

**Yojana Summary July'2018****AFFORDABLE HOUSING: FUTURE OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Affordable Housing for All, was launched with a vision that by 2022 every family will have a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and access.
- The Mission was divided into two parts – PMAY (Gramin), which came under the ambit of the Ministry of Rural Development, and the PMAY (Urban), which fell under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' domain.
- The target for PMAY (Urban), launched in June 2015, is to build approximately 1.2 crore affordable homes in urban centres by the year 2022. In the four years of the present government, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has already sanctioned the construction of over 47.5 lakh affordable homes, and over 8 lakh homes have been completed and handed over to the respective beneficiaries.
- Today, while agriculture continues to employ over 40 per cent of India's workforce, its contribution to India's Gross Value Added has fallen to 16.4 per cent. On the other hand, the contribution of services has significantly increased. It is estimated that by 2030, almost 600 million Indians or 40 per cent of India's population will live in Indian cities.
- Elements of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), titled "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", were incorporated by India in its development efforts. While the SDGs seek to achieve their objectives by 2030, PMAY (U) looks to ensure each Indian has a home by 2022.
- Under PMAY (U), an affordable house goes beyond the construction of four walls using bricks and cement. A PMAY (U) home, must have a functioning toilet, an electricity connection, a tapped water connection, and door-to-door waste collection, Most importantly, the title of a PMAY (U) home can be registered under the lady of the house, or co-jointly.

**Few Data:**

- The government estimated the total urban housing shortage at 18.78 million units in the 12th year plan.
- Within these 18.78 million units, the housing shortage amongst the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Lower Income Group (LIG) is extraordinarily high with a 96 percent share of the total shortage.
- Also, the rural housing shortage is estimated at 43.67 million, of which more than 90 per cent households are below the poverty line.

**PMAY (U) Implementation**

- The implementation of PMAY (U) is undertaken through four verticals- in-situ slum redevelopment; Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP); Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) and Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC).
- Through these vertical, the Mission covers the entire canvas of affordable housing – from the slum dweller living in the most inhumane conditions; to those belonging to the economically weaker sections and middle income groups who need affordable banking finance; and to those who own a piece of land, but require additional funding to build

their house. More importantly, by offering a bouquet of options to choose from, the PMAY (U) makes a significant departure from previous top-down models.

- PMAY (U) is one of several flagship programmes, which is anchored in, and thriving under, the cooperative federalism model - in earlier housing schemes, the state governments needed the federal government to approve their projects. Under PMAY(U), the state governments themselves accord these approvals, with only minor suggestions, if any, made at the central level.

#### **Four components of PMAY (U)**

##### **A-In-situ slum redevelopment (ISSR):**

- This uses land as a resource. The scheme aims to provide houses to eligible slum dwellers by redeveloping the existing slums on public/private land.

##### **B-Affordable housing in partnership (AHP):**

- This aims to provide financial assistance to private developers to boost private participation in affordable housing projects.

##### **C-Credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS):**

- This scheme facilitates easy institutional credit to EWS, LIG and MIG households for the purchase of homes with interest subsidy credited upfront to the borrower's account routed through primary lending institutions (PLIs).

##### **D-Beneficiary-led construction or enhancement (BLC):**

- This scheme involves central assistance of INR 1.5 lakh per family for new construction or extension of existing houses for the EWS/LIG.
- This scheme is converged with other schemes to ensure houses have a toilet, Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana LPG gas connection, access to drinking water and Jan Dhan banking facilities, etc.

#### **Government as Catalyst**

- The central government has chosen to play the role of a catalyst in the budget for 2018-18, affordable housing was given infrastructure status and the budget for 2018-19 institutionalized an Affordable Housing Fund under the National Housing Bank, to boost financing in the sector.
- The Budget 2017 – 2018 has lowered the holding period for gains to qualify as long-term in the case of immovable property to two years from three years currently. This will significantly reduce the tax burden of people selling properties after two years and promote investment in the real estate sector.
- Section 80-IBA of the Income Tax now provides for 100 per cent deduction of profits for Affordable Housing Projects, to encourage private participation in the mission.

### **Regulatory Framework**

- To put an end to the culture of impunity, the government enacted the Real Estate (Regulated and Deregulation) Act 2016, or RERA. RERA institutionalized a regulator for the real estate sector.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which bars willful defaulters from submitting a resolution plan, and which puts the home-buyer alongside financial creditors, has given a further fillip to weed out corrupt actors in the sector.,

### **Conclusion**

- Estimate suggest, for India to meet its urban demand, the country will have to build 700 to 900 million square meters of residential and commercial space every year, till 2030.
- The PMAY (U) epitomizes the seismic shifts taking place in our urban centres. The success of the Indian model of affordable housing will define the future of urban development the world over, both in theory and practice.



## Universal Village Electrification in 1000 Days: The Journey

- The government, in 2015, had announced that the remaining 18500 odd un-electrified villages in the country would be electrified within the next 1000 days.
- For this an integrated scheme, covering all aspects of power distribution in rural areas was conceptualized and launched by the Government of India for rural areas namely, “Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana” (DDUGJY).
- The scheme envisages (i) electrification of un-electrified villages, (ii) intensive electrification of already electrified villages to provide access to households, (iii) strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure to improve quality and reliability of power supply, (iv) feeder separation of provide assured power supply to farmers and (v) metering of feeders, distribution transformers and consumers to facilitate energy audit and reduction of losses.

Planning and Strategies for the implementation of this scheme includes:

- Proper identification of villages with Census 2011 Code.
- Solar PV based off-grid solutions for remote/inaccessible villages.
- Standard Bidding Documents and e-tender were focused on
- Innovative Financing - In addition to the budgetary support, Ministry of Finance also allowed Ministry of Power to raise money from the market, through financial institutions like PFC and REC, so that adequate fund is available with states for execution of the work.
- Flexibility to States for execution of works
- Handholding States/Discoms: Necessary help was provided to the states/discom whenever required. In order to strengthen and augment capacities of the State DISCOMS/Power Deptt. REC appointed Gram Vidyut Abhiyanta at block/district level to assist them in monitoring and expeditious implementation of the program.
- Milestone based monitoring: The entire process of village electrification was divided in 12 steps/milestone with stipulated timelines for monitoring and capturing progress.
- Transparency and accountability: To ensure transparency and dissemination of information to public at large with regard to process and progress on electrification of these villages, mobile App “Garv” was launched.
- Regular review and monitoring

### **Implementation Challenges and Remedial Measures**

- It is worthwhile to mention that most of these remaining villages were located in remote and inaccessible areas with difficult hilly terrain, deep forest, Left Wing Extremism affected areas.
- The difficulty level further enhanced as the States moved further. The major challenges involved were as under::
- **Inaccessibility and non-feasibility of conventional Grid system**
- **Difficult hilly terrain**
- **Head loading of materials over 1-10 days**
- **Material transportation by choppers**
- **Areas affected with Left Wing Extremism (LWE)**
- **Forest clearance**
- **Railway clearance**

Conclusion:

- Thus with the support of States, Discoms, contractors, Vendors, equipment manufacturers and people of the states, completion of the target well before the deadline of 1000 days became feasible.
- Its next target is to electrify all the households in the country. For this it has launched 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' – Saubgaya to provide last mile connectivity and service connections to all remaining households in both rural and urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.



## **Meeting the Energy Needs of the Future**

- India is on its way to achieving the 175 GW target for installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2022.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken several steps for a clean energy future by taking up the largest renewable capacity expansion programme in the world.
- Till March 2018, a capacity addition of 37.33 GW of renewable energy has been reported during the last four years (May 2014-March 2018) with a total of 69 GW (20 per cent) renewable energy installed capacity.
- In order to achieve the renewable energy target of 175 GW by the year 2022, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched schemes on development of wind-solar hybrid power projects, onshore wind power project, onshore wind power projects, biomass power and bagasse cogeneration, biomass gasifier for industries, scheme for development of solar parks and ultra-mega solar power projects, grid connected solar PV power plants on canal banks and canal tops and biogas based grid power generation programme.
- Among all, the National Solar Mission is the most ambitious program which aims to promote solar energy for power generation.
- Historic low tariffs for solar (Rs. 2.44/ units) and wind (Rs. 2.64/ unit) were achieved through transparent bidding and facilitation giving a big push to the renewable sector.
- The Government of India is promoting renewable energy by generation-based incentives (GBIs), capital and interest subsidies, viability gap funding, concessional finance, fiscal incentives etc. for providing financial support to various schemes.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken various special steps in addition to financially support this sector. These include amendments to the Electricity Act and tariff policy for strong enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and for providing Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO), evacuation of renewable power through green energy corridor project, incorporating measures in Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) for encouraging distribution companies and making net-metering compulsory and raising funds from bilateral and international donors as also the Green Climate Fund to achieve the target.

### **Major Initiatives**

#### **Solar Power**

- Capacity of the schemes for 'Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects' has been enhanced from 20 GW to 40 GW.
- Mandatory provision of roof top solar for new construction or higher floor area ratio and making roof top solar as a part of housing loan by banks/ NHB.
- Raising tax free solar bonds
- Surya-Mitra programme has been launched for creation of a qualified technical workforce.

#### **Wind Power**

- In terms of wind power installed capacity, India is globally placed at 4<sup>th</sup> position after China, USA and Germany.
- The wind power potential of the country has been estimated to be 302 GW at 100-meter hub-height.

- The cabinet has cleared the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy.
- National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has signed MoU with Gujarat and Rajasthan based on wind forecasting experience of Tamil Nadu.

### **Bioenergy**

- Central financial assistance for biomass power projects includes installations from biomass installations from biomass combustion, biomass gasification and bagasse co-generation.
- Family Size Biogas Plants mainly for rural and semi-urban households are set up under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP).

### **Amendments in Tariff Policy**

- Enhancement in solar renewable purchase obligation to 8 per cent by March 2022.
- Bundling of renewable power for ensuring affordable renewable electricity.
- Waving off inter-state transmission charges for solar and wind power.

### **Green Energy Corridor**

- Intra-State Transmission System is being implemented by eight renewable rich States (Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) with a purpose is to evacuate approx. 20,000 MW of large scale renewable power.

### **Other Initiatives**

- Formation of International Solar Alliance (ISA) which became a legal entity in December 2017.
- FDI up to 100 per cent is permitted under the automatic route for renewable energy generation and distribution projects subject to provisions of the Electricity Act 2003.

### **Involving Youth in Community Welfare**

- Youth has been defined in the National Youth Policy, 2014, as a person in the age group of 15 to 29 years.
- The National Youth Policy, 2014 identifies the objectives and the Priority Areas for youth. These are:

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development	Education
	Employment and Skill Development
	Entrepreneurship
2. Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on	Health and Healthy

future challenges	Lifestyle
	Sports
3. Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership	Promotion of Social Values
	Community Engagement
4. Facilitate participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance	Participation in politics and governance
5. Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged & marginalized youth	Inclusion
	Social Justice

- Community engagement indeed transverse through a diverse arena of activities as the activities undertaken by NSS and NYKS demonstrate.
- Department of Youth Affairs has two main organizations under it, namely Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National service Scheme (NSS), which help organize community engagement of the youth, on voluntary basis. And this is essential based on enhancing the sense of volunteerism among the youth.

#### **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)**

- NYKS, launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organization in the world.
- The objective is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

**Out of a number of activities, a few ones are briefly indicated below:**

- 1) Training on Youth Leadership and Community Development**
- 2) Youth Convention and Yuva Kriti.**
- 3) Yuva Aadarsh Gram Vikas Karyakram:** The Programme aims at developing one village in selected Districts as a model village by the youth for the youth.
- 4) Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP):** The Programme is organized every year with funding from the Ministry of Home Affairs. In this Programme, tribal youth drawn from areas, affected by Left-wing extremist activities are taken to other parts of the country to sensitize them to the rich cultural heritage of the country, to expose them to development activities and to enable them to develop emotional linkage with the people in other parts of the country.
- 5) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (Inter State Youth Exchange Programme):** It was announced on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The main objective of the programme is to celebrate the Unity



in Diversity of our Nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our country.

- 6) Other Activities:** NYKS also takes up various activities in collaboration with other Ministries such as plantations, blood donation camp and enrolment of voluntary blood donors, immunization of mother, observance of International Yoga Day, etc.

**National Service Scheme (NSS)**

- NSS was launched in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS.



### **Farmer's Welfare: Priority with Commitment**

- To improve the condition of farmers, the Prime Minister has given a clarion call to double farmers' income by 2022.
- In pursuance, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare devised a seven-point strategy. Raising production per unit of farm land with effective use of input cost; reduction of post-harvest losses and value additions; reforms in agriculture marketing with security cover on major risks; and a especial focus on promotion of various allied activities (horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, bee keeping, poultry and integrated farming) are the key features of this strategy.

### **Marketing Mantras**

- In the current Union Budget (2018 – 19), the Government took desired step by declaring to keep MSP of all 23 major rabi and kharif crops at least at one and half times of their production cost. However, it is essential to back up this announcement by devising a mechanism that ensures purchase at MSP even if price of the agricultural produce falls below the MSP in open market.
- NITI Aayog has been mandated to develop a mechanism to protect the interest of farmers in such adverse market situations.
- 'Bhavantar Bhugtam Yojana' (Price-deficit financing scheme) launched by Madhya Pradesh Government hedges price risk of eight agricultural commodities in case of market fluctuations.
- Government launched electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) in 2015 with the objective of easing licensing and taxation obstacles and enhance farmers' suppressed returns.
- Recently, the Government took a right step by taking up development and upgradation of 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). These GrAMs, electronically linked to e-NAM, will be exempted from regulations of APMCs so that farmers of even remote areas may have access to e-NAM benefits.

### **Value Addition Facilities**

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is another flagship programme which aims at welfare and prosperity of farmers by providing processing and value addition facilities along with marketing support.
- As an umbrella, the scheme is establishing and operationalising Mega Food Parks; expanding integrated Cold Chain and value addition infrastructure; expanding food processing and preservation capacities; developing infrastructure for agro-processing clusters; and also creating backwards and forwards linkages to benefit farmers.
- Government is encouraging and promoting the food processing sector by providing various tax incentives, allowing 100 per cent FDI and creating a special corpus in NABARD for providing easy loans to agri-processing units.
- Government has recently launched 'Operation Greens' on the lines of 'Operational Flood', agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management for marketing of tomato, onion and potato.

### **Financing Farmers**

- Government is steadily increasing the volume of institutional credit for agriculture sector.

- Recently, the facility of Kisan Credit Cards was extended to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers also to help them meet their working capital needs.
- Besides, interest subvention for short-term crop loans, enhancement of collateral-free farm loans and promotion of Joint Liability Groups are some other notable initiatives to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit.
- Government has significantly enhanced allocation to National Cooperation for providing financial assistance to cooperative societies and its members.
- A Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 came into being offering a bunch of benefits to lessee cultivators. Now, leasing of agricultural land for the purpose of farming and allied activities is a legal mutual agreement between land owners and lessee cultivators. Hence land tenants are entitled to obtain loans from financial institutions, crop insurance, disaster relief or any other benefits provided by Central or State Government.
- Government is also promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and women self-help groups by incentivizing their activities for increasing income of associated small holders. FPOs established on the pattern of cooperatives and having annual transactions less than Rs. 100 crore have been exempted from income tax.

### **Towards Secured Livelihood**

- In order to protect farmers' livelihood against such risks, a new and improved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was launched in 2016 with a very low premium rate and wide coverage of crops. Farmers share in premium has been reduced to merely 1.5 per cent for annual horticultural crops, Insurance cover has been extended to even post-harvest risks and losses upto 14 days.
- Use of remote sensing technology and IT tools have expedited payment of claims with enhanced accuracy and transparency.
- Farmers of all ecological zones are being trained to face the challenges of climate change and keep their livelihood safe and sound.
- The far and wide network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) is regularly organizing trainings and demonstrations at field level on identified climate-smart technologies.
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is also active on dissemination of climate change related information and knowledge through its network.

### **Integrated Framing Models**

- Integrated farming models or systems, which appropriately and synergically blend field crops with horticulture, animal husbandry and aquaculture, have potential to secure livelihood of farmers even during adverse conditions. It increases profitability per unit of land and minimizes risk by assuring income from one or other farming component.
- The new Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture is comprehensively supporting various components, such as mechanization in horticulture, development of cold chains and value chains, development and transfer of appropriate technologies and availability of quality planting materials.
- The new cluster approach in cultivation of horticulture crops has proved its advantage by developing the entire chain from production to marketing at one place.

### **Add-ons to Income**

- Establishment of Integrated Bee Keeping Development Centres have given a fresh impetus to honey production.

- Similarly, Bamboo, often referred to as “Green Gold”, has been reclassified as “Grass” when grown outside forest areas making it free for cultivation, harvest, transport and its use as raw material for handicrafts. Recently, a re-structured National Bamboo Mission was launched.
- Under an innovative scheme, ‘Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav’, agricultural scientist in groups of four each, are selecting and adopting five villages for demonstration of new technologies in agriculture and allied activities.
- Government is working on modalities to encourage farmers for using their fallow land to harvest solar energy. It will serve a dual purpose – installation of solar pumps to irrigate their fields and supply of surplus power to grid for additional income.

### **Organic Agriculture – A Game Changer**

Government of India launched ‘Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana’ to promote organic farming and develop a marketing network for organic products. Cluster based approach is being implemented in which 50 farmers are organized into a cluster of 50 hectares land for cultivating such agriculture and horticulture crops which are in market demand as organic produce.

Organic clusters are being especially developed in tribal, rainfed, hilly and remote areas for the welfare of disadvantaged farmers of these regions.

In view of most favouring conditions, Government has launched a dedicated ‘Mission for Development of Organic Value Chain in North-East Region. Declaration of Sikkim as first Organic State of India in 2016 has further encouraged other north-eastern states to support organic farming in a big way.

### Giving Wings to Small Town India

- We have about 400 airports and airstrips, in all, but only about 75 of these were in use for flights till last year. Some have basic infrastructure but need incremental investment to become operational and some other were simply built due to political considerations without having any commercial viability.
- Majority of air traffic is still concentrated at airports in its biggest cities. Six airports – Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad handle two-thirds of the country's air traffic in terms of passengers and almost 60 per cent of the total aircraft movement.
- This vast traffic skew, where flying is almost entirely concentrated in the big cities and is choking large airports while smaller ones lie idle, is what the government wanted to correct.
- To address this situation “UDAN” scheme was launched in April last year. ‘UDAN’ is an acronym for ‘Ude Desh Kaa Aam Naagrik’.
- The UDAN scheme has had two rounds of bidding by interested airlines; in the first round, the target was to make 31 ghost airports come alive while in the second, another 29 ghost airports were to see flight movement.
- Under the new UDAN scheme, the state government and the centre are committed to providing subsidy as per a pre-dedicated formula as Viability Gap Funding (VGF).
- The VGF is being funded by a different formula. The aircraft taking off from the busy metro airports are expected to pay Rs. 5000 to the government per departure so that UDAN fares are cross-subsidized. This levy is applicable only on “profitable” routes.
- Ghost airports that were supposed to have come to life under UDAN include Adampur, Bhatinda and Pathankot in Punjab; Bikaner and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan; Bhavanagar, Jamnagar and Mundra in Gujarat and so on. Not just ghost airports, even some airports which have existing flight operations but in a limited way, are seen benefitting under the UDAN scheme.
- India is the world's fastest growing domestic aviation market and regional connectivity is critical if this high growth is to be sustained. Adding airports capacity at metros is important, but for high growth, developing regional connectivity is the way forward.

#### **Challenges**

- Not all the underserved and unserved airports which were envisaged to become operational have been revived, not all the routes for which airlines had placed bids have been started and there is still no helicopter service under the UDAN scheme.
- Some of the airlines are short on funding and seem to be struggling with the economics and logistics of offering connectivity from remote locations.
- The quality of service under UDAN is not quite upto the mark.
- New airlines are struggling with infrastructure issues and perhaps need to wait a bit more to generate adequate demand.
- Another dampener for UDAN has been the non-starter helicopter services. No bids came in during the initial round because of insufficient VGF and now, in the second round, regulations for scheduled helicopter operations are still being devised by the regulator.
- The operators who have bagged UDAN routes of their choice, may find it tough to sustain these after the VGF period of three years ends, specially since oil prices are already heading north. To make UDAN flights more attractive the government has already begun allowing waiver of the three year exclusivity clause, if the operator working the route does not object, but still concerns on long term viability remain.

### **Exponential Growth in Aviation**

- India emerges as the world's third largest aviation market. Passenger traffic growth in the range of 18-20 per cent over the past three years.
- For the first time ever in India, more people travelled in airplanes than in AC trains. Domestic air passengers crossed 100 million for the first time in 2017.
- In 75 years since independence, we had 75 operational airports, UDAN added 25 airports just since December 2016.
- UDAN provides regional air connectivity to unserved airports at a subsidized fare of Rs. 2,500 per hours.

### **Targeting Economic Offenders**

- The government felt that despite the existence of the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, a specific act targeting economic offenders is the need of the hours.
- After Punjab National Bank was hit by the fraud, the Union Cabinet immediately approved the bill to deliver a death knell on financial fraudsters and to further boost the confidence of the investors and bank customers in the banking system.

### **Rationale and Preamble**

- Due to business deals going awry, and inability of the customers to service their loans in time the banking sector has been impacted. Many of these defaulting fraudsters flee the country when they see the writing on the wall.
- The legal mechanism of extradition is a tedious and long drawn out process that takes years. The government, addressed the loopholes and lacune in the present laws and lay down clear cut and stringent measures to deal with these economic offenders who flee the country and are, in effect, fugitives from the law.
- Further, this legislation will prove to be a deterrent to those contemplating to take steps to flee to some other country and abscond after committing economic white collar crimes. Non-conviction based asset confiscation for corruption related cases is enabled under provisions of the United Nations Convention.
- This bill deals specifically with economic offenders who are fugitives from the law of the land and have escaped before the commencement or during the course of proceedings before criminal and civil courts.
- The Bill brings under purview those cases where the total value of the economic offences is Rs. 100 crores or more. This bill is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to absconding fugitive economic offenders who will be forced to return to India and face trial for their offences. The Bill allows for attachment of the properties of the fugitive economic offender.
- The Bill proposes to give relief to the alleged offender if in case he returns to India prior to declaring him as a fugitive economic offender and if he submits to the appropriate jurisdictional court proceedings under the Act then proceedings under this Act would cease.
- Provision has been made for appointment of an Administrator to manage and dispose off the property in compliance with the provisions of law. This Bill is cogent with the earlier acts like Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Evidence Act, IPC etc.

**Fugitive Economic offenders Bill, 2018****Salient features of the Bill**

- Application before the Special Court for a declaration that an individual is a fugitive economic offender;
- Attachment of the property of fugitive economic offender;
- Issues of a notice by the Special Court to the individual alleged to be a fugitive economic offender;
- Confiscation of the property of an individual declared as a fugitive economic offender resulting from the proceeds of crime;
- Confiscation of other property belonging to such offender in India and abroad, including benami property;
- Disentitlement of the fugitive economic offender from defending any civil claim; and
- An Administrator will be appointed to manage and dispose of the confiscated property under the Act.
- An appeal against the order of the Special Court shall lie before the High Court.
- No appeal shall be entertained by the High Court after the expiry of 90 days from date of judgement.

**Stringent action against corruption & black money**

- Special Investigation Team set up at the First Cabinet Meeting after the present Government assumed office.
- Demonetisation led to India's highest ever unearthing of suspicious transactions and deposits. The current proportion of High Denomination notes in our economy is much less than what it would have been without Demonetisation.
- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Mauritius, Cyprus and Singapore.
- Agreement on real time information sharing with Switzerland.
- Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act 2015 enacted.
- PMLA emended to allow confiscation of property equivalent in value of black money stashed abroad.
- Benami Property Act blocking a major avenue for generation and holding of black money in various forms.
- Action taken against around 3 lakh shell companies.
- Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill introduces to empower law enforcement agencies to confiscate absconders. This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher economic offenders.

## **Transport Sector**

### **More roads and highways greater transformation**

- National Highway network expanded from 92,851 km in 2013 – 14 to 1,20,543 km in 2017 – 18.
- Speed of construction has gone up to 27 km per day in 2017 – 18 against 12 km per day in 2013 – 14.
- India's longest road tunnel – the Chennai – Nagsri tunnel in Jammu opens for public.
- India's longest bridge the 9.15 km long Dholra-Sadiya Bridge over river Brahmaputra in Assam dedicated to public on 26th may 2017. The bridge has ensured 24x7 connectivity between upper Assam and Eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Indian Railways Gets New Apps**

- In line with digital initiatives of the government of India, Indian Railways has for the first time completely digitized the Complaint management system. A new App "Rail Madad" \_ An App to expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal was launched recently. **RPGRAMS** (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System), has been developed by Northern Railway (Delhi Division) and comprises many novel features including 'Rail Madad'.
- Rail **MADAD** also displays various helpline numbers (e.g., Security, Child helpline etc) and provides direct calling facility for immediate assistance in one easy step.

### **'Menu on Rails' A New App**

- A new App 'Menu on Rails', a Mobile Application developed by IRCTC for creating awareness among the Railway Passengers for the items served to them on their Rail Journey was also launched recently.

## **All-round and extensive development**

### **North-East connectivity**

- North-East is fully integrated with rest of India with the entire network converted to broad gauge.
- Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram on India's rail map for the first time.

### **Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail: first ever bullet train in India**

- High speed of the train will reduce travel time from approx 8 hours to 12 hrs
- Generate employment for about 20,000 workers during the construction phase.
- Highest ever freight loading in 2017 – 18: 1,160 million tones.