

Summary of important PIB release: 09/09/2024

1. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog unveils 6th edition of 'Innovations for You' coffee table book

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog on Friday 6th September 2024 hosted the 20th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the MedTech Mitra initiative, followed by the launch of the 6th edition of its innovation coffee table book series 'Innovations for You' focused on Life Sciences and Biotechnology.

Launched on December 25, 2023, jointly by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the guidance of NITI Aayog, the MedTech Mitra initiative aims to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions by providing crucial support for clinical evaluation, regulatory facilitation, and the uptake of new products.

Since its launch, the MedTech Mitra portal has received an overwhelming response from innovators across the country. In order to address the queries received on the portal and to provide strategic holistic handholding support to MedTech innovators, twenty Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings of 'MedTech Mitra' have been held at ICMR-Hqrs, CDSCO and NITI Aayog wherein, innovators were invited by ICMR-Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS) to make presentation before senior officials from the MedTech Mitra knowledge partner organizations including CDSCO, AIM-NITI Aayog, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), ICMR-Indian Clinical Trial & Education Network (INTENT), Kalam Institute of Health & Technology, (KIHT)/

Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), DHR-Health Technology Assessment in India (HTAIIn), DHR-Centre for Guidelines, National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) & ICMR-MDMS. To streamline the process, operational Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been established to define stakeholder roles and responsibilities.

The meeting was followed by the launch of AIM's 6th edition of 'Innovations for You' coffee table book. The book highlights 50 pioneering entrepreneurs incubated under the various Atal Incubation Centres spread across the country, who are driving change through their contributions in Life Sciences and Biotechnology. Within this sector, the publication delineates innovations into subcategories—Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Bioengineering, and Drug Discovery. The publication is intended to highlight the stories of these innovations and underscore the vast applications and impact for society at large. Intended to both guide and inspire upcoming start ups, the book also underscores the pivotal role of AIM-supported incubators in fostering innovation and research within these domains. These incubators have significantly augmented India's capabilities in Life Sciences and Biotechnology, empowering emerging innovators and researchers.

The book can be accessed here: https://aim.gov.in/pdf/Life-Sciences-and-Biotechnology_6th-CTB_AIM_v1.pdf.

MedTech Mitra Portal link - <https://medtechmitra.icmr.org.in/>

2. India's Paralympic Story: A Tale of Inspiration and Achievement

With 29 medals, India sets a new standard in Paralympic success at Paris 2024

Introduction

India's most successful Paralympic campaign to date unfolded at the 2024 Paris Games, where Indian athletes achieved an extraordinary feat, securing a record-breaking 29 medals—7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. This achievement marks a new pinnacle in India's Paralympic history, showcasing the nation's growing prominence on the world stage. The Paris Paralympics have not only underscored India's remarkable rise in para-sports but have also highlighted the broader evolution of the Paralympic movement itself.

The origins of the Paralympics trace back to July 29, 1948, when Dr. Ludwig Guttmann organized the Stoke Mandeville Games—a groundbreaking event for wheelchair athletes. This modest competition, featuring just 16 injured servicemen and women in archery, set the stage for what would eventually become the Paralympic Games, creating a platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their abilities on a global scale.

From these humble beginnings, the Paralympic movement evolved, with the first official Games held in Rome in 1960, featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then, both the Summer and Winter Paralympics have grown significantly, held every four years in the same cities as the Olympics, thanks to an agreement between the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which reflects the Games' increasing prestige and global reach.

While India's Olympic success was once dominated by its hockey team, the Paralympics have seen individual athletes rise to prominence, achieving remarkable feats and bringing glory to the nation. The Paris 2024 Paralympics stand as a testament to India's growth in this arena, highlighting the dedication, resilience, and extraordinary achievements of its para-athletes.

India's Debut and Early Years at the Paralympics

India made its maiden appearance at the Paralympics in 1968 in Tel Aviv, Israel. A delegation of 10 athletes, consisting of eight men and two women, represented the country in this historic outing. Although India did not win any medals at the Games, it provided the first significant international exposure for the nation's para-athletes, marking the beginning of India's journey on the global Paralympic stage.

Four years later, at the 1972 Heidelberg Games in Germany, India achieved its first Paralympic success. Para-swimmer Murlikant Petkar made history by winning gold in the 50m freestyle swimming event, setting a world record time of 37.331 seconds. Despite this monumental achievement, Petkar's gold remained India's only medal at the Games, with the country finishing 24th in the overall medal standings out of 42 participating nations.

Following this landmark victory in 1972, India's participation in the Paralympics faced interruptions, as the country did not take part in the 1976 and 1980 Games. It wasn't until the 1984 Games that India returned to the Paralympic arena. This edition was a significant one, as India secured four medals—Two silvers and two bronzes. Bhimrao Kesarkar won silver in Men's Javelin Throw L6, while Joginder Singh Bedi claimed

silver in Men's Shot Put L6, along with two bronze medals in Men's Javelin Throw L6 and Men's Discus Throw L6.

India's next Paralympic success came 20 years later at the 2004 Athens Games. Devendra Jhajharia won gold in Men's Javelin Throw F44/46, and Rajinder Singh Rahelu earned a bronze in Men's Powerlifting 56 kg, taking India's total tally to two medals in that edition.

Era of Transformation (2012-2020)

The period from 2012 to 2020 marked a transformative chapter in India's Paralympic history, witnessing unparalleled growth in both performance and global recognition. Beginning with Girisha N Gowda's lone silver medal at the 2012 London Paralympics, followed by a four-medal haul at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, and culminating in India's impressive 19-medal success at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, this era highlighted the unwavering dedication and immense talent of Indian para-athletes. Their achievements on the world stage not only elevated India's standing in the Paralympic arena but also inspired millions by breaking barriers and rewriting records.

2012 London Paralympics

At the 2012 London Paralympics, India secured its sole medal through the exceptional performance of Girisha N Gowda. Competing in the Men's High Jump F42 category, Gowda won a silver medal, marking a significant achievement for Indian athletics. Despite a strong showing from the team, this was India's only podium finish at these Games. Gowda's accomplishment highlighted his outstanding athleticism and brought a moment of pride to the nation amidst the competitive global arena.

2016 Rio Paralympics

The 2016 Rio Paralympics were a landmark event for the Paralympic Movement, setting new standards in visibility and engagement with record-breaking TV audiences and over 2.1 million spectators. The Games featured a record 4,328 athletes from 160 countries, with 220 world records and 432 Paralympic records set over the course of 12 days.

India's performance at Rio 2016 was notable, with the country winning a total of four medals. Mariyappan Thangavelu claimed gold in the Men's High Jump F42, showcasing exceptional talent and determination. Varun Singh Bhati also competed in the same event and earned a bronze medal, contributing to a strong showing in athletics.

Devendra Jhajharia continued his remarkable career by winning gold in the Men's Javelin Throw F46, further solidifying his legacy as one of India's most decorated Paralympians. Additionally, Deepa Malik achieved a silver medal in the Women's Shot Put F53, marking a significant milestone in Indian athletics.

These achievements underscored India's growing prominence in the Paralympic arena and highlighted the remarkable performances of its athletes on the global stage.

2020 Tokyo Paralympics

The 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, held from August 24 to September 5, 2021, were a landmark event for the Paralympic Movement, featuring 4,393 athletes (2,547 men and 1,671 women) from 164 countries. The Games were marked by unprecedented levels of competition and visibility, showcasing the incredible talent and determination of para-athletes from around the world.

India achieved its best performance to date at these Games, winning a total of 19 medals, including 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze. This remarkable haul underscored the country's growing prominence in the Paralympic arena.

Among the standout performances, Avani Lekhara shone brightly by securing two medals: a gold in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 and a bronze in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1. Sumit Antil also delivered an exceptional performance, winning gold in the Men's Javelin Throw F64.

In badminton, Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar claimed gold medals in the Men's Singles SL3 and Men's Singles SH6, respectively. Manoj Sarkar and Suhas Yathiraj further added to the medal count with a bronze and silver in badminton, respectively.

Athletics saw significant contributions, with Nishad Kumar and Mariyappan Thangavelu earning silver in the Men's High Jump T47 and T42, respectively. Devendra Jhajharia and Sundar Singh Gurjar won silver and bronze in the Men's Javelin Throw F46.

Shooting also played a crucial role in India's success, with Singhraj Adhana and Manish Narwal winning gold and silver in the Men's 50m Pistol SH1, and Harvinder Singh securing bronze in archery.

India finished 24th in the overall medal standings, a testament to the exceptional performances of its athletes and a significant achievement on the global stage, with several other athletes also playing a crucial role in adding to this historic medal count.

The 2024 Paris Paralympics: A Triumphant Milestone

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, held from August 28 to September 8, 2024, were a grand celebration of global athletic prowess and inclusivity. Featuring 4,400 athletes from around the world competing in 22 sports, the Games were hosted across some of Paris's most iconic venues, including the Eiffel Tower, the Château de Versailles, and the Grand Palais.

For India, the 2024 Paris Paralympics marked the nation's most successful Games to date. India's participation reached new heights, with a record 84 athletes competing in 12 sports. This impressive representation reflects the country's growing support for para-sports and the impact of significant government initiatives, such as the Khelo India program and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Under TOPS, India's top athletes receive comprehensive support to prepare for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with core group athletes receiving an Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹50,000 per month, alongside full funding for their personalized training plans approved by the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC).

India's achievements at Paris 2024 underscored the progress made in the development and recognition of Paralympic sports within the country. The athletes' outstanding performances highlighted India's continued ascent in the Paralympic arena and set a new benchmark for future participation and success.

India's para-athletes delivered their best-ever performance at the Paris Games, earning an incredible 29 medals—7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze—securing an 18th-place finish in the overall medal tally. This achievement

represents a watershed moment for Indian para-sports, showcasing the potential of Indian athletes on the global stage.

India's medal haul at the 2024 Paris Paralympics was led by stellar performances from athletes across a range of disciplines. Avani Lekhara clinched gold in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1, while Nitesh Kumar dominated in badminton, winning gold in the Men's Singles SL3. Sumit Antil and Dharambir added to the tally with golds in Men's Javelin Throw F64 and Men's Club Throw F51, respectively. Archery saw Harvinder Singh secure gold in the Men's Individual Recurve Open, while Navdeep Singh triumphed in the Men's Javelin Throw F41. Suhas Yathiraj brought home silver in the Men's Singles SL4 badminton event, and Nishad Kumar earned silver in Men's High Jump T47. Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi took bronze in Archery's Mixed Team Compound Open, rounding off India's historic campaign. Many more athletes contributed to the nation's impressive medal count, making it a truly collective achievement for Indian para-sports.

The 2024 Paris Paralympics will be remembered as a defining chapter in India's sporting history, inspiring future generations of athletes and reaffirming the nation's commitment to inclusive excellence in sports.

Conclusion

The 2024 Paris Paralympics stand as a monumental milestone in India's Paralympic journey, marking not only the country's most successful performance to date but also a testament to the resilience, talent, and dedication of its para-athletes. From the humble beginnings of India's Paralympic debut in 1968 to the record-breaking achievements in Paris, this journey has been one of remarkable growth, determination, and triumph. The support of government initiatives like Khelo India and

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TOPS has played a crucial role in empowering these athletes, enabling them to break barriers and redefine India's place on the global stage. As India continues to champion inclusivity in sports, the 2024 Games will be remembered as a defining chapter—one that inspired millions and set a new standard of excellence for the nation's future Paralympic endeavours.

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3. Health Ministry Releases "Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure and Human Resources) 2022-23"

Union Health Ministry released "Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure and Human Resources) 2022-23", an annual publication formerly known as "Rural Health Statistics", here today. The document has been published since 1992.

The annual publication is a valuable document furnishing much needed information on manpower and infrastructure within NHM, helpful in policy making, improving processes and problem solving.

Background:

Since 1992, the publication has provided detailed annual data on health infrastructure and human resources, with updates as of March 31 each year. This data is crucial for stakeholders in the health sector, as it supports effective planning, monitoring, and management of health infrastructure across the country. By providing a clear snapshot of the current state of healthcare infrastructure and human resources, the publication serves as a foundational tool for identifying gaps and addressing needs in various areas, including rural, urban, and tribal regions.

It is structured in two parts:

Part 1 presents an overall view of India's healthcare system with State and Union Territory profiles, using visual aids like maps and charts for clarity.

Part 2 is divided into nine sections, offering in-depth data on health facilities, manpower, and demographic indicators.

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The information contained in the publication enables policymakers, health administrators, and planners to assess the distribution and adequacy of healthcare facilities and human resources. It helps in formulating targeted strategies to optimize health service delivery and allocate resources efficiently. Additionally, the data serves as a vision document for understanding the needs in different regions, facilitating a more equitable distribution of health services.

Overall, the publication is an essential resource material for ensuring that health infrastructure development is aligned with the specific requirements of all population groups, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and responsive healthcare system across the country.

As of March 31, 2023, the country has a total of 1,69,615 Sub-Centres (SCs), 31,882 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 6,359 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 1,340 Sub-Divisional/District Hospitals (SDHs), 714 District Hospitals (DHs), and 362 Medical Colleges (MCs) serving both rural and urban areas.

These healthcare infrastructures are supported by 2,39,911 Health Worker (Male + Female) at SCs, 40,583 Doctors/Medical Officers at PHCs, 26,280 Specialists & Medical Officers at CHCs, and 45,027 Doctors and Specialists at SDHs and DHs. Additionally, there are 47,932 Staff Nurses at PHCs, 51,059 Nursing Staff at CHCs, and 1,35,793 Paramedical Staff at SDHs and DHs across the country.

The publication “**Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure and Human Resources) 2022-23**” can be accessed under Documents Section on the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare website by using the link: <https://mohfw.gov.in/>.

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The key features of the publication include:

1. **Comparative Analysis:** Provides comparisons of health infrastructure and manpower between 2005 and 2023, and from 2022 to 2023, highlighting progress and gaps.
2. **District-Wise Data:** Offers district-level details of health facilities, including Sub-Centers (SCs), Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs), District Hospitals (DHs), and Medical Colleges.
3. **Rural, Urban, and Tribal Focus:** Details infrastructure and manpower in rural, urban, and tribal areas, providing targeted insights for policy planning.
4. **Classification of States/UTs:** States and Union Territories are categorized based on key healthcare performance metrics, aiding in targeted interventions.
5. **User-Friendly Highlights:** Key findings are summarized at the beginning for quick reference.
6. **Guidance for Stakeholders:** Acts as a crucial tool for healthcare planning and management by identifying gaps and deficiencies in infrastructure and human resources.

4. Five Successful Years of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

Introduction

Launched on September 12, 2019, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojna (PM-KMY) has been providing social security to all land-holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) across the country.

This old-age pension scheme is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. Under the initiative, eligible small and marginal farmers are given a fixed monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 after attaining the age of sixty. To qualify, farmers contribute monthly to the pension fund during their working years, with matching contributions from the central government.

This landmark scheme to provide a safety net to farmers in their old age has completed five years of its implementation.

Successful Implementation of PM-KMY

Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojna (PM-KMY), small and marginal farmers can enroll by paying a monthly subscription to the Pension Fund. Farmers aged between 18 and 40 years need to contribute between Rs. 55 to Rs. 200 per month until they turn 60.

Once they reach the age of 60, enrolled farmers receive a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000, provided they meet the scheme's exclusion criteria. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) manages the pension fund, and beneficiary registration is facilitated through Common Service Centres (CSCs) and State Governments.

All farmers with cultivable land holdings of up to 2 hectares and listed in state/UT land records as of 1st August 2019 are eligible for benefits under the scheme. As of August 6, 2024, a total of 23.38 lakh farmers have joined the scheme.[1]

Under the scheme, Bihar leads with over 3.4 lakh registrations while Jharkhand ranks second with over 2.5 lakh registrations.

Further, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha have over 2.5 lakh, 2 lakh, and 1.5 lakh farmer registrations, respectively. The huge registration reflects strong uptake in these states, highlighting the scheme's reach and impact in providing social security to farmers. The widespread participation also underscores the growing awareness and adoption of the PM-KMY initiative among small and marginal farmers.

Key Benefits Under PM-KMY

- **Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber to the scheme is guaranteed a minimum pension of Rs. 3000 per month upon reaching the age of 60 years
- **Family Pension:** If a subscriber passes away while receiving their pension, their spouse will be entitled to a family pension equal to 50% of the amount the subscriber was receiving i.e. Rs.1500 per month as Family Pension. This is only applicable if the spouse is not already a beneficiary of the scheme. The family pension benefit is exclusively for the spouse.
- **PM-KISAN Benefit:** SMFs can choose to use their PM-KISAN benefits to make voluntary contributions to the scheme. For this, eligible SMFs must sign and submit an enrolment-cum-auto-debit-mandate form. This will authorize automatic debit of their www.info@theknowledgeandlearning.com

contributions from the bank account where their PM-KISAN benefits are credited.

- **Equal Contribution by Government:** The Central Government, through the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, also contributes an equal amount as contributed by the eligible subscriber, to the pension Fund
- **Monthly Contributions:** Monthly contributions are in the range from Rs. 55 to Rs. 200, based on the farmer's age at the time of entry into the Scheme, according to the contribution chart.

Enrolment Process

To enroll in the scheme, eligible farmers need to visit the nearest Common Service Center (CSC) or contact the Nodal Officer (PM-Kisan) appointed by the State or UT Governments. Registration can also be completed through the scheme's official web portal at www.pmkmy.gov.in.

The beneficiary will provide the following information at the time of registration:

- Farmer's / Spouse's name and date of birth
- Bank account number
- IFSC/ MICR Code
- Mobile Number
- Aadhaar Number

Leaving the Pension Scheme

- 1) If an eligible subscriber exits the Scheme within less than ten years of joining, then the share of contribution will be returned along with the savings bank rate of interest payable thereon
- 2) If the subscriber exits after ten years but before reaching age sixty, they will receive their contributions plus accumulated interest, either as earned by the Pension Fund or at the savings bank rate, whichever is higher
- 3) Suppose a subscriber dies while making regular contributions. In that case, their spouse can either continue the Scheme with regular contributions or exit by receiving the subscriber's contributions plus accumulated interest, as earned by the Pension Fund or at the savings bank rate, whichever is higher
- 4) Upon the subscriber's and spouse's death, the remaining corpus shall be returned to the fund

Conclusion

Over five years of implementation, the PM-KMY has significantly empowered Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) across India. One of the key achievements of PM-KMY is its role in providing financial stability to farmers, many of whom face uncertain futures due to the seasonal nature of agriculture and fluctuating incomes.

By securing a pension for their retirement years, the scheme has addressed a significant gap in social security for the rural population. Its success over the past five years underscores its critical role in enhancing one of the country's 'Annadata' quality of life.
