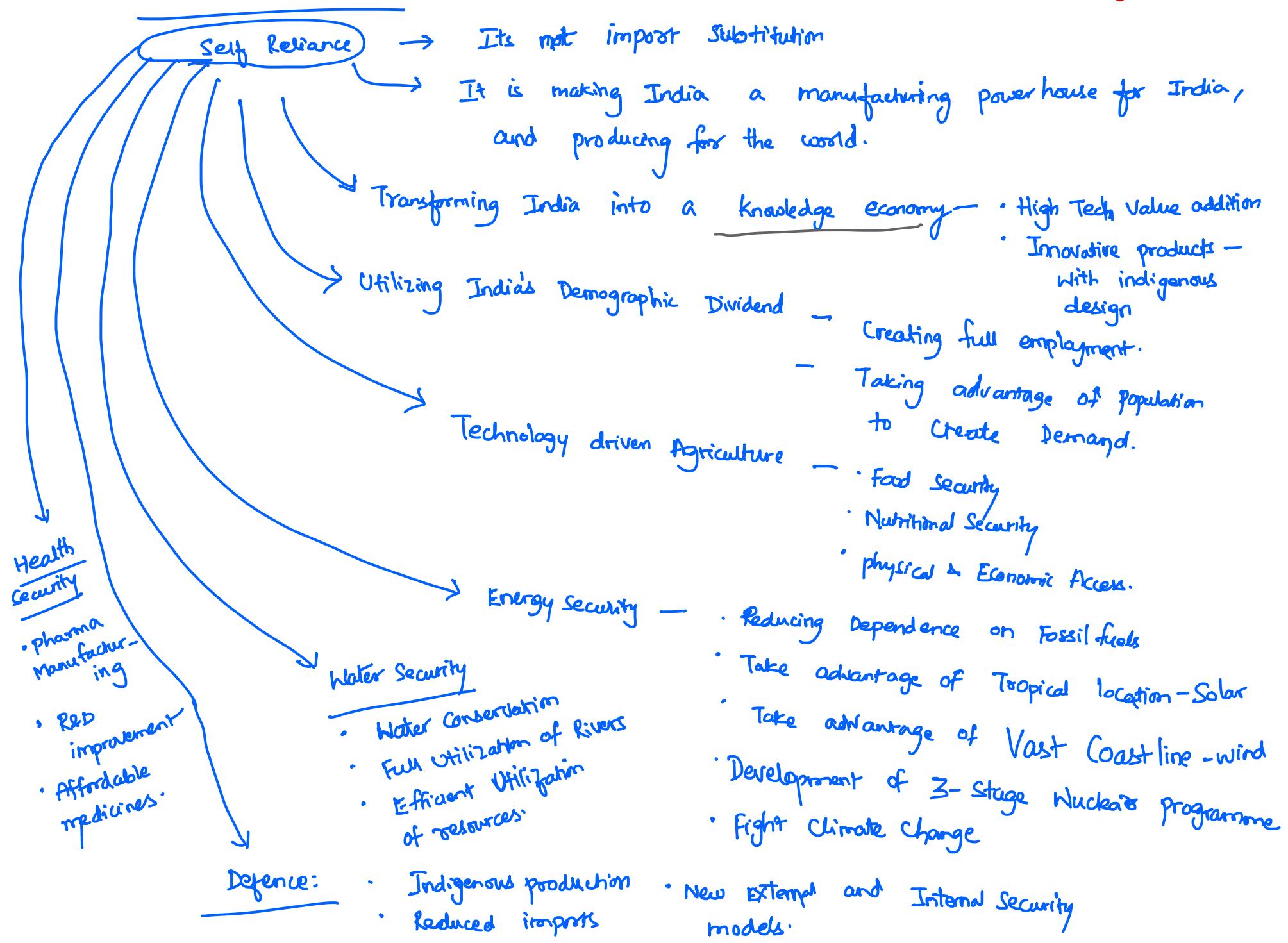


Self-Reliant India Myth or Reality.

The COVID-19 Pandemic sent chills down the spines of the world countries. There was complete dislocation of movement of persons, goods, services. The lives of people and livelihoods depending on the interconnectedness of our world are left in tatters. India has experienced the worst economic performance in the aftermath of the pandemic. But it also gave us the opportunity to look at the way we do business with the world. It exposed the fragility of the globalization and global value chains. In this backdrop it is imperative that India recalibrate its growth and development model, with strong domestic roots. Thus came to the fore the call for Self-Reliant India.

What is Self Reliance?

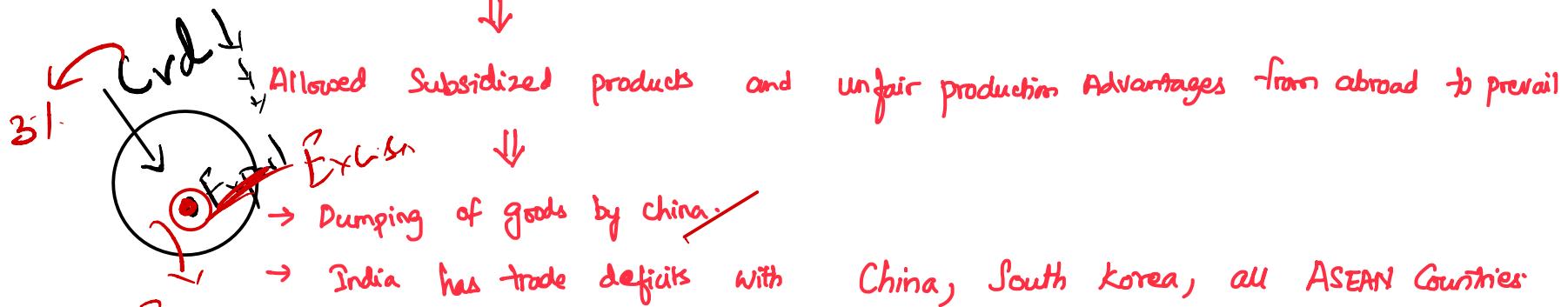
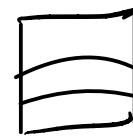
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Why do we need Self Reliance?

As pointed out by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar,

- Free Trade Agreements in past, open & globalized economy



(4). Excln
Prodn
→ ve Protection Hurt the Domestic manufacturers

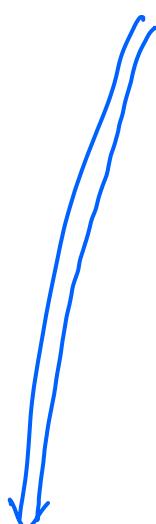


Premature Deindustrialization of Certain Sectors.



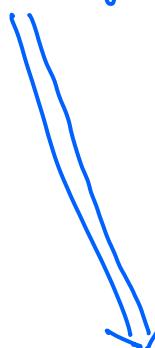
Weak Industrial Base.

- Excessive dependence on the foreign manufactured Defence equipment



very costly

↓
poor 'Bang for Buck'



Indigenous Defence equipment

Development on Back Burner.

Holding National Security Hostage to
the whims and fancies of Foreign powers.

Ex: USA had refused to give access to GPS to Indian Airforce
during Kargil War.

- Excessive Dependence on Fossil Fuels → Our Industries fortunes dependent on Crude oil price

- Made Indian products uncompetitive during ↑ in Crude oil prices.
- Damage to Environment
- Fragmented development of Nuclear Energy.
Ex: Still in stage of Developing Fast Breeder Reactor prototype.
- Didn't develop Alternative energy infrastructure
∴ Very high energy costs & import dependence for renewable energy components.

Inflation

- Brain drain —
 - Poor development of education
 - Poor opportunities
 - Ready availability in other foreign countries.

Status of Self Reliance in India

- Manufacturing Industry accounts to just 29% of GDP. Our exports are limited to
 - Petroleum products and chemicals (which depend on crude oil from other nations)
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Gems and Jewellery
 - Textiles
 - Leather

But Electronics Contribute only 1.7% of India's GDP. Electronics 58% of the current demand is met by imports. India has less than 1% share in world market.

The Value addition in Manufacturing is very low. India manufactures low tech-low value addition products and hence it earns less.

- Defence Spending accounts for 8% of GDP. But pension Bills and Salary Bills take chunk of the defence Budget. Whatever money was remaining mostly goes to costly foreign manufactured defence equipment. This leaves negligent amount of money for indigenous defence R&D and production.

- In energy, our growth is fuelled by fossil fuels which amount to 80% of India's import Bill. This puts our industries at a disadvantage — either products become uncompetitive or there is glut in prices.

Besides due to lack of common evacuation infrastructure, the renewable energy potential of India is not properly utilized. This results in significant loss of opportunities.

- In Agriculture the old methods of agriculture production are done on one hand. On the other hand we have to depend on foreign companies for hybrid seeds Ex: Monsanto Corporation — Bt-Cotton.
The irrigation technologies like Drip & Sprinkler irrigation equipment are imported from Israel.
- India do not have security in Cooking oil. We have to depend heavily on Malaysia and other South East Asian Nations for them.
- In pharmaceuticals, though India has significant number of pharmacy graduates and manpower we are unable to utilize them to full potential.
 - Most API are imported from China
 - Do not have advantage of Agglomeration and economies of scale.
 - Have to face myriad of Intellectual Property Right Challenges.

- In education, there is over emphasis on IITs, NITs, IISc, IISER etc.

For cutting edge educational and research institutions to flourish there must be a strong state university system which will generate adequate research input to IITs cutting across disciplines.

The jobs of professorships are not given the adequate importance and in public perception our teachers do not receive adequate respect.

As a result — BRAIN DRAIN — is happening. Brilliant Indian minds have emigrated to other countries and went on to win Nobel prizes in Economics, Physics, Chemistry,

On the other hand the quality of education in India remains poor, as there is over emphasis on theory. Learning methodologies and pedagogies are not motivating and fail to generate curiosity in the learner.

- In health, there is excessive emphasis on hospitalization and surgery. The preventive medicine is not given adequate importance. Diagnostics are not well developed. The indigenous medicine systems are neglected. They are devoid of recognition. Gradually these medicine systems will be lost.

So, clearly India is far away from being self-reliant. But self-reliance is a worthy ideal. To achieve this great ideal we as a nation have to pull together and strive to develop the domestic roots for India. Self-reliance is a movement which must start at home. We have to learn to do things ourselves.

Strategy to achieve Self Reliance

The question is how to achieve Self Reliant India? Prime Minister has outlined in clear terms that the pillars of Self Reliant India are

- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Systems
- Vibrant Democracy
- Demand.

Economy:

- ① Manufacturing:
- Move towards developing high Tech products - high value addition products
 - Creation of Industrial clusters all over India - 'one district one product'
 - The recent production linked Incentives (PLI) Scheme will motivate Indian manufacturers.
 - Not joining RCEP is the right move.

- ② Agriculture:
- Funding must be increased to develop robust R&D systems.
 - Indian Seed Companies must be incentivized to develop Quality hybrids Seeds

- Natural ways of fertilizer production (Bio fertilizers) must be done to reduce dependence on natural gas import for fertilizer.
- focus on going organic — which will yield premium price.
- Development of oilseed clusters to achieve oil self sufficiency -
- Food processing industries must be developed to reduce wastage, ↑ food security, Create employment, ↑ economic earnings.

- (c) Services:
- India must start focusing on developing Software Services in emerging areas
 - New models of Banking must be explored for financial inclusion. Easy credit availability to farmers, MSMEs, Micro Finance Institutions, Women, SC/ST.
 - Utilization of India's Strength in Tourism — especially eco tourism Health Tourism.
 - Development of Tourist Circuits.
 - Hospitality improvements
 - New 21st century standards with Sustainability.

- (d) Pharma:
- Build Mega pharmaceutical parks. Incentivize Agglomeration, development of pharma clusters.
 - Fixing of pharma prices — At a price fair to both producer, Researcher and consumer.

Develop Strong culture of IP Rights.

- (e) Defence:
- Restructuring of DRDO. Promote Domestic Strategic partners for defence manufacturing.
 - Recently Ministry of Defence has announced import an embargo of 101 items to be implemented between 2020 to 2024. This is a step in right direction.
 - Rationalization of Defence Spending, so that more money available for R&D, Defence production — Modernization of forces.

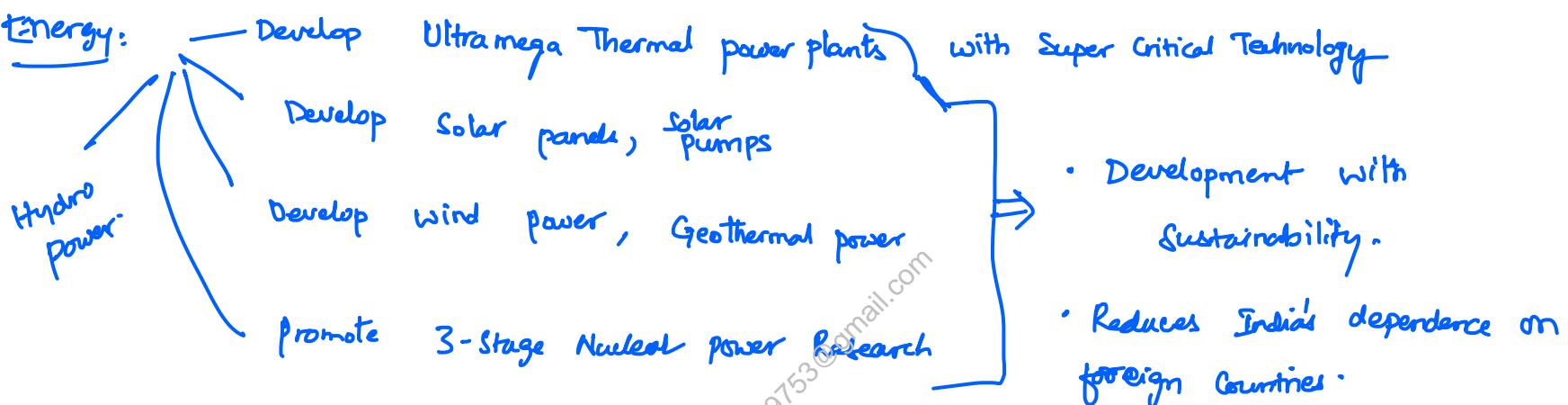
Infrastructure:

- Development of Roads, ports through Bharat Mala, Sagarmala.
- Development of Railways through Dedicated freight Corridors, Bullet Trains.
- Development of Airways through UDAN, No frills airports.

All will lead to Reduced logistic cost.

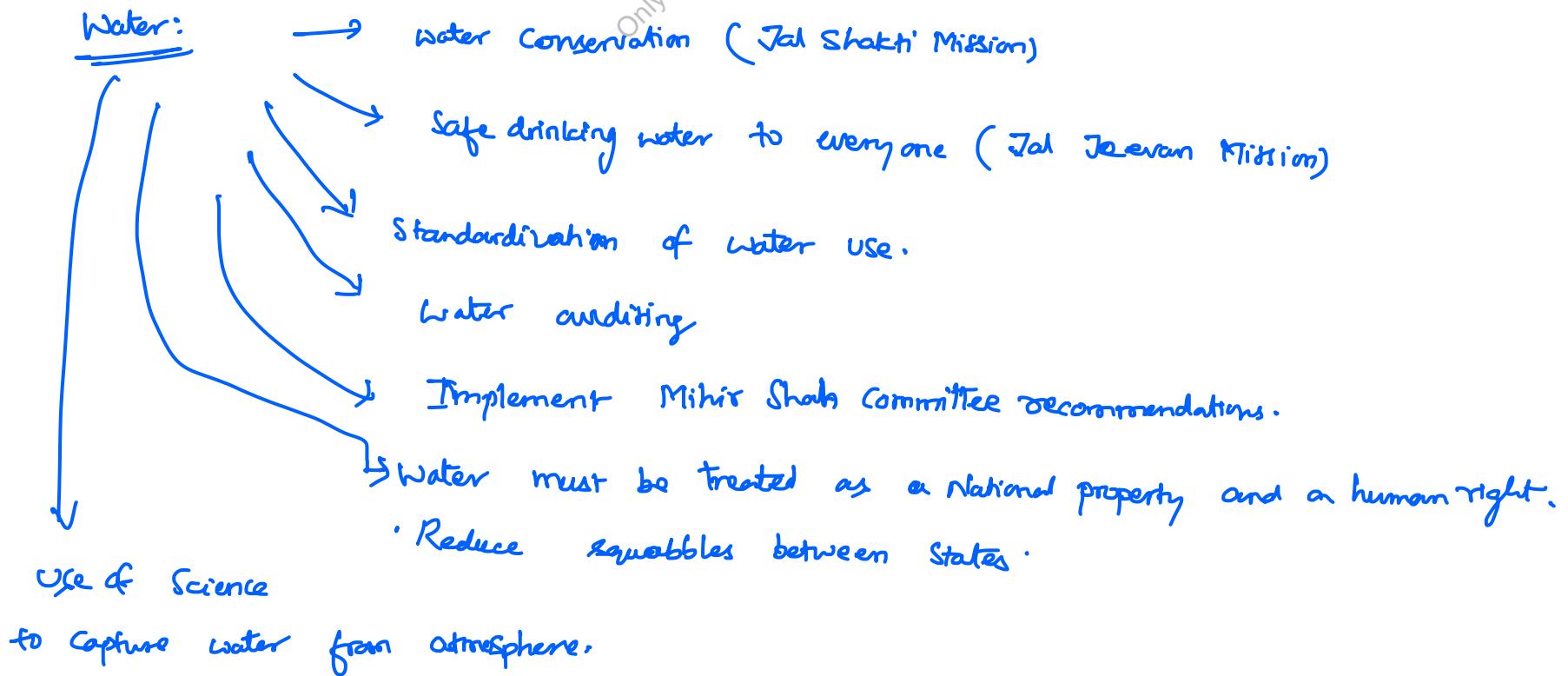
- The planned National Infrastructure pipeline is the right way to go in developing durable assets for India.
- Not only these be developed but the raw materials and inputs must also be indigenously manufactured.

Energy:



But develop with Home grown Technologies.

Water:



- Health:
- New health models with strong public investment in partnership with pvt. hospitals.
 - Establish universal availability of preventive care + diagnostics.
 - National medical Commission right paradigm shift
 - PM Jan Arogyas Yojana
 - Ayush Ministry are right decisions.
 - use of AI in disease diagnostics.

Education:

- Activity Based learning
- ↑ Education spending to 6% of GDP
- New Education policy 2020 — Focuses on knowledge + skill.
- 21st Century workforce creation.
- Ramalinga Swami Fellowship, Vajra Scheme, Kiran Scheme to encourage Researches
- online learning through SWAYAM, Swayam prabha DTH -
- Atal Tinkering labs → ↑ to all over India
- Quality Teacher education.

Systems: A new 21st century systems for rapid growth of India.

- (a) Trade:
- An alternative to WTO, Regional groupings.
 - India make independent Bilateral deals — Regain its Trade Sovereignty.

- (b) Science:
- Invest in cyber-physical systems — IOT.

- 5G.
- Efficiency in Economy
- Human Development
- Sustainable Society.

- (c) National Security: physical security + Tech Based Comprehensive Security.

- Cyber Security:
- Indigenous Secure Computers
 - Indigenous operating systems
 - Skilled IT personnel.

Ex: CIBMS - Madhukar Gupta Committee

Use of Tech to fight Internal security challenges. — Analyzing pictures

Need Balance between Individual privacy + National security.

CCTV Cam Recordings.

- (d) Judiciary:
- Video Conferencing of Courts
 - Online Caseflow Management.
 - Plea Bargaining.
 - Effective use of LIMBS.
 - Development of domain expertise for judges
 - EX: . Financial Crime
 - Cyber crime
 - IP Crime

Vibrant Democracy:

- Strengthen Voting System — Vote inclusion. Every vote counts.
- Invest in cyber Security for Elections.
 - ↑ Credibility of Elections.
- Strengthening of Independent institutions
 - CBI make independent from govt
 - Bring Transparency in Budgeting
 - Prevent Misuse of law.
 - Ex: Excessive use of Sedition law for frivolous Cases
 - Executive must act responsibly towards legislature. Hold themselves accountable
 - Quick adjudication of Criminal Cases against MP / MLA.
 - Bar the convicted from politics.

Demand: Our Demography is our strength. Utilize it.

Drive the demand — Create wealth.

Develop their Capabilities — Skilling, Technical & Soft Skills

Create work force for the world.

For industries to flourish there must be flexibility in hiring and firing. Now — IBC 2020, Labour Codes are the right move. But Social Security must also be ensured.

Federalism: The states have taken the cue for Self Reliance and are taking steps voluntarily preparing for new future.

- Gujarat, Telangana, UP — permitted purchase of Agricultural land for industrial purpose.
- Telangana — Digitisation of land records.
- Fixed Term Employment — Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab.
- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka — New industrial policy, Incentives package for electronics.
- Delhi, GJ, TS — Incentives for e-vehicles.
- Rajasthan — One Stop Shop for fast tracking investments into state.

India has embarked on the journey towards Self Reliance with renewed vigour.

Self Reliance is production for India and world. India have to diversify its export destinations and have to limit its imports to those areas which are not available domestically. India must focus on Africa, Central Asia, South America for its new trade policies. PM rightly said, "India is ready to learn from the world and is willing to share its knowledge with the world".

While we as Indians strive to achieve the noble aim of Self Reliant India, we must remember that it takes patience, hardwork and dedication to make

Self-reliant India a reality. We must remember Rabindranath Tagore's words
"You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water!"

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