



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Insights into Yojana: June 2017

Topic: Empowering Youth

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Indian Youth: Emerging Power

Introduction

- The term 'Youth' as defined by the **UNESCO** – is “the period of **transition from the dependence to independence** and awareness of our independence as members of a community.
- **India** comes across a **young nation** with nearly **65 percent of its population falling under 35**, thus making it a largely young nation.
- Youth as a potential power to help India on the global scale has to be backed by a substantial **policy orientation and support**.

Youth in Public Life

- From the **LGBT movement** to the '**equal right for women**' and from **environmental concerns** to **human rights** – the **youth have been at the centre** of activities in public life and often act as a **workable pressure group**.
- The youth can act ideally as a **bridge between two generations**. Youth are basically the catalyst of new social thinking, economic development and political activity.

Digital Empowerment

- The digital environment in India has empowered the youth to stand up to the world in a more consolidated manner. It leads to **faster communication, quicker learning** and also links two geographically distant places on a common platform.
- Technology has enabled **equal opportunities in matters of accessibility** and youth have been in the forefront of learning and adaptation of new technological options.
- The biggest achievement of the youth and technology co-option can be said to be risk taking spirit and the **rise of start-ups**.

National Youth Policy 2014

- According to the Annual Report 2016-17, “The National Youth Policy 2014” reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the all round development of youth of India so that they can realise their full potential and contribute productively to the nation building process.

Government Initiatives

- The **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan** has been mandated for developing and engaging youth in nation building activities. The **National Service Scheme (NSS)** develops the morale and humanistic personality through voluntary social service.
- **Skill Upgradation Training Programme (SUTP):**
 - It aims to develop **vocational training** to help generate extra income and boost self confidence.
- **Promotion of Folk Art, Culture and Yuva Kriti:**
 - Provides opportunity to the rural youth to **showcase and promote their culture and talent**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi Yuva Swachta Abhiyaan and Shramdaan Karyakram:**
 - To alert and engage the youth in contributing to the **cleanliness drive and water conservation**.

- **Life Skill Training for Adolescents (Empowerment for Adolescents):**
 - Training youth in a manner that enables them to cope with the pressure and make health life choices.
 - Aims to sensitize and make aware the adolescent about reproductive sexual health, the issues and concerns.
- **Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP):**
 - The aim is to pick up potential youth from the left wing extremism affected tribal belt and tour them to other parts of the nation.
 - It enables them to develop and nationalize their mind set without the influence of a dominant local ideology.

Concerns / Challenges

- The youth today have sadly been subjected to the **ill effects of fast growing urban sutures** and are drawn to crimes even to maintain a living.
- A major reason for this negative outlook is the **disparity between availability and accessibility**.
- While there may be programmes and initiatives undertaken by the government – the method or means to avail them has not been easy.
- Dominant hurdles in accessing these facilities are the **financial constraints or the social structure**.

Conclusion

- The transforming youth shall be the torch bearers of a much sensitized, conscious and harmonious world.
- To conclude on the importance of the youth and its indomitable spirit – Swami Vivekananda's words shall shine bright and true – **"Arise! Awake! And stop not until the goal is reached"**.

Questions

- 1) Analyze the efforts of government in developing and engaging youth in the nation building activities.
- 2) What is the role of Digital Empowerment in Youth Empowerment?
- 3) Disparity between availability and accessibility of resources is a major constraint for youth empowerment. Comment.
- 4) Which one of the following statements about the National Service Scheme (NSS) is *incorrect*?
 - (a) It was established with primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service
 - (b) Its members do not have to wear any uniform unlike the National Cadet Corps
 - (c) Its motto is, "Not me, but you"
 - (d) It is under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development

Solution (d) – NSS is under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Job Creation: Challenges and Way Forward

Introduction

- Indian youth can contribute to higher economic growth if properly absorbed in the labour market.
- The country is experiencing a youth bulge which is much more pronounced in the northern and eastern backward states of the country.
- However the number of **jobs created each year is inadequate** to absorb this growing population of youth in the labour market.
- Younger people are joining non-agricultural sectors such as construction, manufacturing and trade and related activities in greater numbers.
- This shift from agriculture is largely due to the fact that **agriculture is not able to absorb more labour** and because it does not offer remunerative jobs for the young entrants in the labour market who have better educational achievements.

Unemployment

- Unemployment is **higher in urban than in rural areas and for females compared to males**.
- Unemployment among youth rises with increase in the level of education.
- The Indian labour market is not only creating inadequate jobs, but the **discrimination prevails against the females in recruitment** in the labour market.
- An additional reason can be that **jobs suitable for women are not being created** or there is a lack of suitable infrastructure facilities such as transport, crèche facilities, etc which could facilitate women's access to jobs.

Recent Government Initiatives

- Several new schemes in recent years have been launched to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth, such as, **Start-up India, Stand-up India, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Ease of Doing Business, Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme etc.**

Conclusion

- India is going through a phase of demographic transition due to which the proportion of youth in the total population is increasing. An increasing number of youth require good education and a steady creation of suitable jobs.
- **Employment creation needs to be a part of macro and other economic policies.**
- To accelerate the process of job creation, different ministries need to include job creation in all their programmes and policies.
- **Regional inequality needs to be corrected** so that local youth are able to get employment in the regions itself.
- There is a need for suitable policies and programmes so that more and more women get employment.
- The country needs to move fast so that it realizes the demographic dividend. If it fails, the demographic dividend will turn into demographic disaster.

Making a Nation of Job Creators

Introduction

- **India needs 10 million jobs a year** and global data shows that **it is start-ups**, not large enterprises that create new set jobs in any country.
- Start-ups are also the **centres of innovation** and are a great way to enhance employment creation in the economy.
- **Start-up India** initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for growth of Start-ups.
- The **objective is that India must become a nation of job creators** instead of being a nation of job seekers.

Promoting Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurship and Start-ups are only a recent phenomenon in the country. Doing a start-up is tough and every country sees more failures than success. Entrepreneur needs to be prepared to face failures and unprecedented hardship.
- For a start-up, it is **very important to have mentors** who have been through a similar process of starting or have business experience.
- A **great mentor is often what separates success from failure** by providing valuable inputs. However there is no formal mechanism to mentor start-ups in the country.

Addressing Funding Challenges

- The challenges of funding, patents and creation of intellectual property remain.
- The long process of registration of patents and **lack of incentives for research and development** is a reason why many start-ups prefer to be domiciled abroad.
- Around 90% of funding for start-ups comes from foreign venture capitals.
- According to a recent study, over 94% of the new businesses fail during first year of operation. Lack of funding turns to be one of the common reasons.
- **Funding options for start-ups** that will help them to raise capital for their business are:
 - Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
 - Bootstrapping or self funding.
 - Crowd funding.
 - Angel investment.
 - Venture capital.
 - Business incubators and accelerators.
 - Microfinance providers or NBFCs.

Conclusion

- Start-up companies are the most dynamic economic organisations on the market, since they **provide additional dynamics and competitiveness** to any economic system.
- **Indigenous start-ups** will not only make the lives of the people easier through their affordable and convenient services but will also act as a **major booster for the development and the progress of the Indian economy**.

- Many enterprising young people who dream of starting their own business lack resources. As a result, their ideas, talent and capabilities remain untapped – and the country loses out on wealth creation, economic growth and employment.

Questions

- 1) Examine why a formal mechanism to mentor start-ups in the country is necessary?**
- 2) Lack of incentives for research and development is a reason why many start-ups prefer to be domiciled abroad. What are the various funding options available for the start-ups?**
- 3) How can India become a nation of job creators instead of being a nation of job seekers?**
- 4) Discuss how Indigenous start-ups can act as a major booster for the development and progress of the Indian economy.**



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Youth: A Change Agent

Introduction

- India is at the cusp of demographic transition wherein 65% of the population is in the working age 15-59.
- This offers a **unique opportunity to become the skill capital of the world** to meet the skilled manpower requirements of ageing economies by appropriate skilling in consonance with the standards accepted across countries.
- As per the **National Youth Policy 2014** all young persons in the age group 15-29 years constitute youth population which is a diverse group with varying needs, aspirations and requirements.
- The contribution of youth to the GDP can be increased by increasing their labour force participation and their productivity.
- The need of the hour is to **empower youth to achieve their full potential** and to enable India to be the leader in supply of skilled labour force.
- The **demographic advantage** that India enjoys is **not uniformly distributed** across the country.
- Mobilizing the youth for vocational education / skill development is difficult due to lack of willingness to migrate, inability to pay for training, low literacy level, lack of awareness, among others.

Youth and Labour Market

- There has been a decline in labour force participation rate for all age groups irrespective of gender and spatial distinction.
- However, the decline has been very sharp for the rural females which could be attributed to the absence of job opportunities in the rural areas or due to social / religious customs.
- The challenge is to address the problem of working poor, insecurity at the workplace, lack of market linked skills, information asymmetry, poor perception about skill development.
- What emanates from above is need to
 - Match supply to current demand for skills.
 - Help workers and enterprises adjust to change.
 - Building and sustaining competencies for future labour market needs.

Initiatives for Employability

- **National Skill Development Mission** together with new **National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** was launched in 2015.
- The mission is focussing on
 - Creating a pipeline of skilled people.
 - Upskilling and reskilling to align supply for demand.
 - Advocating **National Skill Qualification Framework** to facilitate certification according to global standards.
 - Matching supply and demand and catalyzing the entrepreneurship.
- There is a big push for **vocational education** both in terms of capacity and quality improvement by reorienting the **vocationalisation of school education** from class 9 onwards and involving the industry in course curriculum, practical training and reforming industrial training institutes.

Leveraging Youth Power:

Mapping Aspiration of Youth

- Mapping aspirations is key to facilitate access to decent employment opportunities for socio economic inclusion.
- In most states, there is greater demand in sectors such as construction, transportation and logistics, agriculture and allied activities, but the demand for these occupations is low in most states.
- Therefore **mapping aspiration is crucial for demand supply match** and fulfilling economy requirement.
- **Recognition and awards for excellence** in skill would motivate and encourage youth for skill training.
- The **awareness about dignity of labour** from young age would help in changing the perception about the blue-collared jobs.

Mobilisation Key for Scaling

- The success of a skill training programme depends on how best we are able to mobilise.
- The poor mobilisation is due to
 - Lack of information about vocational courses and labour market outcomes, unwillingness to migrate, outdated curriculum etc.
- The **Skill Sakhi Model of Maharashtra government** wherein young women from the community are trained to mobilise women for skill development programme is a novel way of creating local change makers for taking ahead the agenda of skill development.

Addressing Diversity

- The Indian labour market shows **sectoral, gender and spatial diversity**.
- Labour market has a preponderance of **informal employment (93%)** with just about 8% working in formal sector.
- Women constitute about 48% of the total population but their participation in the labour force is just about 22%.
- If the capacity of women is built and they are linked with the development process, then the development of any country gets speed up exponentially.
- The specific **policy intervention** for increasing women participation requires providing adequate **logistic support**, focus on both **skilling / reskilling** and readiness on the part of employers to employ them.
- The initiative by **Government of Haryana for building capacities of women in occupations in the steel sector** with the help of Jindal Steels is worth replicating.
- There are infrastructure gaps in the North and North Eastern region Vis a Vis southern and western region. So it is necessary to **focus on infrastructure creation** in these regions.
- The **efficiencies of private sector need to be leveraged** either in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility or direct participation in infrastructure development, in training and other areas.

Reskilling / Upskilling of Prior Learning

- There is a need to provide school dropouts an opportunity of improving their skill levels through reskilling and upskilling.

- The challenge is to identify such workers. There is a need for creating the **skill gap analysis** and **on-the-ground hands-on training delivery**.

School to Work Transition Surveys (SWTS)

- The labour force survey provides information on employment, unemployment and out of labour force etc. However it does not provide information on job satisfaction, ease or difficulty of the school-to-work transition.
- The SWTS would provide timely and relevant labour market information. These would help in identifying vulnerable groups so that policy makers can take informed decisions that target the right population.

Conclusion

- The rapid economic changes and future job scenario offers both a challenge and opportunity to youth to enhance their employability for a better life.
- Various initiatives and programmes together with best practices in the skill development space can be scaled up and replicated across states to achieve the desired **objective of making youth the change agent**.

Questions

- 1) India has the unique opportunity to become the skill capital of the world. Discuss.
- 2) The demographic advantage that India enjoys is not uniformly distributed across the country. What steps should the government take to have uniform distribution of demographic advantage?
- 3) Examine why there has been a decline in labour force participation rate for all age groups irrespective of gender and spatial distinction. What steps should the government take to increase the labour force participation rate?
- 4) What are the measures required to leverage the youth power in the country?
- 5) Write a note on the National Skill Development Mission and the role of private sector in skilling the unskilled.

Flag Bearers of Indian Culture

Introduction

- Since time immemorial Indian youths have played the role of flag bearers of Indian wisdom, civilization and culture across the world.
- When the world was still engrossed with claiming the religious and racial superiority of their respective tenets, a young Indian monk **Swami Vivekananda** lectured them on the **significance of religious tolerance in 1893 at the world religious parliament held at Chicago**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa** for the first time experimented with his **ideas of truth and non-violence** which later became an invincible tool of peace and harmony in the world.
- The tradition of spreading Indian ideas and values across the globe dates back to **2nd century CE** when the young son and daughter of Mauryan emperor Ashoka went to Sri Lanka and established Buddhism.
- The legacies of such spirited youths are still being carried ahead by millions of young talented Indians who have today made their presence felt in almost each and every corner of the globe.

Indian Diaspora: A Youth Brigade

- According to a survey conducted by **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in 2015, India's Diaspora population is the largest in the world**.
- Other than US, gulf countries are the next most favoured destination of Indian emigrants.
- Indian Diaspora has a substantial presence in such countries of the world which were colonized by the imperial British government.
- Revolutionaries like **Savarkar, Madam Bhikaji Kama, Madanlal Dhingra** are some of the prominent names associated with **India House in London**.
- Similarly, a bunch of young revolutionaries founded **Ghadar movement** in the USA and Canada, thus developing these countries also as **prominent centres of contact and regular exchange**.

Globalization: The Pull Factor behind High Immigration

- The later phase of liberalisation in India saw the generation of huge offshore opportunity for young talented Indians.
- Rising production and labour cost in developed countries persuaded them to search for cheap alternatives and both Indian land and Labour came in handy for their needs.
- It was thus a win-win situation for both the countries.

Silicon Valley: A Tale of Successful Indian Entrepreneurs

- Silicon Valley in the US which is the largest global hub of software technologies and start-ups has over the years acquired an Indian face.
- Some of the **giant software companies located in Silicon Valley like Google, Microsoft, AMD, and Adobe etc have Indian CEOs**.
- Indian immigrants had the highest level of education even surpassing the educational standards of Native Americans. In 2015, 82% of Indian immigrants (ages 25 and over) had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30% of native born adults.

Brain Drain or Cultural Ambassadors

- India receives approximately **\$70 billion as remittances** from its expatriate community living in various parts of the world. This is the **highest amount received by any country**.
- Over the decades Indian expatriate communities **glorified the wisdom, culture and values of Indian land and civilization across the globe**.
- They helped build an alternative and **strong image of India** different from the earlier image of being the land of snake charmers.
- However, the departure abroad of a large number of well trained Indians naturally has led to concerns about **"Brain Drain"** in India.
- **India supplies most trained foreign doctors to English speaking OECD countries**. Such massive emigration of health professionals has had a **negative impact on India**, especially in rural areas where the dearth of doctors is already so high.
- Expatriation rate of Indian doctors is around 10% while the same rate in China is just 1%.
- 90% of the professionals trained in genetic engineering and biotechnology migrate to USA after the completion of their studies leaving Indian laboratories and R&D centres devoid of quality researchers.

Demographic Dividend to Diasporic Dividend

- India already has the largest population of Diaspora in the world. Thus India will have the onus to reap **twin benefits** from its **demographic dividend domestically and Diasporic dividend internationally**.
- **Young Indian Diaspora** spread across all the major countries of world is the **biggest tool of Indian soft power**.
- The present situation demands dedicated efforts by the Indian government to channelize R&D initiatives taken by Indian Diaspora back home.

Programmes dedicated for Brain Gain

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- An annual meeting held every year to celebrate the achievements of Indian Diaspora and felicitate them for their efforts for establishing links between India and their countries of residence.
- Of late, PBD has been used as a podium to **showcase the growth and development stories of India** to boost the confidence of Indian expatriates to invest in India.

Merger of PIO and OCI cards

- The merger has been done with the intention to **facilitate hassle free entry** of persons of Indian origin into India.

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- The government inaugurated this scheme to connect with the youth, the new generation of pravasis growing up all over the world.

Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra

- The Indian Diaspora can now visit and stay at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
- They can search their roots, obtain investment advice and hold business meetings.

Vajra – Visiting Adjunct Joint Research Faculty

- The scheme is envisioned to contribute to the nation's growth in **science and technology**.

Know India Programme (KIP)

- The objective is to help **familiarize Indian Diaspora youth**, in the age group of 18-26 years with **Indian land and their ancestors** and to bond closely with contemporary India.

Conclusion

- Of late, conservative governments in countries like USA, UK and Australia have announced to curtail the work visas to highly skilled Indians.
- As Indians were the biggest beneficiaries of such visas, any such move would not only impact their career opportunities but also the stay and residence of Indian expatriates.
- **Saudi Arabia** also introduced **Nitaqat scheme** which protects its domestic work spaces from outsiders.
- **Young population is an asset domestically as well as internationally**, so to train them according to the specific needs of the countries more dedicated schemes like **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana** needs to be floated.

Questions

- 1) The increasing size and complexity of the Diaspora requires the government to expand capacity and improve procedures. In this regard, examine what government is doing and what it should do.
- 2) "A Diaspora's potential economic importance goes well beyond remittances." In the light of the statement and with reference to India's Diaspora, critically examine their economic potential for India.
- 3) With suitable examples analyse how the presence of large Indian Diaspora and shared colonial past have been instrumental in forging good relationship between India and few countries spread across the world.
- 4) "India's brain drain is West's brain gain." Critically discuss why India's scientists move to foreign countries and excel. Do you think brain drain is a thing of past, especially in the field of science? Examine.
- 5) Discuss the various initiatives of Government of India to convert brain drain into brain gain.
- 6) Nitaqat scheme which protects its domestic work spaces from outsiders is of
 - (a) Oman
 - (b) Qatar
 - (c) Saudi Arabia
 - (d) UAE

Solution (c)

Bringing Harmony between Body and Mind

Introduction

- The present era is known for technological advancement which made our life comfortable. However, **incorrect lifestyle, environmental conditions, pollution, modern work culture etc have made the life difficult.**
- It has created problems on all the dimensions of life i.e. physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual. **Yoga tries to provide a right direction in all walks of life.**
- Yoga is an **invaluable gift of our ancient tradition.** It embodies **unity of mind and body**; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and wellbeing.
- Now the whole world is celebrating June 21 as the International Day of Yoga with full enthusiasm and zeal.
- In India the **Ministry of AYUSH** has been entrusted the task of celebration of the international day of yoga.

Yoga and the Youth:

- **Yoga is the necessity for the youth** population now. Youth are facing lot of challenges in their life whether related to **studies or related to employment.**
- Yoga can transform them into a real yogi **dealing efficiently with day to day challenges.**
- If the health of the country is poor its progress may become slow because a lot of energy and resources are to be invested to manage the proper health.
- But if the health of the country i.e. youth is good and robust, the country can run to a long distance without feeling of tiredness. So the **health of youth is of utmost importance.**

Yoga and Research:

- High blood pressure, heart problems, diabetes, stress, anxiety, insomnia etc are some of the common problems of youth population now days. Hence **yoga lifestyle is a feasible and cost effective intervention.**

Conclusion

- It can be therefore concluded that yoga is the right medium for youth to avoid their health problems and be a part of nation's growth process.
- Yoga promotes **positive health and develops positive attitude.** The yogic practices are the right way to make the body and mind perfectly healthy and harmonious.

Questions

1) Do you think courses in yoga and Indian culture should mandatorily be introduced in all schools, colleges and universities across India? Critically comment.

2) Should the practice of yoga be made compulsory for all school children and government employees in India? Substantiate.

Distance and Online Entrepreneurship Education in India

Introduction

- Serving diverse sections of the population, most of whom do not have access to formal education, the **Open and Distance Learning system (ODL)** in India has emerged as a **convenient, flexible and viable alternative**.
- **Information and communication technology** has blurred classroom boundaries both spatially and temporally.

Growth of Distance and Online Education in India

- **ODL aims to universalise education** by leveraging the potential of available educational technology with Information and communication technology.
- The **virtual learning environments** have the potential to reach the masses and provide them with access to quality contents, and learning support to wider sections of the public and therefore considered a **significant part of ODL**.
- **Entrepreneurship education** has received special attention from the central government and some of the reputed educational institutes have realised the **role of young entrepreneurs in a globalised economy such as ours**.

Conclusion

- In a fast paced corporate environment, people in jobs are feeling a constant need to upgrade their skills. Therefore there is also a need to **invest in entrepreneurship education** and training using ODL.
- If India has to capitalise on the prospective dream of reaping the fruits demographic dividend in the upcoming decades, we ought to endow our efforts and attention into leveraging the entrepreneurial energies of the youth.

Questions

- 1) It is agreed that E-learning could be the key to addressing the education challenges in the country today. How can digital technology be used to improve learning skills and quality of education? Discuss.
- 2) Analyze the role of Distance and Online Education to universalise education in India.
- 3) The National Policy on Education speaks about Open University and Distance Learning as means to democratise education and make it a lifelong process for the needy. Critically examine merits and demerits of this approach.

Quality Education for Empowering Indian Youth

Introduction

- **Youth empowerment** especially in Indian scenario, is **imperative not only for national but also for personal development** which can be pursued by promoting youth rights, youth activism and their active role in making community decision.
- The key to youth empowerment is to **educate them and make them employable**.
- We cannot talk about **sustainable development** for any nation without the active role of its youth-persons with active hands and heads.

Pillars of Youth's Empowerment:

- The sustainable empowerment of youth can be stabilized on following four pillars:
 - Education
 - Skills and Employment
 - Radical temperamental change
 - Government's policies and initiatives

Higher Education in India

- The vision of "**Transforming India**" can only be fulfilled by the **motto of MHRD – "Education for All, Quality Education"**.
- In the current scenario the **Enrolment Rate (GER) in Higher Education (HE)** in India is much lower (22%) than world's average (28%) and also in comparison to other nations like China (28%), Brazil (36%) and UK (59%).
- India being secular and democratic gets fragmented on various issues of caste, gender, topography, age, etc which hinders the equality of available education resources to the citizens and does not let the system bear its desired fruits.
- These pot holes need to be patched up before we talk of quality education.
- It is hard to digest that only less than one third of Indian engineering graduates and about 5% of students from basic sciences and other streams are found employable.
- To encash the situation of prevalence of low quality education standards of our country, the **developed countries have been proved to be opportunistic by not only draining Indian economy but brains too**.
- Year by year number of Indian students going abroad in search of quality education is increasing. This can easily be redone by certain amendments in the existing system of education.
- Little more innovation and creativity is needed to **restructure the oldest and biggest education system** as per the state-of-the-art.

Barriers in Higher Education

Crunches

- **Lack of quality and motivated teachers and mentors** - being non promising, less paid and least recognised profession in the country.
- **Faculty crunch or adhocism** – most of the even top institutions of the nation have empty chairs of regular heads, faculty and experienced researchers with 1/3rd faculty positions being unfilled.

- Least prioritised budgeting from nation's GDP (3.3%) for the biggest education system of the world.
- Interfering and overpowering **political and bureaucratic setup**.
- Inability of senior academicians and researchers to implement their visions of ages.

Obsolescence

- **Outdated and rigid curriculum**, non uniformity in curricula, minimisation of laboratory based education especially in basic sciences make youth lose their interest in pursuing such system ahead.
- **Lack of interdisciplinary approach** of imparting education makes them unable to implement their knowledge in practical field.

Non-Involvement

- Designing curriculum has been centuries old practice where neither the industry nor commerce and business and nor the stakeholders are consulted in its design.
- The top institutions like IITs, AIIMS, IISER, IMTECH, IISc, IIMs etc are not holding rank in world's top institutions list.

Government Initiatives

- **Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)** aimed at tapping the pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education to elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.
- **Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India** – with an aim to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance.
- **Uchhtar Aavishkar Yojana (UAY)** – launched to promote industry specific need based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of Indian industry in the global market.
- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** – for ranking the higher education institutions annually based on an objective and verifiable criteria.
- **Establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** – for creating capital assets in order to give a big push for building up robust higher education institutions.
- **National Academic Repository (NAD)** – for maintaining academic awards in a digital depository enabling online access and retrieval and eliminating fraudulent practices such as forging of certificates and mark sheets.
- **Swayam Prabha** – a project for telecasting high quality educational programmes through DTH on 24*7 basis.
- **SWAYAM** – an indigenous IT platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for providing best quality education even to the remotest corner of the country.
- **National Digital Library** – for building a national asset for providing access to the knowledge repository of books, e-learning materials etc.
- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** – covering all HE institutions in the country for making informed policy decisions and research.
- **Post Doctoral Fellowships** – in sciences and humanities for grooming young researchers to acquire new skills.

- **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** – promote the quality standards of state's education system, federal funding through RUSA is given to the states to promote performance based education.
- **Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)** – redesign curriculum as student centric, giving opportunity for interdisciplinary academics along with multidirectional movement within state, nation and world's educational system.

Conclusion

- To empower the youth, the education system especially of arts and humanities and basic sciences needs calculative reforms.
- Within the limited resources of a developing country, a **proper amalgamation of existing systems and policies** can prove wonders.
- **The four sided positive approach:**
 - Student centric education system (CBCS),
 - Employers need based curricula (NBCS),
 - Extended helping hand of government through its policies and
 - Recognition of talented youth by the society can empower youth and nation both.

Questions

- 1) "For any skill development effort to succeed, markets and industry need to play a large role in determining courses, curriculum and relevance." In the light of various efforts made so far by various governments towards skill development in the country, critically comment on the statement.
- 2) Many studies have proved abysmal quality of education in India. Critically analyse the causes.
- 3) From all findings and reports, it's now very clear that higher education system in India is failing. In your opinion, on priority basis, what should government do to revive higher education system? Critically examine.
- 4) Setting up of the higher education financing agency (HEFA) is labelled as one of the key reforms in higher education sector in India. Examine why.
- 5) What are the most important reforms in education sector in India you would like government to implement in coming years? Discuss.
- 6) The fiscal woes of the government make the growth in education spending unsustainable. From where and how government can mobilize resources to attain its higher education goals? Examine.
- 7) 'SWAYAM', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at
 - (a) Promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
 - (b) Providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
 - (c) Promoting the education and health of adolescent girls
 - (d) Providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free

Solution (d)

- 8) Which of the following statements about Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is/are correct?
 1. The HEFA would be promoted by the Ministry of Finance.

2. HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC.
3. HEFA would also mobilise CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation.

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution (c) - The HEFA would be promoted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)

9) What is IMPRINT- India project?

- A) It is a pan-IIT and IISc joint collaboration to develop a blueprint for research of immediate relevance to society requiring innovation, direct scientific research into identified areas.
B) It is an initiative for the protection of IPR in India.
C) It is an initiative to increase the accountability of press in India.
D) None of the above

Solution (A)

10) RUSA stands for

- a) Rashtriya Uchch Shiksha Andolan
b) Rasaynik Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
c) Rashtra Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
d) Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

Solution (d)

INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Bringing Youth to the Mainstream

Introduction

- The **Naxalite movement**, over the years has spread geographically to many parts of the country and has continued surpassing itself in cruelty and violence with each armed act.
- The **youth** belonging to such insurgent areas understandably live under **vulnerable situations**.

Government schemes for youth in the Red Corridor

- In 2009 a **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) division** was created as a **part of the Home Ministry** to effectively address the Left Wing Extremist insurgency in a holistic manner.
- As per the **new Integrated Action Plan**, government plans to bring Adivasis into the mainstream and at the same time strictly deal with the violence.
- The Prime Minister has said that **“Only plough on the shoulders and not guns can bring development. There is no future for violence. The future is only of peaceful means”**.
- Government has launched initiatives in the field of education and skill development for the benefit of youth belonging to the LWE regions.
- Under **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**, **residential schooling facility** is being provided to all children.
- For girl child **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas** provide affordable and quality elementary education.
- Secondary education is ensured through **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**.
- Additionally the government is preparing students for competitive exams through its institute ‘**Prayas**’.
- The education and skill training leading to employment and livelihood opportunity could discourage youth of these regions to keep away from being a part of the violent movement.

Government schemes for the youth affected by Terrorist organisations and insurgent groups of Jammu and Kashmir

UDAAN

- The **special industry initiative for J&K** is funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- It aims to provide **corporate exposure to the youth** as well as provide corporate India the talent available in the state.

Sadbhavna

- Under **Sadbhavna army runs several important programmes** for the youth of J&K.
- **Army Goodwill Schools** which is an education initiative works to provide middle and high school level education to over one lakh students.
- Army also runs **National Integration Tour** under Sabhavna where students get to visit other states and get a first hand view of the culture of their fellow citizens.
- Army also runs **vocational training centres** and **women empowerment centres** spread across the state to provide practical skills to interested and deserving candidates.

Himayat

- Run under the **Ministry of Rural Development**, Government of India's **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana** the scheme endeavours to train 1.24 lakh local youth of J&K in job intensive vocational courses.

Questions

1) In the light of the failure of the Indian state to effectively address the security challenge, critically discuss various strategies adopted by Indian government to fight left wing extremism.

2) How can education be used to defeat the spread of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in LWE affected regions? Examine

3) Critically analyze the initiatives taken by the government for the youth affected by Terrorist organisations and insurgent groups of Jammu and Kashmir.

4) UDAAN scheme launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development seeks to address

- (a) To develop the regional aviation market
- (b) Address low enrolment of girl students in engineering institutions
- (c) Problem of low literacy among adults- both men and women in the informal sector of the economy
- (d) Residential schooling facility provided to all children

Solution (b)

5) Himayat Scheme is aimed to

- (a) Provide corporate exposure to the youth of J&K
- (b) Skill training to 1.24 lakh local youth of J&K in job intensive vocational courses
- (c) Provide middle and high school level education to over one lakh students in J&K
- (d) Address low enrolment of girl students in engineering institutions

Solution (b)

Facts for Prelims

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) Introduced

- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) was introduced recently in Himachal Pradesh and parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase.
- **PCV protects children against severe forms of pneumococcal diseases, such as pneumonia and meningitis.**
- Pneumonia kills more **children under five years of age** in India than any other infectious disease.
- Pneumococcal disease is the **leading cause of vaccine preventable deaths** in children under five years of age globally and in India.

North East Diary

Krishi Karman Award

- The **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** has selected **Tripura** for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable **increase in food grain production** in small category states.

NIELIT Centre

- The fifth northeast centre of the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** at Tripura was opened recently.
- Government has taken firm steps to raise the rate of **digital literacy** to a large extent and to **stop import of electronics and IT related kits and devices by 2019.**
- The government is also considering setting up one NIELIT centre in each district of the country to educate and train youth in electronics, IT services and related jobs.

Recent initiatives in the North-East

- Naga Peace Accord.
- Promotion of Organic Agriculture.
- Developing North Eastern States as Organic capitals.
- **Sikkim becomes the first fully organic state in the country.**
- **"IshanUday"** special scholarship for NE students for general and professional degree courses.
- **"IshanVikas"** to provide exposure visits for talented students from the NE region for internship in IITs, NITs, and NIFTs.
- Setting up of 1st National Sports University in Manipur.