

*This is how*

BJP

WALKS THE TALK

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

**APRIL 2019**



Under the guidance of  
**VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE**  
**SUMEET BHASIN**

Prepared by  
**VIDUSHI SAHANI**

## **PREFACE**

The scale and pace of development that took place in the last five years was unprecedented. The development that took place is not a mere concept, but one that touched countless individuals. Development under Modi government meant own house, a gas cylinder for one that has never used, or power connection to them who never saw an electric bulb, so on. This people-centric development is but realizing the guiding philosophy of this government: Sabka Saath – Sabka Vikas

The bar has been raised and as we are approaching the general elections, it is indeed riding on unparalleled expectations from the public. It is thus of vital import that we take a moment and reflect back on all that has been done and all that was promised.

An assessment of the promises made and delivered by the BJP since 2014 was carried to place a detailed report card of the government in the public domain. As per our findings, the government has fulfilled over 98% of the promises made in the manifesto, setting new standards of accountability and democratic integrity of the nation.

Along with a detailed enumeration of the promises made and delivered, the report assesses the qualitative impact the initiatives have brought about in the lives of the people. Separate monographs have been prepared on promises fulfilled in key sectors including -Social Sector, Economic Revival, Agriculture, Industry & MSME, Cultural Heritage & Tourism and Science & Technology. The monographs provide an insightful understanding of the policy approach of the government towards separate sectors and how targeted reforms have led to a transformative change in the lives of people and the society on the whole.

The following monograph details the initiatives undertaken in the social sector with a dual approach of empowering every segment and ensuring equitable development of the society. The analysis and documents are a testimony to the fact that the BJP led NDA government has upheld the sanctity of the vows undertaken in the Manifesto 2014, affirming faith and resilience of our democratic framework and how it went beyond discourse and ‘walks the talk’.

**Vinay Saharabuddhe**  
Director  
Public Policy Research Centre

**Sumeet Bhasin**  
Director  
Public Policy Research Centre

## 1. BACKGROUND

The last four and half years of governance have captured the public imagination with a renewed vigour in the world's largest democracy. From the very beginning, the government has been characterized by affirmative steps in national interest, long term policy moves and establishing an indomitable world presence. However, another subtle yet indelible mark that the Modi regime has left is propelling collective citizen efforts towards new forms of social behaviours and bringing about an enduring social transformation.

Not just setting the course, missions like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Digital India etc witnessed an unprecedented national energy focused on building a new and vibrant India. The last 5 years have indeed been the phase of breaking out of the inertia and building a tradition of politics of performance. It is imperative that the government's performance be analysed in comparison with the promises it made in its manifesto.

The most important aspect of this growth story has been the fact that inclusivity and empowerment has been the leading force of this development trajectory. In a democratic nation like ours, the real success of any governmental effort cannot be mapped just in terms of numbers but also the essential element of how those numbers have brought about a qualitative impact in the lives of every section of the society and especially the relatively disadvantaged sections. The BJP government had well enunciated its commitment towards the mission of empowerment over entitlement in its election manifesto of 2014. The mission to '*make people active partners...and empower them to take advantage of the development process*' has been clearly charted out in the manifesto of the party.

In others, the governmental adopted reformist approach which shifted the way government functions. The planning regimes of the previous governments was symbolised by the Planning Commission, which was an extra-constitutional institution but wielded unusually disproportionate power in governance and fund allocation of the country. This was done away with by this government by creating NITI Aayog as the government's policy think-tank and policy formulation body which does not have a say in federal fund allocation.

With the help of such multi-variegated policy responses, the government initiated a profound change in the nation's governance institutions and also development regime. The country has seen a fundamental shift in the narrative of social justice for the marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society. The government has moved from the politics of welfarism and entitlement to a more participatory model of empowerment with social justice as the hallmark of every activity.

Assessing the government's record on key social parameters viz. welfare of children, women empowerment, social and financial security of senior citizens, welfare and dignity of the specially abled and harnessing the power of youth towards development of the nation and ensuring social justice and equity has indeed been impressive. The government has moved from the politics of welfarism and entitlement to a more participatory model of empowerment with social justice as the hallmark of every activity.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

- To enumerate all the promises made in manifesto 2014, implicit or explicit
- To detail all the efforts made by this government towards fulfilling those promises
- To explore and explain the extent to which this government went to serve the nation above and beyond the commitments made in the manifesto

## **3. SCOPE OF STUDY AND METHODOLOGY**

This is an exercise to enumerate and evaluate the list of initiatives taken by the government in fulfilment of the manifesto promises. The scope of the study is broadly defined by the contours of Manifesto 2014. However, care was taken to not to omit any significant policy initiative taken by this government in the last 5 years. On the whole, this document not only lists out the promises and actions taken but also crafts the impact felt by such initiatives on both the people as well as governance institutions of the country.

The actions taken on the promises made in the BJP's Manifesto 2014 were scooped from the entire official information source bases and compiled as a comprehensive databank. The information and data provided for ongoing/long-term projects and commitments made for such initiatives were normalised to reflect the progress of such promises through suitable scale. The study involved analysing secondary data for building evidence for delivering the commitments. Several datasets and sources were treated in accordance with requirements.

Primary impact of an initiative was analysed first, proceeding then to mapping the cascading and domino effects of such an initiative through secondary and tertiary impact analysis in social, economic, and other major pathways. Impact assessment reports of government flagship schemes have also been used to gain further insights. The document also provides an objective listing of all the commitments made one-by-one followed by specific initiatives taken in that respect.

## **4. PROMISES MADE IN THE MANIFESTO 2014**

### **4.1. Poor and Marginalized**

- With firm belief in the concept of Antyodaya - uplifting the poorest of the poor - Extreme Poverty and malnutrition will be treated as a National priority, and will be addressed on Mission Mode.
- Strengthen Delivery of poverty alleviation programs through convergence, transparency and efficiency.
- Identify 100 most backward districts of the country to bring them at par with other districts through prioritized and integrated development.
- Strengthen the natural resource base of the people to tide over natural calamities.
- Aim to gainfully employ rural poor in agriculture and allied activities.
- Enable the urban poor to develop skills so that they take advantage of the emerging opportunities. Facilitate partnership across all levels of government, civil society, academic and financial institutions in this national mission of poverty alleviation.

### **4.2. Food Security**

- BJP will take steps to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the common man and that the right to food does not remain an act on paper or a political rhetoric. BJP will review all the laws and schemes, in consultation with the states, to ensure a corruption-free efficient implementation of food security, which would be a priority.
- Review the successful PDS models. And incorporate the best practices to revise the existing PDS, for benefitting the common man.
- Address the issue of under-nutrition and malnutrition.
- Encourage the production of cereals, pulses and oils.
- Radically transform the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- Ensure contingency stocks for any exigencies arising due to natural calamities or external factors.
- Seek the participation of voluntary organizations in running community kitchens.

### **4.3. SCs, STs, OBCs and Other Weaker Sections - Social Justice and Empowerment**

- Instead of pursuing identity politics and tokenisms, we will focus on empowering the deprived sections of society. Steps will be taken to create an enabling ecosystem of equal opportunity - for education, health and livelihood.
- We will accord highest priority to ensuring their security, especially the prevention of atrocities against SCs & STs.
- The BJP is committed to bridge the divide following the principle of social justice (Samajik Nyay) and social harmony (Samajik Samrasata).
- A high priority for SC, ST, OBCs and other weaker sections would be to create an ecosystem for education and entrepreneurship.

- BJP is committed to the eradication of untouchability at all levels. BJP is committed to eliminate manual scavenging. BJP will look at more effective ways to pull these people out of the poverty line.
- BJP will ensure that the funds allocated for schemes and programmes for SC, ST, OBCs and other weaker sections are utilized properly.
- A mission mode project would be made for housing, education, health and skills development. Special focus would be on the children, especially the girl child, with regards to health, education and skills development.

#### **4.4. Tribal development will be one of the focus areas**

- The goal would be to ensure tribal development while preserving the unique identities of this community.
- BJP will initiate a 'Van Bandhu KalyanYojna' at the national level to be overseen by a 'Tribal Development Authority'.
- Setting up the entire education network for tribals.
- Upgrading housing, water and health facilities.
- Electrification of tribal hamlets and provision of all - weather roads.
- Initiating new economic activities.
- Promoting the products associated with the tribal culture by setting tribal haats in tourist towns and other centres. Facilitating access to minor forest produce and creating a network of rural haats (markets).
- Ensure that the tribal land is not alienated.
- Establishing the National Centre for Tribal Research and Culture to preserve the tribal culture and languages.
- Enhancing the funds for tribal welfare and development.

#### **4.5. Minorities - Equal Opportunity**

- BJP is committed to the preservation of the rich culture and heritage of India's minority communities; alongside their social and economic empowerment. Curate their rich heritage and culture - maintenance and restoration of heritage sites; digitization of archives; preservation and promotion of Urdu.
- BJP is committed to ensure that all communities are equal partners in India's progress, as we believe India cannot progress if any segment of Indians is left behind.
- Ensure that the young, and the girl child in particular get education and jobs without discrimination.
- Strengthen and modernize minority educational systems and institutions; dovetailing them with modern requirements. National Madrasa modernization programme would be initiated.
- Empower with vibrancy in Livelihood and Entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Augment their traditional artisanship and entrepreneurial skill, which are a backbone of our cottage and small-scale industry - strengthening these sectors through better market linkages, branding and access to credit.

- Empower Waqf Boards in consultation with religious leaders; taking steps to remove encroachments from and unauthorized occupation of Waqf properties.
- Ensure a peaceful and secure environment, where there is no place for either the perpetrators or exploiters of fear.

#### **4.6. Neo-Middle Class - Meet their Aspirations**

- Educational scholarships and educational facilities.
- Medical insurance and quality healthcare services.
- Middle-income housing.
- Efficient public transport systems.

#### **4.7. Rural Areas - High Priority**

- A full-fledged programme for 'Rural Rejuvenation' will be made and implemented which will comprise of integrated strategies for personal, economic and social well-being of the villagers.
- Through the idea of Rurban, we will bring urban amenities to our rural areas, while retaining the soul of the village.
- Major thrust area for rural development would be to improve village level infrastructure in terms of roads, potable water, education, health, supply chain, electricity, broadband, job creation, security in rural areas and linkage to markets.

#### **4.8. Urban Areas - High Growth Centres**

- We will look at urbanisation as an Opportunity rather than a Threat. Major steps will be undertaken in Transport and Housing for 'Urban Upliftment' in India. We will initiate building 100 new cities; enabled with the latest in technology and infrastructure - adhering to concepts like sustainability, walk to work etc, and focused on specialized domains.
- The approach to urban development will be based on integrated habitat development - building on concepts like Twin cities and Satellite towns.
- Upgrade existing urban centres, transitioning focus from basic infrastructure to public utility services like Waste and Water Management - for a clean and healthy city life.
- Cleanliness and Sanitation will be given priority - efficient Waste and Water management systems will be set up. Model towns will be identified for rolling out integrated waste management infrastructure.
- Wi-Fi facilities will be made available in public places and commercial centres.
- Urban poverty alleviation scheme would be a key thrust area.
- Use technology for scientific, strategic and long term town planning - including GIS based mapping.
- Build quality integrated Public Transport systems, discouraging usage of private vehicles.



#### **4.9. Children - the Future of the Nation**

- BJP is committed to address the issues related to children, like malnutrition and under-nutrition, problem of child labour, child-trafficking and missing children, sexual abuse, school dropouts and the increasing crime rate among juveniles.
- Lay special emphasis on vulnerable children and especially those belonging to the vulnerable communities like SCs, STs, OBCs, migrants, slum dwellers, street dwellers and those with disabilities.
- Ensure effective implementation of the Right to Education, Right to Food Security Act.
- Review, amend and strengthen the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2012 and Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).
- Focused efforts will be made to address issue of anaemia.
- Reduce the burden of books on children without compromising on the quality of education.
- Endeavour to inculcate values amongst children.

#### **4.10 Senior Citizens**

- BJP is committed to the welfare of senior citizens, especially their security and health care. We will take measures to deal with the issues related to the senior citizens in a focused manner. Invest in setting up and improving old-age homes.
- Provide financial support, exploring ideas like additional tax benefits and higher interest rates.
- To Harness experience of senior citizens, we will Devise schemes and programs to engage them as volunteers.

#### **4.10. Specially Abled**

- The welfare and rehabilitation of disabled people is integral to our vision of a caring society and that of a responsive government. Enact the 'Rights of the Persons with Disabilities bill' (RPWD).
- Use technology to deliver low cost quality education to specially-abled students 'in-home' – through E-learning.
- Identify each and every special needs person across the country - establishing a web based disability registration system to issue universal ID for all applicable government benefits (healthcare, transportation, jobs, education etc).
- Ensure disabled friendly access to public facilities, public buildings and transport.
- Ensure maximum economic independence of the disabled by creating more income generation models for them.
- Support and aid voluntary organizations working for the care of the divyangjan.
- Provide a higher tax relief for the family member taking care of the disabled.

#### **4.11 Youth - Making India Unstoppable**

- We commit to review and revise policies to seek participation of youth in decision-making and nation building process and actively get the youth to participate in decision-making bodies. we will initiate the 'Young Leaders programme' in all sectors, to

recognize, reward and involve these exceptionally talented youth to serve as role models and mentors for others. Set up the National Youth Advisory Council.

- BJP will initiate nation-wide 'district level incubation and accelerator programme' for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Procedure to avail Student's loans will be simplified and loans made affordable.
- Set up neighbourhood Children's/ Youth Parliament across India that leads to vibrant student committees leading to development.

#### **4.12Promotion of Sports**

- BJP will promote all sports - traditional and modern. Encourage business houses to patronize sports and sportspersons.
- More funds will be allocated to sports, and we will encourage the State Governments to fully discharge their responsibility in the promotion of sports.
- Steps would be taken to inculcate a culture of sports at the school level by arranging sports facilities and training needs for promoting a healthy lifestyle, and making sports as a compulsory part of the school curriculum.
- Launch a 'National Sports Talent Search System', so that extraordinary sporting talent is identified at a very young age. Such promising boys and girls will be selected for special training.
- Attractive career path needs to be planned for sportspersons providing security of career through jobs in government, PSUs and private sector. Special scheme would be devised for sportspersons to ensure social security.
- Establish sports academies across the country.
- Mandate all new housing colonies to include sports facilities.

#### **4.13Women- The Nation Builder**

- Women's welfare and development will be accorded a high priority at all levels within the government, and BJP is committed to 33% reservation in parliamentary and state assemblies through a constitutional amendment.
- Launch a national campaign for saving the girl child and educating her.
- Structure a comprehensive scheme, incorporating best practices from past successes like Balika Samruddhi, Ladli Laxmi and Chiranjeevi Yojana to support encourage positive attitude amongst families towards the girl child.
- Program for women healthcare in a mission mode, especially focusing on domains of Nutrition and Pregnancy - with emphasis on rural, SCs, STs and OBCs.
- We will enable women with training and skills - setting up dedicated Women ITIs, Women wings in other ITIs.
- Strict implementation of laws related to women, particularly those related to rape,
- Appropriate measures would be taken to check female foeticide, dowry, child marriage, trafficking, sexual harassment, rape and family violence.
- Fund for relief and rehabilitation of rape victims lies unused at the Centre as the Government has not worked out the modalities of dispensation. BJP will clear this on priority.

- Government will create an Acid Attack victims welfare fund to take care of the medical costs related to treatment and cosmetic reconstructive surgeries of such victims.
- Make police stations women friendly, and increase the number of women in police at different levels.
- Introduce self-defence as a part of the school curriculum.
- Using information technology for women's safety.
- Special skills training and business incubator park for women. Set up a dedicated W-SME (Women Small and medium enterprises) cluster in every district. Set up an All Women Mobile Bank to cater to women.
- Expand and improve upon the network of women / working women hostels.
- Review the working conditions and enhance the remuneration of Anganwadi worker's.
- Remove any remaining gender disparities in property rights, marital rights and cohabitation rights.
- Will ensure that the loans to Women Self Help Groups would be available at low interest rates.
- Special programs aimed at girls below poverty line, tribals and indigent women.
- We will transform the quality of life of women in Rural India by providing electricity, tapped water, cleaner fuel and toilets in every home.

## **5 PROMISES DELIVERED**

### **5.1 Poor and Marginalized**

- To empower and uplift the country's poor, massive public programs have been launched by this government:  
Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana- over 7 crore poor families were given LPG connections. Ayushman yojana providing free healthcare to 10 crore households  
POSHAN mission launched to fight malnutrition among children. Under PM Kisan Samman Yojana, India's small, marginal farmers will get INR 6,000 in direct cash benefit per year.
- Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana: 33.66 crore new bank accounts. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is Government's major reform initiative to re-engineer the existing delivery processes, transferred 6.51 lakh cr.
- The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched.
- "Namami Gange" being implemented to conserve the Ganges. National Aquifer Management project undertaken for optimal utilisation of groundwater with community participation.
- Formal recognition of street vendors is under process, The survey for identification of street vendors has been completed in 2,322 cities; 16,89,564 street vendors have been identified and 8,18,095 vendors have been given ID cards. MGNREGS established itself as a well governed programme creating durable assets for livelihood security in

poor regions, while providing employment on demand. Under STEP-UP programme, lakhs of urban poor were assisted to upgrade their skills.

## **5.2 Food Security**

- To curb leakages in the PDS system, this government took up end-to-end digitization. 86% ration cards seeded with Aadhar, 2.51 crore bogus ration cards deleted as a result. Reforms in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been implemented.
- New model of PDS (IM-PDS) is being implemented to improve the PDS system.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched to address malnutrition.
- Production of coarse cereals, pulses, and the oil seeds have been consistently high and at record levels.
- Government is undertaking consultations on the High Level Committee recommendations to reform the FCI.
- Government is implementing schemes to procure and store produce for contingencies. Central sector scheme being implemented in the North Eastern States along with Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Kerala is just an example.
- Seva Bhoj Yojna' implemented to ease the GST paid by Charitable Religious Institutions on purchase of specific raw food items, which shall be reimbursed to them as financial assistance by the Government of India.

## **5.3 SCs, STs, OBCs and Other Weaker Sections - Social Justice and Empowerment**

- 10% reservation for EWS in general category MUDRA Yojana offers easy credit to the marginalised sections. Ayushman Yojana – free healthcare for the poorest. Financial inclusion through Jan Dhan Yojana. The SHG-Bank Linkage programme has seen tremendous growth year on year under DAY-NRLM.
- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 passed.
- The Government's "Jan Dhan Yojana", "Skill India", "Start Up India", "Stand Up India", "Mudra Yojana", "Ujjwala Yojana" have benefited a large number of poor, weaker sections, minorities and women.
- In order to promote entrepreneurship, the Government launched National SC / ST Hub. National Scholarship Portal offers an excellent opportunity to avail scholarships.
- Swachh Bharat is a campaign against untouchability as well. Open defecation persists in rural India not only because of a lack of infrastructure, but because of unique cultural practices concerning ritual impurity, and untouchability.
- Self-employment, skill development training, credit grants and other initiatives have been implemented to rehabilitate and support manual scavenging communities.
- Government developed an online web-portal for monitoring of Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes.
- PM Awas Yojana is implemented with a mission of "housing for all". Samagra Shiksha, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao are a few schemes that improves education. Dhan Laxmi,' conditional cash transfer scheme, Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana and other schemes for the girl child.

#### **5.4 Tribal development will be one of the focus areas**

- All tribal households being electrified under Saubhagya Yojana. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) provides connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network.
- Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) is being implemented as a central Sector scheme
- Eklavya Model Residential School is an excellent approach for imparting quality education to ST children.
- PM Awas Yojana is implemented with a mission of "housing for all". PMJAY scheme provides free and quality healthcare to 50 crore persons in the country including tribal communities.
- All tribal households being electrified under Saubhagya Yojana. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) provides connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network.
- The Government launched Venture Capital Fund for scheduled tribes
- Government is supporting tribal produce marketing through the e-commerce portals in addition to network retail outlets "TRIBES INDIA" and consignment outlets of various State Emporia and franchisee outlets
- National Monitoring Committee has been set up to look into issues related to displacement, compensation, payment and resettlement including those of tribal persons. This committee also deals with land alienation issues.
- The government created many Tribal Research Institutes function as a body of knowledge & research more or less as a think tank for tribal development.
- The government enhanced its allocation for tribal development significantly from previous regimes.

#### **5.5 Minorities - Equal Opportunity**

- Artisans have been provided employment and employment opportunities through "Hunar Haat". Official web portal of Dargah Khwaja Sahib Ajmer launched.
- Triple Talaq law ensures equal rights, dignity and empowerment for women. For the first time, Choice of Embarkation points has been given to Haj pilgrims and women are go to Haj without "Mehram" (male companion).
- E-scholarship commencement and increase in scholarship for girls. During the last nearly four years, the Modi government's "Empowerment without appeasement" policy has ensured that about 30 million students benefited from various scholarship programs related to poor and weaker sections of minorities. Approximately 1 crore 63 lakh girls are included in the beneficiaries.
- During the last 4 years, under PMJVK, 16 Degree Colleges, 1992 School Buildings, 37,123 Additional Classrooms, 1147 Hostels, 173 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), 48 Polytechnics, 38,753 Anganwadi Centres, 3,48,624 IAY (PMAY) houses, 323 Sadbhavna Mandaps, 73 Residential Schools, 494 Market sheds, 17,397 drinking water facilities etc have been constructed by the Central Government in the Minority concentrated areas. This has led to significant improvement in lives of weaker sections, Minorities especially women.

- MUDRA Yojana is launched by the government to create entrepreneurial opportunities and to spark innovation. More than 1.4 Crore minority accounts are disbursed Rs 57,927 crores until just 2017-18.
- Job oriented skill development training and employment and employment opportunities to 5 lakh 44 thousand 994 youths through “Seekho aur Kamao”, “Ustad”, “Nai Manzil”, “Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme”.
- Waqf boards are being empowered to deal with encroachment on waqf properties inter alia include: stringent definition of “encroacher”; mandate to State Governments to appoint Survey Commissioners and complete the survey of waqf properties in a time bound manner; rigorous imprisonment.
- No incidents of violence or perpetrated bigotry have taken place under the strong rule of the government after 2014.

### **5.6 Neo-Middle Class - Meet their Aspirations**

- National Scholarships Portal is one-stop solution through which various services of scholarships to Students are enabled. Under the E-pathshala, the higher education course material is available free of cost to the students through mobile app and other sources. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) reduces the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospital episodes and ensure their access to quality health services.
- More than 68.5 Lakh Houses Sanctioned Under PMAY- (U). More than Rs.7,046 Crore Interest Subsidy on Housing Loans Credited Directly to 3,19,441 Beneficiaries.
- The Road Transport and Highways Ministry have invested around 3.17 trillion US\$ in order to construct world class roads and flyovers in the country. Mass rapid transportation technologies such as hyperloop, metrino and pod taxis have been cleared for experimental runs.

### **5.7 Rural Areas - High Priority**

- 2,55,91,990 rural households electrified as on 19/03/2019. 1.25 lakh villages laid with optical fibre network as on 25/03/2019. 2,12,718 functional CSCs at Gram Panchayat level as on 12/02/2019. No villages in India is unelectrified today. 18,374 villages electrified by April 2018. Length of Road Constructed under PM Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014 is 2,03,849 km as on 19/03/2019. 1,53,00,000 Houses Completed under PM Awas Yojana as on 19/03/2019. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National RuRBAN Mission and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) launched to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas.

## **5.8 Urban Areas - High Growth Centres**

- Flagship programmes such as Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission For Rejuvenation And Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and others launched. PMAY (Urban), Swachh Bharat (Urban), and other urban components of schemes initiated. Housing For All (HFA) by 2022 launched to provide universal housing in India, Smart Cities Mission with a mission to develop 100 cities all over the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable is implemented.
- Development of twin cities like Gaya-Bodhgaya under Hriday Mission, many other twin cities like Hubli-Dharwad have been supported by schemes like Smart Cities Mission.
- Waste to wealth projects have been setup Community toilets were constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission inculcating a sense of pride towards hygiene and cleanliness. Swachh Survekshan Programme to rank the states and districts on key sanitation parameters
- Despite data costs are lowest in the world, the government provided Wifi in several public places like the airports, railway stations, etc.
- Sardar Patel Urban Housing Mission for Urban Areas is being implemented.
- ISRO is working with government for enabling preparation of large scale GIS database using satellite data for 500 towns including 100 smart cities under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- Metro rail transport extended to 10 cities from just Delhi. Waterways are operational on several sections on major rivers. Mass rapid transportation technologies such as hyperloop, metrino and pod taxis have been cleared for experimental runs.

## **5.9 Children - the Future of the Nation**

- Maximum immunization coverage by 2020 under Indradhanush scheme. 3.28 crore children have been immunized till date (January 2019). POSHAN Abhiyan for proper nutrition. More than 50 lakh pregnant women are benefitted every year with cash incentives of Rs. 6000. Maternity leave extended from 3 months to 6 months. Anti-Trafficking Bill passed in Lok Sabha.
- Boost to educational infrastructure in tribal areas, 462 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- Mid-day meals are rationalized and cluster approach is adopted through mass kitchens on PPP model basis. The government expanded and strengthened the NFSA's implementation. TPDS reforms initiated through digitization & Aadhar seeding of ration cards, fair price shops automation, online allocation of food grains etc.
- Revised Integrated Child Protection Scheme implemented.
- National Iron Plus Initiative included in all the reproductive, maternal and other services of government.
- E-Basta is an app designed to reduce the burden of school bag of students. More than 1500 school level books are available on E-Basta.
- With culture of volunteerism, students become a part of nation-building. Students are made stakeholders in initiatives like Swachh Bharat, inculcating responsibility.

Through Pareeksha pe Charcha, children are encouraged to think beyond tests and marks, to develop curiosity and good values.

#### **5.10 Senior Citizens**

- Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund established. Jeevan Pramaan scheme for pensioners, 2.5 crore pensioners have benefited. Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Draft Bill, 2018 is under public consultations. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana launched to provide Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) launched to provide enhanced pension. No TDS on Fixed Deposits and Post Office deposits upto Rs 50,000.
- Central government pensioners' associations across the country to be part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to sensitize their members on cleanliness in their neighbourhood.

#### **5.11 Specially Abled**

- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act was passed, renamed disability dept to Divyangjan' Sashaktikaran Vibhag replacing the word Viklang, Right to free education for children with disabilities (6-18 yrs) and reservation of 4% seats for students.
- Divyan Sarthi App for information on schemes, scholarships, institutional support to the disabled; disabilityjobs.gov.in for persons with disabilities, Reservation of divyang persons in government jobs raised from 3% to 4%, Tactile Map Book in Geography for students with visual impairments.
- Unique Disability Identification project - creating national database for PwDs, to issue Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card along with disability certificate to everyone, web based software has been developed and shared with all the State Government and UTs.
- Accessible India Campaign- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to make public places accessible.
- 1000 government buildings, 650 railway stations made accessible
- Access audit of 662 important buildings in 50 cities completed till date.
- Over 100 Accessible websites of various State Government/UTs under Accessible India Campaign have been launched.
- Reservation of divyang persons in government jobs raised from 3% to 4%,
- Grants provided extensively to civic society to support divyangjan.
- Tax rebate limit under 80DD raised.

#### **5.12 Youth - Making India Unstoppable**

- National Youth Policy-2014 (NYP-2014), India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 has been developed to track the trends in Youth Development across the States, National Young Leaders Program (NYLP) initiated providing for setting up of a National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC)



- "Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with two major schemes - Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) over 550 Startups have been mentored. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) over 5,441 labs have been set up.
- “#InnovateIndia Platform”, launched
- StartUp India accelerators and incubators initiated."
- Lakshmi Portal to provide single window for Students to access information and apply for educational loans and government scholarships
- National Youth Parliament Festival program that provides chance to the youth for brainstorming about matters of national importance.

### **5.13 Promotion of Sports**

- "League formats of sports like Kabaddi, Badminton, Football, Hockey started with the support of corporate houses
- Rural Sports Festival (Grameen Khel Mahotsav) was organized for the first time, Mission XI Million has been started to make football popular all over India"
- Khelo India programme has been launched with annual financial assistance to promising players at 5 lakh/annum for 8 years
- "Khelo India school games were conducted.
- A Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme launched for 1,000 most talented young athletes every year.
- Under Samagra Shiksha a Sports and Physical Education component has been provided for sports grant to schools"
- The National Sports Talent search portal provides a transparent platform for talent identification and sharing,
- The government has revised pension rate to double its existing rate for meritorious Sports persons. Eligible players to be considered for Group C and Group D posts
- "National Sports University set up in Manipur
- First Para Athletics training centre in Gandhinagar established,"
- Sports facilities are encouraged in all new and old residential colonies.

## 6 OBSERVATIONS

In the following sections we have taken a vantage view to assess initiatives undertaken for several segments of the society and the impact thereof.

### 6.1 From women's development to women led development

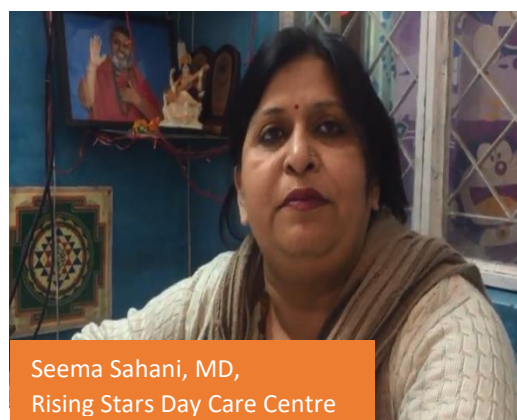
Woman empowerment today has become a national mission with the focus effectively shifting to women led development. A major step has been the nationwide Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. Along with a massive crackdown on female foeticide the campaign has kindled a campaign to change mind sets, to value girl child, to ensure their education, overcome regressive mind sets and enable realization of their full potential.

There has been a multi-pronged attack on female foeticide rampant in the state. There have been continuous raids on illegal sex determination centres operating across the state for decades with impunity. Latest reports reveal that 104 districts have shown improvement in sex ratio, improved institutional deliveries in 146 districts.

With a solid ground work of ridding women from the regressive mindsets the government has adopted a parallel mission to improve the nutritional status of women and girls in the country. While several socio economic factors are interlinked that deprive women from basic health services, some diseases have acquired gargantuan proportion, Anaemia in this case. India carries the highest burden of the disease despite having an anaemia control programme for 50 years. Realizing the dream of anaemia mukt bharat as envisioned by our Prime Minister, a National Iron Plus Initiative has aided in holistic management of Anaemia among the six target age groups including women in reproductive age group. Similarly nutrition has been taken up as national mission through multi ministerial initiatives such as the Poshan Abhiyan to attain malnutrition free India by 2022. Maternal and early childhood care has been assured through multiple schemes for Ante and Post Natal care. From financial assistance to health check-ups to vaccinations, the government has ensured safe motherhood to millions of women. The measures are valuable for women to cruise through the critical pregnancy period thereby ensuring health of the mother and the child.

The approach has been progressive and focussed on ensuring individual growth and development of women. From ensuring smoke free lives to crores of women to taking electricity to every household, the government has ensured that no woman is caught up in the drudgery of life weaning her away from the benefits of growth and development.

A simultaneous impetus has been laid on economic empowerment of women, through initiatives like Stand Up India, MUDRA and impetus to SHGs. Financial independence and entrepreneurship has added a new meaning to women empowerment. MUDRA yojana prompted a 40 year old housewife in Delhi, Mrs. Sahani, to set up a day care centre for children. Today, she has invested in yet another day care



Seema Sahani, MD,  
Rising Stars Day Care Centre

centre in the city and employs over 16 other women as teachers and helpers. The dominoes effect of financial empowerment is evident from several stories, another inspiring story is that of Pinky Maheshwari, a beneficiary of Stand up India started a Jaipur based start-up of eco-friendly greeting cards and decorative materials. Today she is not only a successful entrepreneur but also a recipient of many awards. In three years between 2011-14, only 5 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) were there, however, since 2014, this number has increased four times, at present, there are 45 lakh SHGs with active participation of about 5 crore women in rural areas.

Security, an important element of empowerment has been a focus too, the government has taken special initiatives such as Himmat App, death penalty for child rapists, launched an online portal to register, rescue and rehabilitate child workers, as part of a drive to curb the exploitation of millions of minors. Mechanisms like SHe-Box, Emergency Response Support System, Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal have been set up to provide round the clock protection and support to women. A safer India is on the anvil, where women are not constrained in any matter whatsoever.

## **6.2 Children and Youth – Polishing the future**

Right at the beginning, the government acknowledged that India needs dedicated efforts to leverage the demographic dividend by harnessing the power of youth and ‘to make India unstoppable’. The approach has been similar, the government has undertaken concerted efforts to ensure personal development of youth and also according enough opportunities in terms of higher education and career development. From kindling a spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth and children to ensuring their participation as true players of a democracy, the government has initiated several programs like “#InnovateIndiaPlatform”, Hackathon among others. Collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov serves as the common point for all the innovation happening across the nation.

There has been a significant focus on ensuring quality of education for a robust foundation in school years itself. To ensure qualified teachers, teachers with the minimum qualifications prescribed under the Act are hired, the RTE Act was amended in 2017. For improving the drop out ratio among girls, problems were identified and fixed, some being improving sanitation facilities, building toilets and improving hygiene in schools.

The priority areas are education, skill development and employment, entrepreneurship, health, sports, promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement, inclusion and social justice.



Team of college students at 'Smart India Hackathon 2018' – PC: TOI

To provide a platform enabling active participation in policy making, orient the youth to policy making and instil a sense of responsibility towards the nation with broadened horizons, the government has provided several platforms and programs such as Niti Aayog Young Fellows program, MyGov, Swachh Bharat summer internship etc.

A vital factor of youth development, has been a special emphasis on sports. India saw a very discouraging situation in sports before 2014. Ever since there have been consistent efforts towards encouragement of sports and the sports fraternity. The revamped Khelo India campaign and Khelo India school games has rejuvenated the entire sports ecosystem of the country. Ensuring that talent and hard work is rewarded and ample opportunities are provided and effectively eliminating the scope of corruption and favouritism, the government set up a National Sports Talent Search portal thereby ensuring transparency and meritocracy.

Another significant dimension to sports has been a renewed focus on all sports including traditional Indian games. Over the past five years we witnessed a resurgence in the form of league formats like Kabaddi, Badminton, Football, Hockey etc. Encouraging all sports, the government has promoted Promotion of Kabaddi sport, Mission XI Million for football and focus on athletics for Mission Olympics .

### **6.3 ‘Enabler’ for senior citizens and the specially abled**

A crucial element of a progressive and sensitive society is its regard for the senior citizens. As envisioned in the manifesto, the government has undertaken several initiatives to ensure their social, financial, health and safety needs. Initiatives such as providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for senior citizens



and ensuring social security and independence, reflect a stance that is both supportive and empowering for the senior citizens.

The tribulations senior citizens had to undergo for claiming their pension and the gruelling procedures raft with red tape, was a blot on a welfare state like India. Jeevan Pramaan scheme is a step in the right direction. The government has also ensured financial safety for the elderly through tax exemptions on property and minimum interest guarantee on savings.

Accessibility India campaign is yet another evidence of the government’s approach of empowerment over entitlement. A nationwide flagship campaign launched to achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities. The campaign is based on the principles of the Social Model of Disability, that disability is caused by the way society is organised, and not the person’s limitations and impairments. The physical, social, structural and attitudinal barriers prevent People with Disabilities from participating equally in the socio-cultural and economic activities. A barrier-free environment facilitates equal participation in all the activities and

promotes an independent and dignified way of life. The campaign has the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives. Bridging the gap the government has digitally empowered the disabled by initiatives such as Divyang Sarthi App for information on schemes, scholarships, institutional support to the disabled.

Further, the government had set a target of skilling close to four million people with disability by 2022. For, Ashish Kumar, suffering from partial speech and hearing loss, training under Skill India Mission as a Retail Sales Associate came along with a life changing opportunity. He learnt sign language and other necessary skills needed for the role, and today the 25-year-old from Uttar Pradesh is employed as a retail Sales Associate in global food services company Compass Group, earning a modest but steady income.

#### **6.4 A multi-pronged attack on poverty for social justice**

With the firm footing in the philosophy of Antyodaya the government's policy decisions spelt out inklings of good riddance from extreme poverty and malnutrition. As stated in the manifesto, the government asserted that *'every Indian has an equal right over whatever India has'* and that is where the real test of a democratic nation lies. In the last three years of Modi government, India's has witnessed dramatic decline in extreme poverty, according to report on the World Poverty Clock.

The number of people living in extreme poverty in India has seen a massive reduction from 9 crore in 2016 to 4.7 crore in 2019. As per estimates, by early 2021, Indians living in extreme poverty will fall below 3%. The nation is well on its way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of escaping poverty by 2030.

The most recent effort towards poverty alleviation has been the launch of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana, which ensures a basic support amount of Rs 6,000 to every small and marginal farmer. would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season.

Another important facet of poverty is health. Data shows that upto 25% of the people below the poverty line are there because of health expenditure. With one of the highest out of pocket expenditure in the world, Ayushman Bharat has assured free quality health care to over 50 crore people. A transformative step, along with robust health facilities, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana provides free treatment upto 5 lakh per family and enrolls the private sector to reach out to millions of poor families who had to bear until now the catastrophe of health expenditure. The scheme would go a long way towards the desired target of Universal Health Care.

Assuring basic facilities has been one of the key determinants in the scheme of things. To begin with, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is expected to bring a 'pucca house' for every family with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and complete access.

The idea of electrifying every village in India was conveyed by PM Modi in his August 15 speech in 2015 where he promised electrification all un-electrified villages within 1,000 days.



The task to electrify the remaining villages was completed in 988 days as on April 28, 2018 as electricity reached Manipur's Leisang village after over 70 years of Independence under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDU-GJY). Followed by this the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana to provide electricity connections each and every household in the country.

What sets this approach apart is that electricity reached the remotest and most far flung villages or hamlets which hadn't seen electricity even after 72 years of independence. To put it in context, with electrification people are now getting those extra hours every day. While children have got those precious few extra hours to study, women can now safely juggle their chores across the day, people have new income generation possibilities. Agriculture produce in a small hamlet in Madhya Pradesh almost doubled after they received electricity connection, installed water pumps and augmented their irrigation capacity. Lackadaisical policy approach towards a need as basic as electricity, had kept crores of people from realizing their full potential until today.



Beneficiaries of Saubhagya Yojana, Madhya Pradesh

Focus on identified aspirational districts and a resultant impetus on equity and positive transformation, is likely to lead to a growth of 9-10 per cent over the next three decades. The government is working on a mission mode under the Aspirational Districts program aimed at transforming 115 most backward districts of the nation.

A convergence of all these initiatives would collectively lead to poverty alleviation. We are witnessing a strategic policy response towards poverty alleviation coupled with steps to address the root cause and creating opportunities for escaping the vicious circle of poverty.

### 6.5 Meeting aspirations

Another important facet of India's growth story is the fact the soul of India resides in its villages. Modi government's has adopted an approach of harnessing the power of collectivism, an inherent characteristic of Indian ethos. Ensuring harmony and mission orientation in effecting change has been identified as the key to rural development. The idea has been to leverage, as enunciated by the Prime Minister, the 'Gaon shakti', which has a latent potential to bring about transformational change. A wonderful example is that of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan where the power of collective mission orientation was leveraged to bring about a lasting social change.

The ethos of cleanliness were reignited which has led to movement towards good riddance from open defecation. This movement has had a dominoes impact on change in social structure, while on one hand it has ensured dignity and safety of women, who had to earlier defecate in the open, it is on the other combating manual scavenging. The national campaign will also have a lasting impact on the health of people by encouraging sanitation hygiene.

With the philosophy – '*Aatma gaanv ki suvidha shehar ki*' efforts have been to nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising

with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature. Its primary objective is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.

The idea is based on the fact that if the villages have regular hour power and water supply, internet connectivity, infrastructure, road connectivity, transport facilities and basic services, doctors or even public servants would not shy away from investing their time in villages and work towards their development. The government has thus worked in this direction by ensuring provision of basic services in villages. With modernization at its heart and maintaining the essence of rural India, the government has introduced several reforms.

Today every village has electricity, over 1.5 crore poor families have their own home under PM Awas yojana, rural road connectivity has increased to 91%, strengthened information highways with upto 1.17 lakh gram panchayats connected with optical fibre, over 1.3 lakh Access Points for India Post Payments Bank opened.

This wave of modernization has been leveraged by impetus on generating IT based jobs in rural and semi-urban areas, making technology enabled products affordable for students, improved the quality of service, added value to services and achieved financial inclusion of unbanked rural population.

Urban areas, on the other hand, are the new growth centres, signifying tomorrow's India, a resurgent, ambitious India. While a sustained effort has been made to elevate rural India, there has been a parallel focus on growth of Urban areas as well. The nation is young, so urban development and modernization becomes an organic priority.

For meeting aspirations of the middle class, several interventions under the SMART cities mission are being brought about to develop the entire urban eco-system, represented by the four pillars of comprehensive development-institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure. Over the past three years, a host of international firms including companies such as Alibaba group, Japanese business conglomerate Hitachi, Finnish communications and information technology company Nokia, Twitter, Facebook have shown interest in the projects.

Parallely there is focus on ensuring access to basic amenities and public facilities for enhanced living standards. The scale and pace of modernization has been marked by aspiration, modern transport facilities, expansion of metro network, cheap air travel under UDAN scheme, works undertaken under the HRIDAY yojana, are all contributing towards a common goal of a robust infrastructure and digitally empowered urban landscape of the nation.



## 6.6 Social Justice and equity

A discerning feature of the Modi government has been its impetus on social justice and ensuring that the fruits of growth are equitably available to one and all. One significant

commonality has been the impetus on technology as source to ensure last mile delivery of all the benefits with special focus on people belonging to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities.

The philosophy of empowerment over entitlement is apparent in the initiatives undertaken by the government. Rising above the politics of entitlement, the government is ensuring that the socially and financially deprived sections are given special opportunities to rise above their existing situation. Translating into a larger context of all round development, scheme have been introduced to utilize the manpower, skill and resources on a mission mode.



An e-rickshaw driver from New Delhi, MUDRA beneficiary

For realizing PM Modi's vision of holistic and inclusive development for all, the government has brought about changes in the basic legal provision. Initiatives like granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and passing of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 has added a stronger dimension to social justice.

The Government's Jan Dhan Yojana, Skill India, Start Up India, Stand Up India, Mudra Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana have benefited a large number of poor, weaker sections, minorities and women. In a major step to bring energy to the doorsteps of poor, the Centre has decided to give free cooking gas (LPG) connections to every Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe household and to all forest dwellers and those living in islands. Electrification today has reached the remotest tribal corners of India under the Saubhagya Yojana. Meeting the tribal population of Madhya Pradesh, it was found that taking electric connection to their hamlets was not only opening newer income generation opportunities but has also ensured greater connectivity with the rest of world and is contributing towards their holistic development.

Initiatives like Hunar Haat, Nai Manzil are also aimed at encouraging economic development of the people belonging to minority communities. The instances again reiterate the entire trajectory of empowerment set by the government. There has been a parallel challenge to deal with the rising neo-middle class and strike a fine balance between meeting aspirations and ensuring basic needs. The government has both attempted to address the basic livelihood issues, targeted policy responses for the socially backward along with aspirational programs for moving forth on the next level.

The model is simple and strategic, as it focuses on removing the fault-lines of discrimination & prejudice. Once everyone is placed on an equal footing & given equal opportunities, it would result in the creation of a truly equal & healthy society. The simple idea of ensuring inclusive growth and development. Its basically ensuring that every person is empowered and is made capable to contribute towards the larger growth of the nation. The development plan of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, reflected in his poll slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is a great vision and common dream. Catalysing inclusive growth for growth of the nation powered by technology, targeted policy response and long term corrective measures would go a long way in putting India on a trajectory of sustainable growth.



## 7 CONCLUSION

- **Empowerment over entitlement:** The government's approach towards social development has been focussed on empowering all segments for self-reliance and growth rather than handing out freebies. At the same time several policy measures have been undertaken to ensure that the vulnerable segments of the society are accorded a level playing field to realize their full potential.
- **War on poverty:** The number of people living in extreme poverty in India has seen a massive reduction from 9 crore in 2016 to 4.7 crore in 2019. The positive trend has been a result of the government's firm grounding in the principles of Antyodaya and ensuring that the fruits of development reach the each and every citizen of the nation. From measures like ensuring electrification and pucca homes to every household to ensuring the right to quality health care to the poorest, targeted approach towards Aspirational districts, the government has attacked the root causes of poverty. The policy approach has been to break through the vicious circle of poverty and livelihood challenges that drag people into poverty and entrap them there.
- **Overcoming vulnerabilities:** There has been a special focus on social and economic security of the vulnerable by ensuring opportunities and freedom to pursue a progressive lifestyle. A nation-wide campaign for the specially abled has not only sensitized people but has also made most of the public places accessible. Financial security and tax rebates for the elderly along with schemes to extend assistive living devices has been a drastic step towards geriatric care.
- **Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas:** Social justice has been a high priority and the same has been reflected over the past five years. Among consistent efforts to empower the financially and socially marginalized segments of the society for greater self-reliance, several skill development programs, entrepreneurial support, ensuring basic amenities and promoting handicrafts and traditional markets for holistic development. Special initiatives to promote education among the youth from the communities have been undertaken to ensure an empowered future generations.
- **Youth - Partnering for a New India:** Leveraging the huge demographic dividend, the youth have been at the fulcrum of many government schemes. From promoting entrepreneurship to kindling an innovative spirit among the youth, the government policies have been designed to ensure that the youth are not passive recipients of policy bouquets but active participants in taking the nation towards growth. Major focus on skill development, financial independence, innovation and entrepreneurship across segments for leveraging the huge demographic dividend and build a more competitive workforce for global standards.

- **Harnessing ‘Gaon Shakti’ for a strong foundation:** To ensure a growth oriented initiatives for rural development, the government has worked to ensure regular power and water supply, infrastructure, road connectivity, transport facilities, sanitation and a massive network of common services centre. At the same time internet connectivity and financial inclusion to open a growth oriented chapter in India’s villages.
- **Building aspirations, raising hopes:** The government has undertaken a targeted approach to elevate the nation’s rising middle class. The SMART cities mission is focussed on transforming the entire urban landscape and scaling up development and infrastructural growth. After focus on ease of doing business, the government has been focussed on ease of living for the poor and middle class. Leveraging technology for the betterment of the common citizen has led to a drastic improvement in quality of life and standard of living and has become a crucial component of policies and initiatives taken over the last 5 years.
- **From women development to women led development:** A fundamental shift in policy approach towards women empowerment with focus on self-determination, financial independence and safety. Along with unleashing a nation-wide campaign to address adverse sex ratio, there has been targeted response to malnutrition, maternal health and early childhood care. Women are now being promoted in the entrepreneurial space through financial support and impetus on professional development. There has been a simultaneous impetus on enhancing security of women and ensure that their growth is not scuttled due to any negative externalities like crime and regressive social practices.

As we chart out a New India envisioned by the Prime Minister, the strategies adopted towards realization of the goal have been mindful of the fact that a New India cannot be built without a healthy citizenry with proper nourishment and health care, without an empowered youth, healthy children, without proper sanitation, without empowered women, it cannot be achieved unless people attain progress beyond caste and class barriers, without social security and justice, we need to achieve these basic needs to realise the new paradigm. Social development is the solid foundation on which a New India can stand strong, as it appears, the last five years have witnessed an encouraging scenario on the front, a positive movement towards attainment of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’.



