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Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

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Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Rajya Sabha about the **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)** while discussing the health and well-being of adolescents in the country.

Key Points

- **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)** was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** in **2014**.
- It intends to **ensure holistic development of the adolescent population**.
- The RKSK programme defines an **adolescent as a person within 10-19 years of age**, in **urban and rural areas**, includes both **girls and boys, married and unmarried**, poor and affluent, whether they are **in school or out of school**.
- The programme also focuses on reaching out **all adolescents including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ)**.
- To guide the implementation of this programme, MoHFW in **collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** has developed a National Adolescent Health Strategy.
- The **six thematic areas** of RKSK as well as that of the strategy are nutrition, sexual reproductive health, substance misuse, non - communicable diseases, mental health and injuries and violence.
- The programme envisages a **paradigm shift from the clinic-based services to the promotion and prevention and reaching adolescents** in their own environment, such as in schools, families and communities.

- The prime elements of the programme are:
 - **Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)** across various levels of public health institutions in all the States.
 - **Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme** for school going adolescent boys and girls and out of school adolescent girls across the country.
 - **Peer Educator Programme** in select 200 districts, based on Composite Health Index and identified as High Priority Districts (HPDs).
 - The **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme** that provides funds to the States/UTs for procurement of sanitary napkins for Adolescent Girls (aged 10-19 years).

Source:PIB