



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

GS-2

Malnutrition Challenge in India:

Context:

As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight, 38.4% are stunted and 58.5% are anemic. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) and 53% are anemic.

Steps taken by Govt.:

- The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes to address various aspects related to nutrition.
- This Ministry is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

The monitoring systems in-built in the schemes are as under:

- NITI Aayog undertakes periodic monitoring and evaluation of POSHAN Abhiyaan through their 'Technical Unit' for assessing the impact of the programme.
- In order to ensure regular monitoring and review of all sectoral programmes under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, a National Nutrition Resource Centre – Central Project Monitoring Unit (NNRC–CPMU) has been constituted.
- The **Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana** is implemented through web based Management and Information (MIS) Software, viz., Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana-Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS) which is used as an effective tool for regular monitoring
- The **Anganwadi Services Scheme** has an in-built monitoring system since its inception to track the physical progress of the scheme in respect of various input process, output and impact indicators through a standardized Management Information System (MIS).



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

Exploitation of Domestic Workers:

Why in News?

The discussions are underway regarding a National Policy for Domestic Workers as per information obtained from Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The salient features of which are as under:

- I. Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the existing legislations;
- II. Registration of Domestic workers;
- III. Right to form their own associations / unions;
- IV. Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence;
- V. Right to enhance their skills;
- VI. Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation;
- VII. Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc. for Grievance Redressal.
- VIII. Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of placement agencies.

Measures taken by Govt.:

- The Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for the welfare of unorganized workers.
- It deal with matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined.
- In addition, the Central Government has recently converged the social security schemes of Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
- These provide life and disability coverage to the unorganized workers for the age group of 18 to 50 years depending upon their eligibility.

About PMJJBY:

- Converged PMJJBY gives coverage of Rs.2.0 lakh on death at a premium of Rs.330/- per annum.
- Further converged PMSBY gives coverage of Rs.2.0 lakh on accidental death and disability at a premium of Rs.12/- per annum.
- These converged schemes are being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India.
- The annual premium is shared on 50:50 basis by the Central and State Governments.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

Benefit of BBBP scheme to Daughters of Poor Women:

Context:

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme aims to address the critical issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR).

The specific objectives of the scheme are:

- i. prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
- ii. ensure survival and protection of the girl child
- iii. ensure education and participation of the girl child through coordinated and convergent efforts.

Salient Features:

- Out of 640 districts (as per Census 2011), 405 districts are selected under Multi-sectoral intervention and advocacy & media campaign, while remaining 235 districts are covered under advocacy & media campaign only.
- BBBP scheme has provision for awards and recognitions but no provision for direct individual cash transfer for any strata of society including daughters of poor women.
- It is not a DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme.
- Under the scheme, combined data of urban and rural areas are considered for the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).

Performance of the Scheme:

- The latest reports of Health Management Information System (HMIS) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the time period between F.Y. 2015-16 and F.Y. 2018-19, reveal that SRB is showing improving



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

trends from 923 to 931, which include urban areas as well as rural areas of the country

Achievements Under Skill Development Programme :

Schemes:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

It is being implemented with an objective to provide skilling to one crore prospective youth under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country for four years i.e. 2016-2020.

Main Features of Scheme:

- Under PMKVY 2016-20, focus on employment has been significantly enhanced and candidates have been placed in various sectors and industries.
- TPs are mandated to organize Placement/Rozgar Melas every six months with support from the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and to ensure the participation of local industry. Scheme also incentivizes TCs/TPs for facilitating placement of the trained candidates.
- Further, the reimbursement of last 20% of training payout to TCs is linked with the placement (wage employment or self employment) of the candidate.
- Additionally, post placement support of Rs. 1500 per month per trainee is applicable for special group (women candidates and persons with disability) and special areas (LWE, North East region and J&K) for 2 or 3 month post training depending on placement within or outside the district of the domicile of the candidate.

Progress made:

- Due to the above mentioned initiatives, the reported placement under PMKVY 2016-20 is approximately 57%.
- Further, the third party impact evaluation of PMKVY 2016-20, conducted by independent body, has observed that 17% of the students enrolled under PMKVY 2016-20 prefer to go for higher studies than getting into employment.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

Ministry has also undertaken various measures to encourage greater participation of industry in skilling ecosystem to improve employment outcomes. Employer led skill development is also being promoted to further improve placements rates under PMKVY 2016-20.

Schemes to Reduce IMR and SBR

Public Health is a State subject. However, to reduce infant mortality and still birth, various programmes and schemes under National Health Mission are implemented by States/ UTs as follows:

- Promotion of Institutional deliveries through cash incentive under **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** entitles all pregnant women (PW) delivering in public health institutions to free ante-natal check-ups, delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.
- **India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)** was launched in 2014 to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of "Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate" and "Single Digit Still birth Rate," by 2030.
- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA)** programme for improving breastfeeding practices through mass media campaigns and capacity building of health care providers in health facilities as well as in communities.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is supported to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B. .
- **LaQshya** a Labour Room quality improvement programme is implemented in over 2100 health facilities across the country including medical colleges.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is implemented to provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)** for health screening, early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays and early intervention services has been operationalized to provide comprehensive care to all the children in the age group of 0-18 years in the community.

Targets:



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

- Under National Health Policy, 2017, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) target for the year 2019 is 28 per 1000 live births and Still Birth Rate is Single Digit by 2025.
- As per latest Sample Registration System bulletin of Registrar General of India, the Infant Mortality Rate is 33 per 1000 live births at National level in 2017 and Still Birth rate is 4 per 1000 birth in 2016 .

What is IMR?

- Infant mortality is the death of young children under the age of 1. This death toll is measured by the infant mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 live births.
- **Stillbirth** is typically defined as [fetal](#) death at or after 20 to 28 weeks of [pregnancy](#) (depending on the source).
- It results in a baby born without [signs of life](#)

GS-3

Natural Language Translation

Why in News?

The Ministry of Electronics and IT will soon place before the Union Cabinet a ₹450 crore proposal for Natural [Language](#) Translation — one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

About the Proposal:

- The proposal is part of the 100-day action plan charted out by MeitY, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions.
- The national mission on natural language translation aims to make science and technology accessible to all by facilitating access to teaching and researching material bilingually — in English and in one's native Indian language.
- To achieve this, the government plans to leverage a combination of machine translation and human translation.
- To overcome the language barrier, the government planned to set up an ecosystem which involved the Central and State agencies and start-ups.

Benefits of the Project:



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

- Start-ups can help expedite the work to build implementable solutions to help make research.
- Translation activities can also help generate employment for educated unemployed, he pointed out, adding that the mission would help not just students but also teachers, authors, publishers, translation software developers and general readers.

Other Important Points:

- The IT ministry is the lead agency for implementation of the mission along with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Science and Technology.
- The PM-STIAC is an overarching body that identifies challenges in certain areas of science and technology.
- It then creates a road map to deal with these challenges and presents the recommendations to the Prime Minister.
- Besides natural language translation, other missions identified by the body includes Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence, National Bio-diversity mission, electric vehicles, BioScience for Human Health and deep ocean exploration.

Nuclear Wastes:

Why in News?

India has adopted "closed fuel cycle", where spent nuclear fuel is regarded as a material of resource.

What does it Mean?

- Closed fuel cycle aims at reprocessing of spent fuel for recovery of Uranium and Plutonium and recycling them back to reactor as fuel.
- This finally leads to a very small percentage of residual material present in spent nuclear fuel requiring their management as radioactive waste.
- Safe management of radioactive waste has been accorded high priority right from the inception of our nuclear energy programme.

How is it Done?

- With the advent of new technologies based on partitioning of waste, emphasis is accorded to separation and recovery of these useful



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 28-June-2019

radio-isotopes so as to make use of the waste for various societal applications.

- Utmost emphasis is given to waste volume minimization, effective containment and isolation of radio-activity followed by near zero discharge of radioactivity to the environment.
- As a waste management philosophy, no waste in any physical form is released / disposed to the environment unless the same is cleared, exempted or excluded from regulations.

A comprehensive radioactive waste management is established taking into account the operational capability for the management of radioactive waste and an independent regulatory capability for its overview.

Threats from Nuclear waste:

- The transport of this waste poses an unacceptable risk to people and the environment
- Plutonium has been stated to be 'the most toxic substance on earth' and so hazardous that 'a speck can kill
- Most nuclear waste produced is hazardous, due to its radioactivity, for only a few tens of years and is routinely disposed of in near-surface disposal facilities (see above). Only a small volume of nuclear waste (~3% of the total volume) is long-lived and highly radioactive and requires isolation from the environment for many thousands of years.
- Even if put into a geological repository, the waste might emerge and threaten future generation
- There is a potential terrorist threat to the large volumes of radioactive waste currently being stored and the risk that this waste could leak or be dispersed as a result of terrorist action.