acid attacking

Women impacted by internal displacement, disasters and Migration

- Either for economic reasons
- Conflict e.g. refugee women
- Women who have been displaced because of SEZ, building of dams etc,
- Women impacted by natural or manmade disasters

Women and Labour

- Domestic labour
- Bonded labour
- Destitute women who are homeless

Women in Agriculture

- Land less women

- Marginal farmers
- Agricultural workers

Women and Health

- Women affected by HIV/ AIDS
- Women suffering from life threatening diseases
- Women with Disabilities
- Elderly Women

Slum Dwellers

Women Prisoners

Women belonging to Ethnic and Socially Vulnerable Communities

- Women belonging to Ethnic and Religious Minorities (especially Muslims)
- Women belonging to Socially Backward Communities (SC, ST, OBC)

Single Women

- Adolescent Girls
- Widows
- Women whose husbands are missing due to Conflict
- Migrant women (Economic Migration)
- Divorcee Women
- Unmarried Women
- Unwed Mothers

Homeless and Destitute Women

Empowerment Programmes

Name	Details
Deendayal Antodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)	Alleviation of rural poverty through building sustainable community institutions of the poor. It seeks to mobilize about 9 crore households into SHGs and link them to sustainable livelihood opportunities by building their skills and enabling them to access formal sources of finance, entitlements and services from both public and private sectors.
Capacity building of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs)	Seeks to empower EWRs of panchayats by enhancing their capacity, capability and skill in governance and administration of villages
Rashtriya Mahila Kosh	Extends microfinance to the poorest and asset less women entrepreneurs through Intermediary Organisations (IMOs) for income generating activities @ 6% simple interest who in turn extend the loan to SHGs beneficiaries" upto 14% simple rate of interest.
Mahila Shakti Kendra	Empower rural women through community participation and is envisaged to work at various levels and at the national level (domain-based knowledge support) and state level (State Resource Centre for Women) technical support to the respective

	governments on issues related to women is provided.
NARI portal	Summarizes over 350 government schemes and other important information for the benefit of women, with more being added every day.
National Nutrition Mission (NNM)	Strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)	Bring an improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in the short term while Child Sex Ratio (CSR) with manifestation of over-all development such as improved health and nutrition, gender parity in education, better sanitation, opportunities and removal of asymmetries between the genders is endeavoured in the long term
POSHAN Abhiyaan	Reduce mal-nutrition from the Country in a phased manner, through the life cycle concept, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach.
Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013	Covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protects them against sexual harassment at all workplaces whether organized or unorganized.
Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box)	An online complaint management platform for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace.
P. M. Ujjwala Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance status of women and caring for their health. • Help to decrease air pollution due to use of fossil fuel. • Lessening serious health risks related with cooking based on fossil fuels. • Reducing number of deaths due to unclean cooking fuels, which is almost 5 lakh year India. • Preventing young children from acute respiratory illness caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuels.

Countries should act to empower women and should take steps to eliminate inequalities between men and women as soon as possible by:

- Establishing mechanisms for women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life in each community and society and enabling women to articulate their concerns and needs;
- Promoting the fulfilment of women's potential through education, skill development and employment, giving paramount importance to the elimination of poverty, illiteracy and ill health among women;
- Eliminating all practices that discriminate against women; assisting women to establish and realize their rights, including those that relate to reproductive and sexual health;
- Adopting appropriate measures to improve women's ability to earn income beyond traditional occupations, achieve economic self-reliance, and ensure women's equal access to the labour market and social security systems;

- Eliminating violence against women;
- Eliminating discriminatory practices by employers against women, such as those based on proof of contraceptive use or pregnancy status;
- Making it possible, through laws, regulations and other appropriate measures, for women to combine the roles of child-bearing, breast-feeding and child-rearing with participation in the workforce.

Connecting the Dots:

1. Real empowerment of women lies in ensuring their economic liberty. Do you agree? Substantiate.
2. Economically empowered women can contribute better to the developmental process. Do you agree? Comment. In this regard, examine the role played by Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Essay Topics:

1. Daughters shouldn't only be saved and educated; they must be empowered.
2. Is there a bias against women in India's job sector?
3. History tellers have done great injustice to India's women.
4. You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation.

Uploading the Right of the Child to Thrive

Constitutional provisions that protect the rights of children

- Right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in the 6-14 year age group (Article 21 A)
- Right to be protected from any hazardous employment till the age of 14 years (Article 24)
- Right to be protected from being abused and forced by economic necessity to enter occupations unsuited to their age or strength (Article 39(e))
- Right to equal opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and guaranteed protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment (Article 39 (f))
- Right to early childhood care and education to all children until they complete the age of six years (Article 45)

Measures taken by India for protection of child rights

- A. Being the signatory of the UNCRC (1992), India has globally recognized the Child Rights as binding constraint. It spells out those basic human rights that every child should have:
- Right to survival
 - To develop to fullest
 - To protection from harmful influences
 - Abuse and exploitation
 - To participate fully in family, cultural and social life
- B. After ratification of the UNCRC in 1992, India changed its Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 to ensure that every person below the age of 18 years of age, who is in need of care of protection, is entitled to receive from the state.
- C. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is an Indian governmental commission, established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act in December 2005, thus is a statutory body.
- D. The Commission considers that its Mandate is "to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child."
- E. Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.
- F. NCPCR Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal punishment in schools, 2010.
- G. Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.



PRELIMS NOTES

Quality of Life Index for Elderly

4 pillars of Index are:

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Social connectedness
- Spiritual

Infrastructure for Rural Transformation

Full utilization of irrigation potential requires actions:

- Timely completion of field channels and drains
- Appropriate land levelling and shaping
- Involvement of farmers in taking decisions on usability of such created potential.

Rural Drinking Water Supply

- National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) 's concerted focus on creation and sustaining rural drinking water infrastructure resulted in development of infrastructure and capacities for successful operation of drinking water supply schemes in rural areas.
- Country's long-term goal is to achieve 'Har Ghar Jal' by 2030, in line with UN's Sustainable Development Goals, providing safe and adequate drinking water to each rural household.
- Challenge before govt. is to ensure:
 - Safe drinking water in slipped back habitations through vigorous restoration of defunct bore pumps, carrying out repairs to water supply pipelines, augmentation of supply wherever required
 - Sustainability of quality water supply to already covered under one or other schemes.
- Need of hour is to ensure convergence of various rural development initiatives of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, watershed development, restoration of water bodies backed by need-based village-level water planning and budgeting.

Rural Sanitation: Around 5.45 lakh villages are declared 'Open Defecation Free' by December, 2018.

Rural Electrification

- Government had launched PM Saubhagya Yojana for providing electricity to all households of country.
- 4 crore poor households were intended for providing with electricity connection free of charge in Interim Budget 2019 - 20 with outlay of Rs. 16,000 cr.
- Ministry of Power, in association with Rural Electrification Corporation under DDUGJY & Saubhagya could provide 2.31 crore service connections to rural households.
- To ensure quality & sustained power supply in rural areas, there is need to switch-over from free or subsidy-driven power distribution system to competitive user-based revenue collection & sharing model.

Rural Roads

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) – provides rural connectivity, by way of single all-weather road, to eligible unconnected habitations in core network. PMGSY roads – known for their quality of construction & durability.
- To ensure quality in construction of rural roads, vigorous quality control measures were followed by independent quality checks & measurements.

Rural Housing

- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Rural (PMAY-R) – to fulfill Government's vision of 'Housing for All'.

- It allows inclusion of beneficiaries not covered under Socio-Economic Caste Census.
- It provides for separate beneficiaries list to be recorded in Gram Sabha resolution.
- For effective implementation of scheme, beneficiaries need to actively participate throughout construction process. Active participation of beneficiary in housing project like PMAY-G will result in economy in cost, ensure quality of construction, lead to greater satisfaction & acceptance of house by beneficiary himself/herself.

Rural Telephone Connectivity

- To provide every Indian village with telephone access & to cover difficult areas, additional mobile towers are sanctioned.
- BharatNet project aims at creating network to connect all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats by broadband connectivity.
- Policy of connecting village panchayats w/broadband will ensure seamless transmission of information & empower these grass-root level democratic institutions.

Maternal Health in India

Maternal undernutrition is significant risk factor for stunting & underweight among children. Inadequate nutrient intake, early and multiple pregnancies, poverty and gender inequality all contribute to poor maternal nutrition.

Kuposhan mukt bharat (Malnutrition Free India) is the slogan given by PM and with this aim, the focus on 100 poor performing districts in terms of stunting is placed. The focus will be on decentralised planning and local innovation.

Recognising that India pays an income penalty of 9-10% due to a workforce stunted during childhood, the National Nutrition Strategy aims to bring nutrition to the centre-stage and remove all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Maternal Anaemia: At least half of all women in India are anaemic, regardless of age, residence or pregnancy status. Anaemia Mukta Bharat Campaign is planned to strengthen evidence-based strategies with

- target-setting
- Strengthening procurement & supply chain management
- Intensive behavior change communication & robust monitoring and review.

Mitigation & Adaptation Technologies on Farm to Counter Climate Change **A. Mitigation Strategies**

Soil Management

- Techniques like crop rotation aid in conservation efforts, but communities continue to face hazards associated with soil.
- Carbon Sequestration is a process involved in carbon capture & long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is proposed as way to slow atmospheric & marine accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are released by burning fossil fuels.
- Soil organic matter is key element responsive to global warming. It improves & stabilizes soil structure so that soils can absorb higher amounts of water, thus leading to significant reductions in surface run-off & soil erosion. It improves water absorption capacity of soil during extended droughts.

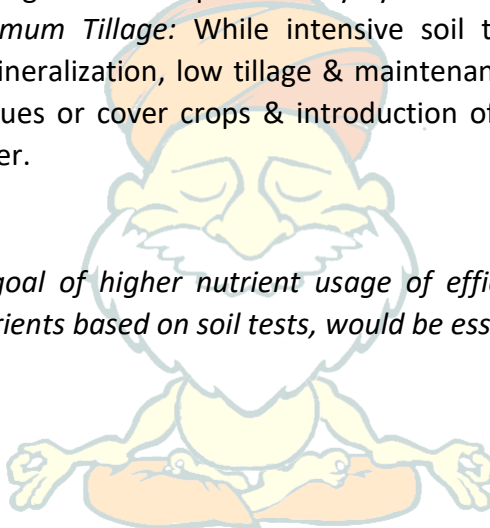
Crop Residue Management: Government is encouraging farmers by way of providing subsidies on purchase of machines like happy seeder, straw baler, rotavator, paddy straw chopper/mulcher, gyro rake, straw reaper, shredder, etc, as custom hiring centres or village level farm machinery banks.

Conservation Agriculture (CA): CA-based production systems moderate effect of high temperature & increased irrigation water productivity by 66 - 100 % compared to traditional production systems. *Minimum Tillage:* While intensive soil tillage reduces soil organic matter through aerobic mineralization, low tillage & maintenance of permanent soil cover (through crops, crop residues or cover crops & introduction of diversified crop rotations) increases soil organic matter.

B. Nutrient Management

4R principle: To achieve goal of higher nutrient usage of efficient, site-specific demand-driven balanced use of nutrients based on soil tests, would be essential and inevitable.

- Right Nutrient
- Right Quantity
- Right Time
- Right Method



Integrated Nutrient Management:

- Sea weeds like Sagarika – to boost crop growth & mitigate weather adversities.
- Biogas slurry – to enhance NUE & minimize environmental problems.

C. Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change

- Early Warning & Information Systems (EWIS)
- Selection of Suitable Crops & Crop Cultivars
- Preference to Less Water & Less Nutrient Demanding Crops
- Selection of Crops & Cultivars Tolerant to Abiotic & Biotic Stresses
- Crop Diversification
- Change in Cropping Pattern & Calendar of Planting
- Mixed Cropping/Intercropping
- Integrated Cropping Systems Integration of Agriculture with Traditional Knowledge

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- To achieve goal of IPM, use of nutrients like K & B should be promoted because these help in arresting adverse impact of abiotic & biotic stresses, and imparts drought resistance.
- Summer ploughing, green manuring, use of biopesticides etc. should constitute key components of IPM.
- Integrated Farming Systems
- Integration of agriculture with livestock, poultry, fishery, bee keeping etc. is known as IFS.

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All the Best ☺

