

hand-holding is needed to support those above poverty lines to prevent them from slipping below the line.

Government Intervention

- The government has actively alleviated poverty in recent times. As a result, about 271 million people lifted out of poverty in India in a decade (2005-15). The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index released by Oxford Institute and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) acknowledges this fact. However, a large number of individuals are still living a life in poverty.
- Here are some of the government schemes that have helped the people:
 - » National Mission on Foundational literacy and numeracy,
 - » Ayushman Bharat Scheme,
 - » Skill India Mission,
 - » PM Awaas Yojana,
 - » MGNREGA
- Economic Survey 2016-17 has suggested replacing all current cash transfers with universal basic income. The survey wants UBI to replace and not supplement the existing social welfare, anti-poverty schemes like MGNREGA, PMJSY etc.
- The Survey points out that the two prerequisites for a successful UBI are: functional JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile) system as it ensures that the cash transfer goes directly into the account of a beneficiary and Centre-State negotiations on cost sharing for the programme.
- **Conditional Cash Transfer Schemes for Alleviating Human Poverty:** Such schemes aim at reducing extreme poverty in the short-run while protecting the formation of human capabilities in the long run. This programme represents a shift in government's approach of focusing on the supply-side to a demand driven approach. Ex: In 2005, India launched a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), to reduce maternal mortality ratio (MMR) through promotion of institutional births. JSY is the largest CCT in the world.
- **Public investment in human capital and public goods:** Investments in human capital and public goods have significant positive impacts on private-sector productivity, with estimated rates of return ranging from 15 percent to upwards of 45 percent. The enhanced productivity of human beings or human capital contributes substantially not only towards increasing labour productivity but also stimulates innovations and creates ability to absorb new technologies.

Policy Recommendations on Reducing Poverty:

Universal Basic Income:

- UBI is a government-guaranteed payment that each citizen receives. It is also called a citizen's income, guaranteed minimum income, or basic income. The essential principle behind the UBI payment is to provide enough to cover the basic cost of living and provide financial security to all citizens irrespective of the circumstances they are born in.
- The idea of a universal basic income has gained currency in the West because of