

Ayushman Bharat for a new India -2022

The Government has announced two major initiatives in health sector, as part of Ayushman Bharat programme. These two health sector initiatives under Ayushman Bharat Programme will build a New India 2022 and ensure enhanced productivity, well being and avert wage loss and impoverishment. These Schemes will also generate lakhs of jobs, particularly for women.

The initiatives are as follows:

Health and Wellness Centre:

The National Health Policy, 2017 has envisioned Health and Wellness Centres as the foundation of India's health system.

Under this 1.5 lakh centres will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.

These centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.

These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services. The Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme.

Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres is also envisaged.

National Health Protection Scheme:

The second flagship programme under 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.

This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme.

Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.

Khelo India Program

- First Khelo India school games were declared open at New Delhi.
- The program focuses on the entire sport ecosystem in country
- It includes infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure and sports economy.
- Salient features of the program are,

- Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme
- long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to gifted and talented youngsters
- promote 20 universities across the country as hubs of sporting excellence.

Quantum Dots

- Quantum dots can lead to a new generation of high definition technology.
- It will pave the way for brighter, lighter and more energy efficient TVs and smart devices.
- The Science Advances journal says, when quantum dots are clustered together they are more fluorescent, providing a wide variety of colours.
- Quantum dots are tiny particles or nanocrystals of a semiconducting material with diameters in the range of 2-10 nanometres.
- Quantum dots display unique electronic properties, intermediate between those of bulk semiconductors and discrete molecules.

'Adopt A Heritage' project

- During the closing ceremony of Bharat Parv, under "Adopt a Heritage: ApniDharohar, ApniPehchaan" letter of intent was given to agencies.
- Private sector companies, Public sector companies and individuals will act as 'Monument Mitras' for the development of tourist amenities
- Project is a key initiative of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI)

Global Democracy Index

- India has slipped to 42nd place on an annual Global Democracy Index.
- India has moved down from 32nd place last year and remains classified among "flawed democracies"
- The index is compiled by the UK based Economic Intelligence Unit(EIU)
- The index ranks on the basis of five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

- IREDA and Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited signed an agreement for financing the shared infrastructure of two large Solar Parks in Madhya Pradesh
- IREDA is a Mini Ratna Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy
- The motto of the organisation is : “ENERGY FOR EVER”

Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP-III)

- MHRD started the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP-III) for improving the quality of engineering graduates
- The focus is on the most-backward states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, North-East, Rajasthan, MP etc.
- The measures include:
 1. Institution based: accreditation of the courses through NBA, governance reforms, improving the processes, digital initiatives, securing autonomy for the colleges.
 2. Student based: improving the quality of teaching, teacher training, equipping the class rooms, revision of syllabus, etc.,

Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business Standard