

Welfare Schemes for the Vulnerable Section of the Population

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this Chapter, you will learn about:

- Human Resource
- Education
- Health and Family Welfare
- Poverty Alleviation
- Food Security and Hunger Elimination
- Welfare Initiatives for Women (MCWD)

14.1 HUMAN RESOURCE

14.1.1 Introduction

The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all, across all levels from primary to university level, for which reforms are undertaken in the education sector as a continuous and ongoing process. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976, brought about a fundamental change by transferring education from the State List to the Concurrent List recognizing the federal structure of our country and giving equal responsibility to both the Central and State Governments to promote education. Recognizing the centrality of states both in policy formulation and effective implementation of education reforms, the Ministry of HRD has been regularly convening meetings of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE), which is a composite body and is also the highest advisory body on education. All the schemes implemented by the Government of India are in consultation with the States which meet regularly through the meetings of CABE. Similarly, all reform initiatives are also through consensus evolved between the Centre and the States through the CABE.

Presently, various initiatives, such as, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), ICT in Schools, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE), Shaala

Siddhi, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan are being implemented which envisage significant reforms in the elementary education and secondary education. In higher education also, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, Campus Connect Programme, Uchchatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education in the country. A number of initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement in higher and technical education. With a view to improving the competitiveness of the higher educational institutions, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched.

The recent budget announcements refer to reforms in UGC for promoting greater administrative and academic autonomy and revised framework for outcome-based accreditation and credit-based programmes; leveraging Information Technology and launching 350 online courses through SWAYAM platform; and establishing a National Testing Agency to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions.

It is to be noted that necessary budgetary allocations are provided both for effective implementation of the schemes and also for the proposed reform initiatives.

Currently, the process of formulating a New Education Policy is underway which may propose several reforms in examinations, governance, regulation, school standards, teachers & faculty, literacy and lifelong learning, skills and employability, quality assurance, internationalization, research, curricula, innovation, etc., so as to build an education system that promotes equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society.

14.1.2 Making Higher Education Relevant to the Needs of Society and Industry

The UGC has informed that it has launched the following schemes for making higher education relevant to the needs of the society and industry, namely: Career Oriented Courses (COC), Community Colleges (CC), introduction of degrees in vocational subjects and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood (KAUSHAL) centres in line with National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF). The UGC, through collaboration with National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), has undertaken e-content development of postgraduate programmes called e-PG Pathashala.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) undertakes maintenance of standards in teaching and research and quality assurance in Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Colleges through the following mechanisms, namely: framing regulations and schemes and; disbursing grants to the eligible institutions. The UGC has notified several regulations with the objective of sustenance and improvement in the quality of higher education and for undertaking academic reforms. The regulations are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/UGC-Regulations.aspx>. In order to encourage research and development in the country, UGC has laid out schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research, covering areas of knowledge across disciplines, including revival and promotion of indigenous languages. These schemes are at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/XII-Plan-Guidelines.aspx>.

The Central Government has launched several initiatives, such as, National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT),

Uchchatar Avishkar Yojna (UAY), Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in the field of education for the qualitative development of education in the country. Under the NIRF, Educational Institutions will be ranked by an independent ranking Agency for which objective criteria has been developed. They shall be ranked separately in fields such as Engineering, Management, Pharma, Architecture, etc. Under the IMPRINT initiative, the Government has taken the initiative to address major engineering challenges through the collaborative efforts of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Under this, a roadmap is finalised to pursue engineering challenges in 10 technology domains that have large social impact. The objectives of UAY scheme are to promote innovation in IITs addressing issues of manufacturing industries; to spur innovative mindset; to coordinate action between academia and industry and to strengthen labs and research facilities. GIAN scheme is for facilitating partnership between higher educational institutions of the country and other countries. The scheme is aimed at tapping international talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs.

The Central Government is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for strategic funding and reforms in the State Higher Education sector.

14.1.3 Initiatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development

One of the major achievements, which Ministry of Human Resource Development accomplished during the year 2015, includes achievement of 100% target of completion of construction of separate toilets for boys and girls in schools under Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan within 1 year of the announcement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on August 15, 2014. The year will also be known for technical advancement made by the Ministry by laying emphasis on ICT, leading to launch of a number of initiatives like e-pathshala, Saransh, Shala Siddhi, Shaala Darpan, availability of NCERT books on mobile app, etc.

The year 2015 also saw the Government of India's sincere efforts towards bringing out a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge super-power by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. New Education Policy is being framed after a gap of 23 years.

For the first time, the Government of India is embarking on a time-bound grassroots consultative process, which will enable the Ministry of Human Resource Development to reach out to individuals across the country through over 2.75 lakh direct consultations while also taking input from citizens online.

The year will also be remembered because of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, cracking the top 100 in world University ranking as per *Times High Education* ranking for 2015–16 and IIT, Delhi, also figuring in the top 200 list of QS. It has sent a strong message to other Indian Technical Institutes to better their performance in the key areas of academics research and faculty enrichment. A glimpse of major achievements and initiatives of the Department of Higher Education and the Department of School Education & Literacy is given as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

A number of flagship schemes were launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy in the current year.

Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat: It is a sub-programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan launched in August, 2014, with special focus on improving language development and to create interest in mathematics. The two tracks of Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat are: Early reading and writing with comprehension (ERWC) and early mathematics (EM).

As a follow-up to the foundational programme, in 2015–16 a programme called the *National Reading Initiative* was launched to develop and promote the habit of reading among students in elementary schools, thereby extending the programme up to Class 8. States were provided token funds to plan and implement innovative activities to promote reading. States have designed specific interventions targeting children in Classes 1 and 2 to improve learning outcomes. There are a variety of focussed programmes being currently implemented across the country.

Children with Special Needs: With the active support by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, over 25 lakh children with special needs have been enrolled in elementary education. In order to equip teachers to facilitate classroom transaction and teaching learning of children with special needs, material on curricular adaptations for inclusive classrooms has been developed by NCERT. This material in the form of two handbooks has been developed for teachers both at the primary and upper primary level. All teachers across the country are being oriented in practising such classroom adaptations through teacher training.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan: The RMSA guidelines provide for augmenting secondary school infrastructure through construction of additional classrooms, laboratories, toilet blocks, drinking water, libraries, etc. Till date, 10,513 new schools have been approved under the scheme. The RMSA Scheme has been revised to subsume the schemes of ICT @schools, Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage, and Girls Hostels from the financial year 2014–15. The Integrated RMSA scheme extends the benefit to aided Secondary schools (excluding infrastructure support and teachers and staff salaries) for quality interventions.

The Teacher Education Bureau is focusing on the following main components for improving the quality of teacher education:

1. **National Curriculum Framework of Teacher Education (NCFTE 2009):** The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has prepared the National Curriculum Framework of Teacher Education (NCFTE 2009). This framework has been prepared in the background of the NCF, 2005, and the principles laid down in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
2. **In-STEP: Capacity Building Program of Teacher Educators:** Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and USAID have formulated the In-STEP programme (India Support to Teacher Education Program) under which 110 teacher educators from the eastern and northeastern part of the country have undergone a 3-month fellowship at Arizona State University with the clear purpose of understanding issues related to teacher education.

In addition, the **TESS-India** is another programme for Teacher Educators with collaboration between Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of HRD with UK's Open University as the implementing agency.

3. The **Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE)** puts emphasis on monitoring of the process and outcome parameters in respect of each level of institution, and for the purpose a comprehensive monitoring mechanism has been

developed thereof. Joint Review Mission is a part of this monitoring mechanism. Joint Review Missions consisting of experts in Teacher Education have been sent to majority of the states to ensure effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education.

New activities/initiatives under CSSTE Scheme are as follows:

- (i) **Enhanced use of E-Governance** in Teacher Education by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for better regulation of the sector.
- (ii) **Accreditation for Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)** by National Council for Teacher Education for better management and improved quality of teacher education.
- (iii) **Mapping of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)** by NCTE to identify the gap areas for effective future planning.

Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education in India: It was launched on 8th March 2015. The tool will help identify low-performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalised groups.

Udaan: This Scheme is dedicated to the development of girl child education, so as to promote the admission of girl students. It seeks to enhance the enrolment of girl students in prestigious technical education institutions through incentives and academic support.

"Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" programme, launched on January 20, 2015, has ushered in to encourage education among girl children. The programme is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Saransh: The CBSE Board has launched an on-line facility titled 'Saransh' for affiliated and CBSE schools on 2nd November, 2014. It helps the schools to look at their performance at an aggregate level and at the level of each student. It is an online self-review tool for schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). It allows schools to identify areas of improvement in students, teachers and curriculum and take necessary measures to implement change. It also provides schools with a view of overall and individual student's performance in academic and extracurricular activities.

Curriculum for yoga from classes VI to X was released on the occasion of *International Yoga Day in June 2015*.

Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan was launched on 9th July 2015. This programme is directed towards creating interest among school-going students from classes I to XII in sciences. Model labs would be created all over the country for this purpose. The key activities under this programme include mentoring of elementary and secondary schools by institutions of higher education; forming Maths and Science clubs for children at school and professional development of teachers in order to make teaching of Maths and Science interesting for students. The activities/components of RAA are funded under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

National Conference on ICT in School Education – The Conference was held on 7th November 2015. During the Conference, e-Pathshala, Saaransh, and National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation Framework (Shala Siddhi) were launched. All these are web portal/mobile app. These apps promise to make learning more interesting, school bags lighter and books available on the go.

The first phase of **“Shaala Darpan Project”** to cover all the 1,099 Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched in June 2015. This programme will be made available as a mobile app which will keep the parents informed of their ward’s progress in schools.

The National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation (NPSSE)–Shaala Siddhi: In a step towards comprehensive school evaluation as central to improving quality of school education in India, National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation has been initiated by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), under the aegis of Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. The School Standards and Evaluation Framework (SSEF) has been developed as an instrument for evaluating school performance. This will enable the school to evaluate its performance against the well-defined criteria in a focused and strategic manner.

E-pathshala: As a part of the Digital India Campaign, the Ministry of HRD has launched ‘e-pathshala’ which is a single-point repository of e-resources containing, NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources. CBSE prescribes textbooks published by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes IX to XII. For classes I to VIII, CBSE although approves syllabus as per pattern of syllabus given by NCERT, it does not prescribe any textbooks for these classes. **The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF)** stipulates that region-specific books take care of the local context, culture and resources and therefore different books for different regions better relate to the daily lives of the local students.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: The IVR (Interactive Voice Response System) to monitor the daily implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme was showcased this year during the National Conference on ICT in School Education. There are two recent interventions, such as Tithi Bhojan and Social Audit designed to attract community participation and channelize it for enrichment of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The Central Government has requested the States to consider the concept of **Tithi Bhojan** for mid-day meals in a suitable manner, to encourage local community participation the programme. **Social Audit**, another intervention under this Scheme, means is a process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of the Scheme. It is viewed as an ongoing process of public vigilance. Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Punjab have completed Social Audit. Social Audit is under progress in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The Central Government notified ‘Mid-Day Meal Rules, 2015’, on September 30th, 2015. The Rules inter alia provide for temporary utilization of other funds available with the school for MDM in case school exhausts MDM funds for any reason; Food Security Allowance to be paid to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of meals for specified reasons; and monthly testing of meals on a random basis by accredited Labs to check its quality. These rules and their effective compliance by implementing agencies in the States will ensure better regularity in serving mid-day meals in schools.

Kala Utsav: A unique initiative of the Government of India was launched with the theme of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’. It provides an opportunity to learn about the art, culture and language of various States and UTs of the country at one place. About 1,400 students from across the country participated in this cultural programme. Teachers, parents and members of jury were also a part of this unique programme.

Kala Utsav seeks to enhance the life skills of the participants and prepare them as ambassadors of Indian culture besides integrating art in education.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A number of schemes related to Department of Higher Education were also launched during the year.

IMPRINT INDIA was released on 5th November 2015. It is a Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India. **IMPRINT INDIA** aims at direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. Under this, 10 domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas: (1) Health care technology, (2) Energy security, (3) Rural urban housing design, (4) Nanotechnology, (5) Water/river system, (6) Advanced materials, (7) Computer science and ICT, (8) Manufacturing technology, (9) Advanced security and (10) Environment/climate change. The research in each of these areas is being coordinated by one IIT. <http://imprint-india.org/>

Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), was launched as an initiative to attract the best foreign academics to Indian Universities of Excellence. The programme has been launched to facilitate the partnership between Higher Education Institutions of India and other foreign universities. Under this, (352) courses are being offered by foreign faculty from 38 Countries. The cost of the travel and honorarium ranging from \$8,000–\$12,000 is being met from the scheme funds. These courses are being looked at as a starting point of long-term research collaboration between Indian Institutions and the other Global institutions; and therefore signal a major chapter in the higher education system.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015. The ranking framework evaluates each higher education institution on five broad parameters, namely teaching/learning resources, research, graduation outcomes, outreach/inclusive nature and the public perception. The ranks will be declared on the first Monday of April every year. An independent body is being proposed to undertake this work based on objective and verifiable criteria.

So far, 2,500 institutions covering engineering, management, pharma, architecture and universities have registered for participation in the ranking and are submitting data. Participation in the NIRF would help the Indian educational institutions participate in the world rankings with greater confidence.

Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), is a Web portal where Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) will be available on all kinds of subjects. SWAYAM is the Indian electronic e-education platform which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to postgraduate stage in an interactive electronic platform. The IT platform for SWAYAM was built and become operational by March 2016 with a capacity to host nearly 2,000 courses. This would provide the best quality education to more than three crore students across the country. The system would allow 10 lakh students using the system concurrently. Once it becomes operational, students from the backward rural areas can access teaching from the best institutes in the country electronically, thereby, raising the overall standards of higher education in the country. SWAYAM-MOOCs project is intended to address the needs of school level 9–12 to undergraduate and postgraduate students, covering all disciplines.

Launch of the **Credit framework for Skills and Education** as per the National Skills Qualification framework paved the way for certification of skills through the formal system and allows for multiple exits and entrance into the education system with scope for vertical and lateral mobility. The CBCS will enable students to take courses of their choice, learn at their own pace, undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required credits, and adopt an interdisciplinary

approach to learning. Approval by UGC of the Guidelines for **Choice-Based Credit Framework** provides for more choices for students to opt for employable courses through a system of flexible credits for foundational, elective and core courses. The **status of CBCS** is as follows:

1. All 39 Central Universities are implementing the CBCS system from 2015 to 16.
2. Major State Universities, like Madras University, Chennai; Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli; Osmania University, Hyderabad; University of Bombay, Mumbai; SNDT Women's University, Mumbai; M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara; Lucknow University, Lucknow; Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla and Gauhati University, Guwahati, are also going to implement CBCS from the next academic session.

Saksham Scholarship Scheme: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing Saksham scholarship scheme to provide support to differently abled students to pursue technical education.

Launch of the **Know Your College portal** is to provide informed decision-making opportunity for students along with complete availability of all e-learning resources. A portal called **Know Your College** (KYC) has been started in which the data declared by all the educational institutions is being placed in a public portal and also made available through a mobile application so that the stakeholders can verify the same. It will also work as one-stop shop for all educational resources. More than 40,000 higher educational institutions are already mapped under the KYC.

Under **Campus Connect** programme, all the Central Universities in the country are going to be connected through WIFI network at a cost of approximately ₹320 crores. Under this, all the classrooms, libraries, laboratories, hostels and places frequented by the students would be connected through a secured WIFI hotspots providing access to the educational and information resources to the students on 24x7 basis. This project completed by June 2016 and implemented by ERNET.

Promoting Start-ups: Thirty-seven new start-up parks/research parks would be set up this year with the coordination of Dept of Science and Technology (fund sharing on 50:50 basis) covering all the IITs, NITs and some IIITs/Central Universities. These would incubate the start-ups and hand-hold them till they reach the stage of commercialization, normally for a period of 5 years. IIT Madras Research Park has already become fully functional (it is ready for inauguration by the Prime Minister).

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan was launched for connecting higher education and society to enable technology and its use for development of rural areas. Under this, all technical and higher education institutions have been asked to adopt five villages each; identify technology gaps and prepare plans for innovations that could substantially increase the incomes and growth in the rural areas.

Ucchatar Aavishkar Abhiyaan: For promotion of innovation, All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level. For this purpose, it is proposed to launch a scheme **Ucchatar Aavishkar Abhiyan** by investing ₹250 crores every year on identified projects proposed by IITs and NITs. Participation of industry in part-funding the project would be mandatory

Engineering skills to unemployed youth: An initiative as a part of the PMKVY is being launched to encourage all the 10,000 technical institutions (engineering and polytechnic) to provide engineering skills (through part-time courses of 6 to 8 months duration) to at least 100 unemployed youths using their infrastructure after college-hours. The training costs would be met by the central

government, and the placement of the trained youth is the responsibility of the institution. This is expected to provide high-quality skilled persons required for the Make in India campaign.

Comprehensive Language Policy: An Expert Committee on Language was constituted on 29.12.2014 for preparation of Comprehensive Language Policy for the country and it met four times so far.

Matribhasha Diwas: Matribhasha Diwas was celebrated on 21.2.2015 to sensitize people about the need of greater use of mother tongues and other Indian Languages for development and progress of the Nation. Hon'ble HRM has inaugurated the programme at Chennai organized by CIIL, Mysore.

On the International front too, addressing The Leaders' Forum on an official visit to UNESCO Headquarters at Paris on 17th November, 2015, then Minister of Human Resource Development Smt Smriti Irani reaffirmed India's commitment to the ideals of UNESCO and to furthering its role and activities. In this context, she recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi when in 1947 he had expressed the deep Indian interest in the efforts of UNESCO to "secure peace through educational and cultural activities".

Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers: During the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers at the Bahamas from 22 to 26 June, 2015, the Ministry of Human Resource offered the following: to set up the Malviya Commonwealth Chair for Cross-Border Teacher Education which will focus on issues pertaining to curriculum development, pedagogy, student assessment, pre-service and in-service teacher training and capacity development; Commonwealth Consortium for Research which can function in collaboration with the Commonwealth Education hub and provide cross funding for research projects which member nations deem appropriate; Strengthening of public institutions to bring about qualitative improvements in education at all levels; Providing e-Learning platform, SWAYAM to host e-courseware developed by Commonwealth of Learning; and Posting of digitized materials of Commonwealth countries on its soon to be established national e-Library.

Finally, the above flagship programmes, new schemes and innovations of the Ministry of HRD prove beyond doubt that it is playing a significant role in building strong foundations in education. While the Department of School Education & Literacy has its eye set on the universalization of Education and making better citizens out of the country's young brigade, the Department of Higher Education is engaged in establishing world class institutes of learning and providing ample opportunities for research and skill development to ensure that we create the world's largest workforce.

14.1.4. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

About

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
- Launched in 2013 under Ministry of Human Resources Development

Aim

- Providing strategic funding to eligible stable higher educational institutions.

Objectives

- (i) Improve the overall quality of state institutions by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.

- (ii) Under transformative reforms in the state higher education system by creating a facilitating institutional structure for planning and monitoring and the state level, promoting autonomy in state universities and improving governance in institutions.
- (iii) Ensure reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination system.
- (iv) Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.
- (v) Create an enabling atmosphere in the higher education institutions to devote themselves to research and innovations.
- (vi) Expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions in order to achieve enrolment targets.
- (vii) Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education by setting up institutions in unserved and underserved areas.
- (viii) Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities and different by abled persons.

Components

- (i) Create new universities through upgradation of existing autonomous colleges and conversion of colleges in a cluster.
- (ii) Create new model degree colleges, new professional colleges and provide infrastructural support to universities and colleges.
- (iii) Faculty recruitment support, faculty improvements programmes and leadership development of education administrators.
- (iv) In order to enhance skill development, the existing central scheme of polytechnics has been subsumed under RUSA
- (v) A separate component to synergies vocational education with higher education also been included in RUSA.
- (vi) RUSA also supports reforming, restructuring and building capacity of institutions in participating state.

Funding Pattern

- Central Funding – 60:40 for General category States 90:10 for Special category States 100% for UTs
- Based on norm based and outcome dependent
- Fund flow from central ministry through the state Govts/UTs to the state higher education councils before reaching identified institutions.
- On the basis on critical appraisal of state Higher Education Plans.

14.1.5 Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers & Teaching (PMMNMTT)

About

- A central sector scheme
- Commence in 2014–15 for a period of 3 years, that is, from 2014–15 to 2016–17 during XII Plan

Goals

- To ensure a coordinate approach so as to holistically address the various shortcoming relating to teachers and teaching across the education spectrum ranging from school education to higher education, including technical education; using the best international practices for excellence.
- To create and strengthen the institutional mechanisms at the centre and in the states, for augmenting training and discipline-wise capacity building of faculty and their periodic assessment for excellence.

14.1.6 National Initiative for Setting Up of Design Innovation Centres, Open Design School and National Design Innovation Network

Objectives

- To promote a culture of innovations and creative problem solving.
- To promote knowledge sharing and collaboration amongst industry, academia, Government Instructions, research laboratories, etc.
- To serve as a location for the industrial collaborators to encourage their new product development in the campus using in house facilities.
- To serve as a place that imparts design-based education and practice systematic design through projects.
- To enhance interdisciplinary design-focused innovation and creativity.
- To facilitate interdisciplinary design-focused education research and entrepreneurial activities in order to create commercial opportunities and build partnerships between academics and industry.
- To promote nurture and advance the culture of design and innovation in the country leading to significant contributions and break through impacting quality of human life.
- To create an ecosystem facilitating students, faculty to take their innovative ideas from classrooms/labs to market people.
- To facilitate evolution of new models of academia industry interactions as well as academia social interactions and develop institutional neutrals for innovations in the thematic areas.
- To promote innovations which are both inclusive and disruptive.
- To build a flagship programme in the areas of design and innovation which can be replicated in other institutes/universities in our country.
- To promote all forms of innovations in the complete value chain from process to product, including innovation as a discipline itself.
- To promote increase interactions/collaborations with institutes/organization worldwide working in the areas of design and innovation.

Components of the Scheme

- (i) Design Innovation Centres(DICs)
- (ii) Open Design School (ODS)
- (iii) National Design Innovation Network

Financial Support

- Each of the DICs would be provided financial support to the extent of ₹10 crores during 12th plan.

- Out of this, non-recurring grant will be released in a period of 2 years.
- Recurring grant will be available annually, up to 3 years.

14.1.7 Scheme for Incentivizing State Governments for Expansion of Higher Education Institutions

Aim

- Introduced for incentivizing states for establishing new higher education institutions/ expanding existing higher education institutions.

Funding Pattern

- Provide central assistance to the state governments in the ratio of 1:2 (1:1 for special category states) for establishing new higher educational institutions / expanding existing higher educational institutions.

Physical Targets

- XI & XII Plan include view universities, colleges, engineering colleges as well as expansion of existing colleges.

New central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational loans taken by students from economically backward sections to pursue technical, professional education in India under the educational loan scheme of the Indian Bank's Association.

About

- A view central sector scheme of provide full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium on loans taken by students belonging to economically weaker sections from scheduled banks under the educational loan scheme of the Indian Bank's Association for pursuing any of the approved courses of studies in technical and professional streams from recognized institutions in India.

14.1.8 National Research Professorship (NRP)

About

- Started in 1949 to honour distinguished academics and scholars in recognition of their contribution to knowledge.

Beneficiaries and Eligibility

- Persons of real eminence, who have attained the age of 65 years of have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields and are still capable of productive research are considered for appointment as National Research Professor.

14.1.9 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the MHRD and launched by Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015.

This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country. The methodology draws from the overall recommendations broad understanding arrived at by a Core Committee set up by MHRD, to identify the broad parameters for ranking various universities and institutions. The parameters broadly cover “Teaching, Learning and Resources,” “Research and Professional Practices,” “Graduation Outcomes,” “Outreach and Inclusivity,” and “Perception”.

India Rankings – 2016 based on this framework were released on 4th April 2016.

For India Rankings – 2017, the main ranking parameters remain the same. However, there are a few significant changes in a few sub-parameters. Also, this year every large institution will be given a common overall rank as well as a discipline specific rank as applicable.

14.1.10 Parameters

Teaching Learning & Resources

These parameters are related to the core activities of any place of learning...

Research and Professional Practice

Excellence in teaching and learning is closely associated with the scholarship...

Graduation Outcome

This parameter forms the ultimate test of the effectiveness of the core teaching/learning...

Outreach & Inclusivity

The Ranking framework lays special emphasis on representation of women...

Perception

The ranking methodology gives a significant importance to the perception of the institution...

14.2 EDUCATION

14.2.1 Elementary Education

14.2.1.1 *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)*

About

- SSA has been operational since 2000–01 to provide for a variety of interventions for universal access and retention bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education and improving the quality of learning.

SSA Interventions

- Inter alia, opening of new school and alternate schooling facilities, construction of schools and additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water, provisioning for teachers, regular teacher in service training and academic resource support, free text books and uniforms and support for improving learning achievement levels/outcome.

SSA-RTE Act

- The committee under Shri Anil Bordia, former Union Education secretary submitted a report, entitled “Implementation of RTE Act and resultant revamp of SSA” in April 2010, was guided by following principles.
 1. Holistic view of education.
 2. Equity
 3. Access
 4. Gender concern
 5. Centrality of teacher
 6. Moral compulsion
 7. Convergent and integrated system of education management.
- 1. **Holistic view of education**, as interpreted in the National Curriculum Framework 2005, with implications for systemic revamp of the entire content and process of education with significant implications for curriculum teacher education, educational planning and management.
- 2. **Equity**, to mean not only equal opportunity, put also creation of conditions in which the disadvantaged sections of the society-children of SC, ST, Muslim minority, landless agricultural workers and children with special needs, etc., can avail of the opportunity.
- 3. **Access**, not be confined to ensuring that a school becomes accessible to all children within specified distance but implies an understanding of the educational needs and predicament of the traditionally excluded categories SC, ST and other sections of the most disadvantaged groups, Muslim minority, girls in general and children with special needs.
- 4. **Gender concern**, implying not only an effort to enable girls to keep pace with boys but to view education in the perspective spelt out in the National Policy on Education 1986–92, that is, a decisive intervention to bring about a basic change in the status of women.
- 5. **Centrality of teacher**, to motivate them to innovate and create a culture in the classroom that might produce an inclusive environment for children, especially for girls from oppressed and marginalized backgrounds.
- 6. **Moral Compulsion** is imposed through RTE Act on parents, teachers, educational administrations and other stakeholders, rather than shifting emphasis on punitive processes.
- 7. **Convergent and integrated system of education management** is pre-requisite for implementation of RTE law. All states must move in that direction as speedily as feasible.

14.2.1.2 Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)

About

- MDM was introduced for disadvantaged children in Madras Municipal Corporation.
- By the mid-1980s, three states (Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and Union Territory of Puducherry with their resources for children studying at the primary stage.

- By 1990–91, the number of states implementing the MDM programme with their own resources on a universal or large scale had increased to 12 states.

Two-Pronged Strategy

1. To lower the widespread incidence of malnutrition primarily among children of poor families.
2. To increase their access to education.

Aim

- To boost primary school attendance.
- To allow children of parents living below subsistence levels.
- To attain basic literacy levels, rather than being pushed into workforce at an early age.

Beneficiaries

- A centrally sponsored scheme to school children studying in classes I–VIII of government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madras's and Macaulay supported under SSA.

Requirement

- To provide cooked mid-day meal with *450 calories and 12g of protein to every child at primary level. *700 calories and 20g of protein at upper primary level.

14.2.1.3 Strengthening of Teacher's Training Institutes

About

- Originally, the government launched the scheme of restructuring and re-organisation of teacher education in 1987.

Aim

- To create a sound institutional infrastructure for pre-service and in-service training of elementary and secondary school teachers.
- For provision of academic resource support to elementary and secondary schools.

Components

1. Setting up of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).
2. Strengthening of secondary teacher's education.
3. Institutions into colleges of teacher education (CTEs) and Institutes of advanced study in education (IASEs)
4. Strengthening of state councils of educational research and training (SCERTs).

Main Objectives

Revised under Xth plan.

1. Speedy completion of DIET/CTE/IASE/SCERT projects which have been sanctioned but not completed up to the end of the XI plan period.
2. Making DIETs, CTEs, IASEs, sanctioned (and SCERTs strengthened) up to IX Plan period, optionally functional and operational.
3. Sanction and implementation of from DIET/CTE/IASE/SCERT projects to the extent necessary.

4. Improvement in the quality of programmes being undertaken by DIETs, etc.
5. Scheme for infrastructure development private aided/unaided minority institutes (IDMS) (Elementary secondary)

Senior Secondary Schools

Objective

- To facilitate education of minorities by augmenting and strengthening school infrastructure in minority institutions (elementary/secondary/senior secondary schools) in order to expand facilities for formal education to children of minority communities.
- To encourage educational facilities for girls, children with special needs and those who are most deprived educationally amongst minorities.

Coverage

- Entire country.
- Preference to eligible minority institutions (private aided/unaided elementary/secondary/senior secondary schools) located in districts, blocks and towns having a minority population above 20% based on available census data.

Financial Pattern

- 75% fund for infrastructure development of beneficiaries especially preference to eligible minority institutions.
- Maximum 50 lakh primary schools for other infrastructural activities.

Eligible Conditional

- Voluntary organisations/societies/trusts running institutes/schools that are recognized by central or state governments.

Implementation

- Through state government.

14.2.1.4 Mahila Samakhya Programme:

About

- Launched in 1988.
- To pursue the objectives of the national policy on education, 1986.
- Recognized education as an effective tool for women's empowerment.

Parameters Concerned

1. Enhancing self-esteem and self-confidence of women.
2. Building a positive image of women by recognizing their contribution to the society, policy and the economy.
3. Developing ability to think critically.
4. Fostering decision making and action through collective processes.
5. Enabling women to make informed choices in areas like education, employment and health (especially reproductive health).

6. Providing information, knowledge and skill for economic independence.
7. Ensuring equal participation in developmental processes.
8. Enhancing access to legal literacy and information relating to their rights and entitlements in society with a view to enhance their participation on an equal footing all areas.

14.2.1.5 Entral Sponsored Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasa (SPQEM)

- The scheme for providing quality education in madrasas has been recent after taking into account the inputs of the expert committee of national monitoring committee for minorities education (NMCME) XIth Five-Year Plan.

Objectives

1. To encourage traditional institutions like madrasas and makhtahs by giving financial assistance to introduce science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that academic proficiency for classes I–VII is attainable for children studying these institutions.
2. To provide opportunities to students of these institutions to acquire education comparable to the National Education System especially for secondary and senior secondary levels.
3. To provide opportunities for vocational training for children studying in Madrasas opting for assistance above 14 years of age, to enhance their opportunities for entering the job market and encourage entrepreneurship.
4. To strengthen the state madrasa boards opting assistance, by enabling them to monitor the madrasa modernization programme and enhance awareness about education among the Muslim community.
5. To address in-service training of teachers appointed under scheme to improve their pedagogical skills.

Coverage

- SERPEM is a demand-driven scheme.
- To cover a total of 4,500–6,000 madrasas and provide honorarium to about 13,500–18,000 teachers in madrasas during 11th plan period.

Funding Pattern

- The central government will provide 100% funding during 11th plan.

Implementation

- The scheme will be implemented by the state governments.

14.2.2. Secondary Education

14.2.2.1 Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

About

- Launched in March, 2009.
- The implementation of the scheme started from 2009 to 2010.

- It is envisaged to achieve an enrolment rate of 75% from 52.56% in 2005–06 at the secondary stage of implementation of the scheme by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation.

Objectives

1. To enhance access to secondary education.
2. To improve its quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socioeconomic disability barriers.

Target

- To provide universal access to secondary level education by 2017, that is, by the end of 12th Five-Year Plan. To achieve universal retention by 2020.

Provisions

1. Quality interventions.
2. Equity interventions.
3. Physical facilities.

Implementation

- Implemented by state government societies.

Funding Pattern

- The central share is released to the implementing agency directly.

Adolescence Education Programme

Aim

- To empower young people with accurate, age appropriate and culturally relevant information.
- To promote healthy attitudes.
- To develop skills to enable them to respond to real-life situations in positive and responsible ways.

Co-ordination and Implementation

- NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) coordinates the programme and works through both curricular and co-curricular formats to contribute towards holistic development of young people in pursuance of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005.
- NCERT is the coordinate agency of AEP supported by UNFPA.
- Implemented by six national agencies.
 1. NCERT
 2. Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE)
 3. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
 4. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

5. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)
6. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)

14.2.2.2 National Popular Education Programme (NPEP)

Aim

- It develops awareness and positive attitude towards population and development issues leading to responsible behaviour among students and teachers and indirectly among parents and community at large.

Objective

- To impart authentic knowledge to learners about Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) concerns.
- To inculcate positive attitude.
- To develop appropriate life skills for responsible behaviour.

Fact

- NPEP is being implemented in 30 states and UTs.

Coordinating Agency

- NCERT is the coordinating agency.

14.2.2.3. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education

About

- Launched in May 2008.
- Centrally sponsored scheme.

Objectives

- To promote enrolment of girl child in the age group of 14–18 at secondary stage, especially those who passed Class VIII.
- To encourage the secondary education of such girls.

Coverage

1. All SC/ST girls who pass Class VIII and girls who pass Class VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they belong to SC/ST) and enrol for class IX in state/UT government aided or local body schools.
2. Girls should be below 16 years of age (as on 31st march) on joining Class IX.
3. Married girls, girls studying in private un-aided schools and enrolled in schools run by central government, like NVS, KVS and CBS-affiliated schools are excluded.

Funding

- A sum of ₹3,000/- is deposited in the name of eligible girls as fixed deposit.
- The girls are entitled to withdraw the sum along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age and on passing 10th class examination.

E-governance

- The proposals/list of beneficiaries for the academic year submitted/uploaded on-line over national scholarship portal.

14.2.2.4 Financial Assistance for Appointment of Language

About

- The scheme has three parts. It provides for,
 1. Hindi teachers in the non-Hindi speaking states. This programme has been continuing since the second Five-Year Plan.
 2. Urdu teachers in the schools of those districts that have significant minority population. This scheme has been in place since 1999.
 3. Providing of modern Indian language teachers to teach a third language in those schools of the Hindi speaking states/UTs that demand them.
- The scheme has been introduced in 1993–94 and brought together in the Xth plan.

Aim

- To increase linkages among three parts.
- To improve better administrative efficiency.

Funding

- 100% funding provided to the state government by the central government.

Objective

- To encourage usage of Hindi, Urdu and one modern Indian language, other than English among school-going children under its three language formula.
- To fulfil the requirement of language teachers in government schools.
- To encourage propagation of the national language as well as Urdu and other modern Indian languages, like Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu in the country.

14.2.2.5 Mission Mode Project on School Education

About

- GoI launched National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) comprising 27 mission mode projects and 8 components on 18th may 2006.

Result

- Four new e-Governance initiatives in different areas including the area of education.

Core Focus

- On “anytime anywhere” basis,
 1. Services for students could include registration for admission, attendance, transfer, scholarship, grievances and certificates.
 2. Services for teachers such as process of recruitment, rationalisation, pay-role management, training schedules, administrative grievance redressal.
 3. National MIS platform for efficient school governance/administration.
 4. Services for design and development of digital learning resources and its dissemination.
 5. Services for central and state/UT departments for implementation of the schemes.
 6. Generation of integrated reports and any other common services.

14.2.2.6 National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (MMMSS)

About

- It is proposed to award 100,000 scholarships to the gifted or meritorious students whose parental income is not more than ₹1,50,000/- per annum from all sources.
- Each state/UT shall have fixed quota of scholarship which will be decided on the basis of enrolment of students in Classes VII and VIII in the state/UT concerned and population of children of concerned age group of Classes VII and VIII.
- Provide reservation to different categories of students as for the state/UT norms as different states/UTs have their own norms of reservation.
- The total number of scholarships to a particular state/UT may be restricted to the allocation made by central government.
- NMMSS launched in May 2008 is a centrally sponsored scheme.

Objective

1. To award scholarships to meritorious students of EWS to arrest their dropouts at class VIII.
2. To encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.

Financial Assistance

- Scholarship of ₹6,000/- per annum (₹500/- per month) per student in classes from IX to XII in state government, government-aided local body schools.

Eligibility

- Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than ₹1,50,000/-.

Not Eligible

- Students studying in “Kendara Vidyalayas” and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalas are not entitled to get scholarship.
- Students studying in Residential schools run by the state government institutions, where facilities like boarding, lodging and education are provided are not eligible.
- Students studying in private schools are not eligible.

14.2.2.7. Model School Scheme

About

- The model school scheme has been delinked from the support of GoI.
- The scheme stands transferred to states/UTs for further appropriate action.

Aim

- To provide quality education to talented rural children through setting up of 6,000 model schemes at the rate of one school per block as benchmark of excellence.

Objectives

1. To have at least one good-quality senior secondary school in every block.
2. To have a pace setting role.

3. To try out innovative curriculum and pedagogy.
4. To be a model in infrastructure, curriculum, evaluation and school governance.

Implementation

- Envisages setting up, 3,500 schools in as many educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through state/UT governments and remaining 2,500 schools under public private partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

14.2.3 Adult Education

14.2.3.1 Saakshar Bharat

About

- A CSS of department of school education and literacy (DSEC), MHRD, GoI on international literacy day, 8th September 2009. A new variant of national literacy mission.

Aim

- To further promote and strengthen Adult Education, specially for women, by extending educational options to those adults who have lost the opportunity of access to formal education.
- To promote Adult Education for those whose crossed the standard age for receiving such education.
- To impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15–35 years in a time-bound manner.

Coverage

- Covers all adults in the age group of 15 and beyond, though its primary focus will be on women.

Objectives

1. Impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and non-numerate adults.
2. Enable the neo-literate adults to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to formal education system.
3. Impart non- and neo-literates relevant skill development programmes to improve their earning and living conditions.
4. Promote a learning society by providing opportunities to neo-literate adults for continuing education.

Targets

- The principle target is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults in the age group of 15 years and beyond.
- To minimize inter- and intra-regional/state disparities.

14.2.3.2 State Resource Centre (SRCs)

About

- To provide academic and technical resource support to adult.

- To continue education through development and production of material and training modules.
- To conduct motivational and environmental building, action research and evaluation and monitoring.

Categorization

- Based on workload size of their programme in area of their jurisdiction, there are two categories: Category A and B.

Financial Assistance

- SRCs are provided an annual recurring grant for programme, emoluments and office expenses in the ratio of 45:45:10.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Capacity Building

- Directorate of Adult education, department of school education and literacy, MHRD is responsible for all these in SRCs.

14.2.3.3 Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)

Aim

- JSSs are established to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate as well as school dropouts by identifying skills as would have market in the region of their establishment.

Categorization

- Category A, B and C

Financial Assistance

- CSS scheme so 100% financial assistance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Directorate of Adult Education, department of school education and literacy, ministry of Human resources, GoI, National Literacy Mission is responsible.

14.2.4 Teacher Education

14.2.4.1 Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education

About

- As envisaged in the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), acss of restructuring and reorganization of teacher education was launched in 1987.
- To create a sound institutional infrastructure for pre-service and in-service training of elementary and secondary school teachers.
- For provision of academic resource support to elementary and secondary schools.
- The scheme has been revised under Xth Five-Year Plan.

Main Components of Revised Scheme

1. Modification in centre–state financing sharing pattern, from the existing 100% central assistance to sharing pattern in the ratio of 75:25 for all states/UTs (90:10 for NER states, including Sikkim).
2. Contribution of support to SCERTs/SIEs.
3. Strengthening and restructuring of SCERTs.
4. Training for educational administrators, including head teachers.
5. Orientation/induction training to teacher educators.
6. Continuation of support to CTEs and establishment of new CTEs.
7. Continuation of support to IASEs and establishment of new IASEs.
8. Continuation of support and restructuring of DIETs.
9. Establishment of Block institutes of teacher education (BITEs) for augmenting teacher education capacity in SC/ST and minority concentration areas.
10. Professional development of teacher educators.
11. Technology in teacher education.
12. PPP in teacher education monitoring mechanism.

14.2.5 New Education Policy Draft

14.2.5.1 Report of the Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy

The Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy (NEP) (Chair: Mr. T. S. R Subramanian) submitted its report on May 7, 2016. The Committee was constituted under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in October, 2015. The report proposes an Education Policy, which seeks to address challenges faced by the current education system. Key features of the proposed Policy are summarised below

- **Broad objectives of NEP:** The proposed Policy seeks to improve the quality and credibility of education by addressing the implementation gaps.
- **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):** The Committee observed that the implementation of ECCE was inconsistent across states. It emphasised the need for all government schools to have facilities for pre-primary education. Hence, it recommended that ECCE for children from 4 to 5 years of age be declared as a right. This would facilitate pre-school education by the government instead of the private sector until children reach 6 years of age.
- **The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Currently, the norms for infrastructure and quality have been laid down only for private schools. The Committee recommended that the RTE should be amended to provide uniform norms for recognition of both, government and private schools.
- It also recommended extending the RTE provision of common curriculum to minority institutions, which are currently exempted.
- **School exam reforms:** The Committee recommended the usage of scaled scores and percentiles instead of the traditional marking scheme. It suggested that students should be given the choice to pick the difficulty level of the Mathematics and Science exams in Class 10. To reduce the stress levels of students, the Committee proposed online on-demand board exams as opposed to year end exams.

- In addition, the Committee recommended that the policy of no detention should be upheld only till Class 5 (age 11 years). This would reverse the existing policy of no detention till Class 8 (age 14 years).
- **Teacher Management:** The Committee observed that there has been a steep rise in teacher shortage, absenteeism and grievances. It recommended setting up of an Autonomous Teacher Recruitment Board. It also recommended that teaching license should be subject to renewal every 10 years. For teacher training, a 4-year integrated B.Ed. course should be implemented.
- **ICT in Education:** The Committee noted that the integration of information technology (IT) and the education sector was inadequate despite Computer literacy and studies in schools. It recommended IT be taken up for teacher training, adult literacy, remedial education and as a learning tool in higher education. This would also include developing online skill-based courses.
- **Vocational education and training:** The Committee recommended scaling up the existing National Skills Qualification Framework to include more students. It recommends expanding and revising the choice of vocational courses in accordance with local opportunities and resources. It also emphasised the need for formal certification by the various Boards of Education for vocational education at par with conventional education.
- Other institutional recommendations:
 - (i) **All India Education Service (IES):** It would be established as an all India service;
 - (ii) **National Higher Education Promotion and Management Act (NHEPMA):** NHEPMA would replace the existing separate laws governing individual regulators in higher education and redefine the role of existing regulatory bodies like UGC and AICTE; and
 - (iii) **National Accreditation Board (NAB):** The NAB will subsume the existing accreditation bodies of National Assessment and Accreditation Council and the National Board of Accreditation and set standards for accreditation. The Committee also recommended mandatory accreditation for technical and medical institutions.

14.3 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

14.3.1 Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 2003

Objectives

- Correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable, reliable tertiary health care services and also the augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.

Components

- Setting up AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)-like institutions.
- Upgradation of government medical college institutions.

Set up AIIMS-like institutions

Totally six, in the each state of,

- Bihar (Patna)
- Chhattisgarh (Raipur)
- Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)
- Odisha (Bhubaneswar)
- Rajasthan (Jodhpur)
- Uttaranchal (Rishikesh) under PMSSY Scheme

Major Facilities at 6 AIIMS

- (i) Hospital with total bed strength of 960 beds with specialty/superspecialty departments.
- (ii) Six basic science departments
 - Anatomy
 - Physiology
 - Biochemistry
 - Pharmacology
 - Community medicine
 - Forensic medicine
- (iii) Other departments such as physical medicine and rehabilitation (PMR) department and AYUSH facilities.
- (iv) Specialty departments (18) and superspecialty departments (15).

These are to be done in a phased manner.

Funding Pattern

- Approved cost of each new AIIMS in the first phase was ₹820 crores.
 1. ₹620 Crores: Cost of construction.
 2. ₹200 crores: Procurement of medical equipment and modular operation theatres.

14.3.2 Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG)

Division: Grants Section.

Funding Pattern: Budgetary provisions are made to fund the HMDG scheme.

Beneficiaries and Eligibility Criteria

1. Only those having annual family income up to ₹1,25,000/- and below are eligible for financial assistance from HMDG.
2. To defray a part of the expenditure on hospitalization/treatment in government hospitals in cases where free medical facilities are not available.

Types of Benefits

- Financial Assistance towards treatment in government hospitals including superspecialty government hospitals/institutes, as per guidelines.

14.3.3 Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (within Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN))

Division: Grants Section.

Funding Pattern

- Health minister's cancer patient fund (HMCPF) within RAN has been set up for providing financial assistance to the poor patients suffering from cancer.
- A corpus fund of ₹100 crore has been setup which has been placed in fixed deposit.
- Interest accrued thereon is utilized to provide the financial assistance.

Beneficiaries and Eligibility Criteria

- Patients suffering from cancer and living below poverty line, prescribed from time to time.

Type of Benefits

- Financial assistance towards treatment for cancer ailments is provided to the patients having treatment in 27 regional cancer centres (RCCs) as per guidelines.

14.3.4 Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana (RSBY) (2008)

Genesis

- Social security and healthcare assurance—motto of GoI.
- Unorganized workers social security act (2008) provide social security and welfare to the unorganized workers.
- Recommends providing social security schemes to mitigate riddles due to disability, health shocks, maternity and old age faced by unorganized workers.
- Two-third of expenditure on health is through out of pocket (OOP).
- Supply-side financing on health found to be not successful in reducing OOP expenditure on health.
- So, to test the demand side financing approach GoI, decided to introduce RSBY—a health insurance scheme for BPL families.

Objectives: For BPL Families

- To reduce OOP expenditure on health.
- Increase access to health care.
- Now extended to other defined categories of unorganized workers (11 categories defined in the list)

Funding Pattern

- Premium cost for enrolled beneficiaries is shared by GoI and the State governments.

Target

- To cover 70 million households by the end of 12th year plan (2012–2017).

Main Service-Delivering Model

- Demand financing
- Freedom of choice among accredited government and private hospitals.

- Cashless service reimbursable to provide on a pre-determined package rates on a family floater basis.

Fact

- Since 1st April 2015, RSBY has been transferred to ministry of health and family welfare on “as is where is” basis.

Two Fold Objectives

- To provide financial protection against catastrophic health costs by reducing out.
- To improve access to quality health care for BPL households of pocket expenditure for hospitalization and other vulnerable groups in the unorganised sector.

Implementation

- Beneficiaries under RSBY are entitled to hospitalization coverage up to ₹30,000/- per annum on family floater basis, which requires hospitalization.
- Benefits will be available under defined diseases in the package list.
- No age limit.
- Pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Coverage extends to maximum 5 members of family, including head of household, spouse and up to three dependents. Central and state government pays the premium as per their sharing ratio to the insurer selected by the state government on the basis of a competitive bidding.
- At every state, the state government sets up a state nodal agency (SNA) responsible for implementing monitoring supervision and part-financing of the scheme by coordinating with insurance company, hospital, district authorities and other local stakeholders.

Unique Features of the Scheme

1. Empowering the beneficiary.
2. Business model of all stakeholders.
3. Information technology (IT) intensive.
 - First-time IT applications being used for social sector scheme on a large scale.
 - A biometric enabled smart card containing their fingerprints and photographs issued to every beneficiary family.
4. Safe and fool proof.
5. Portability.
6. Cashless and paperless transactions.
7. Robust monitoring and evaluation.

Beneficiaries

- Any BPL family, whose information is included in the district BPL list prepared by state government.
- Any family falling into 11 defined categories,
 1. Building and other construction workers registered with the welfare boards
 2. Licensed railway porters

3. Street vendors
4. MNREGA workers who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year (FY).
5. Beedi workers
6. Domestic workers
7. Sanitation workers
8. Mine workers
9. Rickshaw pullers
10. Rag pickers
11. Auto/Taxi driver

14.3.5 Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP)

About

- Started in 1997 (RNTCPI)
- Then expanded across India until the entire nation was covered by RNTCP in March 2006 (RNTCP II)
- RNTCPII was designed to consolidate the gains achieved in RNTCP I
- To initiate the services to address TB/HIV MDR-TB to extend RNTCP to the private sector.
- RNTCP uses WHO recommended directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) strategy and reaches over a billion people in 632 districts/reporting units.

Initial Objectives

- To achieve and maintain a TB treatment success rate of at least 85% among new sputum positive (NSP) patients.
- To achieve and maintain detection of at least 70% of the estimated new sputum positive people in the community.

14.3.6 Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritava Abhiyan

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India to provide fixed-day, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.

As part of the campaign, a package of antenatal care services are to be provided to pregnant women in their second/third trimesters, by OBGY specialists/radiologist/physicians at government health facilities, with support from private sector doctors to supplement the efforts of the government.

One of the critical components of the Abhiyan is identification and follow-up of high-risk pregnancies. These services will be provided in addition to the routine ANC at the health facility/outreach at identified public health facilities in both urban and rural areas.

BGY specialists/radiologist/physicians working in the private sector are encouraged to volunteer for the campaign and various mechanisms have been developed to facilitate participation of private doctors.

Private doctors willing to volunteer can register for the programme via

- Toll-free number
- Toll-free SMS
- PMSMA portal
- Register using the 'Volunteer Registration' Section of the Mobile Application

As per the information available through the PMSMA portal, till date 1612 volunteers have registered for the programme across States/UTs including 54 volunteers in Rajasthan.

14.4 POVERTY ALLEVIATION

14.4.1 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Housing For All (Urban)

About

- Ensuring housing for all in urban areas
- Launched on 25th June 2015 to be implemented during 2015–2022
- Estimated housing shortage is in the order of ₹2 crores.

Components of PMAY

Mission Has 4 Verticals

- (i) “In-situ” slum Redevelopment with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers.
- (ii) Credit-linked subsidy scheme for providing interest rate relate to Ews/LIG beneficiaries.
- (iii) Affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors.
- (iv) Beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancement.

Rajiv Awas Yojana (subsumed in PMAY–HFA(U) Mission.

14.4.2 Credit-linked Subsidy Scheme under PMAY

- The beneficiaries of EWS (Economically Weaker Section) having household annual income up to 3 lakh and low Income Group (LIG) having household annual between ₹3 lakhs and up to ₹6 lakhs subject to their being otherwise eligible under scheme, can avail of interest subsidy at the rate of 65% on focusing _____ up to ₹6 lakhs from banks, Housing Finance Companies and other institutions for a tenure of 15 years or actual tenure of loan which ever in earlier.
- The net present value of the interest subsidy will be calculated at a discount of rate of 9%.
- The carpet areas of houses being acquired, constructed or enhanced should be up to 30 m² and 60 m² for EWs and LIG, respectively, in order to avail of credit-linked subsidy.
- Housing and urban Development Corporation Ltd., (HUDCO) and National Housing Bank (NHB) have been designated as Central Nodal Agencies (NAs) to _____ the subsidy to primary lending Institutions (PLIs).
- The PLIs include scheduled commercial Banks, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

- State cooperative banks, urban cooperative banks or any other institutions as may be identified by the Ministry.
- Preference under the scheme, subject to beneficiaries being from EWS/LIG segments, would be given to:
 - Manual scavengers
 - Women (with overriding preference to widows)
 - Persons belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs, minorities, persons with disabilities and trans-gender people.

14.4.3 The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is making a difference to the lives and livelihoods of over 3.6 crore households from where women have joined Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The collectives of women under SHGs, Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) has evolved transformational social capital that is changing gender relations, access to services and participation in Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The programme has given confidence to women to seek Bank loans for economic activity after developing skills and competencies through a sustained Community Resource Person (CRP) led handholding for livelihood diversification. A total of 1.50 lakh women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who have themselves come out of poverty are today the greatest agents of change in promoting sustainable agriculture, providing banking services, developing a cadre of Para Vets for animal care, bookkeepers and accountants to women's collectives, and most importantly an agent for social transformation of villages.

Since the inception of the programme in 2011, women members of SHGs have accessed ₹1.06 lakh crore as Bank credit. From ₹20,000 crore Bank linkage in 2014–15, SHGs got more than ₹30,000 crore as credit in 2015–16. Till February 2017 over ₹29,000 crore had already been disbursed and it is expected that about ₹35,000 crore to ₹38,000 crore will be mobilised as credit in the Financial Year 2016–17. Analysis of Bank linkage in 2016–17 shows the remarkable increase in credit linkage in States like Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. There is a clear National spread in Bank linkage as SHGs become vibrant and stronger institutions of the poor in many Northern Indian States as well. They are already strong and vibrant in the Southern Indian States.

Under the DAY-NRLM, over 30 lakh women farmers have been supported under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Women SHG led Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) for agricultural implements, power tillers, etc., have come up in some States. Vermi Compost/NADEP pits have also come up through the efforts of these women SHG farmers besides the promotion of pesticide free agriculture and multi-tier cropping in rain-fed regions for fodder, food, forest, fruits and fibre.

The DAY-NRLM programme has reached nearly 1/3rd of the Gram Panchayats of the country and efforts for its consolidation and expansion are being continuously made. During 2017–18, 52 lakh households through 4.5 lakh new SHGs were added to DAY-NRLM. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) to develop 84,000 micro enterprises was started in 17 States covering 47 Blocks. Solid Waste Management initiative through convergence was done in 11,000 (nearly 90%) villages of Tamil Nadu through their women SHGs. The successful initiative has been initiated by DAY-NRLM in 6 other States. DAY-NRLM published a

Compendium of successful Business Models for Livelihood Diversification and also developed a Best Practice Volume based on National awards and recognition to the best SHGs during the year.

To facilitate diversification of livelihoods, skill development for Placement Based Wage Employment and self-employment was promoted on a large scale through the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) and Rural Self Employment & Training Institutes (RSETIs) respectively under DAY-NRLM. 1.60 lakh youth were trained and 79,400 placed under DDUGKY besides 4 lakh youth being trained in 585 RSETIs for self-employment in 2016–17. Twelve new Champion Employers were selected under DDUGKY for high quality training and committed placements. Some of the Champion Employers are Cafe Coffee Day, Apollo Mediskills, Team lease, etc. Training of drivers was also started at a large number of RSETIs during the year.

The first National evaluation of DAY-NRLM has been completed recently by the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). The draft report recognises the social capital developed through women's collectives at village level. The evaluation finds that the NRLM strategy has led to greater demand expression of rural poor not just through their weekly meetings but also through collective action in production as well as on social issues. Transforming lives through an even larger-scale diversification and development of livelihoods is clearly the way forward to reach the Mission Antyodaya objective of poverty-free gram panchayats.

14.4.4 Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (Day-NULM)

About

- To reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvements in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grass roots level institutions of the poor.

Aim

- To provide shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.
- To address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities.

Constitutional Relevance

- As per the constitution (74th amendment) Act, 1992, urban poverty alleviation is the legitimate function of the urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Values

- (i) Ownership and productive involvement of the urban poor and their institutions in all processes.
- (ii) Transparency in programme design and implementation, including institution building and capacity strengthening.

- (iii) Accountability of government functionaries and the community.
- (iv) Partnerships with industry and other stakeholders.
- (v) Community self-reliance, self-dependence, self-help and mutual help.

Strategy

- (i) Building Capacity of the urban poor their institutes and the machinery involved in the implementation of livelihoods development and poverty alleviation programmes through handholding support.
- (ii) Enhancing and expanding existing livelihoods options of the urban poor.
- (iii) Building skills to enable access to growing market-based job opportunities offered by emerging urban economies.
- (iv) Training for and support to the establishment of micro-enterprises by the urban poor self and group.
- (v) Cater to the needs of especially vulnerable segments of the urban homeless like the dependent children, aged, disabled, mentally ill and recovering patients, etc., by creating special sections within homeless shelters and provisioning special service linkages from them.
- (vi) Ensure availability and access for the urban homeless population to permanent 24 hour shelters, including the basic infrastructural facilities like water supply, sanitation safety and security. To establish strong rights-based link water supply, sanitation, safety and security.
- (vii) To establish strong rights-based linkages with other programmes which cover the right of the urban homeless to food, health care, education, etc., and ensure access for homeless populations to various entitlements, including to social security pensions, PDS, ICDS, feeding programmes, drinking water, sanitation, identity financial inclusion, school admission, etc., and to affordable housing.
- (viii) To address livelihood concerns of the urban vendors by facilitating access to suitable places, institutional credit, social security and skills to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities.

V. NULM Mission cities and Target population

- (i) In the 12th Five-Year plan, NULM will be implemented in all district headquarter towns and all other cities with a population of 100,000 or more as per 2011 Census. Other towns may be allowed in exceptional cases on request of the states.
- (ii) The primary target of NULM is the urban poor, including, urban homeless.
- (iii) The socioeconomic and caste census (SECC), 2011 for identification of urban poor is currently under progress.

Interim Measure

- Urban population identified presently as below poverty line population in urban areas by states/UTs.

Broadening the Coverage

- Families of disadvantages groups like SCs, STs, women, minorities, disabled, etc., subject to a maximum of 25% of the above urban poor population.

Key/Main Components

1. Social Mobilization and Institution Development (SM & ID)
2. Capacity Building and Training (CB & T)
3. Employment through skills training and placement)
4. Self-employment programme (SEP)
5. Support to urban street vendors
6. Innovative and Special Projects

Funding Pattern

- (i) Northeastern and Special category states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim; Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir)—90:10 (Central share: State share)
- (ii) All other states and UTs—75:25

Implementation

- At state level, a two-tier structure is followed:
 - (i) Governing council chaired by CM of the state
 - (ii) Executive committee chaired by Chief Secretary of the State.

14.4.5 Scheme of Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUTT)

Ministry of Urban and Poverty Alleviation.

Objective

- To provide shelter and all other essential services to the poorest of the poor segment of urban societies

About

- The shelters should be permanent all weather 24x7 shelters for the urban homeless.
- It is under NULM Mission.

Facts

- For every one lakh population, provisions should be made for permanent community shelters for a minimum of one hundred persons.
- Depending upon local conditions, each shelter caters to between 50 and 100 persons.
- For shelter planning purposes, a space of 50 ft² or 4.645 m² or say 5 m² per person may be taken as minimum space to be provided.

Facilities Provided

- Basic common facilities/amenities such as water, sanitation, electricity, kitchen/cooking space, common recreation space may be provided at the shelters for dignified human living.
- Linkage to Anganwadi, PHC childcare facilities and other social assistance programme is ensured.

Priorities

- Cities with population above 1 million in census of 2011.
- Other cities, towns identified by GOI/State governments to be of special social, historical or tourist importance Implementation.
- Each implementing organization shall set up a shelter management committee (SMC) comprising preferably caretakers and persons nominated from amongst residents of the shelter.
- Such an SMC be responsible for daily management, upkeep, cleanliness and disciplines at the shelter funding pattern.
- Government of India would fund 75% of cost of construction of shelters of 25% be the state contribution.
- In case of special category states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), this ratio will be 90:10.
- To bring in land is the responsibility of state government.

14.4.6 Rajiv Rinn Yojana (RRY)

About

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) has designed an interest subsidy scheme for housing titled Rajiv Rinn Yojana (or) Rajiv Loan Scheme.
- As instrument to address the housing needs of the EWS and LIG segments in urban areas, through enhanced credit flow.
- Formulated to channelize institutional credit to the poorer segments of the society and increasing home ownership in the country along with addressing housing shortage.

Background

- RRY has been formulated by modifying the Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) piloted in the 11th plan period with enhanced scope and coverage.
- Central sector scheme applicable in all the urban areas.
- Effective from October 1, 2013

Funding

- RRY provides for interest subsidy of 5% (500 basis points) on loans granted to EWS and LIG categories to construct their houses or extend the existing ones.
- Upper limit of the loan is ₹5 lakh for EWS and ₹8 lakh for LIG
- Interest subsidy be limited to the first ₹5 lakh of the loan amount in case the loan exceeds this amount.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) and Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) designated as central Nodal Agencies (CAN) for the scheme.

Beneficiaries

- Below poverty line (BPL)
- Economically weaker section (EWS)
- Low-income group (LIG)

Target

- RRY is a target-driven scheme.
- Overall target for the 12th plan period is 1 million dwellings across the country, including slum and non-slum dwellers.
- The targets for the states for the current FYC are periodically fixed and conveyed to the concerned department(s).

14.4.7 Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Scheme (CRGFT)

About

- With a view to improve access to loans for EWS/LIG persons, CRGFT with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore in the 12th Five Year Plan has also been created under RAY (Rajiv Awas Yojana).
- The ceiling of housing loan limit eligible under the GRGFT scheme has been increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh with effect from 1st October 2014.
- The guarantee cover would be available up to ₹5 lakh only as per the scheme to individual borrowers.
- Sixty-one banks and HFCs have signed MoU with CRGF Trust Fact.
- So far, CRGFT covers 1,366 housing loan accounts for loan amount of ₹36.98 crore provided to EWS/LIG households.

14.4.8 Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minority Communities

About

- Prime Minister's new 15-point programme for the welfare of minorities (Prime Ministers 15-PP) is administered by Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA).

Aim

- To ensure the benefits of various government schemes flow equitably to the minority communities.
- Whenever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities.
- MoMA advised the ministries/Departments implementing PM's 15-PP to capture socioreligious communities (SRCs)-wise data in respect of their schemes.

Schemes Covered under PM's New 15-PP

- a. Schemes in 15PP considered amenable to earmarking for minority.
 - (i) Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) restructured as NULM.
- b. Schemes in 15PP for which flow of fund to minority concentration areas is quantified.
 - (i) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)
 - (ii) Basic Services Urban Poor (BSUP)

Aim

- BSUP and IHSDP comprise submissions of erstwhile JnNURM which was launched in 2005 initially for 7 years.

- No new projects have been sanctioned after March 31, 2012 Beneficiaries of BSUP/IHSDP.
- A total of 15% of the central allocation is to be earmarked for the minority communities.
- State/UTs were requested to give priority to cities/slums, predominantly inhabited by minority communities where minority population is 25% or more), while submitting detailed project reports (DPRs).

14.4.9 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has come a long way since its inception and has become a lifeline to millions. The Act was notified on 7th September, 2005 to provide minimum of 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Social inclusion, gender parity, social security and equitable growth are the founding pillars of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

Achievements

During Financial Year (FY) 2015–16, 235 crore person days were generated which was the highest compared to the previous five years. During FY 2016–17 so far, 4.8 crore households were provided employment in 142.64 lakh works. In the process, 200 crore person-days of employment were generated. Out of the total employment, 56% have been generated for women. This is the highest ever participation of women since inception of the programme.

Total expenditure in the programme since its inception is ₹3,76,546 crore and ₹48,000 crore is the allocation of fund for FY 2017–18, which is the highest ever allocation for MGNREGA. The expenditure in FY 2016–17 so far is ₹51,902 crore and is the highest since inception.

On an average, 25 to 30 lakh works were completed every year (till FY 2013–14). On the contrary, 51.3 lakh works have been completed so far in current FY 2016–17.

For the first time since inception of the programme, Consolidated Guidelines for Water Conservation were drafted. Mission Water Conservation—Planning and monitoring Framework for Natural Resource Management (NRM)-related works under MGNREGA in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) has been prepared for scientific planning and execution of water management works with the use of latest technology is the focus area of the Ministry.

In FY 2016–17 (so far), 63% of total expenditure is on NRM (Natural Resource Management) works. Expenditure on agriculture and allied sector works in FY 2016–17 is nearly 70%, which was only around 48 % in FY 2013–14.

GeoMGNREGA is a path-breaking initiative that uses space technology for geo-tagging all assets created under MGNREGA for improved planning, effective monitoring, enhanced visibility and greater transparency. The initiative was implemented in FY 2016–17, and so far, nearly 65 Lakh assets have been geotagged and made available in the public domain.

Direct Benefit Transfer

To further streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 21 States and 1 Union Territory. Around 96% of the wages are being paid electronically into the bank/post office accounts of MGNREGA workers through Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS). In FY 2013–14, only 37% of the wages were paid electronically.

A total of 8.9 crore active workers have their Aadhaar numbers seeded in NREGASoft-MIS so far, while the number was merely 76 Lakh in January 2014. As of now, 4.25 crore workers have been enabled for aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS).

Good Governance Initiatives

Job card verification and updation was taken up during FY 2016–17, and 75% of active job cards have been updated/verified in campaign mode.

Initiative has been taken to simplify MGNREGA through issuance of Annual Master Circular (AMC) for FY 2016–17 by superseding 1039 circulars/advisories issued earlier. The AMC for FY 2017–18 will be issued.

Reduction in number of registers being maintained at Gram Panchayat level to 7 simplified Registers from an average of 22 Registers has been implemented. So far, 2.05 lakh Gram Panchayats have already adopted it.

The programme is progressing towards a more independent and empowered system of Social Audit and Internal Audit to ensure growth with accountability through a trained community cadre of social auditors drawn from women SHGs.

New Initiatives

The Ministry has taken up skill development of the MGNREGA workers through initiatives like Bare Foot Technicians and Project LIFE (Livelihood In Full Employment) in order to move them up the skilling ladder.

The Ministry initiated Inter State Exchange Programmes, a process ensuring sharing of ideas and good practices. So far, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have already been visited by various States during FY 2016–17.

For the first time, guidelines for Non-PMGSY Roads were developed based on PMGSY Guidelines for basic layer. The asset will be durable with a possibility of upgradation to PMGSY standards in future.

The Performance Outcome Report of MGNREGA was for the first time published during FY 2015–16 and will be published for FY 2016–17.

14.5 FOOD SECURITY AND HUNGER ELIMINATION

14.5.1 Public Distribution System (PDS)

About

- Evolved as a system of management of scarcity and for distribution of food grains at affordable prices.
- Operated under joint responsibility of the central and state governments.
- The central government through Food Corporation India (FCI) has assumed the responsibility of the following:
 - Procurement
 - Storage
 - Transportation
 - Bulk allocation of foods to state governments.

State Government's Role

Operational responsibility including:

- Allocation within state.
- Identification of families below the poverty line (BPL)
- Issue of ration cards
- Supervision of the functioning of fair price shops (FPS) rest with state governments.

Commodities

- Wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene to state/UTs for distribution.
- Additional items of mass consumption like cloth, pulses, salt and tea, etc., by some states/UTs.

Contribution

- Containment of rise in food grains prices.
- Ensure access of food to urban consumers

Fact

- After the Green Revolution, the outreach of PDS was extended to tribal blocks and areas of high incidence of poverty in 1970s and 1980s.

14.5.2 Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)

About

- Launched in June 1992 in 1775 block throughout the country.

Aim

1. To strengthen and streamline the PDS.
2. To improve its reach in the for flange, hilly, remote and inaccessible fair price (FPS) in identified areas.

Improvement of PDS infrastructure

Specific programmes

- Drought-Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP)
- Dearth Development Programme (DDP)
- Designated Hill Areas (DHA) in consultation with state government for special focus.

Fact

- Food grains for distribution in RPDS areas issued to the states at 50 paise below central issue

Price

- The scale of issues was up to 20 kg per card.

14.5.3 Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

About

- After failure of PDS (Criticisms).
- To serve the population BPL, its urban bias, negligible coverage in the states with the highest concentration of rural poor and lack of transport and accountable arrangements for delivery.
- With effect from June 1, 1997.

Allocation and Beneficiaries

- Under TPDS, GoI allocates food grains (rice and wheat) at the rate of 35 kg per family per month to states/UTs for 6.52 crore.
 - About 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.
 - For distribution at subsidized prices through FPS.

Fact about APL

- Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of food grains in the central pool and past off take.
- Allocation of food grains to APL families ranges between 15 and 35 kg per family per month.

14.5.4 Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

About

- Centrally sponsored scheme for ten million of the poorest families.
- Launched by NDA government in December 2000.

Target

- Lookout for the poorest of the poor by providing them 35 kg of rice and wheat at ₹3 and ₹2 per kg, respectively.

Objective

1. To ensure food security to the poorest of the poor.

Status

- Originally, each beneficiary was given 25 kg per month at the state of ₹3 per kg.
- Increased to 35 kg of rice per card per month at the rate of ₹2 per kg through FPD from November 2006 onwards.

14.5.5 Annapurna Scheme

About

- Launched by GoI with effect from April, 2000.

Aim

- To provide food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS).

Beneficiaries

- The age of the applicant male or female should be 65 year or above.
- Under Annapurna scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month to be provided “free of cost” to the beneficiary.

Extension

- GoI decided to extend this scheme to another 10 lakh old people but give them only 10 kg of food grain, either wheat or rice free of charge every month.

14.5.6 National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)

About

- Introduced as a 100% CSS on 15th August, 1995.
- About 60 lakh old people get monthly pension ranging from 100 to 250 per month.

Fact

- About one-third of the beneficiaries were found to be neglected by their offspring or were living above and another one-third were found to have a dependent (mostly spouse) and in remaining cases, the beneficiaries did not have a regular source of income.
- In some states, the benefits were distributed once in 2 months and in some others there was no fitted frequency for distribution.

14.5.7 Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

About

- The National Programme of Nutritional support to primary education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a CSS in 1955.
- Commonly referred to as MDMS

Aim and Target

1. To enhance enrolment, retention, attendance of children in schools apart from improving their nutritional levels.
2. Extended to upper primary class (VI to VIII) children in 347 economically backward blocks (EBBs) in 2007.
3. Universalized at elementary level in 2008.

Implementation

1. Through states/UTs
2. Managed and implemented by:
 - School management/village education committees.
 - Panchayat Raj Institutions.
 - Self-Help Groups
- Now includes Madrasas and Maktaks supported under SSA as well as children under National projects.

Details

- Calorific value, protein inclusion, additional nutritional supplements and vitamins.

Special Attention

- Poor-performing districts (144)
 - 17 in left-wing extremism (LWE)
 - 11 in northeastern states (Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam)
 - 17 in tribal districts
 - 13 in hilly areas (Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand)

14.5.8 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

About

- Launched in 1975—a nationwide programme for overall development of children below 6 years and of the expectant and nursing the others.

Package

It contains six services:

1. Supplementary feeding
2. Immunization
3. Health check-ups
4. Referral services
5. Pre-school education
6. Health and nutrition education for its beneficiaries

Beneficiaries

- Children below 6 years of age.
- Expectant and nursing mothers.

Funding Pattern

- As it is a CSS scheme, 100% financial assistance to states/UTs.

14.5.9 Entire Country Gets National Food Security Act Coverage

Kerala and Tamil Nadu have also rolled out the National Food Security Act (NFSA). With this, now the Act has been implemented in all the States and Union Territories. As a result, now 81.34 crore persons will get wheat at ₹2/kg and rice at ₹3/kg. Being an important initiative for ensuring food security of the people, the Government of India actively pursued with all the States/UTs for its early implementation.

Now the centre will focus on further reforms in PDS, which will include end to end computerization of the system for which States/UTs are being technically and financially assisted. This is important for bringing in transparency in the functioning of the public distribution system (PDS), which is vital feature of NFSA, in order to check leakages and diversion of food grains.

Highlighting other initiatives taken by the Centre to make the PDS leakage proof, the beneficiary's database has been digitized in all the 36 States/UTs, wherein, information is available right up to beneficiary level and is in the public domain. Online allocation of food grains is being done in 28 States/UTs, and the entire food grain supply chain has been computerized in 18 States/UTs. A 100% linkage of Ration Cards with Aadhaar, which is 71% at the moment, will be achieved. Food grain losses of FCI have been brought down to 0.04% and major FCI depots have been made online.

In another significant step towards better targeting and leakage-free distribution of food grains, direct benefit transfer is being carried out in two different modes. In the first mode, food subsidy is being transferred in cash into the bank account of beneficiaries, who then have the choice to buy food grains from the open market. This has been started in UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The second mode involves automation of fair-price shops, for distribution of food grains through an electronic point of sale (e-PoS) device which authenticates beneficiaries at the time of distribution and also electronically captures the quantum of food grains distributed to the family. As of 31 Jan 2016, e-PoS devices are operational in 1,61,854 fair-price shops.

For smooth functioning of PDS, State Governments are also being provided Central assistance for meeting expenditure of intra-State transportation and handling of food grains and fair-price shop dealer's margin. The assistance for fair-price shop dealers' margin also contains a component of assistance for installation and operation of PoS devices at fair price shops. So far, ₹1,874 crore has been released to State Governments by the Government of India in 2016–17.

At this current coverage, monthly allocation of food grains to States/UTs under the Act is about 45.5 lakh tons, with subsidy implication of about ₹11,726 crore per month or about ₹1,40,700 crore per year.

14.6 WELFARE INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN (MCWD)

14.6.1 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

- To address the issue of decline in CSR (Child Sex Ratio) in 100 gender-critical districts (now extended to 61 more districts).

Objectives

1. Prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
2. Ensure survival and protection of the girl child.
3. Ensure education of the girl child.

Two Major Components

1. Mass communication campaign.
2. Multi-sectoral action in 100 selected districts (as pilot) with adverse CSR, covering all states and UTs).

Multi-sectoral intervention

1. Ministry of women and child development
2. Ministry of Health and family welfare
3. Ministry of Human Resource Development

One-stop Centre Scheme

- Centrally sponsored scheme.
- A sub-scheme of umbrella scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of women including Indira Gandhi Matritav Sahyog Yojana. Established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in public and private places in a phased manner.
- Girls under 18 years of age are referred to centre, served in coordination with authorities, institutions established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000 and Protection of children from sexual offence act, 2012.
- Women help line to give assistance in
 - Medical
 - Police
 - Shelter
 - Psycho-social support/counselling
 - Legal aid/ counselling
 - Video-conferencing facility

Funding Pattern

- Centrally sponsored scheme funded through Nirbhaya fund.
- Central government will provide 100% financial assistance to the state government/UT administrations.
- Day-to-day implementation and administrative matters would be responsibility of the state government, both social audit and audit would be done.
- Social audit and audit would be done.
- Social audit by civil society groups.
- 12th working plan group recommended this one-stop crisis centre.

14.6.2 Universalization of Women Helpline Scheme (1091)

- With respect to Article 21 of the constitution.

Objectives

- Provide toll-free 24 hours telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information.
- Facilitate crisis intervention through referral to police/hospital/ambulance services.
- Provide information about the appropriate support services available to the woman affected by violence, in her particular situation within the local area in which she resides or is employed.
- Creation and maintenance of a comprehensive referral database by the helpline within its local area.

Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of communications and IT and Department of telecommunications.
- Ministry of Home Affairs/state/district
- Ministry of Health and family affairs/state/district.

14.6.3 Ujjawala Scheme

- A comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Objective

- To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and investment of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through workshops, seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
- To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- To provide rehabilitation services of both immediate and long term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs, such as shelter, food, clothing medical treatment, including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
- To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

Target Group/Beneficiaries

- Women and children who are vulnerable and victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. **Implementing Agencies**

1. Social welfare/women and child welfare department of state government.
2. Women's development corporations.
3. Women's development centres.
4. Urban local bodies.
5. Reputed public/private trust or voluntary organisation. These organization must have adequate experience in the field of trafficking, social defence, dealing with women and children in need of care and protection, children in conflict with law, etc.

Components of Scheme

1. Prevention
2. Rescue
3. Rehabilitation
4. Re-integration
5. Repatriation

The implementing agency should bear the 10% cost of the project.

Funding Pattern

- Release of funds will be shared between central government states and implementing agencies in the ratio 60:30:10 except northeastern and Himalayan states where the applicable sharing ratio shall be 80:10:10, respectively.
- In case of UT, sharing ratio will be 90:10 between the central government and implementing agency.

- Funds to the states/UT will be released in two instalments.
 1. First instalment: 50% of allocated grant in the beginning of financial year after deducting any unspent balance available with state/UT.
 2. Second instalment released after 60% of the first instalment has been utilized. State government/UTs are required to furnish half-yearly statement of expenditure to MCWD.

14.6.4 Working Women Hostel

Objectives

- To promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day-care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.

Beneficiaries

1. Working women, who may be single, widowed, divorced, separated married but where husband or immediate family does not reside in the same city/area.
2. Particular preference may be given to women from disadvantaged sections of the society.
3. Provision for reservation of seats for physically challenged beneficiaries.
4. Women under training for job provided the total training period does not exceed 1 year on the condition: vacancy available after accommodated working women. (WW)
5. Number of women under training for job should not exceed 30% of the total capacity.
6. Girls up to age of 18 years and boys up to age of 5 years, accompanying working mothers will be provided accommodation, with their mothers.

Financial Assistance Components

1. 75% of the cost of construction of building of working women hostel only on public land.
2. Financial assistance for hostels to be run in rented premises.

Funding Pattern: For Construction of Hostel Building

- For new hostel construction, the ratio 50:40:10 in three instalments.

14.6.5 Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers

Objective

- To provide day-care facilities for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers in the community.
- To improve nutrition and health status of children.
- To promote physical, cognitive, social and emotional development (holistic development) of children.
- To educate and empower parents, caregivers for better childcare. **Services**
- Day-care facilities, including sleeping facilities.
- Early stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school education for 3 to 6 years old children.

- Supplementary nutrition (to be locally sourced).
- Growth monitoring
- Health check-up and immunization.

Target Group

- Focus on children of 6 months to 6 years of working women in rural and urban areas who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month or in year.

Implementing Agencies

- Through the existing mother NGOs and CSWB.
- If required, these organisation could implement scheme through other suitable voluntary/NGOs
- Run the crèches as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP).

Funding Pattern

- NGOs/organisation will get themselves registered with the implementing agencies, that is, CSWB/mother NGOs from whom they are seeking grants-in-aid for running the crèches.
- They should also have the Aadhaar number of key functionaries of the crèche and beneficiaries (i.e., children).
- Released on quarterly basis to implementing agencies/mother NGOs on receipt of request and requisite documents.
- No grants, in case the no. of children in particular months falls below 10.
- In case of number of children for a particular month is less than 25 but more than 9, supplementary nutrition cost will be provided on pro rata basis coordination and convergence.
- Ensure linkages with local PHC/such centre, government hospital in area for immunization and basic health check-up of children.
- Ensure convergence with other schemes and programmes like ICDS, SSA and MGN-REGA within the vicinity.
- Arrangements for doctor's visit for medical check-up of children should be ensured; unwillingness of qualified doctors to visit far-flung crèche centres in rural areas needs to be adequately compensated.

14.6.6 SWADHAR GREH—A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances

Vision

- A supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction.

Objectives

1. To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.
2. To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.

3. To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
4. To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
5. To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress.
6. To enable them to start their life after dignity and conviction.

Swadhar Greh will be set up in every district with capacity of 30 women.

Strategies

- Temporary residential accommodation with provision of food, clothing, medical facilities, etc.
- Vocational and skill upgradation timings for economic rehabilitation of such women.
- Counselling, awareness generation and behavioural trainings.
- Legal aid and guidance.
- Counselling through telephone.

Beneficiaries

Availed by Women alone 18 Years of Age Who Are:

- Deserted and without any social and economic support.
- Survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and without any social and economic support.
- Prisoners released from jail and without family, socioeconomic support.
- Victims of domestic violence, family tension or discord who are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and no special protection from exploitation and/or facing litigation on account of martial disputes.
- Trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or any other places where they face exploitation and women affected by HIV/AIDS who do not have any social or economic support. However, such women/girls should first seek assistance under UJJAWALA scheme in areas where it is in operation.

Funding Pattern

- MWCD provide 100% funding as grant-in-aid to the state governments and UT administrations for release to implementing agencies.

Implementing Agencies

- State government agencies including women development corporate established by them
- Central/state autonomous bodies
- Municipal bodies
- Cantonment boards
- Panchayat Raj Institutions and cooperative institutions
- Departments of women and child development/social welfare of the state governments
- Public trusts registered under any law for the time being in force.
- Civil society organisations such as NGOs

Components of the Scheme

1. Construction grant for construction of building will be admissible to state governments, municipal corporations, cantonment boards and panchayat raj institutions only. Land for this purpose is to be provided by the IA free of cost
2. Rent for SWADHAR Greh, if run in a rented building
3. Assistance for recurring and non-recurring expenditure for management of Swadhar Greh
4. Provision for food, shelter, clothing, medical care, pocket expense for residents and children.
5. Provision of counselling, legal aid, vocational training and guidance

14.6.7 STEP—Central Sector Scheme Since 1986–1987

About

- Support to training and employment programme for women (STEP) aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skills that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs.

Beneficiaries

- Intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country and not exceed 200.

Funding Pattern

- Grant under the scheme is given to an institution/organisation directly including NGOs and not the states/UTs. 90% by GoI and remaining 10% by IA from assistance.
- Any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to the agriculture, horticulture, food processing, handlooms, tailoring, stitching, embroidery, zari, etc., handicrafts, computer and IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the work place such as spoken English, gems and jewellery, travel and tourism, hospitality as identified by MSDE (Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship).

Objectives

- a. To provide skills that give employability to women.
- b. To provide competencies and skills that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs.

Scope

- GoI set an ambitious plan training 500 million individuals by 2022 which translates to training 42 million a year.

Project Approval

- By project appraisal committee (PAC).

14.6.8 Nari Shakti Puraskar (National Award for Women)

- Awarded for outstanding work preferably in exceptional circumstances to individual men or women/groups academic institutions/NGOs/ villages, etc., in the broad,

disaggregated areas/activities coming under the promotion of economic empowerment, social empowerment, effective implementation of women related legislates and gender mainstreaming.

Objectives

- Strengthening their legitimate place in the society for women.
- Provide an opportunity to the current generation to understand the contribution of women in building of society and the nation.

Recipients

- Drawn from institutions and individuals

Nominations

- Invite nominations from state government, UT-concerned central ministries, NGOs, universities, institutions, private and public sector undertakings working for empowerment of women.
- 20 Nari Shakti purashkars shall be conferred every year.
- Declared every year on 20th February and awards conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD)
- Certificate and Cash amount

14.6.9 Indira Gandhi Matritiva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)— A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme

Objectives

1. Promoting appropriate practices, care and service utilization during pregnancy, safe delivering and location.
2. Encouraging the women to follow (optimal) ICYF practices, including early and exclusive breast feeding for the first 6 months.
3. Contributing to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers.

About Implementation

- Implemented through ICDS Scheme.
- Focal point of implementation would be Anganwadi centre (AWC) at the village.

Target Group

- Pregnant women of 19 years of age and above, for first two live births (benefit for still births would be as per the guidelines of scheme).
- All government and PSUs (Central and State) employees would be excluded from the scheme as they are entitled for paid maternity leave.

Financial Assistance

- Financial assistance to state governments would be given in two instalments by MoWCD.
- MoWCD transfers the funds to the consolidated account of the concerned state government.

14.6.10 Women Transforming India

NITI Aayog launches ‘Women Transforming India’ campaign, in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov - #WomenTransform.

Celebrating women doers, leaders and change makers from across the country, NITI Aayog—Government of India’s premier think tank—has launched the ‘Women Transforming India’ initiative on, March 8, International Women’s Day, in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov.

As a policy think tank, NITI Aayog seeks to engage directly with women leaders from across urban and rural areas of India. ‘Women Transforming India’ is, therefore, our effort at putting our ear to the ground to gather successful stories of change heralded by women at the grassroots level, within communities.

Through the initiative, NITI Aayog is seeking for entries in the form of written essays/stories (not exceeding 500 words), preferably accompanied by photographs that set a context to the narrative. These stories should reflect new ground broken by women in empowering themselves/others, or of challenging stereotypes.

Winning entries will receive a certificate of appreciation from NITI Aayog and the UN in India. Change makers may also have a chance to interact directly with policy makers in the Government of India to enable affect positive policy action.

We seek to encourage and recognize women who have made a difference, particularly, by demonstrating leadership in the economic, sociocultural and environmental front. Stories of change fostered through the setting up of small businesses/enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities for communities, challenging discriminatory practices/norms, or preserving the environment and responding to challenges of climate change are encouraged. Successes in leading change could have been achieved either through the use of technology or by employing innovating on-ground methods.