

## Quadrant II - Notes

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### **Population Policy**

A population policy is a set of measures taken by a State to modify the way its population is changing. A population policy may also aim to modify the distribution of the population over the country by encouraging migration or by displacing populations. All of the measures explicitly or implicitly taken by the authorities aimed at influencing population size, growth, distribution, or composition.

#### **A. India's Population Policy 2000**

It was in the Ninth Plan that the Government announced the National Population Policy on 15 February, 2000.

The basic aim of this policy was to cover various issues of maternal health, child survival and contraception and to make reproductive health care accessible and affordable for all.

There are three types of objectives of National Population Policy (NPP) 2000:

1. The Immediate Objective
2. The Medium Term Objective
3. The Long Term Objective

### **1. The Immediate Objective**

The immediate objective was to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

### **2. The Medium Term Objective**

The medium term objective is to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement level by 2010 through vigorous implementation in inter- sectorial operational strategies.

### **3. The Long Term Objective**

The long term objective was to achieve a stable population by 2045 at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environment protection.

## **Targets**

1. Achieve zero growth rate of population by 2045.
2. Reduce infant mortality rate of below 30 per thousand live births.
3. Reduce maternal mortality ratio of below 100 per 1, 00,000 live births.
4. Reduce birth rate to 21 per 1000 by 2010.
5. Reduce total fertility rate (TFR) to 2.1 by 2010.

To fulfill these objectives and targets, National Socio-Demographic goals have been formulated which in each case were to be achieved by the year 2010.

These are:

### **National Socio-Demographic goals**

- 1) Make school education free and compulsory up to the age of 14 and reduce dropouts at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 per cent for both boys and girls.
- 2) Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
- 3) Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
- 4) Promote delayed marriage for girls, not before 18 and preferably after the age of 20 years.
- 5) Prevent and control communicable diseases.
- 6) Achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
- 7) Achieve 80 per cent institutional deliveries and 100 per cent deliveries by trained persons.
- 8) Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, marriage and pregnancy.
- 9) Integrate Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out to households.
- 10) Contain the spread of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and promote greater integration between the management of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.
- 11) Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programmes so that family welfare becomes a people centered programme.
- 12) Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of TFR.

To implement and achieve the various objectives, targets and socio- demographic goals, the following **organizational structure** has been proposed by the National Population Policy:

1. The appointment of a **National Commission on Population** to be presided over by the Prime Minister. The chief ministers of all States and related ministers will be its members.
2. There will be a **State Commission on Population** in every State headed by its chief minister.
3. The new policy will be implemented by the Panchayats and municipalities at the grassroots levels.

## **Implementation of NPP, 2000**

### **National Commission on Population**

- In pursuance of NPP, 2000, the Central Government has set up a National Commission on Population (NCP) on 11 May, 2000. It is presided over by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Ministers of all States and UTs and the Central Minister-in-charge of concerned Central Ministries and Departments, reputed demographers, public health professionals and non-government organizations as members.
- State Level Commissions on Population is presided over by the Chief Minister have been set up with **the objective of ensuring implementation of the NPP.**

### **The functions of the Commission are:**

- (i) To review, monitor and give direction for the implementation of the NPP with a view to achieve the goals set by it;
- (ii) To promote synergy between health, educational, environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilization
- (iii) To promote inter-sectoral co-ordination in planning and implementation of the programmes through different agencies at the Centre and in the States; and
- (iv) To develop a vigorous people's programme to support this national effort.

## **Evaluation**

This is a broad-based policy which relies more on **persuasive and positive measures** rather than on coercive methods. It demonstrates the Government's concern for the rapid growth of population and its stabilisation from the long-term perspective.

At the same time, it lays emphasis on both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of population.

## **B. National Health Mission (NHM)**

The **National Health Mission (NHM)** was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the **National Rural Health Mission** and **National Urban Health**

**Mission**. It was further extended in March 2018, to continue until March 2020.

It is headed by Mission Director and monitored by National Level Monitors appointed by the Government of India.

The NRHM was initially tasked with addressing the health needs of 18 states that had been identified as having weak public health indicators.

NRHM seeks to provide equitable, affordable, and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups.

### **National Health Mission (NHM)**

The Union Cabinet vide its decision dated 1st May 2013, has approved the launch of National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as a Sub-mission of an over-arching National Health Mission (NHM), with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being the other Sub-mission of National Health Mission.

#### **a. National Urban Health Mission**

The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM). It envisages to meet health care needs of the urban population with the focus on urban poor, by making available to them essential primary health care services and reducing their out of pocket expenses for treatment.

This will be achieved by **strengthening the existing health care service delivery system**, targeting the people living in slums and converging with various schemes relating to wider determinants of health like drinking water, sanitation, school education, etc. implemented by the Ministries of Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Human Resource Development and Women & Child Development.

#### **b. National Rural Health Mission**

NRHM seeks to provide equitable, affordable, and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups. Under the NRHM, the Empowered Action Group (EAG) States, as well as the North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, have been given special focus.

The thrust of the mission is on establishing a fully functional, community-owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.

#### **C. SDGs**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

There are **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations **must go hand-in-hand** with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

## **SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

### Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Good health is essential to sustainable development and the **2030 Agenda** reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two.

It takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanisation, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases.

## **SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

It calls for a renewed focus on mental health issues as well. Universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines are integral to this goal.

### **Targets to be achieved by 2030**

- Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births
- End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- To halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- To support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines
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### **SDGs INDIA INDEX: Goal 3**

- To measure India's performance towards the Goal of Good Health and Well-Being, **ten national level indicators** have been identified, which capture eight out of the thirteen SDG targets for 2030 outlined under this Goal.
- These indicators have been selected based on the availability of data at the sub-national level and to ensure comparability across States and UTs.

### **Goal 3 Index Score**

- SDG Index Score for Goal 3 ranges between 59 and 86 for States and between 68 and 90 for UTs.
- Gujarat and Delhi are the top performers among the States and the UTs, respectively.
- Twenty one States and all UTs bagged a position in the category of Front Runners (score range between 65 and 99, including both).
- No State or UT was in the category of Aspirants.

## Summary

The Government announced the **National Population Policy on 15 February, 2000**. The NPP is based on three objectives -the **Immediate** Objective, the **Medium Term** Objective and the **Long Term** Objective.

In pursuance of NPP, 2000, the Central Government has set up a National Commission on Population (NCP) on 11 May, 2000.

The **National Health Mission (NHM)** was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the **National Rural Health Mission** and **National Urban Health Mission**.

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