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7) A video series* is also made on NITI AAYOG INDIA @75 to help you out with the preparation.
*You can watch those videos for free on our Youtube channel.
STRATEGY FOR NEW INDIA @75 – DRIVERS PART 3
COURSES OFFERED — RBI GRADE B | SEBI | NABARD GRADE A | UGC
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3-Science, Technology and Innovation:

OBJECTIVES:
- India should be among the top **50 countries** in the Global Innovation Index by 2022-23.
- 5 of our scientific research institutions should be amongst the top 100 in the world.
- India should aim to spend **at least 2% of GDP on R&D**.

CURRENT SITUATION:
- India policy makers have taken several initiatives to promote science, technology and innovation which is shown in the figure:
We currently have more than 1100 R & D centers set up by multinational companies (MNCs) such as IBM, Google, Microsoft, Intel, Lupin, wockhardt etc.

Examples of India’s progress in strategic and defense technologies are:
- Development of Brahmos
- Advanced air defense supersonic interceptor missiles
- Diverse missile and rocket systems
- Remotely piloted vehicles
- Light combat aircraft etc.

Examples of India’s achievement in space technology are:
- Upgrading from SLV to ASLV
- Upgrading from PSLV to GSLV
- The first moon orbiter project Chandrayan-1
- Mars orbiter Mission
- Launch of 104 satellites

India is now third largest country in terms of the number of startups. Government has set up the Atal innovation mission (AIM) to transform radically to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and start up system.

Contribution of the Indian scientists in the ground-breaking work are:
- 37 Indian scientists play the key role in the discovery of ‘gravitational waves' that received the Nobel prize in 2017.
- In the discovery of a neutron star merger at Laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory (LIGO, USA).

**CONSTRAINTS:**

R&D expenditure is very low in India with 0.7% of GDP while in other countries it is:

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<th>Country</th>
<th>R&amp;D expenditure (% of GDP)</th>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
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<td>China</td>
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• Share of the private sector in R&D investment in India is only 30% while in advanced countries it is 65-75%.
• The number of scientific R&D professionals in India is 218 per million population while in China it is 1113 and in USA it is 4019.
• The link between research, higher education and industry is weak and nascent in India.
• The lack of career opportunities in basic sciences leads to the diversion of potential researchers to other sectors.
• ‘lab to land’ time is too long.
• Frequent violation of Preferential Market Access (PMA) is an issue leading to large-scale imports of foreign products and services.
• Start-ups do not get much needed support by the government as well as public procurement.
• There has been poor progress in the affordable technologies for rural areas such as in agriculture, micro-irrigation, agro-processing.

THE WAY FORWARD:

• An empowered body is needed to steer holistically the management of science in the country.
• A non-lapsable “District Innovation Fund” in each district may be created to promote grass root innovations.
• AIM has already launched Atal New India Challenges to create products from technologies.
• AIM has set up over 1000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) around the country. It is aimed to take this number to at least 5,000 by 2019 and 10,000 by 2020.
• Foreign collaborators, consultants, visiting faculty, adjunct scientists, etc., need to be involved in pursuing R&D in the emerging areas.
- AICs (Atal Incubation Centers) is expected that more than 100 world-class incubation centers will be up and running by 2020.

To promote ‘Make In India’ initiative, in all government procurements, international competitive bidding for both products and services should be resorted to only when Indian manufacturers are unable to supply products/services of comparable international quality.

- Value addition centers may be set up in each of the institutions such as CSIR, DRDO, BARC, ICMR and ISRO to develop their marketing skills.

- Public funded research institutions should focus to the development of socially relevant technologies in areas such as clean drinking water, sanitation, energy, affordable healthcare, organic farming, etc. These technologies have large potential for commercialization.

- Quarterly workshops may be organized for creating awareness about the DIPP’s Public Procurement Order 2017 (which aims to promote Make in India products/services).
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SECTIONS IT WILL INCLUDE (RBI + SEBI + NABARD)

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