

**“Life teaches us the right path is rarely the easy one.” Roy T. Bennett**

**NATIONAL**

**20 STATES ON BOARD FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME**

20 states agreed to implement Ayushman Bharat Scheme by having a MoU with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

States that are likely to go for the insurance model are Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura. Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli will also opt for the insurance model.

Those keen on adopting a trust model are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Lakshwadeep, Manipur, Puducherry, Telangana, Sikkim and Goa.

Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have expressed an interest to adopt the hybrid model.

For example, for all payments under Rs. 50,000, Gujarat has proposed to opt for insurance payment and for anything above it has opted for trust-based payment.

West Bengal and Delhi chose to keep away from signing the MoU.

Odisha will most likely not be a part of Ayushman Bharat as it has launched its own state-based scheme for health insurance-Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

**Ayushman Bharat — National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM):**

- \* The scheme was announced in the Budget 2018
- \* The scheme will provide a cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year
- \* There will be no cap on family size and age
- \* The benefits cover will include pre and post-hospitalization expenses

- \* All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy

A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary

**COMPOSITE WATER MANAGEMENT INDEX (CWMI)**

NITI Aayog has released its report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI).

**CWMI:**

The Composite Water Management Index report is a step in a direction that aims to create awareness among people and governments about the realities of water crisis in the country.

CWMI aims to enable effective water management in Indian states in the face of this growing crisis.

The index would provide useful information for the states and concerned Central ministries and departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.

NITI Aayog has ranked all states in the index on the composite water management, comprising 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects of ground water, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance.

**Best and worst performers:**

The report ranks Gujarat at the top in managing its water resources in the reference year (2016-17) followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The worst states include Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Among North Eastern and Himalayan states, Tripura has been adjudged number one in 2016-17 followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.

In terms of incremental change in the index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general states and Tripura

ranks at first position amongst Northeastern and Himalayan states.

India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history and millions of lives and livelihoods are under threat. Currently, 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about 200,000 thousand people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water.

The crisis is going to get worse and by 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply, implying severe water scarcity for hundreds of millions of people and an eventual 6% loss in the country's GDP.

Water scarcity is one of the biggest problems the country is facing today and that more than the scarcity of water; it is an issue of management of water resources.

Water management is often currently viewed as a zero-sum game by states due to limited frameworks for inter-state and national management. However, Centre-state and inter-state cooperation can help address the issue.

There is a need to reward those states which are doing well in managing their water resources and also to bring in the public domain the names of those states which are not managing their resources properly.

#### GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED SWAJAL SCHEMES IN 115 ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

The government recently launched Swajal schemes in 115 aspirational districts of the country. It will involve an outlay of Rs 700 crores through flexible-funds under the existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.

#### Swajal scheme:

Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.

Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community. The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers.

#### NRDWP:

The NRDWP was started in 2009, with a major emphasis on ensuring sustainability (source) of water availability in terms of portability, adequacy, convenience, affordability and equity. NRDWP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50: 50 funds sharing between the Centre and the States.

#### PAR-TAPI-NARMADA INTER-STATE RIVER LINK PROJECT

Gujarat government has expressed its inability to divert 434 MCM water for Maharashtra in Tapi basin as requested by Maharashtra as part of the Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project. The project has been mired in controversy for years now.

#### Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project:

The project envisages transfer of surplus water of rivers in Maharashtra and south Gujarat to feed the command area of the Miyagam branch of Narmada canal. It will save water in Narmada dam, which will be taken to Saurashtra and Kutch.

The project is aimed at diverting "surplus" water from parts of west flowing rivers like the Par, the Nar, the Ambika and the Auranga basins in Maharashtra.

Besides providing irrigation benefits to the enroute command and Narmada command, the link will generate hydropower of the order of 93.00 Mkw through the power houses installed at four dam sites viz. Jheri, Paikhed, Chasmandva and Chikkar and in two feeder canals taking off from Dabdar and Kelwan dams. The reservoirs will also provide flood relief to the people residing in downstream areas.

The project of Par-Tapi-Narmada link generally falls in the state of Gujarat except Jheri reservoir which falls in Maharashtra state. Jheri dam is located in Nasik district of Maharashtra, while remaining dams viz. Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan dams are located in Valsad and Dang districts of Gujarat.

**INDIA AMONG 90 NATIONS WITHOUT PAID PATERNITY LEAVE FOR NEW DADS: UNICEF**

India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies.

Almost two-thirds of the world's children under one-year-old, nearly 90 million, live in countries where their fathers are not entitled by law to a single day of paid paternity leave.

This was revealed in a study conducted by UNICEF.

For example, in India, officials are proposing a Paternity Benefit Bill for consideration in the next session of Parliament which would allow fathers up to three months of paid paternity leave.

Earlier this year, UNICEF modernized its approach to parental leave provisions, with up to 16 weeks of paid leave for paternity across all of its offices worldwide.

Evidence suggests that when fathers bond with their babies from the beginning of life, they are more likely to play a more active role in the child's development.

Research also suggests that when children positively interact with their fathers, they have better psychological health, self-esteem and life-satisfaction in the long-term.

**SCIENCE AND TECH****PINAKA ROCKET SYSTEM EVOLVED INTO A MISSILE**

The indigenous PINAKA rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is being evolved into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets

It is known for firing a salvo of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds

**PINAKA:**

The rocket has been developed by the Armament cluster of the DRDO, with a lead from Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE).

Along with ARDE, the High Energy Material Research Laboratory in Pune and two DRDO

establishments in Hyderabad have contributed to the development.

The initial version of the Pinaka rocket was Mark I, with a range of 40 km.

It was further developed into Pinaka Mark II, which has an enhanced range of 70 to 80 km.

Pinaka Mark I had been used in the 1999 Kargil conflict.

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