

## Yojana Summary October 2017

### Creating a Clean India

- Indian PM, on August 15, 2014, gave a clarion call to achieve a clean and open defecation free India by October 2, 2019. The idea to create a clean India gained momentum after this call.

Need for such call:

- The age old practice of open defecation causes over 1 lakh preventable child deaths every year through diarrhoeal infections.
- A study by the World Bank estimates that nearly 40% of India's children are stunted, primarily because of lack of sanitation.
- This has adverse impact on the economic potential, and is estimated to cost India over 6% of our GDP.
- Women's safety and dignity are often compromised due to open defecation.

Progress of SBM:

- The Swachh Bharat Mission has almost completed 3 years and progress is good so far.
- Rural sanitation coverage has gone up from 39% at the start of the mission to the current figure of 68%.
- Over 230 million people in rural India have stopped defecating in the open, 193 districts and about 235000 villages across the country have been declared as open defecation free. Five states – Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana and Uttarakhand have become ODF.
- One of the biggest achievements has been that all the 4000+ villages on the banks of the holy Ganga have become ODF.

How is SBM Unique?

- Bringing 550 million rural Indians out of open defecation is unparalleled and carries a high degree of difficulty.
- Changing habits and getting millions of people to voluntarily engage in a *Janandolan* to fight the centuries old practice is quite another.

How different is current programme from earlier sanitation programmes?

- The key differentiator is the genuine focus on behavior change through Information, Education and Communication (IEC), and shifting the focus from outputs (number of toilets built) to outcomes (ODF villages).
- The community is at the centre of the entire process. Children, women,, senior citizens and specially-abled citizens have emerged as the biggest Swachhta Champions. The PM awarded 10 such inspirational women Swachhta champions at a special event for nearly 6000 women Sarpanches on International Women's Day.
- Lakhs of sanitation motivators called Swachhagrahis, are being trained in community approaches to sanitation. Virtual classrooms are being run by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) to scale these trainings up where a central trainer

interacts with trainees across multiple locations on tools for effective community mobilization and behavior change triggering.

- The SBM aims to have at least one Swachhagrahi per village in India.
- The MDWS and States are attempting to involve locally elected representatives, NGOs, youth organizations etc. to make SBM a Janandolan. Mass media is being used to broaden its appeal. Bollywood stars and cricketers are also getting involved.
- Amitabh Bachchan is leading a “Darwaza Bandh” campaign on TV, radio etc. Akshay Kumar has made a blockbuster Bollywood movie on the subject of open defecation – Toilet- EkPrem Katha.
- The focus on timely verification of ODF status is the second big difference between the SBM and previous sanitation programme.
- It also has a fairly robust system of verification at district and state level. At the national level, the MDWS, carries out separate checks as well as also 3<sup>rd</sup> party sample surveys by independent organizations. In June 2017, Quality Council of India conducted a survey and found that usage of toilets across the country was an encouraging 91%.
- Incentive mechanisms are being developed for sustaining ODF, including prioritizing ODF villages for centrally sponsored schemes like piped water supply. Districts are also being ranked under SwachhtaDarpan based on their performance, sustainability and transparency on SBM-G, spurring healthy competition between districts.
- Another very important differentiator is the inclusive focus through management of solid and liquid waste. In fact, waste is now being viewed as a resource, and the name has been re-christened to Solid and Liquid Resource Mangement.

#### SBM is Everyone’s Business

- A major step in this direction was taken when initiatives like the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) and Swachhta Action Plans (SAP) were launched. The SIP has seen identification of 20 iconic places of historical and cultural significance to make them islands of excellence with respect to Swachhta.
- The SAP has successfully gotten all Ministries and Depts. Of GoI to pledge to take up Swachhta and sanitation related activities in their respective sectors. The SBM is probably the only govt. program, which is being integrated with the works of entire govt. machinery.
- Private sector has also been inspired to contribute to the SBM by contributing money under CSR as well as leveraging their human and managerial resources to help direct implementation of SBM. E.g. – Tata Trusts have hired and sponsored 600 young professionals to work in each district with an aim to take their district towards ODF.

#### SBM becoming a *Janandolan*

- The SBM-G has launched a slew of new initiatives to engage general public with the Swachhta revolution in India.
- The first of these is Swachhathon – The Swachh Bharat Hackathon, which invites innovative technology, based solutions to some of the most challenging questions being faced by SBM-G. For example, how to measure usage of toilets in a non-intrusive manner at scale, how to leverage technology to spark behavior change at scale, frugal toilet technology designs for terrains etc.

- Inspired by Sankalp Se Siddhi initiative, the SBM-G has launched the SwachhSankalp se Swachh Siddhi film, essay and painting competition across India..

Conclusion:

- There is still a fair way to go but, given the progress made so far, the acceleration expected over the coming months and the active engagement of millions of people, the goal is definitely achievable.

**Enabling Opportunities for Rural India**

- Indian PM has given a call for Poverty Quit India on completion of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the Quit India Movement 1942. He has also given a call for a societal mission to do so by 2022.
- Given the fact that nearly 8.85 crore households in rural India reported either a deprivation or were automatically included, the challenge, in sheer number is formidable.
- The Dept. of Rural Development is a major source of public programs (employment, skills, social security, livelihood diversification, road construction, housing, water conservation, solid and liquid resource management etc.).
- If convergent action in other related sectors of health, education, nutrition, skills could be made simultaneously, it is possible to improve the well-being of poor households in a short period of time.
- The challenge of poverty free Gram Panchayats is about exploring the potential for rural transformation by simultaneous interventions to address the multi-dimensionality of poverty. It is this convergent approach that is the thrust under a State led, Mission Antyodaya, a mission to address the multi-dimensionality of poverty.

Intervention on scale

- Rural India has a very large number of households spread over a million habitations and villages. Clearly, the interventions have to be to scale.
- The thrust on placement skills and self-employment skills have facilitated larger economic activities in these areas.
- The convergence of animal husbandry and livelihood diversification has also added additional incomes for households. NFSA's annual subsidy to make rice and wheat available at cheap prices further adds to the food security of poor households.
- The dream of one crore homes for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin, connectivity for all eligible rural habitations with all weather pucca road by March 2019, leveraging over Rs. 60,000 crores annually as Bank Loans for Women SHGs by 2018-19, is possible as resources are available to back the vision.

Thrust on Water Conservation and Livelihood Security

- Effective water conservation is needed for well-being of the households. It is for this reason that MGNREGS decided to ensure that at least 60% expenditure under the programme is on agriculture and allied activities.
- States governments are also putting effort towards water conservation. Mukhyamantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan in Rajasthan, Neeru-Chettu in Andhra Pradesh, Mission

Kakatiya in Telangana, JalyuktaShivar and water conservation initiatives in Maharashtra, Dobha farm pond construction in Jharkhand are few examples.

- The new Mission Water Conservation Guidelines in Partnership with the Ministry Of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources, with a thrust on 2264 water distressed Blocks and with a focus on developing technologically sound and scientifically vetted water conservation plans along with capacity building of frontline workers, is going a long way in improving the quality of intervention and its impact.

#### Citizen's Engagement

- Citizen centric approach helps in building accountability. Special efforts were made through Cluster and Panchayat Facilitation Teams in identified backward blocks. The planning exercise under the Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise in 2569 Backward Blocks using SECC deprivation data has also strengthened the partnership with the poorest households.
- The use of citizen centric apps like the Meri Sadak app to get a feedback on roads, awaas soft app for uploading pictures of PMAY Gramin houses, also helped in connecting with households.
- To further the Public Information Campaign, The Dept. is organizing a Gram Samridhi and Swachhta fortnight from 1-15 october 2017 at every Gram panchayat.
- A cell phone based Janata Information System is also being launched whereby every programme in the village concerned can be seen by any villager to improve his/her scrutiny of the programme.
- Similarly a cadre of Social Auditors is being developed from among the Women SHGs after proper training and certification on the social auditing standards that have been notified in consultation with the office of CAG.

#### Transparency through IT/DBT and use of Adhaar

- 98% wages under MGNREGS and 100% payments under PMAY Gramin are on the IT/DBT platform. The availability of Banking Correspondent or Post Office outlet with micro ATMs at fixed village locations on pre-determined dates, will unlock the power of easy digital transactions on a large scale.
- The Women SHG Community Resource Persons have offered to become BankingCorrespondants or Bank Sakhis and the experience so far is encouraging.

#### Effective use of Space Technology

- The power of space technology in promoting transparency can be seen in the relentless efforts made to geo tag nearly 2 crore assets created under MGNREGS.
- In PMGSY, space technology has been used for monitoring the alignment of roads, the actual road construction distance, and its success in connecting habitation. It is also being used to check the success of road side plantations through MGNREGS on PMGSY roads.

#### Leveraging Bank Loans for SHG Women

- While the DeenDayalAntyodayaYojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY – NRLM) has demonstrated enormous social capital through community mobilization and

group formation, the economic activity development and livelihood diversification needed a thrust.

#### Speeding up Connectivity

- Road connectivity is transformational in offering new livelihood opportunities to a rural village. It is for this reason a sincere effort has been made to speed up the PMGSY road construction from 70 km/day in 2011-14 to 130 km/day in 2016-17.
- The successful maintenance system of MP and the community maintenance experiment of Uttarakhand is also to be emulated in other States.

#### Need Based Skill Upgradation

- The Rural Development Department has been trying to leverage the core strength and programs of concerned departments like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry etc. to provide scalable opportunities for farm and non-farm employment.
- Special training programmes for Barefoot Technicians and Rural Masons aims to reduce over time, the pool of unskilled wage earning households in the country from the current over 5 crore.

#### Promoting Innovations for Transformation

- The Dept. of Rural development is using innovative ideas to address rural problems.
- The Solid Resource Management Programme in over 80% villages of Tamil Nadu, the liquid resource management programme of Maharashtra, AP, Telangana etc. through MGNREGS and DAY NRLM convergence, are all examples of innovations.
- The Aajeevika Grameen Express rural transport scheme, Mission Water Conservation and Rural Road guidelines, the Livelihood in Full Employment (LIFE) initiative under MGNREGS to promote skill development among the MGNREGA workers, are all examples of large scale innovations that have been attempted.

#### Evidence based Monitoring

- Large scale programmes require systemic approach to monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness. For this, besides institutional monitoring, transparent transaction based MISs, use of geo-tagging of assets to ascertain quality etc. have been started.
- National level Evaluation of Programmes like the IRMA study of DAY-NRLM are other efforts to evaluate interventions.

### **Creating Casteism Free India**

- At times when we are looking towards an India that is united, dignified and developed, casteism is acting as a powerful social and political divisive force, causing social conflicts, effecting stability, peace and harmony, manipulating electoral outcomes and effecting sound legislative and executive decision making.
- The problem has become so severe that not only Hindus, with whom caste system is generally associated, all Indians whether Sikhs, Muslims, Jains, Buddhists even Christians carry some vestige of Caste System.

### Caste System:

- In its most general fundamental aspects, caste can be described as a scriptive system of status and hierarchy. It is a type of social stratification system based gradation of endogamous kinship group with certain considerations of ritual purity reflected in restrictions on commensality and pollution and associated with traditional occupational specialization.
- It has never been a fixed fact of Indian life but evolving in prevailing socio-political and historical milieus. Before British rule caste affiliations were loose and fluid.

### Caste in Colonial Period:

- It was the British colonial rule that treated caste as the institutional key stone of Indian society. Beginning with the first decennial census of 1871, the census became the main instrument of gathering information about the caste system and classifying it.
- Enumeration of population into rigid categories, particularly with 1901 and 1911 census resulted in hardening of caste identities.
- The British institutionalised caste into the working of governmental institutions. Some castes were treated preferentially for certain jobs, like in police and army, whereas some were branded as criminal.
- The immediate effect of this was that it increased caste consciousness and inter caste competition, because now it was possible for caste relations to outgrow its regional constraints and develop caste associations to bargain some concessions from the British Government.

### Caste in Independent India

- The 1950 Constitution eliminated caste system, as an instrument of discrimination, restrictions of any kind, particularly the practice of untouchability, through fundamental rights of equality, liberty and freedom.
- Provisions for affirmative action for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and backward classes were also incorporated in the Constitution.
- During seven decades of independence while the influence of caste has been decreasing in social and economic spheres it has been gaining a stronghold over the field of politics. There has emerged new caste based organisations, growing polarization on caste lines, violence and reservation conflicts.
- The caste system, therefore, began to play a significant role in determining the content and direction of political socialization, mobilization and institutionalization within the framework of democracy. This in turn has given rise to what is called Casteism.

### Casteism

- It is defined as the tendency of caste or sub-caste group to maximize economic, social and political advantages of its members to the detriment of the other caste members and society as a whole.
- It is also an ideology of political allegiance to a caste group as primary and decisive, leading to blind group loyalty towards one's own caste believing that social, economic and political interests will be fulfilled through that.

- Caste is being used also as a pressure group to receive due or undue benefits. An important aspect of this has been pressure for and against quotas.

#### Need for elimination

- Casteism has been eating into the socio-economic and political fabric of our society.
- Although, in social spheres caste is slowly dying as modern conditions of life and work have rendered many rigid rituals, beliefs and practice obsolete.
- Another positive aspect is that during the last few years in elections, particularly for Lok Sabha, caste has been put on a back seat, yet there are parties whom caste remains the main plank for mobilization and campaign.
- The first step towards reducing casteism is Education. It includes generation and dissemination of awareness about myths associated with the caste system.
- Removal of socio-cultural inequalities is essential to bring society out of primordial ties. Treating any caste as polluting or low provides a cause for leaders to mobilise them to rise against discrimination. In some cases social and economic inequalities coincide. Most scheduled castes, for instance are poor and deprived.
- Civil society has a great significant role in social and political reforms.
- An important role is that of the Election commissions. It will have to find ways to curb the use of caste. State funding of elections, strict imposition of code of conduct, voter's education etc. can be some means for that.
- Most important is political will and consensus. While almost all political parties are critical of the use and exploitation of caste system in elections, yet at the time of giving tickets and mobilizing voters they co-opt caste leaders.

#### **Farmers' Welfare Holds the Key**

- New India is a grand and ambitious vision of Gol, which seeks to transform the country into a prosperous, healthy, educated and a clean and green nation. But to attain these goals in our predominantly agrarian economy, agriculture remains one of the core issues as it provides livelihood support to nearly 55 percent work force and also contributes around 14 percent to national GDP.
- Gol made a strong commitment for doubling farmers' income by 2022. In order to adequately support and fund new schemes and initiatives, Government consistently increased budget allocation to agriculture and rural sector.
- Highest ever food production of nearly 274 million tons during 2016-17 is a testimony to the impact and success of new programmes and policies.

#### Strategic Moves through Novel Schemes

- Ministry of Agriculture and farmers' welfare has developed a seven point strategic plan to realize the vision of New India by focussing on new agriculture and prosperity of India.
- The strategic plan specifically aims to raise average incomes of agricultural households from Rs. 96,703 in 2015-16 to Rs. 193,400 in 2022-23.
- The strategy broadly focuses on enhancing crop production, slashing cultivation costs and post harvest losses and reform of agriculture markets.

- Value addition of agriculture produce by farm-gate processing facilities, risk mitigation through crop insurance and disaster relief and promotion of high value sectors, such as horticulture and dairy production, are other priority areas of intervention.
- Government is striving to enhance water use efficiency and access to irrigation facilities under the mission 'Per drop, more crop' which specifically targets expansion of irrigated areas through micro-irrigation techniques.
- Efforts made under Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojna (PMKSY) have substantially increased the area under micro-irrigation from 4.3 lakh hectare in 2013-14 to 8.3 lakh hectare in 2016-17.
- Government's unique Soil health card scheme is helping farmers to cut down cultivation costs as it ensures balanced use of chemical fertilizers and also enhances soil productivity on substantial basis.
- ParamparagatKrishiVikasyojna (PKVY) aims to expand the area under organic farming as it ensures higher income to farmers due to comparatively lower cost of cultivation and premium price of organic produce.
- Pradhan MantriFasalBimaYojna (PMFBY) is a flagship programme, which provides insurance umbrella to all foodgrains, oilseeds and annual commercial crops on 'one season, one rate' basis at a very low premium.
- Realisation of better price in the market is one of the most critical prerequisites for enhancing farmers' income. E-NAM (national agriculture market) is addressing the issue by integrating over 410 mandis of 13 states on a common e-platform for trading and transactions.

#### Enhanced productivity for increase profitability

- Recently, NitiAyog has brought out a policy paper on the theme 'Doubling Farmers' Income' which elaborates the action plan for ground level implementation. The paper emphasizes the critical role of irrigation and new technologies in raising productivity per unit of land, and thus farmers' income the same area of field.
- The apex research body of the country, The Indian Council of Agricultural research (ICAR), developed and released nearly 600 improved crop varieties during the last three years to push up the productivity at a new level.
- Precision farming, integrated farming, resource conservation technologies and protected cultivation are just a few examples which hold great promise and potential.
- New machinery such as laser land leveler, precision seeder and planter, and modern farming practices like SRI (system of rice intensification), direct seeded rice, zero tillage; raised bed plantation and ridge plantation also promise attractive returns on investment which adds to the income of farmers.
- Increasing crop intensity is another technologically sound option for raising income per unit of land. Integrated Farming system Models have been developed for increasing profitability.
- Diversification towards high value crops (fruits, vegetables, fibres, condiments and spices, medicinal and aromatic plants) offers a great scope to improve farmers' income.
- NITI ayog policy paper has recommended shifting of work force away from agriculture for improving their income and livelihood opportunities. The government's recent initiative on skill development can play a substantial role in improving skills of farming community for better income in allied or non-farm sectors.



New vision:

- Until now the main focus was on increasing agricultural production for food security. Of late, policy planners realized the need to raise farmers' income and also promote farmers' welfare.
- The new vision aims to reduce agrarian distress and bring parity between income of farmers and those working in non-agricultural professions. Indian agriculture sector, in its revamped version, has now geared-up to realize the dream of new India.

### **Innovation Led Reforms for New India**

- The 'New India' that inspires, motivates, disrupts governance; empower to partner with the government and emphasizes on inclusive growth of country. The new India provides opportunity to collaborate and serve the country.
- Champions of Change is an initiative to facilitate more creative and innovative technology platforms, systematic reforms to nurture the curiosity, creativity and imagination of youth of our country to achieve the dream of New India as per their desire.

Disrupt Governance Model:

- In order to make Governance effective for all citizens of our country, visible reforms were taken by government such as scraping the 1200 odd laws, which were ineffective but were in existence, increasing the reach of banking and financial sector to the last man of the society through Pradhan mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY), dismantling the procedures for governance and making it visible and transparent growth, provide an opportunity to partner and do business through Government e-marketplace (GeM).
- India aims to 'cultivate one million children and youth as the Innovators of tomorrow.'
- The major initiatives of government such as Atal Innovation Mission, National IPR policy, Startup India, Make in India, NitiAyog lead Champions of Change and Digital Economy are going to fuel the development.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- AIM is established with a mission to catalyze the growth of our country through innovation, entrepreneurship, disruption in the education system.

Nurture Big Ideas of Small minds

- Atal Tinkering Lab is helping students to innovate. The objective of ATL is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds.
- ATL will be a platform for our nation's budding talent to clearly and persuasively communicate their ideas and craft concepts addressing critical questions. The lab will provide a creative platform for young students that will be equipped with to do kind of kits on STEM education, communication, Robotics and other experimental setups, through that they could learn and play from.
- The students of Government high school, Uttrahali, Bengaluru created a Wearable device for Blind using the Atal Tinkering Platform. It has a sensor which can detect the

obstacles using ultrasonic waves. It notifies the user using vibrations and sounds to help avoid accidents.

- There is a need for a low cost and effective scalable solution to address the issue of bulky, non-functional fire extinguisher. The students of Government senior Secondary School, sector 37 B, Chandigarh have made an attempt to develop remote control sound wave based fire extinguisher via their learning through Atal Tinkering Labs.
- Water logging in streets is becoming critical issue. The students from Best High School, Ahmedabad, through their Atal tinkering Lab (ATL) experience have worked on a prototype which measures the amount of water logged in any area during rain/flood and sends the information to Municipal Corporation, and also the area supervisors, so that corrective measures can be taken on the same before it gets too late.
- The solution may be simple but are encouraging for technology driven approach in resolving societal issues.

#### Conclusion:

- Both students and teachers will be a part of mentorship programs to create a greater impact of this initiative.
- This is just the beginning of a long journey to realize the dream of “Creative India-Innovative India” in its true sense to foster creativity and innovation and thereby, remote entrepreneurship and enhance socio-economic and cultural development.

#### **Zero Tolerance to Corruption**

- India’s “zero tolerance to corruption” approach as well as “minimum government and maximum governance” approach resulted in simplification of the governance model in recent years.
- Steps taken in this regard are abolition of the system of attestation/authentication by Government servants for submission of certificates, abolition of personal interviews for recruitment to lower level posts and weeding out inefficient public servants and those of doubtful integrity above the age of 50 years, prematurely.
- The Government demonetized high value currency to eliminate black money and corruption. A special Investigation Team was constituted to fight black money. Government also conducted online auctions of coal blocks. It sought international cooperation in G-20 meetings on ending tax havens in Europe and other countries.

#### Frameworks to fight Corruption

- India’s fight against corruption is led by a robust and time tested institutional and legislative framework including the Prevention of Corruption Act, an independent Central Vigilance Commission, Comptroller and Auditor general, the judges (Inquiry) act, the Lokpal and LokAyukta Act 2013, Whistleblower Protection Act 2011, Prevention of Money/Laundering Act, Benami Transactions (prohibition) Act, which cover a number of areas of criminalization and bribery.
- All Civil servants are mandatorily required to declare their assets on an annual basis. The Elected representatives are required to declare their assets every election cycle.

#### Making Governance smarter

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojna is a National Mission on financial inclusion encompassing an integrated approach to bring about comprehensive financial inclusion of all the households of the country.
- The revolution in banking sector technology is a remarkable success story that has benefitted millions of Indians. The Jan DhanYojna provided universal and clear access to banking accounts with overdraft facility.
- The Aadhar act was promulgated to ensure targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits and services.
- The third major step was the introduction of BHIM (Bharat Interface for money) which is a mobile application developed by National Payments Corporation of India based on Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- Collectively, the Jan DhanYojna, the Aadhar Act and the BHIM application have provided for a transparent government where subsidy flows reach the beneficiary in a timely and effective manner.

## Focus on Preventive Vigilance

- The Central Vigilance commissions (CVC) traces its origins to the recommendations of the Committee of Prevention of corruption, headed by Sri K.Santhanam.
- The Santhanam committee identified four major causes of corruption namely, administrative delays, government taking upon themselves more than what they could manage by way of regulatory functions, scope of personal discretion in the exercise of powers by different public servants and cumbersome procedures.
- The CVC has endeavoured to ensure transparency, objectivity and accountability into the public administration.
- Several preventive measures have been introduced by the CVC. Measures like Government E-Market (GEM) have helped improve the accountability and integrity in public procurement by encouraging e-tendering and e-procurement.
- The CVC has sought to create a people's movement against corruption through an e-pledge to be voluntarily taken by the citizens and organizations. An Integrity Index has been developed for enabling transparency, efficiency and citizen centric governance.

## Strengthening Audit and accounting

- Since 2014, the CAG adapted to the Government's reforms in financial governance in the organization's accounting and auditing practices.
- Some of the big changes introduced in financial governance are amalgamation of the Railways and General Budgets, the merger of planned and non-planned expenditures, opening up of a number of sectors for foreign direct investment and introduction of Goods and services Tax.
- Looking at the enormity of the flow of funds to urban and rural local bodies, their numbers and the geographic spread, the CAG has identified their audit as critical area that must be clearly understood from the perspective of materiality and risk and addressed accordingly.

## Transparency in Governance

- The Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 is a rights based law that has deepened India's democracy and created a durable stake for citizens in the administration of the Nation.

- The RTI act has led to improvements in governance. By sharing information, the citizens have become part of the decision making process, which leads to creation of trust between citizens and Government.
- The Lok Pal and LokAyukta Act 2013 has been passed to strengthen the fight against corruption.

#### Prevention of Corruption

- The Prevention of Corruption Act is an act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the prevention of corruption. The law provides for punishments for taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of official acts. The investigation powers have been given to the CBI and State Police authorities.

#### Safeguards for whistle Blowers

- In order to give statutory protection to whistle blowers in the country, the Public Interest Disclosures and Protection to Persons making the Disclosures bill, 2011 was passed.

#### Crackdown on Benami transactions

- With a view to provide effective regime for prohibition of benami transactions, the Benami Act was amended through the Benami Transactions (prohibition) Amended Act, 2016.
- The amended law empowers the Income Tax authorities to provisionally attach benami properties which can eventually be confiscated. Several benami transactions have been identified since the coming into effect of the amended law.

#### Conclusion:

- India continues to fight against corruption and black money. These efforts led by the focus on smart governance are yielding positive results.

#### **Energising Youth through Skill Development**

- Classified as a newly industrialized economy among the developing nations, India is yet to reap the benefits of demographic dividend in view of its young population.
- Around half of our country's population is self employed and around 93% of them are in unorganized sector. India's working age population is projected to touch 170 million by 2020 based on the rate of its population growth, increased work force participation and rising higher education enrolment.
- Therefore creation of employment opportunities and creation of employable youth population should go hand in hand.

#### Skill Deficit:

- Employment growth have been stagnant and interventions have often been unresponsive. Only 10% of the total workforce receives some skill training.
- Capacity building in existing systems of training, maintaining quality and relevance in training, creating institutional mechanism and financing these training initiatives are some of the challenges for skill development that the government is facing.

## To Create Employable Workforce:

- According to a study, India has not fared well on the rankings for patent and growth of new start-ups. Thus, skilling has become the only way out to improve the entrepreneurship landscape of the country.
- Besides the need to create a skillful workforce in near future, the government has also has a mandate to address issues such as demand-supply mismatch, scalability and sustainability of the training programmes require, recruiting and training good quality trainers etc.

## Skill India Programme

- A new ministry has been formed by the government for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The National Policy on Skill Development envisions enhancing employability among the labour force of the country in the midst of technological advancement and labour market demand.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a skill development programme that identifies industry-relevant skills required to acquire gainful employment for the youth.
- Schemes under PMKVY are implemented through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development was set up to offer training, consultancy, research etc. in order to promote entrepreneurship.

## Enabling Environment for Entrepreneurship:

- Universities are establishing incubation centres and appointing mentors to support student entrepreneurs in their start-up ventures.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship also attempts to connect the mentors, peers and incubators to establish a solid networks of entrepreneurs and E-hubs.

## Employability Skills through Entrepreneurship Education:

- Education with a clear purpose has to enhance entrepreneurial efficacy through providing them knowledge, skills and attitude to deal with the complex situations arising out of any entrepreneurial venturing.
- The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad which was established to provide comprehensive education and training in entrepreneurship to the country's youth also conducts for children in order to boost their confidence and entrepreneurship oriented motivation to tap their entrepreneurial instincts.

## Suggestion and Road-Ahead to create more Skill-Preneurs:

- Gender focus is important to advance women and transgender focused skill development initiatives and promote entrepreneurship among the discriminated genders. In order to eliminate regional imbalance and oversight and lack of attention paid to the lower caste groups and other marginalized communities, special focus on skill training should be mooted for them to ensure "inclusivity for all".
- The training programmes must offer "diversified services portfolio" in order to cater to the diverse beneficiaries whose social, economic and day to day life experiences are

different. For instance, flexible schedules, instruction in regional language, location specific examples will help students from diverse backgrounds to understand and relate to the programmes.

- There is need to develop a comprehensive and accessible online assessment tools and training curriculum for the benefits of other concerned institutes to develop and promote entrepreneurship and skill training within their campuses.
- There should be provision for regular upgradation of vocational education framework under National Skill Qualification Framework.
- Government and other institutional bodies must engage in impact evaluation of government schemes and incentives on entrepreneurship development programmes to reduce financial stress and promote partnership with domestic skill entrepreneurship development players for better institutional interaction.
- Funding linked training mechanism to encourage enterprise creation should be devised.
- Incubation and acceleration development programmes should be facilitated to assist hi-tech entrepreneurs and skillpreneurs.

### **Role of Women in New India by 2022**

- On 15 August 2017, the PM unveiled his vision for New India. The 'New India' initiative envisages that the poor shall have concrete houses, access to electricity, healthcare, sanitation and education, farmers' incomes shall be doubled, there must be ample opportunities for the youth and women, and India would be free of communalism, casteism and terrorism by 2022.
- For this a new slogan has been given by the PM, "Sankalp Se Siddhi" which means "Attainment through Resolve".
- The New India initiative has put thrust on several key areas. Some of them includes Doubling Farmers' Income, Housing For All and Women Empowerment. A country can not develop if it ignores its women. Hence, govt. is working for the empowerment of women as well.
- Accordingly, not only many new programs have been started for the development of women and children but several provisions have also been added to the ongoing programs for making them women friendly.
- For instance, Housing for All schemes prefers women of the households while allocating house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Various constitutional safeguards:

- The constitution guarantees all Indian women equality (Article 14); No discrimination by state (15(1)); Equality of opportunity (16); Equal pay for equal work (39(d))
- In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (15(3)); Renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (51(A) (e))
- Allows provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (42)
- Empowerment is about choices and the ability to exercise women's choice will be limited unless they are more involved in policymaking.

- The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992 ensured reservation of one third of seats for women in all elected offices of local bodies, in rural and urban areas.
- However, the pendency of Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament is not a very encouraging sign for ensuring gender equality at the national level.
- As per Census 2011, the population of India is 1210.19 million comprising 586.47 million women which constitutes about half of the population. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was carved out of MHRD in 2006.
- It is the nodal ministry for all matters pertaining to development of development of women and children in the country.
- The National Commission for Women was constituted as a national apex statutory body in 1992 for protecting and safeguarding the rights of women. India is also signatory to a number of International Conventions, primarily the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and has recently endorsed the 2030 SDGs which will further change the course of development by addressing key challenges including gender equity.
- India's female workforce participation at 25.5% is lower than even Somalia. Further, in India about 43% of women of working age (15-59) only work at home for which they do not get any monetary remunerations.
- Since 2006, the gender-responsive budget has ensured proper allocation of funds for spending towards work related to women empowerment.
- Gender Budget initiatives was started to analyze how governments raise and spend public money, with the aim of securing gender equality in the decision making about public resource allocation; and gender equality in the distribution in the impact of govt. budgets, both in their benefits and in their burdens.
- India was ranked 87<sup>th</sup> in the Global Gender Gap Index 2016, according to World Economic Forum, a jump of 21 places from 2015.
- In women's health, India ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> in the index, third from the bottom, highlighting the need to increase funding for improving it. Apart from the central government, 17 states have adopted Gender Budgeting (GB).
- The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation.
- The Ministry is implementing major schemes such as the BetiBachao, BetiPadhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child), ICDS, National Nutrition Mission. And for the proper monitoring and implementation of these schemes GB becomes imperative.

#### Conclusion:

- Today, India is at an economic threshold and women are at the vanguard of this change. If we work efficiently for the next few years, we can change the lives of hundreds of millions of women who are in atrocious pit of social and economic deprivation.
- The extension of women's rights is the basic principle of all social progress and for making New Indi by 2022, we will have to ensure the equality of status for one half of population in our country.