

**Model questions (ECONOMY - WELFARE) based on
TELANGANA SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022
STUDY MATERIAL FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICES /
TSPSC GROUP I & Group 4 ;
TSLPRB SUB-INSPECTOR /CONSTABLE
(Prepared on 19.6.2022)**

For Study purpose

Prepared by :Praturi Potayya Sarma, MA(OU),LLB(OU),PGDIRPM
Yojana(Telugu), Andhra Jyothi Writer (for competitive examinations)

26 Years Teaching Experience for Civil Services Exams

Mobile No.8143189271

Blog : Praturi P Sarma

WELFARE

1)The Telangana Government introduced Dalit Bandhu in 2021 to assist SC households with a grant of Rs.10 Lakhs per household without any bank loan linkage, to establish a suitable income generating source.

Question: When Telangana Government introduced Dalit Bandhu ?

Ans : 2021

Question: Under Dalit Bandhu how much grant will be given per household without any bank loan link ?

Ans : Rs.10 Lakhs

Question : Under Dalit Bandhu , what is to be established by the beneficiary ?

Ans : A suitable income generating source

2)Under the 2-BHK Housing Scheme the Government constructed _____houses by the end of November 2021 with an amount of Rs. 10,445 Crore.

Ans : 1,07,612

3)Since 2014-15, the Government has covered an average _____ lakh beneficiaries annually under Aasara Pension scheme with a total disbursement of Rs. 45,883 Crore (upto January 2022)

Ans : 38

4)To provide educational support to children from marginalized communities, the Government has doubled the number of Social Welfare Residential Institutions from 134 in 2014 to _____ in 2021. During this period, the number of Tribal Welfare Residential Institutions increased from 96 to 188, BC Residential Institutions from 19 to 281 and the Minority Welfare Institutions from 12 to 204.

Ans : 268

5)To ensure the health and wellbeing of women and children, the Government spent Rs. 118 crore in 2021-22 benefitting around 22 lakh beneficiaries under Arogya Lakshmi Scheme. Upto November 2021-22 around 1.51 lakh beneficiaries have received a Direct Benefit Transfer of Rs._____ crore, along with KCR Kits.

Ans: 186

6)Under the Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak scheme nearly _____ lakh marriages have been performed from its inception in 2014 till 2021. A total of 1.9 lakh SC, 1.1 lakh ST, 4.55 lakh BC and 1.97 lakh minority brides have benefited from the scheme.

Ans: 10

7) To empower women financially, a total number of _____ lakh women have been organised into 4.39 lakh SHGs and 17,886 Village Organisations in the State.

Ans : 47.53

8) SC/ST Special Development Fund Act was enacted in _____ for proportionate allocation of funding to SCs and STs in the budget. Around Rs. 18,000 crore earmarked funds have been utilised for the exclusive benefit of SCs and STs during the year 2021- 22 (until February 2022).

Ans : 2017

9) Under the Sheep Distribution Scheme, the Government distributed _____ lakh sheep to 3.81 lakh beneficiaries comprising Yadava and Kurma communities.

Ans : 79.98

Introduction

Welfare lies at the heart of policy making in the State of Telangana. The Government has initiated several programs and schemes with an objective of uplifting the poor and marginalised population in the state. The aim of these programs is to help align the economic success of Telangana with specific social goals such as creating a level playing field for the marginalised communities.

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of the socially and economically disadvantaged such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Backward Classes (BCs), Minority Communities, Women, Children, Senior Citizens, and Specially-abled Persons and other disadvantaged communities. The success of the welfare agenda rests on ensuring that the schemes reflect the needs of the relevant communities and are meticulously implemented, with their deliverables aligning with proposed social goals of the government.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities

To achieve its aim of social justice and the creation of an equitable society, the Government is striving to build a sophisticated framework of welfare programs covering every oppressed caste or tribal group, every backward community and every religious minority. This framework aims to bring these targeted sections of the people socially, educationally and economically on par with other developed communities in the society.

Dalit Bandhu

One of the major initiatives taken up by the Government during the financial year 2021-22 is the launch of Dalit Bandhu Programme for the economic upliftment of the Scheduled Caste people in the State.

Under this scheme, each beneficiary household will be provided with a financial assistance of Rs. 10 lakh as a complete grant without any bank dependencies to establish a suitable income generating source.

The scheme was launched on August 4, 2021 at Vasalamarri Village in the Alair Assembly Constituency (AC) of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

Till January 2022, an amount of Rs.2,000 crore has been released to 17,554 dalit families and Rs. 7.60 crore has been released to 72 dalit families in Huzurabad and Alair ACs respectively.

Question: Where Dalit Bandhu Scheme was launched on August 4, 2021 ?

Ans : Vasalamarri Village in the Alair Assembly Constituency (AC) of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

to implement the Dalit Bandhu scheme in 5 more ACs- Madhira (SC), Thungathurthi (SC), Jukkal (SC), Achampet (SC) and Kalwakurthy to better gauge the peculiarities and differences in the implementation modalities. An amount of Rs. 250 crore benefiting 2500 Dalit families has been released in these ACs. After successfully gauging the alignment of the community's need for social and economic upliftment, additionally the Government has proposed to implement the Dalit Bandhu Scheme in 118 ACs (including the 5 ACs mentioned above and except Huzurabad AC) in the state covering _____ dalit families in each constituency during this financial year itself and has released an amount of Rs. 300 crore to the 33 districts in the state.

Ans : 100

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Special Development Funds (SC/ST SDFs)

The Government passed the "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial resources) Act in 2017" to secure earmarked funds for implementation of schemes that aim at ensuring accelerated development of SCs and STs with an emphasis on achieving equality, focussing on economic, educational and human development along with ensuring their security and social dignity and promoting equity among SCs and STs. As a result, 15.45% of state scheme funds are directed solely towards the welfare and development of SC communities, and another 9.08% for the betterment of the ST communities proportionate to their population in the State. The Act also ensures that unused funds are carried forward into subsequent financial years.

Question: When "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial resources) Act was passed ?

Ans : 2017

Question: What is the purpose of passing "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial resources) Act in 2017 ?

Ans : To secure earmarked funds for implementation of schemes that aim at ensuring accelerated development of SCs and STs with an emphasis on achieving equality, focussing on economic, educational and human development along with ensuring their security and social dignity and promoting equity among SCs and STs

Question: As a result, _____ of state scheme funds are directed solely towards the welfare and development of SC communities, and another 9.08% for the betterment of the ST communities proportionate to their population in the State.

Ans : 15.45 %

As of 2021-22, Telangana is one of the 4 states (the other three being Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu) to provide legal guarantees for the welfare of and allocation of funds towards SC and ST communities. Around Rs. 18,000 crore earmarked funds have been utilised for the exclusive benefit of SCs and STs during the year 2021-22 (upto February 2022).

All Scheduled Caste (SC) specific programmes are being listed under SCSDF and Scheduled Tribe (ST) specific programmes are being listed under STSDF. Some of the important on-going flagship programmes such as Kalyana Laxmi, Aasara Pensions, Drinking water to households, Sanna Biyyam to the students in the SC & ST hostels, KCR Kits etc., are linked with the Special Development Fund. Data show the expenditure under SC/ST Special Development funds since the implementation of the Act in 2017 till 2020-21.

Question: Which are linked with the Special Development Fund ?

Ans : Some of the important on-going flagship programmes such as Kalyana Laxmi, Aasara Pensions, Drinking water to households, Sanna Biyyam to the students in the SC & ST hostels, KCR Kits etc., are linked with the Special Development Fund

Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Backward Classes (BCs), Minorities, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the State

The Government has a strong focus on undoing the historical injustices meted out to the SCs, STs and BCs in the state and making the minorities feel empowered by safeguarding their rights and entitlements. One way to address these concerns is by extending reservation to these communities. Currently, the STs, SCs, BCs, Minorities (BC-E) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) avail 6%, 15%, 25%, 4% and 10% reservation respectively for admissions in educational institutions and for state Government jobs.

Question : Which of the following is correct about reservations for admissions in educational institutions and for state Government jobs?

- a) STs : 6% ; SCs : 15 % ; BCs : 25%
- b) Minorities (BC-E) : 4%
- c) Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) : 10%
- d) All the above

Ans : d

In recognition of the need for better data for seamless implementation of these programs, the Telangana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution, urging the Government of India to undertake a caste-wise census of Backward Classes as part of Census _____.

Ans: 2021.

Land Rights to Scheduled Tribes (STs) & Giri Vikasam

Under the 'Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act' in 2006, the Government has granted the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers the right to hold and live in the forest land and the rights to "protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource that they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use". As of January 2022, the Government has issued title certificates to 96,676 individuals involving 3,08,614 acres and 721 community titles involving 4,54,054 acres.

Question: When 'Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act' was passed ?

Ans : 2006

Question : Under 'Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act' in 2006 what is granted by government ?

Ans : Government has granted the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers the right to hold and live in the forest land and the rights to "protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource

Question : Which of the following is correct ,as of January 2022 relating to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers in Telangana?

- a) Government has issued title certificates to 96,676 individuals involving 3,08,614 acres and
- b) Government has issued 721 community titles involving 4,54,054 acres.
- c) Both (a) & (b)
- d) None of these

Ans : c

"GIRI VIKASAM" scheme is aimed to convert the uncultivable agricultural lands of small & marginal Scheduled tribe (ST) farmers into cultivable lands for the sustainable agriculture development. As of

December 2021, An area of 18,228 acres of land belonging to 6,118 ST farmers has been converted to cultivable land with the cost of Rs 43.1 crore.

Question: What is 'GIRI VIKASAM' ?

Ans : GIRI VIKASAM” scheme is aimed to convert the uncultivable agricultural lands of small & marginal Scheduled tribe (ST) farmers into cultivable lands for the sustainable agriculture development. As of December 2021, an area of 18,228 acres of land belonging to 6,118 ST farmers has been converted to cultivable land with the cost of Rs 43.1 crore.

Educational Support to the SC, ST, BC and Minorities

Education being a key mechanism to break through poverty and enhance intergenerational mobility, the Government has laid special emphasis on programs that can make it easier for the disadvantaged communities to access and benefit from educational opportunities both at the State and Global level.

Residential Schools and Colleges

Since the formation of Telangana in 2014, the Government has doubled the number of Social Welfare Residential Institutions, from 134 in 2014 to 268 in 2021. A similar increase has been witnessed by the Tribal Welfare Institutions, which increased from 96 in 2014 to 188 in 2021. The BC welfare residential Institutions have seen a rise as well, from 19 in 2014 to 281 in 2021 and the minority Welfare residential Institutions have increased from 12 in 2014 to 204 in 2021. The new institutions were developed with increased focus on quality of teaching and physical environment in these schools and some of the students have gone on to graduate from IITs, NITs, and other reputed institutions in the country.

Further to encourage the women from the SC community to pursue higher education, 30 residential junior colleges have been created for them. Currently 17,014 women are studying in these colleges. Similarly, 22 new special residential degree colleges for ST women have been set up and 9,159 women are studying in these colleges.

In addition to these residential educational institutions, separate welfare hostels are also being established and maintained by the respective welfare departments.

Scholarships

The Government has extended financial assistance through scholarships and reimbursement of tuition fees to assist the education of SC, ST, BC and minority communities in the state. Every academic year around 4.86 lakh SC students and 1.27 lakh ST students are assisted with pre-matric scholarships and around 2.5 lakh SC students, 1.4 lakh ST students, 1.2 lakh minority students and 10.1 lakh BC students are assisted with post-matric scholarships including the reimbursement of tuition fees.

Scholarships for Overseas Education

In order to help children from disadvantaged communities in pursuing higher education abroad, the Government has introduced Overseas a family (whose annual income less Rs. 5 lakh) who has secured admission in a foreign university from an eligible country. The Overseas Scholarship for SC and ST students is named as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi, for BC and EBC students it is named as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Overseas Vidya Nidhi and for Minority students it is named as Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme. Since the launch of the Overseas Scholarships for SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities till February 2022, a total of 699 SC, 204 ST, 1,790 BC and 2,235 Minority students have received these scholarships.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Overseas Scholarship?

- a) The Overseas Scholarship for SC and ST students is named as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi,
- b) for BC and EBC students it is named as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Overseas Vidya Nidhi and
- c) for Minority students it is named as Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme.
- d) All the above (Eligibility : whose family annual income less than Rs. 5 lakh)

Ans : d

Housing

Access to safe housing plays an important role in the welfare of a family. Apart from providing shelter against various physical threats, both human-made and natural, the availability of adequate housing facilities with proper supply of potable water, sufficient sanitation facilities and clean surroundings is necessary to ensure a dignified life.

Two-BHK Housing Programme

With the objective of providing affordable and quality housing to the poor, the Telangana Government launched a 2 BHK Housing Programme in October 2015. Under this programme, a total of 2,91,057 houses have been sanctioned between 2016 and 2021. Out of which construction of 1,07,612 houses has been completed until November 2021, while the construction of remaining houses is at various stages of completion. Around Rs. 10,445 crore has been utilised since the launch of the program till November 2021. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is the implementing agency in its jurisdiction and for the rest of the state. Telangana State Housing Corporation (TSHC) is the implementing agency.

Each house has a plinth area of 560 sq. ft., which includes a kitchen and two toilets. The construction cost of each house is Rs. 5.04 lakh in rural areas, Rs. 5.30 lakh in urban areas, and between Rs. 7.00 lakh and Rs. 7.90 lakh in the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The 2BHK programme received the PMAY-U (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban) Award for excellent performance in e-governance in 2018-19.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Two-BK Housing programme ?

- a) Each house has a plinth area of 560 sq. ft., which includes a kitchen and two toilets.
- b) The construction cost of each house is Rs. 5.04 lakh in rural areas, Rs. 5.30 lakh in urban areas, and between Rs. 7.00 lakh and Rs. 7.90 lakh in the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- c) The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is the implementing agency in its jurisdiction and for the rest of the state. Telangana State Housing Corporation (TSHC) is the implementing agency.
- d) All the above

Ans : d

Keeping the spatial distribution of population and social justice in mind, the Government has earmarked a share of these 2BHK houses for specific social groups. In rural areas, 50% houses are reserved for SCs and STs, 7% for Minorities and 43% for other communities. In urban areas this stands at 17% for SCs, 6% for STs, 12% for Minorities and 65% for other communities. Additionally, there is a blanket 2% reservation for ex-Service Personnel and widows of ex-Servicemen, and 5% is earmarked for Persons with Disabilities.

The State has made tremendous progress in providing pucca houses to its population. Telangana is one of the 18 Non-Special Category states where more households (66%) report receiving benefits from a state-specific housing scheme, when compared to a central housing scheme (34%). Telangana ranks 4th in terms of coverage by state-specific housing scheme. Data shows the percentage of households who have received benefits under state-sponsored and centrally sponsored (specifically PMAY-U) schemes across Non-Special Category States.

Women Welfare

For equitable development in the state across all domains, the Government is implementing a gamut of initiatives specially focussed at women's welfare and empowerment. These initiatives focus on narrowing the gender divide in employment, like Aarogya Lakshmi and KCR Kits have been implemented to ensure adequate health and nutritional services to women. The Government has also taken initiatives to provide financial assistance during weddings and to enable a huge network of SHG groups to empower women.

In addition to the above programmes, the Government is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the ICDS, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Poshan Abhiyaan, construction and renovation of Anganwadi Centres, Integrated Child Protection Services, State Resource Centres for Women, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, and Ujjwala for victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, among others.

Further, the Telangana State Government is providing _____ reservation for women in state Government jobs which are under direct recruitment and enrolment in educational institutions.

Ans : 33.3%

Kalyana Lakshmi / Shadi Mubarak (Marriage Assistance)/Aid for Inter-caste marriages

The Government launched the 'Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak' scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of a one-time grant of Rs.1,00,116 to unmarried girls₂ (above 18 years of age) from SC, ST, BC and Minority families (with a combined income of both parents not exceeding Rs.2,00,000 per annum) at the time of their marriage.

From mid 2019, The Government is also providing financial assistance of Rs.1,25,145 to unmarried disabled girls irrespective of their caste and religion.

Upto December 2021, a total of 1.9 lakh SC, 1.1 lakh ST, 4.3 lakh BC, 1.9 lakh Minority families have been benefited from the scheme and the Government has disbursed an amount of around Rs. 8085 crore.

This initiative not only curbed child marriages to a significant extent but also greatly relieved the financial burden related to marriages.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Kalyana Lakshmi / Shadi Mubarak (Marriage Assistance)?

- a) The Government launched the 'Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak' scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of a one-time grant of Rs.1,00,116 to unmarried girls
- b) above 18 years of age from SC, ST, BC and Minority families
- c) combined income of both parents not exceeding Rs.2,00,000 per annum at the time of their marriage
- d) All the above

Ans : d

Bride belonging to SC, ST, BC and Minority families whose parents' annual income is not exceeding Rs. 2 lakh per annum

Telangana's generous gift of Rs.1,00,116 of marriage assistance stands out as the most generous scheme among all states.

The Government in order to combat the evil of casteism in the society and to achieve the objective of social integration encourages inter-caste marriages between SC individuals and individuals from other castes by providing a cash incentive upto Rs.2.5 lakh to each inter-caste married couple. During the year 2021-22 an amount of Rs.29.28 crore has been disbursed to 1,830 inter caste married couples. Since 2014, an amount of Rs.108.75 crore has been disbursed to 10,179 inter caste married couples.

Question: Which of the following is correct ?

- a) The Government in order to combat the evil of casteism in the society and to achieve the objective of social integration encourages inter-caste marriages between SC individuals and individuals from other castes by providing a cash incentive upto Rs.2.5 lakh to each inter-caste married couple
- b) During the year 2021-22 an amount of Rs.29.28 crore has been disbursed to 1,830 inter caste married couples.
- c) Since 2014, an amount of Rs.108.75 crore has been disbursed to 10,179 inter caste married couples
- d) All the above

Ans : d

Land Purchase Scheme

Access to land is critical for poverty eradication and community development. The Land Purchase Scheme was launched in 2014 with an objective of the State purchasing and assigning 3.00 acres of agricultural land to the women of “Bhoomileni Nirupeda Dalita Vyavasaya Aadharitha Kutumbalu”. The Land Purchase Scheme is under implementation with 100% subsidy. The District Collectors were given powers to purchase agricultural land for the above programme at a cost ranging from Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Rs. 7.00 lakhs per acre in the 30 Districts (excluding Hyderabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Medchal) of the State.

Under the Land Purchase Scheme an extent of 16,993.27 acres have been distributed to the 6,942 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs. 761.42 crores (from 2014 to December 2021). During 2021-22, 451.35 acres have been distributed to 261 beneficiaries with an amount of Rs. 25.32 crore.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Land Purchase Scheme ?

- a) The Land Purchase Scheme was launched in 2014 with an objective of the State purchasing and assigning 3.00 acres of agricultural land to the women of “Bhoomileni Nirupeda Dalita Vyavasaya Aadharitha Kutumbalu”.
- b) The Land Purchase Scheme is under implementation with 100% subsidy.
- c) The District Collectors were given powers to purchase agricultural land for the above programme at a cost ranging from Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Rs. 7.00 lakhs per acre in the 30 Districts (excluding Hyderabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Medchal) of the State.
- d) All the above

Ans : d

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The SHG movement has been widely acknowledged as a grassroots movement that brought transformative changes in the lives of women from marginalised and economically weaker families by empowering them financially. The Government is further facilitating this movement through “SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty)” by building and nurturing SHGs of women and their federations. A total number of 47.53 lakh women have been organised into 4.39 lakh SHGs and 17,886 Village Organisations in the Telangana State. Number of new SHGs formed in the year 2021-22 (till November 2021) is 15,865.

Telangana has pioneered the facilitation of bank linkages for all these SHGs. Since the formation of the State, the amount disbursed to the SHGs every year almost tripled from Rs.3,738.67 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.10,448.03 crore by 2020-21 (as the data for 2021-22 pertains to only until December).

Question: Which of the following is correct ?

- a) SHGs: Self-Help Groups
- b) SERP : Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
- c) MEPMA: Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA)
- d) All the above

Ans : d

“MEPMA” is the State Nodal Agency for implementing the Poverty Alleviation Programs in all urban areas of Telangana State. Till date 13,425 micro enterprises have been established through urban SHG women with a total cost of Rs.102.82 Crore. In 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 1,107.32 crore is provided to 17,287 SHGs under Self Help Group - Bank Linkage (SHG-BL) and Rs.113.92 Crore to 1,241 beneficiaries under Self Employment Program (SEP).

Arogya Lakshmi & KCR Kits

Arogya Lakshmi scheme provides nutritious and healthy meals to all pregnant and lactating mothers registered in all the Anganwadi Centres. The core objectives of the scheme are to enhance the quality and acceptability of supplementary nutrition by the Pregnant and Lactating women, ensure that Pregnant and Lactating women consume 90+ IFA tablets, eliminate or decrease number of Pregnant and Lactating women with anaemia/ who are undernourished, improve the enrollment of mothers

at Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), among others.

Over and above the norms mandated by the Government of India, in the interest of women's health and welfare the Government of Telangana has enhanced the rates by providing an additional allocation of Rs. 14 per beneficiary per day. In addition, the State Government has increased the number of days the beneficiaries receive milk and eggs from 25 to 30.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Aarogya Lakshmi Scheme ?

- a) Aarogya Lakshmi scheme provides nutritious and healthy meals to all pregnant and lactating mothers registered in all the Anganwadi Centres.
- b) The core objectives of the scheme are to enhance the quality and acceptability of supplementary nutrition by the Pregnant and Lactating women, ensure that Pregnant and Lactating women consume 90+ IFA tablets, eliminate or decrease number of Pregnant and Lactating women with anaemia/ who are undernourished,
- c) improve the enrollment of mothers at Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), among others
- d) All the above

Ans : d

In 2021-22 the scheme benefited over 22,00,346 pregnant, lactating women and children in the age group of 7 months to 6 years (covered under Balamrutham and Supplementary Nutrition Programme) with an expenditure of Rs.118 crore.

With an aim to reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate through promotion of institutional deliveries, the 'KCR Kit' programme was launched in June 2017. Under the scheme, post-delivery mothers receive a kit containing 15 utility items. Under the scheme, post child delivery, the mother is provided with financial assistance of ₹12,000 (₹13,000 for a girl child) to compensate for the loss of wages by the women during the pregnancy and postnatal period. Upto November 2021-22 around 1.51 lakh beneficiaries have received a Direct Benefit Transfer of Rs. 186 crore, along with KCR Kits. The impact of the scheme can be seen in improved institutional deliveries in the state from 30.5% in 2015-16 (NFHS-4) to 49.7% in 2019-20 (NFHS-5).

Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSKs)

Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSKs) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a Centre-State share of 60:40. The MSK Scheme is aimed at providing 'one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition'. MSKs create awareness on women-related schemes, programmes and laws implemented by the state, including awareness campaigns on various acts such as Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2002, RTE, 2009 etc.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Mahila Shakti Kendras ?

- a) Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSKs) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a Centre-State share of 60:40.
- b) The MSK Scheme is aimed at providing 'one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition'
- c) Both (a) & (b)
- d) None of these

Ans : c

Question : MSKs create awareness on women-related schemes, programmes and laws implemented by the state, including awareness campaigns on which acts ?

- a) Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994,
- b) The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006,
- c) Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2002, RTE, 2009 etc.
- d) All the above

Ans : d

One Stop Centres (Sakhi Centres)

The One Stop Centres (also called Sakhi Centres) were set-up across all 33 districts in the State in December 2017 with an objective to provide integrated support to women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. Sakhi Centres handled 32,114 cases from 2017 to October 2021, which is evident from the growing reach of Sakhi centres. Around 66% of the total registered cases are under domestic violence.

A Women Helpline (WHL) 181 was launched in Telangana on 19th August, 2017 with a 6-seater Call Center. The Sakhi Centre is integrated with WHL to provide support to women/girls affected by violence.

Question: Which of the following is correct about The One Stop Centres (also called Sakhi Centres)?

- a) They were set-up across all 33 districts in the State in December 2017
- b) objective is to provide integrated support to women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace
- c) A Women Helpline (WHL) 181 was launched in Telangana on 19th August, 2017 with a 6-seater Call Center. The Sakhi Centre is integrated with WHL to provide support to women/girls affected by Violence
- d) All the above

Ans: d

BHAROSA Centres

BHAROSA Centres are one-point help centres to provide integrated support to women and children who have been subjected to severe abuse, be it physical, sexual, financial or emotional. The first centre was established in Hyderabad in 2016, followed by Vikarabad in 2018. In 2020, new centres were also established in Sangareddy and Warangal.

BHAROSA Centres in Suryapet, Nalgonda, Medchal, Khammam, and Hyderabad's Old City are underway.

Question: What are BHAROSA Centres ?

Ans : BHAROSA Centres are one-point help centres to provide integrated support to women and children who have been subjected to severe abuse, be it physical, sexual, financial or emotional

Question: When the first BHAROSA centre was established ?

Ans : in Hyderabad in 2016

Security, Health and Environment (SHE) Teams

SHE Teams were established as a division of Telangana Police in 2014. The aim was to deal with offences against women like eve-teasing, stalking, harassment in public or at workplaces, educational institutions, residential areas or social media. At present, there are 331 SHE teams working in the state. Between October 2014 and September 2021, a total of 54,231 complaints were received under the initiative, leading to the arrest of over 19,411 perpetrators.

Question: Which of the following is correct about SHE Teams ?

- a) Security, Health and Environment (SHE) Teams
- b) SHE Teams were established as a division of Telangana Police in 2014.
- c) The aim was to deal with offences against women like eve-teasing, stalking, harassment in public or at workplaces, educational institutions, residential areas or social media. At present, there are 331 SHE teams working in the state.
- d) All the above

Ans : d

The Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (T-She Box)

The Government established T-She Box (a mobile and web app) as an effort to provide a single

window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.

In 2021-22, 4,376 Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) and 28 Local Complaints Committees (LCC) have been registered on the platform. In addition, the Government has also established a new home for the safety of trafficked victims in Hyderabad.

Question: Which of the following is correct about T-She Box ?

a) **The Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (T-She Box)**

b)The Government established T-She Box (a mobile and web app) as an effort to provide a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment

c)Both (a) & (b)

d)None of these

Ans : c

Poverty Alleviation

Addressing poverty and its determinants has been one of the main focus areas of the Government. Since formation of the Telangana State, the Government has revamped the existing poverty alleviation programmes, especially the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the 100% subsidised 2-BHK Housing Scheme. Further, State level societies such as Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) are helping to build and nurture women led Self Help Groups (SHGs) and implementing poverty alleviation programmes in rural and urban areas.

Importantly, the Government broadened the focus of poverty alleviation by working to eradicate multidimensional poverty. As per NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) baseline report 2021, which has three equally weighted dimensions—Health, Education, and Living Standards, one in four individuals in India is multidimensionally poor, but in Telangana this is true for only one out of seven individuals.

Since the formation of the State, the Government has made targeted interventions in Health (KCR Kits, Aarogya Lakshmi, Giri Poshana, improving the Public Health Infrastructure etc.), Education (revamping school infrastructure through Mana Ooru Mana Badi), and Living Standards (housing, skill development, asset creation, free electricity, etc.) covering specific marginalised groups in the State.

Question : Since formation of the Telangana State, the Government has revamped the existing poverty alleviation programmes. Give details.

a) especially the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the 100% subsidised 2-BHK Housing Scheme.

b)Further, State level societies such as Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) are helping to build and nurture women led Self Help Groups (SHGs) and implementing poverty alleviation programmes in rural and urban areas

c)Both (a) & (b)

d) None of these

Ans: c

Importantly, the Government broadened the focus of poverty alleviation by working to eradicate multidimensional poverty.

Question: NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) baseline report 2021 says there are three equally weighted dimensions . What are they ?

Ans: Health, Education, and Living Standards,

Question: One in four individuals in India is multidimensionally poor, but in Telangana this is true for only one out of _____ individuals
Ans : Seven

Question:

Since the formation of the Telangana State, the Government has made targeted interventions for covering specific marginalised groups in the State. Which of the following is correct ?

- a)Health : (KCR Kits, Aarogya Lakshmi, Giri Poshana, improving the Public Health Infrastructure etc.),
- b)Education : (revamping school infrastructure through Mana Ooru Mana Badi), and
- c)Living Standards : (housing, skill development, asset creation, free electricity, etc.)
- d)All the above (in the context of MPI)

Ans : d

Aasara Pension

As part of its welfare and social safety net strategy, the Government has introduced the “Aasara” pension scheme in November 2014 in order to support the most vulnerable sections of the society. The scheme is meant to protect different sections of society in particular the old and infirm, disabled persons, Widows, people with HIV-AIDS, Filariasis affected persons (Grade-II & III), incapacitated weavers, toddy tappers, poor Beedi workers and Single Women. In 2021-22 (upto January 2022), around Rs. 7,078 crore has been disbursed to 37.34 lakh pensioners. Since 2014, an average around 38 lakh beneficiaries have been covered annually under this scheme .

Since the launch of the scheme in Nov 2014 to January 2022, around Rs. 45,882 crore has been disbursed . Since June 2019, the pension amount has been increased from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 3016/- per month for disabled persons and for all other categories of pensioners from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2016/- per month.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Aasara Pension Scheme ?

- a)Introduced in November, 2014 in order to support the most vulnerable sections of the society.
- b)The scheme is meant to protect different sections of society in particular the old and infirm, disabled persons, Widows, people with HIV-AIDS, Filariasis affected persons (Grade-II & III), incapacitated weavers, toddy tappers, poor Beedi workers and Single Women
- c) Since June 2019, the pension amount has been increased from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 3016/- per month for disabled persons and for all other categories of pensioners from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2016/- per month
- d)All the above

Ans : d

Public Distribution System (PDS)

The Government is distributing essential commodities and food grains to priority households at subsidised prices as per their eligibility. The Government has been proactively implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS), through a network of 17,013 Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

The Government of Telangana has extended the PDS coverage to an additional 96 lakh people over and above the prescribed coverage of around 1.91 crore (persons/units) by Government of India under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), thus effectively covering 2.87 crore beneficiaries in the state as on December 2021. Along with additional beneficiary coverage the Government has also enhanced the scale of distribution of rice from 5 Kgs per person at Rs. 3 per Kg as prescribed by Government of India, to 6 Kgs per person at Rs.1 per Kg to all the members in a family. Along with Food Security, the State has facilitated Gas Connections to 18,90,533 poor and marginalised households under the DEEPAM Scheme.

The total outlay on this program has been doubled from Rs. 1,140 crore in 2014 to Rs. 2,281 crore in 2021. In the year 2021-22, the Public Distribution System has served around 3.36 crore beneficiaries in the State.

Question: The Government is distributing essential commodities and food grains to priority households at _____ prices as per their eligibility

Ans : subsidized

Question : Which of the following is correct about PDS and Gas connections?

a)The Government has been proactively implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS), through a network of 17,013 Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

b)The Government of Telangana has extended the PDS coverage to an additional 96 lakh people over and above the prescribed coverage of around 1.91 crore (persons/units) by Government of India under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), thus effectively covering 2.87 crore beneficiaries in the state as on December 2021

c) Along with Food Security, the State has facilitated Gas Connections to 18,90,533 poor and marginalised households under the DEEPAM Scheme.

d)All the above

Ans : d

Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns had adversely affected peoples' lives, particularly the marginalised sections of the populations. The state Government went the extra mile to support poor households during the 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic by distributing additional _____ of Rice per person per month at free of cost to all the cardholders. This distribution continued for 7 months between May and November 2021 duly incurring an additional amount of Rs. 324 Crore.

To provide relief to the private school teachers, the State Government distributed Sannabiyam to 2,03,473 teaching and non-teaching staff of recognized Private Schools @ 25kg each at free of cost from April to June, 2021 and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 52.26 Crs. Telangana state is the first State to provide such relief to private school staff.

Ans: 10 Kgs

Economic Support Schemes

Economic Support Schemes are introduced by the government, i) To provide financial assistance for creation of income generating assets, ii) To offer training programmes for Skill up-gradation leading to Self / Wage employment and iii) To plug critical gaps of finance in economic support schemes for the welfare of the SCs, STs and other weaker sections.

Question: Which of the following is correct about Economic Support Schemes ?

a)To provide financial assistance for creation of income generating assets,

b) To offer training programmes for Skill up-gradation leading to Self / Wage employment and

c) To plug critical gaps of finance in economic support schemes for the welfare of the SCs, STs and other weaker sections.

d)All the above

Ans : d

Sheep Distribution Scheme

The Telangana Government is implementing the Sheep Distribution Scheme for the Yadava and Kurma communities in the state. Since the inception of the program in 2017 to till date, a total of 79.98 lakh sheep have been distributed to 3.81 lakh beneficiaries. Between 2017 and October 2021 the State Government with a subsidy component of 75% has incurred expenditure of Rs. 3,572 crore. Keeping in view the rise in cost of Sheep in the open market and also increase in transportation prices, in the Phase II of the SRDP program (2021-22 and 2022-23), the Government has enhanced the Unit cost from Rs.1,25,000 to Rs.1,75,000.

Question: The Telangana Government is implementing the Sheep Distribution Scheme for the _____ in the state

Ans : Yadava and Kurma communities

Question: Which of the following is correct about Sheep Distribution Scheme ?

a) Between 2017 and October 2021 the State Government with a subsidy component of 75% has incurred expenditure of Rs. 3,572 crore.

b) Keeping in view the rise in cost of Sheep in the open market and also increase in transportation prices, in the Phase II of the SRDP program (2021-22 and 2022-23), the Government has enhanced the Unit cost from Rs.1,25,000 to Rs.1,75,000

c) Both (a) & (b)

d) None of these

Ans : c

Free Electricity supply to SC, ST and BC Communities

The Government is providing free electricity supply to the families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for domestic purposes up to 101 units, benefiting around 19.73 lakh SC Households and 1.47 lakh ST Households. The state Government has come up with a scheme of free electricity supply upto 250 units to laundries / dhobi ghats and saloons from 2021-22, benefitting 54,035 people from Rajaka and Nayee Brahmin communities

Question: Which of the following is correct about Free Electricity Supply ?

a) The Government is providing free electricity supply to the families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for domestic purposes up to 101 units, benefiting around 19.73 lakh SC Households and 1.47 lakh ST Households.

b) The state Government has come up with a scheme of free electricity supply upto 250 units to laundries / dhobi ghats and saloons from 2021-22, benefitting 54,035 people from Rajaka and Nayee Brahmin communities

c) Both (a) & (b)

d) None of these

Ans : c

Entrepreneurship Development (T-PRIDE)

The Government has launched a special incentive package scheme called Telangana State Program for Rapid Incubation of Dalit Entrepreneurs (T-PRIDE) in 2014, to encourage entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and eligible Physically Handicapped Citizens (PHCs). Apart from facilitating access to credit facilities, the policy envisions preferential allotment of plots in Industrial Parks and intensive entrepreneur and skilling programmes. Since the inception of the scheme in 2014 till January 2022, an amount of Rs. 1052 crore was sanctioned to 23,742 ST entrepreneurs, Rs. 1032 crore sanctioned to 22,955 SC entrepreneurs and Rs. 93 crore sanctioned to 1708 PHC entrepreneurs.

Question: Which of the following is correct about T-PRIDE ?

a) The Government has launched a special incentive package scheme called Telangana State Program for Rapid Incubation of Dalit Entrepreneurs (T-PRIDE) in 2014,

b) It is to encourage entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and eligible Physically Handicapped Citizens (PHCs).

c) Apart from facilitating access to credit facilities, the policy envisions preferential allotment of plots in Industrial Parks and intensive entrepreneur and skilling programmes

d) All the above

Ans : d

Development and Protection of Culture

Telangana has long been a meeting place for diverse languages and cultures. It is easily the best example for India's composite culture, pluralism and inclusiveness. It is thus no surprise that the region on the whole came to be known for its Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb and the capital Hyderabad as a 'miniature India'.

Question: Telangana has long been a meeting place for diverse languages and cultures. It is easily the best example for India's composite culture, pluralism and inclusiveness. It is thus no surprise that the region on the whole came to be known for its _____ and the capital Hyderabad as a 'miniature India'.

Ans : Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb

The Government recognises the importance of preserving this composite culture of the state. In order to preserve the tribal culture the Government has constructed a tribal museum at Jodeghat in memory of Kumuram Bheem with a cost of Rs. 20 crore. Further, 12 Girijan Bhavans, Adivasi Bhavan, Banjara Bhavan are at various stages of construction with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 20 crore each. The Government sponsors and celebrates major fairs and festivals of the tribal community like Santh Sevalal Jayanthi, Kumuram Bheem Vardhanthi, Nagoba Jathara, Bourapur Jathara, Jangubai Jathara, Nacharamma Jathara etc., every year.

Question: In order to preserve the tribal culture the Government has constructed a tribal museum at _____ in memory of Kumuram Bheem with a cost of Rs. 20 crore.

Ans : Jodeghat

Sammakka Sarakka Jathara or Medaram Jathara is conducted biennially in Tadvai Mandal, Mulugu district, which is the largest tribal religious congregation in the world. The Sammakka Sarakka Jathara or Medaram Jathara is a State Festival of Telangana. During every jathara, the Government makes elaborate arrangements for providing logistics, drinking water, sanitation and emergency healthcare facilities. The celebrations for the year 2022 took place from February 14th to 20th, with nearly 1 crore pilgrims participating in the festival.

Question: Sammakka Sarakka Jathara or Medaram Jathara is conducted biennially in _____

Ans : Tadvai Mandal, Mulugu district

Bathukamma is an annual flower festival celebrated predominantly in Telangana, and is grandly celebrated by young girls. It is celebrated towards the end of monsoon and heralds the abundance that nature has to offer. The festival begins on the day of _____, and is celebrated with much fanfare for nine days. The main purpose of this particular festival is to pray with devotion to the Goddess - Maha Gauri.

Ans : Mahalaya Amavasya

The Government distributes Bathukamma Sarees to all adult women enrolled under the _____ during the festival season every year from 2017 onwards.

Ans : Food Security Scheme

Similarly, the Government also supports the celebration of festivals of minority communities in Telangana. The Government is organising Dawate- Iftar and Christmas feast during the Ramzan and Christmas celebrations respectively every year across the state.

Welfare for Senior Citizens and the Disabled

According to the 2021 report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), _____ of the total population in the State is above 60 years of age. The state is projected to have 14.5 % of its population in the Elderly category by 2031.

Ans : 11 %

Hence, the Government is constantly innovating policies and programs that can support the ageing population of Telangana. With the intention of serving the relevant needs of elderly, the state Government has provided a call centre-Helpline for Senior Citizens (Elder line-14567).

According to the "Persons with Disabilities in India" 2018, conducted by MoSPI, Differently-

Abled Persons comprise roughly 2% of Telangana's population. Most of them suffer from locomotor disability (65% of the specially-abled population). The literacy rate among the population is 40.7%. Hence, extending the welfare to this population is crucial for the dignity of life of the specially-abled population. Some of the initiatives taken up by the Government are listed.

There are 5 residential schools for 151 persons with disabilities, 2 schools for visually impaired and 3 schools for hearing impaired. The total sanctioned strength for these schools is 830 students and 25 teachers.

The Unique Disability ID cards (UDID) scheme was launched to encourage ease of governance and implementation for eligible PwDs. Over 4.76 lakh cards were issued in Telangana.

Nearly 5 lakh PwD beneficiaries are covered under Aasara pensions of Rs. 3,016 per month.

Apart from the reservation of 4% for PwD candidates in the recruitment of Government jobs, the reservation for PwDs was enhanced from 3% to 5% in all Poverty Alleviation programs.

To reach the needy Persons with Disabilities the department has established Toll-free Help Line Number 1800-572-8980 for persons with disabilities. Data shows per month pension amounts for disabled people provided by the 18 Non-Special Category States. The pension amount provided to the disabled people by the Government of Telangana, Rs. 3,016 per month, is the highest in the country.

Question: The pension amount provided to the disabled people by the Government of Telangana, _____ per month, is the highest in the country.

Ans : Rs.3,016

Question: The reservation of _____ for PwD candidates in the recruitment of Government Jobs

Ans : 4%

Way Forward

The Government's sustained commitment to the welfare of the citizens is evidenced by the schemes and programmes it has continued to run in 2021- 22 such as, Dalit Bandhu and SC and ST Special Development Funds. The pioneering initiatives of the Government are important building blocks in alleviating poverty and developing a futuristic developmental state that combines economic growth with equitable distribution of its benefits and thus provides social protection.

Elderly in Telangana - Supporting our building blocks

A recent report 'Elderly in India', published by the MoSPI (Government of India), captured how South Indian states have higher proportions of elderly population than the rest of the country. As one of India's 10 'aged-states' (states with at least 5 million population of those aged above 60), Telangana scored 38.9 on the Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021, highlighting the need for improvement.

Question: As one of India's 10 'aged-states' (states with at least 5 million population of those aged above 60), Telangana scored _____ on the Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021, highlighting the need for Improvement

Ans: 38.9

The state Government can focus on policies, measures, and schemes centred on elders. These include having geriatric care in medical colleges and Government hospitals. In terms of social security, Revamping of Shelters for homeless elders. Subsidised insurance and medical expenses, public and private transportation.

To enable financial self-sufficiency, the idea of Elderly Self-Help Group (ESHG) can be explored.

Of immediate importance is the establishment of robust healthcare infrastructure to tackle widespread Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD).

A research paper studying 1,821 participants aged above 60 (with 54% women) surmised that every third person in the districts of Khammam and Warangal had at least one NCD. Even if this doesn't reflect state-wide trends, there is definitely a pressing need to face this issue before it becomes a systemic stress-point for existing healthcare facilities.

The Index was created by the Institute for Competitiveness at the request of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).