

Social Infrastructure and Employment

During the last two years, as India along with rest of the world faced the onslaught of the pandemic, Government's key focus in India remained on providing a safety-net to the vulnerable segments of society as well as providing a coherent response to the health consequences of the pandemic. India having already faced two COVID-19 waves, with the first peak in September 2020 and the second peak in May 2021, is currently facing the third wave led by the Omicron variant. Indian National COVID Vaccination Program, one of the world's largest vaccination programs, has not only supported production of COVID-vaccines domestically, but it has also ensured free vaccines to its population - world's second largest population. Union Budget for 2021-22 allocated ₹ 35,000 crore for procurement of vaccines under COVID-19 Vaccination Program. From 16th January, 2021, as on 16th January 2022, a total of 156.76 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines, have been administered: 90.75 crore first dose and 65.58 crore second dose. With these, 93 percent of 18 year and above aged persons have been vaccinated with first dose and about 70 percent with second dose. Vaccination at this scale and speed has enabled swift revival of livelihoods.

As per quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, up to March 2021, employment in urban sector affected by the pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic levels. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) data suggests, that not only formalisation of jobs continued during second-COVID-19-wave, but its adverse impact by far on formalization of jobs was also much lower than during the first-COVID-wave. To provide the necessary buffer for the unorganized labour in rural areas during the pandemic, allocation of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been increased.

As per the latest available data, school infrastructure – both in terms of number of recognized schools & colleges and basic facilities in schools – and teachers' availability reflected in Pupil Teacher Ratio, showed an improvement in 2019-20 over earlier years. Year 2019-20, also witnessed improvement in enrolments rates across upper-primary, secondary, and higher secondary and improvement in dropout rates at all levels. Gross enrolment ratio in higher education recorded at 27.1 percent in 2019-20, was slightly higher from 26.3 percent in 2018-19. Government has undertaken multiple initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the higher education ecosystem by (i) enabling higher vocationalisation, (ii) greater multi-disciplinary research, (iii) providing multiple entry

and exit points, (iv) promoting globalisation of education, (v) leveraging the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning process for all learners.

The latest National Family Health Survey-5 showed encouraging outcomes of Government programmes in the health and other social sectors. Total fertility rate (TFR) has come down from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2 in 2019-21. Significant improvement is seen in the health infrastructure and services reaching the public. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 83 districts in the country have already become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts. Government addressed the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, by not only intensifying the delivery and outreach of existing programmes, but also supplementing these by various well targeted and timely new interventions. Consequently, Government spending on social services increased significantly during the pandemic, recording an increase of 9.8 percent over 2020-21.

INTRODUCTION

10.1 The need for a strong and resilient social infrastructure became even more important during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that brought into focus the vulnerabilities in social infrastructure across countries. Specifically, pandemic posed the challenge of balancing livelihoods while saving lives. To save lives and livelihoods amidst the COVID-crises, countries have adopted various strategies. India, the country with the second largest population and a large elderly population, adopted a multi-pronged approach. Given the nature of pandemic, the health response including vaccination strategy remained critical. India, one of the young nations in the world, also faced the challenge to sustain the learning outcomes in schools, building skills and reskilling population, employment and livelihood to one of the largest labour forces in the world. Government's response through 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' packages and other sector specific initiatives have provided the necessary support to mitigate the adverse impact of pandemic.

10.2 This chapter gives a brief account of India's health response to the pandemic, states the facts on social services expenditure, reviews education infrastructure and outcomes, lists effort of skill development, examines trends in employment, takes stock of efforts made to increase health services, and examines longer term health trends using latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 2019-21 data, while also reviewing drinking water and sanitation access, and gives status of rural housing access in the country.

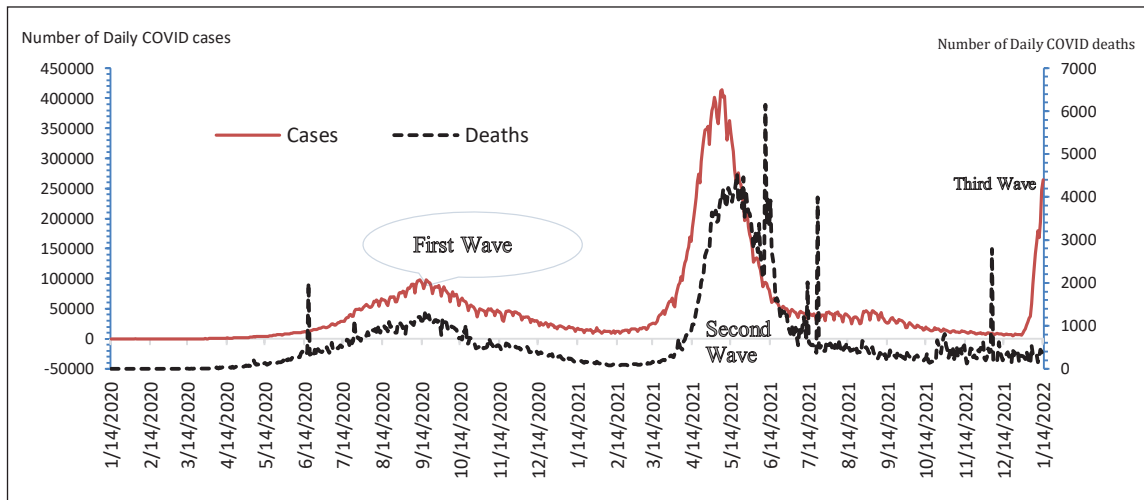
INDIA'S HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19

10.3 Like most other countries, India also faced two COVID-19 waves: first in 2020 and second in 2021 (Figure 1). During the first-wave, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases started rising progressively from the month of May 2020, and peaked in mid-September 2020. Thereafter, the country faced a massive surge in COVID-19 cases starting March 2021, with a peak of more than four lakh daily cases¹ in May 2021 and more than 4400 daily deaths in end

¹TWC India Edit Team. (2020, December 19). As Data Shows Clear Trends of Recovery, India Records One Crore COVID-19 Cases in 323 Days.

of May 2021. A fresh surge of cases and a new variant Omicron had surfaced in December 2021 and was spreading at the time of writing.

Figure 1: Daily COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in India



Source: World Health Organisation

10.4 To save lives, Government adopted a multi-pronged approach viz., (i) restrictions/partial lockdowns, (ii) building capacity in health infrastructure, (iii) COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, testing, tracing, treatment, and (iv) vaccination drive. Measures were taken to break the chain of transmission in terms of containment and buffer zones; perimeter control; contact tracing; isolation and testing of suspect cases and high-risk contacts, and creation of quarantine facilities. Preventive strategy changed in response to the changing situation observed based on real-time data and evidence. Testing capacity in the country increased exponentially. Tests for COVID-19 were also made free in all government centers. Rapid Antigen Test kits for faster screening were introduced. Manufacturing capacity of N-95 masks, ventilators, personal protective equipment kits, sanitizers were ramped up in a mission mode. Massive infrastructure was created for isolation beds, dedicated intensive care unit beds, and supply of medical oxygen. To meet the exponential rise in medical oxygen demand during second COVID wave, government engaged even railways, Air Force, Navy and industry. In the fight against coronavirus, COVID vaccines emerged best shield against the disease to save lives and sustain livelihood.

COVID Vaccination Strategy

10.5 Guided by scientific and epidemiological evidence, World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and global best practices, India's National COVID Vaccination Program has been one of the world's largest vaccination programs². National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) on the basis of concurrent scientific evidence guided the program. The program was envisioned to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries aged 18 years and above in the shortest possible time.

10.6 "The Liberalized Pricing and Accelerated National COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy", was implemented from 1st May to 20th June 2021. Under the strategy, States/Union Territories (UTs)

²Guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination of children between 15-18 years and precaution dose to health care workers (HCWs), Frontline workers (FLWs) & 60+ population with comorbidities

and private hospitals were allowed to procure COVID-19 vaccine directly from manufacturers. Government of India procured 50 percent of monthly vaccine production by the domestic manufacturers, while the State Governments and private hospitals procured remaining 50 percent doses. However, based on real-time feedback, it was changed to “The Revised Guidelines for Implementation of National COVID Vaccination Program” implemented from 21st June 2021, whereby, Government of India procured 75 percent of monthly vaccine production and provided free to States and UTs, while rest could be procured by private hospitals.

10.7 Availability of Vaccine: India is among few countries producing COVID vaccines. The country started with two Made in India COVID vaccines. India’s first domestic COVID-19 vaccine, Whole Virion Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine (COVAXIN), was developed and manufactured by Bharat Biotech International Limited in collaboration with National Institute of Virology of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR funded the clinical trials of the COVISHIELD vaccine developed in collaboration with Oxford – AstraZeneca. COVISHIELD and COVAXIN have been widely used vaccines in India. Every month about 250-275 million doses of COVISHIELD and 50-60 million doses of COVAXIN have been produced³. COVISHIELD, COVAXIN and COVOVAX have also received emergency authorization approval from WHO. Besides, manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines viz., Sputnik-V, ZyCoV-D, recombinant (Ad26.COVS-2S) have also been given emergency use authorization by the regulatory authority. Moreover, import of COVID-19 Vaccines viz., Sputnik-V, Moderna, and recombinant (Ad26.COVS-2S) have also been permitted.

10.8 Pricing and equity: At all Government COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs), COVID-19 vaccine was made available free of cost for all eligible citizens. Except for about 4-5 percent of total doses administered in the country, rest have been administered at Government COVID-19 Vaccination Centres. Union Budget for 2021-22 allocated ₹ 35,000 crore for procurement under COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Distribution of COVID vaccine to all without discrimination has also been important feature of the vaccination program. Out of total administered doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 49 percent have been administered to females; more than 70 percent of vaccine doses have been administered at CVCs located in rural areas.

10.9 Coverage: In the first phase (from 16th January to 1st March 2021) COVID-19 vaccines were given to Health Care Workers and Frontline workers. In second phase (from 1st March onward), COVID vaccines were extended to persons over 45 years of age with specified co-morbidities and those aged 60 years and above. From 1st April, 2021, coverage was further extended to all citizens aged 45 years and above. From 1st May 2021, all 94 crore persons of age 18 years and above, were made eligible for COVID vaccination. From 3rd January 2022, COVID-19 vaccine coverage has been extended to age-group of 15-18 years. Till 19th January 2022, 3.73 crore youngsters between 15-18 age group have been vaccinated with 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine covering more than 50 percent of youngsters. Further, from 10th January, 2022, Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers and persons age more than 60 years with co-morbidities have been made eligible to receive a precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine, on completion of 9 months or 39 weeks from the date of administration of 2nd dose. As on January 19, 2022, 56.66 lakh precautionary doses have been administered to health care workers, frontline workers and persons over 60 years of age.

³Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturing Capacity (PIB: 14 December 2021), Accessed in <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1781267>

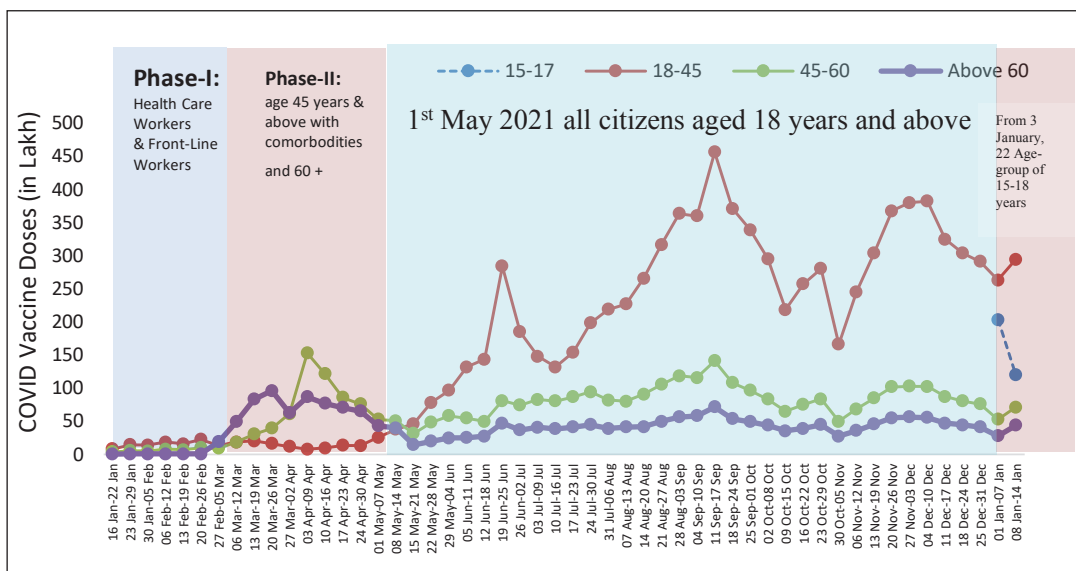
10.10 **Vaccine hesitancy:** Misconceptions about the COVID-19 vaccine make people hesitant to take vaccines. To reduce vaccine hesitancy, Government made efforts which include awareness through media channels, radio jockeys, op-eds and articles by identified experts and dissemination of fact-check videos by key experts to provide correct & factual information. From 3rd November 2021, a campaign, ‘Har Ghar Dastak’, has been initiated to identify and vaccinate those who missed 1st dose and due for 2nd dose through house-to-house mobilisation activity. Vaccine also administered to beneficiaries at their homes through mobile teams viz., ‘vaccination toli’ along with ‘prachartoli’. Interstate competition for coverage, conducting vaccination camp at Bazaar Haats, utilization of social media to counter anti-vaccine rumours, messaging through influential persons and other innovative approaches have helped in vaccination.

10.11 **Technology driven:** ArogyaSetu mobile app was launched to enable people to assess themselves the risk of their catching the COVID-19 infection. It calculates the risk of infection based on a person's interaction with others, using Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

10.12 Co-WIN 2.0 (along with e-VIN), a unique digital platform, supported the real-time vaccination activities viz., registration for vaccine, tracking COVID-19 vaccine status of every beneficiary, stocks of vaccine, storage, actual vaccination process, and generation of digital certificates.

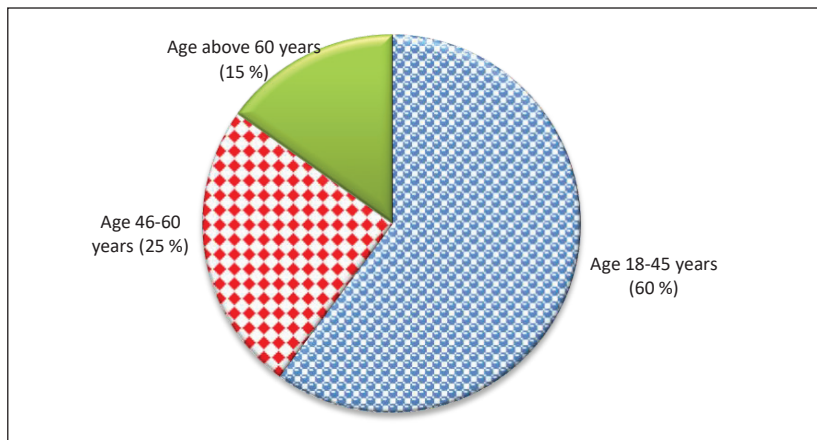
10.13 **Vaccination Progress:** As on 16th January 2022, a total of 156.76 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered: 90.75 crore first dose and 65.58 crore second dose. Vaccination speed increased significantly once the population between ages 18 to 45 years was permitted (Figure 2). Out of total doses administered, largest 60 percent are in the age group 18-45, followed by 25 percent to age group 45-59 year and 15 percent to aged 60 years & above (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Weekly COVID-19 vaccine doses by age in India



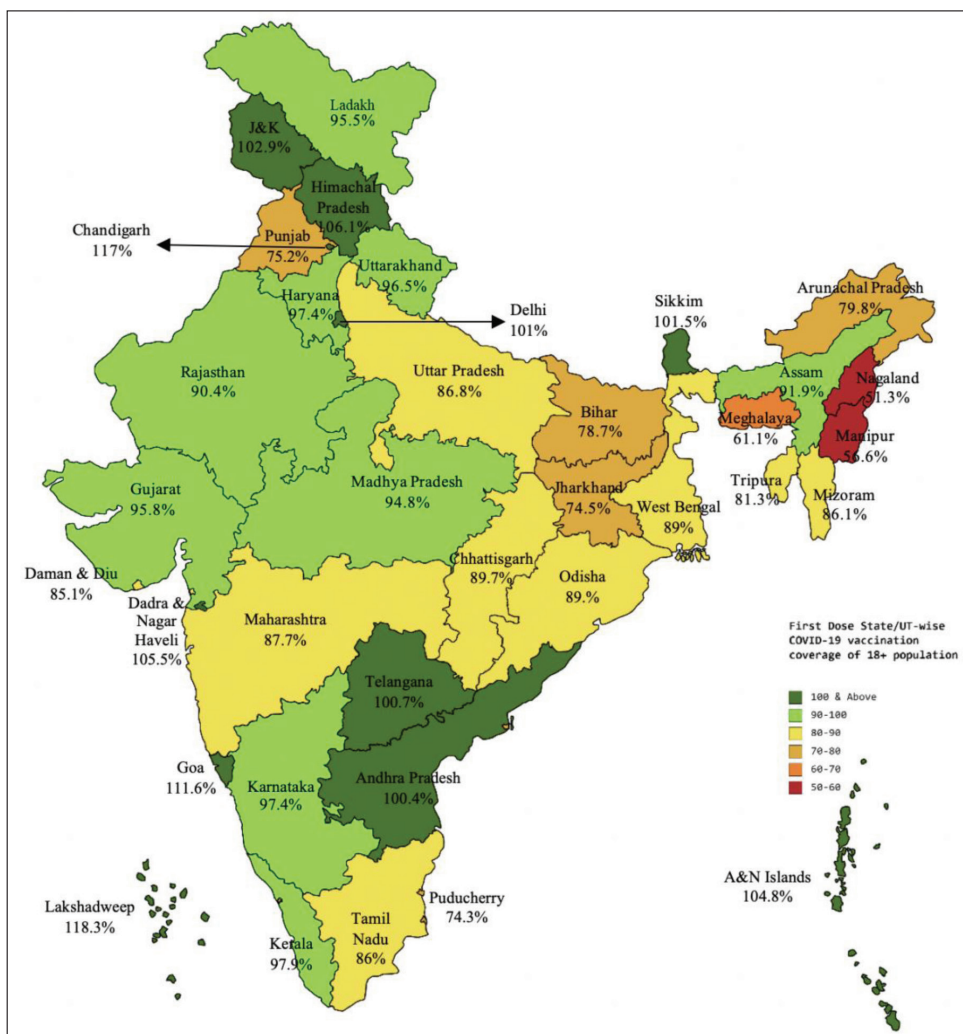
Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Figure 3: Distribution of vaccines by age group (as on 16th January, 2022)



Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: <https://dashboard.cowin.gov.in/>

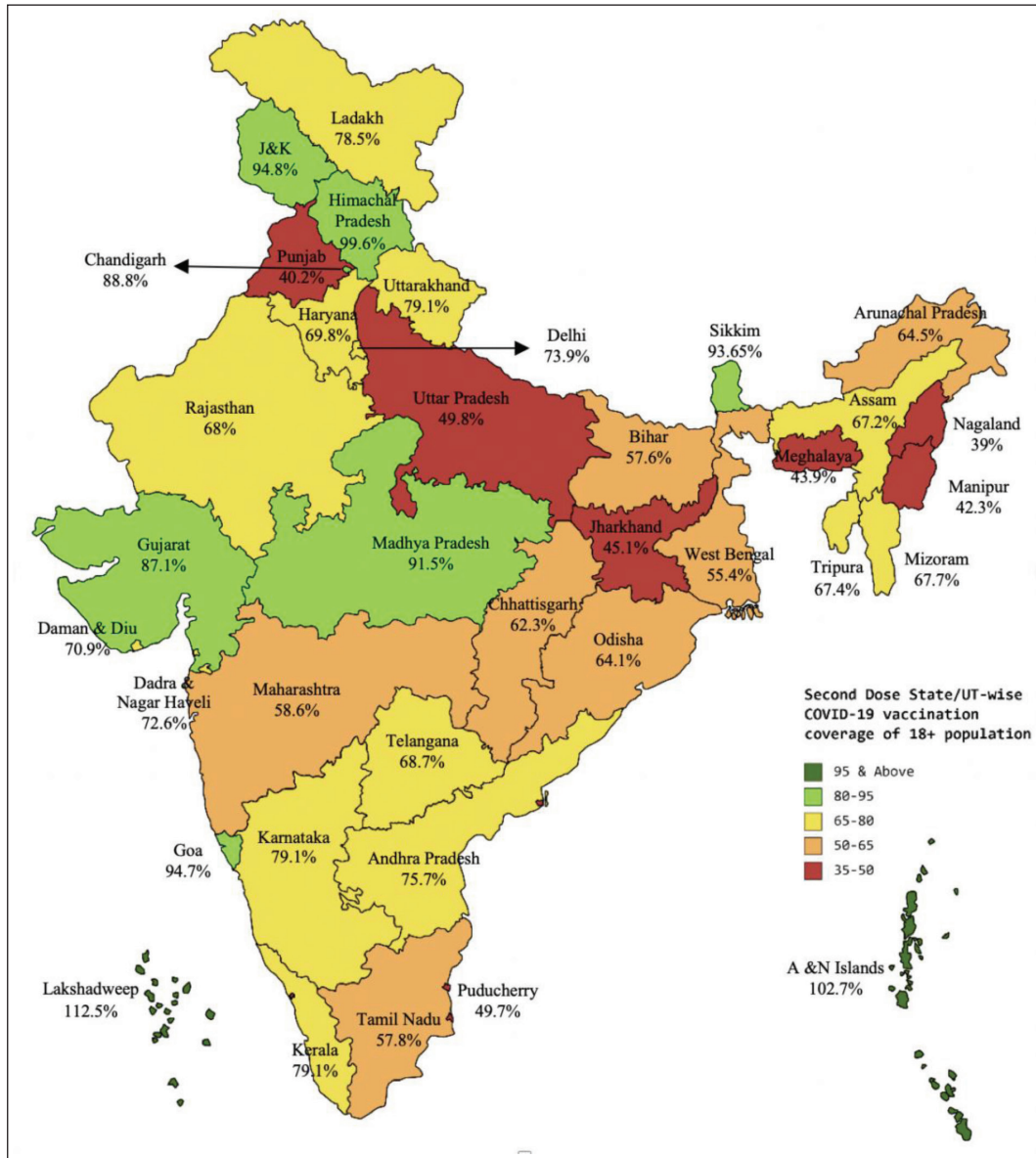
Map 1: Percent of adult population who have been administered the first Dose of COVID-19 vaccine (as on 31st December 2021)



Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Note: These are number of doses administered in the states and not the number of persons residing in the state to whom the doses have been administered.

Map 2: Percent of Adult population who have been administered the Second Dose of COVID-19 vaccine (as on 31st December 2021)

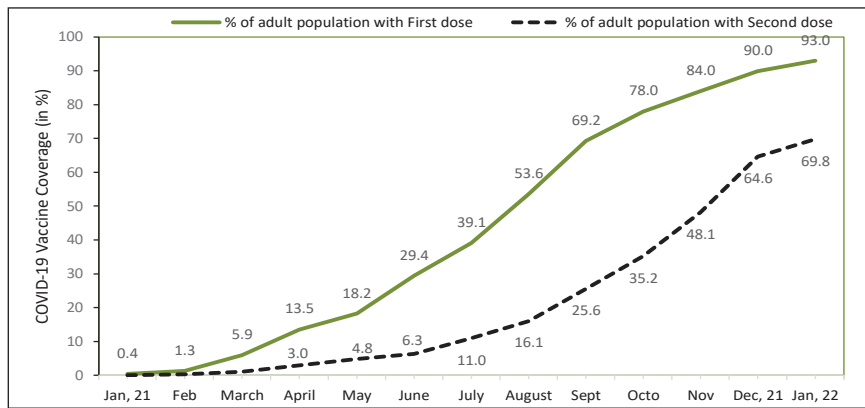


Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Note: These are number of doses administered in the states and not the number of persons residing in the state to whom the doses have been administered.

10.14 State's vaccination coverage of adult population as on 31st December 2021 is given in Map-1 (first dose) and Map-2 (second dose). India is among few large countries who have vaccinated large part of their population against COVID-19 virus. As on 16 January 2022, eligible population (18 year and above) vaccinated in India with first dose was 93 percent and with second dose 69.8 percent (Figure 4). As per WHO data, as on 2nd week of January 2022, 66.3 percent and 48.3 percent of the total population in India is vaccinated with first and second doses respectively. In Indonesia, population vaccinated with first dose is 64.9 percent and with second dose 44.3 percent, while in China, population vaccinated with first dose is 86 percent and with second dose 83.3 percent (Figure 5).

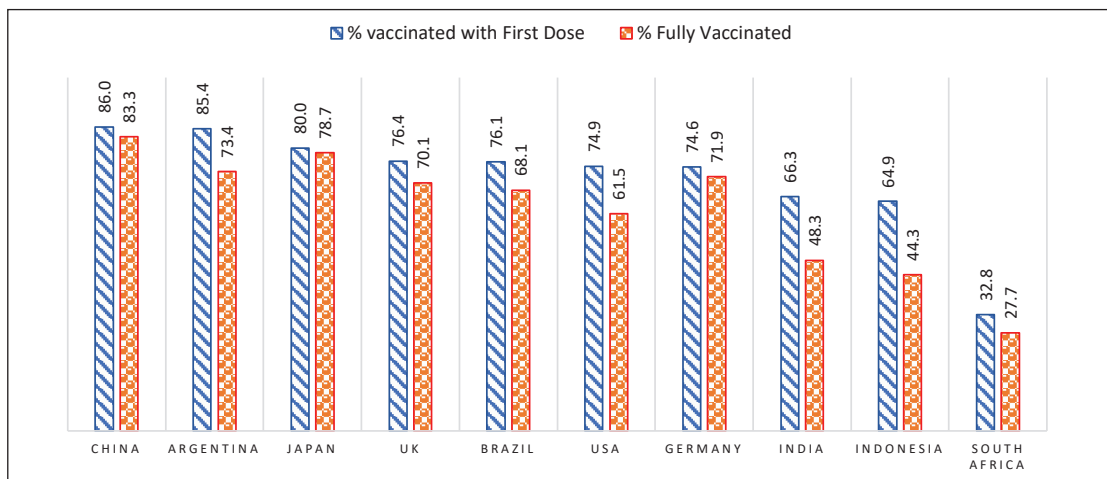
Figure 4: Cumulative Percent of Adult Population with COVID-19 Vaccine



Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (as on 16 January, 2022)

Note: Target as per Registrar General of India estimates: 93,90,39,000.

Figure 5: Population vaccinated by country (in percent)



Source: World Health Organization

Note: Status is as on first 2 weeks of January 2022.

Box 1: Some initiatives taken to fight against COVID-19

Laboratory network: As of 24th November 2021, a total of 1346 government laboratories and 1701 Private Laboratories (3047 laboratories in total) are conducting COVID-19 testing. So far as on 20.01.2022, India conducted 70.93 crore total COVID tests; On 20.01.2022, India conducted 19.35 lakh COVID tests.

Medical Oxygen Plants: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was entrusted with installing and commissioning 931 Medical Oxygen Plants in 869 hospitals across the nation within six months, funded through PM-CARES fund. These plants were designed and developed based on the spin-off technology of Onboard Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS) of India’s indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas.

Oxy-Care System: DRDO developed SPO2 based Oxygen Cylinder Controller (SPOCC) based Medical Oxygen Cylinders to optimally use the available medical oxygen for COVID-19 patients. This system supplies quantity of oxygen based on individual’s SPO2 levels. This technology was

transferred to M/s Bharat Forge Ltd and M/s UFLOW automation. They have supplied 1.5 lakhs such systems to Government hospitals across the country.

Anti-COVID Drug: An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) in collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad was formulated. Based on results of Phase-II and Phase-III clinical trials, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted permission for Emergency Use of 2-DG as adjunct therapy in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients. The drug comes in powder form in sachet, which is taken orally by dissolving it in water. DRDO has transferred its patented process technology to 13 major Pharma industries.

TRENDS IN SOCIAL SECTOR EXPENDITURE

10.15 Government's spending on social services increased significantly during the pandemic. In 2021-22 (BE), Centre and State governments earmarked an aggregate of ₹ 71.61 lakh crore for spending on social service sector [Table 1]; an increase of 9.8 percent over 2020-21. Last year's (2020-21) revised expenditure has also gone up by ₹ 54,000 crore from the budgeted amount. In 2021-22 (BE), funds to the sector increased to 8.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (8.3 percent in 2020-21). During the last five years, social services accounted for about 25 percent of the total Government expenditure (Centre and States taken together). In 2021-22 (BE), it was 26.6 percent.

10.16 Although, the pandemic has affected almost all social services, yet the health sector was the worst hit. Expenditure on health sector increased from ₹ 2.73 lakh crore in 2019-20 (pre-COVID-19) to ₹ 4.72 lakh crore in 2021-22 (BE), an increase of nearly 73 percent. For the education sector, the increase during same period was 20 percent.

10.17 In addition to the National Health Mission, Union Budget 2021-22, announced Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with an outlay of about ₹ 64,180 crore in next five years to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases. Besides, Union Budget 2021-22 provided an outlay of Rs 35,000 crore towards COVID-19 vaccination.

10.18 The National Health Policy, 2017 envisaged to increase government's health expenditure to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025. In keeping with this objective, Central and State Governments' budgeted expenditure on health sector reached 2.1 percent of GDP in 2021-22, against 1.3 percent in 2019-20.

**Table 1: Trends in Social Service Sector Expenditure by General Government
(Combined Centre and States)**

Item	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (RE)	2021-22 (BE)
(₹ in lakh crore)								
Total Budgetary Expenditure	32.85	37.61	42.66	45.16	50.41	54.11	65.24	71.61
Expenditure on Social Services:	7.68	9.16	10.41	11.40	12.78	13.65	16.34	19.06
i) Education	3.54	3.92	4.35	4.83	5.26	5.80	6.21	6.97
ii) Health	1.49	1.75	2.13	2.43	2.66	2.73	3.50	4.72
iii) Others	2.65	3.48	3.93	4.13	4.86	5.13	6.63	7.37
(As percentage to GDP)								
Expenditure on Social Services:	6.2	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	8.3	8.6
i) Education	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1
ii) Health	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.1
iii) Others	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	3.4	3.3
(As percentage to total expenditure)								
Expenditure on Social Services:	23.4	24.3	24.4	25.2	25.4	25.2	25.0	26.6
i) Education	10.8	10.4	10.2	10.7	10.4	10.7	9.5	9.7
ii) Health	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.4	6.6
iii) Others	8.1	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.6	9.5	10.2	10.3
(As percentage to social services)								
i) Education	46.1	42.8	41.8	42.4	41.2	42.5	38.0	36.6
ii) Health	19.4	19.1	20.5	21.4	20.8	20.0	21.4	24.7
iii) Others	34.6	38.0	37.7	36.2	38.0	37.6	40.6	38.7

Source: Reserve Bank of India, Budget Documents of Union and State Governments

Note:

- Budget Estimate (BE) & Revised Estimate (RE).
- Social services include, education, sports, art and culture; medical and public health, family welfare; water supply and sanitation; housing; urban development; welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs, labour and labour welfare; social security and welfare, nutrition, relief on account of natural calamities etc.
- Expenditure on 'Education' pertains to expenditure on 'Education, Sports, Arts and Culture'.
- Expenditure on 'Health' includes expenditure on 'Medical and Public Health', 'Family Welfare' and 'Water Supply and Sanitation'.
- The ratios to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices are based on 2011-12 base.
- Projected GDP for BE 2021-2022 is Rs 222,87,379 crore.

EDUCATION

10.19 It is difficult to gauge the real time impact of repeated lockdowns on education sector because the latest available comprehensive official data dates back to 2019-20. This provides the longer time pre-COVID trends but does not tell us how the trend may have been impacted by COVID-19 induced restrictions.

10.20 During initial COVID-19 restrictions, as a precautionary measure to protect the students from COVID-19, schools and colleges were closed across India⁴. This posed a new challenge for the Government in terms of continuity of education.

School Infrastructure

10.21 An assessment for the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20 for which data is available reveals that the number of recognized schools & colleges continued to increase between 2018-19 and 2019-20, except for primary & upper primary schools⁵ (Table 2).

Table 2: Total number of schools, colleges, and universities in India

Particulars	2018-19	2019-20
Primary & Upper Primary schools (in lakhs)	12.37	12.22
Secondary and Sr. Secondary Schools (in lakhs)	2.76	2.85
Colleges (numbers)	39931	42343
Universities (numbers)	993	1043

Source: Ministry of Education

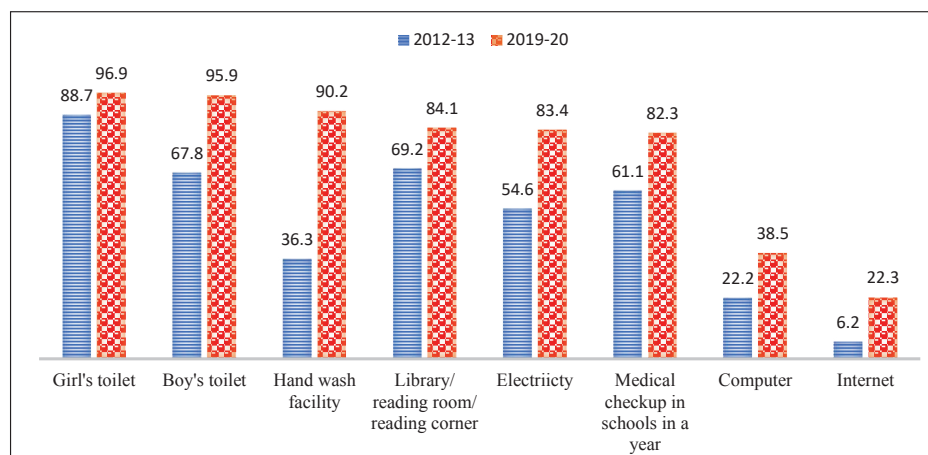
10.22 Basic facilities in schools also improved in 2019-20 over earlier years (Figure 6). Toilets (girls or boys), drinking water, and hand-washing facilities are now available in most of Government schools (10.32 lakh)⁶. Priority to drinking water and sanitation in schools under Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission as well as under Samagra Shiksha Scheme have been instrumental in providing required resources and creating these assets in schools. As on 19.01.2022, under Jal Jeevan Mission 8,39,443 schools were provided tap water supply. Computers and digital connectivity, however, remained low. Under the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) component of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, Government supports the establishment of smart classrooms, and ICT labs in schools, including support for hardware, educational software and e-content for teaching.

10.23 Further, availability of teachers, measured by Pupil Teacher Ratio, an indicator whose decrease signals improvement in quality of education, has improved at all levels continuously from 2012-13 to 2019-20: from 34 to 26 at primary, 23 to 18 at upper primary, 30 to 18 at secondary, and 39 to 26 at higher secondary level. The improvement in the number of schools, teachers' availability, and facilities in schools is expected to help improve enrolment and reduce dropout rates.

⁴After 15 October 2020, State/ UT Governments were given the flexibility for re-opening of schools and coaching institutions in a graded manner.

⁵15000 Primary & Upper Primary schools declined.

⁶UDISE+ data comes with more than one-year lag; so data is available up to 2019-20.

Figure 6: Schools with Basic Facilities (in percent)

Source: Ministry of Education (Unified District Information System for Education plus (UDISE+, 2019-20)

School Enrolment

10.24 In 2019-20, 26.45 crore children were enrolled in schools. During the year, schools enrolled about 42 lakh additional children, out of which 26 lakh were in primary to higher secondary levels and 16 lakh were in pre-primary as per Unified District Information System for Education plus (UDISE+) database⁷. The enrolments increased across all levels⁸ viz., upper-primary, secondary, and higher secondary, except for primary level. At primary level, enrolment reduced from 13.5 crore in 2012-13 to 12.2 crore 2019-20. This decline in enrolment was because of decline in total number of children in the age group 6-10 years⁹.

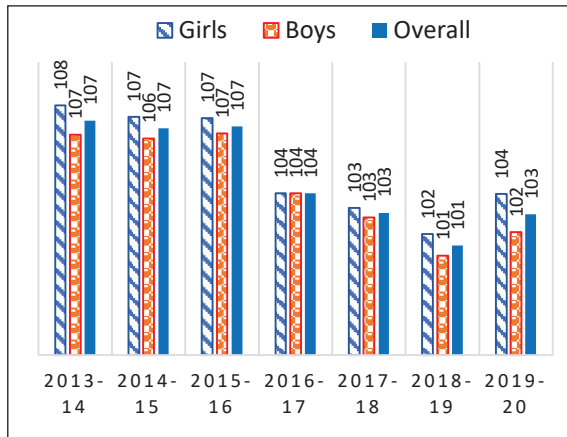
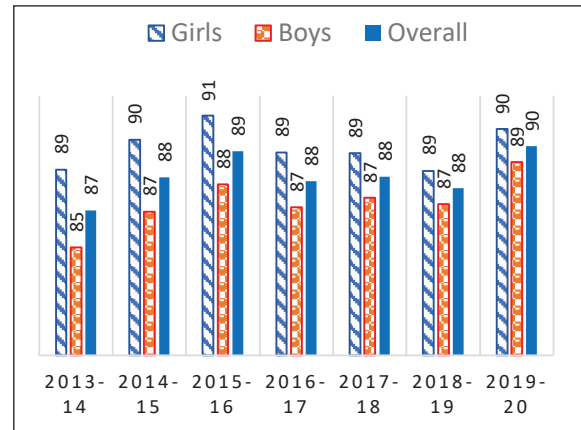
10.25 Year 2019-20 saw improvement in gross enrolment ratios (GER)¹⁰ at all levels and improvement in gender parity. GER in primary – enrolment in class 1st to 5th as a percentage of population in age 6 to 10 years - for girls as well as boys have improved in 2019-20. This improvement has reversed the declining trends between 2016-17 and 2018-19 (Figure 7.a). GER in upper-primary (enrolment in class 6 to 8 as a percent of population in age 11-13 years), which was stagnant between 2016-17 and 2018-19, improved in 2019-20 (Figure 7.b). GER for boys and girls in Secondary (9th & 10th) have also improved in 2019-20 (Figure 8). In corresponding age groups in Primary and Upper-primary levels, girls' GER are better than boys' (UDISE+, 2019-20).

⁷The Unified District Information System for Education plus (U-DISE+) collects data on various indicators on school education. For the purpose of this report schools with Primary or Upper Primary classes have been referred to as 'Elementary Schools'

⁸Levels of education: Primary (1-5th Std), Upper primary (6-8th Std), Secondary (9 & 10th Std), Higher secondary (11 & 12th Std).

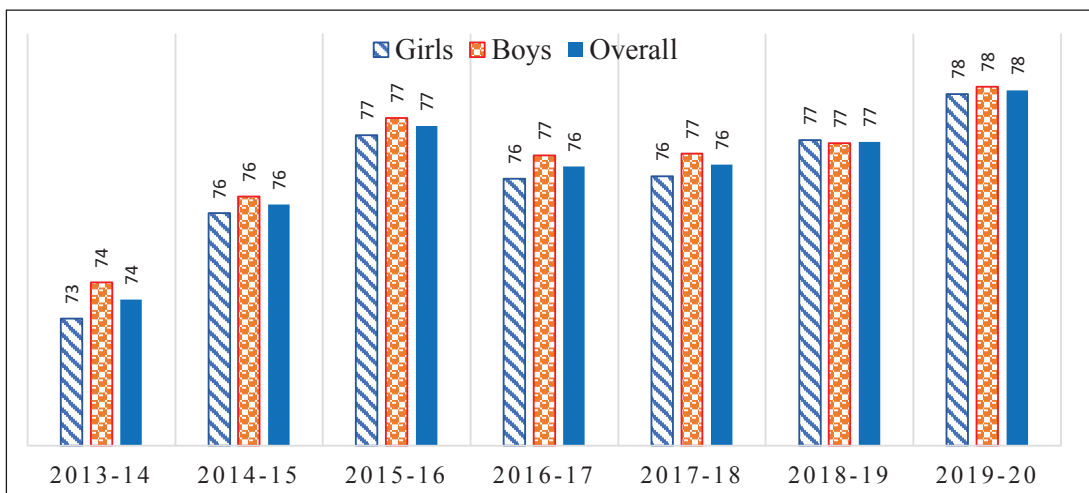
⁹Report on UDISE+, 2019-20

¹⁰GER is defined as total enrolment in a particular level of school education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of the official age-group which corresponds to the given level of school education in a given school year.

Figure 7: School Gross Enrolment Ratios in India (in percent)
(a) Primary level

(b) Upper Primary level


Source: Ministry of Education (UDISE+)

Note: GER greater than 100 percent might represent presence of over or under age children in a particular level of education.

Figure 8: School Gross Enrolment Ratios in India: Secondary level (in percent)


Source: Ministry of Education (UDISE+)

School Drop-out

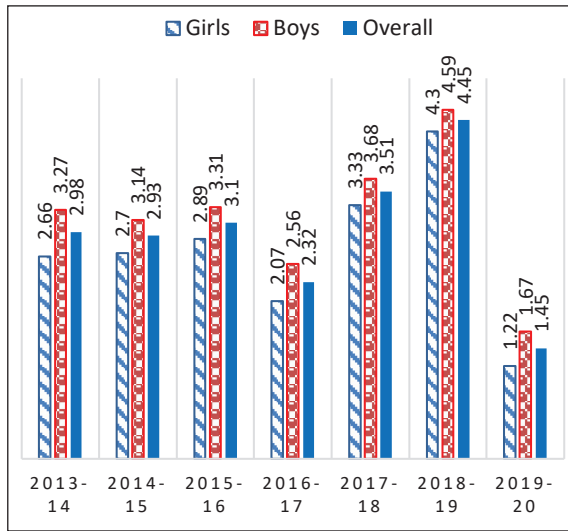
10.26 Year 2019-20 saw decline in dropout rates¹¹ at primary, upper-primary, and secondary levels. In 2019-20, school dropout rate at primary level declined to 1.45 percent from 4.45 percent in 2018-19. The decline is for both girls and boys (Figure 9a). The decline has also reversed the trends of increasing dropout rates during previous two years: 2017-18 & 2018-19. In upper-primary, drop-out rates for girls and boys have continuously declined since 2017-18 (Figure 9b). Similarly, in secondary also, decline in dropout rates is continuous since 2016-17, both for girls and boys (Figure 10)¹².

¹¹Dropout rate is defined as proportion of pupil from a cohort enrolled in a given level at a given school year who are no longer enrolled at any grade in the following school year.

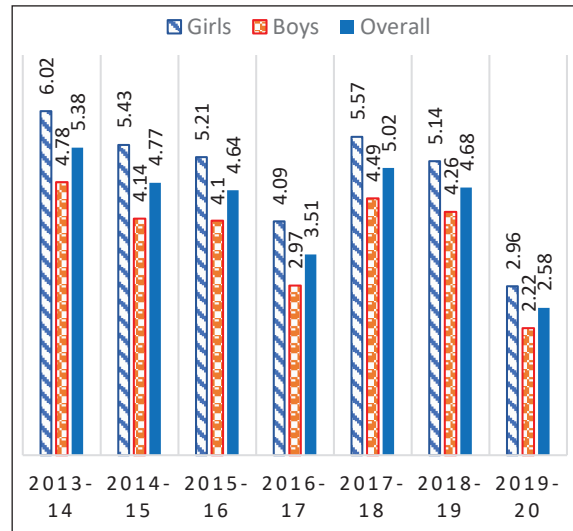
¹²The schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, RTE Act, improvement in school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings, availability of teachers, regular training of teachers, free text books, uniforms to children, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme and the Mid Day Meal Scheme play important role in enhancing enrolment and retention of children in schools.

Figure 9: School Dropout Rates in India (in percent)

(a) Primary level

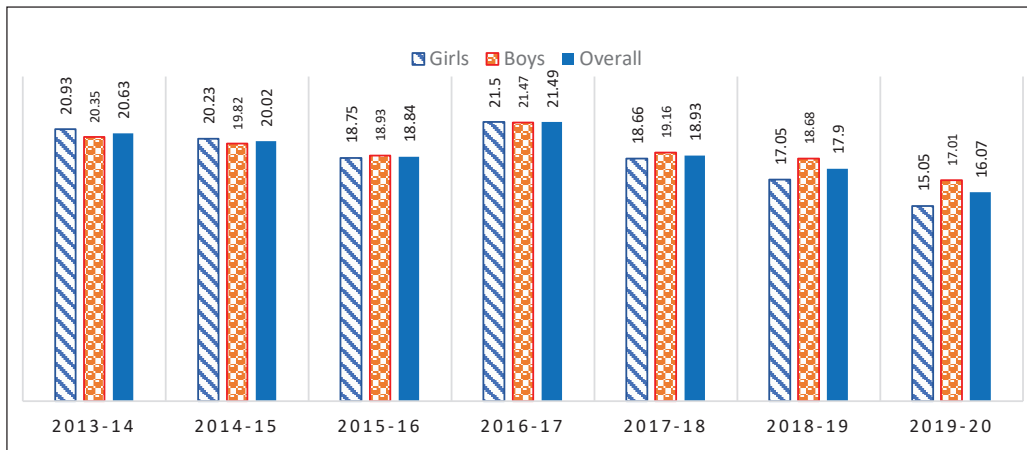


(b) Upper Primary level



Source: Ministry of Education (UDISE+)

Figure 10: Drop Out Rate: Secondary level (in percent)



Source: Ministry of Education (UDISE+)

10.27 The pandemic has had a significant impact on the education system affecting lakhs of schools and colleges across India. Since the data from Ministry of Education is only available up to 2019-20, the impact of pandemic on enrolment and dropout rates during pandemic years, 2020 and 2021, could not be assessed through comprehensive official data. Thus, policy makers have taken into account alternate sources. Various smaller surveys by the Government, and by citizen-led non-government agencies, such as the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021, have assessed the impact during pandemic for the education sector in rural areas. We are aware that such data has limitation but in interest of being up to date this data has been included below.

10.28 ASER found that despite the pandemic, enrolment in age cohort of 15-16 years continued to improve as number of not enrolled children in this age group declined from 12.1 percent in 2018 to 6.6 percent in 2021 (Table 3).

10.29 However, ASER (Rural) report also found that during pandemic, children (age 6-14 years) ‘not currently enrolled in schools’ increased from 2.5 percent in 2018 to 4.6 percent in 2021¹³. The enrolment decline was relatively large among the younger age group (age 7-10 year); decline of enrolment for younger boys was higher than girls. The drop in enrolment happened in 2020, although it has remained stable in 2021. To identify out of school children, their mainstreaming, and resource sharing, Government shared COVID-19 action plan with States and UTs outlining the role of local bodies, formation of nodal group at village/town level, conducting door-to-door/helpdesk-based/app-based survey.

10.30 ASER report also found that during pandemic, children in rural areas have moved out of private to government schools in all three age groups (Table 3). Possible reasons suggested for the shift are: shut down of low-cost private schools¹⁴, financial distress of parents, free facilities in government schools, and families migrating back to villages¹⁵. Disproportionately high fee in private schools could also be stimulating this shift. If the trend holds, public schools need to be equipped with additional support, in terms of teacher-pupil ratio, classroom space, and teaching/learning materials, to absorb students migrating from private schools and from urban to rural areas. In July 2020, government has issued guidelines for main streaming of children of migrant labourers, allowing for their smooth admissions into schools without asking for any documents other than identity.

Table 3: Children enrolled in schools by age group and school type in Rural areas (in percent)

Age (years)	Annual Status of Education Report 2018				Annual Status of Education Report 2021			
	Govt.	Private	Others	Not Enrolled	Govt.	Private	Others	Not Enrolled
6-14 All	64.3	32.5	0.7	2.5	70.3	24.4	0.7	4.6
7-10 All	64.4	33.5	0.7	1.4	70.3	24.8	0.6	4.4
7-10 Boys	60.6	37.4	0.7	1.4	67.9	26.9	0.5	4.7
7-10 Girls	68.4	29.5	0.7	1.4	72.8	22.3	0.7	4.1
11-14 All	64.1	32	0.8	3.2	70.5	24.5	0.8	4.1
11-14 Boys	60.5	35.9	0.7	2.9	67.5	27.3	0.9	4.3
11-14 Girls	67.6	28	0.8	3.6	73.9	21.5	0.7	3.9
15-16 All	57.4	29.9	0.6	12.1	67.4	25.2	0.9	6.6
15-16 Boys	55.9	32.2	0.5	11.5	66.7	26.3	0.9	6.1
15-16 Girls	58.9	27.8	0.7	12.6	68.1	24	0.8	7.1

Source: Annual Status of Education Report 2021 (Non-government source)

Note: ‘Other’ includes children going to Madarsa and Education Guaranteed Schemes, ‘Not enrolled’ includes children who never enrolled or are not currently enrolled.

¹³Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021 studied 76,706 households and reached 75,234 children (age 5-16) in all rural districts of India during September and October 2021. The survey was also conducted during September 2020.

¹⁴Alam Andaleeb and Priyamvada Tiwari (2021), “Implications of COVID-19 for Low-cost Private Schools”, UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/reports/implications-COVID-19-low-cost-private-schools>

¹⁵Banerji Rukmini & Wadhwa Wilima (2021), “The COVID effect: Changing patterns in public and private inputs into schooling in rural India”, ASER 2021

10.31 The access to education, school drop outs, learning gaps especially for children from marginalized communities have always remained major challenges in education. When schools were closed during pandemic, online learning became the most safe and prominent mode of learning. As per the ASER study, existing digital divide, however, exacerbated the equity in access to education. Although, the availability of smartphones has increased from 36.5 percent in 2018 to 67.6 percent in 2021, students in lower grade found it difficult to do online activities compared to higher-grade students. Non-availability of smartphones, non-availability of phone for child to use, and network or connectivity issues were the challenges faced by children (ASER study).

10.32 Though Government data to corroborate these observations is not available, steps have been taken by the Government to minimise the adverse impact of the pandemic on the education system to address the concerns raised through private studies undertaken during the pandemic period. Almost all enrolled children have textbooks for their current grade (91.9 percent). This proportion has increased over the last year, for children enrolled in both government and private schools. Also, 46.4 percent children in reopened schools received learning materials/activities as compared to 39.8 percent children whose schools had not reopened. Further, to overcome the challenge of digital divide and to continue learning during pandemic, Government took measures such as distribution of textbooks at homes, telephonic guidance by teachers, online and digital content through TV and radio, TARA interactive Chatbot, activity-based learning through the Alternate Academic Calendar released by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) (Box 2).

Box 2: Major Initiatives for Students during COVID-19 pandemic

- **PM e-VIDYA:** Launched in May 2020, PM e-Vidya unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education. The four components of PM e-VIDYA for school education are:
 - One Nation, One Digital Education (DIKSHA) Platform;
 - One Class, One TV channel through Swayam Prabha TV Channels;
 - Extensive use of Radio, Community Radio and Podcasts; and

For the differently-abled: One DTH channel is being operated specifically for hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing-impaired students, study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in Sign Language; both are available on the NIOS website/ YouTube. About 3,029 audiobook chapters have been developed and uploaded on DIKSHA. Of the produced/recorded 602 videos, 490 textbook-based ISL videos have been uploaded on DIKSHA. All 10,000 words of ISL dictionary have been uploaded on DIKSHA, and is being updated with additional audio and text facilities.
- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):** The blueprint of NDEAR, a digital infrastructure for Education, was launched on 29th July, 2021. It will be set up within the context of a Digital-First Mindset where the Digital Architecture will not only support teaching and learning activities but also educational planning, governance administrative activities of the Centre and the States Union Territories. It will provide diverse education eco-system architecture for development of digital infrastructure, a federated but inter-operable system that will ensure autonomy of all stakeholders, especially States and UTs.

- **Vidyanjali:** To connect the Government and Government aided schools through a community/volunteer management program, the government has launched Vidyanjali on 7th September, 2021, Vidyanjali portal enables the community/volunteers to interact and connect directly with schools of their choice to share their knowledge and skills as well as contribute in the form of assets/material/equipment.

Major Schemes for School Education during 2021-22

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 aims to pave the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. It aims to provide all students, irrespective of their place of residence, quality education system with special focus on the marginalised, disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. The steps taken to provide quality education in government schools and institutions in affordable and competitive manner are as follows:

- **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** has been continued for a period of five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total financial outlay of ₹ 2,94,283.04 crore. As an integrated scheme for school education, it covers the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. It treats school education as a continuum, and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4). The scheme not only provides support for the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, but is also aligned with the recommendations of NEP, 2020: to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment, to take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities, and make them active participants in the learning process.

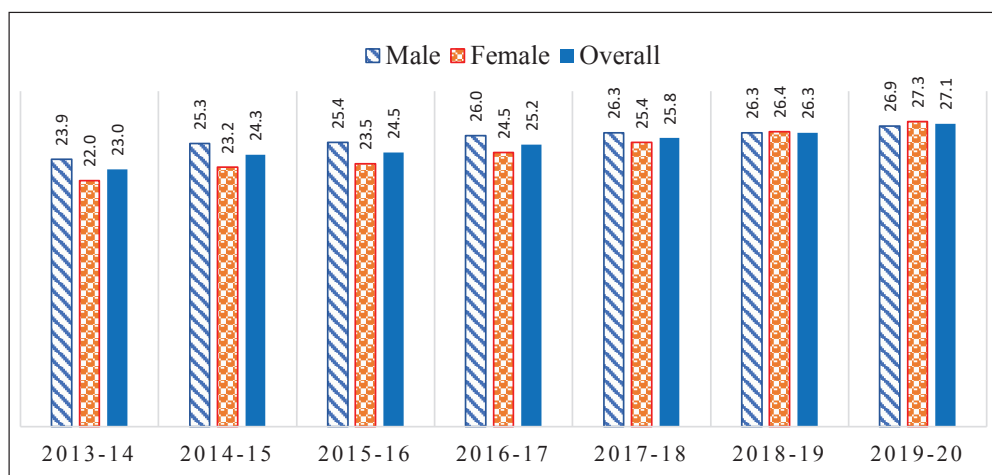
The major interventions, across all levels of school education, proposed under the scheme are: (i) Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention, (ii) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (iii) Gender and Equity, (iv) Inclusive Education, (v) Quality and Innovation, (vi) Financial support for Teacher Salary, (vii) Digital initiatives, (viii) RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks, (ix) Support for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), (x) Vocational Education, (xi) Sports and Physical Education, (xii) Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training, (xiii) Monitoring, (xiv) Programme Management, and (xv) National Component..

- **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** On 5th July 2021, government launched a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” . The National Mission lays down priorities and actionable agenda for States/UTs to achieve the goal of proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3. The Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha. NIPUN Bharat lays down the Lakshya or Targets for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy starting from the Balvatika up to age group 9 based on the learning outcomes and developmental goals covering various aspects, concepts and skills.
- **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme:** The Scheme, earlier known as ‘National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools’, covers all school children studying in Balvatika (just before class I) and Classes I-VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools. During 2020-21, about 11.80 crore children studying in 11.20 lakh institutions benefited under the Scheme. PM POSHAN Scheme in schools has been approved for implementation over the five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of ₹54061.73 crore from the Central Government and ₹31733.17 crore from the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Higher Education

10.33 Gross enrolment ratio in higher education recorded at 27.1 percent in 2019-20, slightly higher from 26.3 percent in 2018-19. For males, it has also increased from 26.3 percent in 2018-19 to 26.9 percent in 2019-20 while for females it has increased from 26.4 percent to 27.3 percent respectively (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Gross Enrolment Ratios in Higher Education for age 18-23 years (in percent)



Source: All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report 2019-20, Ministry of Education

Recent Initiatives in Higher Education

10.34 Government has taken multiple initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the higher education ecosystem by (i) enabling higher vocationalisation, (ii) greater multi-disciplinary research, (iii) providing multiple entry and exit points, (iv) promoting globalisation of education, (v) leveraging the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning process for all learners. For integration of vocational education into the higher education system, University Grant Commission (Institutions Deemed to be University) Regulation 2019 has been amended; and guidelines have been issued by UGC and All India Council for Technical Education to enable Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to offer Apprenticeship/Internship embedded degree programme.

10.35 **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** has been extended for the next five years with an outlay of ₹ 3054 crore which will make, through apprenticeship, around 9 lakh students employable. Under the scheme students will be given apprenticeship in the emerging and frontier technology such as Artificial Intelligence, drone technology, new evolving and emergent areas including expertise required for Production Linked Incentive Scheme, and PM Gati Shakti Programme of the Government. The scope of the NATS has been broadened to give apprentices to students from humanities, commerce and science besides engineering stream.

10.36 **Academic Bank of Credit**, launched on 29.07.2021, would digitally store the academic credits earned from various recognized Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such that credits so earned can be accounted for award of degree by any given HEI. Appropriate amendments in regulations by University Grants Commission (UGC) have been affected to facilitate multiple entry/exit in academic programmes at HEIs and offering of offshore courses by Institutions of Eminence (IOE).

10.37 **e-PGPathshala** : 154 Universities have come on board for accepting credit transfer for courses offered through SWAYAM platform till now, thereby boosting mainstreaming of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). In this regard, the e-PGPathshala has been offered as an Online Gateway of Post Graduate Courses; 778 papers, with 23000 plus e-modules in 67 Subjects have been developed, out of which 23 subjects cover the entire syllabus/curriculum. Due to COVID-19 induced lockdown and restrictions, ePGPathshala website has been used widely across all Universities and several Universities have used ePGPathshala content as a flip class room.

10.38 **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** has been launched to cater the rural local needs by leveraging higher education. The objective of the scheme is to engage reputed higher educational institutions (central and state; public and private) to understand and work in rural areas. As of now 2897 institutions are participating and they have adopted close to 14500 villages.

10.39 **Scholarships for weaker sections**: To address the issue of access to higher education by students from weaker sections, scholarship schemes (such as Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students which has benefited over 1.5 lakh students in 2021-22 as of November, Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K which has benefited close to 15000 students in 2021-22 as of November) have been operationalised.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

10.40 To unlock the demographic dividend, several steps have been taken to increase the skill levels in population. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-20 shows that formal vocational / technical training among youth (age 15-29 years) and working population (age 15-59 years) have improved in 2019-20 over 2018-19. The improvement in skills has also been for males and females, both in rural and urban sectors. However, formal training for males and females is lower in rural than in urban areas (Table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of Persons received formal vocational/technical training (in percent)

Age group	Rural			Urban			All India		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2017-18									
15-29 years	2.0	1.3	1.7	4.6	4.2	4.4	2.8	2.2	2.5
15-59 years	1.5	0.9	1.2	4.0	3.3	3.7	2.3	1.7	2.0
2018-19									
15-29 years	2.4	1.5	2.0	4.8	4.6	4.7	3.2	2.5	2.8
15-59 years	1.8	1.1	1.5	4.9	3.9	4.4	2.8	2.0	2.4
2019-20									
15-29 years	3.1	2.7	2.9	7.0	6.5	6.8	4.3	3.8	4.1
15-59 years	2.2	1.7	2.0	6.3	5.4	5.8	3.5	2.9	3.2

Source: Annual PLFS Reports, 2017-18 to 2019-20

10.41 As per the report of first quarter (April-June, 2021) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) in respect of establishments employing at least 10 workers in major nine sectors, 17.9 percent of estimated establishments were imparting formal skill training. Sectors such as IT/BPO imparted skill training in 29.8 percent of estimated establishments, followed by 22.6 percent financial services and 21.1 percent education sector's establishments. Further, about 24.3 percent estimated establishments were found to be imparting 'On-the-Job' training, which is higher in IT/BPO sector (36.1 percent of establishments) and financial services sector (34.8 percent) (Table 5).

Table 5: Sector-wise Percentage Distribution of Estimated Establishments imparting Formal Skill Development Training and On the Job Training (in percent)

Sectors	Skill Training	On-the-Job Training
IT/BPOs	29.8	36.1
Financial Services	22.6	38.8
Education	21.1	22.1
Health	20.2	24.0
Manufacturing	17.4	28.3
Construction	15.5	26.0
Transport	13.0	20.6
Trade	11.2	17.4
Accommodation & Restaurants	7.1	13.4
Total	17.9	24.3

Source: Quarterly Employment Survey Report, 2nd Quarter 2021, Labour Bureau.

10.42 Skill development efforts of the Government aim at the removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework, skill up-gradation, building of new skills and innovative thinking not only for existing jobs but also jobs that are to be created.

Box 3: National Education Policy 2020: Re-imagining vocational education

Initiatives/targets

- At least 50 percent of school learners to get exposure to vocational education by 2025.
- Considering students in vocational education while arriving at the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) targets.
- Secondary schools to collaborate with ITIs, polytechnics, local industry.
- Setting up of Skill labs and creating hub & spoke model in the schools to allow other schools to use the facility.
- To offer vocational education by higher education institutions or in partnership with industry and NGOs.
- Offering vocational courses to students enrolled in all other Bachelor's degree programmes, including the 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's programmes.

- Higher educational institutions to conduct short-term certificate courses in various skills including soft skills.
- Making vocational knowledge developed - 'Lok Vidya' to students through integration into vocational education courses.
- Vocational courses through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode.
- Integrating vocational education into all school and higher education institutions in a phased manner over the next decade.
- Ministry of Education to constitute a National Committee for the Integration of Vocational Education (NCIVE), consisting of experts in vocational education and representatives from across Ministries, in collaboration with industry, to oversee this effort.
- Setting up incubation centres in higher education institutions in partnership with industries.
- National Skills Qualifications Framework for each discipline vocation and profession.
- Aligning Indian standards to the International Standard Classification of Occupations maintained by the International Labour Organization.

Skill India Mission

10.43 Launched in 2015, Skill India Mission focuses on re-skilling and up-skilling in prominent trades. Under the Mission government implements Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), for providing short term Skill Development training and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS), for long term training, to the youth.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**

PMKVY has two training components, viz., Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Between 2016-17 and 2021-22 (as on 15 January 2022), under PMKVY 2.0 about 1.10 crore persons were trained (inclusive of the placement-linked and non-placement-linked components of the PMKVY): 83 percent certified and about 21 lakhs placed. In 2021-22, under PMKVY 3.0, 3.48 lakh persons have been trained: 50 percent certified and 16,321 placed. Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), from 2016-17 to 2021-22, 16.35 lakh persons were trained and over 78 percent of them were certified.

PMKVY also provided training to Shramiks (migrant labourers) affected by COVID-19. This component covered 116 districts of 6 States, viz., Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. As on 15.01.2022, 1.26 lakh migrants have been trained / oriented (0.88 lakh in STT and 0.38 lakh in RPL).

Several micro-programmes under PMKVY have also been formulated for targeting artisans' clusters in partnership with private sector, also to ensure employment to all artisans. Special project has been launched to revive the traditional Namda craft of Jammu & Kashmir and upskilling of Weavers & Artisans of traditional crafts of Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): RPL's objectives are (i) to align the competencies of the unorganized workforce of the country with the standardized National Skill Qualification

Framework; (ii) to enhance the opportunities for employment and provide alternative means for higher education; (iii) to provide opportunities for reducing inequalities. As on 15th January 2022, more than 63 lakh beneficiaries have been certified across 37 different sectors.

- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme**

JSS aims to provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates, persons with rudimentary level of education up to 8th and school dropouts up to 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years. The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities, divyangjan and other backward sections of the society. The Jan Shikshan Sansthans work at the doorstep of the beneficiaries with minimum infrastructure and resources. Under the scheme grant is released to Jan Shikshan Sansthans (NGOs) for Skill Development.

- **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)**

This Scheme promotes apprenticeship training and the engagement of apprentices by providing financial support to industrial establishments undertaking apprenticeship program under The Apprentices Act, 1961. As on 31 October 2021, 4.3 lakh apprentices engaged under the scheme.

- **Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS)**

CTS is for providing long-term training in 137 trades through 14,604 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country. For session 2020, 13.36 lakh trainees were enrolled.

Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal

10.44 ASEEM, a digital platform, created to match supply of skilled workforce with the market demand, acts as a directory of skilled workforce. As on 31.12.2021, 1.38 crore candidates have been registered on the portal including candidates registered on Skill India Portal (SIP). As on 31.12.2021, around 26.7 lakh migrant's data/profile are also available on the portal. The Portal consists of three IT based AI (artificial intelligence) driven interfaces for stakeholder interactions:

- A job application for individuals with access to hyper local jobs using machine learning and automated match based on persona.
- A demand and campaign management system for employers to forecast the current and future demand.
- A management dashboard for analytics and insights. This could also be used for future decision making.

India International Skill Centre (IISC) Network

10.45 IISC Network is catering to the needs of foreign countries where Indian manpower is in demand. The IISC Network is a fee-based market driven model; based on global workforce supply and demand dynamics. It provides incremental skill training on international standards and assessment of skills for overseas employment. India has agreements with Germany, Belarus, United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan and Qatar in the field of apprentices/training.

Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM-DAKSH)

10.46 PM-DAKSH Yojana is a national action plan for skilling of marginalized persons including scheduled castes, backward classes and safai karamcharis. The eligible target group are being

provided skill development training programmes on (i) up-skilling/re-skilling (ii) short term training programme (iii) long term training programme and (iv) entrepreneurship development program. During the year 2021-22, a target has been set to provide skill development training to approximately 50,000 persons of the target groups.

TRENDS OF EMPLOYMENT

10.47 The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on the movement of individuals and economic activities to curb its spread significantly impacted livelihoods across the globe. This section analyses trends in labour market and the impact of COVID-19 on employment using annual and quarterly data by Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). PLFS is the comprehensive Government dataset used to analyse the trends in labour market. However, this data is available with a large lag¹⁶. The latest update of quarterly PLFS urban sector is available up to March 2021¹⁷ and annual PLFS data available up to 2019-20. In the absence of high frequency data on labour market indicators, other proxies such as subscriptions of EPFO scheme and demand for work under MGNREGA, have been used to analyse the more recent trends in employment in urban and rural sectors.

Trends in Urban employment using Quarterly PLFS data

10.48 Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the urban labour market had shown signs of improvement in terms of labour force participation rate (LFPR), Worker population ratio (WPR) and Unemployment rates (UR). However, the nation-wide lockdown imposed in late-March, 2020 adversely impacted the urban labour market. In the first quarter of 2020-21, the unemployment rate for urban sector rose to 20.8 percent. The LFPR and WPR in urban sector also declined significantly during this quarter (Table 6).

**Table 6: Labour market indicators for Urban sector (age: 15 & above) at CWS
(in percent)**

Survey Year	Quarters	LFPR	WPR	UR
2019-20	July-Sept, 2019	47.3	43.4	8.3
	Oct-Dec, 2019	47.8	44.1	7.8
	Jan-March, 2020	48.1	43.7	9.1
	April-June, 2020	45.9	36.4	20.8
2020-21	July-Sept, 2020	47.2	40.9	13.2
	Oct-Dec, 2020	47.3	42.4	10.3
	Jan-March, 2021	47.5	43.1	9.3

Source: Quarterly PLFS reports

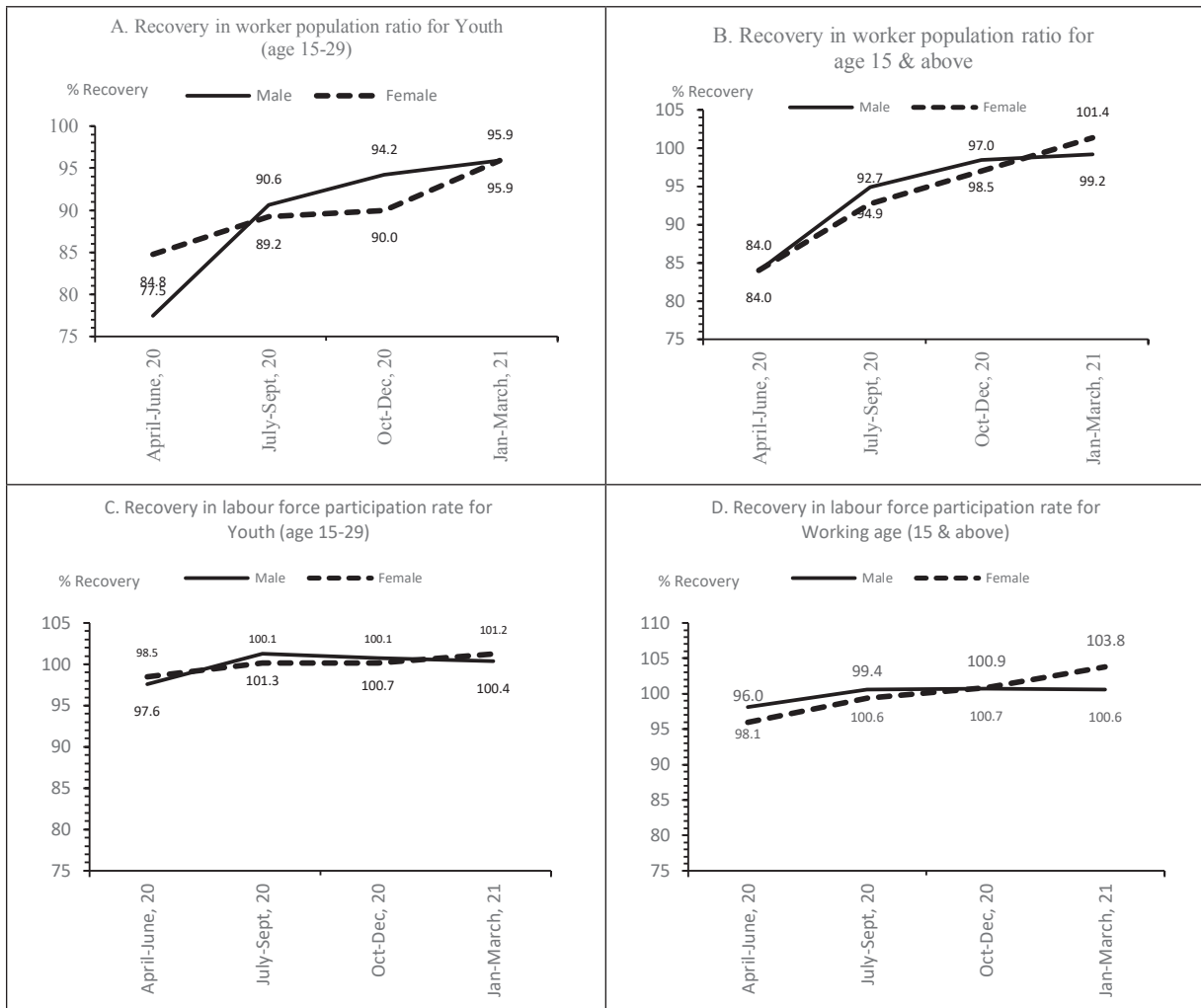
Note: LFPR is defined as the percentage of population in the labour force. Labour force comprises of persons who were either working (employed) or seeking work (unemployed). WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the total population. UR is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

¹⁶Quarterly PLFS for urban sector has a lag of about 9 months and do not cover the rural sector. Other countries viz., Japan, Australia, United Kingdom and USA, publish their quarterly labour force surveys in less than two months of time and monthly data within a month from reference period.

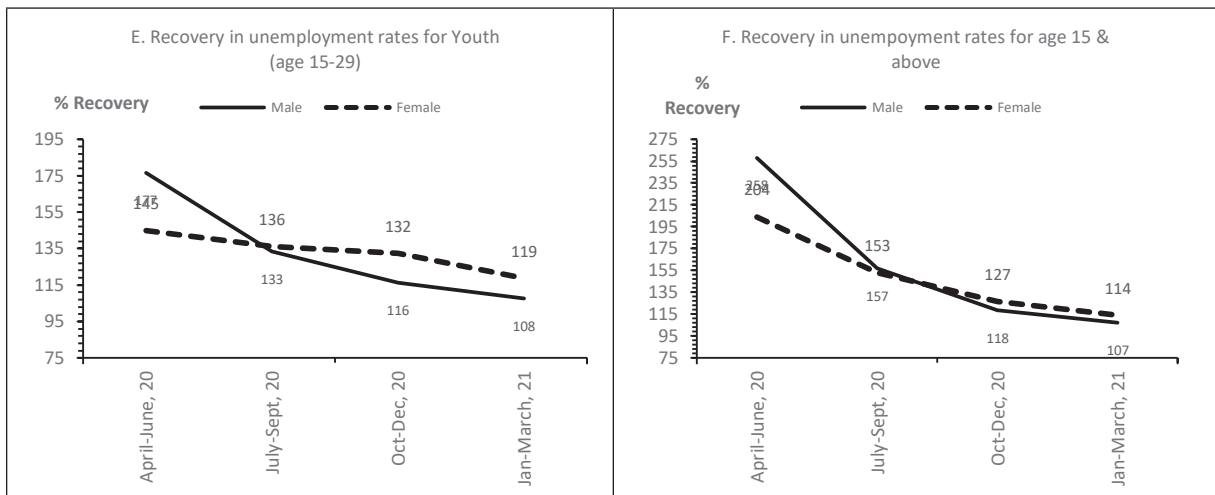
¹⁷The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person

10.49 With the revival of economy in the subsequent quarters of 2020-21, all three labour market indicators showed a swift recovery (Figure 11). The UR gradually declined during this period to reach 9.3 per cent in Q4 of 2020-21. The UR for males as well as females, aged 15 & above, recovered to the pre-pandemic levels. Both the LFPR and WPR for males as well as females, aged 15 & above, almost reached their pre-pandemic levels¹⁸ during the last quarter of 2020-21. (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Urban Labour Market Recovery from pre-pandemic levels



¹⁸Pre-pandemic levels are taken as the quarterly average of all the quarters during FY 2019-20



Source: Quarterly PLFS reports, MoSPI

10.50 Note that, the latest quarterly urban sector PLFS data reports the impact of first COVID-19 wave and the following recovery till Q4 of 2020-21. In order to gauge the performance of the labour market during 2021-22, proxy measures have to be used (though these have limitations). The following sub-sections use the data on subscriptions of EPFO scheme and demand for work under MGNREGA as proxy indicators to analyse these recent trends in urban and rural areas respectively.

Trends in Urban Employment using Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Payroll Data

10.51 Broadly, the EPFO data covers the low paid workers in medium and large establishments of formal sector¹⁹. The net addition in EPFO subscriptions is an indicator of the extent of formalisation of the job market, and the coverage of social security benefits to the organized/semi-organized sector workforce. An analysis of the latest EPFO data suggests significant acceleration in formalisation of the job market, driven by both new formal jobs and formalisation of existing jobs, during 2021, with 13.95 lakh net addition to EPF subscribers in November 2021.

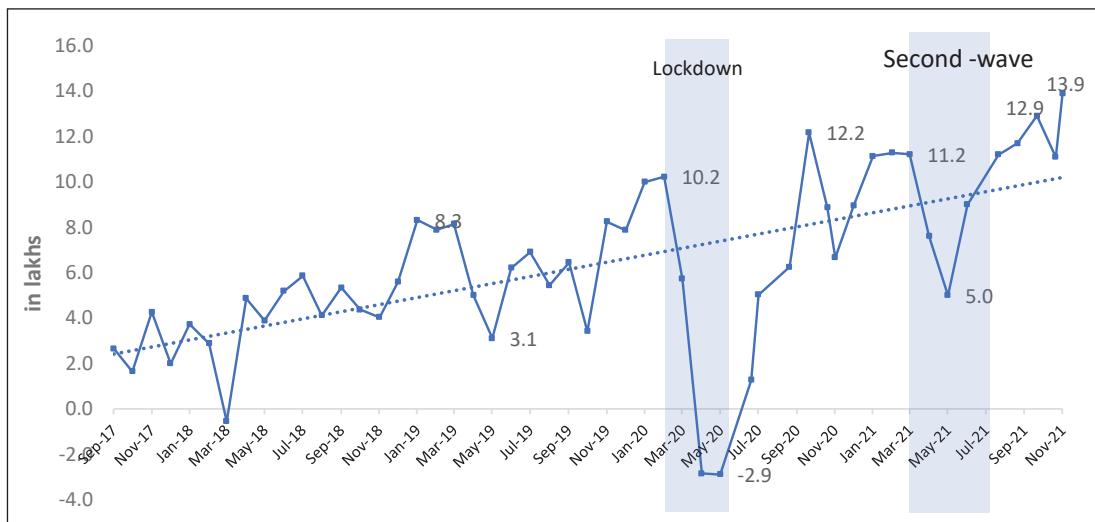
10.52 Owing to the large impact witnessed during the nation-wide lockdown, the net addition to EPFO subscriptions declined and turned negative in April-May 2020, that implies a net exit was registered from the scheme. With the unlocking of the economy and easing of restrictions, the EPFO subscriptions bounced back swiftly, reaching 12.2 lakh in September 2020. The net additional subscription witnessed a decline again in November 2020 and also during the second

¹⁹EPFO publishes subscriptions data every month, with a lag of two months, however, it has limitations: (i) The data does not cover establishments employing less than 20 persons, with few exceptions. Certain establishments notified by the Central Government even if they employ less than 20 persons each. Most of the establishments in India are smaller in size, EPFO payroll represents only a small fraction. Though old, yet the only latest available Sixth Economic Census (EC), 2013 suggests that only 0.52 percent (about 3 lakh establishments out of total 58.5 million) establishments were employing 20 or more workers. (ii) The data also do not cover workers getting pay more than ₹15000 per month, except those permitted or paying their contribution on voluntary basis. It, thus, excludes most of the better paid skilled workers. (iii) Workers getting jobs in informal sector are not reflected in EPFO subscriptions. In 2019-20, close to 90 percent of additional workers joined workforce were in the informal nature of employment.

wave of Covid-19 (April-June 2021). However, the magnitude of decline in both the cases was less compared to that during April-May 2020. The monthly net additional EPF subscription during May 2021 was 5 lakh as against -2.9 lakh in May 2020. In November 2021, net addition in subscription peaked with 13.9 lakh new subscribers, the highest in any given month since 2017. The latest payroll data of EPFO shows that the net addition in EPF subscribers reached 13.95 lakh during the month of November 2021, which translates into growth of 109.21 percent from November 2020, and a growth of 25.65 percent from October, 2021.

10.53 Thus, the monthly net addition in subscriptions during 2021 has not only been higher than the corresponding monthly values in 2020, but they have also surpassed the levels of the corresponding months during pre-pandemic year 2019. This points to the formalisation of the job markets as well as new hiring (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Net addition in EPF Subscribers (in lakhs)



Source: EPFO

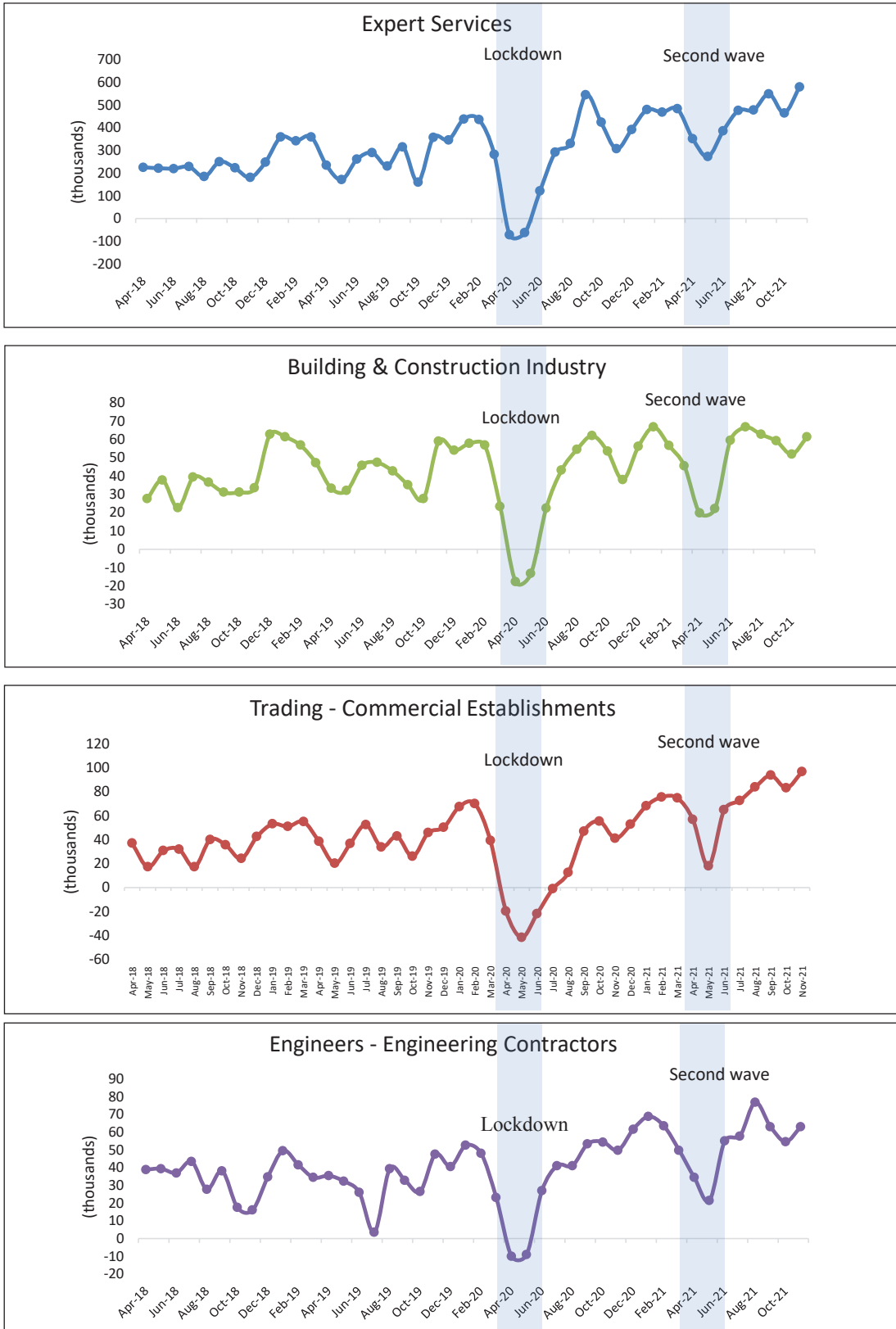
Note:

1. Data is provisional as updation of employees' records is a continuous process and gets updated in subsequent month/s.
2. Net subscriptions equals new EPF subscribers added to exited members who rejoined and re-subscribed net of members exited

10.54 A swift rebound of subscriptions continued in Expert Services and Trading establishments until September 2021, and in Engineering until August, 2021. Subscriptions, however, slowed down in August 2021 in Building & Construction. In November 2021²⁰, EPFO subscriptions have increased in these sectors (Figure 14).

²⁰Establishments under EPF are highly concentrated in few services. In 2021-22, expert service (43 percent) had highest share, followed by trading – commercial establishments (6.9 percent), engineers – engineering contractors (5.1 percent), and building and construction industry (4.8 percent). Share of 'Trading – commercial establishments' in net payroll subscribers has increased in 2020-21 from 2019-20, however it has declined for other three industries.

Figure 14: Net New EPF Subscribers (thousands) in Selected Sectors



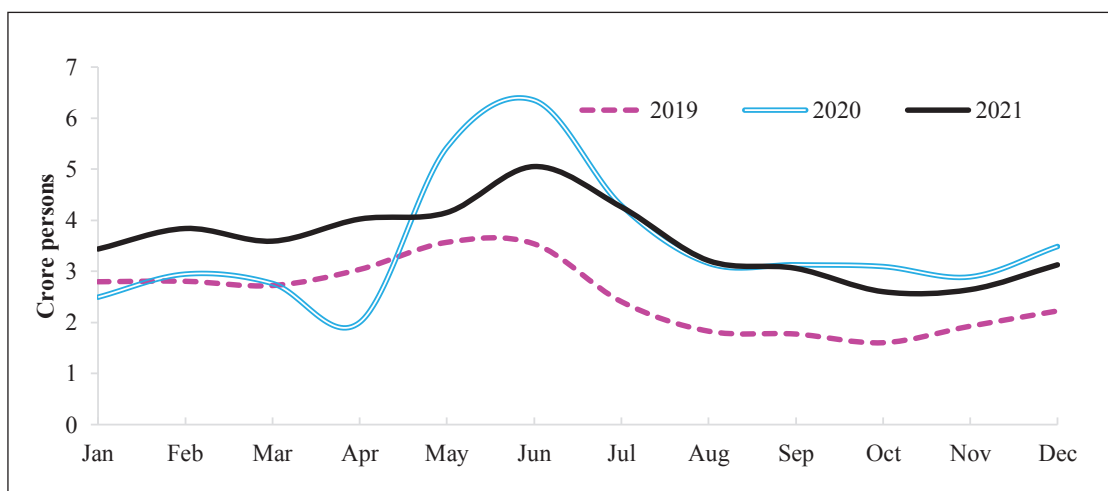
Source: EPFO

Trends in data on demand for work under MGNREGS

10.55 The demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is an indicator of rural labour markets. An analysis of the latest data on demand for work under MGNREGS suggests the following trends in the rural labour market: (i) MGNREGS employment peaked during the nation-wide lockdown in 2020 (ii) the demand for MGNREGS work has stabilized after the second COVID wave; (iii) aggregate MGNREGS employment is still higher than pre-pandemic level (Figure 15).

10.56 During the nationwide lockdown, the aggregate demand for MGNREGS work peaked in June 2020, and has thereafter stabilized. During the second-COVID-wave, demand for MGNREGS employment reached the maximum level of 4.59 crore persons in June 2021. Nonetheless, after accounting for seasonality, the demand at an aggregate level still seems to be above the pre-pandemic levels of 2019 (Figure 15). For some states like Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, the demand for work under MGNREGS has reduced to below the pre-pandemic levels during the last few months.

Figure 15: Persons demanded work under MGNREGS (in Crores)



Source: MGNREGA portal, D/o Rural Development

10.57 Intuitively, one may expect that higher MGNREGS demand may be directly related to the movement of migrant labour i.e. source states would be more impacted. Nevertheless, state-level analysis shows that for many migrant source states like West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, the MGNREGS employment in most months of 2021 has been lower than the corresponding levels in 2020. In contrast, the demand for MGNREGS employment has been higher for migrant recipient states like Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for most months in 2021 over 2020. There are still other states that do not neatly fit into this categorization. Therefore, the relationship between MGNREGS employment and movement of migrant labour during the last two years cannot be conclusively determined, and requires further research.

Long-term trends in employment using annual PLFS data

10.58 During Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-20 (survey period from July 2019 to June 2020), employment at usual status²¹ continued to expand. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, about 4.75 crore additional persons joined the workforce. This is about three times more than the employment created between 2017-18 and 2018-19. The rural sector contributed much more to this expansion relative to the urban sector (3.45 crore in rural sector and 1.30 crore in urban sector). Further, amongst the additional workers, 2.99 crore were females (63 percent). About 65 percent of the additional workers joined in 2019-20 were self-employed. About 75 percent of the female workers who joined as self-employed were ‘unpaid family labour.’ About 18 percent of the additional workers were Casual labourer and 17 percent were ‘Regular Wage/Salaried Employee’. Further, the number of unemployed persons in 2019-20 has also decreased by 23 lakhs, constituted largely by males from the rural sector (Table 7).

Table 7: Estimates of Labour Force, Employment, and Unemployment for the years 2017-18 to 2019-20 (all ages; principal status+ subsidiary status, in crore)

Description	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2017-18									
Labour Force	25.48	8.67	34.15	13.25	3.57	16.82	38.73	12.24	50.97
Employment	23.91	7.70	31.61	12.39	3.15	15.53	36.29	10.85	47.14
Unemployment	1.57	0.97	2.54	0.86	0.42	1.29	2.44	1.39	3.83
2018-19									
Labour Force	25.77	8.77	34.54	13.60	3.68	17.28	39.37	12.45	51.82
Employment	24.37	8.46	32.83	12.64	3.31	15.96	37.01	11.77	48.78
Unemployment	1.40	0.31	1.71	0.96	0.37	1.33	2.36	0.68	3.04
2019-20									
Labour Force	26.64	11.12	37.76	14.23	4.35	18.58	40.87	15.47	56.34
Employment	25.45	10.81	36.26	13.32	3.95	17.27	38.77	14.76	53.53
Unemployment	1.18	0.32	1.50	0.91	0.40	1.31	2.09	0.72	2.81

Source: Survey Estimates using PLFS 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Surveys. The estimates are approximate.

Note 1: Projected population as on 1st January, 2018 was 135 crore, as on 1st January 2019 was 137 crore; and as on 1st January, 2020 was 140.48 crore. The formula for projection is $A = A_1 * [1 + R/100]^{(n/k)}$, where A_1 is the census population as on 1st March 2011, R is the percentage decadal change in population between census 2001 and 2011, n is the month of projection, and k is number of months between March 2011 and March 2021.

Note 2: Principal status (ps) measures the activity in which an individual has spent relatively longer time of a reference year (major time criterion) while subsidiary status (ss) measures the activity status of an individual who has spent majority of days out of work force but have worked for short period of time (more than 30 days).

²¹Usual status is the activity status of a person during the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey.

10.59 Formal-informal employment (ps+ss) across organized and unorganized sector is given in table 8. Of the additional workers joined in 2019-20, close to 90 percent were in the informal nature of employment and more than 98 percent were in unorganised sector. About 91 percent of additional workers were in unorganised-informal sector. Table 8 gives estimates of total employment in formal and informal across organized and unorganized sector.

Table 8: Formal-Informal Employment (ps+ss) across Organized and Unorganized Sector (in Crores)

Type of Employment	Organized	Unorganized	Total
2017-18			
Formal	4.43	0.28	4.70
Informal	4.62	37.79	42.43
Total	9.05	38.07	47.13
2018-19			
Formal	4.91	0.45	5.35
Informal	4.55	38.87	43.43
Total	9.46	39.32	48.78
2019-20			
Formal	5.09	0.80	5.89
Informal	4.46	43.19	47.64
Total	9.55	43.99	53.53

Source: Estimated using PLFS 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Surveys.

Note: As per National Commission for Enterprises in Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) classification, “The unorganised sector consists of all unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals or households engaged in the sale and production of goods and services operated on a proprietary or partnership basis and with less than ten total workers.” However, “informal workers consist of those working in the unorganised enterprises or households, excluding regular workers with social security benefits, and the workers in the formal sector without any employment benefits /social security provided by the employers.” (NCEUS, 2007a, p.3).

10.60 Industry wise employment (ps+ss) in India is given in Table 9. Of workers added in 2019-20 shows that more than 71 percent were in the agriculture sector. Among the new workers in the agriculture sector, females account for about 65 percent. Trade, hotel and restaurant sector accounted for a little over 22 percent of the new workers, in line with previous year’s trend where the sector represented more than 28 percent of the new workers. The share of manufacturing has declined from 5.65 percent of new workers added in 2018-19 to about 2.41 percent of new workers added in 2019-20, and so has that of construction from 26.26 percent to 7.36 percent.

Table 9: Industry wise Employment (ps+ss) in India (in Crores)

Year/Sector	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2018-19									
Agriculture	12.97	6.01	18.98	0.62	0.26	0.88	13.58	6.27	19.86
Mining & quarrying	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.17	0.02	0.20
Manufacturing	1.78	0.76	2.54	2.77	0.81	3.58	4.55	1.57	6.12
Electricity, water, etc	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.15	0.02	0.17	0.25	0.03	0.28
Construction	3.75	0.51	4.26	1.47	0.14	1.60	5.22	0.64	5.86
Trade, hotel & restaurant	2.39	0.36	2.75	3.19	0.46	3.64	5.57	0.82	6.39
Transport, storage & communication	1.32	0.02	1.33	1.54	0.12	1.66	2.86	0.14	2.99
Other services	1.95	0.77	2.72	2.82	1.51	4.33	4.77	2.28	7.05
Total							36.97	11.78	48.76
2019-20									
Agriculture	14.10	8.18	22.28	0.67	0.32	0.99	14.77	8.51	23.27
Mining & quarrying	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.01	0.15
Manufacturing	1.86	0.79	2.65	2.70	0.88	3.59	4.56	1.67	6.24
Electricity, water, etc	0.13	0.01	0.14	0.19	0.02	0.21	0.31	0.03	0.35
Construction	3.82	0.61	4.42	1.60	0.19	1.79	5.42	0.80	6.22
Trade, hotel & restaurant	2.34	0.40	2.74	3.85	0.88	4.73	6.19	1.28	7.47
Transport, storage & communication	1.37	0.02	1.40	1.61	0.14	1.75	2.99	0.16	3.15
Other services	1.78	0.79	2.57	2.64	1.50	4.13	4.42	2.29	6.71
Total							38.80	14.75	53.55

Source: Estimated using PLFS 2018-19 and 2019-20 Surveys

Policy responses to boost rural livelihood

Incentives for job creation

10.61 Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was announced as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package to boost the economy, increase the employment generation in post COVID recovery phase and to incentivize creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic. Under ABRY, the Government of India is crediting for a period of two years both the employees' share (12

percent of wages) and employers' share (12 percent of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments. Under ABRY, benefits are provided to every establishment registered with EPFO and their new employees (earning wage less than ₹ 15,000 per month) if the establishments take new employees on or after 1.10.2020 and up to 31st March, 2022 or those who lost jobs between 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020. As on 6th January 2022 benefits have been given to 43,21,837 beneficiaries through 1,22,228 Establishments.

Wage employment

10.62 Allocation to MGNREGS in FY 2021-22 increased to ₹ 73,000 crore, from ₹ 61,500 crore in FY 2020-21. Allocation for FY 2021-22 has been enhanced to Rs 98000 crore so far. In FY 2021-22 over 8.70 crore individuals and 6.10 crore households were provided work so far.

10.63 To boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan was launched in June 2020. It focused on 25 target-driven works to provide employment and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore.

Boosting Self-employment

10.64 The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), launched in 2011, is another intervention that seeks to alleviate rural poverty through building sustainable community institutions for the poor. The programme targets to mobilise about 9-10 crore households into Self Help Groups (SHGs). It is to link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities by building their skills and enabling them to access formal sources of finance, entitlements and services from both public and private sectors. Till December, 2021, 8.07 crore households are mobilized into SHGs. The number of SHG households engaged in farm livelihoods in 2021-22 (till December, 2021) stood at 1.47 crore as against 1.16 crore in 2020-21 and 0.86 crore in 2019-20. The number of SHG members involved in non-farm livelihoods in 2021-22 increased to 1.82 lakhs (till December, 2021) members from 1.55 lakhs in 2020-21 and 0.98 lakhs in 2019-20.

Social protection

10.65 **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana**, launched on 05.03.2019, is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for providing monthly minimum assured pension of ₹ 3000 on attaining the age of 60 years. The workers in the age group of 18-40 years having monthly income of ₹ 15000 or less and not a member of EPFO/Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)/National Pension Scheme (NPS) (Govt. funded) can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50 percent monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Enrolment to the scheme is done through the Common Service Centres. In addition, eligible persons can also self-enroll through visiting the portal www.maandhan.in. As on 17.01.2022, the enrolment under the PM-SYM scheme is 46.09 lakh persons, out of which female enrolment was 23.89 lakh and male enrolment was 22.20 lakh.

10.66 National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons, launched on 12.09.2019, is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for providing monthly minimum assured pension of ₹ 3000 after attaining the age of 60 years. The traders, shopkeepers and self-employed persons in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turnover not exceeding ₹ 1.5 crore and are not members of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt. funded)/PM-SYM or not an income tax payer, can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50 percent monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Enrolment to the scheme is done through the Common Service Centres, with its network of about 4 lakh Centres across the country. In addition, eligible persons can also self-enroll through visiting the portal www.maandhan.in. As on 17.01.2022, over 48 thousand beneficiaries have been enrolled under the scheme.

Box 4: e-SHRAM Portal

e-SHRAM portal has been launched to create a National Database of Unorganized Workers (UWs). One of the main objectives of this portal is to facilitate delivery of Social Security Schemes to the workers.

This database is seeded with Aadhaar and for age group between 16-59 years. It includes construction workers, migrant workers, gig workers, platform workers, agricultural workers, MGNREGA workers, fishermen, milkmen, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, street vendors, domestic workers, rickshaw pullers and other workers engaged in similar other occupations in the unorganised sector.

The data aims at delivery of social security benefits as implemented by Central & State Ministries. It will also ensure portability of the social security and welfare benefits to the migrant and construction workers at their working places. All eligible registered unorganized workers are entitled to get benefit of an accidental insurance cover of ₹ 2.00 Lakhs for a year, free of cost through under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). It may also be used for providing assistance to the eligible workers during any national crisis or pandemic-like situations.

As on 18 January 2022, over 22.85 crore workers have been registered on the e-SHRAM portal. The States leading the number of registrations – in decreasing order of share in number of registrations – are Uttar Pradesh (34.9 percent), West Bengal (10.7 percent), Bihar (10.7 percent), Odisha (5.7 percent), Madhya Pradesh (3.5 percent) and Jharkhand (3.5 percent). While agriculture accounts for 11.53 crore registrations, domestic workers and construction workers trail with 2.45 crore and 2.2 crore registrations respectively.

Status of Labour Reforms

10.67 In 2019 and 2020, 29 Central Labour laws were amalgamated, rationalized and simplified into four labour codes, viz., the Code on Wages, 2019 (August, 2019), the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 (September, 2020). The new laws were in tune with the changing labour market trends and at the same time accommodating the minimum wage requirement and welfare needs of the unorganized sector workers, including the self-employed and migrant workers,

within the framework of legislation. The Government has also pre-published the draft Rules for all four Codes.

10.68 As on 11.01.2022, 26 States/UTs have also pre-published the draft rules under the Code on Wages, 22 States/UTs under Industrial Relations Code, 20 States/UTs under Code on Social Security, and 17 States/UTs under OSH & WC Code. (Table 10)

Table 10: Status of Rules by States/UTs under 4 labour Codes (status as on 11.01.2022)

Name of Codes	Name of States which have pre-published the draft rules
The Code on Wages, 2019	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry, Chandigarh and Government of NCT of Delhi (26)
Industrial Relations Code, 2020	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry (22)
Code on Social Security, 2020	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh(20)
OSH & WC Code, 2020	Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat, UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh (17)

Source: Ministry Labour & Employment

HEALTH

Programmes and Schemes for Health Sector

10.69 **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs):** Vision of Ayushman Bharat is to achieve the universal health coverage. It adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two inter-related components. The first component is creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) which cover both, maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services. These AB-HWCs provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), by expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) services and Communicable Diseases services and by including services related to Non-Communicable Diseases. It is also envisaged to incrementally add primary healthcare services for mental health, ENT, Ophthalmology, Oral health, Geriatric and Palliative health care and Trauma care as well as Health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga. As on 19.01.2022, a total number of 221.99 lakhs Tele-consultations have been provided under e-Sanjeevani tele-consultation platform through functional HWCs of

3017 Hubs & 33,819 Spokes across the country. About 96.27 lakh Wellness Sessions, including Yoga has been conducted at AB-HWCs as on 19.01.2022.

10.70 Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY): The second component of Ayushman Bharat is PM-JAY; it is being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) in partnership with state governments. The scheme provides a health cover of ₹ 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families in the bottom 40 percent of the Indian population. As on 19th January 2022, total of 17.5 crore Ayushman Cards have been issued under AB PM-JAY. A total of 2.73 crore authorized hospital admissions worth ₹ 30673 crore have been provided through a network of approximately 25000 hospitals (approximately 10800 Private and 14300 Public hospitals). A massive information, education and communication drive “Aapke Dwar Ayushman” was carried out in 2021 with the support of grassroots resources such as frontline workers, healthcare workers and Panchayati Raj Institutions. This led to the identification and verification of more than 4 crore people under the scheme.

10.71 PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) is a mission to develop the capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases. It is the largest pan-India scheme for public health infrastructure since 2005.

10.72 Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is being implemented to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable reliable tertiary healthcare services and to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. Under PMSSY, construction of 22 new All India Institutes for Medical Science (AIIMS) and 75 Government Medical College up-gradation Projects has been approved and taken up for implementation. Out of this, six (6) AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh are already fully functional. Another Sixteen (16) AIIMS under various phases have been sanctioned.

10.73 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), erstwhile National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), announced on 27th September, 2021 with the aim to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It is to bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. Services like the issue of Health ID, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Records (PHR) have been initiated.

10.74 e-Sanjeevani: In wake of COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare upgraded eSanjeevani application to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultation to ensure continuum of care and facilitate health services to all citizens in the confine of their homes free of cost. Telemedicine services have been rolled out in 36 States/UTs. To increase the outreach of health services virtually, e-Sanjeevani OPD application has been integrated with 3.74 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) thereby facilitating access to equitable health care in the remotest areas of the country.

Health Outcome Indicators

10.75 India has made significant progress in improving its health outcomes over the last two decades by eliminating polio, guinea worm disease, yaws and maternal and neonatal tetanus²². As per latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, social indicators such as total fertility rate, sex ratio and health outcome indicators viz., infant mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, institutional birth rates have improved over year 2015-16 (Table 11).

Table 11: Progress on Social and Health Indicators

Particulars	NFHS-1 (1992-93)	NFHS-2 (1998-99)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
Total Fertility Rate (Children per women)	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.2	2
Sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years (females per 1,000 males)	-	-	914	919	929
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 livebirths)	78.5	67.6	57	40.7	35.2
Under-five Mortality Rate (per 1000 livebirths)	109.3	94.9	74.3	49.7	41.9
Institutional Birth (%)	26.1	33.6	40.8	78.9	88.6
Pregnant women age 15-49 who are anaemic (%)	-	51.8	57.9	50.4	52.2
Population living in households that use an improved sanitation facility (%)	-	17.6	29.1	48.5	70.2
Households using clean fuel for cooking (%)	-	-	25.6	43.8	58.6

Source: Reports of various NFHS rounds.

Note: The figures for institutional birth reported in the NFHS-3 factsheet were based on the last 2 births in the 3 years before the survey to ever-married women. Whereas, since NFHS-4 the figures are being provided for all the births in the 5 years before the survey. So, the figures for NFHS-1 to NFHS-3 are not comparable with NFHS-4 and 5.

Child Health Indicators

10.76 Government has made efforts to address nutrition deficiency among children. POSHAN *Abhiyaan* was launched in March 2018 to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The vision is to achieve reduction in stunting and wasting in children (0-6 years) as well as reduction in anaemia in women, children and adolescent girls. Besides, *Swachh Bharat Mission* (SBM) created sanitation infrastructure and awareness across the country. Moreover, special vaccination drives like Mission Indradhanush, Intensified Mission Indradhanush, Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (GSA), Extended GSA reached the left out and drop out children from vaccination.

²²Health System for A New India: Building Blocks. NITI Aayog. 2019

10.77 NFHS-5 also shows that not only services are reaching to the public but the intended outcomes have also improved. All child nutrition indicators have also improved at all India level. Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) has declined from 49.7 in 2015-16 to 41.9 in 2019-21. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 40.7 per 1000 live births in 2015-16 to 35.2 per 1000 live births in 2019-21. Stunting has declined from 38 percent in 2015-16 to 36 percent in 2019-21. Wasting has also declined from 21 percent in 2015-16 to 19 percent in 2019-21. And, underweight declined from 36 percent in 2015-16 to 32 percent in 2019-21. State wise U5MR, IMR and neonatal mortality rates are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: State wise Child Mortality Indicators

States/UTs	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live-births)		Under Five Mortality Rate (per 1000 livebirths)		Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths per 1000 live births)	
	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
All India	40.7	35.2	49.7	41.9	29.5	24.9
Andhra Pradesh	34.9	30.3	40.8	35.2	23.6	19.9
Arunachal Pradesh	22.9	12.9	32.9	18.8	11.8	7.7
Assam	47.6	31.9	56.5	39.1	32.8	22.5
Bihar	48.1	46.8	58.1	56.4	36.7	34.5
Delhi	31.2	24.5	42.2	30.6	17.8	17.5
Goa	12.9	5.6	12.9	10.6	12.9	5.6
Gujarat	34.2	31.2	43.5	37.6	26.8	21.8
Haryana	32.8	33.3	41.1	38.7	22.1	21.6
Himachal Pradesh	34.3	25.6	37.6	28.9	25.5	20.5
Jammu and Kashmir	32.4	16.3	37.6	18.5	23.1	9.8
Karnataka	26.9	25.4	31.5	29.5	18.5	15.8
Kerala	5.6	4.4	7.1	5.2	4.4	3.4
Madhya Pradesh	51.2	41.3	64.6	49.2	36.9	29.0
Maharashtra	23.7	23.2	28.7	28.0	16.2	16.5
Manipur	21.7	25.0	25.9	30.0	15.6	17.2
Meghalaya	29.9	32.3	39.6	40.0	18.3	19.8
Mizoram	40.1	21.3	46.0	24.0	11.2	11.4
Nagaland	29.5	23.4	37.5	33.0	16.5	10.2
Odisha	39.6	36.3	48.1	41.1	28.2	27.0
Punjab	29.2	28.0	33.2	32.7	21.2	21.8
Rajasthan	41.3	30.3	50.7	37.6	29.8	20.2
Sikkim	29.5	11.2	32.2	11.2	20.8	5.0
Tamil Nadu	20.2	18.6	26.8	22.3	14.0	12.7
Tripura	26.7	37.6	32.7	43.3	13.2	22.9
Uttar Pradesh	63.5	50.4	78.1	59.8	45.1	35.7
West Bengal	27.5	22.0	31.8	25.4	22.0	15.5
Chhattisgarh	54.0	44.3	64.3	50.4	42.1	32.4
Jharkhand	43.8	37.9	54.3	45.4	33.0	28.2

Uttarakhand	39.7	39.1	46.5	45.6	27.9	32.4
Telangana	27.7	26.4	31.7	29.4	20.0	16.8
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	9.8	20.6	13.0	24.5	7.3	12.3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu (UT)	33.4	31.8	39.9	37.0	13.9	21.4
Lakshadweep (UT)	27.0	0.0	30.2	0.0	23.3	0.0
Puducherry (UT)	15.7	2.9	16.2	3.9	5.8	2.3
Ladakh (UT)		20.0		29.5		11.4

Source: NFHS-5, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Note: In NFHS-5, Jammu & Kashmir is Union Territory excluding Ladakh

Life Expectancy

10.78 Report on ‘Sample Registration based System (SRS) based Abridged Life Tables 2014-18’ provides estimates of average longevity at various age groups²³ Latest estimates of Expectation of life at birth for India are available for 2014-18. Life expectancy at birth was 69.4 years for the period 2014-18; it has increased by 0.4 years from 2013-17. It varies widely across states; ranging from the lowest of 65.2 years in Chhattisgarh to the highest at 75.3 years in Kerala and Delhi. It is higher in urban areas (72.6 years) than in rural areas (68.0 years). Increase from 2013-17 is higher for rural (of 0.3 years) than increase in urban areas (0.2 years). The gap between the rural and urban life expectancy has also narrowed down significantly from 1970-75 to 2014-18. Females are expected to live longer (70.7 years) compared to males (68.2 years). In 2014-18 when compared to 2013-17, females are expected to live longer in most States/UTs both across the rural and urban areas, except for Bihar and Jharkhand.

Total Fertility rate

10.79 Latest NFHS-5 shows that Total Fertility Rate (TFR), an average number of children per women, has further come down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16 (Table 13). The total fertility rate has even come down below the replacement level of fertility (2.1 children per woman) in the country. Further, in all the States/UTs except for Manipur, Meghalaya, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh the replacement level of fertility has been achieved. Increasing use of contraceptives especially the modern methods, better family planning, and girl education possibly have contributed to the decline in the fertility rates. Use of family planning methods has increased from 53.5 percent in 2015-16 to 66.7 percent in 2019-21. Access to better health infrastructure could be another factor. Significant improvement is seen in the infrastructure and services reaching to the public, such as institutional delivery. Institutional delivery has increased to 88.6 percent in 2019-21 compared to 78.9 percent in 2015-16.

Sex Ratio

10.80 Sex ratio, number of females per 1000 males, in the total population has risen from 991 females in 2015-16 (NFHS-4) to 1020 in 2019-21 (NFHS-5). More importantly, sex ratio at birth, female children per 1000 male children born in the last five years, has grown from 919 in 2015-16 to 929 in 2019-21. To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure

²³Office of The Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India Ministry of Home Affairs Government Of India: https://censusindia.gov.in/Vital_Statistics/SRS_Life_Table/SRS%20based%20Abridged%20Life%20Tables%202014-18.pdf

survival and protection of the girl child, and to ensure education and participation of the girl child, government has made specific interventions through *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (BBBP) Scheme. Sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years has improved in 2019-21 from 2015-16 in all states (Table 13), except for Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya, Goa and Nagaland

Table 13: State-wise Total Fertility Rate and Sex Ratio

States/UTs	Total Fertility Rate (Children per women)		Sex Ratio at Birth for children born in the last five years (females per 1000 males)	
	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
All India	2.2	2.0	919	929
Andhra Pradesh	1.8	1.7	914	934
Arunachal Pradesh	2.1	1.8	926	979
Assam	2.2	1.9	929	964
Bihar	3.4	3.0	934	908
Delhi	1.8	1.6	812	923
Goa	1.7	1.3	966	838
Gujarat	2.0	1.9	906	955
Haryana	2.1	1.9	836	893
Himachal Pradesh	1.9	1.7	937	875
Jammu and Kashmir	2.0	1.4	923	976
Karnataka	1.8	1.7	910	978
Kerala	1.6	1.8	1,047	951
Madhya Pradesh	2.3	2.0	927	956
Maharashtra	1.9	1.7	924	913
Manipur	2.6	2.2	962	967
Meghalaya	3.0	2.9	1,009	989
Mizoram	2.3	1.9	949	969
Nagaland	2.7	1.7	953	945
Odisha	2.1	1.8	932	894
Punjab	1.6	1.6	860	904
Rajasthan	2.4	2.0	887	891
Sikkim	1.2	1.1	809	969
Tamil Nadu	1.7	1.8	954	878
Tripura	1.7	1.7	969	1,028
Uttar Pradesh	2.7	2.4	903	941
West Bengal	1.8	1.6	960	973
Chhattisgarh	2.2	1.8	977	960
Jharkhand	2.6	2.3	919	899
Uttarakhand	2.1	1.9	888	984
Telangana	1.8	1.8	872	894
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	1.4	1.3	891	941
Chandigarh (UT)	1.6	1.4	981	838

Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu (UT)	2.1	1.8	983	817
Lakshadweep (UT)	1.8	1.4	905	1,051
Puducherry (UT)	1.7	1.5	843	959
Ladakh (UT)		1.3		1125

Source: NFHS-5, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

10.81 Rolled out in August 2019, JJM envisioned to provide adequate safe drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024. The goal of the Mission is to enable every rural household to get assured supply of potable-piped water at a service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) regularly on long-term basis and also to ensure functionality of the tap water connections. The mission will benefit more than 19 crore rural families or more than 90 crore rural population, bridge rural – urban divide, improve quality of life, enhance ‘ease of living’ and public health. Special features of Jal Jeevan Mission are²⁴:

- Shift of focus for water supply from ‘habitations (hand pumps, public standposts, etc. at a reasonable distance) to households’ (functional tap in house).
- Not limited only to creation of water supply infrastructure, focus is on assured supply of potable water – ‘service delivery’ & ‘functionality’ – to every home.
- Local village community owns, operates & maintains water supply system to ensure assured water supply to every home.
- Central role of women: minimum 50 percent members of Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samitis are to be women and proportionate representation of weaker sections of society.
- Priority to assured supply of potable-piped water in schools, anganwadi centres and ashramshalas.
- Priority to villages/ habitations having water quality problems.
- Surveillance of water quality: training to five persons in every village, preferably women, on using Field Test Kits for testing of water quality at village level. Water quality testing laboratories opened to public to test samples on paying nominal charges.
- Long-term drinking water security: Village Action Plan (VAP) focusing on water sources, supply systems, grey water reuse and operation & maintenance of these systems for long term and regular tap water supply in every home.
- Making water everyone’s business by participation; raising awareness, community mobilization and handholding.

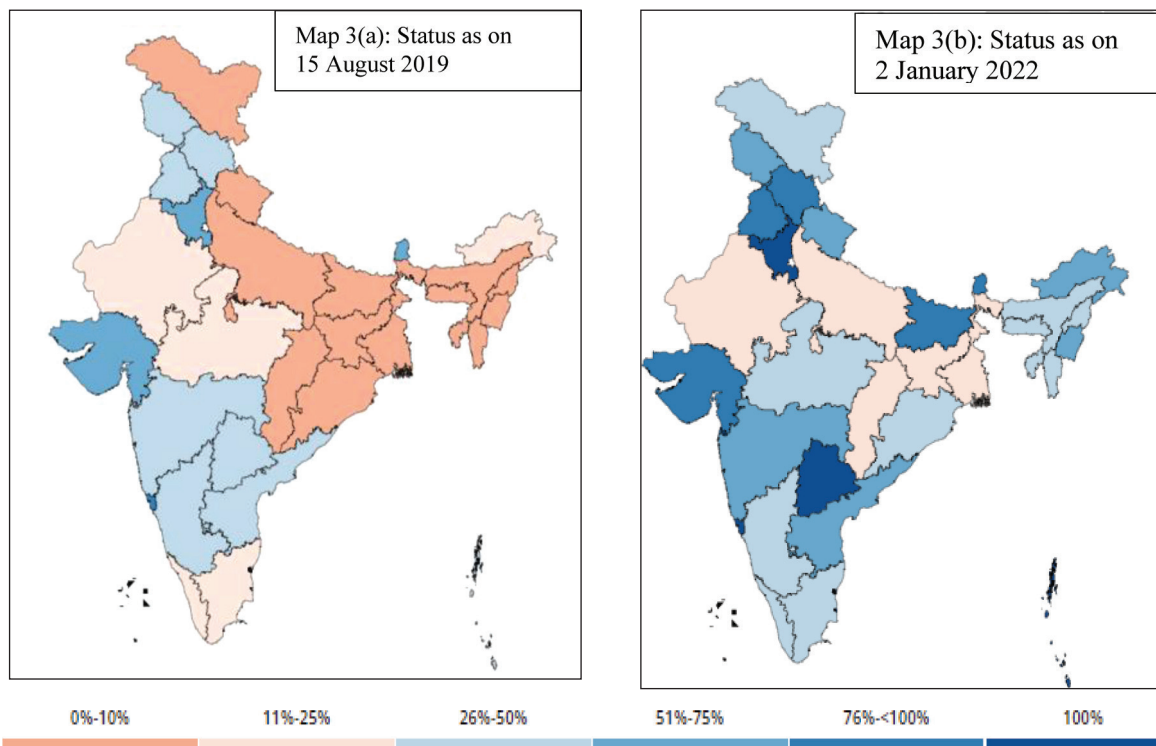
²⁴Reforms in Rural Drinking Water Supply (Decentralized, demand-driven, community-managed water supply programme).

- Technological interventions for transparency and accountability (i) IMIS to capture physical and financial progress; (ii) ‘Dashboard’; (iii) ‘Mobile App’; (iv) Sensor-based IoT solution for measurement and monitoring water supply for quantity, quality and regularity in villages on real time basis; (v) geo-tagging every asset created; (vi) Linkage of tap connection with Aadhar number; (vii) transaction through Public Finance Management System (PFMS);
- Incentive to states: incentive grant linked to high functionality of tap water connections.

10.82 Priority is for quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, to provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings. Total outlay for the mission is Rs 3.60 lakh crores.

10.83 In 2019, out of about 18.93 crore families in rural areas, about 3.23 crore (17 percent) rural families had tap water connections in their homes. As on 2 January, 2022, 5,51,93,885 households have been provided with tap water supply since the start of the mission. Six states/ Uts have achieved the coveted status of 100 percent households with tap water supply, namely Goa, Telangana, A & N Islands, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Haryana. Equivalently, 83 districts, 1016 blocks, 62,749 panchayats and 1,28,893 villages have achieved the 100 percent households with tap water supply status. The two maps (Map 3(a) Status as on 15 August 2019 and Map 3(b) Status as on 2 January 2022) show the impressive rate of progress in providing FHTC to households across the country.

Map 3: State wise progress in providing FHTC to households across the country



Source: Ministry of Jalshakti: <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM-G]

10.84 Rural sanitation has made tremendous progress under SBM-G since its inception on 2nd October, 2014. Since inception till 28.12.2021, more than 10.86 crore toilets have been built in rural India.

10.85 Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus under Phase II of SBM(G) is being implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a goal of making all the villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) through convergence between different verticals of financing and various schemes of Central and State Governments. Focus of phase II with a total outlay of Rs 1,40,881 crores is ODF sustainability and Solid & Liquid Waste Management. During 2021-22 (as on 25.10.2021) a total of 7.16 lakh Individual household latrines for new emerging households and 19,061 Community Sanitary Complexes have been constructed. Also, 2,194 villages have been declared as ODF Plus.

10.86 As per the recently released findings of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, 2019-21 (NFHS-5), population living in households that use an improved sanitation facility has increased from 48.5 percent in 2015-16 to 70.2 percent in 2019-21. The proportion of population living in households using an improved sanitation facility has increased in 2019-21 compared to 2015-16 (Table 14), in all states except Sikkim. Despite significant improvement, the use of improved sanitation facilities in states such as Bihar (49 percent), Jharkhand (57 percent), Odisha (60 percent), Manipur (65 percent), Madhya Pradesh (65 percent), West Bengal (68 percent), Assam (69 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (69 percent) have remained below the national average of 70 percent in 2019-21.

10.87 **Electricity and Clean Cooking Fuel:** Government has made efforts to increase access to clean fuel for cooking through the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* (PMUY). As per NFHS-5, 58.6 percent of households were using clean fuel for cooking in 2019-21, a significant increase from 43.8 percent in 2015-16. Proportion of household using clean fuel for cooking, however, varies across states (Table 14), where Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya were below the national average of 58.6 percent in 2019-21.

10.88 Government has made efforts through schemes such as SAUBHAGYA Yojana to ensure 'Power for all.' As per latest NFHS, households with electricity have increased from 88 percent in 2015-16 to 96.8 percent in 2019-21.

Table 14: State wise proportion of households using sanitation facility and clean fuel for cooking (%)

States/UTs	Population living in households that use an improved sanitation facility (%)		Households using clean fuel for cooking (%)	
	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
All India	48.5	70.2	43.8	58.6
Andhra Pradesh	54.4	77.3	62.0	83.6
Arunachal Pradesh	61.6	82.9	45.0	53.2

Assam	49.0	68.6	25.1	42.1
Bihar	26.5	49.4	17.8	37.8
Delhi	75.1	81.1	97.9	98.9
Goa	78.7	87.9	84.1	96.5
Gujarat	63.6	74.0	52.6	66.9
Haryana	80.6	85.0	52.2	59.5
Himachal Pradesh	72.3	81.8	36.7	51.7
Jammu and Kashmir	53.8	75.7	57.5	69.2
Karnataka	57.8	74.8	54.7	79.7
Kerala	98.2	98.7	57.4	72.1
Madhya Pradesh	34.8	65.1	29.6	40.1
Maharashtra	52.3	72.0	59.9	79.7
Manipur	52.6	64.9	42.1	70.4
Meghalaya	61.4	82.9	21.8	33.7
Mizoram	84.4	95.3	66.1	83.8
Nagaland	76.7	87.7	32.8	43.0
Odisha	30.0	60.5	19.2	34.7
Punjab	82.7	86.6	65.9	76.7
Rajasthan	46.1	71.1	31.8	41.4
Sikkim	89.7	87.3	59.1	78.4
Tamil Nadu	52.5	72.6	73.0	82.9
Tripura	63.7	73.6	31.9	45.3
Uttar Pradesh	36.4	68.8	32.7	49.5
West Bengal	52.8	68.0	27.8	40.2
Chhattisgarh	34.8	76.8	22.8	33.0
Jharkhand	25.0	56.7	18.9	31.9
Uttarakhand	66.2	78.8	51.0	59.2
Telangana	52.3	76.2	67.3	91.8
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	75.4	88.0	63.5	79.8
Chandigarh (UT)	83.7	85.0	93.9	95.8
Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Diu (UT)	44.4	65.8	63.1	79.9
Lakshadweep (UT)	99.6	99.8	31.8	59.4
Puducherry (UT)	64.8	84.9	84.8	92.3
Ladakh (UT)		42.3		76.3

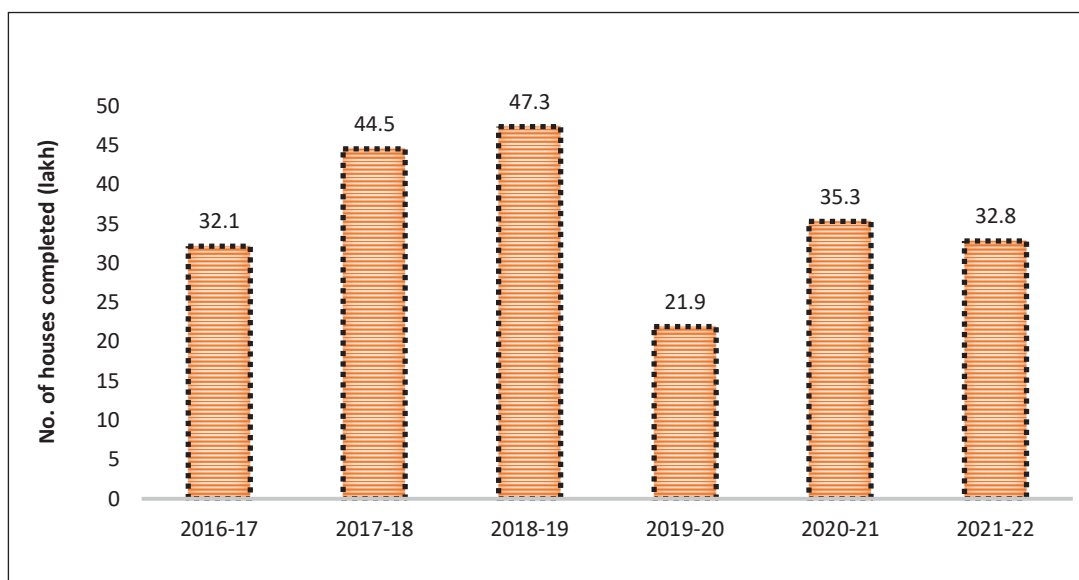
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

10.89 PMAY-G, launched on 20th November 2016, envisages ‘Housing for All by 2022’ through a robust monitoring mechanism and improved scheme architecture. It aims to provide assistance for construction of 2.95 crore houses. In first phase from 2016-17 to 2018-19, one crore houses were taken up. Under phase II, assistance is being provided for construction of remaining 1.95 crore houses in 2019-20 to 2021-22. Through convergence with other Government Schemes, it also addresses basic needs such as construction of the toilet, piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG gas connection and 90/95 person-days of unskilled labour from MGNREGS.

10.90 As on 18th January 2022, 2.17 crore houses have been sanctioned and 1.69 crore houses completed against a target of 2.63 crore houses till 2021-22. Under PMAY-G, landless beneficiaries are accorded highest priority in allotment of houses. As on 18th January, 2022, the States/UTs have identified 4,46,058 landless beneficiaries in the Permanent Wait List of PMAY-G, out of which 2,05,847 (46 percent) have been provided with land by the concerned States/UTs. Performance of the scheme was impressive during from 2016-17 to 2021-22 (as on 18th January, 2022) is given in Figure 16.

Figure 16: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)



Source: Dept. of Rural Development

Note: 2021-22 data is as on 18 January 2022

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

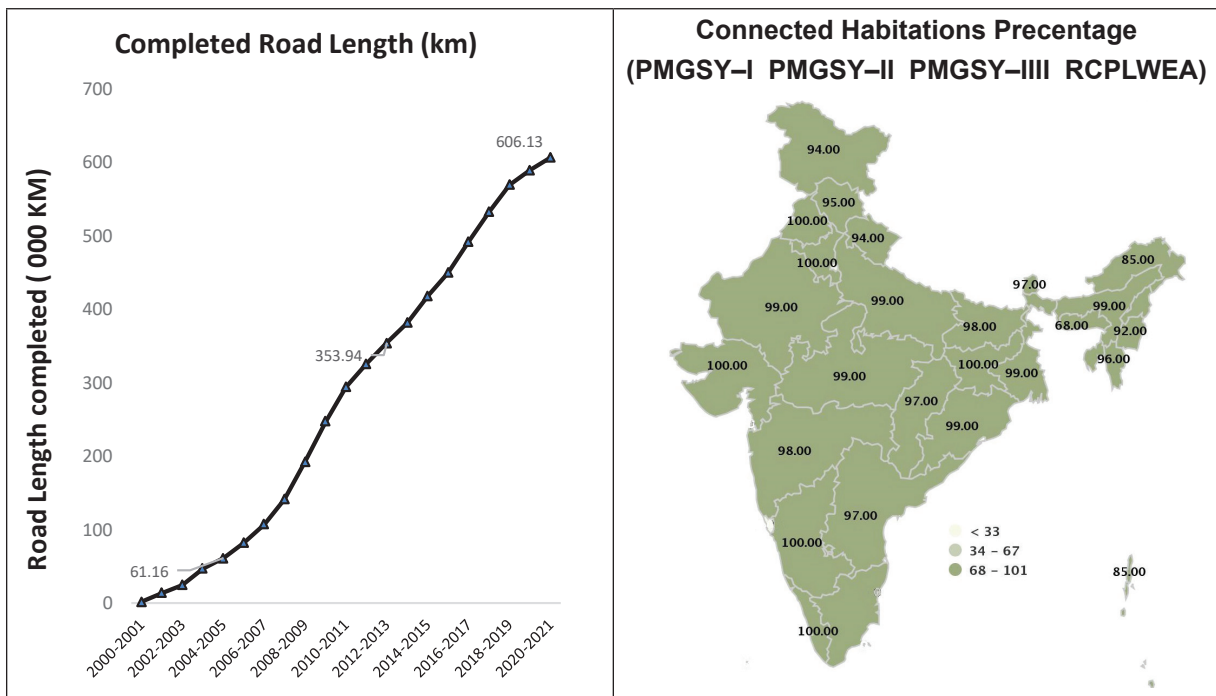
10.91 The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures, which is operable throughout the year, to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.

10.92 As on 18.01.2022, a total of 1,82,506 roads measuring 7,82,844 km and 9,456 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) have been sanctioned and 1,66,798 roads measuring 6,84,994 km and 6,404 LSBs have been completed (Figure 17).

10.93 World Bank (2019) in an evaluation of the scheme found that PMGSY roads had a positive impact on human capital formation in rural India. Children in middle or high school had 0.7 more years of schooling in 2017; share of babies delivered at home decreased by 30 percent in connected habitations; vaccination among children under the age of four increased by 15 percentage points, with boys and girls benefiting equally.

Scheme	Launched (extended)	Objectives
PMGSY-I	2000 (up to Sept, 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern and Himalayan states, , Desert areas, Tribal (Schedule V) areas and selected tribal and backward districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/ Planning Commission as per Census, 2001 Additional relaxation given to connect habitations with population of 100-249 (Census 2001) in the Left-wing Extremism Affected blocks
PMGSY-II	2013 (upto Sept, 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Envisaged consolidation of 50,000 Km of existing rural road network.
RCPLWEA	2016 (up to March, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the road connectivity in 44 worst affected LWE districts and some adjoining districts in 9 States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh
PMGSY-III	2019 (up to March, 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidation of 1,25,000 Km existing through routes and Major rural links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

Figure 17: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana



Source: Ministry of Rural Development: <http://omms.nic.in/dbweb/Home/TimeSeries>; (downloaded on 27 January 2022)

Note: Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA)

Multidimensional Poverty

10.94 Using NFHS-4 (2015-16) report, in line with global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), NITI Aayog prepared Multidimensional Poverty Index at the national, for all states and districts of India. It will enable measuring deprivation across twelve indicators at national, States and districts level. In 2015-16, 25 percent households were found to be multidimensional poor in India. Among states, Bihar had largest (51.91%) multidimensional poor households, followed by Jharkhand (42.16%), Uttar Pradesh (37.79%), Madhya Pradesh (36.65%), Assam (32.67%) and Rajasthan (39.46%). Since the MPI index is based on NFHS-4 data of 2014-15, it may serve as the baseline for measuring deprivation in future studies.