



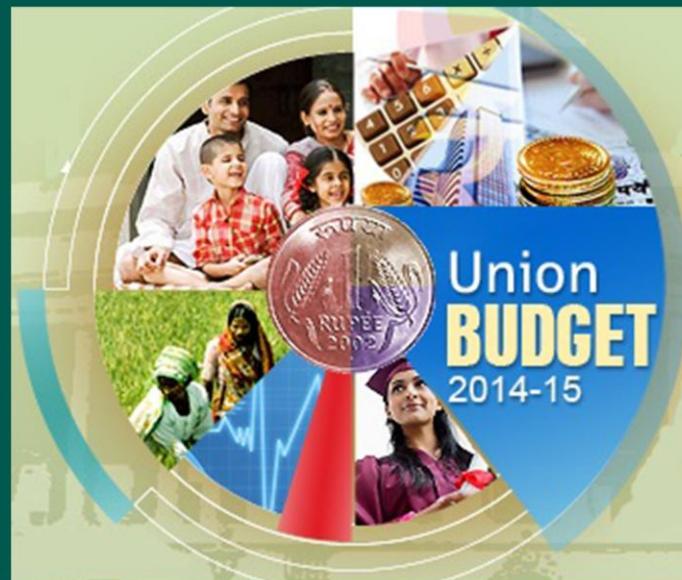
IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is a Blessing

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

GIST OF KURUKSHETRA

UNION BUDGET 2018-19



Shankar IAS Academy™

Door No 18, New Plot No 259 /109,
AL Block, 4th Avenue, Shanthi Colony,
Annanagar, Chennai - 600040.



I N D E X

KURUKSHETRA MARCH 2018

1. STEPS FOR DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME.....	3
2. AYUSHMAAN BHARAT : MAKING RURAL HEALTH UNIVERSAL.....	5
3. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT FOR RURAL YOUTH	7
4. PROMISING BUDGET FOR WOMEN	9
5. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.....	11



KURUKSHETRA – MARCH 2018

1. STEPS FOR DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME

Why it is important to take reforms in Agriculture sector?

- Agriculture and allied activities are thrust areas in central financing as more than 50 percent of our population depends on agriculture for their livelihood.
- in addition, the fortunes of industrial sector as well as service sector are intricately linked with output and growth of this sector.

What are the steps announced in this budget to double farmer's income?

- **Irrigation Sector** - The union budget 2018 - 19 has given foremost importance to the irrigation scheme PMKSY, which has the objective to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).
- The GOI has initiated 99 projects under mission mode where as the works for identified 48 projects will remain in progress with left over works of other projects from previous phase.

- With the objectives of 1.86 lakh Ha of additional area to be brought under irrigation during 2018-19, PMKSY-Watershed Development has been provided Rs.,2145,00 crores.
- Recognizing the importance of micro irrigation in the contemporary agriculture, the government has provided Rs. 4000 crores for the water saving induced technology adaptation under " Per drop More Crop".
- **Minimum Support Price** - MSP is a tool of intervention by GOI to ensure the farmers from any sharp fall in the market price of the commodity.
- Addressing the issue of the agrarian distress of farmers in India, the union budget has ensured MSP for all 23 crops with at least one and half times of their production cost plus the imputed value of the family labor at prevailing wage rate.
- Ensuring MSP is a significant and straight step in moving towards the goal of doubling farmers income.
- **Operation Green** - Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes are consumed throughout the year in the entire country. During the last 70 years, farmers and consumers have incurred losses.



- For the first time, a new initiative titled “Operation Green” has been taken so that farmers can get right price and products are also available to the consumers at suitable prices.
- For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made.
- **Farmer producer organization** - All FPOs which include farmer producer companies also have been exempted from income tax in the budget.
- Small and Marginal Farmers FPOs/FPCs will be benefitted through this initiative. On the other hand, the problem of small holdings and partition will also be addressed.
- **National Bamboo Mission** - With a view to increase agriculture and non-agricultural activities, this budget proposes to reinvigorate National Bamboo Mission with a fund of Rs. 1290 crores.
- This will not only help in the establishment of small industries but will create new employment opportunities.
- **Agricultural Credit** - Providing timely loan to the farmers is also very important.
- For this, agriculture credit which was Rs. 10 lakh crores during last year has been increased to Rs. 11 lakh crores this year.
- **Agricultural Marketing** - In this budget, an announcement of Rs. 2000 crore for Agri Market Development Fund has been made which shows the importance of retail market in the sector of agriculture marketing.
- These markets have been called as GRAM (Gramin Retail Agriculture Market).
- Through these markets infrastructure of 22,000 Rural Haats and 585 AMC markets will be developed.
- **Food processing Sector** - One of the most revolutionary initiatives announced in Budget 2018-19 to give impetus to the food processing sector is establishing **Specialized Agro Processing Financial Institutions** to unlock finance for establishing food processing industries.
- These institutions would help overcome the deterrents faced while installing food processing projects that are capital intensive and have long gestation period, by ensuring timely, accessible and affordable credit to this sector.
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture** - By continuing the reforms made in the last 2 budgetary years, a provision of Rs. 10,000 crores has been made in



this budget for Fisheries and Aquacultures Infrastructure Development Fund and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.

- Through this, State Governments, Cooperatives and individual investors will get loans at cheap rates for fisheries and animal husbandry infrastructure.
- This will help to speed the pace of construction of fish landing centers, cold storages, ice plants, transport facilities, processing units and hatcheries etc.

2. AYUSHMAAN BHARAT: MAKING RURAL HEALTH UNIVERSAL

What is the program all about?

- The Government announced two major initiatives in health sector, as part of Ayushman Bharat programme.
- This was aimed at making path breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion.
- The initiatives are as follows:-
- **(i) Health and Wellness Centre:-** The National Health Policy, 2017 has envisioned Health and Wellness Centers as the foundation of India's health system.

- Under this 1.5 lakh centers will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.
- These centers will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.
- These centers will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services. The Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crores for this flagship programme.
- Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centers is also envisaged.
- **(ii) National Health Protection Scheme:-** The second flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme. Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.



What are the steps needed to make this program an success?

• **Detailed planning and sustained engagement with stakeholders:**

There is a need for developing a detailed plan and time bound road map for implementation.

• This would ensure the success of these initiatives from the early stage and to nudge additional states to join.

• The government should fully utilize available expertise within government and amongst the stakeholders at all levels.

• **Engage the state Governments earnestly:** Health is a state subject in India and at least 24 Indian states have their own health insurance/assurance schemes with various degree of financial protection.

• There might be some reluctance amongst states to transition from their existing schemes.

• Moreover under NHPS-2018, the state governments need to contribute financial resources.

• Lack of availability of trained mid-level providers could be a rate limiting factor in setting up HWCS, and alternative mechanisms need to be explored for rapid availability of 150,000 such providers in next 3 to 4 years.

• All of these would require commitment and early engagement of political leadership of states.

• **Strengthen administrative regulatory and capacity at all levels:** The state capacity is to implement large scale insurance scheme is limited.

• The capacity of state governments to regulate health providers and health insurance sectors would take time to develop.

• The supply deficiency could be an implementation challenge and need to be given a due importance.

• **Build on the learnings from past and other ongoing schemes :** Lot of schemes have been introduced already and the results are mixed, so a clear study is needed for effective functioning of this program.

• For example The free medicines and diagnostics schemes by various state governments and free dialysis program have struggled to reach the targeted benefits.

• **Strengthen primary healthcare and referral linkage :** A stronger primary health care system and continuum of care through functional referral linkage will be required to achieve UHC.



- In addition to HWCs, the PHCs and the community health centers also needs to be strengthened.
- **Strengthen healthcare regulation :** Economic survey 2018 reported that in private sector, the cost of most laboratory investigation is highly variable.
- So in order to weed out these king of instances GOI must take this in to serious consideration and formulate universal testing methods and should monitor that whether these are adhered or not.
- 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).
- **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)** as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) was launched for the enhancement of income for the SHGs.

3. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT FOR RURAL YOUTH

What are the current initiatives in skilling rural youth?

- **Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** is a placement linked skill development programme for the rural poor youth being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- As on 1st Feb, 2018 out of 11.8 lakh trained candidates, 7.9 lakh candidates were certified and 2.8 lakh candidates were placed.
- **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 Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.
- The **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)** will hence be a focused intervention to promote start-up entrepreneurship at village level by rural poor households by providing assured availability of need based financial support, capacity building and advisory services for establishment of village enterprises.



- SVEP envisages creation of sustainable self employment opportunities for a large number of rural poor youth, enabling them to engage effectively with the market and help generate wealth locally.
- The **Stand up India Scheme** is being launched now to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women for loans in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs.
- The Scheme is expected to benefit large number of such entrepreneurs, as it is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch (Scheduled Commercial Bank) on an average one for each category of entrepreneur.
- **Startup India** is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of India to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and startups in the country which will drive economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- The Government through this initiative aims to empower startups to grow through innovation and design.
- Organic farming in clusters to be promoted among women SHGs under the National Livelihood Programme.
- Kisan credit card facility has been extended to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers.
- Restructured National Bamboo mission with an outlay of Rs.1290 crores announced to promote bamboo in a holistic manner.
- The deadline of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been brought forward from 2022 to 2019 and it will enhance the job creation in the rural areas.
- Under the Swaachh Bharat Mission more funds are diverted and it will create an additional 16.92 crore man days.
- Under the Mega food park scheme, 12 parks are proposed during the year which aims to provide direct and indirect employment to 95000 persons in 2017 - 18 and 2018 -19.
- Towards the education Ekalavya Model residential school in every block with more than 50 percent of tribal population should be materialized by 2022.
- The government has increased allocation for improving the social metrics of the 115 backward districts.

What are the measures announced in the budget to promote skill development?

- The government will promote cluster based development of agri commodities especially for the horticultural crops.



and make them the aspirational districts.

- To make skill aspirational among the youth, a model skill centre in every district of the country under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra has been proposed to impart the skill training to many people.

4. PROMISING BUDGET FOR WOMEN

What are the key takeaways for women in the budget as a whole?

- The union Budget for 2018 - 19 has given due importance to women and child issues.
- The overall budget of the MoWCD has increased to Rs.24700 crores.
- The government increased the allocation to women specific schemes by 4 percent to Rs.1,21,961 crores for the next fiscal.
- To bridge the gender gap, the budget ensured that reasonable funds are allocated for women in all ongoing schemes.

What are the programmes and schemes running for women?

- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, {erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme} has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and

nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

- **National Creche Scheme** to provide day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed.
- The **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)** programme was allocated about Rs. 3000 crores this fiscal to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls** aims at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training. Rs. 500 crores is allocated for this scheme considering 253 million adolescents in the country.
- **Ujjawala**, a Comprehensive Scheme for prevention of trafficking and for rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. A sum of Rs. 60 crores has been allocated.
- **Mahila Shakti Kendra** will provide one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition. A sum of Rs. 267 crores



has been allocated in this fiscal from Rs. 64 crores in the last fiscal.

- **Working Women Hostels** for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence. The allocation is Rs 60 crores which is an 20 percent increase from last year.
- Government of India has set up a dedicated fund called **Nirbhaya Fund** for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. The allocation for this facility is Rs. 500 crores to create one stop facility for survivors of rape and sexual violence.
- The **Swadhar** scheme provides shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women/girls who are in need. The beneficiaries include widows deserted by their families and relatives, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, women victims of terrorist/extremist violence etc. The allocation of fund to this scheme is Rs. 95 crores.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** is a Scheme for Providing Free LPG connections to Women from BPL Households. Under the scheme, Rs 8000 crore has been earmarked for providing five crore LPG connections to BPL households. The Scheme

provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.

- **National Social Assistance (NSAP)** is a social security programme which comprises three pension schemes viz., Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) for old aged, widow and disabled persons respectively belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) households in both rural and urban areas. In the previous budget it was Rs. 8745 crores and in this current fiscal it is increased by 14 percent.
- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP)** is a scheme for survival, protection & education of the girl child. It aims to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country targeted at changing societal mindsets & creating awareness about the criticality of the issue. Now it has been expanded to all the districts and an increased allocation of Rs. 280 crores is done from Rs. 186 crores.
- **Women Helpline (WH)** is being implemented to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal



aid/ case management, psychosocial counseling and temporary support services to women affected by violence. The allocation for helpline has been increased to Rs. 28.8 crores from Rs. 10 crores.

5. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Why developing of rural areas are important?

- As per census 2011, rural areas of the country accommodate 68 percent of the population.
- There are 6.4 lakh villages in India and rural areas account for a larger part of the geographical part of India.
- Even though urbanization is on fast mode, it is projected that half of the population still live in the rural areas by 2050.
- Agriculture sector and rural areas form the backbone of the Indian economy.
- Rural economy constitutes 46 percent of national income and 70 percent of workforce are residing in India.
- Agricultural sector is not only important in meeting food supply needs of India, but also promotes development of agro based industries and other industrial sector etc.,

What are the programmes available for strengthening the rural infrastructure?

- **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).
- **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA** aims at strengthening the rural livelihood resource base through creation of productive and durable assets for sustainable growth.
 - To ensure this, there has been a lot of emphasis on timely completion of works and on improving the quality of works, during the last three years.
- There has been equal thrust on capacity building of dedicated MGNREGS functionaries and community resource persons towards upgradation of their skills for improved quality of implementation of the Programme.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana– Gramin (PMAY-G)**, new Rural Housing programme is designed to meet the needs and aspirations of households.



- With a higher unit cost, it allows for construction using local materials and local house designs.
- Homes will have cooking area, toilet, LPG connection, electricity connection and water supply through convergence, and beneficiaries can plan their homes as per their need.
- The primary objective of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** is to provide connectivity by way of all-weather roads.
- The programme also has an upgradation component with a target to upgrade existing rural roads in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity.
- In **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, special attention has been paid to fulfill the connectivity needs of backward and tribal areas, areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, border areas, coastal areas and trade routes with neighbouring countries under the programme.
- The **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana** Scheme scheme will enable to initiate much awaited reforms in the rural areas.
- It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
- Under **Saubhagya** free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided.
- There are around 4 Crore un-electrified households in the country and they are targeted for providing electricity connections by December 2018.
- The **Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin** intends to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- **BharatNet**, also Bharat Broadband Network Limited, is a Telecom infrastructure provider, set up by the government of India under Telecom department for the establishment, management and operation of National Optical Fibre Network to provide a minimum of 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to each one of all 250,000 Gram panchayats in the country covering nearly 625,000 villages to transform to Digital India