

WEBINAR HANDOUT

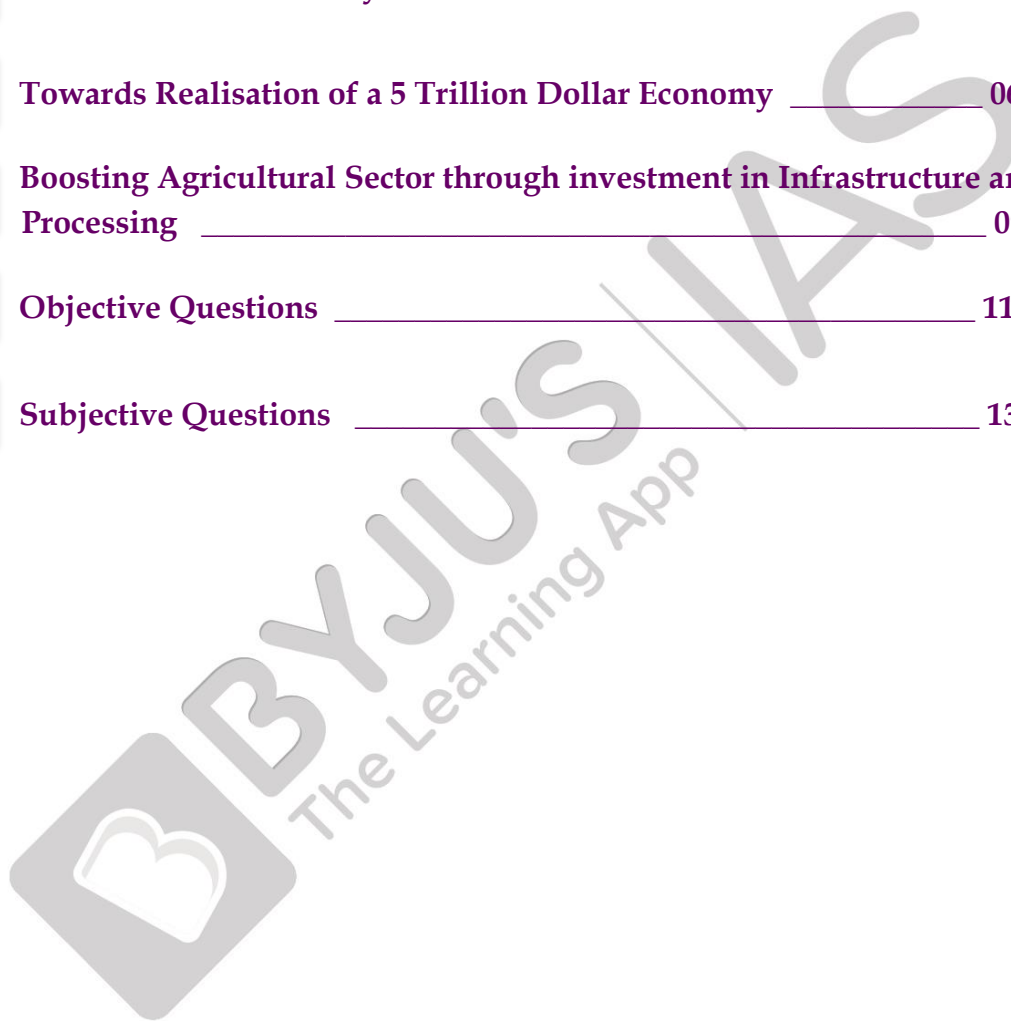


Yojana and Kurukshetra

CONTENT

YOJANA (APRIL 2021) AND KURUKSHETRA (MARCH 2021)

01	Jal Jeevan Mission - JJM _____	02-03
02	Water Security _____	04-05
03	India's Inland Waterways Plan _____	05-05
04	Towards Realisation of a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy _____	06-08
05	Boosting Agricultural Sector through investment in Infrastructure and Processing _____	09-10
06	Objective Questions _____	11-12
07	Subjective Questions _____	13-13



1. Jal Jeevan Mission - JJM

About

- To improve the quality of life and enhance the ease of living of the people of the country, the Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2019.
- It aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural home by 2024 - 6 years ahead of Sustainable development Goal - 6 target.
- At the time of the announcement, only 17% of rural households had tap water connections in their homes.

Objective:

- It seeks to give a boost to the manufacturing industry, create job opportunities and help the rural economy. This it does by freeing up women to educate themselves and their children or learn a new skill and explore better livelihood options.

Current Focus:

Service Delivery:

- The focus has now shifted to the assured supply of potable water to every household rather than mere infrastructure creation.
- Training programmes to build the capacity of public health engineers and the local community including masons, plumbers, etc. has been taken up to ensure regular service delivery to every home.

Priority Areas:

- It has identified areas such as water-quality affected habitations, villages in desert and drought-prone areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana villages etc as key priority areas.
- Further 112 Aspirational districts have been given top priority.

Measures: All villages with water quality issues have been given provisions to install community water purification plants, drinking water quality testing labs have been opened to the general public and at least five persons (preferably women) are trained to use Field Testing Kits for testing water quality at village level.

Special Focus on Children:

- Since children are most susceptible to water-borne diseases, the provision of potable water to Anganwadis and schools has been taken up in a campaign mode.
- States like Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana have provided water supply to 100% of these institutions.

End to End Approach:

- Focus is also on source sustainability, greywater treatment and its re-use, and operation and maintenance using funds from CSR, NREGA, Finance Commission, community contribution etc.

Involvement:

- The motto of JJM is - Building Partnerships, Changing Lives. For this, NGOs, SHGs are being engaged.
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan, to make water everyone's business, was launched in 2019.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana has been started in 7 states to conserve groundwater by involving the village community.
- Weaker sections: The Gram Sabha forms a Pani Samiti with 50% women and 25% weaker sections of the society.

Implementation strategy:

- Where water connection already exists, augmentation and retrofitting work is being carried out.
- Water treatment plants are being built in villages with geo-genic contaminants.
- Bulk water transfer and distribution networks are being built in desert and drought-prone areas.
- In tribal and forested areas, solar power based water supply schemes are planned.
- In hilly areas, springs are being explored as a reliable drinking water source.

Technology:

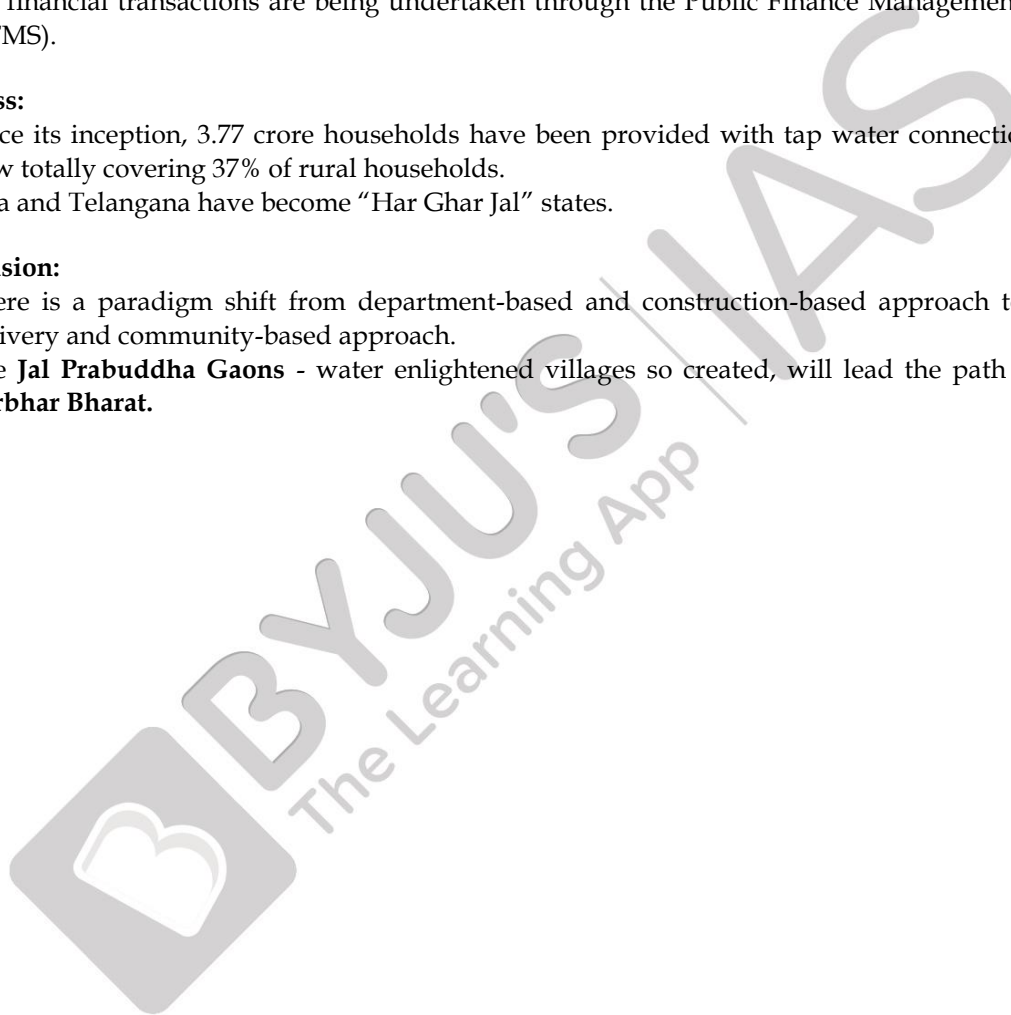
- The mission leverages technology to ensure transparency, accountability and proper utilization of funds through a dedicated dashboard and a mobile application.
- A sensor-based IoT solution is piloted for measurement and monitoring water supply.
- Every water supply asset is being geo-tagged.
- All financial transactions are being undertaken through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS).

Progress:

- Since its inception, 3.77 crore households have been provided with tap water connections, thus now totally covering 37% of rural households.
- Goa and Telangana have become “Har Ghar Jal” states.

Conclusion:

- There is a paradigm shift from department-based and construction-based approach to service delivery and community-based approach.
- The **Jal Prabuddha Gaons** - water enlightened villages so created, will lead the path to **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**.



2. Water Security

Issue:

- With a projected population size of **1.6 billion by 2050** and **increasing water demand**, India is facing many challenges in the water sector.
- **Climate change and pollution** of water bodies is additional stress.
- The **2018 Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) 2.0** by the NITI Aayog in association with Jal Shakti Ministry and Ministry of Rural Development, indicated that 21 major cities including Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and others are **racing to zero groundwater levels**.
- It also indicated that **by 2030, the country's water demand will be twice the availability** leading to a loss of 6% of our GDP and water scarcity to millions.
- It is also believed that water will be a **major source of geopolitical conflict** in this century.

Steps by the Government to achieve SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2014, over 11 crore toilets have been constructed in 5 years, to make India Open Defecation Free (ODF)
- **Namami Gange:** a flagship program for effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga was launched in 2014.
 - It is focusing on the river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination and
 - Maintaining minimum ecological flows to ensure water quality.
- **Draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016:** Dr Mihir Shah Committee had brought out a draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 for an overarching national legal framework for water conservation and management.
- **National Water Policy:** The government is planning to update the 2012 National Water Policy.
- **Ministry of Jal Shakti:** Creation of a separate Ministry of Jal Shakti by merging related ministries for effective governance.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** a campaign for water conservation was launched in 2019 to make water conservation a Jan Andolan (People's Movement).
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** was launched in 2019 to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal):** a groundwater management scheme was also launched in 2019 to improve groundwater management in 7 states over 5 years.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban):** In Budget 2021-22, Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) was announced for Universal water supply in all Urban Local Bodies as well as liquid waste management in 500 AMRUT cities to be implemented over the next 5 years.
- **Urban Swachh Bharat Mission:** was proposed to be implemented in Budget 2021-22.
- **River water Interlinking:** An action plan and a ground for reaching a consensus on Inter-Linking of Rivers have been prepared.
- **Nisarg Raksha:** On the 72nd Republic Day of India, a nationwide movement named Nisarg Raksha for 'Environmental Conservation and Water Rejuvenation' was launched. It will be a People's movement.
 - It includes training of 1 million **Nisarg Rakshaks** to carry out various activities by 50000 **Nisarg Shikshaks** across the country.
 - "**Nature Protector Forum**" is being created at both National and State levels to monitor its implementation through Data Analytics.
 - "**Nature Protector App**" has been designed to help any conscious citizen to participate in a nature conservation campaign.
- **Fellowship Program:** Through **Rishihood University**, a one-year fellowship program is being planned for young professionals in the water sector to provide insights, to help the government implement/scale-up best practices.

Conclusion:

- It is high time for all of us to realise water's true, multidimensional value if we are to survive the future and build a sustainable world.

3. India's Inland Waterways Plan

Context:

- The country's waterways have been the **arteries of moving India**, its people and goods, since ancient times.
- For many years freight transportation by waterways has been underutilised, especially compared to countries like China, the US and the EU.
- Recognising this, in recent years, there has been a **renewed momentum to explore the full potential of the country's inland waterways**.

Background:

- Independent India created the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in 1986** to help maintain and energise infrastructure around key inland waterways.
- It recognised waterways including Ganga - Bhagirathi - Hooghly, Brahmaputra, set made up of West coast canal, Udyogamandal canal and Champakara canal, the Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals etc which have served India well for 7 decades.
- An additional 106 (total 111 now) inland waterways were declared through **the National Waterways Act, 2016**, as the Central Government can undertake development and regulation of inland waterways only when it is declared as a National Waterway by an Act of the Parliament (the old waterways are subsumed under this Act).

Need:

- **Underexploited:**
 - Compared to National Highways which are exploited fully, waterways are heavily underutilized.
 - The existing rate of its usage stood at a mere 2% of total cargo traffic.
- **Accidents:** Water transportation being the safest can reduce road accidents.
- **Costs:** It also reduces treatment and rehabilitation costs.
- **Land Acquisition:** Land acquisition for highways is a sensitive issue, highly time-consuming and costly - switching to water mode, therefore is the most viable alternative particularly for bulk cargo.
- **Tourism:** Waterways have a lot of tourist potential as many famous pilgrim centres are located on the riverside.
- **Economical and Eco-friendly:** In 2020 the Ministry of Shipping declared that all usage charges from waterways should be removed for an initial period of 3 years to promote waterways.

Developments:

- An **MoU between IWAI and MOL Group** which is a global leader in gas carriers has been signed wherein MoL Limited is investing in the **construction and operation of LPG barges**, as part of the Government's Make in India initiative.

Conclusion:

- The MoU comes at a time when 60% of LPG in the country is being transported via road at a very high cost. Inland waterways will help bring down logistics cost in India that stands at 14% of GDP as opposed to a global average of 8%.
- This will also reduce our carbon footprints.
- In the wake of the recent transporters' strike and blockades and resultant increasing costs, looking towards inland waterways is the most feasible solution.

4. Towards Realisation of a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy

Context:

- India has set a target of achieving a **5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25**.
- Considering its economy was 2.94 trillion in 2019, it was realistically possible, but the setback due to the **global economic slowdown compounded by the COVID-19** pandemic has created challenges.

Immediate Challenges:

- **Stringent lockdowns:** Lockdowns have inhibited economic growth and adversely impacted the health of the people along with causing unfavourable social and psychological consequences.
- **Recession and accelerated unemployment.**
- **Second wave:** Also, the pandemic is spreading rapidly in the form of a second wave in the country.

The two-pronged approach:

1. Mitigate the impact of the pandemic consequences.
2. Ensure accelerated growth.

Some of the cornerstones of achieving this include the following:

Halting the Slowdown:

- 2020-21 witnessed an unprecedented contraction of **-7.9%**.
- The challenge lies not only in reversing this but also in ensuring that the rate of growth is higher than before.

Measures:

- **Monetary and Fiscal policy:** For this, both liquidity injections and fiscal stimuli are being used to steer the economy back on the growth trajectory. About Rs 27.1 lakh crore equivalent to 13% of our GDP has been given as a stimulus package under Atma Nirbhar Bharat and measures by the RBI.
- **Structural reforms:** Structural reforms across various sectors including new Acts for Agriculture, new definitions of MSMEs, enactment of labour codes have rightly underscored the importance of generating demand along with boosting the supply.

Health First:

- Unlike the 1991 or 2008 economic crisis, the trigger for the current economic crisis is a health crisis.
- Accordingly, the remedial approach must include availability, accessibility and affordability of vaccines in addition to other measures.

Measures:

- **Budget:** The **health budget** has been increased by **137%** this year for better infrastructure and preparedness.
- **PM AtmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana** with an outlay of 64,180 crores over 6 years to develop capabilities of healthcare institutions has been announced.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban), Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, voluntary vehicle scrappage policy, provision of COVID vaccine** etc will directly or indirectly lead to better public health.
- **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill** is underway indicating the emergence of an integrated health management system in the country.

Harnessing Inherent Strength:

- Since growth also depends on citizen's proactive entrepreneurship, an enabling socio-economic environment must be created by focusing on nutrition, education at all levels and skilling.

Measures:

- **POSHAN 2.0:** scheme to improve nutrition across 112 aspirational districts will definitely help in this.
- **Education:** More than 15000 schools are to be qualitatively strengthened, a **Central University** is to come up in Leh, 50,000 crores are allocated for **National Research Foundation** in the budget.
 - **New Education Policy, 2020** also envisages the universalization of education.
- **Skill development:** The government is also working with **UAE and Japan** to benchmark skill qualifications.

Handling External Sector:

- India's trade with the world has reduced by 23% in April-December 2020 as compared to the same period during 2019.
- Since supply chains have become globally integrated, the performance of the external sector is very important for the revival of our economy.

Measures:

- **Trade Policy 2021-26:** it is to be implemented on April 1, 2021.
- **MSMEs:** District lead export growth, rationalisation of customs duties, anti-dumping and countervailing duties will help the MSMEs.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure and Development cess** will help improve agricultural infrastructure.
- **FDI:** The budget has revised the cap on FDI in the insurance sector from 49% to 74% to enhance the FDI inflows into the sector. This will lead to greater insurance penetration and access to healthcare for individuals.

Honing Facilities for Employment:

- Lockdown witnessed large scale reverse migration, socio-economic hardships.
- At such a juncture, an expansionary fiscal policy is required.

Measures:

- **MSMEs:** Doubling of the outlay for MSMEs in the Budget.
- **Ship recycling:** Doubling the recycling capacity of Ships as announced in the Budget will create additional 1.5 lakh jobs.
- **Others:** One Nation One Ration card, a portal for gig workers, allowing women to work in night shifts and reducing the compliance burden on employers are other measures.

Hoisting infrastructure:

- Physical and financial infrastructure provides a requisite framework for the development of all sectors, besides providing employment.

Measures:

- **Production Linked Incentive scheme** for 13 sectors.
- **Capitalising Development Financial Institution** for infrastructure financing.
- **Others:** Mega Investment Textile Parks, National Monetisation Pipeline, National Rail Plan, flagging of merchant ships, result-linked power distribution sector scheme, City Gas Distribution network etc are some other measures.

Hailing Agriculture:

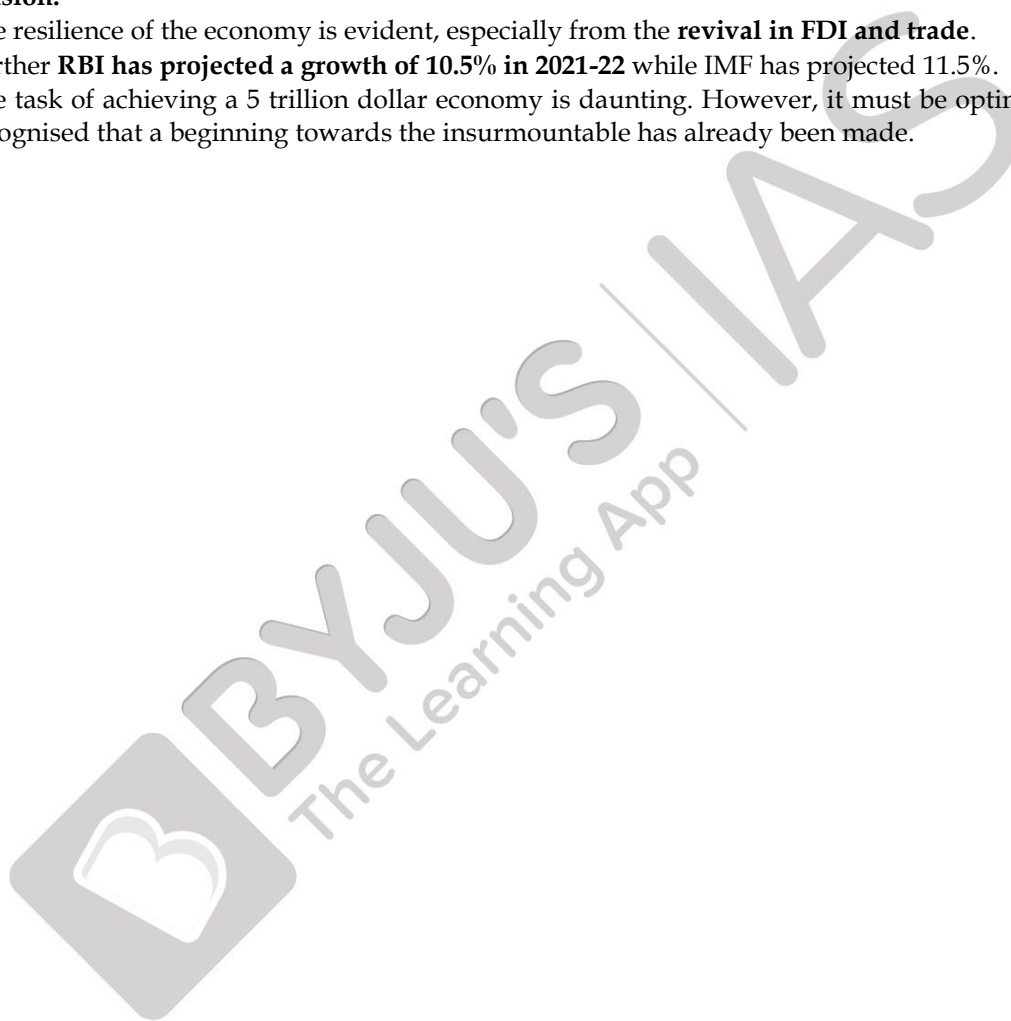
- Considering the ubiquitous importance and linkages, agriculture has not been subjected to lockdowns in 2020 and is the only sector that will record positive growth of 0.9 %.
- Accordingly, the budget has accorded priority to the agriculture sector.

Measures:

- **Funding:** Enhancing agricultural credit target, raising allocation for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, doubling corpus of Micro-irrigation fund setting up of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess.
- **Others:** Enhancing scope of Operation Greens scheme to include 22 perishable products, establishing multipurpose seaweed park etc.

Conclusion:

- The resilience of the economy is evident, especially from the **revival in FDI and trade**.
- Further **RBI has projected a growth of 10.5% in 2021-22** while IMF has projected 11.5%.
- The task of achieving a 5 trillion dollar economy is daunting. However, it must be optimistically recognised that a beginning towards the insurmountable has already been made.



5. Boosting Agricultural Sector through investment in Infrastructure and Processing

Context:

- About **55% of the total workforce** in the country is still engaged in the agricultural and allied sector activities - census 2011.
- It accounts for nearly **17.8% of the GVA** of India in 2019-20, which has declined from 18.2% in 2014-15.
- It also plays a critical role in rural livelihood and national food security.
- Though the agricultural activities were severely impacted during the COVID-19 lockdowns, the supply of agricultural commodities has continued uninterrupted during the pandemic.
- Considering the importance of this sector and its resilience (the only sector with positive growth in 2020-21), the Government of India under the broader theme of '**Inclusive Development for Aspirational India**' announced several measures under the Union Budget for boosting its growth.

Measures to boost Agriculture and Allied sectors:

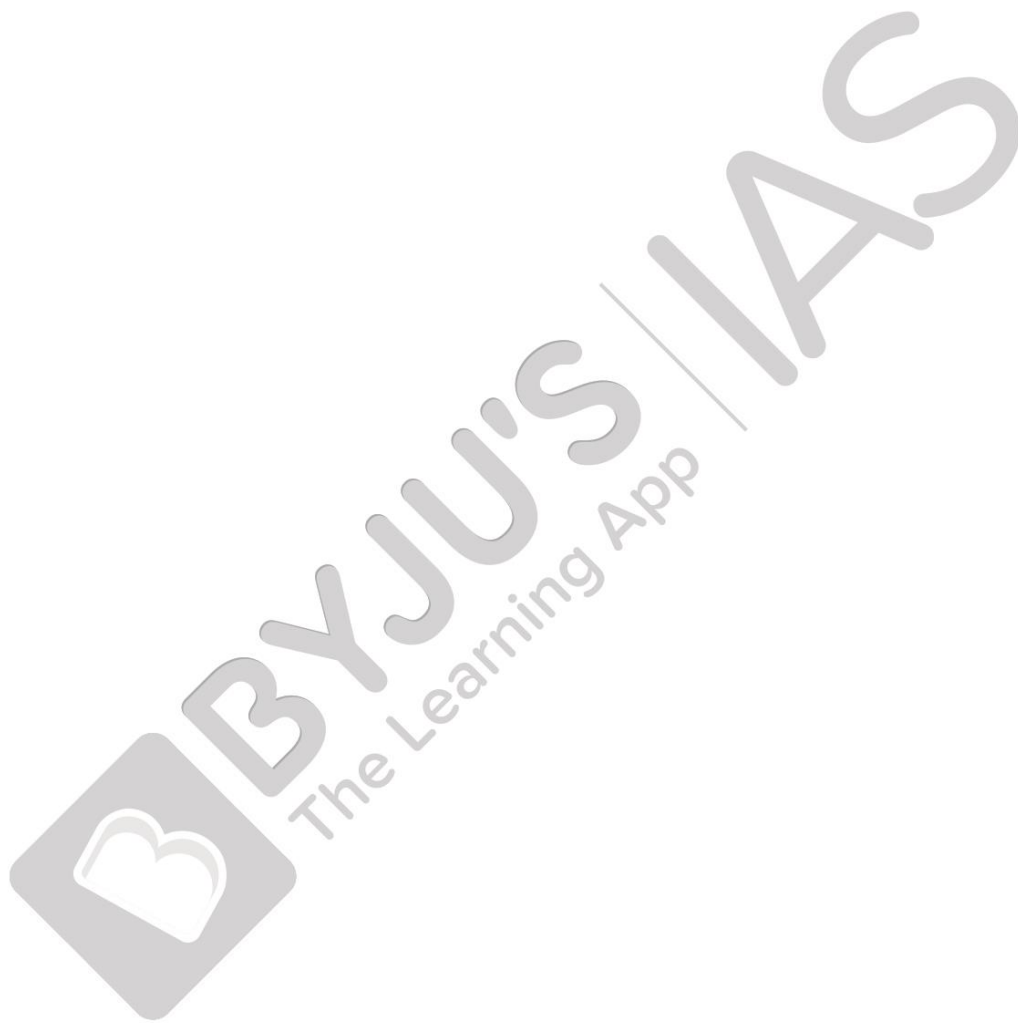
- **Boost to agricultural credit:**
 - The agricultural credit disbursement target has been increased to Rs. 16.5 lakh crores in 2021-22 especially focusing on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.
- **Infrastructure Development Fund:**
 - The allocation under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been raised to 40,000 crores from 30,000 crores.
- **Enhancement in the corpus of Micro-Irrigation Fund:**
 - A total corpus of 10,000 crores has been created under NABARD for facilitating state governments efforts in mobilising additional resources for expanding coverage under micro-irrigation.
- **Boost to Value Addition and Exports through Expansion of Operation Greens:**
 - The scope of Operation Greens (earlier applicable only to tomatoes, onions and potatoes) has been expanded to cover 22 perishable products in 2021-22, thus TOP to TOTAL.
 - Under this, there is a provision of a 50% subsidy on transport and storage of notified products if their prices fall below the trigger price.
 - Now, this subsidy is also applicable under the Kisan Rail Scheme.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for APMCs:**
 - A dedicated Rs. 1,00,000 crore fund for improving farm gate infrastructure would be made available to Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) for augmenting their infrastructure facilities.
- **e.NAM:**
 - 1000 more mandis are to be integrated into e-NAM.
 - Currently, only 1000 APMC mandis are integrated into the electronic-National Agriculture Market.
- **Fishing sector:**
 - Investments for the development of modern fishing harbours and fish landing centres - Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Petuaghat.
- **Seaweed Farming:**
 - Proposal for setting up a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu.
- **Cess and Duties:**
 - Raising customs duties on cotton from nil to 10%, raw silk and silk yarn from 10 to 15% will help farmers.
 - Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess for improving agricultural infrastructure was also proposed.

- **SWAMITVA scheme**

- Launched in 2020, Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SWAMITVA) would provide demarcation of rural abadi areas using drones, thus providing a 'record of rights' to owners of houses in village areas, which in turn can be used as collateral in banks for loans.
- This scheme has now been extended to all states and UTs across India.

Conclusion:

- With such a major thrust on infrastructure creation in agriculture and allied sectors, it is **expected to witness robust growth in the coming years**.
- Since the sector has linkages with overall economic development, the **farmers' income** is expected to rise while ensuring **food security** also.



6. Objective Questions

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water connections to 37% of rural households in India.
 2. The JJM aims to boost manufacturing industries and employment in rural areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water connections to 20% of rural households in India, thus taking the total households in rural India with tap water connections to 37% from earlier 17%.

Statement 2 is correct: The JJM aims to boost manufacturing industries and employment in rural areas.

2. Consider the following statements:
 1. By 2050, it is estimated that the water demand in India will be twice its availability and it may lead to geopolitical conflict in this century.
 2. Under Namami Gange, minimum ecological flow is to be maintained to ensure basic water quantity in the river.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: By 2030, it is estimated that the water demand in India will be twice its availability and it may lead to geopolitical conflict in this century.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Under Namami Gange, minimum ecological flow is to be maintained to ensure water **quality** in the river.

3. With reference to inland waterways in India, consider the following statements:
 1. Champakara canal and Udyogamandal canal are now declared as national waterways under the National Waterways Act, 2016.
 2. The Central Government can undertake development and regulation of inland waterways only under an Act of the Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The old waterways are subsumed under the new National Waterways Act, 2016 and thus all 111 waterways are declared as national waterways under this Act.

Statement 2 is correct: As per the Constitutional provisions, the Central Government can undertake development and regulation of inland waterways only under an Act of the Parliament. Thus the National Waterways Act, 2016 was enacted.

4. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Indian economy has suffered an unprecedented contraction of -7.9% in the economy in 2020-21.
 2. Agriculture is the only sector with a positive growth of 0.9% in 2020-21.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian economy has suffered an unprecedented contraction of -7.9% in the economy in 2020-21.

Statement 2 is correct: Agriculture is the only sector with a positive growth of 0.9% in 2020-21.

5. Consider the following statements:
1. The SWAMITVA scheme aims to boost formal credit growth in rural areas.
 2. Union Budget 2021-22 proposes to set up a seaweed park in Tamil Nadu.
 3. The allocation to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been 30,000 crores in 2020-21.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct:
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Launched in 2020, Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SWAMITVA) would provide demarcation of rural abadi areas using drones, thus providing a 'record of rights' to owners of houses in village areas, which in turn can be used as collateral in banks for loans. This will ensure the growth of formal credit in rural areas.

Statement 2 is correct: Union Budget 2021-22 proposes to set up a seaweed park in Tamil Nadu.

Statement 3 is correct: The allocation to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been 30,000 crores in 2020-21 while it has been increased to 40,000 crores in 2021-22.



7. Subjective Questions

1. What is Jal Jeevan Mission? Assess the current focus and the progress of the mission.
2. In the context of the dire state of water security in India, discuss the various measures taken by the Government of India to ensure water security to its citizens.
3. The inland waterways are the most feasible mode for bulk transportation of goods in India'. Comment.
4. In the face of the global slowdown and COVID-19 pandemic, enumerate the measures taken by the Government of India to achieve its target of a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025.
5. The agricultural and allied sector has been the only positive highlight in India's economic story in 2020. In this context, what measures have been initiated by the Government of India in Budget 2021-22, to further boost this sector?



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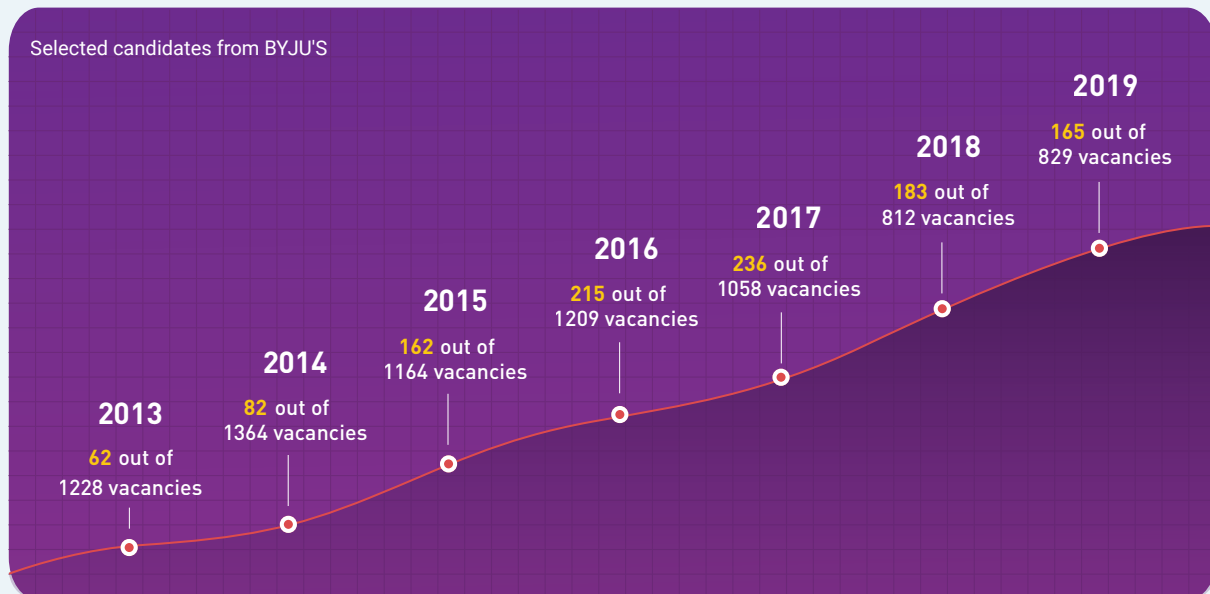
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