

**May 2019**

### **1. What is Special Category Status (SCS)**

- The concept of SCS emerged in 1969 when the Gadgil formula (that determined Central assistance to states) was approved.
- There is no provision of special category status in the Constitution; the Central government extends financial assistance to states that are at a comparative disadvantage against others.
- The NDC (National Development Council) granted this status based on a number of features of the States which include-
  - (a) Hilly and difficult terrain
  - (b) Low population density or the presence of sizeable tribal population
  - (c) Strategic location along international borders
  - (d) Economic and infrastructural backwardness
  - (e) Non-viable nature of State finances.
- Special status is guaranteed by the Constitution of India through an Act passed by the two-third majority in both houses of the Parliament, as in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas Special Category Status is granted by the National Development Council (NDC), an administrative body of the government.

#### **What kind of assistance does the SCS States receive?**

- The central government allocates 30 percent of its plan expenditure to these States as late as 2009-10. (Gadgil-Mukherjee formula).
- Following the constitution of the NITI Aayog and the recommendation Central plan assistance to the SCS States has been subsumed in an increased devolution of the divisible pool to all States (from 32% in the 13th FC recommendations to 42%) and do not any longer appear in plan expenditure.
- The 14 FC also recommended variables such as "forest cover" to be included in devolution, with a weightage of 7.5 in the criteria and which could benefit north-eastern States that were previously given SCS assistance.
- Assistance to Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the SCS States was given with 90% Central share and 10% State share.

#### **What States are seeking SCS status?**

- Odisha, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh demanding SCS status but they have not been granted the same as they did not meet the criteria.

#### **How many states have been provided SCS status?**

- NDC has accorded 11 states, out of 29 states, the status of "Special Category States" to target the fund flow for better-balanced growth.
- They are-
  - (a) Seven States of North-Eastern region (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)
  - (b) Sikkim
  - (c) Jammu & Kashmir
  - (d) Himachal Pradesh
  - (e) Uttarakhand.
- Jammu & Kashmir was the first state to get special category status, and another 10 states were added over the years, with Uttarakhand being the last in 2010.

### **2. WHO's report: India faces severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P. & Rajasthan**



**उड़ान** A 75-Day Course to Clear GS Paper of UPPSC Prelims [Start Free Trial](#)

- WHO has published a research paper titled 'Forecasting the future need and gaps in requirements for public health professionals in India up to 2026' in the 'WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health'.
- The report says that India faces critical shortage of healthcare professionals, especially in Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P. (Uttar Pradesh) & Rajasthan which have the worst hit ratio as compared to Delhi, Kerala, Punjab and Gujarat which are in a relatively better position.
- WHO notifies that Southeast Asia requires a 50% rise in healthcare employment in order to reach the universal health coverage by the year 2030.
- India's health workforce can be broadly classified into 8 categories which are named as follows:
  - (a) Doctors (allopathic, alternative medicine)
  - (b) Nursing and midwifery professionals
  - (c) Public health professionals (medical, non-medical)
  - (d) Pharmacists
  - (e) Dentists
  - (f) Paramedical workers (allied health professionals)
  - (g) Grass-root workers (frontline workers)
  - (h) Support staff
- According to the 2008 Government statistics based on vacancies in sanctioned posts: 18% of primary health centres were without a doctor.

gradeup



**उड़ान** A 75-Day Course to Clear GS Paper of UPPSC Prelims [Start Free Trial](#)