

# YK GIST

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## RESURGENT INDIA RURAL PROSPERITY



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**KANISHAK KATARIA -  
AIR 1 (UPSC 2018)**

## Preface

This is our 54<sup>th</sup> edition of Yojana Gist and 45<sup>th</sup> edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of September 2019. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

Every issue deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

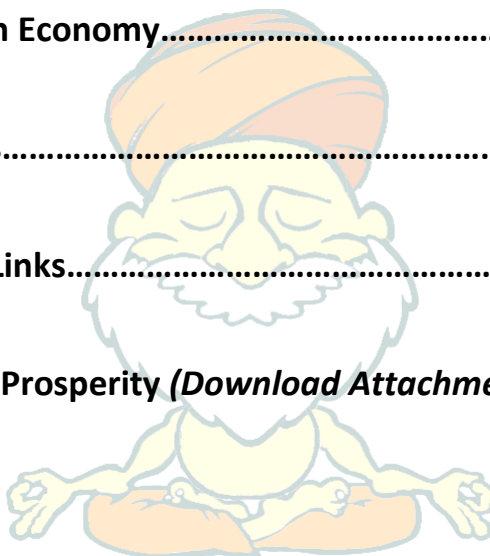
We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

**Think, learn, practice and keep improving! You know that's your success mantra 😊**

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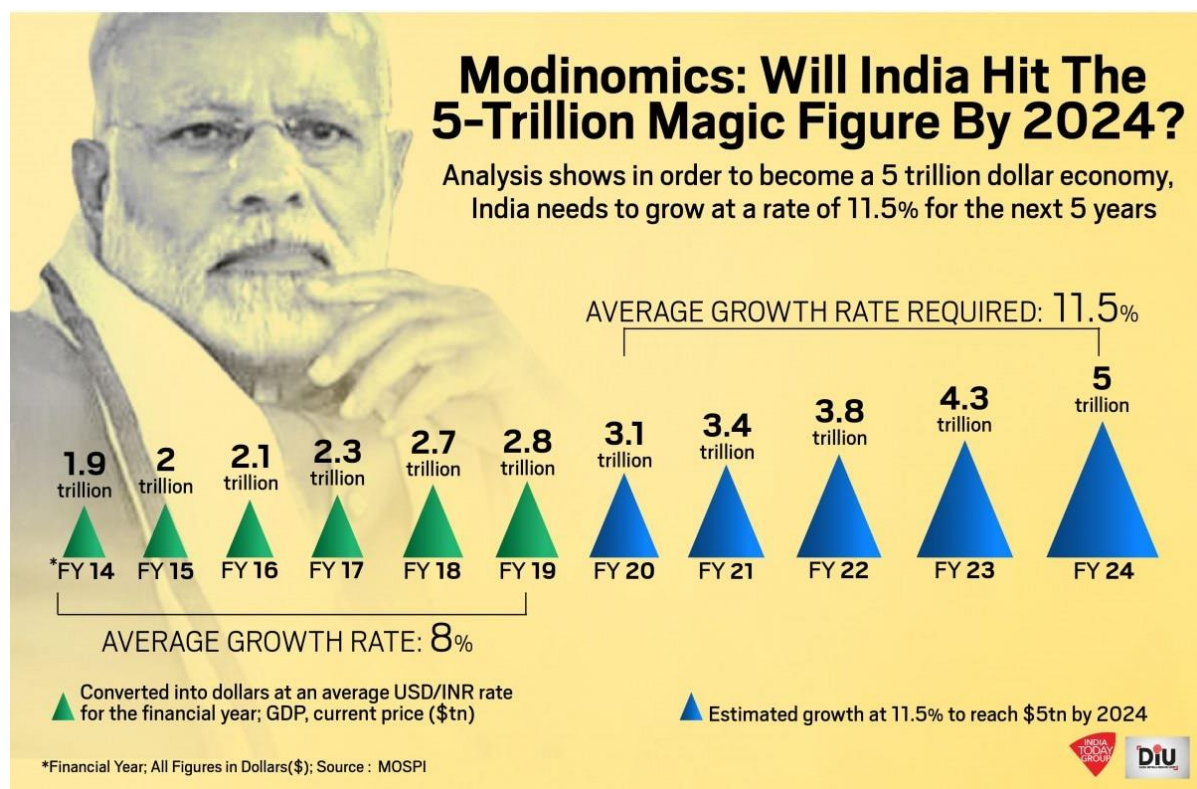
## India's Journey Towards a \$5 Trillion Economy

*India is, currently, a \$2.8 trillion economy; to reach the \$5 trillion mark by 2024, the economy would require nominal growth in dollar terms of over 12% a year. To put this in context, in the last quarter for which data is available, India grew at slower than 6% in real terms.*

### Is the "\$5 trillion" target realistic?

The target is in terms of dollar, so there are two major variables which can impact India's growth towards achieving this target:

1. Inflation rate
2. Rupee-dollar exchange rate



- An increase in inflation means that prices have risen. With an increase in inflation, there is a decline in the purchasing power of money, which reduces consumption and therefore negatively impacts GDP growth.
- India's inflation (consumer price index) has been under check and has been continuously hovering below 4 per cent level since August 2018 and recorded the inflation rate of 3.05 per cent, last month.
- Similarly, the rupee-dollar exchange rate also needs to be in check to make India reach the desired target of \$5 trillion. If rupee depreciates further, it will adversely

affect India's GDP growth in dollar terms and if rupee starts appreciating against the dollar, it makes it easier to reach the target.

### India's Foreign Policy Approach:

The new approach is reflected in the foreign policy pillars of

- a) Panchamrit - Samman (dignity and honour)
- b) Samvaad (engagement and dialogue)
- c) Samriddhi (Shared Prosperity)
- d) Suraksha (regional and global security)
- e) Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (Culture and civilisational linkages)

*Shift of emphasis:* From SAARC to BIMSTEC and Indian Ocean Region (IOR); The BIMSTEC is fast replacing SAARC as the primary forum for India's regionalism.

The Economic Survey has pegged a GDP growth rate of 7 % for FY20, up from 6.8 % in the previous fiscal. And to achieve the \$5 trillion economy, the Economic Survey has laid a road map where it says India must grow at **8%**.

India's rise is an opportunity to reimagine an India. in consonance with our highest civilisational ideals: joy, sustainable prosperity, responsible freedom, inclusive growth, peace and mutual respect. These ideals, when they influence our foreign policy, have the potential to shape a plural global order.

### Focus on Agriculture Sector

The Govt. has committed to double Farmer's income by 2022. One of the many steps towards selling farmer's produce in better prices is – Creation of Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAM) and linking them with the electronic farmer marketplace, eNAMs, to sell their produce nationally.

#### ***What more can be done?***

Time to try a new model where farmers learn to be productive by working in association with a professional firm which takes care of farming, marketing, and exports. The implementation will cover less than one per cent of the arable land and cost no money to the government.

- To implement, the government will need to identify 1,000 agriculture development regions (ADRs) each with a minimum area of 200 sq. km. State governments will take this land on a 10-year lease from the willing farmers. In return, the State governments will assess a farmer's 10-year income and agree to pay double the amount in annual instalments. Farmers will remain the landowners.

- Next, the States will invite corporate farming ventures (CFVs) to work on each of the ADRs for 10 years. In return, CFVs will pay the money that the States promised to pay the farmers. The CFVs will apply modern techniques and investments to produce and market high-quality products. Farmers may work on the land and imbibe the right practices. Soon, the best practices will spread to adjoining areas. Farmers who participated with such CFVs will pool their land and start collaborative farming where external CFVs will not be needed. The model will turn millions of farmers into smart and prosperous entrepreneurs. ADRs will contribute substantially to production and exports. This model may supplement the existing government schemes.

### **Focus on Services Sector – What more can be done?**

Services contribute to 56.5 per cent of GDP but create only 30 per cent of jobs.

#### **IT Sector**

- So far, IT sector has been the star, exporting over 80 per cent of its \$150 billion turnover. But as over 50 per cent of IT revenues come from the US, the future looks challenging with Trump at the helm.
- Also, as over 40 per cent of the IT jobs India does will disappear due to automation, the sector needs to develop expertise in IOT, AI, and their applications.

#### **Travel & Tourism**

- The travel and tourism sector created 40 million jobs and contributed a significant 10 per cent to GDP. Considering the variety of experiences India offers, the sector can grow manifold with project-driven investments in budget hotels, medical tourism, tourist safety, and top 100 attractions.

#### **Healthcare**

India as a global healthcare jobs provider can be another big story.

- Global healthcare and wellness is a \$8 trillion industry, which would require over 100 million health workers in the next 15 years.
- Dr Devi Shetty proposes that we should convert India's 600 district hospitals as medical nursing and paramedical schools to train 5 million doctors, nurses, and paramedics to meet the global requirement. They can remit about \$100 billion of foreign currency every year.



### **Construction**

- The construction sector's potential is largely untapped. It has slowed in the past two years but remains big with over 8 per cent share in GDP.
- It is the largest job-generating sector after Agriculture. The sector lacks transparency, and millions of buyers stand cheated in the hands of builders every year. Ensuring transparency and ease will revive the sector attracting FDI and create millions of new jobs.

### **Focus on MSME & Manufacturing Sector**

To support manufacturing, the government has announced streamlining 55 labour laws into four codes and enhancing minimum wages. Small traders with turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore will get the benefit of a pension scheme.

The significance of 65 million MSMEs who create about 120 million jobs and 30 percent of the country's economic output and around 30 per cent of total employment generation cannot be underestimated.

### ***What more can be done?***

With a trade war-like situation emerging between the US and China, and MNCs looking for alternative manufacturing locations, there is no better time for India to give a big push to manufacturing. To get there, India has to focus on setting manufacturing ecosystem for the four product groups.

- One, machinery that makes the products. Two, specialty materials, biologics, nanotechnology, integrated circuits, embedded systems, medical imaging devices. Three, computers, TVs, mobile phones, and telecom equipment. And, four, auto components, toys, furniture, footwear, and apparels. This skill and labour-intensive products group can absorb part of surplus people from the agriculture or informal sector.
- Successful operations would require sector-specific policies and inviting an anchor firm for each major product group. Flexible labour laws are an essential precondition for large-scale manufacturing.

Over 70 per cent of India's exports come from the manufacturing sector. New manufacturing operations will allow India to become part of few global value chains and help in raising exports to a trillion dollar mark.

### On Green Economy

After the liberalisation of the economy in 1991, despite economic growth, India has not done well in terms of protecting the natural environment. A recent survey among 178 countries, India ranked 155 in terms of overall environmental quality.

A new World Bank report finds that environmental degradation costs India \$80 billion per year or 5.7% of its economy. So, our 5 trillion dollar dream must take the path of caring for our mother nature and her all flora and fauna.

- **Creating Green Jobs:** Some of the sectors are renewable energy, recycling, green buildings, sustainable forestry management, agroforestry, small scale sustainable farming, organic farming, mass vehicle industry like the bicycle industry, etc.
- **Community Development:** For the last 25 years of Indian developmental story, we focused on two pillars, government and market. But at present, this sort of development resulted in more income inequality and jobless growth. Dr. Raghuram Rajan, former RBI governor and Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India in his recently published book **The Third Pillar** argued for community development as a tool for economic development and job creation in a more equitable and environment-friendly way.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Before the industrial revolution, India used to have 24% of global income with his enriched traditional knowledge in farming, handloom and handicrafts, etc. India's huge biodiversity enriched us significantly in wealth creation on those days, global experts who are working on climate crisis now argue ***traditional knowledge, traditional lifestyle and the art of living of indigenous people*** are very important factors to combat climate challenges and create opportunities for green growth and jobs.

### A Trillion Dollar Opportunity in Digital India

India is now poised for the next phase of growth – Creation of tremendous economic value and empowerment of citizens as new digital applications permeate sector after sector. India can create up to \$1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy in 2025.

This represents an attractive opportunity for global and local businesses, start-ups, and platform-based innovators who will be investing in emerging technologies (for example, artificial intelligence, blockchain, drones, and robotics) customised to India's needs.

### Connecting the Dots:

1. *If we continue on the existing path, the \$5 trillion dream will remain a mirage. What has to change therefore? Discuss.*
2. *How do you describe the philosophy of growth for Indians? Are the numbers alone the correct indicator? Critically examine.*



### Water Conservation as a National Movement

India has been ranked 13th amongst 17 'extremely water stressed' countries—with a quarter of the world's population—in the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas released by Water Resources Institute (WRI). Warning of unsustainable depletion, the report finds that global water withdrawals have doubled since the 1960s. India, home to more than three times the population of the other 16 countries, has seen one of its metros—Chennai's—run dry this year. Further, a 2018 NITI Aayog report warns that, 21 major Indian cities will face extreme water crisis in the future. Yet, the WRI reiteration is perhaps necessary, given much hasn't been done on water conservation and sustainable use. While the Centre has made the right noises, water is a state subject. More important, wasteful use of water in agriculture remains unaddressed. With large chunk of population engaged in agriculture and not enough non-farm jobs, states are steering clear of disturbing the status quo.

- India has only 4 per cent of the global fresh water resources while it has to quench the thirst of about 18 per cent of the world population.
- Of the total fresh water resources available in the country, as per the Central Water Commission, 78 per cent was being used for irrigation in 2010, which is likely to be reduced to 68 per cent by 2050.
- For domestic use, it was just 6 per cent in 2010, likely to go up to 9.5 per cent by 2050

So, by far, **AGRICULTURE** will remain the biggest user of water to produce enough food, for the foreseeable future. And unless this sector is geared to improve in terms of the supplies of and efficiency in water use, the situation is not going to improve significantly.

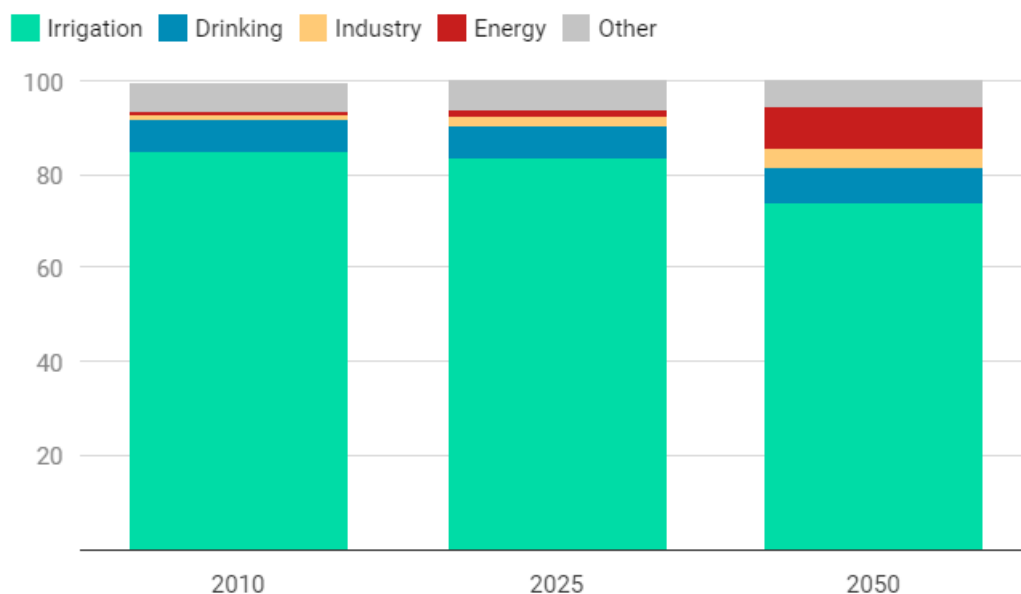
- Of the total of about 198 million hectares of India's gross cropped area, roughly half is irrigated. And the major source of this irrigation is groundwater (63 per cent), canals accounting for 24 per cent, tanks 2 per cent and all other sources accounting for about 11 per cent. So, the real burden of irrigating Indian agriculture lies with groundwater, driven by private investments from farmers.
- There is hardly any effective regulation of groundwater. The policy of cheap or free power supply for irrigation has led to a situation of near-anarchy in the use of groundwater. On the one hand, power subsidies to agriculture cost the exchequer roughly Rs 70,000 crore each year and on the other, this is depleting groundwater in an alarming manner. Overall, about 1,592 blocks in 256 districts are either critical or overexploited. In places like Punjab, the water table is going down by almost a metre a year, and this has been going on for nearly two decades.
- No political party wants to touch the rationalisation of power pricing for agriculture. Technological solutions like drip irrigation, sprinklers, etc. cannot make much



headway unless policies are put on the right track. Technologies cannot take you far enough unless the pricing of power and irrigation water is put on track.

## Demand for water in India is (and will be) driven almost entirely by agriculture

Water demand by source (%)



Source: Water-Nectar of Life, EnviStats - India 2018(Supplement on Environmental Accounts)  
 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

### Jal Shakti Abhiyan

**‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan’**, a campaign for water conservation and water security, will run through citizen participation while focus of the campaign would be on water-stressed districts and blocks in the country. The merger of the ministries of water resources, river development, Ganga rejuvenation, and drinking water and sanitation brings about a much-needed integrated approach for India’s water issues.

*In a countrywide effort to enhance water security, especially in water-stressed districts, the Centre’s Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) has initiated over 3.5 lakh water conservation measures in 256 districts. Out of these –*

- 1.54 lakh are for water conservation and rainwater harvesting
- 20,000 relate to the rejuvenation of traditional water bodies
- over 65,000 are reuse and recharge structures
- 1.23 lakh are watershed development projects
- An estimated 2.64 crore people have already participated in the Abhiyan
- About 4.25 crore saplings were also planted as part of the efforts

### Areas that need urgent measures are

- a) **Augmentation of watersheds** that can store more good water, for use in agriculture and to serve habitations
- b) **Efficiency in Agriculture:** The agricultural sector consumes over 85 per cent of the available water today in India, and there is enormous scope to save water here through improved efficiency.
  - Shifting cropping pattern from water-intensive to less water consuming crops can save significant amount of water.
  - Micro-irrigation method (drip and sprinkler) of rice cultivation promises to enhance water use efficiency with increased crop productivity.
  - Rainwater harvesting is one of the cheapest and easiest ways of augmenting water stock.
  - Investing and promoting water-recycling technologies and storm water capturing schemes should also be given utmost emphasis.
  - The proposed water conservation fee on groundwater extraction is definitely a right step in the direction of regulating water use.
  - Give monetary rewards to farmers for saving water and power for irrigation. The existing situation can be taken as a sort of current entitlement, and those who agree to get their power supply metered and if they save on power consumption compared to current levels, can be rewarded.
  - Along with that, there could be an income support (of say Rs 15,000/ha) for crops that guzzle less water, say maize or soyabean in Punjab during the kharif season. This would provide savings on the power subsidy, but more importantly, in terms of precious groundwater.
- c) **Strict pollution control enforcement:**
  - User-centric approach to water management, especially in agriculture
  - Decentralisation of irrigation commands, offering higher financial flows to well-performing States through a National Irrigation Management Fund
  - Steady urbanisation calls for a new management paradigm – augmenting sources of clean drinking water supply and treatment technologies that will encourage reuse.
- d) **Rethink water management**
  - Creative and imaginative governance in the form of building larger storage dams which can store excess water in lesser time is the need of the hour.
  - People should be sensitised about the judicious use of water and educated about water-retention dams and other conventional structures such as eari, bawli, talab, anict, dam etc. to store water.

- The old practice of rainwater harvesting should also be popularised. Tamil Nadu has made mandatory installation of water harvesting structures in every house and this must be replicated in other States as well.
- Investing and promoting water-recycling, storm-water capturing technologies and micro-irrigation techniques in crop cultivation can also solve the problem of water scarcity.
- The cost effective method of reviving the traditional small water bodies under the age old practice of Kudimaramath should be given top priority.

**Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)** aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind.

### Human right to water

- In 2010, the UN recognized “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.”
- The human right to water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use; which includes water for drinking, personal sanitation, washing of clothes, food preparation, and personal and household hygiene.

### Connecting the dots:

- a) Water scarcity is also deepening conflicts among states. Comment.*
- b) To solve the growing water crisis, the solution that is proposed and pushed by world bodies such as WTO and IMF through international agreements is privatisation of water. Do you think India should also privatise its water? Critically analyse.*
- c) Many parts of the country are facing severe water crisis and drought conditions. There are many traditional water harvesting and conservation practices in various parts of India which can be employed locally to fight the ongoing crisis. Can you identify few such practices? Also mention the states where they are more prevalent.*
- d) Addressing the deepening drought, agrarian distress and water-management are critical not just for our governments to survive but for us to survive our governments. Comment.*
- e) How severe is the problem of groundwater contamination in India? What are its most causative factors?*
- f) India's traditional water harvesting techniques provide a sustainable water management alternative. Do you agree? Critically examine.*

## Developing a Knowledge-based Society



We cannot ignore the fact that today nearly 35 crore youth and adults are outside the world of literates and are unable to participate effectively in the development of the country. About 40 per cent of our schoolchildren do not acquire literacy skills with satisfactory proficiency even after completing elementary education. We have a formidable challenge that needs to be recognised and systematically addressed.

The government of India is committed to inclusive growth. That is the underlying guiding principle of “sabka vikas”. Literacy is the first step towards building a participatory, vibrant and more inclusive democracy. It helps individuals to access and exercise the various rights and entitlements provided to them under the Constitution. Problems like poverty, infant mortality, population growth and gender inequality are better resolved in a literate society. Literacy enables individuals to access economic, political and social benefits. In India, literacy can play an important role in empowering people as well as improving their quality of life — especially of women and those belonging to the disadvantaged groups of society.

We should continue to strive for universal literacy through the two-pronged approach that we have been following.

- First, we must improve the quality of pre-primary and school education to ensure that all children graduating from school have the necessary literacy skills.
- Second, we must provide opportunities for learning to those who have never been to a school or have dropped out, and also to the young people and adults who need to acquire basic skills to expand their livelihood opportunities.

*Also,*

- The budget allocation for the S&T Sector is less than 08 % compared to about 3 - 5% by developed countries, including China. For all these to be achieved, the investment in human resource development aiming at enabling the youth power with the scientific temper has to be given top most priority.
- The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) method needs to be implemented so that the children are enabled to think independently, analyse and take decisions in a logical manner.



## Infrastructure Development for the Next Generation

*Generally, it is said that we need three things for higher growth. These are infrastructure, infrastructure and infrastructure. This will help both cyclical and structural factors.*

*The announcement of Rs 100 lakh crore over five years for infrastructure by the government is an important measure. However, details on how to get finance, the roles of public and private investment, the contract structures like PPPs are not clear. The Vijay Kelkar committee's recommendation on PPPs would be useful. The private sector's role is equally important.*

*Spending on infrastructure will have multiplier effects in the overall economy including stimulating private investment, aggregate demand and jobs. The government has therefore, continued its push for infrastructure development so that ease of living is continuously upgraded, with a focus on rural roads, waterways, and low cost housing.*

### **A. Housing – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana alone has set a target of building 1.95 crore houses. The government has also allowed an additional deduction of Rs 1.5 lakh for interest payment of housing loans.

This mandate also includes upgradation of slums.

- PMAY Phase I: April 2015 to March 2017
- PMAY Phase II: April 2017 to March 2019
- PMAY III: April 2019 to March 2020

PMAY-G aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022. A total of 1.54 cr. rural homes have been completed in last 5 years. In 2nd Phase of PMAY-G during 2019-20 to 2021 -22, 1.95 cr. houses are proposed to be provided to eligible beneficiaries.

### **B. Energy**

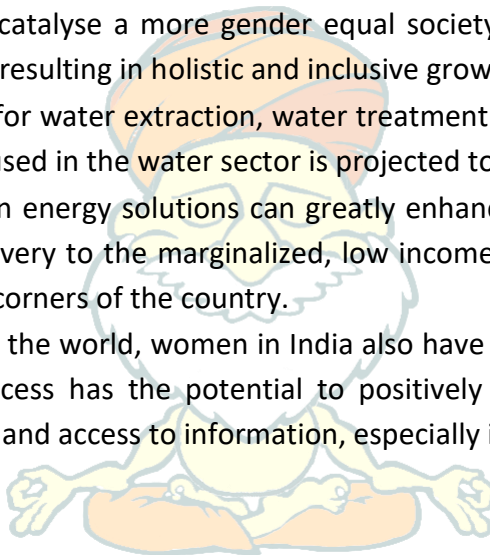
- Make available 24 × 7 power to all by 2019
- Achieve 175 Giga Watt (GW) of renewable energy generation capacity by 2022
- Reduce imports of oil & gas by 10 per cent by 2022 - 23

India is the sixth largest economy in the world and is poised to become the second largest economy by 2030. It is also the third largest consumer of energy in the world, with demand rising by 5 % annually and with energy demand set to double by 2040.

- **Saubhagya scheme:** Targets universal electrification; till date it has covered more than 99 % of rural households
- **UDAY scheme:** To spark a financial revival of discoms; this in turn will help revitalize the entire sector. This has paid rich dividends with India steadily increasing its renewables capacity while looking to achieve the target of 175 GW by 2022.
- **Ujjwala Yojana:** 7 crore households benefitted with access to clean cooking gas

### ***Energy is important***

- Decentralized, clean energy solutions can greatly the efficiency of primary health services delivery to the marginalized, low income sections of the population residing in remote corners of the country. As the healthcare ecosystem in India gets increasingly digitized, energy access will accelerate the growth of tech enabled services like telemedicine and mobile health applications, and bring quality healthcare to the doorstep of the common man.
- Energy access can catalyse a more gender equal society, where women are well – integrated into the resulting in holistic and inclusive growth.
- Energy is essential for water extraction, water treatment and water distribution. The amount of energy used in the water sector is projected to double by 2040.
- Decentralized, clean energy solutions can greatly enhance the efficiency of primary health services delivery to the marginalized, low income sections of the population residing in remote corners of the country.
- As in other parts of the world, women in India also have to bear the brunt of energy poverty. Energy access has the potential to positively influence women’s health, education, finance, and access to information, especially in backward regions.



### **C. Transport**

#### ***Roads***

Increasing coverage and quality of roads & highways is critical to enhancing connectivity & internal and external trade. By 2022 - 23, India needs to achieve the following objectives:

- a) Increased connectivity by expanding road network
- b) Improved regulatory framework for road to achieve better compliance, seamless connectivity, road safety and quality
- c) Reduced number of road accidents & fatalities by 50 per cent by 2020

#### ***Challenges:***

- Capacity

- Maintenance
- Land acquisition

### Railways

Modernisation of railways is estimated to require about INR 50 lakh crore of investment. The government has proposed public private partnerships and selective route privatisation to augment its resources. Initiatives like building a national power grid and a warehousing grid will have far-reaching benefits.

By 2022 - 23, India should have a rail network that is not only efficient, reliable & safe, but is also cost-effective and accessible, both with respect to movement of people and goods.

#### How:

- Augment capacity of existing railway infrastructure
- Increase speed of infrastructure creation from present 7 km/day to 19 km/day by 2022 – 23
- Achieve '100 per cent' electrification of broad- gauge track by 2022 - 23 from the 40 per cent level in 2016 – 17
- Increase average speed of freight & mail/express trains to 50 km/hr (from about 24 km/hr in 2016 - 17) & 80 km/hr (from about 60 km/hr) respectively
- Improve the safety of the railways, achieving zero fatalities
- Enhance service delivery, achieving 95 per cent on- time arrivals by 2022 – 23
- By 2022 - 23 the railways should have freight load of 1.9 billion tonnes & an improved modal share of 40 per cent of freight movement from current level of 33 per cent
- Increase share of non- fare revenues in total revenue to 20 per cent

### Civil Aviation

Domestic Passenger traffic increased at a CAGR of 8.07 per cent during same period.

- Double air cargo handled from about 3.3 million tonnes in 2017 - 18 to about 6.5 million tonnes
- Expand the Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Industry from USD 1.8 billion trips a year
- Enhance availability and affordability of regional air connectivity and revive/upgrade 56 unserved airports & 31 unserved helipads through regional connectivity scheme – **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCA-UDAN)**

### Ports & shipping & Inland water transport (IWT)

**Ports & Shipping:** Ministry of Shipping's SAGARMALA Programme focuses on modernizing and developing ports, enhancing port connectivity, supporting coastal communities and stimulating port-linked industrialization. Sagarmala aims to reduce logistics cost for foreign and domestic trade, leading to an overall cost saving of Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 cr. annually by 2025.

**Inland waterways:** Ministry is augmenting capacity of NW-1 under **Jal Marg Vikas** project, which will enable movement of large vessels of 1,500 - 2,000 tonnes on inland waterway.

**Logistics:** Logistics management includes design and administration of system to control flow of material, work-in-progress, and finished inventory to support business unit strategy.

- Achieve multi-modal movement of cargo on par with global logistics standards
- Reduce logistics cost to less than 10 per cent of GDP from the current level of 14 per cent
- Improve logistics skilling and increase job in sector to 40 million by 2022 - 23 from about 22 million in 2016

### Skills for a \$5 Trillion Economy

*The cornerstone of Budget 2019 lies in aspirations of a new India becoming a \$5 trillion economy over the next few years. Key pillars on the roadmap to becoming so include ensuring an accelerated economic development and related job creation. One of key factors in achieving this goal will be developing India's talent pool to meet requirements of various sectors. Infrastructure development across the country in road, highways, railways, port, housing, water management and tourism were called out as contributors to this vision. This will require skilled personnel in areas such as construction, welding, electricians, plumbers and logistics on developing, operating and maintaining these.*

*Similarly, with the digital infrastructure and services envisaged to reach every district in the country, it will require skilled personnel to lay the infrastructure, operate, and service the same. The focus on promoting and strengthening MSME establishments across urban and rural areas also provides ample opportunities for job creation for which skills will be required.*

*In this context, the reforms and transformation proposed in institutions of higher education through autonomy and improved learning outcomes is important. Enabling reforms is to be the mandate of the proposed Higher Education Commission of India. The proposal to transform existing higher education institutions as world class institutions and setting up new ones focussed on research and innovation and benchmarked to the globally best ranked institutes will not only ensure availability of the required talent pool within the country but*



also attract foreign students. This will result in the Indian campuses benefiting from a diverse student base as well as ensure the institutes continuously update their course curriculum aligned to industry needs, become research and innovation-oriented and attract quality faculty and students in their world class facilities, thus making India the global hub for higher education.

The addition of new age skills such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and 3D printing as key focus areas for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is also a step in the right direction.

**Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** It is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry aimed at providing free-of-cost skill training to over 1 Crore youth in 4 years in 221+ job roles; offering short term training between 2 months to 6 months.

**Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK):** It is an initiative towards creation of “Model Training Centers” with standardized infrastructure for delivery of skill development training to be opened in every district of India; aiming to make benchmark institutions that can demonstrate aspirational value for competency-based skill development amongst key stakeholders- industry and trainees.

**National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** The scheme is aimed to increase the involvement of industries and employers in engaging youth as apprentices and providing on-the-job skill training to create a ready workforce. The government reimburses part of stipend paid by the employer.

**SANKALP:** Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project aims to implement the mandate of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)

**STRIVE: “Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)”** is an outcome-based project, marking a shift in government’s implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results building in a strong shift to an outcome-based skill ecosystem. The STRIVE project aims at creating awareness through industry clusters/geographical chambers that would address the challenge of involvement of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

**Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS):** Boost the employment skills of Indian youth by providing them with ‘on the job work exposure’ through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS) and the National Career Service (NCS).

### Rural Development – Connecting the Dots

1. What role can self-help groups (SHGs) play in rural development? Examine.
2. Assess the potential of rural tourism in India. What measures and precautions should be taken to promote rural tourism? Discuss.
3. What are the effects of globalisation on the rural population of India? [Illustrate](#).
4. Livestock wealth is central to rural economy In India. Discuss the importance of livestock as a means of sustainable rural development. Also discuss the salient features of the National Livestock Mission.
5. How far has the Ujjawala scheme been able to address the problems of rural women? Analyse.
6. It is imperative to focus on agricultural production in devising a long-term solution to the problem of unemployment. Substantiate.
7. Inclusive growth without rural development would be a misnomer. Comment.
8. What is social forestry? Examine its potential as a measure of sustainable rural development.
9. Discuss various farmer centric welfare measures taken by the government. What are the core areas of focus in these schemes? Examine.
10. Use of ITC in agriculture can achieve the troika of empowerment, enablement and expansion. Elucidate.
11. Don't you think the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 is too ambitious a target for the government? Had you been a secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, what suggestions you would have given to meet this target?
12. What measures have been taken to reform the agricultural marketing system of the country? Are they successful? Critically examine.
13. **Essay Topic:** Of all the forms of injustice, inequality in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.

#### Must Read

- A. [An unbalanced view of the technical interventions in MGNREGA](#)
- B. [Use of ITC in Agriculture](#)
- C. [Role of SHG in rural development](#)
- D. [Rural Tourism](#)
- E. [Social forestry](#)
- F. [Ashok Dalwai committee: Doubling farmer incomes by 2022](#)
- G. [Achieving the target of doubling farmers' income](#)
- H. [Market Reforms in Agriculture](#)

**Box 2: Build Upon Ongoing Initiatives and Supplementary Steps to Transform Health in India**

- a. Develop a road-map for a possible health insurance/assurance programme, for secondary and tertiary level hospitalization with no financial cap covering up to 80% Indian population, under *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana* (PM-JAY). Though, non-poor may be asked for mandatory contribution.
- b. Link existing secondary and tertiary level insurance schemes with financial cover for non-hospitalisation (out-patient consultation) services. In other words, effective hospitalisation and out-patient coverage linkage. The services should be designed to be free at the point of delivery.
- c. Revise the norm for Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) from one for every 50,000 population to one for every 25,000 population by 2022 and for every 10,000 population by 2028.
- d. Establish additional 50,000 HWCs by 2022 to fill the shortage of Government primary healthcare infrastructure in India. More such facilities need to come up in urban areas and with innovative approaches.
- e. All Indian states to set up public health cadre to strengthen preventive and promotive health services.
- f. Consider an All India cadre of specialist doctors (on line of erstwhile Indian Medical Services) to address the shortage of specialist doctors at public health facilities. This approach can help, along with designing of sub-district-based health system, to address shortage of specialist doctors which is in the range of 60-80% in most of the states.
- g. Establish independent and autonomous institutional mechanisms for operational/implementation research and for technical support to provide evidence and guidance for health systems strengthening. The health sector is a specialised field and dedicated and evidence-based technical advices by full time staff is desirable for effective and large-scale health initiatives in India.
- h. Plan health services so as to see both primary healthcare and hospital in continuum of care with effective functioning at all levels. Evidence suggests that a strengthened PHC system performs better when supported by an equally well-functioning hospital services/system, with two-way referral. In this context, there is need to consider establishing stronger linkage under Ayushman Bharat Programme between HWC and PMJAY.





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