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## KURUKSHETRA

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## RESURGENT RURAL INDIA – KURUKSHETRA

### Introduction:

As Gandhiji says that India's survival depends on the well-being of its villages, it is the need of the hour to make rural India a focal point for the development.

In order to improve the rural India, policy and awareness are to be created in wide prospects. To develop the rural India, the well-being of women and children needs a special space. Thus, in the process of improving and empowering the rural economy there comes some new visions in the field of Agriculture, Infrastructure, skill development, health and education.

### New Priorities for Agriculture:

About 55% population engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Therefore Agri-centric rural development is the key for transforming rural lives.

Two main initiatives taken by govt in the view to empower rural economy are

- ✓ Schemes towards crop Productivity enhancement
  - ✓ Doubling farm income
1. Schemes like soil health card, Paramparagat Krishi vikas Yojana, Pradhan mantri Krishi sinchayi Yojana, promoting scientific agriculture through micro irrigation are useful in the enhancement of crop productivity.
  2. Doubling farmers income is imperative rather than being an option. To double the income of farmers by 2022 in nominal terms, which do not take inflation into account, which would require 15% compounded income growth rate.
  3. To achieve this several initiatives such as subsidizes to all kharif crop by at least 1.5 times, diversification of Agriculture, Promotion of intensive vegetable production. Better market price realization, development of warehouse for reducing post harvest loss etc., have been taken.
  4. Though meaning full schemes and programs there is a slow progress in the quality of life of farmers. This is mainly due to lack of co-ordination between centre and state.

5. Slow implementation of M.S. Swaminathan headed national commission on farmer's recommendations.
6. Agriculture being placed in state subject hinders the co-ordination between centre and the state. so it is better to be placed in concurrent subject.
7. As per CAG suggestions, account of all private insurance companies should be made public.
8. The above are some of the suggestion towards achieving the Governments goal towards the rural Economy.

### **Skill development and Employment for Rural Youth:**

- World banks says, that about 13 million people enter the working age every year but only 3 million new jobs are created. The demographic advantage being predominantly in rural areas, the need of the hour is to improve the skill set of labour force.
- In Order to reap the demographic dividend of the workforce it is essential to reskill and upskill the potential of the labour force.
- Government Initiatives like National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship focuses on speed, standard and sustainability. Government also implemented certain guidelines such as specifies the input standards, outcomes, funding norms, fund flow mechanism, mechanism for monitoring & Tracking and empanelment of training providers and assessors.
- Some of the programmes launched for skilling up of rural youths are Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana as it provides short term training to the job seekers as well as recognition of prior Learning to the existing workforce.
- To focus the tribal population schemes such as Bru Project, Katkari primitive tribe, skilling in odisha, Project Yuva are some of the skilling initiatives.
- Under Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, youths are provided option to register themselves for skilling via the App "Kaushal Panjee". Project Himayat & Udaan focuses on work force of J & K.

- Apart from skilling, the capital to start Business also encouraged through Mudra Yojana for Entrepreneurs.

## **Reforming Elementary Education in Rural Area:**

- Education is the most important tool for social, economic and political transformation. Literacy in India is still below 80% which makes the educational as a major concern. There are many rural villages without accessible to formal education.
- The Overall goal of education includes universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps and enhancement of learning levels of children.
- Though education improves in India, there have been a concern of quality of education offered in these schools. Recognizing the needed focus on quality, government initiated the 'Swayam' platform for teachers to do self-assessment test and get clarified with their doubts through this platform.
- As Schooling is considered as the basement to build up a responsible citizen, government initiated Swachha Vidhyalaya Puraskar in order to sensitize children towards Cleanliness and imbibe hygienic habits and practices. An educated society is an essential pre-requisite tool for a developed society. As a Young India is rearing to progress, a strong foundation needs to be built with provisions of quality education for its future generation.

## **Bolstering Road Network in Rural Area:**

- For the success of any programme three 'A' 's are important (i.e) Availability, Affordability and Accessibility. Thus an efficient, reliable, safe and quality road infrastructure is an essential component for the execution of well throughout development strategies.
- Rural road network comprises of about 70% of total road network in the country and it is growing rapid in recent years. It is achieved through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

- To Improve the livelihood of the poor some initiatives are taken. They are in good progress due to delivering at door steps. Some suggestions provided to make the road sustainable are :

- ✓ Pragmatic Planning
- ✓ Mere construction is not enough, maintenance of asset created is equally important.
- ✓ It is well established that road safety relies.

On 5E's Engineering of roads, Engineering of vehicles, Education and awareness of citizen especially drivers and other rural road users, Enforcement of traffic rules and Emergency post-accident care.

## Telecom Connectivity in Rural India:

- Inclusive growth brings the socio- economic political equality among the people. To achieve this it is essential to focus on the rural infrastructure. It is found that if increase in stock of infrastructure is associated with 1% increase in GDP.
- Rural India is being viewed as the next major potential market for internet broad band enabled service. Because 75% of new internet users are from rural areas.
- Rural e-Health, e-entertainment, e-commerce, e-agriculture and digital financial inclusion will greatly benefit from new technologies.

Government's financial inclusion drivers (Jan Dhan Yojana) Coupled with the unique national identity system and ubiquity of mobile phones in India have given a big boost to App based payments and financial services for rural India eg. Rupay card.

Some technology that benefits rural population are:

- ✓ Kisan Suvidha – to empower farmers
- ✓ Smart Gaon – for the betterment of quality of people living in Rural Areas.

- ✓ Apps like My Gov that allows citizen to interface with government.
- ✓ Technologies like IOT has several applications in sustainable rural development.

The applications are:

1. Sustainable Land and Water resource Management
2. Food Security
3. Disaster Management
4. Public Health.

In order to move towards advanced technology, government enable the delivery of high speed broad band connectivity to rural areas via Bharat Net.

### Health conditions of rural India:

Government announced 2 important intervention to provide health to all at their door steps. They are

1. Creation of Health and wellness centre that will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.
2. National Health Protection scheme, which cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
3. Under Ayushman Bharat Programme, it is planned to open such health & wellness centre in 115 district across the country. They will be known as aspirational districts.
4. Though health cares are in good progress there are some hurdles to achieve 100% health coverage. One of the main hurdle is that there is no enough hospitals, doctors, nurses and health works. Since health is the state subject there is disparities and inequalities in the quality of care and accessibility to health care between two states.
5. Right to health is a basic right. Hence to implement the health coverage effectively there are some hurdles to overcome. They are as follows:



- ✓ In Health and wellness centre the greater responsibility would be on middle level health professionals because they will be the first contact person. Hence these persons should have minimum skills and relevant experience in health sector.
- ✓ Other Important hurdles in Ayushman Bharat is the speedy implementation and speedy clearness of insurance. Because the earlier insurance schemes were not benefitted people effectively due to their poor implementation and delayed process.

## Sanitation:

- It is well known fact that inadequate sanitation pollutes environment, causes disease, kills people. Thus the popular Swachh Bharat Mission was launched. Aim of the Mission is to attain country wide open – defecation free status in 5 Years.
- Swachhta Raths, Rallies, Marathons, felicitation of Champions, mass mobilization of communities across the rural hinterland are carried out for triggering behaviour change.
- UNICEF estimates that lack of sanitation is responsible for the death of 1,00,000 children in India annually. World bank estimated that lack of sanitation costs India over 6% of it GDP
- So under ambitious Swachh Bharat Mission, the rural sanitation coverage has more than doubled since the launch of the mission from 39% to 84% .
- India's sanitation issues is not just about open defecation and there are larger issues like poorly maintained drains in the country and lack of proper sewage disposal that creates the environment unhealthy and pollute rivers.

## Empowering women & Children in India:

- To empower the society, it is essential to empower the vulnerable section of that society particularly children and women.
- Ministry of women and child Development has launched and effectively implemented several mammoth initiatives like Beti bacho beti Padhao, National Nutrition Mission, SABLA, etc., in order to enhance the status of the women.



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- Apart from the schemes some other initiatives such as passage of maternity Benefit Amendment act 2016, Draft Anti – Trafficking bill etc., helps to increase the participation of women in the society.
- In order to improve the security of women, Nirbhaya fund have been set up. New Taxi Policy Guidelines have been put in place with much improved Safety measures.
- Railway child line, Khoya – paya for reporting missing children has been launched to provide security for the children.

## Conclusion:

To Build New India, it is essential to focus on the rural India which holds the major population. Government also focus well for overall growth of the economy by improving the rural economy. Without an empowered farmer, the dream of New India will remain unfulfilled.