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Shankar IAS Academy™

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KURUKSHETRA - AUGUST 2018

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1. BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA : A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS NEW INDIA

What is Bharatmala Pariyojana ?

- Bharatmala Pariyojana is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimising efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder routes, National Corridor efficiency Improvement, Border and International Connectivity roads, Coastal and port connectivity roads and green field express ways.

What are the key features of the Program ?

- **Improving the quality of roads** - The launch of the scheme has been done to bring a new wave of development in the nation in the form of well-maintained and developed roads. Under this project, the construction of roads,

in all parts of the nation will be undertaken.

- **Total road construction** - As per the draft of the scheme, government and the ministry will strive to complete new roads, which will add up to a whopping 34,800 kms.
- **Integrated scheme** - The Bharatmala is the name that is given to the road development and it will include many other related schemes as well. With the completion of all the schemes, the overall success of the scheme will be guaranteed.
- **Total tenure of the program** - The central government has the plans of finishing the scheme within a span of five years. Thus, all is set for finishing the first phase before the end of 2022.
- **Segmentation in phases** - Due to the sheer magnitude and spread of the scheme, it will be divided into seven distinct phases. As of now, the first phase is under construction.



- **Constriction on a daily basis** - To finish the first phase in time, the respective department has made efforts of constructing at least 18 km of path on a daily basis. To beat the clock, continued efforts are being made to raise it to 30 km/day.
- **Different categories of road construction** - It has been highlighted in the official draft of the scheme that to provide better connectivity, the construction of various categories of roads will be undertaken.
- **Multi-source of finding** - One source will not be enough for funding a mammoth project. Thus, the government will have to depend on other sources for generating adequate money to meet the expenses.
- **Feeder Route or Inter Corridor** - The total length of the roads, which fall under the Feeder Route or Inter Corridor category, is a whopping 6000kms.
- **National Corridor Efficiency Improvement** - 5000kms of roads, constructed under the scheme will fall in the category of National Corridor for the better connection between roads.
- **Border Road and International Connectivity** - Connecting the cities and remote areas, which are situated in the border regions, the project has kept provision for constructing 2000kms roads that fall in the Border Road or International Connectivity category.
- **Port Connectivity and Coastal Road** - To connect the areas that are dotted along the shorelines and important ports, the central government has ordered the construction of 2000km of roads.
- **Green Field Expressway** - The main stress will be given on the construction and development of Green Field Expressway for better management of traffic and freight.

What are the categories under Bharatmala Category ?

- **Economic Corridor** - As per the guidelines of the road construction project, the construction of 9000kms of Economic Corridors will be undertaken by the central government.



- **Balance NHDP Works** - Under the last segment, the project will see a construction and maintenance of about 10,000kms of new roads.

2. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE : AN OVERVIEW

What is the importance of Infrastructure ?

- Infrastructure is critical for a country's development and a country's development and progress is judged by the quality of infrastructure it has.
- Infrastructure can be public or private, physical and services, social and economic.
- Economic infrastructure could be transportation, communication, power, irrigation and the like while that of social infrastructure comprise of education, health, drinking water, housing., etc.,.

What is the overview of different Infrastructure sectors ?

Road Infrastructure :

- Road network has been the fulcrum of country's economy for transportation of goods, services, agricultural produce, travel and

connectivity and act as a growth centre.

- India has one of the largest roads networks in the world with about 47 lakh km of roads, which includes National highways, State highways, district roads, PWD roads, rural roads etc.,.
- Road Infrastructure caters to transport over 60 percent of total goods and 85 percent of the total passenger traffic.
- Bharatmala Pariyojana is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
- Setu Bharatam programme aims to make all National Highways free of railway level crossings by 2019



and around 208 Railway Over Bridges (ROB)/Railway Under Bridges (RUB) will be built at the level crossings at a cost of Rs. 20,800 crore as part of the programme.

Communication Infrastructure :

- The telecommunication infrastructure has phenomenal growth with growth in e-Governance, cashless transactions in banking and financial services, travel, tourism and citizen services.
- This growth in the telecom sector has also granted innovations, entrepreneurship through the Start up India and Stand Up India and made mobile communication among more than 80 crores population and contributing significantly with about 1.75 % of the Indian GDP for the year 2015, according to the Broadband India Forum.
- About 1.5 lakh gram Panchayats are being connected with optic fibre for providing internet and Wi Fi hotspots and access to digital services at low tariffs, through

Bharat Net and Digital India initiatives.

Renewable Energy**Infrastructure:**

- India is emerging as the one of the largest producer of energy from renewable sources, catering to about 20 percent of the installed power.
- International Solar Alliance Project is promoting the growth and development of solar power internationally to over 120 countries and India set a target of achieving 40 % of its total electricity generation from the non fossil fuel resources.

Irrigation under PMKSY:

- A very innovative GOI scheme to promote productive agriculture is the PMKSY.
- Under this scheme water conservation, construction of farm pond, water harvesting structures, small dams and many other structures are created for enabling the smooth flow of water to the agriculture purposes.



3. LINKING FARMERS TO e - NAM

What is e - NAM ?

- National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- The NAM Portal provides a single window service for all APMC related information and services.
- This includes commodity arrivals & prices, buy & sell trade offers, provision to respond to trade offers, among other services.
- While material flow (agriculture produce) continue to happen through mandis, an online market reduces transaction costs and information asymmetry.
- It promotes uniformity, streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets, removes information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promotes real time price discovery, based on actual demand and supply and promotes transparency in auction process.

What are the constraints in implementation of e-NAM ?

- Harmonization of quality standards of agricultural produce and provision for assaying infrastructure in every market to enable informed bidding by buyers is required.
- A wide correlation between value chains of the producer of the producer, market chains, retailer and consumer is required.
- There is a need for synergy of network organization and market agencies like warehousing and collateral management agencies, financial institutions, logistic providers training and extension organizations as markets are turning towards the digital phase.
- Farmers have to have the free access towards the information and the pricing mechanisms.
- As many farmers are digitally illiterate, again they will be at the mercy of someone to depend upon the rates and information.
- There is a possibility of self exclusion from this scheme by farmers due to the lack of access towards the technology.



What is Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act, 2017 ?

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released the model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017.
- The model Act seeks to facilitate free flow of agricultural produce including livestock, provide a direct interface of farmers with the buyers and consumers, and create a barrier free single market in the country.
- A state or UT government can adopt this model Act.

What are the Key feature of this Act ?

- **Unified market area:** A state government may declare the whole state as a single unified market area.
- In such an area, a single license will be applicable for the trade of agricultural produce and livestock.
- **Market Committee:** A Market Committee will manage market yards in a specified area, and is responsible for:

- i. Regulating the auction of agricultural produce and livestock, and
 - ii. Providing facilities for marketing of agricultural produce and livestock. The Committee may also link consumers with farmers through digital technology and manage these market yards through PPPs.
- **Setting up of private market yards:** Apart from market yards managed by the Market Committees, private market yards may be set up by private individuals to facilitate operations of traders, and commission agents.
 - These can also include farmer-consumer market yards, which provide infrastructure access.
 - **Single point levy of market fee:** The Market Committee shall levy a market fee from a buyer on sale of notified agricultural produce and livestock.
 - This fee cannot exceed two percent ad valorem on transacted produce in case of nonperishable agricultural produce and one percent ad valorem in case of perishable agricultural produce and livestock.



4. RURAL HEALTH EMERGING CHALLENGES

What is the existing rural structure in rural areas for providing health care ?

- **Sub Centre** : Sub-Centre (SC) is the most peripheral and first contact point between the primary health care system and the community.
- One Sub Centre is to cover a population of 3000 in Hilly / Tribal / Difficult areas and 5000 in Plain areas.
- Each Sub-Centre is required to be manned by at least one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) / Female Health Worker and one Male Health Worker.
- Sub-Centres are assigned tasks relating to interpersonal communication in order to bring about behavioural change and provide services in relation to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhoea control and control of communicable diseases programmes.
- **Primary Health Centre** : Primary Health Centre (PHC) is the first

contact point between village community and the Medical Officer.

- The PHCs were envisaged to provide an integrated curative and preventive health care to the rural population with emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of health care.
- One PHC is to cover a population of 20000 in Hilly/ Tribal / Difficult areas and 30000 in Plain areas.
- As per minimum requirement, a PHC is to be manned by a Medical Officer supported by 14 paramedical and other staff.
- The activities of PHC involve curative, preventive, promotive and Family Welfare Services.
- **Community Health Centres** : As per minimum norms, a Community Health Centre (CHC) is required to be manned by four Medical Specialists i.e. Surgeon, Physician, Gynaecologist and Paediatrician supported by paramedical and other staff.
- It has 30 in-door beds with one OT, X-ray, Labour Room and Laboratory facilities. It serves as a



referral centre for 4 PHCs and also provides facilities for obstetric care and specialist consultations.

- One CHC is to cover a population of 80000 in Hilly/ Tribal / Difficult areas and 1, 20, 000 in Plain areas.

What is the current status of these centres ?

- As per the latest estimates of the total 28,650 PHCs in the country, 15,700 have only one doctor and 1,974 centres doesn't have a doctor.
- In about 10,000 centres there are lab technicians needen while 480 centres are yet to have a pharmacist.
- According to UN report 75 percent of the specialists reside in the urban areas where they are serving only 27 percent of the population.
- The country is short of 81 percent of specialists in the rural areas and there is a lacking in the bedding capacity of the Govt hospitals as 63 percent beds available in the country are with the private sector.

What is Ayushman Bharat ?

- Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

What are its salient features ?

- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will have a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of



deprivation criteria in the SECC database.

- The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities.
- To control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the Government in advance) basis.
- One of the core principles of Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission is to co-operative federalism and flexibility to states.
- For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.
- States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme.
- To ensure that the funds reach SHA on time, the transfer of funds from Central Government through Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission to State

Health Agencies may be done through an escrow account directly.

- In partnership with NITI Aayog, a robust, modular, scalable and interoperable IT platform will be made operational which will entail a paperless, cashless transaction.

5. TRANSFORMING DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

What is SWAJAL program about ?

- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has initiated a pilot project in the name of “Swajal” that is designed as a demand driven and community centred program to provide sustainable access to drinking water to people in rural areas.
- Community-led drinking water projects to be called ‘Swajal’ aiming at providing sustainable and adequate drinking water in an integrated manner to the rural masses on pilot basis.
- It is envisaged that the State government in partnership with rural communities; shall plan, design, construct, operate and maintain their water supply and sanitation schemes and so that



they get potable water and attain health and hygiene benefits.

- The State Government and its sector institutions shall act as supporter, facilitator and co-financier and as per need shall provide technical assistance, training and cater for bigger construction works and sectoral contingencies.

What is the rationale behind the SWAJAL pilot Project ?

- Partnership between village communities, NGOs and the government as the facilitator and co-financing has worked successfully.
- The possibility of misappropriating and misusing the funds becomes minimal if transparency at each stage is adhered and monitored by stakeholders.
- Empowerment of PRIs is a viable and sustainable option for scaling up the decentralized service delivery model.
- The change from a supply based model to demand based model requires a new mind set and investment at different levels for acceptance of the new model.

- Good facilitation and appropriate techniques have to be put in place in community management model.
- Some form of external support to communities is imperative to ensure long term sustainability;

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayats in this program ?

- To approve the schemes prepared by Village Water and Sanitation Sub-Committees and submitted through Jal Prabandhan Committee.
- The Gram Panchayat will receive the funds from the Implementing Agency and manage the funds received for drinking water schemes and will transfer the amount received in Gram Nidhi by cheque to the Village Water and Sanitation Sub-Committees within 15 days.
- The maintenance of accounts of the funds received for drinking water scheme will be done at the level of Gram Panchayat according to the proforma/formats prescribed by the Accountant General.



- The Gram Panchayat will ensure auditing of Gram Nidhi account and the Village Water and Sanitation Sub-Committees will ensure auditing of the account of the Sub-committee.
- An account for drinking water works will be opened at Gram Panchayat level and will be operated by Gram Pradhan and Secretary of Gram Panchayat.
- A Community Accountant shall be made available for maintenance of such accounts by the project.
- Gram Panchayat will make efforts for resolving disputes relating to drinking water at Gram Panchayat level.

6. CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

What is the background of PMGSY ?

- Rural Road Connectivity is not only a key component of Rural Development by promoting access to economic and social services and thereby generating increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities in India, it is also as a result, a key ingredient in

ensuring sustainable poverty reduction.

- Notwithstanding the efforts made, over the years, at the State and Central levels, through different Programmes, about 40% of the Habitations in the country are still not connected by All-weather roads.
- It is well known that even where connectivity has been provided, the roads constructed are of such quality (due to poor construction or maintenance) that they cannot always be categorised as All-weather roads.
- With a view to redressing the situation, Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather access to unconnected habitations.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. 50% of the Cess on High Speed Diesel (HSD) is earmarked for this Programme.



- The Government has brought forward the target date by three years from 2022 to 2019 to achieve complete rural connectivity through all-weather roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, PMGSY.
- This accelerated implementation will be achieved by providing enhanced financial allocation and through a modified funding pattern in the Scheme.
- Thus the annual allocation during year 2015-16 is to be enhanced by Rs. 5,000 crore and with this the total Central allocation to States would be Rs. 15,100 crore.

What are some of the innovative measures taken by GOI and World Bank jointly in the implementation of the PMGSY ?

- Climate vulnerability assessment during the design process to identify the critical locations affected by floods, water logging, submergence, cloud bursts, storms, landslides and high temperatures.
- Special treatment for flood affected areas through adequate waterways and submersible roads to allow

easy passage of water, use of concrete block pavements, and improved drainage.

- Use of environmentally optimized road designs and new technologies which uses local and marginal materials and industrial by products such as sand, local soils, fly ash, brick klin wastes and other similar materials in place of crushed rocks.
- Innovative bridges and culverts through use of pre fabricated units for roads and bridges having better ability to withstand earthquakes and water forces such as continuous beams , bearing free construction and river training works.
- Use of hill cutting materials in hill roads ensuring its productive use and resolving its disposal problem, use of bio engineering measures, improved drainage and other treatments for landslide prone areas and providing adequate slope protection.

What is the impact of PMGSY ?

- In agriculture sector, the scheme has opened avenues for increase usage of fertilizers and improved



seeds, affected change in the cropping pattern and other allied activities besides increase in accessibility to markets for selling agricultural produce.

- It has led to increase in the employment opportunities in the agricultural sector and increase in other sectors outside villages due to higher mobility.
- There is a improvement in access to raw materials for local industries and improvement in access to the market goods.
- The all weather roads have provided better access to Health centres, better availability of vehicles to reach the hospitals.
- The other benefits of PMGSY include a diversified livelihoods' portfolio and improved quality of life for rural communities.

What are the bottlenecks in PMGSY ?

- Wide variation in unit costs among the states.
- Maintenance of road network i.e generating funds for road maintenance through appropriate local mechanisms.
- Delays in execution due to adverse weather condition i.e. Omonsoon, landslides etc.,.
- Delays in acquiring land and forest clearance.
- Law and order problems.
- Non availability of Labor and materials.
- Lack of technically trained staff to execute and monitor road works.
- Providing public transport services.