

# WEBINAR HANDOUT



## Yojana and Kurukshetra

## Yojana (August 2020) and Kurukshetra (July, 2020)

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## KURUKSHETRA-JULY 2020

**1. Philosophy of Indian Classical Music****Introduction**

Tracing down the history of Indian music, one would find that since ancient times, temples have been providing a platform for many diverse forms of the artistic expressions of Classical music. And, it was Bhakti or selfless devotion that was the underlying essence of the various art forms that developed in India.

The artistic principles of Indian classical music are formulated and structured in such a way that it becomes an inward journey for its practitioners so that they get intimately connected with their within.

Musicians with a profound understanding of Indian heritage, its associated symbols, and myths, use the structure of the music and the words of the composition that are often rooted in mythology, to move into the abstract, subtle, inspiring, and mystical domains.

**The Invocation of the Primordial Sound**

For a true practitioner of classical music, the approach used to be Nadopâsanâ - the invocation of the primordial sound. For these practitioners, music became an internal journey for the realisation of the ultimate truth. Such practitioners of classical music tried not to sing or play for the audience.

Even when they were giving a public performance, they got elevated to the very high points within themselves which consequently uplifted the audience taking them into the domains that they never experienced before. Thus, the performer as well as the audience, both experienced the true rasa of classical music.

**Guru Shishya Paramapra and Gharana Tradition**

The Guru-Shishya parampara is another crucial feature which is common for all the classical music traditions of India. A great Guru is the amalgamation of thousands of years of wisdom. It requires a lot of sacrifices, tremendous staying power, and faith on the part of the disciples to take in what a Guru can pass onto them.

The musical gharanas of north Indian or Hindustani classical music have also contributed to the diversity of their form of music by presenting a distinct style of it.

These Gharānas or the 'households' of specific styles of music have preserved and distilled the unique principles of Ragas through Guru-shishya lineage.

**How Indian Classical Music led to the development of Composite Culture?**

- The origin of Indian music can be traced back to the chanting of Vedic hymns and *mantras*.
- The Chandogya Upanishad talks about the seven styles of *gana* (musical modes), which highlights the importance of *Svara* (phonemes) of a Vedic *mantra* that should be pronounced with absolute accuracy.

- It was the Prabandha tradition in South India that gradually influenced the emergence of two associated, yet distinctive, styles of classical music that are now known as Hindustani and Carnatic music.
- Sankaradeva, classical music and dance traditions helped in consolidating the Indian cultural contact with its northeastern region even further.
- Sikhism is perhaps the only religion that uses music as its chief mode of worship, where poetic teachings of Gurus, composed in classical music, are used as prayer and offering.
- In Islam, music has been incorporated in dance and qawwali by Sufi saints triggering their inner consciousness.

### **Unifying Factor of Indian Classical Music**

Another unifying factor of different forms of Indian classical music is the emphasis on the purity of Svara (musical note). The text Sangeet Ratnakar gives the etymological meaning of Svara as- .swayamevaranjavtiitiswa. The term "Sva" stands for 'self', and "la", stands for 'shining forth'. So, the atman or Self is expected to shine through the Svara.

As one gets connected with the within using the Svaraas as a means, the Self begins to shine through the music. It is the pure Svara of a practitioner that makes the music significant.

### **Conclusion**

The specific cultural forms and historical traditions have contributed to the emergence of epistemological diversity of Indian music. This has resulted in the development of distinctive world-views that outline the cultural framework and assumptions behind the production of Indian classical music. It is also reflected that spirituality has constantly remained the underlying core principle of this music.



## 2. Northeast Region: Unique Identity

### Culture of North-east

On the religious front, a sizeable majority of tribal communities in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur have in the past 200 years embraced Christianity by leaving behind their respective traditional faiths of nature worship.

Vaishnavism is the most prominent in Assam and Manipur. Among major indigenous faiths are Donyi-Polo in Arunachal Pradesh and Niam-tre in Meghalaya.

Arunachal Pradesh also has a significant presence of Buddhism; the Monpa, Sherdukpen, Memba and Khamba tribes follow the Mahayana school, while the Khainti, Singpho and Tangsa tribes follow the Theravada school.

Wealthy in culture, most communities of the Northeast have a rich tradition of oral literature, folk songs, music and dance forms. These are generally related to various agricultural practices; which was for long in the *Jhum* or slash-and-burn method. Most festivals were thus connected to clearing jungles for *jhum*, filling the soil, sowing of seeds and harvesting.

Hand-weaving has been a tradition for every community living in the region from time immemorial. Weaving, in fact, is a part of the socio-cultural tradition of the diverse communities, whether in the lofty heights of the Eastern Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh or down south in the Mizo Hills that form part of the Arakan Yoma mountain system and shares boundary with Myanmar on one side and Bangladesh on the other.

Assam's traditional handloom industry has been basically silk-oriented because the state is also home to the unique muga or golden silk—a variety of wild silk geographically tagged to Assam.

The wide variety of musical instruments that the different communities possess—from the long dama of the Garos of Meghalaya (they play 100 drums in unison during the Wangala festival) to the bhor-taal (large brass cymbals used in Assam's Satra monasteries) to the bengbung of Mizoram (similar to a xylophone) tells about Music tradition.

Northeast region is the underlying interconnectivity that the ethnic communities and groups maintain and enjoy among themselves despite certain sharp differences. One, the ethnocultural boundaries of many of these communities cut across inter-state, national and even international boundaries.

Intertwined with the geography of multicultural coexistence, the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, on the other hand, provides them with equal protection and opportunities. Common languages that have evolved in the region such as Nagamese among the 18 Naga tribes, Mizo among different tribes of the Mizo Hills, Assamese among various communities in Assam, and even Hindi among the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

## KURUKSHETRA-JULY 2020

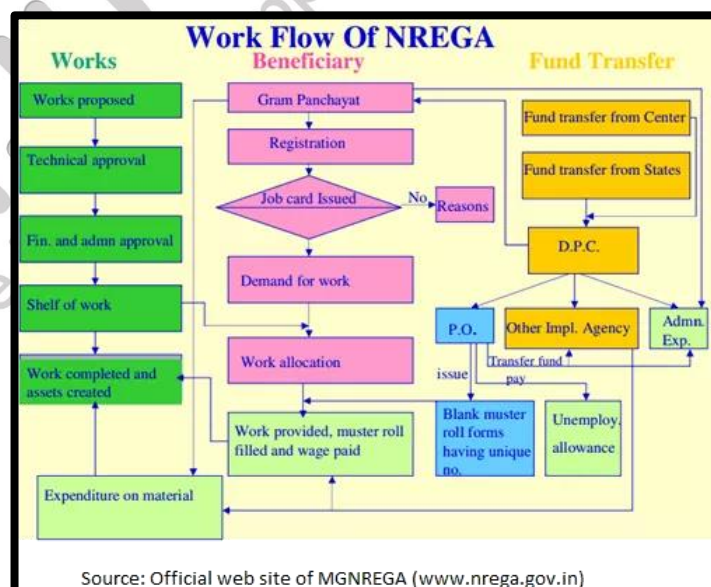
### 3. MGNREGA-A Social Security Met

#### Introduction

- The COVID-19 or Coronavirus pandemic and prolonged lockdown of economic activities have caused health and income insecurity amongst the socio-economically weak and vulnerable, especially, the migrants, the daily wage earners and the casual labourers.
- The Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is expected to stand firm on five vital pillars - economy, infrastructure, vibrant human resources, demand and technology-driven arrangements and systems.
- The Union Finance Minister subsequently announced a slew of stimulus measures which, inter alia, included a package of assistance for rejuvenating the rural and agricultural economy.
- Since poverty alleviation and employment generation have been the major objectives of India from the 1950s, the government, rested its renewed focus on reviving rural economic growth through broadening wage employment opportunities to the job seekers.

#### Rural Employment and MGNREGA

Farm risks and uncertainties, population pressure on cultivable land, lack of alternate occupational choices, rural-urban income differentials and rising rural economic distress had, earlier, prompted massive rural-urban migration in India. But, the nation, with a migrant workforce of more than 423 million [Census 2011, Government of India] in cities and metros from States other than the origin, is now witnessing unrelenting reverse migration due to COVID-19 impact.



During the next few months, the farm and non-farm sectors are expected to experience various ill-effects of under-employment and unemployment due to swelling in the existing workforce, in the respective regions. It is thus important to ensure adequate livelihoods through broadened occupational choices to the millions of workforce of the countryside.

MGNREGA, an entitlement-driven and self-target oriented employment generation scheme, aims at enhancing the livelihood and economic security of the rural poor households.

**MGNREGA's Role in Self-reliant Rural India:**

- MGNREGA, being a public works programme, has the capability to effectively harness the productive power of rural unemployed towards their socio-economic development. It is also capable of not only supplementing the income of jobseekers; the whole process would actually roll out an excellent social security and insurance mechanism by stabilising employment during the off-peak agriculture seasons in the rural areas.
- Considering its employment generation potential and productive absorption capacity of surplus workforce during and after the pandemic.
- Before delving into the MGNREGA implementation framework to find out the potential it has for ensuring a self-reliant rural India in future, one needs to explain and understand the central objectives of the Act.

**Some of the NRM Works could include works related to:**

- Water security like the construction of farm ponds, wells, earthen check dams, stop dams and other water harvesting structures with a special focus on recharging groundwater including the sources of drinking water.
- Watershed management works like contour trenches, terracing, contour bonds, boulder checks, spring shed development.
- Micro and minor irrigation works.
- Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies.
- Afforestation, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands and land development works in common land.

Effective implementation of public works programme depends largely on how the community engages itself from identification of works to their planning and transparent execution

## 4. Social Security: Issues, Challenges And Initiatives

### Introduction

The balanced and overall development of any country requires not only attaining high GDP but also improvement in the quality of life of citizens. Therefore, to promote improvement in the quality of life, ensuring the provision of adequate social security to citizens becomes highly significant, especially in a developing country like India.

### About Social Security

It may be defined as a provision of protection for individuals and households, to ensure their health and income, especially in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a sole earning member.

### How Social Security can help on National Progress?

It can help in the reduction of poverty and inequality and therefore support inclusive growth through enhancing human capital and its productivity. It indirectly also influences domestic demand and facilitates the growth of an economy.

As per the **International Labour Organization** (ILO-2014 records), only 27 per cent of the global population enjoys social security in any form whereas 73 per cent is deprived of it. The need for such highly subsidized programmes arises in India because nearly 90 per cent of workers in India earn their livelihood in the unorganised sector, which lacks social security.

### Government Initiatives related to Social Security

#### Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:

- It was launched on May 09, 2015, is another important milestone in this direction. It is a government-backed Life Insurance Scheme, available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account who give their consent to join/enable auto-debit.

#### Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana:

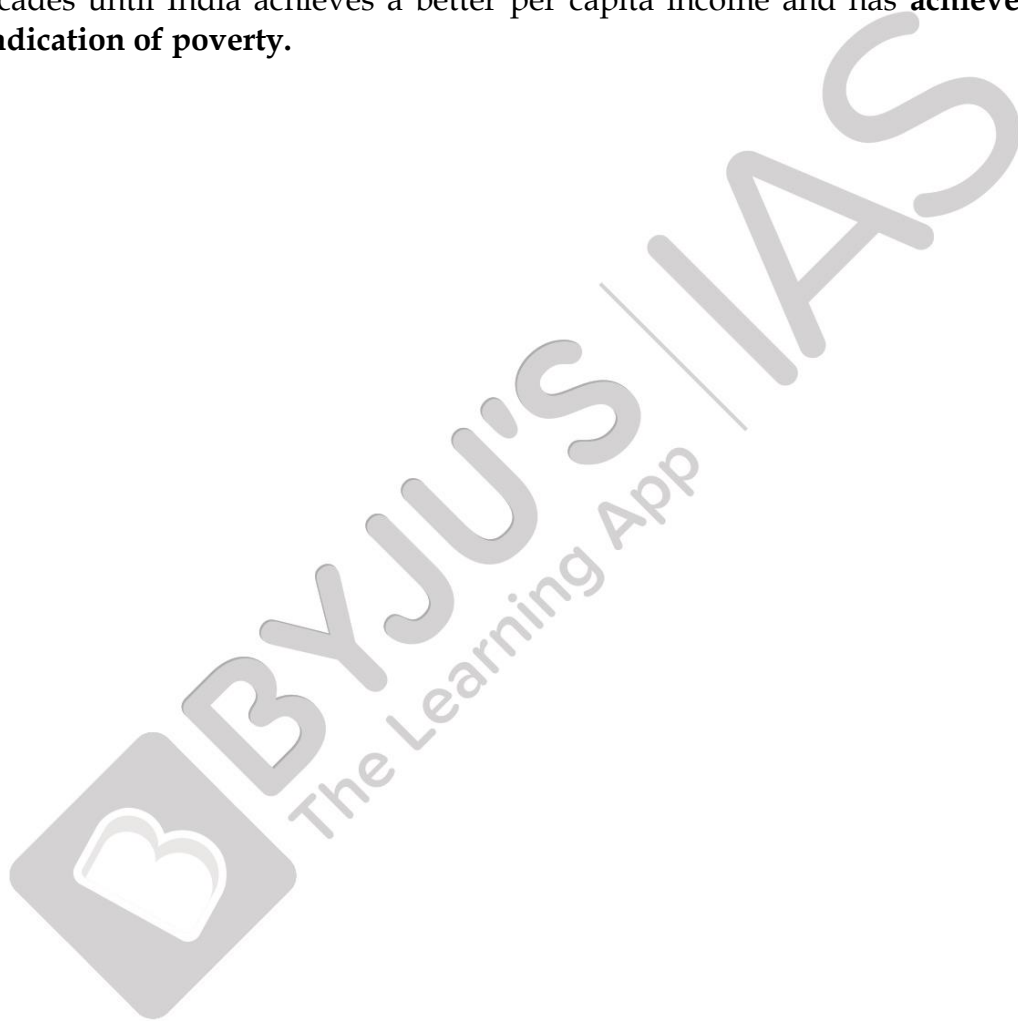
- Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana was announced with an objective to help the vulnerable sections stay prepared in cases of unforeseen emergencies, especially when they are faced with unexpected death and impairments.
- The essence of the scheme is to provide people with a Personal Accident insurance cover at a price that is considerably lower than what is charged under commercial insurance plans.

#### Sukanya Smridhi Yojana:

- Sukanya Smridhi Yojana (SSY), a small-scale savings scheme for the daughter's education and marriage, initiated as a part of government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao mission.
- The government wants to convey a message that if a parent could make a proper plan for their girl child, they can definitely improve and secure their daughter's future.

### Conclusion

- Well-defined social security programmes **need to be welfare-oriented, inclusive, wider-based and better implemented**. Making schemes targeted and contributory could negatively affect these features.
- In order to meaningfully implement the proposed universal schemes, **collaborative exercise with post offices in addition to banks can be considered**.
- It goes without doubt that adequate social security enhances economic growth and thus **reduces the burden of tax-financed schemes** through the generation of additional revenue.
- It would be advantageous to have universal schemes at least for the next few decades until India achieves a better per capita income and has **achieved total eradication of poverty**.





## 5. A Step Towards Health Security

### Introduction

The World Health Organization or WHO has defined global public health security as "the activities required, both proactive and reactive, to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people's health across geographical regions and international boundaries".

Health Security does not exist in isolation— it is dependent on food and nutrition security, economic/financial security as well as the societal support and many other factors.

It requires a safe and healthy environment, good infrastructure for physical activity and all-round security (including psychological aspects) for the individuals to lead a healthy, happy and contented life

### National health security

National health security is fundamentally a weak link all around the world. None of the nations is fully prepared to handle epidemics or pandemics; every country has many of its major gaps to be addressed for amicably handling the adverse situations arising out of such incidents.

Disparities in the nation's capacities and a lack of attention by the leaders exacerbate the preparedness gaps towards the biological threats.

### About the National Health Policy of India

India's National Health Policy framed in 1983 was re-formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2017, to address the current emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic and epidemiological conditions.

- Focuses on preventive and promotive health care and primary healthcare which is comprehensive and universal.
- Promotes a patient-centric approach providing quality care, inter-sectoral convergence as well as easy access, affordability with appropriate use of technology as its salient features.

### What the Government has done for Health Security?

Prime Minister outlined the four major pillars of healthcare which need to be focused:

- Preventive Healthcare
- Affordable Healthcare
- Improvements in the supply of equipment and medicines.
- Mission mode interventions

## 6. Progress in Agriculture Sector to help in making the country self-reliant

### Introduction

Recently Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has emphasised on increasing private investment in the field of agriculture. This will increase prosperity in the agriculture sector, which in turn will increase self-reliance and prosperity in the country.

In foodgrain production, India is not only self-sufficient but also surplus. Farmers have demonstrated that they are capable of dealing with difficult challenges.

### Progress in Agriculture to make it Self-Reliant

To deal with the growing population of the country which is expected to reach 160 crores by the year 2050, plant breeders and scientists in India are faced with the challenge of increasing production of quality foodgrains and providing enough nutritional food to all Indians by undertaking progressive farming to develop disease-resistant and pest-resistant varieties that require less area and are able to grow in unfavourable conditions like dry climate, high temperature, saline and acidic soils.

Bio-fortification strategy must also be used to develop high-quality crop varieties having high protein, iron, zinc etc. nutritional content. For this, plant breeders have to use the latest biotechnology methods in addition to traditional methods of farming.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has announced a provision of Rs. One lakh crore for developing agricultural infrastructure. Similar provisions have also been announced for the fisheries, animal husbandry, bee-farming, herbal farming, food processing etc, sectors.

To strengthen the rural economy, agriculture has to prosper and also its sister concerns. When this happens, the country will be able to face all other challenges.





### Way Ahead

Coronavirus crisis when the wheels of the world economy had slowed down, the Indian farmers produced a bumper crop with the resources available in the rural areas, crop harvesting continued at a normal pace during the lockdown, crop production was more than last year and sowing of Kharif crops has also been 45 per cent more than last year.

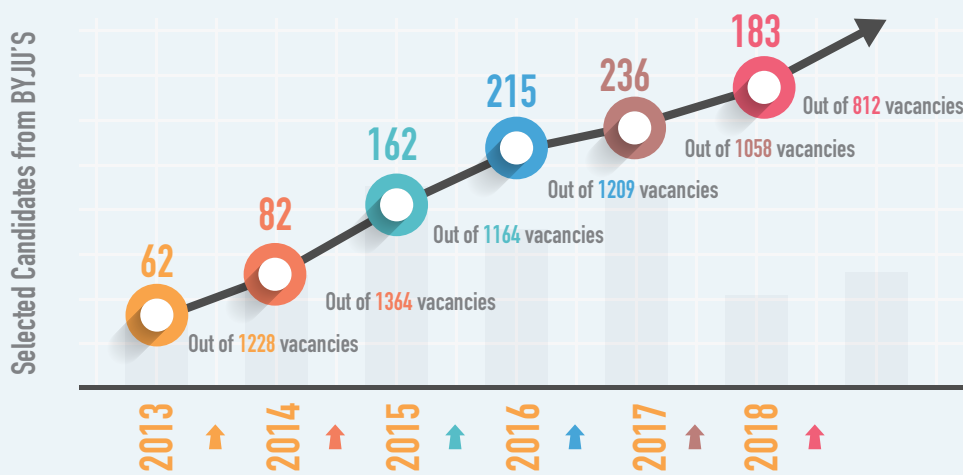
This shows the resilience of our villages and farmers. Shri Tomar said that no other government has provided so much funds for agriculture and farmers welfare as the Modi Government. The PM-Kisan scheme alone is allotted more budget than the whole agriculture budget previously.



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