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Kurukshetra Compendium

September 2019

Addressing Rural Poverty – Livelihood Development and Diversification

- The Government is taking various initiatives to accelerate growth in rural India thereby catalysing the growth of the Indian economy.
- About 70 per cent of India resides in its villages. Undoubtedly, the growth of rural sector is central to the overall development of the country.
- The Government has been investing in vital areas such as energy, electricity, health, women empowerment, agricultural initiatives and several social security schemes to build a strong foundation for the sustainable growth of India's rural sector.
- The last 4 years have seen a considerable stepping up of financial resources for improving rural infrastructure, diversifying livelihoods, reducing poverty and thereby improving the well-being of poor households in terms of allocation for Programmes of Department of Rural Development. Annual expenditure in 2017-18 is more than double of what it was in 2012-13.
- The transfer of funds under the 14th Finance Commission has registered a significant increase compared to the allocations earlier under 13th FC.
- There has been increase in the allocations of Ministry of Agriculture and other Infrastructure and Livelihood Programmes for the poor; thus, the total transfer of financial resources to Rural India has been very significant.
- MGNREGS focused on durable assets and Water Conservation, and also provided for livelihood generating individual benefits like farm ponds, dug wells, goat shed, etc.

Major factors of Rural Poverty

- Lack of education and skills
- Low price for produce-distress
- Under-nutrition and ill-health
- Violence/crime
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Unirrigated agri/variation of monsoon
- Assetlessness
- Lack of basic infra-roads, electricity,
- Lack of safe housing
- Lack of access to markets and jobs
- Limited access to public services
- Lack of non-farm opportunities

Social Security Schemes for Social Development

- Social security is both a concept as well as a system. It represents basically a system of protection of individuals who are in need of such protection by the state as an agent of the society.
- Social security has been recognized as an instrument for social transformation and progress and must be preserved, supported and developed as such.
- Social Security is increasingly seen as an **integral part of the development process**.
- It helps to create a more positive attitude not just to a structural and technological change but also the challenge of globalization and to its potential benefits in terms of greater efficiency and higher productivity.
- Over the last 5 years, a fundamental shift is witnessed in the narrative of social security for the marginalized.

Key initiatives undertaken by the government for social and economic security:

Pradhan Mantra Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- It is financial inclusion programme. It aims to expand and make affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions by bringing banking services to large rural areas.
- By 27 June 2018, over 318 million bank accounts were opened and over Rs. 792 billion were deposited under the scheme.
- “Beyond enabling account ownership and the use of financial services, the **PMJDY also facilitated financial inclusion** for a variety of demographics.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:

- It is a **government-backed life insurance scheme** in India. This Scheme aims to increase the number of life Insurances.
- It is available to people between 18 and 50 years of age with bank accounts.
- It has an annual premium of Rs. 330. The GST is exempted on Pradhan Mantra Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.
- In case of death due to any cause, the payment to the nominee will be Rs. 2 lakhs. As of May 2018, 5.33 crore people have already enrolled for this scheme.

Pradhan Mantra Mudra Yojana (PMMY):

- It is a flagship scheme of Government of India to “fund the unfunded” by bringing such enterprises to the formal financial system and extending affordable credit to them.
- It enables a small borrower to borrow from all Public Sector Banks such as **PSUs Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks, Private sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI)** and Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) for loans upto Rs. 10 lakh for non-farm income generating activities.

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):

- It is a pension scheme announced exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above which is available from 4th may, 2017 to 31st march, 2020.
- Scheme provides an assured return of 8 percent p.a. payable monthly for 10 years.
- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
- The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/terminal illness of self or spouse.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:

- It is a government-backed accident insurance scheme in India.
- It is available to people between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of Rs. 12.
- The accident insurance scheme will have one year cover from June 1 to May 31.
- In case of accidental death or full disability, the payment to the nominee will be Rs. 2 lakh and in case of partial permanent disability Rs. 1 lakh.
- This scheme will be **linked to the bank accounts opened under PMJDY scheme.**

Atal Pension Yojana:

- Atal Pension Yojana (APY, previously known as Swavalamban Yojana) is a government-backed pension scheme in India, **primarily targeted at the unorganized sector.**
- Only 20 percent of India’s population had any kind of pension scheme and the APY scheme aims to increase the number.
- Under this scheme, all subscribing workers below the age of 40 are eligible for pension up to Rs. 5,000 per month on attainment of 60 years of age.
- The **minimum eligible age for a person joining APY is 18 years and the maximum is 40 years.**
- An enrolled person would start receiving pension on attaining the age of 60 years.

Stand-up India scheme:

- It aims to facilitate bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 crore to at least one scheduled caste (SC) or scheduled tribes (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise.
- In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur.
- Size of the loan can be as big as the composite loan of 75 per cent of the project cost inclusive of term loan and working capital.

Swachhta Udyami Yojana:

- As an integral part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' launched by the Prime Minister on 2nd October 2014, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) has launched a new scheme 'Swachhta Udyami Yojana' for financing viable community toilet projects and sanitation related vehicles to collect garbage.

Green business scheme:

- The scheme has been started by National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC), with the aim of promoting green businesses to support sustainable livelihoods of scheduled castes and safai karamchari's.
- Financial assistance would be provided for those economic activities that could address the challenges of climate change, e.g., E-rickshaw, solar pumps and other instruments working on solar energy etc.

Sanitary Mart Scheme:

- Launched in 2014-15, under the scheme, **loans are provided to up to Rs. 15 lakhs** to safai karamcharis for construction of toilets/bio-degradable toilets.
- The objective of the scheme is to promote entrepreneurship amongst the scheduled castes and to facilitate concessional finances to them.
- *Two aspects of Social Security by Amartya Sen and Jeane Dreeze: "Protection" and "Promotion" While the former denotes protection against a fall in living standards and living conditions through ill health, accidents, the later focuses on enhanced living conditions, helping everyone overcome persistent capability deprivation.*

RURAL HEALTH

- Two-third of India's population lives in rural areas. Health of rural population is vital for the overall health and development of nation. National Health Policy 2017: Proposal that Govt. would be sole provider of Primary health care services
- The major development in 2017 was the release of new (and the third) National Health Policy (NHP 2017) of India, there have been many other developments and discourses at both national and state level for health sector since 2017.
- The health initiatives started in 2017-19 need to be sustained, for next few years, to pave a path for the second wave of healthcare reforms in India.
- The period of reforms between the years 2002-17 created a much-needed foundation, which contributed to a reduction in the burden of communicable diseases, decline in the infant and maternal deaths and the betterment of rural healthcare infrastructure.
- The NRHM created a foundation for strengthening health systems in Indian states.
- These developments qualify the period of 2002-17 as the first wave of reform in health sector of India.
- Fourteen years after the start of NRHM in 2005, rural India has a vast network of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) who are helping rural poor in accessing public health system.

Health sector related developments

National Level

2005

- National Health Policy; Mental Healthcare Act (of 2017); HIV/AIDS ACT 2017; National Nutrition Strategy; Sustainable Actions for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) initiative for Health & Education sector by NITI Aayog.

2018

- Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP) with components of a) Health & Wellness Centres (HWC) b) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- Mid- Level Healthcare Providers (MLHP) under HWCs.
- Aspirational District Programme (ADP) for prioritisation of social sector Interventions.
- POSHAN Abhiyan/National Nutrition Mission;
- First State Health Index for India released
- NITI Aayog strategic plan for New India (2018-22)
- Report of Task Force on Tribal Health in India.

2019

- National Medical Commission (NMC) Act;
- Community Health Providers (CHP) with prescription rights under NMC Act;
- Second State Health Index of India released.

State Specific Initiatives:

2017

- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) pilot in Tamilnadu;
- Family Health Centres (FHC) in Kerala;
- Karnataka Public Health Policy

2018

- Uttar Pradesh State Health policy (Draft);
- Launch of Bashti Dawakhana, Community clinics in Telangana.

2019

- Kerala State Health Policy
- Discourse on the Right to health in Indian States i.e. Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;
- Formulation of Health Systems reform/transition committee in Andhra Pradesh.

Recent Policy & Strategy documents with potential impact on Rural Health:

National Health Policy 2017:

- Proposal that Government would be sole provider of primary Health Care Services.
- Provision and attention on special populations such as Tribal Health.
- Increasing government spending on Health to 2.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product by 2025.
- Two-third or more government spending on health for primary Health Care.
- State Governments to increase spending from 5 per cent to 8 per cent of State Budget.

NITI Aayog Strategic Plan for New India (2018-22), Four Key thematic areas for health sector:

- Universal health Coverage,
- Comprehensive Primary health care,
- Human resources for health,
- Public Health Care and Management.

Health Sector related developments and achievements in India (2002-17)

- 2002 National Health Policy (NHP-2002)
- 2002-03 Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS)
- 2005 National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

2008:

- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
- Jan Aushadhi Yojana (relaunched as Pradhan mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi pariyojana (PMBJP) in 2016

- 2010 Report of High level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- 2011 India Reported last case of Wild Polio Virus
- 2012 Intensive discourses on operationalisation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India started

2013

- India is declared polio non-endemic country;
- National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), with this NRHM renamed as National Health Mission (NHM)

2014

- South East Asia region of WHO is declared polio free;
- Mission Indradhanush to increase routine immunisation coverage launched;
- National Mental Health Policy (NMHP) released;
- High Priority districts (9HPDs) for interventions under NRHM in India Started.
- 2015 India validated maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination; Country becomes Yaws free as well
- 2015-16 Task force on comprehensive primary health care (PHC) in India.
- 2017 National Health Policy (NHP-2017); National Mental Healthcare Act; Report on state specific burden of disease in India

New health initiatives by Government for newborns and adolescents:

- Rashtriya Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (RSSK)
- Rashtriya Bal Suraksha Karyakaram (RBSK)
- Rashtriya Kishor Suraksha Karyakaram (RKSK)
- Kayakalp

Way Forward

- The Community Health Providers (CHP) could be an opportunity for rural India, for changing health services from doctor-centric to a team-based approach, where a mix of healthcare providers is decided, as per the service required at that level.
- Establish Toll-free Call Number for both Curative and Diagnostic Services: A dedicated toll-free call centre number of health needs of population can be established.
- Population should be made aware about this number and the call can be directed to qualified doctors, for appropriate advice.
- Make Rural Health Facilities Ready for Disasters and Emergency Situation: There is an urgent need to make health facilities disaster and natural calamity resilient.
- This is an action which needs to be taken and coordinated at national level as well as by all states.

MAJOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN AGRICULTURE

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana:

- The new government, at its very first cabinet meeting, had announced a pension scheme for 5 crore farmers.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana, small and marginal farmers will get a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000 per month on attaining the age of 60 years.
- This is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for small and marginal farmers across the country, with the entry age of 18-40 years.
- The government has announced the PM-KISAN scheme under which it is offering Rs. 6,000 to 14.5 crore farmers in a year.

Interest Subvention Scheme:

- A 2 per cent interest subvention was introduced for farmers engaged in fisheries and animal husbandry, with loans to be availed via Kisan credit card.
- Those who repay the loan timely will be eligible to get an additional 3 per cent interest subvention.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY):

- With about 47 percent of agricultural land area under irrigation, PMKSY have made a great effort to bring in more area under irrigated agriculture.
- The micro irrigation scheme under the PMKSY has added 6 lakh ha in the current year against a target of 11 lakh ha.
- PMKSY was started to address the challenges of the Acceleration Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and look at water needs of agriculture in a holistic way.
- It aims to ensure 'more crop per drop'. Rs. 5,000 crore funds for micro-irrigation has been made available while there have been as encouragement for farmers to install solar pumps for irrigation.

Soil Health

- Considering that the health of the soil plays a fundamental role in agriculture, the government has dispatched more than 13 crore Soil Health Cards from 2015 to 2018.
- Soil health cards carry crop-specific recommendation for nutrients and fertilizers to help farmers improve their productivity.

Neem Coated Urea

- Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is a fertilizer and an agriculture scheme initiated to boost the growth of wheat and paddy, and curb the black marketing and hoarding of urea.
- In January 2015, the urea manufacturers were mandated by the government to increase their Neem coated urea production from 35 per cent to 75 per cent.
- It increases the efficiency of 10 per cent nitrogen usage compared to uncoated urea thereby saving 10 per cent urea. Since the government has implemented 100 per cent Neem coating of urea, it has resulted in improving the soil quantity.

Credit for Farmers:

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is the biggest risk cover and safety net provided by the government.
- Under the interest subvention scheme, short-term crop loans up to 3 lakh with the interest of 7 per cent per annum up to one year has been made available.

Marketing the farmers produce (e-NAM):

- IN July 2018, Government approved the historic MSP hike for Kharif crops to 1.5 times the cost, which will provide farmers a profit margin of 50 per cent over the cost of production.
- National Agriculture Market Scheme known as e-NAM has integrated 585 markets across 16 states and 2 union territories.
- 22,000 Rural Haats will turn into Gramin Agriculture Market which will benefit 86 per cent small farmers. Large investment in warehousing and cold chains to prevent post-harvesting crop losses and value addition through food processing are also giving the farmers the essential edge on the market.

Operation Green:

- It aims to stabilize the demand supply situation for key crops such as tomato, potato, onion (TOP) and promote initiatives to control disparity.
- Another important aspect which needs to be considered is the development of large scale infrastructure to support the mass storage and movement of perishable items.
- Technology innovation for implementing low cost and durable multimodal solutions is one of the key challenges here.

Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF):

- A dedicated MIF created with NABARD has been approved with an initial corpus of Rs. 5000 crore for encouraging public and private investments in micro-irrigation.
- The main objective of the fund is to facilitate the states in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation.

Paramparagat Krishi Yojana (PKVY):

- It is implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.

- To improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realize premium prices.

Way Forward

- There is a need to introduce reforms, creating necessary infrastructure and systems through innovation and enhancement for the betterment of the masses.
- This includes necessities like electricity, clean energy, agriculture technology among other areas of the rural sector.
- As agriculture is the main source of India's national income and pivotal for rural development, it is necessary to improve the condition of farming community.
- The country has witnessed record foodgrain production in 2017-18 due to initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, credit facilities for farmers, e-NAM and various other schemes.

Financial Inclusion: Major Initiatives

- Famous economist Dr. Amartya Sen aptly said, "Poverty is the deprivation of opportunity." It clearly points towards the enormous significance of financial inclusion in a vast and diverse country like India.
- The efforts towards achieving this ambitious goal started in a structured manner way back in 2005 with the constitution of 'Committee on Financial Inclusion' under the chairmanship of the then Reserve Bank of India Governor, Dr. C.Rangarajan.
- In 2011 World Bank stated that only 40 per cent of adult Indian had a bank account.
- Seven years later, almost 80 per cent of adult Indian have bank accounts, according to the global Findex database published in April 2018.
- In the last four years, more than 360 million new Jan-Dhan Bank Accounts have been opened.
- Mobile penetration is expected to reach 90 per cent by 2020. Internet penetration has soared and the use of digital payment is also rising significantly.

Know! the various initiatives regarding Financial Inclusion

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

- It is a national mission on financial inclusion started with an integrated approach to bring about comprehensive financial inclusion and provide banking service to all household in the country.
- The scheme ensures access to a range of financial service like availability of basic saving bank account, access to need – based credit, remittance facility, insurance and pension.
- It covers both urban and rural areas and those who open account get indigenous debit cards (RuPay card).
- The main features of PMJDY include Rs. 5,000 overdraft facility for Aadhaar-linked accounts and a RuPay Debit card with inbuilt Rs 1 Lakh accident insurance cover.

Financial Literacy Programme:

- Under the scheme, Financial Literacy Programme, which aims to take basic financial education upto village level, is also provided for better understanding of the whole mechanism.
- The mission also envisages extension of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under various government scheme through bank accounts of recipients.
- Kisan Credit Card (KCC) have also been linked with the RuPay platform.
- Micro insurance and unorganized sector pension schemes like Swavalamban through the Business Correspondents have also been included for the second phase of the programme.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Another significant milestone is Atal Pension Yojana (APY) lunched to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganized sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.
- Any India citizen between the age of 18-40 years can join it through their Saving bank account.

Stand-Up India Scheme

- The Stand-Up India Scheme has been launched to provide bank loans between rs. 10 lakh and rs. 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, service or the trading sector.

- With an objective to promote the financial inclusion of SC entrepreneurs, GoI took step of establishing Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme with an allocation of Rs. 200 crore parked with IFCI.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

- As a part of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme of the present government, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana came into being in 2015, enabling parents to meet the major future expenses such as higher education and marriage of their girl-children plus offering tax benefits as well.
- It offers an attractive rate of interest, the highest among all small saving schemes.

MUDRA

- MUDRA scheme was launched with the motive of bringing small business involved in trading, manufacturing and service sectors in the ambit of formal banking.

MAKING ELECTRICITY SUSTAINABLE AND AVAILIABLE TO ALL

- The government took the initiative of making power accessible to the entire country, through its flagship programme-**PradhanMantriSahaj** Bijli Har Ghar Yojana or Saubhagya, in addition to several other programmes.
- The government's data shows that of the 26.30 million households targeted under the Saubhagya Scheme, 99.93 per cent, or 26.28 million households have got electricity connections.

Various Government Initiatives regarding this

Urja Mitra –

- It is another initiative of the government, which **provides outage management and notification platform for dissipating the outage information** to power distribution consumers across India through SMS/email/push notifications.

TARANG –

- TARANG (Transmission App for Real-Time Monitoring and Growth) is a powerful monitoring tool that tracks upcoming transmission projects and monitor the progress of inter-state and intra-state transmission systems in the country. It shall also include status of stalled or delayed transmission systems in country which would enable the stakeholders for expeditious completion of such projects. The government also said that Green Energy Corridors, an important component of our renewable energy mission, would also be monitoring through TARANG and it will help to meet our targets on time.

Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY):

- In order to connect each village to the electricity grid, the government has launched this scheme.
- The erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) scheme for village electrification and providing electricity distribution infrastructure in the rural areas has been subsumed in the DDUGJY scheme.
- Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for implementation of DDUGJY.

Government launched the DDUGJY for the rural areas with the following components:

- separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders facilitating judicious rostering of supply to agriculture consumers in the rural areas;
- Strengthening and Augmentation of Sub-Transmission and Distribution (ST&D) infrastructure in rural areas, including metering at distribution transformers, feeders and consumers' end.

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya):

- To provide electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas.
- Under this scheme, there is no upfront fee or charges for obtaining electricity connection.
- Non-poor households will have to pay 10 instalments of Rs. 50 each along with the bill each month, total amounting to Rs.500.
- Under this scheme, a single point wiring along with a LED bulb, mobile charging points and switch, among others are provided and no extra cost is charged by the DISCOM.
- There is no provision in the scheme to provide free power to any category of consumers.

Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS):

- In order to address the concerns about electricity network, the government had launched Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS).

- It is aimed at the **strengthening of sub-transmission network**, metering, IT application, Customer care services, provisioning of solar panels and the completion of the ongoing works of Restructured Accelerated Power Development and completion of the Reforms Programme (R-APDRP).
- The scheme included Upgradation of the electrical assets at sub-centres, lines and distribution transformers, capacity enhancement and renewal of the old sub-stations and installation of roof-top solar panel in government buildings.
- IPDS will help in reducing in AT&C losses; establishment of IT enable energy accounting and auditing system, improvement in billed energy based on metered consumption and improvement in collection efficiency.
- **URJA (Urban Jyoti Abhiyan):**
 - In order to rate the performance of DISCOMS, an app-based digital initiatives URJA (Urban Jyoti Abhiyan) is launched with a vision to generate a sense of positive competition.
 - This app focuses on enhancing connection with consumer connect by way of ranking of towns on various parameters related to consumers in a transparent manner.

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY):

- In November 2015, the government launched an ambitious scheme, Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), to **improve the financial health and operational efficiency** of DISCOMs.
- Under this scheme, DISCOMs can convert their debt into state government bonds on certain stringent conditions.
- According to a news report, savings through improvement in billing efficiency also contributed to the loss reduction in FY 17 and FY 18.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA):

- Launched in 2015, UJALA has emerged as the world's largest domestic lighting programme.
- EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) adopted a strategy of demand aggregation, mass awareness and bulk procurement, designed to attract the support of utility companies, State Governments, and the price conscious Indian public.
- EESL procures the appliances and provides them to consumers at a rate of Rs. 70/LED bulb, Rs. 220/LED tube light and Rs.1, 110/fan respectively, which are much below the market price.

The renewable energy initiatives

- The Government has set an **ambitious target of having 175 GW** of clean energy capacity by 2022, including 100 GW solar and 60 GW of wind energy.
- As per India's submission to the **UNFCCC on Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)**, a cumulative electric power capacity of 40 percent from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources is to be installed by 2030.
- India attained global 4th and 5th positions in wind and solar power installed capacities and 5th global position for overall installed renewable energy capacity in 2018.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- India and France have committed more than US\$2 billion to fund solar energy projects in developing countries. The announcement came during the first summit of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi.
- In his opening address, Indian Prime Minister pledged \$1.4 billion to support solar energy projects in Bangladesh and in developing countries in Africa.
- The vision and mission of the International Solar Alliance is to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource-rich countries that lie completely or partially between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.

The Alliance has three main programmes:

- promoting the use of solar water pumps instead of diesel pumps for irrigation;
- affordable financing for solar technology; and
- Promoting solar mini-grids in the least-developed countries and small island nations.

Various initiatives by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

- The **National Solar Mission (NSM)** was **launched in 2010** with active collaboration from states to promote ecologically sustainable growth.
- The first phase of the mission was completed in 2013. In the second phase during the 2013-17, capacity addition of 3,000 MW under the central scheme was envisaged. In the third phase, 2017-22, the target up to year 2022 of 20,000 MW or more was to be decided dependent on the experiences and learning of the first two phases.

KUSUM:

Recently, the Government has launched Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers.

- This scheme has three components which include 10,000 MW of decentralized ground-mounted, grid-connected renewable power plants; installation of 17.50 lakh standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps and solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.
- All three components of the scheme combined together are likely to result in saving of about 27 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission per annum.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has introduced a new scheme Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India – SRISTI, to incentivize the installation of rooftop solar projects. SRISTI scheme aims to achieve a national solar rooftop target of 40 GW till 2021- 22.

National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

- A **National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy** has been launched recently to provide a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.
- It also aims at reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability. On technology front, the Policy provides for integration of both the energy sources i.e. wind and solar at AC as well as DC level.
- The Policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as **hybridization of existing wind solar projects**.
- The Policy provides for procurement of power from a hybrid project on tariff-based transparent nodding process.

Green Energy Corridor:

- Green Energy Corridor is another initiative of Government of India for evacuation of large scale renewable energy for which **Intra State Transmission System (ISTS) was proposed**.
- ISTS is being implemented by eight renewable rich states of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Project includes about approximately 9400 km transmission lines and Substations of total capacity of approximately 19000 MVA to be completed by March 2020.



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