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ILP Student**



SHRESTHA ANUPAM
Rank: AIR 19 in UPSC-2019
IASbaba's ILP Student

From: **Shrestha Anupam**

Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 3:42 PM
Subject: Re: Shrestha Anupam.
Address and testimonial.
To: <support@iasbaba.com>

Testimonial:

Hi Baba. Shrestha Anupam here. I scored AIR 19 in UPSC CSE 2019. This was my second attempt overall and my first appearance in Mains and Personality Test. I was a member of your ILP Programme and I believe that it's a great initiative. Your website contains seriously good stuff and even the free resources like the Daily current affairs are amazing. Keep up the good work Babaji!! :D

Thank You for the support and guidance!!



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**Testimonials by Neha Banerjee-Rank 20
A Regular Follower of IASBABA and IMP Student
Working Professional and Clears in 1st Attempt**



Neha Banerjee
Rank: AIR 20 in UPSC-2019
IASbaba's IMP Student

From: **neha banerjee**

Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 10:03 PM
Subject: Testimonial by Neha Banerjee
To: <support@iasbaba.com>

Hi,
I am Neha and it still feels surreal to say that I have secured AIR 20 in UPSC 2019. I was a working professional during my preparation and thus online content (videos, articles etc) was an integral part of my journey. IAS baba's free initiatives was also a prominent source among them. Examples being the 60 day prelims program, the daily current affairs (followed occasionally especially the Mains focus section) and the TLP answer writing program (referred section wise after prelims). My warmest regards to the team to keep doing such good work.

Thanks and regards,
Neha Banerjee



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**Testimonials by SARANYA RAMCHANDRAN - Rank 36
IASBABA'S Student**



SARANYA RAMCHANDRAN
Rank: AIR 36 in UPSC-2019
IASbaba's Student

From: Saranya Ramchandran

Date: Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 4:41 PM

Subject: Testimonial Saranya Ramchandran

To: <support@iasbaba.com>

It is not about success alone, but the path you travel and the experiences. IASBaba and their online programmes - TLP Answer writing, C2C mains test series, TLP test series, Babapedia, Prelims test series immeasurably contributed to my preparation. Specifically, IASBaba aided me in improving the quality of my mains answers. I worked upon the feedback and suggestions after every mains mock test, and in the process found my answers becoming better.

Thank you IASBaba and team

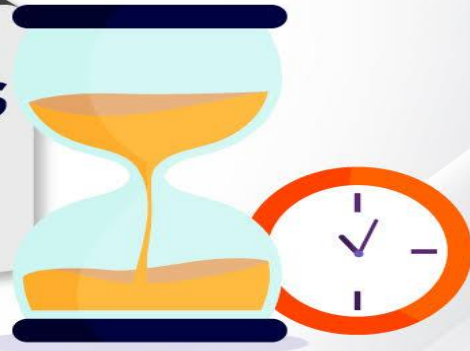
Saranya Ramachandran AIR 36 UPSC CSE 2019



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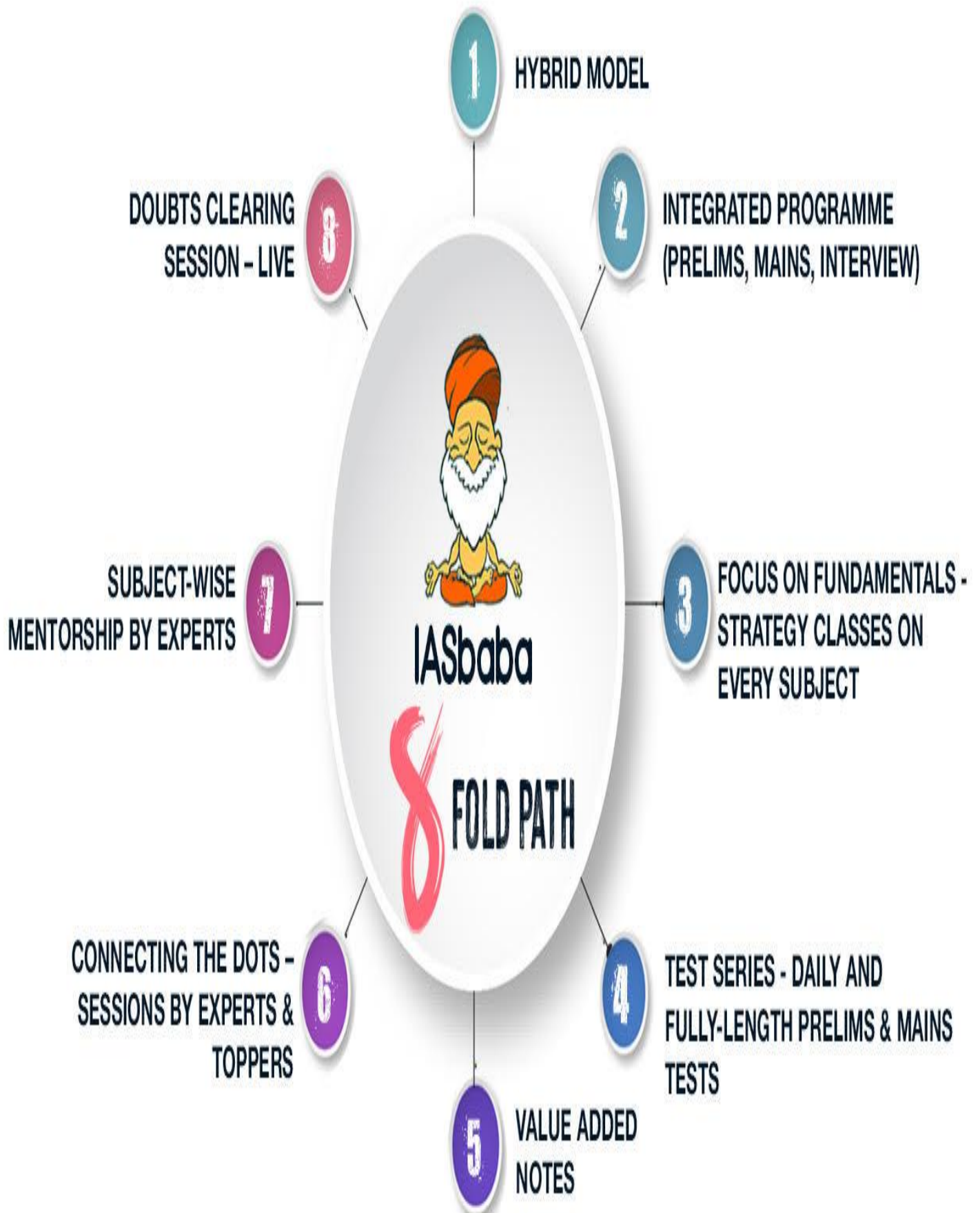


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Preface

This is our 64th edition of Yojana Gist and 55th edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of July 2020. 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 😊

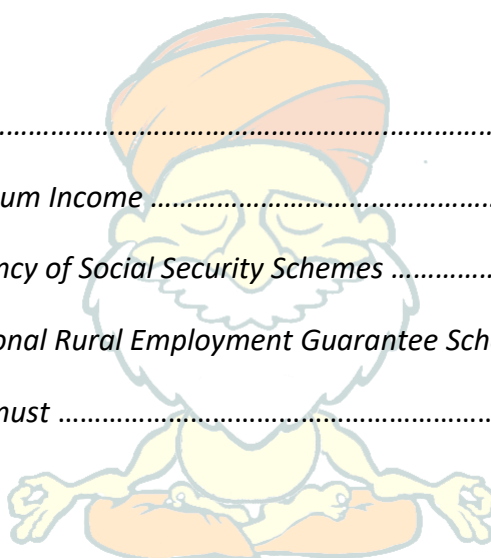
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SELF-RELIANT INDIA

Atmanirbhar Bharat and its meaning in the current context

- Freeing Indian entrepreneurship and innovation from bureaucratic hurdles
- This is about decentralised localism that takes pride in local brands, emphasises resilience and flexibility, and encourages local capacity-building and indigenisation.
- The idea of self-reliance is about resilience, leveraging internal strengths, personal responsibility, and a sense of national mission (or “Man Making” to use the late 19th century expression of Swami Vivekananda).
- Product and factor markets are made flexible in order to allow the Indian economy to adapt to the problems and opportunities of an emerging post-COVID world.
- Commitment to privatisation of non-strategic public sector entities, opening up of new sectors like space to private investment, decriminalisation of most aspects of corporate law, greater flexibility in labour laws, and so on.
- Means recognizing the complementary roles of the private sector and the government -It cannot be achieved without recognising that market forces can take care of our needs during normal times. As market forces allocate resources based on prices and profits, they promote economic efficiency in normal times.
- Government must retain economic presence through one or two public sector firms in strategic sectors such as healthcare, lifesaving medicines, payment systems, mobile communication etc.
- Focus should be on increasing the efficiency and efficacy of government, which includes overall governance.
- Ethical wealth creation advocated in the Indian ethos now needs to become a global model for development. For that purpose, India needs to take the lead in exemplifying it domestically. India should take a lead and demonstrate the value of ‘frugal economy’ to the rest of the world.
- Building a self-reliant economy does not mean building an economy in isolation. Self-reliance implies building the necessary capability to be independent at the most vulnerable times. It requires delineating sectors that are strategically critical to the nation and investing in these sectors so that our dependence during vulnerable times is minimized.

For Indians to be self-reliant, social contract between the government and citizens has to be one where government actively supports personal responsibility.

1. Self-Reliance = Inclusive Growth → Possible through Employment Creation

Eradication of poverty and generation of employment remained the biggest challenges for the government at present; but at the same time, without creating employment, poverty cannot be eradicated. Employment generation is central to inclusive growth.

- Proposed social micro-finance institutions would help create two crore employment opportunities in the country.
- Skill, re-skilling and upskilling is the only way to remain relevant in the ever changing market scenario.
- Formal sector employment for one member of the family contributes to mobility of future generations as the kids are likely to get better education and healthcare facilities and thereby uplift themselves.
- Leaving large fractions of the labour force underutilised or unutilised is extremely inefficient for the economy.

2. Businesses including MSMEs ('be vocal for the local')

To raise the domestic competitiveness of our industries' pricing factors that make them uncompetitive with respect to the foreign players should be identified and corrected.

A. On Export Strategy

The word "Aatmanirbhar" refers to both self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The former has a pragmatic positive connotation aimed at developing capabilities indigenously without shunning imports. The latter is unpragmatic, inward looking and has a negative denotation. It is against the "Ricardo's theory of "Comparative Advantage" which holds that international trade is a result of differences in the relative opportunity costs of countries in the production of different goods (therefore even if a country is self-sufficient, it should still trade).

In 'Wealth of Nations', Adam Smith argued that "the great object of mercantilism was to diminish as much as possible the importation of foreign goods for home consumption and to increase as much as possible the exportation of the produce of domestic industry."

An effective exports promotion strategy hinges on robust and competitive domestic manufacturing. Hence, we must attain self-reliance for effective export promotion.

a. Adopt and optimise FDI-tariff linkage: Import substitution is focused on developing domestic capabilities and prowess to reduce dependence on imports. Many countries constantly monitor the trends of imports to understand the challenges faced in manufacturing such products domestically.

- Some countries adopt an FDI-tariff linkage which enhances tariff for attracting FDI and encourages foreign suppliers to set up bases in their country to serve their consumers.
- Import substitution requires that the market be of a certain minimum size to make manufacturing viable.
- Not many countries in the world possess such a market and hence they are unable to pursue an import substitution strategy. Therefore, an ecosystem that provides a level-playing field must be offered to the manufacturers.
- This means not just a 'deemed export' status but involves extending concessional credit along with competitive electricity tariff and efficient logistics.

b. Maximize the export capacity, aggressively boost export-driven industries and levy a border adjustment tax (BAT) on imports to offset the impact of these internal taxes on domestic producers.

c. Use foreign capital generated from these exports for upskilling, technological upgradation and capacity building in sectors covered under its ISI policy. Government needs to spend more on R&D and Product Innovation.

d. Opportunity in Agriculture Exports: China's image has hit a setback in terms of edible products due to COVID-19 disease. This presents a huge opportunity to India in the export of fruits, vegetables, marine products, etc.

- However, exports of many agro-commodities are unavailable due to the rising MSP which at times is much more than the international prices. The govt. must provide some mechanism to reimburse the differential price (MSP less the international price) to exporters.
- The freight disadvantage has been largely nullified through the new Transport and Marketing Scheme for agri Products. The path breaking reforms in agriculture would push agricultural exports.
- Relaxation in the Essential Commodities Act will encourage exporters to procure such products without fear.
- Now farmers can engage with agri processors, exporters and even large retailers for the sale of farm produce at mutually agreed upon prices. Such platforms will also help farmers get information about Phyto-sanitary standards which is vital for getting access to advanced economies.

e. Extending support to MSMEs: The revised definition of MSME will also encourage exports as the government has excluded exports turnover from the aggregate turnover for eligibility purposes resulting in more companies qualifying for MSME status. The increased limit on investment in plant and equipment for medium companies, will encourage adoption of more advanced technology in manufacturing which is the key to competitiveness in exports.

f. Regional Trade and Free Trade Agreements: More than 50% of the global trade happens through inter- regional value chains which includes countries from several regions. Unfortunately, India is not a part of such value chains. The late joining of the FTAs, cumbersome customs processes and high logistics cost have contributed to this anomaly. Efficient **trade facilitation** can integrate into the regional value chain and subsequently into the global value chain for pushing the exports.

g. Attract FDI: FDI in exports should be supplemented by concluding FTA/CECA/CEPA with our trade partners.

- It is expected that COVID-19 will hasten the process of early conclusion of India-EU Broad-based. Trade & Investment Agreement (BTIA) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Australia and New Zealand besides bilateral trade agreement with USA.
- India earns only about USD 30 billion through tourism which is a little over 1 per cent of our GDP. Through investment in tourism, we can easily take it to USD 100 billion by 2025.
- To promote growth of accounting and financial services, we should allow FDI in the domestic accounting and auditing sector, introduce a transparent regulatory framework, and ease restrictions on the client base in the accounting and auditing sector.
- For the education sector, foreign universities should be allowed to set up campuses in India, provide easy visa regimes for students and education service providers, remove regulatory bottlenecks, provide recognition to online degrees and set up appropriate evaluation techniques for online courses.

The Way forward

- Exports have to be treated as a 'National Priority' and all stakeholders need to be on the same page to facilitate exports.
- An institutional set-up to address the problems and challenges faced by exports in the shortest time frame possible is the need of the hour. A three-tier structure with the district, state and central level working on an electronic platform would be ideal and the officers attending such meetings should be empowered to take quick decisions.

B. On Growth of Industries

- The production of intermediate and finished goods in heavy industries should be prioritised
- Only a limited and targeted import-substitution policy combined with aggressive export promotion can make Atmanirbhar Bharat a \$5-trillion economy
- Review the LDR and consider removing it from our anti-dumping law.
- Develop a robust research and development-backed industrial ecosystem, with technical institutions, MSMEs and the capital goods sector forming its lead players, and powered by quick decision-making as well as government policies that are appropriate to manage such global disaster.
- Technical institutions can develop exhaustive online marketplace applications, which can facilitate the establishing of connections between demand and supply points, provide information updates regarding the finances available, government and banking notices, market situation, and latest technologies, thus creating an economic model.
- For sectors where domestic capability is limited or cannot be scaled up, we should endeavor to forge strategic alliances with countries in the form of comprehensive bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) keeping in mind complementarity of trade flows.

C. Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs

The MSME sector is the most vibrant and dynamic industrial sector contributing about 40 per cent to the GDP and significantly to the exports of the country. Multiple government policies and decisions emphasize that the MSME sector will act as the bedrock for economic revival.

- The idea behind 'Make in India' is about decentralised localism that takes pride in indigenous brands, emphasises resilience and adaptability, and encourages local capacity-building and employability. This will encourage the idea of making in India for the MSME industry and help amplify their presence across sectors.
- Second largest to agriculture with high employment and contribution in terms of foreign exchange earnings, the sector has established its significance in the macroeconomic value chain.
- Estimates indicate that a third of the Chinese imports comprise of low-tech goods that were earlier made by Indians, or are still being made locally but in smaller quantities due to higher costs leading to decrease in demand. With the current push for 'Make in India', MSMEs can utilize the economies of scale and place these products at competitive costs thus increasing the demand for locally produced goods. Efforts in this direction will prove to be a fillip for the hundreds of small and medium firms, which have suffered due to a decrease in demand.

The steps ahead

- In order to make India self-reliant, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and industries have to be made import-substituting, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous entities.
- The private sector should think more about tribals, villagers, farmers and other marginalised sections while talking about growth.
- MSME sector has created approximately 110 million jobs across the country. However, the problems remain in the listing of the MSMEs.
- By technology upgradation, India can also look for new export avenues in MSME sector. This will help grow a large number of ancillary units.
- The country should aim to shift the population from big cities to newer smart cities and smart villages by creating livelihood opportunities there.

The government has recently expanded the MSME umbrella and industry with investment value upto `50 crore and turnover upto Rs 250 crore has been covered in the new definition of MSME. Also, the manufacturing and service sectors under MSME have been brought together by giving similar definitions to both.

Revisions in the MSME Definition

- **Micro** - Investment in P&M/Equipment not more than Rs. 1 crore & Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 5 Crore
- **Small** - Investment in P&M/Equipment not more than Rs. 10 crore & Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 50 Crore
- **Medium** - Investment in P&M/Equipment not more than Rs. 50 crore & Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 250 Crore

D. Produce for the Bottom of the Pyramid

Indian firms focus on producing goods and services that cater to the needs of our huge population.

- The **sachet revolution-packaging** of the shampoo, toothpaste etc. in small sachet-represents a brilliant example of **catering to the masses**.
- The business models that Indian firms generate in catering to the **needs of the poor** can enable them to tap into markets in many underdeveloped economies in Asia and Africa.

E. Birth of Social Entrepreneurs

Social entrepreneurs are focused on the delivery of public goods using business approaches. They combine their driving passion for improvement with the practical, innovative and opportunistic traits of the entrepreneur.

Akshay Patra is the world's largest NGO-run school meal program—it reaches 10 million children across five States of India, six-days a week. And they serve freshly cooked meals at Rs. 1.50 per meal. This was achieved through a 'technological Innovation: to prepare meals on large scale in a short time' and a 'logistics innovation-to reach the meals to the schools'.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) was set up to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

- **Atal Tinkering Labs** - at School Level, to create problem-solving mindset across schools,
- **Atal Incubators** at Universities, Institutions, Industry Level to promote creation of a supporting ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs,
- **Atal Community Innovation Centres** to promote the benefits of technology led innovation to the unserved/underserved regions of India
- **Atal New India Challenges** - Product and Service Innovations with National Impact - to create product and service innovations having national socio-economic impact
- **Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)** - To promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME/Start-up sector

This momentum should be built to the point so as to make India the **Innovation Capital** of the world.

3. Making Farmers Self-Reliant

Increasing productivity and output in the agricultural sector would create employment and boost incomes across the economy. Successful agricultural transformation will reduce the pressure arising from urban migration (excessive migration can be very destabilizing). The increase in productivity in agriculture will result in higher incomes, giving rise to multiplier effects and supporting increase in aggregate demand.

Various Areas of Reform and Steps Taken

A. Mitigating Risks, Securing Livelihood

- The Government launched a comprehensive crop insurance scheme in 2016 that provides coverage from pre-sowing to post-harvest against natural non-preventable risks. 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)' is a low premium policy in which farmers are required to pay only 2%, 1.5% for and 5% of the sum insured for kharif, rabi and commercial/horticultural crops respectively. Not only farmers, but tenant farmers and sharecroppers engaged in cultivation of notified crops are eligible for crop insurance policy.
- The Govt. has comprehensively revised the operational guidelines making provision for payment of 12% interest per annum to farmers if claims are not settled within 10 days of prescribed time limit.
- A new provision also envisages add-on coverage for damage by wild animals on pilot basis. The scheme envisages increase in coverage from the existing 23% to 50% of Gross Cropped Area in the country.

B. Increasing Bargaining Power of Farmers

- To address the specific concern of small farmers, the government started organising them into

- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) who have better bargaining power.
- The major impetus was given in the Union Budget 2019-20 by making budgetary provision for formation of 10,000 new FPOs over the next five years.
- FPOs have ensured benefits to the small and marginal farmers through economies of scale, improved market reach, improved access to extension services and reduction in transaction costs. Taking a cue, National Rural Livelihood Mission (under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana) has initiated organising small and marginal women farmers into producer groups to increase market access and value addition of farm produce.

C. Procurement and Support

- Government hiked Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Elaborate and effective arrangements are in place for maximum procurement of produce by government agencies at MSP.
- Taking note of large scale indebtedness of farmers, a unique and innovative Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was launched to provide institutional credit to farmers. It supports small and marginal farmers, share croppers, oral lessees and tenant farmers as well.
- Recently, to expand the beneficiary base of KCC, the Government has waived processing fee, inspection and other service charges for short term crop loans up to Rs. 3 lakhs.
- Interest subvention is also provided on such loans for a period of one year in case of timely repayment. Interest rate of 7% per annum gets reduced to 4% in such cases.
- The facility of KCC was extended to dairy farmer and fishers, and recently under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package' a special drive is launched to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers associated with milk unions and milk producing companies within two months.

D. Trade and Marketing

- eNAM is a unique pan-India electronic trading portal, launched for business and marketing of agricultural commodities in India. This digital initiative aims to existing agricultural mandis on an online platform to realise the vision of 'One Nation, One Market'.
- During COVID-19 lockdown crisis, three new modules of eNAM were launched to facilitate farmers. eNAM enables FPOs to conduct trade of commodities from their own collection centres declared as 'Deemed Market' or 'Sub Market Yards'.
- Another module facilitated warehouses for Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (eNWRs) trading. Logistics module facilitates transportation of commodities from farm to mandis, and from mandis to warehouses or consumption centres.
- Potential related to export of agricultural products remains untapped due to various trade policies. During 2018-19, India could export agri- products worth Rs. 2. 7 lakh crore, whereas imports touched the value of Rs. 1.37 lakh crore.
- The Government has recently initiated a comprehensive 'Agriculture Export Policy' aimed at doubling agricultural exports and integrating Indian farmers and agricultural products with the global value chains.
- To promote and facilitate export of Indian agri-produce at new destinations, it has created agricells in many Indian embassies abroad. Export of all varieties of pulses and edible oils (except mustard oil) has been allowed.
- Import duties have been raised and provision of 'Minimum Import Price' (MIP) was imposed on selected commodities to protect the domestic growers and their livelihood from cheap import of the commodity.

E. Building Infrastructure, Creating Value Chains

- In the recently announced 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package', an agri-infrastructure fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore will provide finance to Primary' Agricultural Co- operative Societies (PACS), FPOs, agripreneurs, agri-startups etc.

- A cluster-based approach in aspirational districts will be promoted to realise the vision of 'Vocal for Local with Global Outreach'.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Rs. 20,000 crore has been allocated; of which Rs. 9,000 crore is exclusively dedicated towards infrastructure development. More valued productions, such as cage culture, seaweed farming, ornamental fisheries, will be supported for increasing income of fishers substantially.
- An Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 15,000 crore is being created to support private investment in dairy processing.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' is already financing and supporting development of mega food parks, integrated cold chains and infrastructure for agro-processing and value addition. With an outlay of Rs. 4,000 crore, herbal cultivation will be promoted for next two years covering an area of 10 lakh hectare.
- Beekeeping will be supported with a fund of Rs. 500 crore for infrastructure development.

In addition to centrally sponsored schemes, various state governments have also launched special welfare schemes for farmers to augment their income. The '**KALIA**' scheme, of Odisha, **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana** of Jharkhand and **Rythu Bandhu** of Telangana are some of the noted schemes that have shown positive impact on income and livelihood of farmers.

There is a need for reforms that can ensure access of farmers to technology that can reduce natural or climatic vagaries that will determine their crop producing capacity. Loans can then be aligned to the repayment capacity of the farmer based on the estimation of crop production. Such measures will reduce the probability of debt, making loan waivers irrelevant.

The greater ambition for a self-reliant economy is to transform the farmer into an agripreneur. India's farmers are bound by the shackles of low productivity, low incomes, lack of access to institutional credit, indebtedness etc. They are reeling under the burden of a fragmented agricultural marketing ecosystem and climatic uncertainties and vagaries of nature. A self-reliant farmer is fundamental to the vision of a self-reliant India.

4. Resilient Health Systems

COVID-19 has shown us how inextricably public health and the economy are linked. Despite the private health sector in India having more ventilators, doctors and hospital beds than the public healthcare sector, it has essentially been public healthcare which — though chronically underfunded and neglected — has been bearing the brunt of the pandemic. The pandemic has demonstrated how the sustainability and resilience of any economy are linked to the strength and equitability of its public health system.

The medical device manufacturing sector has been open to 100 per cent FDI since 2015. Since then, most of the FDI that has come into the country has been to finance imports and trading, build storage and distribution infrastructure, but not to augment domestic manufacturing capabilities. This has allowed international medical equipment manufacturers to reap huge profits by selling their products in the Indian market without making any contribution to the local industrial development.

Even today, close to 80 per cent of the medical equipment used in our country, including in government hospitals, is imported. Though there is some manufacturing capacity in non-electronic medical equipment, over 90 per cent of medical electronic products are imported. From the equipment used for the computed tomography (CT) scan, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound scan, cath lab for heart procedures — like angioplasty, endoscopy, colonoscopy — and radiation therapy and drugs for chemotherapy, to even the knives and scissors used in surgery are all procured from countries like Germany and the US.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers announced a **production linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for the promotion and manufacturing of pharmaceutical raw materials in India.

- The government's move is aimed to boost domestic manufacturing and cut dependence on imports of critical Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).
- Further, the government has also decided to develop three mega bulk drug parks in partnership with states. These schemes will likely appeal more to the smaller players and should foster more investments especially on the Rs 200-500 million investment thresholds.
- While India supplied doses of Hydroxychloroquine to the world and secured the trust of many countries, the latest move is likely to give more advantage to India amid disruptions from the Chinese side. India also aims to achieve self-reliance in ensuring the uninterrupted supply of drugs and affordable healthcare to its citizens.

So far, India depends heavily on imports to fulfill its domestic drug requirements. Around 70 per cent of the drug requirements are met by imports. To cut this large-scale import, the government has decided to support the manufacturers for six years in the case of fermentation-based products and five years for chemically synthesised products. However, the scheme is only applicable to greenfield projects and will be for the registered eligible manufacturers in India. The total tenure of the scheme will be from FY21 to FY30 with an outlay of Rs 6,940 crore.

Promote indigenous research and design

One important way of improving production quality would be to promote indigenous research and design. Especially in the case of medical research, indigenous research is important because it can help us develop medical technologies which are adapted to local problems in healthcare and relevant to local populations. Currently, medical research in India is severely neglected. According to a study analysing research output from 579 Indian medical institutions and hospitals between 2005 and 2014, only 25 (4.3 per cent) of the institutions produced more than 100 papers a year.

Global collaboration matters

India needs to create a conducive policy environment to ensure that global innovations come to its shores and reach its people. Moreover, at a time when the world is looking at India as the next big manufacturing hub, the government should look at global partnerships to bolster its stance.

Introduction of Evin

To enhance the quality of vaccines and supply chain, the Government effectively introduced the indigenously developed eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network). It seeks to ensure supply of vaccines and cold chain maintenance through technological solutions. The initiative has been successful in saving 90 million vaccine doses with the adherence rate of 99% in maintaining the vaccine supply and temperature norms, thereby improving the coverage and quality of vaccination program in India. eVIN has been successfully piloted by countries like Indonesia, Sudan and Malawi.

5. Digital Defence against COVID-19

Recognising digital technology's far-reaching impact, WHO in 2019, released recommendations for countries to use digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and delivery of essential services

A. Using Social Media

Social media has become a game changer in the way federal, regional, and local government agencies are engaging, interacting, and communicating with citizens. Especially for amplifying social media's reach and impact even in the rural hinterlands of the country.

- Crisis / Disaster Management: To reach out to citizens during such crisis. Two recent examples bear out this trend – Cyclone alert from the NDMA on India's eastern coasts (in

the state of Odisha) and an advisory from PIB to citizens for the lockdown imposed due to COVID-19.

- Citizen Engagement - MyGov platform
- Citizen Grievances & Support - It acts as a real-time channel for citizen grievances and support
- Law & Order - Police can use social media to alert citizens about circulating rumours and maintaining law & order
- Hiring & Recruitment - Some government agencies are using social media hiring channels for attracting best-in-class talent for their job vacancies
- Foreign Relations - Governments are using social media channels effectively to engage with their foreign counterparts.
- Business & Industry Relations - Businesses play a key role in driving social media's impact by contributing significantly to the internet economy via advertising, paid services etc. Many monetisation models on the internet rely on enterprises, B2B and large corporations with large advertising and marketing budgets, which contributes to the nation's economy.
- Live Traffic Updates - Real time traffic updates and advisories get regularly shared in the metropolitan cities via the local Traffic Police social media accounts
- Crowdsourcing Ideas & Innovation – Through crowdsourcing, one gets to tap into the collective “wisdom of the crowds”

B. Digital Platforms setup by Government during COVID19

During COVID-19 pandemic, Indian government used digital technology for providing timely information, direct money transfer to the poor etc.

- **Aarogya Setu App** enables people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the coronavirus infection
- **WhatsApp chatbot** so that the citizens can get instant and authentic answers to all of their queries related to the Coronavirus pandemic
- **Corona Kavach** is a COVID-19 tracker application, provides users with real-time location of infected users who have activated the 'Kavach' feature.
- **SAMPRAC** to enable tracking people under quarantine. The system enables geofencing, AI-based automated face recognition. It has the capability to display the information to the state officials on a map which can be colour coded to depict hotspots and containment zones.
- **Usage of JAN Trinity for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** has been crucial in implementing PM Garib Kalyan Yojana that was rolled out to provide relief to the poor and vulnerable amid the COVID-19 crisis.
 - 6.93 crore farmers were benefited through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to help farmers tide over the COVID-19 crisis. Under the scheme, the government transfers Rs. 2,000 cash directly to the farmers' bank accounts through DBT.
 - Rs. 1,400 crore disbursed to about 2.82 crore old age person, widow and disabled people under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).
 - 2.16 crore construction workers received financial support from the Building and Construction Workers' Fund managed by state governments.
 - The government is providing free LPG refills for the next three months to over 8.3 crore poor women under the Ujjawala scheme and Rs. 50 lakh insurance cover for healthcare workers.

JAM trinity enabled the Indian government to make payments more effectively and inclusively. The center has created a JAM Index based on **Findex data** to rank countries on

their use of ID systems, mobile phones, and financial accounts, to effectively make government payments. India and Kenya are two top ranking countries in this index.

- Provided a boost to the DBT programme and expanded its coverage from partial to ubiquitous.
- By eliminating the need for middlemen, JAM has helped minimise avenues of corruption, irregularities and pilferages.
- Promoted the ease of doing business
- Given the need for physical distancing to curtail the spread of COVID-19, JAM is promoting online transactions among the beneficiaries, instead of physical visits to the banks.
- In the longer run, JAM will make the rural population get acquainted with the concept of 'saving' thus contributing to the GDP of the country as a whole.
- **SAHYOG** is an e-platform that collects geotagged information on the nation's critical infrastructure. It works as a key tool in helping community workers carry out the government's objectives of door-to-door, surveys, contact tracing, deliveries of essentials items and to create focused public awareness campaigns.

C. Open-sourced Analytics and Modelling Tools

- Rapid data sharing is critical during epidemics and pandemics as it allows for a better understanding of the origins and spread of the infection.
- The placement of the first genome of the 2019-nCoV virus in an open database on 8th January 2020, paved the way for scientists around the world to start working on the development of a treatment or vaccine.
- Open-source technologies can help in improving accessibility of information, formulating open standards that enable all stakeholders to contribute and developing rapid prototypes that can lead to rapid discoveries.

D. Tele-health Technologies

- Telehealth technologies allow patients to be seen and diagnosed remotely by doctors. Scores of countries are now providing virtual care on a war footing.
- Sheba Medical Centre, the largest hospital in Israel, launched a remote patient-monitoring program in an attempt to control the spread of the virus.
- E-Sanjeevani is the Indian teleconsultation service launched by MoHFW during this pandemic.

E. GIS and Smart City's Integrated Control and Command Center (ICCC)

- Geographic interpretation and insight are essential in detecting, understanding and responding to the pandemic.
- GIS helps epidemiologists to map disease occurrence against multiple parameters including demographics, environment, its spread pattern etc. to implement preventive and surveillance measures.
- WHO unveiled its ArcGIS Operations Dashboard for COVID-19, which maps coronavirus cases and total number of deaths by country and other related informations.
- In India too, GIS has been extensively deployed to fight the pandemic. A GIS platform has been developed by an eminent team of researchers in IIT Chennai and integrated with Aarogya Setu to provide extremely important information about the spread of coronavirus.

F. 3D Printing

- 3D printing can play an important role as a disruptive digital manufacturing technology by boosting production and optimising the supply of specialised and critical medical equipments to treat COVID-19 patients.

- HP India responded to the critical need of making ventilators available in large numbers by getting over 1.2 lakh key ventilator parts printed in a short span of time

6. Technology and Learning

Due to COVID-19, millions of students have been driven out of university campuses and the faculty is confined to their homes. This has forced the teaching community to look for alternatives to maintain the continuity in the teaching learning process. Online platforms provide such alternative.

- Best teachers cannot always reach grassroots, digital content can. Online education can help reduce inequality in the “Quality” of faculty and education. By removing the nuisance of unnecessary overheads and administration and by bringing the best faculty in direct contact with the students through online learning can do wonders for motivation of both, the faculty and student.
- Access to online classes and digital media will provide room to students to develop self-motivation and become independent
- With a multi-channel approach to combat these issues, now TV channels can run educational content for classes 1 to 12. This will be supplemented by radio and podcasts. With this, the grassroots network of government schools should be viewed more as ‘learning zones’ rather than ‘training institutions’. Edtech companies can chip in by customising the content to the local context.
- Access to the best digital content for all, as well as the room for creativity and innovation will help our future citizens to think, analyze and get clarity about what is right and wrong for themselves, for society as well as future of our nation. Faculty will get more time to do research, as administrative work will get reduced.

The Way Forward

- Given the huge gap in access to ICT infrastructure in the country, any technology mediated solutions must first seek to bridge the digital divide. The draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 identifies a few important concerns related to technology integration in education in the country. One such concern is the availability of the local expertise in resolving and maintaining hardware and software at remote locations.
- It recommends deploying local talents for managing technological issues in schools. In this way, technology use in education has ramifications for the employment at the local level too.

SOCIAL SECURITY IN INDIA

Key facts:

- Even 73 years after Independence, only 9.3% of India's 466 million-strong workforce has social security.
- This means the remaining 90.7% still cannot aspire to protections that civil servants, employees of most registered private sector enterprises, banks and public sector employees, legislators and judges take for granted.
- No other G20 country has such a high share of informal workers.

Social Security Code by Parliamentary Committee on Labour

- Recommended the eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment should be reduced to one year from the present provision of five years.
 - Also recommended that this facility be extended to all kinds of employees, including contract labourers, seasonal workers, piece rate workers, fixed term employees and daily/monthly wage workers.
 - Stressed that there should be a robust redressal mechanism in case an employer does not pay up the dues.
 - Highlighted that the draft social security code does not state any goal of providing social security to all its citizens.
 - Recommended that the Social Security Code should have provisions to hold the employer liable for payment of gratuity to the employees within a stipulated time frame.
-

1. Indian Migrants

- Calls for the creation of safety nets
- Functional role to be assigned to social security. When an unexpected shock hits an economic agent, (s)he falls back on social security. Such security is meant to ease and cushion against unexpected frictions created in the normal course of events.
- Labour reforms should emphasise flexibility on the one hand but on the other hand also pitch for more stringent norms for safety and working conditions.
- Technical institutions can study the skill sets of the returning migrant labourers and propose solutions to state governments for creating employment avenues, and the mapping of skills of migrant workers along with their skill development training requirements.
- States that have suffered a poor industrial growth for long and hence have had a high outflow of migrants can now look at return of migrants as a reclaimed human capital - by planting the seeds of their on-the-job skills learnt in the urban sector into their home states. There is a possibility of building clusters of new MSMEs or units based on co-operatives using the skill and experience of the return-migrants. Besides creating gainful employment, States may have to work on improving infrastructure, building industrial estates, for setting up new MSMEs, etc.

Case Study of Bihar

- According to recent statistics from the Bihar State Disaster Management Department, the state received more than 1.5 million returnees in the state's quarantine centres.
- In the short-term, the state wants to recruit manpower for waged labour for existing social development schemes.
- In the longer term, the state wants to lay down an ecosystem that supports establishing large and decentralized industrial opportunities within the states.

Strategies employed by Bihar Government

The Government of Bihar employed a two-pronged strategy to leverage this suddenly available manpower towards developing the state.

1. Map skillsets of all incoming migrants - to understand what supply exists to meet demands, and estimate employment needs.

2. Develop comprehensive district employment plan - which would include details of both wage employment and self-employment both under the State Rural Livelihood Mission and other development projects. It is also seeking to entice industries to set up in Bihar by providing concessions and promotions under its new Industrial Investment Promotion Policy.

3. Engaging Migrants Labour in Existing Developmental Activities - Jal Jeevan Hariyali (JJH) programme envisions a disaster-resilient Bihar by investing in environment sustainability through afforestation, to revival of water bodies, and rainwater harvesting.

- **Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan** (LSBA) has potential of providing opportunities for employment of skilled labourers.
- The Government of Bihar is implementing the ambitious scheme- **Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal** – under the national umbrella of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), in order to provide functional household tap connections to all households in the state. These village and town level schemes require trained plumbers and mechanics available to keep them functional.
- The state government's flagship programme, **Jeevika**, the state's rural livelihood mission, has a membership of more than 10 million households.
- After the migrants' skills are mapped, **bridge training** is organised at quarantine centres and their services are being utilised in various development initiatives. For example, trainings on poultry and goat rearing, have been initiated in Purnea.
- Trained or already skilled migrants have already been deployed to support work under the MNRGS, for JJHM and LSBY.

4. Development of Industrial Clusters

- As part of the 2016 policy to develop local and sustained industries, the state identified four high priority sectors with potential for significant gainful employment: Food Processing, Leather, Textile, IT, ITeS, and Electronics System Design and Manufacturing.
- There is already a pool of supply as some returning migrants had been previously employed by export houses in other states dealing in textile and leather.
- The Bihar government is working to connect them with initial capital sourced from scheme such as Mudra Yojana, and provide them with better transportation access so that they can connect their products from anywhere in the state to the bigger consumer pools in cities.
- Bihar having lower overhead costs and cost of living can potentially offset the cost of starting business in the state.

2. Provision of Basic Minimum Income

Basic minimum income is a theoretical governmental public program for a periodic payment delivered to all citizens of a given population without a means test or work requirement. The Covid-19 crisis has come unannounced and disrupted the daily lives of people. The economic fallout of the pandemic has led to widespread job losses and pay cuts, and countless might be finding it challenging to get a new job with better or even similar perks during this lockdown.

Noted French journalist Thomas Piketty expressed need of basic minimum income scheme to make lockdown work. Idea of universal basic income was mooted in economic survey of 2016-17; however India needs targeted basic income scheme.

Benefits of providing Basic minimum income:

- **Administrative Efficiency:** In place of plethora of separate Government schemes, Basic minimum income will reduce the administrative burden on the state.

- **Psychological Benefits:** Guaranteed income reduces pressure of finding a basic living on a daily basis.
- **Better Targeting of Poor:** As all individual are targeted under Basic minimum income, Exclusion error i.e. poor being left out is Zero though Inclusion error i.e. rich gaining the access is 60%. e.g. India's Aadhar coverage stands at 99% i.e. nearly 111 crore people, so combining this with JAM trinity scheme will reap immense benefits.
- **Improvement in financial inclusion:** Payment transfer encourages usage of bank account leading to higher profits for banking correspondents.
- **Credit & Insurance:** Increase in income will release the constraints on access to credit for those with low income. Guaranteed income will provide Safety net against health income and other shocks.

However, the idea of basic minimum income is not whole proof due to following reasons:

- Some worry that the free cash would encourage poor people to increase their spending on 'sin' goods like alcohol and tobacco.
- Money for nothing: The concern about a citizen's income is that people will get money without doing anything. It may encourage people to be lazy and live off benefits.
- Disincentive to work: Some fear that if universal income is given, some will work less. Studies are mixed, but one study from Canada found that as universal credit is relatively low, the main groups who worked less were young mothers and teenagers in education.
- Less flexible labour markets: The basic minimum may mean part-time workers, such as working mothers and students don't need to supplement income by working part-time, reducing the flow of temporary part-time workers. Others argue this is not a problem as we should try to avoid a part-time, zero-hour contract labour market.

3. Reasons behind inefficiency of Social Security Schemes

Lack of Data causing the inclusion-exclusion error: Most of these initiatives depend on an eight years old database based on 2011 numbers_ the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) _ in an economy which is transforming fast, and where some people have climbed up the income ladder while others have fallen down.

The multiplicity of schemes: many schemes are designed for the same purpose. Ex. Multiple pension and insurance schemes

Hectic and cumbersome process: to get the benefits of schemes. Ex. The complexity of Documentation, Red tapism, etc.

Improper monitoring of schemes and absence of feedback system leads to lack of accountability of implementing officer

Misalignment of incentives: Low incentive for officers to implement the scheme in its full potential. Ex. AASHA worker getting less salary

Budget constraints and limited resources of states: states are not able to implement such a large number of centrally sponsored schemes. Leverages: in the system. Ex. PDS leakages

Nexus: of politicians and private companies. Ex. Pharmaceuticals companies don't want generic medicines to be sold by the government under PM-Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna.

Delay: by private companies in PPP model schemes. Ex. Insurance companies not clearing claims of farmers under PM- Fasal Bima Yojna.

Lack of awareness among people: Government fails in creating an aware atmosphere where people know what the government is doing for them. Illiteracy also causes hindrance in awareness.

The Way Forward – to make these schemes work

- There is a need to rationalize existing welfare schemes. Schemes should be merged with larger sectoral schemes.
- SECC-type exercise needs to be repeated at frequent intervals to ensure that it matches current reality.
- Use of JAM (Jandhan, Aadhar, Mobile) Trinity for better targeting and Direct benefit transfer.
- Schemes can be tailor-made as per the local conditions as customized policies may work better than homogenous ones in some states
- Need for better coordination among the centre and state governments.
- Need for better coordination among private entities, community, civil society, NGOs and government in designing a public policy in order to improve the transparency, quality and effectiveness of a scheme.
- Need for awareness to the last beneficiary using newspaper, radio, TV, Mobile, Posters, Nukkad Natak, NGO etc
- Incentive-based approach to incentivize the implementing officer.
- The government must employ advanced-monitoring and performance-evaluation techniques to track the progress of schemes and ensure that all relevant data regarding their implementation is available in the public domain.
- The integration of technology-enabled data-collection systems with an online database for timely and accurate updates on program developments.
- Audit by third-party agencies enabling relative neutrality in performance evaluation.
- A universal basic income is a powerful idea which must be implemented.

Social security numbers for Migrants

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has recommended that the government introduce a social security number for migrant workers (especially those in unorganised sectors who are beyond the purview of labour laws).
- Government should set up a website to register migrant workers.

Benefits:

- Social security numbers can avert difficult situations which the Migrants faced during the lockdown.
- A social security number will help in mapping the number of migrant workers and their migration patterns.

4. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

A demand-driven social security measure that provides a minimum of 100 days of unskilled work per household in a financial year. It is hailed as world's largest anti-poverty program based on

- Asset creation
- Social security
- Social inclusion
- Gender parity
- Equitable growth

Effectiveness of the MGNREGA as a poverty alleviation programme

- **Increased rural wages** – The average wage per person-day has gone up by 81 per cent since the Scheme's inception, with state-level variations.

- **Reduced distress migration** – On an average, 5 crore households have been provided employment every year since 2008.
- **Successful in its targeting**
- **Risk mitigation mechanism** – non-normative rainfall during the agricultural season leads to higher overall participation in NREGS
- **Agriculture**
 - Usage of barren areas for cultivation
 - creation of assets on lands of small and marginal farmers
 - Aided small and marginal farmers in moving to dual and multi-cropping.
 - MGNREGS has contributed to improved or sustained groundwater levels, increased water availability for irrigation, increased irrigated area and finally, improved drinking water availability for humans and livestock.
- **Empowerment of the weaker sections** – As per a NSSO report
 - Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) have accounted for 51 per cent of the total person-days generated.
 - Women for 47 per cent, well above the mandatory 33 per cent as required by the Act.
 - FRA beneficiaries are entitled to 150 days of employment. In states like Rajasthan, communities like the Sahriyas have been given an entitlement of 200 days
 - **Financial inclusion** – Payments under the scheme are by way of Direct Benefit Transfers.
- **Human Development Indicator** –
 - Improvement in food security and nutrition.
 - Availability and work by adult household members in MGNREGS inversely affects child labour and positively impacts children's schooling.
- Areas with low consumption expenditure have higher MGNREGS demand as compared to areas with higher consumption expenditure.
- After ALP, women, SC and ST workforce increased under MGNREGS during times of economic distress.

Limitation of the MGNREGA as a poverty alleviation programme

- **Delay in payments** – less than a third of the payments were made on time.
- While women's participation rates in MGNREGA are satisfactory, **women are excluded from planning.**
- **Grievance redress** and having an ombudsperson remain a challenge for the administration.
- While, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Sikkim have been able to institutionalize **social audits**, the other states are fast catching up.
- A study by **National Council of Applied Economic Research**, found that implementation is linked with local administration.
- **Up-skilling the MGNREGS Workers and accelerated upliftment from poverty is not happening.** Convergence with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), involvement of SHGs is not taking place.
- Micro financial benefits like micro credit, micro insurance, using the JAM trinity has not been planned yet.

5. Vocation Training – A must today

Vocational Education can be defined as the education that is based on occupation and employment. Vocational Education is also known as career and technical education (CTE) or technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The nodal agency for granting the recognition to the I.T.I. is NCVT, which is under the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India.

Objectives of vocational training

- Enhance the employability of youth through demand driven competency based modular vocational courses.
- Maintain their competitiveness through provisions of multi-entry multi-exit learning opportunities and vertical mobility/ interchangeability in qualifications.
- Fill the gap between educated and employable.
- Reduce the dropout rate at the secondary level.

The need

- Demographic Dividend: India has 65% of its youth in the working age group. Efficient utilization of these population would promote saving and investment rate
- Meet employer need of skills: The latest India skill Report indicates that only about 47% coming out of educational institutions are employable.
- A useful vocational education in agriculture, coupled with access to the formal economy for finance and marketing, could raise the quality of life. AGRI-UDAAN programme to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture is a step in the right direction.
- Prepare workers for a decent livelihood: this improves India's ranking in HDI
- Low-skilled and repetitive jobs are bound to be eliminated by robots and artificial intelligence under the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This scenario is forcing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions to evolve continuously and sustainably to remain relevant in the future. World class productivity and quality
- For Make in India –Big opportunity for MNCs to come to India
- Export of skilled workforce to aging developing countries
- The study titled 'Global Talent Crunch' highlighted that India would have a talent surplus of around 245.3 million workers by 2030 at a time when the Asia-Pacific region itself would face a talent deficit of 47 million workers.

All the best 😊
Team IASbaba



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IASBABA'S ILP Student**



DIVYA SHAKTI
Rank: AIR 79 in UPSC-2019
IASbaba's ILP Student

I was a part of IAS Baba's ILP programme. When I started my preparation of GS on my own, it got a little overwhelming. That's when ILP's weekly plan helped me organise my preparation. I would like to take this moment to particularly thank the Babapedia initiative which was my main go to source for all prelims related current affairs.

Thank you IASBaba.

Divya Shakti
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SARJANA YADAV
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Thanks and regards ,
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Date: Fri, 7 Aug 2020 at 11:10 AM
Subject:
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Sir

My name is Yashpratap Shrimal I have secured AIR 192 in the civil services exam 2019. I want to thank the entire team of IAS Baba for their valuable role in my success. I have followed tip and 60 day plan for prelims since 2016 attempt and I have never looked at anything else since then. In my 2015 mains I scored just 332 in G's mains and in 2016 mains after following tip schedule I scored 425 in 2016 mains and my score in GS has never fell below 420 in the subsequent attempts. My prelims score has consistently been on upwards of 125 due to the 60 day plan. Sir the entire team of IAS Baba has made my success in this exam entirely possible. I hope to meet you sometime soon in person to convey my gratitude to you. Thank you very much 🙏 and I pray for your continued efforts and success in the future endeavors

Thank you 🙏
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