

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

8<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2022

### CABINET APPROVES PM SHRI SCHEME

Union Cabinet Approved the PM Schools for Rising India scheme (SHRI), a new centrally sponsored scheme that aims the development of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening select existing schools being managed by all forms of governments across the country.



#### How It Impact

The PM SHRI schools will aim at delivering quality teaching for the cognitive development of students and creating and nurturing holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st-century skills. They will also showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 by education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children.

#### What It Aims

The focus in PM SHRI schools will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade and the assessment of students will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge in real-life situations. The assessment of students will be done through a School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) which is being developed. It will specify the key performance indicators to measure outcomes. For enhancing employability and providing better employment opportunities at these schools linkages with Sector Skill Councils and local industry will be explored.

#### Focus On Green Infra

Under the scheme, PM SHRI schools will be developed as Green schools which would entail incorporating environment-friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic-free, water conservation and harvesting, the study of traditions/practices related to protection of environment, climate change related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt a sustainable lifestyle.

#### Selection of PM SHRI schools

The schools will have to compete with each other for support to become exemplar schools. The selection of PM SHRI schools will be done through Challenge Mode for which schools would be required to self-apply on the online portal. The portal will be opened four times a year, once every quarter for online registration in the first two years of the scheme. The selection of schools in the PM SHRI scheme will require three steps:

- 1) The concerned State/UT will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to implement NEP in its entirety and then the Centre will lay down the commitments for supporting these schools and for achieving specified quality assurance.
- 2) The schools that are eligible to be selected under the PM SHRI scheme will be identified based on the prescribed minimum benchmark through UDISE+ data.
- 3) The identified schools will compete to fulfill the challenge condition. The fulfillment of conditions would be certified by States/KVS/JNV through physical inspection.

A maximum of two schools one primary and one secondary/ senior secondary would be selected per block/ULB. The PM SHRI scheme will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.27360 crores, out of which centre will bear Rs. 18128 crore for the period of five years from the year 2022-23 to 2026-27.

## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 08TH SEPTEMBER

International Literacy Day (ILD) is celebrated on **8 September** every year all across the globe to make people aware of the meaning and importance of literacy for individuals and societies. The day spread awareness about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.



### NITI AAYOG RELEASED 4TH PROGRESS REPORT ON POSHAN (PRIME MINISTER'S OVERARCHING SCHEME FOR HOLISTIC NOURISHMENT) ABHIYAAN

#### About POSHAN Abhiyaan

The Government of India launched its flagship programme in 2018, the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan, to draw national attention to and take action against malnutrition, in a mission-mode.

POSHAN Abhiyaan is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and adolescents.

#### Objectives of Poshan Abhiyaan Fourth Progress Report:

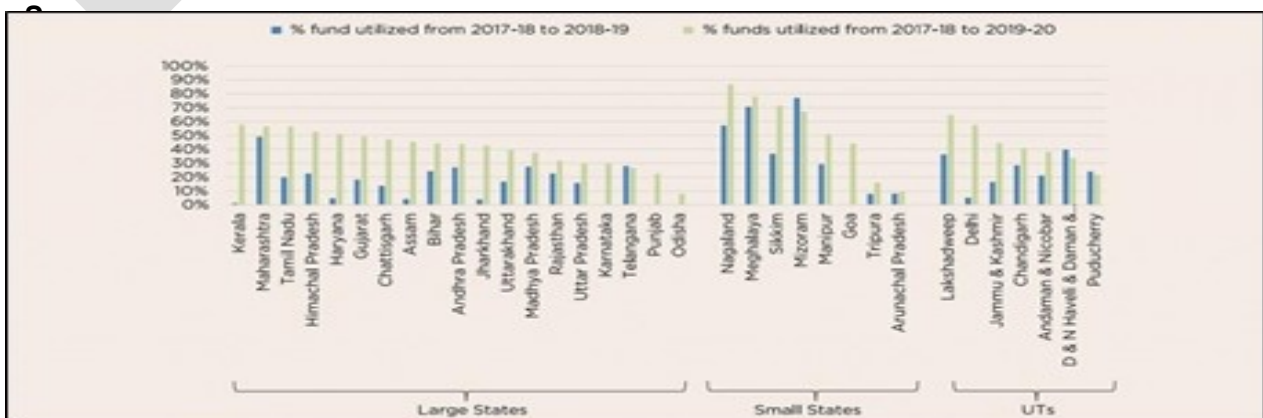
1. Examine the progress to date on rolling out all POSHAN Abhiyaan interventions using relevant data.
2. Discuss the importance of preserving progress on the nutrition agenda in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. Recommend key actions to accelerate progress toward India's nutrition goals.



#### The report listed five key elements of the POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme:

1. Deliver a high-impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life
2. Strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management
3. Improve the capacity of frontline workers
4. Facilitate cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition
5. Enhance behaviour change and community mobilisation

#### Key Findings of the report:



**Union territories (UTs) with poor distribution of mobile phones and growth monitoring devices emerged as those with low fund utilization.**

- The scheme has an earmarked three-year budget of Rs 9,046.17 crore from 2017-18. **More than half the funds (60 per cent) remained unutilized** until March 31, 2020.
- **Only three** states had used more than 50 per cent of their POSHAN Abhiyaan funds between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. This improved marginally to 12 between 2017-2019 and FY 2019-2020.
- Nagaland (87 per cent), Meghalaya (78 per cent), Sikkim (71 per cent), Mizoram (67 per cent) and Lakshadweep (65 per cent) had **utilised the maximum proportion** of funds by the end of 2019-2020.

**State-wise comparison of the percentage funds utilised up to FY 2018-19 and FY 2017-18 and upto FY 2019-20**

- Punjab (22 per cent), Puducherry (22 per cent), Tripura (16 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (9 per cent) and Odisha (8 per cent) were the **poorest performers**.
- The number of funds being utilised improved across most states and UTs 30 of 35. It decreased in Telangana, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry.
- The **readiness and capabilities to deliver POSHAN Abhiyaan interventions have improved** compared to previous progress reports. **This has been highlighted by assessing other indicators like human resources, infrastructure, supplies, training, and capacity building.**

### **WOMEN IN ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY (WEST) INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER (PSA)**

On the occasion of teacher's day, the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) launched an initiative to strengthen the efforts of scientifically inclined women. It is a special drive for supporting Women in Engineering, Science & Technology (WEST).

I-STEM is inviting researchers specially scientifically inclined women to join the event on occasion of Teachers Day 2022 at 11am. @PMOIndia @iiscbangalore @PrinSciAdvGoI @TheScientistLLC @AjaySoodIISc



### **US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry interacted with USISPF.
- It is an independent not-for-profit institution dedicated to strengthening the US-India partnership and is the trusted partner for businesses, non-profit organizations, diaspora, and governments of India and United States.



### **Sec 66 A of Information Technology (IT) Act**

66A Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc -Any person who sends, by means of a computer resource or a communication device,-

- (a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or
  - (b) any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device; or
  - (c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.
- Explanation. -For the purpose of this section, terms "electronic mail" and "electronic mail message" means a message or information created or transmitted or received on a computer, computer system,

computer resource or communication device including attachments in text, image, audio, video and any other electronic record, which may be transmitted with the message.

Supreme Court asked states and UTs to withdraw cases registered under Section 66A of IT Act, which was declared unconstitutional in 2015 (**Shreya Singal vs Union of India Case**).

Introduced in 2008, amending IT Act, 2000, gave government power to arrest and imprison an individual for allegedly offensive and menacing online posts.

Section 66A was criticised as it came with extremely wide parameters, which allowed whimsical interpretations by law enforcement agencies.

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