



- **Social Security**
- **Rural Connectivity**





Integrated Learning Program (ILP) – 2023



Your Road To Mussoorie...

Available in English & हिन्दी

Micro Planning -
365 Day Plan

VAN (Daily Notes)

Daily Prelims &
Mains Tests

Babapedia – One Stop
Destination for Current
Affairs (Prelims & Mains)

Progress Bar – To
Track your Progress &
Performance

Strategy Videos for
every Subject

Detailed coverage
of NCERTs &
Standard Books

72 Prelims Tests &
50 Mains Tests

Add-Ons : Current Affairs Videos | Mentorship

Launching on June 6th

Dedicated App for the
1st Time!



REGISTER NOW

Scan Here



to Know More

SOCIAL SECURITY

Chapter 1: Empowering Divyangjan

Divyang is a Hindi word that means “divine body part.” The Prime Minister gave the term ‘Divyangjan’ to the Persons with Disabilities and launched the Accessible India Campaign in 2015.

The world population is over 7 billion – and more than one billion people (or around 15% of the world’s population) live with some or the other form of disability – 80% of them in developing countries.

- To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the world has to build an inclusive and just society for everyone, leaving no one behind.
- The world marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on the **3rd of December** – the day that aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness about the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

Definitions:

1. **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability** tells us that persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full participation in society on an equal basis with others.
2. **The Rights of Persons with Disability Act of India, 2016**, also clarifies that disability includes people with mental illness, epilepsy, intellectual impairment and other disabilities which are not evident to a casual observer.

Invisible Disabilities – A Question mark on Inclusiveness

People with invisible disabilities continue to be excluded from participation and inclusion by the general public, the media and even the disability movement. Within the disability movement and disability networks in India and across the world, it is evident that there a hierarchy of disability. People with invisible and psycho-social disabilities are not equally included, represented or given equal voice or resources. Within India, disabled persons organisations are typically led and represented by men who use crutches and wheelchairs.

Sign Language Day

- Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body within the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, will be celebrating ‘Sign Language Day’ on 23rd September.
- United Nations declared 23rd September as the International Sign Language Day, the ISLRTC has celebrated it every year – To sensitize the general public about the importance of Indian sign languages, and the information and communication accessibility for persons with hearing disabilities.
- [Sign language](#) not only plays an important role in educating people, but also is vital in creating employment and vocational training for persons with hearing disabilities.

Measures by the government to create a conducive ecosystem for the disabled community-

Legal measures:

- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**- Increased number of disabilities from 7 to 21, reservation in higher education and government jobs, free education for children between 6 to 18 years. Promotes and protects the rights and dignity of people with disabilities in educational, social, legal, economic, cultural and political spheres.
- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**– For providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category
- **Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities act (SIPDA)**- To provide financial assistance to the states for the implementation of the act

Institutional measures:

- **Department of Divyangjan**- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment’s Department of Persons with Disabilities is renamed the Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Vibhag.

- **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)** - To help make buildings and other infrastructure disabled-friendly.
- **Sugamya Pustakalya**- Online library for persons with disabilities.
- **Sugamya Bharat App**: A means for sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector, and ICT ecosystem in India. The app provides for five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility. The fifth is for COVID related issues.
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme**- provides for the distribution of aids and assistive devices
- Establishment of a **National Fund for Person with Disabilities**.
- **Unique Disability ID (UDID)**: Ensures complete digitization of certification of disability from 01.06.2021, besides providing a viable mechanism for cross-checking the genuineness of the certificate to achieve pan-India validity, and simplifying the process for the benefit of Divyangjan.

Educational measures:

- Scholarships- Various scholarship schemes have been introduced for disabled students at different educational levels.
- Reservation- 5% reservation is provided to disabled in higher education.
- Provision for in-service training of teachers, and training for special educators.
- The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to provide barrier-free access to education for all children with disabilities.

Social measures:

- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**- Promote Voluntary Action by releasing grant-in-aid to NGOs.
- **Corporate Social responsibility**- For enabling and empowering disabled persons.
- **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)**: A federally funded institute that focuses on mental health rehabilitation.

Research:

- Research- Setting up of Indian Sign language research and training center to benefit persons with hearing disabilities.

Incheon Strategy

The Incheon strategy provides the Asian and Pacific region, and the world, with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals. The Action Plan and targets of the Accessible India Campaign have been derived from Goal 3 of the Incheon Strategy which endeavours to "Make the Right Real".

Women with disabilities

Many women in general and those with disabilities, in particular, have to face poverty, poor health conditions, little or no income, lower education levels, and isolation. With resources being scarce, women usually get the short end of the stick, more so if they suffer from some form of disability.

Way Ahead

- **Create a database** of those with disabilities, especially of female gender. This will help understand their medical needs and tweak schemes accordingly
- **Leveraging grassroots system**: Government could use its robust grassroots systems with its health workers to create awareness in families about the need to not compromise on health and education for women with disabilities.
- **Inclusive Skill training**: Skill development, one of the flagship programmes of the government, should include courses and training specifically for women who are disabled in consultation with them.
- **Political Participation**: Some of these women should be inducted into local decision-making bodies so that they can participate in processes, which build their skills.
- **Disability friendly Grievance Redressal System**: Set up a functioning telephone network, accessible to women with disabilities so that they can convey their needs to a relevant person in the local governance system.

Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) scheme

- **Objective:** To assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential.
- **Implementation:** Through implementing agencies such as NGOs, National Institutes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs).
- **Eligibility:** A person satisfying all the following conditions are eligible:
 - Indian citizen of any age
 - Has 40% disability or more (must have the requisite certificate)
 - Monthly income, not more than Rs.20000.
 - In the case of dependents, income of parents/guardians should not exceed Rs.20000.
 - Must not have received assistance during the last 3 years for the same purpose from any source. However, for children below 12years of age, this limit would be one year.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

- **Coverage:** Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age-related disability/infirmity Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability.
- Assistance is provided in the form of **distributing Assisted-living devices** which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested free-of-cost.
- **Funding:** Central Sector Scheme. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- Beneficiaries in each district will be identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector. As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.

5 gold medals in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics:

- India comprehensively reshaped its history in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 games
- An all-time high of 19 medals - 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze.

Conclusion: Launching schemes is not enough, we need to ensure that the schemes are implemented in their true spirit, and the society must be made aware so as to remove the social barriers present and convert disability into an opportunity.

Chapter 2: Safeguarding Children

- India has 2.96 crore orphaned or abandoned children, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development reported in its annual report for 2020-21 that there were 2.56 lakh children living in 7,164 child care institutions (CCIs) across the country.
- 1.45 lakh children were reunited with their birth families after the Supreme Court ordered states to investigate the possibility of reuniting these children in care institutions with their birth families as a pandemic precaution.

2.1. Pandemic, Education and Child Labour

- **School Closures pushing Children into Labour:** With 1.5 million schools closed for the last one year and more. In 2021, says UNESCO, 24 million children may not find their way back to schools after the pandemic. Any child who is not in school is a potential child labourer
- **Child Marriages:** India witnessed an increase in the number of child marriages since 2020. Girls are further at risk – married off early, these child brides are also often child labourers. Save The Children puts half a million more girls at risk of early marriage

- **Abuse & Trafficking:** Closure of schools and pandemic induced poverty has increased the vulnerability of children especially the girl child to abuse and trafficking
- **Reduced Education Budget:** Despite knowing the impact of Pandemic on education system & thus on Children's future, the Union budget has Rs 5,000 crore less to spend on education for children this year.

Way Ahead: There has to be relentlessly campaigns for

- Increased allocation for education, at least 6% of GDP,
- Better infrastructure in primary schools
- Inclusion of breakfast along with mid-day meals
- Remedial measures for loss of learning
- Transfer of monies to vulnerable states and local governments on a priority basis.

2.2. Adoption in India

Adoption is the legal procedure by which a child is permanently separated from his biological parents and adopted by his adoptive parents. Adopted children have all of the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as biological children.

Adoption Laws in India:

- **The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA):**
 - A Hindu parent or guardian can place a child for adoption with another Hindu parent under the Act.
 - A prospective parent can also adopt a male child if he has no other male children or grandchildren, or a female child if he has no other female children or grandchildren.
 - If the adoptive mother is a woman and the person being adopted is a man, she must be at least 21 years old.
 - After complying with all Act provisions, the adoption process is completed with a registered adoption deed through court.
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:**
 - The JJ Act also permits the adoption of same-sex children, allowing biological or adopted parents to adopt a child of the same gender.
 - Prospective parents can adopt their relatives' children whether they live in India or abroad. A single or divorced person can adopt under the JJ Act, but a single male cannot adopt a girl child.
 - A home study is conducted by the Specialised Adoption Agency (SAS) to determine if a person is eligible to adopt a child, and the process ends with an adoption order.
 - SAS and the Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA) are required to follow up with the adoptive family for two years after the adoption.

Stakeholders in the Adoption Process:

- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):** Serves as the adoption nodal agency.
 - Founded in 1990.
 - CARA is the nodal body for Indian child adoption, facilitates the adoption of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children and is responsible for monitoring and regulating in-country adoptions.
- **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA):**
 - For adoptions and related matters, in the state
 - Examines adoption progress and seeks to resolve operational and logistical issues and bottlenecks in the state's adoption process or system.
- **Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA):**
 - A foreign adoption agency licensed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority to sponsor non-resident Indians or Indian citizens living abroad who wish to adopt a child from India.
- **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU):**
 - Each district will have a District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.
 - DCPU identifies orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children in the district and works with the Child Welfare Committee to have them declared legally free for adoption.

PM Cares for Children Scheme

Under: The Ministry of Women and Child Development

- **The objective of the scheme** is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children who have lost their parent(s) to COVID pandemic, in a sustained manner, enable their wellbeing through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age.
- The scheme inter-alia provides support to these children through convergent approach, gap funding for ensuring education, health, monthly stipend from the age of 18 years, and lump sum amount of Rs. 10 lakhs on attaining 23 years of age.
- The scheme covers all children who have lost:
 1. Both parents
 2. Or Surviving parent
 3. or legal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent due to COVID 19 pandemic, starting from 11.03.2020 the date on which WHO has declared and characterized COVID-19 as pandemic till 28.02.2022.

To be entitled to benefits under this scheme: Child should not have completed 18 years of age on the date of death of parents.

Mission Vatsalya

- Mission Vatsalya shall include Child Protection Services and Child Welfare Services. It brings together services and structures to help children in distress.

Mission POSHAN 2.0:

- Mission POSHAN 2.0 shall include Umbrella Integrated Child Development Scheme – Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and National Creche Scheme.

Ayushman Bharat PradhanMantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

- PM-JAY is a visionary scheme that aims at the fulfillment of the concept of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Under the scheme, medical care services such as pre and post hospitalization, daycare surgeries, newborn child services, etc. are provided.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) of National Health Mission (NHM), periodic hemoglobin estimations are carried out by the Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) placed in every block during their visits to Government and Government aided schools.

- Each MHT is provided with Digital Haemoglobinometer for screening of anemia.
- Severe anemia and Sickle Cell anemia are the identified health conditions for child health screening and early intervention services under RBSK.
- Children found to be anemic are provided nutritional counseling by RBSK teams and referred to nearby health facilities for further management.

Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy, for prevention of anemia in school children, weekly Iron and Folic acid tablets – IFA pink and IFA blue are provided to children 5-9 years and 10-19 years respectively along with bi-annual deworming, using the school platform.

2.3. Protecting children in the age of AI

Children and adolescents of today are born into a world increasingly powered by virtual reality and artificial intelligence (AI).

Like all fundamental technological change, AI is not only changing what humans can do, it is shaping our behaviours, our preferences, our perceptions of the world and of ourselves.

Concerns

- **Digital Divide:** Not everyone can tap into the opportunities offered by this transformation. According to UNICEF and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as many as two-thirds of the world's children do not have access to the Internet at home.

- **Amplify Societal Inequalities:** Unless we take rapid and concerted action to close this digital divide, AI will radically amplify societal inequalities among children of different races, socio-economic background, genders, and regions.
- **Complexity of technology:** The expansion and deployment of AI is far outpacing our ability to understand its implications, especially its impact on children. Elders themselves hardly understand the complexity of technology which is preventing us to equip children and young people with the knowledge, tools and awareness to protect themselves
- **Dangers of Child abuse:** While video gaming and chat forums offer an online space for children to socialise with their friends, multiple reports identify such virtual playgrounds as “honeypots” for child predators.
- **Challenges with oversight by parents:** Short of banning screen time entirely, parents are hard-pressed to keep tabs on just what their kids are doing online, and with whom. With online homework and both the parents working, this oversight has become even more difficult.
- **Business models causing digital addiction:** AI systems driving many video games and social networks are designed to keep children hooked, both through algorithms and gimmicks like “streaks”, “likes”, infinite scroll, etc. Even if this is an ancillary consequence of the underlying business model, the damage is done — children, from a tender age through adolescence, are becoming digitally addicted.
- **Reduced attention Span & Social Interactions:** Right when they need to be learning concentration skills, emotional and social intelligence, the digital addiction is causing children’s attention to be spliced into ever-thinner slices, and increasingly virtualising their social interactions.
- **Unhealthy Shaping of Worldview:** Similarly, right when children and youth are forming their initial views of the world, they are being sucked into virtual deep space, including the universe of fake news, conspiracy theories, hype, hubris, online bullying, hate speech and the likes
- **Echo Chambers causing intolerance:** An echo chamber is an environment (aided by AI) where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own. Echo chambers can create misinformation and distort a person’s perspective so they have difficulty considering opposing viewpoints and discussing complicated topics.
- **Data Harvesting and Privacy:** AI powered toys can offer playful and creative opportunities for children, with some even promoting enhanced literacy, social skills and language development. However, they also listen and observe our children, soaking up their data, and with no framework to govern its use

Way Ahead- Simultaneously close the digital divide, and safeguard children’s rights in the age of AI

- The next phase of the fourth Industrial Revolution must include an overwhelming push to extend Internet access to all children. Governments, private sector, civil society, parents and children must push hard for this now, before AI further deepens the pre-existing inequalities and creates its own disparities.
- And on mitigating on-line harms, we need a multi-pronged action plan:
 - we need legal and technological safeguards
 - we need greater awareness among parents, guardians and children on how AI works behind the scenes
 - we need tools, like trustworthy certification and rating systems, to enable sound choices on safe AI apps
 - we need to ban anonymous accounts
 - we need enforceable ethical principles of non-discrimination and fairness embedded in the policy and design of AI systems
 - we need “do no harm” risk assessments for all algorithms that interact with children or their data.
 - we need safe online spaces for children, without algorithmic manipulation and with restricted profiling and data collection.
 - we need online tools (and an online culture) that help prevent addiction, promote attention-building skills, that expand children’s horizons, understand and appreciate for diverse perspectives, and build their social-emotional learning capabilities.

Bal Swaraj Portal

- Created by: The [National Commission for Protection of Child Rights](#) (NCPCR)

- **Significance:** NCPCR has developed it as part of its role of a monitoring authority under section 109 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and to address the growing problem of Children being affected by COVID-19.
- **Objective:**
 - Online tracking and
 - Real-time monitoring of Children who have lost both parents/either of the parents during COVID-19 and are in need of care and protection
- **Working:** It will track children affected by COVID-19 right from the production of children before the [Child Welfare Committee \(CWC\)](#) to the restoration of the children to their parent/guardian/relative and its subsequent follow-up.
 - The data will be filled in the portal by the District officers and State officers for each child.

Children's Climate Risk Index: UNICEF

What is Children's Climate Risk Index?

- It is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.
- It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as [Cyclones](#) and [Heatwaves](#), as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.
- Pakistan (14th), Bangladesh (15th), Afghanistan (25th) and India (26th) are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis.

Indian Scenario:

- India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection.
- It is estimated that more than 600 million Indians will face 'acute water shortages' in the coming years, while at the same time [Flash Flooding](#) is to increase significantly in the majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2 Celsius.
- Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most polluted air in 2020 were in India.

Global Scenario:

- Young people living in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau are the most at risk of the impacts of climate change.
- These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education.


What are the Recommendations?

- Increase Investment
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Countries must cut their emissions by at least 45% (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030 to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Provide Climate Education
- Include Young People in Decisions
- Ensure Pandemic Recovery is Inclusive

Way Forward: It calls for commitment, communication and action as part of a comprehensive approach to promote good mental health for every child, protect vulnerable children and care for children facing the greatest challenges.

- Urgent investment in child and adolescent mental health across sectors, not just in health, to support a whole-of-society approach to prevention, promotion and care.
- Integrating and scaling up evidence-based interventions across health, education and social protection sectors – including parenting programmes that promote responsive, nurturing caregiving and support parent and caregiver mental health; and ensuring schools support mental health through quality services and positive relationships.
- Breaking the silence surrounding mental illness, through addressing stigma and promoting better understanding of mental health and taking seriously the experiences of children and young people.

IAS BABA



baba's gurukul

The Guru-shishya Parampara Continues...

Under The Guidance Of **Mohan Sir (Founder, IASbaba)**



Mohan Sir
(Founder, IASbaba)

Gurukul Foundation

(For Freshers)

Above & Beyond Regular Coaching

Gurukul Advanced

A Rigorous & Intensive Test
& Mentorship based Program

Scan Here



to Know More

Chapter 3: Safety Net for Farmers

As in the Agriculture Census, 2015-16, the total number of small and marginal farmers' households in the country stood at 12.56 crore. These small and marginal holdings make up 86.1% of the total holdings.

Farm Credit and Small Farmers

- **Institutional Credit avoids Debt Trap:** To enable small farmers to diversify their crops or improve their income they must have access to credit at reasonable rates of interest. This prevents them from going to private moneylender who charge exorbitant rate of interest leading to debt trap
- **Subsidised Agri-credit Increasing every year:** The central government announces an increase in the target of subsidised agriculture credit limit every year and banks surpass the target. In 2011-12, the target was ₹4.75-lakh crore; now, agri-credit has reached the target of ₹15-lakh crore in 2020-21 with an allocated subsidy of ₹21,175 crore.
- **Agri-credit has become less efficient in delivering agricultural growth:** Unfortunately, while the volume of credit has improved over the decades, its quality and impact on agriculture has only deteriorated. Over 85% of farmers' income remain stagnant over the years.
- **Agri-Credit not reaching Small Farmers:** In the last 10 years, agriculture credit increased by 500% but has not reached even 20% of the 12.56 crore small and marginal farmers. Households with the lowest land holding (up to two hectares) getting only about 15% of the subsidised outstanding loan from institutional sources (bank, co-operative society). The share is 79% for households having land more than two hectares.
- **Agri Machinery still financed by non-subsidised loans:** Despite an increase in agri-credit, even today, 95% of tractors and other agri-implements sold in the country are being financed by NBFCs, at 18% rate of interest or by Banks at 11%.
- **Bulk of subsidised agri-credit is grabbed by big farmers and agri-business companies:** A loose definition of agri-credit has led to the leakage of loans at subsidised rates to large companies in agri-business. In 2017, 53% of the agriculture credit that NABARD provided to Maharashtra was allocated to Mumbai city and suburbs, where there are no agriculturists, only agri-business.
- **Institutional Credit is Unevenly Distributed:** RBI's internal working group in 2019 found that in some States, credit disbursal to the farm sector was higher than their agriculture GDP and the ratio of crop loans disbursed to input requirement was very unevenly distributed. Examples are in Kerala (326%), Andhra Pradesh (254%), Tamil Nadu (245%), Punjab (231%) and Telangana (210%).
- **Diversion of credit for non-agriculture purposes:** The subsidised credit disbursed at a 4%-7% rate of interest is being disbursed to other purposes due to corruption and loopholes in the system. At times these loans are refinanced to small farmers in the open market at a rate of interest of up to 36%.

Farm to the factory is the need of the hour

- **Encouraging Industrial Investment:** Industrial investment should be encouraged in rural and backward areas by offering special incentives. This can ensure an additional income to minimize the dependency on the sole agriculture-based income.
- **Untapped Potential:** Apart from part-time seasonal farming, a small farmer and a farm laborer have sufficient time to work and can earn Rs 12,000-Rs 15,000 a month easily after eight hours of labor in a nearby factory.

Social Security Schemes for Farmers:

NREGA 2005:

- **Goal** – To improve the livelihood security of people in rural areas.
- Universal scheme guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a year to every rural household that expresses a demand.
- It **aims** to guarantee the 'Right to Work'.
- **Implemented by:** Gram panchayat.
- The failure of provision for employment within 15 days of the receipt of a job application will result in the payment of unemployment allowance to the job seekers.
- Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence
- Employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement

Deendyaal Antyaodaya Yojana

- Deendyaal Antyaodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a new name given to Aajeevika – NRLM in November 2015.
- The initiative to move towards a demand-driven strategy enabling the states to formulate their own livelihoods-based poverty reduction action plan is at the core of the mission.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):

- A sub component of the Deendyaal Antyaodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)
- Aims at improving the capacities of women in agriculture to access the resources of other institutions and schemes with a convergence framework.

National Social Assistance programme

- Provides financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.
- **Administered by:** Ministry of Rural Development
- It consists of five sub-schemes:
 - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
 - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
 - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
 - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
 - Annapurna Scheme

PM KISAN:

- To provide income support to the farmers and their families, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY):

- For farmers aged between 18 to 40 years.
- To provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of the consequent loss of livelihood
- LIC is the Pension Fund Manager for PM Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana which provides an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- to all the small and marginal farmers (who own cultivable land up to 2 hectares) after the age of 60 years.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- An insurance service scheme for farmers for their yields which aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
- PMFBY provides financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities.

Way Ahead

- **Promoting Exports:** To increase export from these areas, 50% relaxation in railway freight as freight subsidy can be provided from dry ports.
- **Cluster Approach:** Special incentives are being offered to develop industrial corridors and clusters but this model should be replicated in the rural and backward areas to provide job opportunities to nearby small and marginal farmers and farm labourers.
- **Decentralised Microenterprise Ecosystem:** A distributed, micro-level factory that can produce solopreneurs and micro-enterprises has to be created and supported in the rural areas. For instance, processing and packaging of vegetables for sale in urban malls can be one such micro-enterprise that is labour intensive.
- **Investment in Rural areas:** Promotion of new industrial investment with a special incentive in backward areas to provide new jobs to rural India. Providing jobs to small, marginal farmers and farm labourers in nearby areas will minimise the rural-to-urban migration
- **Direct Income Support:** One way to empower small and marginal farmers is by giving them direct income support on a per hectare basis rather than hugely subsidising credit.
- **Promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO):** Streamlining the agri-credit system to facilitate higher crop loans to farmer producer organisations, or the FPOs of small farmers against commodity stocks can be a win-win model to spur agriculture growth
- **Leveraging Technology:** With mobile phone penetration among agricultural households in India being as high as 89.1%, the prospects of aggressive effort to improve institutional credit delivery through

technology-driven solutions can reduce the extent of the financial exclusion of agricultural households.

- **Promoting New Age Agri-Entrepreneurs:** There are reports that farmers have been able to avail themselves of loans through mobile phone apps. These apps use satellite imagery reports which capture the extent of land owned by farmers in States where land records are digitised and they grow the crop to extend the Kisan Credit Card loans digitally
- **Cooperative Federalism:** Other steps needed are reforming the land leasing framework and creating a national-level agency to build consensus among States and the Centre concerning agriculture credit reforms to fill the gap and reach out to the most number of small and marginal farmers.

Conclusion

- On ground reforms in the agriculture sector through central amended laws will take more time but it is time for a policy and framework to promote industrial investment in rural and backward areas as a job engine for small, marginal farmers and farm labourers.
- It would be the real execution of sab ka saath, sab ka vikas (progress for all), covering more than 60% of the population of the country residing in rural and backward areas.

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

The AIM shall work on its intended target of creating an innovation culture and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.

Objective: To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country via interventions at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.

The AIM has focused on both infrastructure creation and institution building.

Five major initiatives:

- **Atal Tinkering Labs**-Creating a problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
- **Atal Incubation Centers**-Fostering world-class startups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
- **Atal New India Challenges**-Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
- **Mentor India Campaign**– A national Mentor network in collaboration with the public sector, corporates, and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
- **Atal Community Innovation Center**– To stimulate community-centric innovation and ideas in the unserved /underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **ARISE**-To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

The intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are:

- Establishing 10000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs),
- Establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs),
- Establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs) and
- Supporting 200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges

AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship)

It is an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech start-ups & ventures across India.

Key takeaways

- In this regard, AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide program.
- It will be implemented by Venture Center – a non-profit technology business incubator.

- The first cohort of the program is open to technology developers with strong science-based deep tech business ideas.
- It is also open to CEOs and Senior incubation managers of AIM Funded Atal Incubation Centers that are supporting deep tech entrepreneurs.

Do you know?

- Deep technology is an outcome of very intense research and development (R&D) with high knowledge content.
- The benefits of this program are aimed at addressing specific issues through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.

Chapter 4: Sustainable Economic Growth

The latest warnings have come in the second part of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report which talks about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.

What does the latest IPCC report say?

- **Sectoral & Regional Assessment:** The latest report has for the first time, made an assessment of regional and sectoral impacts of climate change.
- **Granular information:** It has included risks and vulnerabilities of, mega-cities around the world. For example, it has said Mumbai is at high risk of sea-level rise and flooding, while Ahmedabad faces serious danger of heat-waves.
- **Health Impact:** Also for the first time, the IPCC report has looked at the health impacts of climate change. It has found that climate change is increasing vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as malaria or dengue, particularly in sub-tropical regions of Asia.
 - It has also said deaths related to circulatory, respiratory, diabetic and infectious diseases, as well as infant mortality, are likely to increase with a rise in temperature.
- **Inadequate action:** It points out that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. Also, most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term.
- **Urgency of Adaptation:** The report has said that while strong actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term, in the next 20 years, would substantially reduce the threats, and the projected damages, they would not eliminate them all. The need to take adaptation measures is therefore very important, the report has stressed.
- Average annual global GHG emissions were at their highest levels in human history between 2010 and 2019. But the rate of growth of these emissions has slowed down.
- Since 2010, there have been sustained decreases of up to 85 per cent in the costs of solar and wind energy and batteries. This, along with an increasing range of policies and laws, has enhanced energy efficiency, reduced rates of deforestation and accelerated the use of renewable energy.

Why has IPCC stressed on adaptation?

- Climate change adaptation means altering our behavior, systems, and—in some cases—ways of life to protect our families, our economies, and the environment in which we live from the impacts of climate change.
- The report has said the gaps in adaptation was a result of lack of funds and political commitment, and also the absence of reliable information and a sense of urgency.
- It has pointed out that there were “feasible and effective” adaptation but the effectiveness of these options decreases sharply with further increases in temperature.
- Adaptation is essential to reduce harm, but if it is to be effective, it must go hand in hand with ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions

IPCC report and India

- Noting that over 3.5 billion people, over 45% of the global population, were living in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, the report identifies India as one of the **vulnerable hotspots**.

- Lucknow and Patna are among the cities predicted to reach **wet-bulb temperatures** – an index of the impact of heat and humidity combined – of 35°C while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are at risk of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions. This will have consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity.
- Extreme weather led to **cereal production loss** of 9-10 % (1964-2007). In India, rice production may decrease 30% and maize production will decrease 70%, if global warming over pre-industrial levels rises to 4°C from 1°C, the IPCC analysis found.
- With higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres this century and 5m by 2150. India is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of the population that will be **affected by sea-level rise**.
- By the middle of the century, around 35 million of its people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high.

Key Highlights

- IPCC report on Mitigation of Climate Change scientifically establishes India's position on the **historical responsibility of developed countries** for consuming the carbon budget
- Report underlines the need for deep and urgent global emissions reduction and justifies India's emphasis on **equity at all scales in climate action and sustainable development**. Equity remains a central element in the UN climate regime, notwithstanding shifts in differentiation between states over time and challenges in assessing fair shares. Equity is essential for
 - The social and economic transformation required for climate mitigation,
 - Manage the negative consequences of climate mitigation on vulnerable populations,
 - Enable just transition towards low-emissions development,
 - And ensure sustainable development.
- Report endorses India's position on the **need for scale, scope and speed in climate finance**;
 - Tracked financial flows fall short of the levels needed to achieve mitigation goals across all sectors and regions. The challenge of closing gaps is largest in developing countries as a whole.
 - Public finance falls short of the Copenhagen (reiterated when the Paris Agreement was signed) goal of USD 100 billion per year by 2020.
 - Accelerated financial support for developing countries from developed countries and other sources is a critical enabler to enhance mitigation action and address inequities in access to finance, including its costs, terms and conditions and economic vulnerability to climate change for developing countries.
- Four-fifths of the **total carbon budget** for 1.5 deg C temperature increase and two-thirds of the total carbon budget for 2 deg C warming has been already consumed
 - Both cumulative and per capita annual emissions rose during the pre-2020 period. Pre-2020 emissions reduction in developed countries has been insufficient in comparison to the developing world's needs for sustainable development.
 - Both historical cumulative emissions and per capita annual emissions show that India's role (as part of South Asia) is minimal.
- The Report endorses India's view on the need for curbing unsustainable consumption.
 - Changes in lifestyle and behaviours have a significant role to play in mitigating climate change.
 - India was instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of "climate justice" and "sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production" in the preamble of the Paris Agreement.
 - India believes that utilization of resources must be based on 'Mindful and Deliberate Utilization' and NOT 'Mindless and Destructive Consumption'. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave a clarion call of [L.I.F.E. – Lifestyles for Environment](#) at [COP26 at Glasgow](#).

Initiatives by India:

India has taken tremendous actions to address the threat of global climate change by taking several initiatives including, inter-alia,

- Setting up of [International Solar Alliance](#)
- Coalition for [Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#)
- ['One Sun, One World, One Grid'](#)
- [Infrastructure for Resilient Island States](#)

- Raising the domestic renewable energy target to [500 GW by 2030](#)
- Putting in place an ambitious [National Hydrogen Mission](#)
- ...and continuing efforts to decouple its emissions from economic growth.

India's New Climate Action Goals at COP26

1. India will take its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
2. India will meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
3. India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till 2030.
4. By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45 percent.
5. By the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero.

To strengthen adaptation and resilience, India can do the following:

- **Improvise Prediction Models:** First, it can be more prepared for climate change with high-quality meteorological data. With improved early warning systems and forecasting, we can tackle the crisis better. Premier research institutes can be roped in to develop regional climate projections for robust risk assessments.
- **Promoting Environmentally Friendly Products:** Second, for sustainable production systems, it is necessary to develop well-functioning markets for environmentally friendly products and disseminate them for the desired behavioural change.
- **Involve Private Sector:** Third, it is important to encourage private sector participation for investment in adaptation technologies and for designing and implementing innovative climate services and solutions in areas such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, insurance and risk management.
- **Tapping into traditional knowledge:** Fourth, we need to protect mangroves and forests to address climate-related risks by blending traditional knowledge with scientific evidence and encourage local and non-state actors to actively participate.
- **Establish Feedback Mechanisms:** Fifth, for continuous monitoring and evaluation, effective feedback mechanisms must be developed for mid-course correction. Periodic fine-tuning of State Action Plans on Climate Change is needed to design appropriate responses & proper resource allocation.

The Answer lies in –

A. The GRID approach

The solution is to adopt a **Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach** that pursues poverty reduction and shared prosperity with a long-term sustainability lens. This approach sets a recovery path that

- Maintains a line of sight to long-term development goals
- Recognizes the interconnections between people, the planet, and the economy
- Tackles risks in an integrated way

A green recovery will not just be beneficial for combating climate change but also offer the best economic returns for government spending and yield development outcomes. The GRID approach is novel in two respects.

- First, the GRID approach pays particular attention to their **interrelationships** and thus, on the **cross-sectoral nature of critical development policies**.
- Second, achieving GRID implies simultaneously and systematically addressing **sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness**.

GRID is a balanced approach focused on development and sustainability and tailored to each country's needs and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) objectives. Such a path will achieve lasting economic growth that is shared across the population, providing a robust recovery and restoring momentum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

B. Climate Fintech:

- **Innovative ways to mitigate Climate change:** Providing consumers with paperless and digital financial experiences, fostering innovative and introducing new approaches to dealing with climate data and services.
- **Climate-focused digital point-of-sale:** Enable consumers and businesses to transfer a portion of their profits to reduce carbon footprints and focus on clean energy via online investment apps.
- **Digital banking:** Wooden and plant-based payment cards have recently hit the market, with transaction data automatically tracking the carbon footprint.

- **Emission APIs:** FinTechs have created APIs to assist businesses in launching carbon-neutral products and services that offset carbon emissions while also tracking sustainability.
- **Climate-focused Investments:** Wealth and investment platforms provide transparency and optimise their portfolios to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and fossil fuel divestment, among other things.
- **Blockchain for carbon markets:** Carbon markets use blockchain technology to provide transparency by offering tokens to reduce the impact of carbon emissions through the purchase of carbon credits.

RURAL CONNECTIVITY

Chapter 5: Transforming Rural Connectivity

India has more than 6.5 lakh villages and around 69 percent of the total population amounting to around 89 crores live in rural areas. Providing sufficient and quality infrastructure is the key to achieving the objectives of equitable and inclusive growth with social justice improvement and improvement of the rural socio-economic conditions.

Highways are the arteries through which the economy pulses. By linking producers to markets, workers to jobs, students to school, and the sick to hospitals, roads are vital to any development agenda. Across the world, highways are seen as drivers of economic growth. They connect cities, transport goods and help bring people together. The roads such as national expressway, and golden quadrilateral in India have had an enormous positive spillover effect on regional and national development.

Economic development of any region depends on various factors like factors of production, geographical conditions, political stability and most importantly logistical operations. Well-connected rural road is the lynchpin for a sustainable rural development and growth.

5.1. PMGSY – Changing nature of India's Rural Roads

PMGSY was launched in December, 2000 with an objective to provide **single all-weather road connectivity** to eligible unconnected habitation of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001) for overall socio-economic development of the areas. 97% of the eligible and feasible habitations have already been connected by an all-weather road.

- Part of the poverty reduction strategy of the Government of India
- So far, 1,57,376 habitations have been covered under PMGSY
- Remaining are proposed for completion by September 2022.

Salient aspects:

- **Promotes the use of new and green technology** in the process of rural road construction. Locally available materials are used in road construction activities to promote cost-effective and fast construction. Under PMGSY the States and Union Territories (UTS) are to mandatorily construct roads by using waste plastic, fly-ash, iron copper slag, etc. The use of cold mix and geotextiles are a prominent feature in road construction. Cold mix technology uses cold mix binders (where heating of bitumen is not required) resulting in savings on fuel and is also better for the environment.
- **PMGSY'S Electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads (eMARG)** focuses on safe and durable upkeep of PMGSY roads and involves performance-based evaluation of roads for provisioning and maintenance.

Socio-economic Impacts of National Highways

- **Human capital-** One of the low literacy levels and less participation in higher education in rural areas, especially among girls citing safety reasons and lack of prompt health services are due to lack of connectivity to mainland. Only a healthy and skilled person can contribute well to rural development. It also affects Rural-urban migration in search of employment
- **Transfer of goods and marketing** – Lack of logistical operations due to poor road development makes transport of capital goods and raw materials and also finished products from agro sector and MSME sectors (in which rural people are predominantly dependent on) to the destination affects the profit.

- **Vulnerability** – Bad roads during natural hazards and disasters would make rural people more susceptible to attacks and makes movements difficult and destroys the economical sectors- like clogs water during floods and causes soil erosion
- **Infrastructure and investment** – Poor connected roads does not invite new industries and investment to the rural area. It also affects infrastructural development like school, hospital building due to lack of logistical support.
- **Promote industrialization**- Industries and highways often exist in pairs. Industries can avail better logistic facilities through a good highway network.
- **Employment generation**- Highway construction and associated ancillary industries create employment opportunities in the area.
- **Regional growth**- It has been observed that a greater economic activity is found near highways and thus results in the growth of the respective region.
- **Social capital**- Highways also contribute immensely to social growth, relatives are able to visit their loved ones more often and it enhances good relationships between family and friends.

India also witnessed the above mention positive spillover impacts like:

- Small and large towns have crop up on the major routes, not just along the national highway but also along other major roads i.e. State highways and rural roads. Rise of cities such as Ankleshwar, Pali, Khopoli is mainly due to national highways.
- The 1% increase in density in a region close to the highway road, and also leads to about a 0.8% increase in its neighbouring region's density. For example the creation of Mumbai- Pune expressway led to the development of satellite towns such as Pimpri Chinchwad, Aundh etc.
- There are spillovers in activity from one region to its neighbour. The development in commercial hubs such as Pune, and Bangalore gives rise to MSME industries in neighbouring areas.
- In the two decades, since the early 1990s, regions along the transit networks are the first to develop, after which activity spreads to their neighbours, and then their neighbors' neighbours. Thus, the path taken by the road determines the geographic spread of economic activity across the country.
- As early as 1992, one can see areas along the national highway seem to be more developed than those further away. This is especially true for regions closer to Mumbai, and then the portion between Bangalore and Chennai. By 1997, the region on the road between Mumbai and Bangalore develops, and activity spreads to regions adjacent to the places that were rich in 1992, highlighting the pattern of spillovers.
- Access to better infrastructure, therefore, can have significantly large impacts on the overall development of the region. It improves health care, education, migration, and cultural exchanges as well.

However, there are various negative consequences of highway development too:

- **Destruction of habitats:** This has been seen in highways being carved out of mountains in tunnel forms. It makes the terrain fragile especially in landslide prone regions of Western ghats and Himalayas
- **Loss of Natural Resources** due to road development.
- **Loss of Access to Common Property:** Many farmers lose some of the most productive lands to highways development. This affects their livelihood. Also, many landless labourers who were dependent upon agriculture gets uprooted.
- **Displacement:** Tribal displacements due to highways and Dams has been a consanguinity theme in Indian development history. For example: Bhil tribe was displaced due to Jaipur Ajmer highway.

Development of Highways brings multiple socio-economic benefits to the rural areas which form a strong base of the National economy and it is a powerful instrument for the socio-economic transformation of the cities and villages. Further to avoid negative externalities such as displacement and loss of productive land there is need for better Impact assessment studies

5.2. BharatNet – Bringing Broadband to Rural India

BharatNet is government's flagship rural broadband connectivity project that would eventually lead to '1.5 billion Indians being connected to the Internet over the next two years'. In 2014, the Narendra Modi government inherited the National Optical Fibre Network initiative that had been launched in 2011, rebranded

it as 'BharatNet', and introduced several changes to its structure and operations. It was then given a new impetus by making it a pillar of the Digital India programme.

About BharatNet

- Goal: To provide high-speed broadband connectivity to the 250,000-plus village panchayats spread across India's 6,600 blocks and 640 districts.
- It is to act as a middle-mile network from blocks to panchayats allowing Internet service providers (ISPs), local cable operators, and other agencies to use its bandwidth and incremental fibre.
- In doing so, it will facilitate access to e-governance, telemedicine, e-education, and other digital services at the primary level of village administration.
- Since 2017, the project has also sought to provide last-mile connectivity by setting up Wi-Fi hotspots in villages.

The current scenario

Bharatnet has the potential to transform rural India. Unfortunately, almost since inception, its progress has been marred by operational setbacks, poor execution, incessant delays, and the lack of a coherent strategy for engaging with stakeholders.

A. Quality of service:

- Of the 250,000 village panchayats that were to have functional broadband by 2020, roughly 70 percent has optical fibre cable (OFC) connection installed, but only around 65 percent are actually *connected* to the OFC.
- The quality of service at panchayats has come in for severe criticism.
- The project's own attempts to offer last-mile connectivity via Wi-Fi have faltered—only a fraction of the expected number of hotspots has been installed, and the majority of them do not work.
- Panchayats across India have long complained of frequent line faults, excessive downtime, and the near-customary lack of response to service requests.

B. Stakeholder engagement

- Until very recently BharatNet had made no serious attempt to collaborate with the private sector.
- Historically, it has demonstrated a clear bias towards the selection of central public sector undertakings to manage its implementation.
- When in June 2021— BharatNet chose to 'course correct' and started the process of entering into a PPP with private stakeholders, the private sector has responded with cautious interest. Companies know they are being called in to fix the failures and stasis of nearly a decade.
- It is not the private sector alone that has been neglected. Even state governments and BharatNet's own state-level administrators have been left exasperated by the experience of coordinating with the project's central command.

C. Shifting deadlines

- BharatNet's timelines for implementation have been in a perpetual flux. Experts concur that progress on the optical fibre network project between 2011 and 2014 was unsatisfactory.
- The Modi government declared that within the next 1,000 days every village in India would be connected by OFC.
- Eight states—including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana—have felt compelled to create special purpose vehicles to implement the project themselves, giving rise to breakaway 'state-led models' of execution.

The Way Forward

In his book "Tools and Weapons: The Promise and the Peril of the Digital Age" (2019), Microsoft President Brad Smith describes rural broadband as 'the electricity of the 21st century'. As Smith goes on to say, broadband is 'fundamental to the way people work, live, and learn. The future of medicine is telemedicine. The future of education is online education. And the future of farming is precision farming. [...] And that requires broadband'. To achieve this –

- Quality of service must be improved radically for end users at panchayats and villages. This is likely to involve an overhaul of the existing workflow for operations and maintenance, and the institution of a stringent system of oversight and accountability for suppliers. Moreover, a mechanism for regular feedback from local communities about service quality must be put in place.
- BharatNet must incentivise the private sector in every way possible to ensure PPPs come into effect, and private players assume the onerous task of expanding, operating, maintaining, and utilising the OFC network.

- It is imperative that BharatNet engage systematically with state governments and perceive them as equal partners. That would make it not just the largest initiative of its kind on the planet, but also a global model for tech infrastructure development within a federal system.

An enormous amount of work lies ahead for BharatNet. But if an urgent, concerted effort is made to steer the project back on course, it could yet become the game changer for rural connectivity that it was always meant to be. Supported by strong political will, multi-stakeholder cooperation at every level, and immediate steps to weed out the accumulated inefficiencies of earlier years, BharatNet could live up to its promise of enabling a digital India.

5.3. Strengthening Rural Health Services in India

- Adoption of telemedicine & connecting communities to health services through e-health services.
- Embedding comprehensive healthcare management in nursing and medical education to efficiently serve rural communities.
- Creating cadres of health professionals from the rural areas themselves who can be trained to deliver essential and basic health services is of the essence to ensure sufficient human resources in rural areas.
- Providing accommodation and a supporting ecosystem for medical doctors and their families
- Focusing on social determinants of health will also be critical for having an impact on the health of the rural population.

For prenatal care

Government intervention improving the parental care in rural areas:

- **Auxiliary Nurse Midwife:** ANM, is a village-level female health worker in India who is known as the first contact person between the community and the health services helping mothers in critical care.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** providing pregnant women absolutely free ante-natal check-ups, delivery including C-section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.
- **Institutional Births:** Institutional births have increased substantially from 79% to 89% at all-India Level.
- **Establishment of Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSU) and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) units** for care of sick and small babies.
- **Breastfeeding Children:** Exclusive breastfeeding to children under age 6 months has shown an improvement in all-India level from 55% in 2015-16 to 64% in 2019-21. All the phase-II States/UTs are also showing considerable progress.

Despite several efforts key challenges of parental care in Rural India still persist:

- Child care in the rural area suffer from multiple deprivations related to poverty, malnutrition, access to quality health services, lack of sanitation facilities, hygiene, and access to improved water.
- Acute shortage of trained medical personnel, poor health infrastructure, and service delivery (particularly in rural areas).
- High levels of inequality in access to healthcare and sanitation levels between rural and urban areas.
- Low awareness, illiteracy, early marriages, and multiple pregnancies of women impact the health of newborns.
- Lack of institutional delivery practices, and breastfeeding practices impacting mother and child health.
- As per NFHS 5 incidence of anemia in under-5 children has worsened in all States of India.

Way Forward:

- Address health equity through universal health coverage so that all children are able to access essential health services without undue financial hardship
- Address priority maternal and child health problems by strengthening health systems at PHCs, anganwadis, etc.
- Prioritize the essential elements of child health and nutrition services such as breastfeeding immunization etc.
- To increase access, coverage, and quality of child health services, strategic direction and an optimal mix of community and facility-based care is required.

All the best
Team IASbaba 😊

TLP+ Mains Test Series 2022

**Toppers
Recommended**



22 UPSC Level Mocks
(8 Sectional, 6 Essay, 2 FLT's)



**Detailed Synopsis Along
With Strategy Classes**



1:1 Mentorship



Flexible Tests



**Discussion Classes
After Test**



Mainspedia
(Access Important Issues Of
Last 1 Year In Answer Writing
Format At One Place)



**The Program Begins On
June 13th**

REGISTER NOW