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MAGAZINE NOTES

Kurukshetra April 2026 - Digital Pathways for Rural India

1 April 2026 ·

ECONOMY

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Kurukshetra April 2026 - Digital Pathways for Rural India

 **Kurukshetra** April 2026 (50 pages, Special Issue) **GS2** **GS3**

**Kurukshetra**

Govt. of India · Monthly

EDITION

April 2026 (50 pages, Special Issue)

MAINS:

GS Paper 2

GS Paper 3

Kurukshetra's April 2026 Special Issue, themed “**Digital Pathways for Rural India**” (Hindi: “Digital Path Par Agrasar Gramin Bharat”), surveys how digital rails are rewiring rural governance and the farm economy: BharatNet and CSCs as access infrastructure, digitised PACS and Smart Panchayats as institutional upgrades, and AgriStack-era agritech as the productivity layer.

ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Digital Transformation of Rural India** - 548 million rural internet users, BharatNet's 2.18 lakh service-ready panchayats, JAM-DBT delivery of Rs 34 lakh crore
- 2 **Food Safety in the Digital India Era** - FSSAI's FoSCoS, InFoLNet, FICS and FoSTaC stack; blockchain for farm-to-fork traceability
- 3 **Digitising Cooperatives: PACS in Transition** - 63,000 PACS on one ERP platform; PACS as CSCs, Fair Price Shops and Kisan Samriddhi Kendras
- 4 **Smart Panchayats** - eGramSwaraj-PFMS, AuditOnline, SabhaSaar AI, SVAMITVA drone mapping
- 5 **Agritech and the Data-Driven Rural Economy** - Digital Agriculture Mission, AgriStack, precision farming, Namo Drone Didi

KEY CONCEPTS

TERM	MEANING
BharatNet	National optical-fibre project connecting Gram Panchayats
CSC	Common Service Centre; last-mile digital service delivery kiosk
JAM Trinity	Jan Dhan + Aadhaar + Mobile, the DBT backbone
FoSCoS	FSSAI's Food Safety Compliance System for online licensing
PACS	Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, base tier of rural cooperative credit
SabhaSaar	AI speech-to-text tool digitising and summarising Gram Sabha proceedings
AgriStack	Foundational digital layer of farmer, land and weather databases
SVAMITVA	Drone-survey scheme giving rural property ownership cards

UPSC GS RELEVANCE

- **GS2:** e-governance, local government (73rd Amendment institutions going digital), cooperatives (97th Amendment context)
- **GS3:** agricultural credit and marketing, food safety, digital economy in rural India

3 Chapters in this Edition

1

Digital Transformation of Rural India

2

Smart Panchayats and PACS in Transition: Digitising Rural Institutions

3

Agritech and the Data-Driven Rural Economy



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