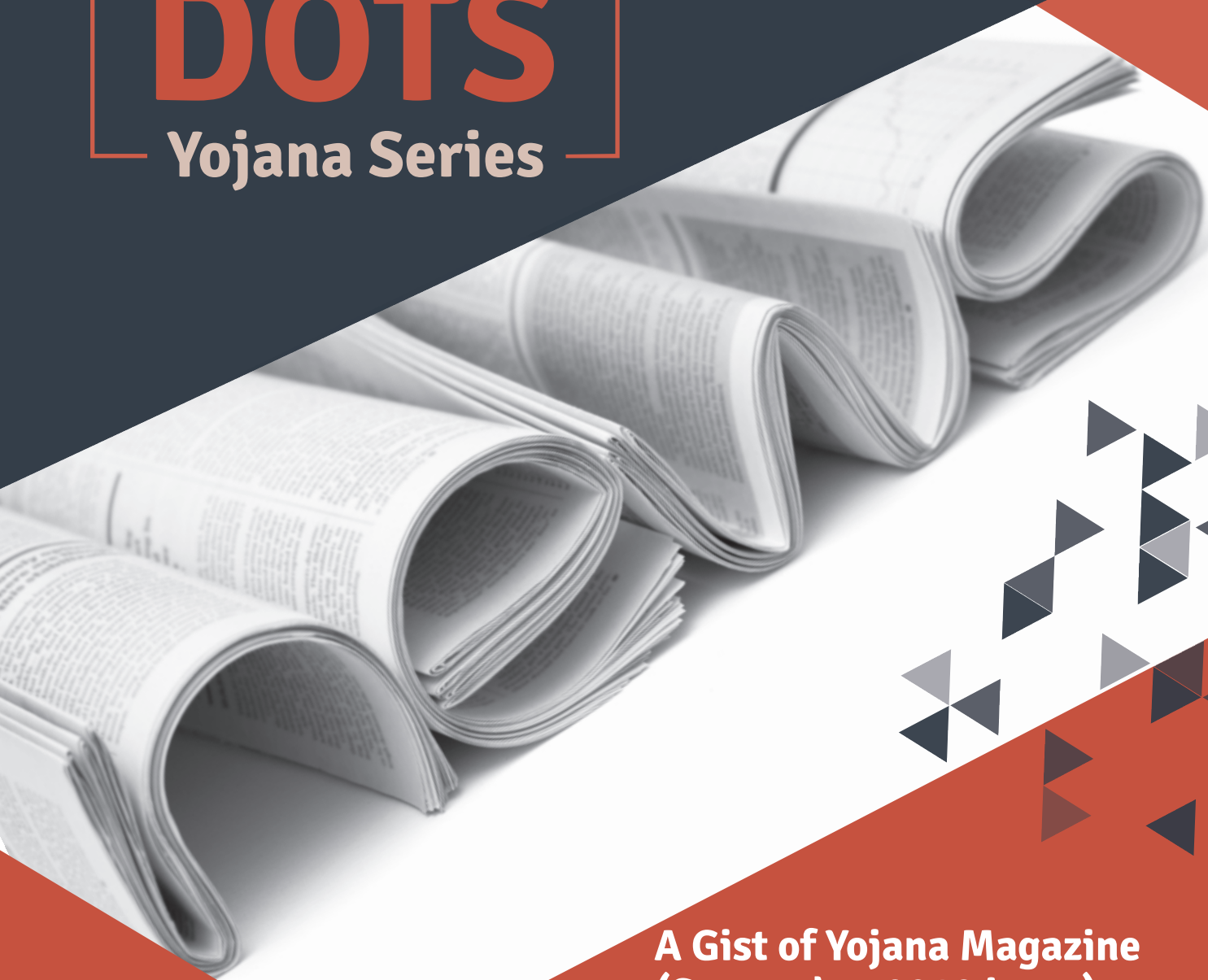


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A Gist of Yojana Magazine (September 2019 issue)

Water Crisis

Addressing Rural Poverty

India's Journey Towards a \$5 Trillion Economy

A Trillion Dollar Opportunity in Digital India

Water Conservation



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Join the dots! Yojna Synopsis

September 2019

Addressing Rural Poverty - Livelihood development and Diversification

- Poverty is Multi – dimensional and therefore requires a range of interventions

Know! the initiatives/steps taken so far by the government

- The last 4 years have seen a considerable stepping up of financial resources for improving the wellbeing of poor households. Annual expenditure in 2017-18 is more than double of what it was in 2012-13
- The sharing pattern between Centre and states under many schemes have undergone a shift leveraging much of the State funds. Eg: PMAY-G, PMGSY, NSAP, DAY-NRLM have seen a spike in the states' share
- From 2017-18, under the Housing Programme, additional resources were mobilised through Extra Budgetary Resources as well.
- The transfer of funds under the 14th Finance Commission awards has also registered a significant increase compared to earlier allocation.
- The fourth important factor to note is the leveraging of bank loans by Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) during this period.
- Besides the specific resource provision for Rural Poverty Programmes, the thrust on Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), increase in the allocation of Ministry of Agriculture and other Infrastructure and Livelihood Programmes for the poor, the total transfer of financial resources to Rural India has been very significant.
- The Department of Rural Development has focused on Development and Diversification of Livelihoods of the poor households during this period.
- The Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 released in July 2015 provided an Evidence Based Criteria for Selection of Beneficiaries under various Government Programmes.
- The application of deprivation criteria of SECC to the Provision for LPG Gas connection under Ujjwala, free household electricity connection under Saubhgya etc. have ensured that the benefits of development reach the most deprived on a priority.
- The use of SECC in finalization of labour budget to states under MGNREGA and insistence in enrolment of all women from households with deprivation under SHGS of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has also ensured that poor regions with larger number of poor households receive priority in Programmes of Rural Poverty.
- The livelihood linkages in convergence with subsidy programmes for animal resources and for agriculture contribute to improved incomes in the agriculture and

Know! the status of these efforts

- National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) was requested to assess the impact of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY G) on income and Employment.
- The report estimated that the scheme could have generated about 52.47 crore person-days.
- For Rural Infrastructure, the PMGSY has been a flagship programme and during the last 4 years 1.69 lakh kms of roads were constructed
- The person-days generated under MGNREGS in the last 3 years has been in the range of 235 crore every year. This has generated both direct and indirect employment.
- Similarly, Studies of Water Conservation works under MGNREGA by the Institute of Economic Growth confirmed increase in income, productivity, acreage, and the water table.
- The expansion of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) with a provision of rice at Rs. 3 per kg and wheat at Rs. 2 per kg has facilitated food security in poor households.
- The increase in the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour has been modest on account of the low food price inflation during this period as food items comprise the largest chunk of the basket of goods and services for calculating the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour.

- Evaluation studies by the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) have also confirmed increase in incomes, productive assets and enterprises in villages where Women Self-Help Groups are active under DAY-NRLM

Factors Contributing to different types of Poverties

POVERTY OF HOUSEHOLDS

- Lack of education and skills
- Under-nutrition and ill-health
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Assetlessness
- Lack of safe housing
- Limited access to public services
- Clutches of middlemen/corruption
- Absence of Social Capital-collective of women/youth/poor households

POVERTY OF GEOGRAPHIES

- Low price for produce - distress
- Violence/crime
- Unirrigated agri/vagaries of monsoon
- Lack of basic infra-roads, electricity, internet
- Lack of access to markets and jobs
- Lack of non-farm opportunities

India's Journey Towards a \$5 trillion Economy

India's Foreign Policy approach

- India's foreign policy approach has been undergoing a paradigm shift with economic and strategic relations gaining significant cultural undercurrents.

The new approach is reflected in the foreign policy pillars of Panchamrit

- Samman (dignity and honour).
- Samvaad (engagement and dialogue)
- Samriddhi (shared prosperity)
- Suraksha (regional and global security) and
- Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (cultural and civilizational linkages).
- This has found place in our global engagements through our Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' approach.
- More recently in the second term of this government the emphasis has shifted from SAARC to BIMSTEC and Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in particular.
- The BIMSTEC is fast replacing SAARC as the primary forum for India's regionalism. In line with the stated policy the Prime Minister undertook his first visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka
- He reiterated the priority India attaches to its 'Neighbourhood First policy and the SAGAR Doctrine. SAGAR refers to "Security and Growth for All in the Region" which was propounded in 2015. The presence of the Prime Minister of Mauritius during the oath-taking of the Prime Minister of India in 2019 was a significant indicator in that direction.

Achieving a \$5 trillion Economy

- At the Government Council Meeting of the NITI Aayog recently, Prime Minister announced the target of a \$5 trillion economy for India by 2024.
- To achieve the \$5 trillion economy, the Economic Survey has laid a road map where it says India must grow at 8 percent

- The survey has the theme for enabling “shifting of gears”. “to achieve the objective of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25”
- It makes the case for investment, especially private investment as key driver, that drives demand, creates capacity, increase labour productivity, introduces new technology and generates jobs.
- The survey stated “a virtuous cycle or a vicious cycle”. It says when economy is in a virtuous cycle, investment, productivity growth, job creation, demand and exports feed into each other and enable animal spirits in the economy to thrive.

This can be achieved by focusing on the following sectors

Focus on MSME sector

- The significance of 65 million MSMEs who create about 120 million jobs and 30% of total employment generation cannot be underestimated
- New manufacturing operations will allow India to become part of few global value chains and help in raising exports to a trillion-dollar mark.
- These skill and labour-intensive products can absorb part of surplus people from agriculture or informal sector.
- There is a need to emphasize on flexible labour laws as these are an essential precondition for large-scale manufacturing

Focus on Agricultural Sector

- The real issue is not the level of productivity but how produce can be converted into value that will decide farmers’ income.
- The focus has shifted from increasing per acre productivity to gainfully employing farm household in other farm-related activities and to improve post production value-addition by pooling of land and aggregation of farmers’ produce to give growers better bargaining power in the market.
- And to do this the government has focused on development of sustainable and efficient cold chain infrastructure in India for which National Center for Cold-chain Development (NCCD) has been working with private sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing industries.

Focus on Service Sector:

- Services contribute to 56.5 percent of GDP but create only 30 per cent of jobs.
- So far, IT sector has been the mainstay. But the future looks challenging at the backdrop of current US policies. The sector need to develop expertise in IOT AI, VR and their applications.
- Travel and tourism, health and professional services can be the other key service sectors.
- Another big opportunity comes in global healthcare and wellness which is a \$8 trillion industry. There is opportunity in converting India’s 600 district hospitals as medical nursing and paramedical schools to train 5 million doctors, nurses and paramedics to meet the global requirement, who in turn can remit billions of dollars as foreign exchange.
- There is a huge potential in construction sector which contributes 10 percent to India’s GDP.

A Trillion Dollar Opportunity in Digital India:

- Through Digital India Initiative, India is now poised for the next phase of growth- creation of tremendous economic value and empowerment of citizens as new digital applications permeate sector after sector.
- India can create up to \$1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy in 2025, up from around \$200 billion currently generated.
- India’s digital consumer base is the second largest in the world and growing at the second fastest rate amongst major economies.
- Our inclusive digital model is narrowing the digital divide within the country and bringing benefits of technology to all segments of people

Water Conservation as a National Movement

WATER CRISIS

- India has just 2.4% geographical area of the world while harboring nearly one sixth of the global population and the world's highest owner of livestock (512 million heads).
- India harbors only 4% of world's freshwater resources. Less than 1% of the freshwater is easily accessible in lakes and rivers.
- Agriculture sector alone consumes nearly 70% of the freshwater used by humans.

Factors responsible for Water Crisis

- Enhanced runoff due to deforestation and loss of green cover.
- Changing lifestyle and enhanced consumption patterns, Expansion of irrigated agriculture and resultant exploitation of depleting ground water,
- Creation of physical barriers leading to storage of water in large reservoirs/ barrages and diversion of water by canals; Wastage of water by leakage and neglect.
- Inadequate facilities for recycling and rainwater storage, and more importantly, pollution of water by sewage and dumping of urban wastes and unchecked flow of industrial effluents.

Know! the impact of it

- India faces several limitations as far as water and food security are concerned. Signs of water scarcity by way of limited access, declining quantity and deteriorating quality are evident
- The country is expected to become 'water stressed as per capita surface water availability is on the decline. Several metropolis and rural areas face acute shortage of even drinking water.
- Several parts of the country are prone to water-borne diseases and human health is a major concern in such pockets. It is increasingly becoming a cause of drudgery as fetching water from long distance excessively affect women and takes away their considerable time from work, family care.

How to conserve them

- Nature acts as a regulator, a cleaner and/or a supplier of water. Maintaining healthy forests and other natural ecosystems (grasslands and wetlands) directly leads to improved water security for all.
- We must not focus only on forests. Grasslands, wetlands and agriculture lands also play significant role in water cycling.
- Soils are critical in controlling the movement storage and transformation of water.
- Biodiversity has a functional role as it underpins ecosystem processes and functions and therefore, the delivery of ecosystem services.

Water Conservation.

It primarily involves the following three objectives:

- Enhance water availability
- Improve water quality
- Reducing water-related risks

A National Movement:

- The Government has realized the merit of adopting a comprehensive approach towards water conservation. As a result, the unified Central Ministry of Jal Shakti has been made responsible for laying down policy guidelines and coordination of programmers for the development
- The ministry launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan' a campaign for water conservation and water security.
- The campaign will run through citizen participation while focus of the campaign would be on water stressed districts and blocks in the country
- India has made huge investments towards implementation of integrated watershed development programme

Some of the other prominent programmes/schemes launched by concerned Ministries are:

- PMKSY-Har Khet ko Pani and 'More Crop Per Drop;
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan;
- River Basin Management:
- National Water Mission,
- National Mission for Clean Ganga-Namami Gange,
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture,
- National Mission for Sustainable Himalayas,
- Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Programme;
- Interlinking of Rivers, Ground Water Management Flood Control and Forecast, Biodiversity Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Green India + Mission, CAMPA and National and State Level Action Plans on Climate Change.
- Government during the period 2014-19 has implemented the ambitious programme of Namami Gange aiming for Ganga rejuvenation (Aviral and Nirmal Dhara) by way of forestry interventions, establishment and maintenance of STPs, conservation of aquatic life, etc.
- Several States have also initiated their own flagship programmes related to water management. Some prominent ones are: Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA) by Rajasthan Government and Green Mahanadi Mission' of Odisha Government focusing on water development in water starved desert region and rejuvenation of Mahanadi River, respectively.
- Participatory irrigation management backed by the 'Pani Panchayat Act, 2002 in Odisha is flourishing through efficient and equitable supply and distribution of water ensuring optimum utilization by farmers.



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