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## MARITIME FOUNDATION

### DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

#### INTRODUCTION:-

While some have a high opinion of India's growth story since its independence, some others think the country's performance in the seven decades has been abysmal. It's arguably true that the Five-Year plans did target specific sectors in order to quicken the pace of development, yet the outcome hasn't been on expected lines. And, the country is taking its own sweet time to catch up with the developed world. All efforts are frustrated by lopsided ~~world~~ strategies and inept implementation of policies.

#### The Two Phases of Economy:

An independent India was bequeathed a shattered economy, widespread illiteracy and shocking poverty.

Contemporary economists divide the history of India's economy, growth into two phases - first 45 years after independence and almost three decades of free market economy. The years preceding the economic liberalisation were mainly marked by instances wherein economic development got stagnated due to a lack of meaningful policies.

The economic reforms came to India's rescue with the

industrial licensing policy and a relaxed FDI policy started getting positive responses from international investors. Among the major factors that drove India's economic growth following the economic reforms of 1991 were increased FDI, adoption of information technology and an increased domestic consumption.

### Scientific Achievement:

Independent India has taken confident strides in its road to scientific development. Its prowess is being manifested in a gradual scaling up of ambitious projects. India takes pride in its space programmes, which began with the launch of its first satellite "Aryabhata" in 1975. Since then, India has emerged as a space power that has successfully launched foreign satellites. Through Chandrayaan-1, India became the 4<sup>th</sup> country in the world to plant its flag on the lunar surface in 2008. Its first mission to Mars was launched in November 2013 which successfully reached the planet's orbit on 24 September 2014. In June 2015, ISRO launched 104 satellites (highest in the world) from a single rocket through "PSLV-C37."

India is also aggressively pursuing both nuclear and missile programmes. That has simultaneously augmented the country's defence strength as well. "BrahMos" inducted into the defence system is the world's fastest cruise missile that has been jointly developed by India and Russia. After more than six decades of independence, India has now come closer to being an independent force to reckon with in the field of nuclear and missile technology.

## Service Sector Growth

A major development in the nation's service sector has been visible in the telecom and information technology sectors. A trend that started some two decades back is now well in its prime. Several multinational firms continue to outsource their tele services and IT services to India, resulting in the growth of ITES, BPO and KPO companies. The acquisition of expertise in information technology has led to the generation of thousands of new jobs, which in turn increased domestic consumption and naturally, more foreign direct investments happened to meet the demands.

Presently, the services sector employs 31% of the Indian workforce and this process of development started back in the 1980s. In the 60s, the sector employed only 4.5% of the working population. According to the central statistical Organization, the services sector accounted for around 54% of Indian GDP in 2018 and the figure continues to grow.

## Infrastructure Development :

The Indian road network has become one of the largest in the world with the total road length increasing from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 4.70 million km as of 2015. Moreover, the total length of the country's national highways has increased from 24000 km (1947-69) to 96,224 km (2015). Government efforts have led to the expansion of the network of state highways and major district roads, which in turn has directly contributed

As India needs power to drive its growth engine, it has triggered a noteworthy improvement in the availability of energy by adopting a multi-pronged approach. After almost seven decades of Independence, India has emerged as the third largest producer of electricity generation capacity from 1362 MW in 1974 to 356818 MW as of 2019. Overall, power generation in India has increased from 301 billion units (BU's) during 1992-93 to 1249.337 BUs in 2018-19. When it comes to rural electrification, the Indian government has emerged Managed to bring lights to all 18,452 villages by April 28, 2018 as compared to 3061 in 1950.